



Best 300+ MCQs

January 2024

Current Affairs PDF

1. Which country has initiated the process of investing \$2 billion in food parks in India?

किस देश ने भारत में फूड पार्कों में 2 बिलियन डॉलर के निवेश की प्रक्रिया शुरू की है?

- (a) Netherland / नीदरलैंड
- (b) Mauritius / मॉरीशस
- (c) USA / यूएसए
- (d) Singapore / सिंगापुर
- (e) UAE / यूएई

Ans. e

Sol. UAE initiates process of investing \$2 billion in food parks in India

The UAE has initiated the process of channelising its long-promised \$2-billion investments into food parks in India, starting with Gujarat, after the two countries sorted out concerns on curbs imposed by the Essential Commodities Act.

The investments are being made as part of the four-nation I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA) initiative to develop a series of integrated food parks across India to enhance food security in the Middle East and South Asia.

The first food park is likely to be set up on land near Kandla where the investors would get into contract farming arrangements with locals.

The UAE had first promised in 2018 to invest in food parks in India which later got dovetailed into the I2U2 initiative announced at the Leaders' Summit in July 2022.

It was virtually attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Israeli Prime Minister (former) Yair Lapid, and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

These food parks would incorporate state-of-the-art climate-smart technologies to reduce food waste and spoilage, conserve fresh water, and employ renewable energy sources, per the joint statement signed by the leaders at the Summit.

About United Arab Emirates (UAE)

- **Capital** - Abu Dhabi
- **Currency** - Dirham
- **President** - Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- **Prime Minister** - Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
- **Official language** -Arabic

2. The Gujarat government will introduce a submarine service for tourists in the state, to help them explore the marine life in Dwarka, an ancient city believed to be lost under the sea. For this project Gujarat government has signed MoU with which company?

गुजरात सरकार राज्य में पर्यटकों के लिए एक पनडुब्बी सेवा शुरू करेगी, जिससे उन्हें समुद्र के नीचे खोए हुए प्राचीन शहर द्वारका में समुद्री जीवन का पता लगाने में मदद मिलेगी। इस परियोजना के लिए गुजरात सरकार ने किस कंपनी के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन 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. Gujarat To Unveil India's First Submarine Tourism In Dwarka

The Gujarat government is set to introduce a submarine service for tourists in the state, to help them explore the marine life in Dwarka, an ancient city believed to be lost under the sea.

The state government has signed a memorandum with Mazgaon Dock shipbuilders for the project in the city, which holds cultural significance as the 'city of the Hindu God Lord Krishna'.

This will be the first underwater tourism facility in India through a submarine. As per the current plan, the government aims to operationalise the project before Diwali in October 2024.

As per the project, tourists will be taken 100 meters below the sea in a submarine to see underwater marine life. Each submarine will carry 24 tourists, and the vessel will be led by two experienced pilots and a professional crew. The vessel will be designed to provide a window view for all passengers.

About Gujarat

- Capital- Gandhinagar
- Chief Minister- Bhupendra Rajnikant Patel
- Governor- Acharya Devvrat

3. Defence Secretary, Giridhar Aramane has inaugurated a new design and test facility at Aero Engine Research and Development Centre (AERDC) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in which city?

रक्षा सचिव गिरिधर अरामने ने किस शहर में हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड (HAL) के एयरो इंजन रिसर्च एंड डेवलपमेंट सेंटर (AERDC) में एक नई डिजाइन और परीक्षण सुविधा का उद्घाटन किया है?

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) Hyderabad / हैदराबाद
- (c) Chennai / चेन्नई
- (d) Greater Noida / ग्रेटर नोएडा
- (e) Thiruvananthapuram / तिरुवनंतपुरम

Ans. a

Sol. Defence Secretary Opens HAL's Aero Engine R&D Facility In Bengaluru

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane has inaugurated a new design and test facility at Aero Engine Research and Development Centre (AERDC) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

The newly inaugurated facility, spanning over 10,000 s meters, is poised to be a hub of innovation in the field of aerospace engineering.

Equipped with special machines, advanced setups, and computational tools, it signifies HAL's commitment to staying at the forefront of technological advancements.

Additionally, the newly developed facility has set-ups for testing air producers of Jaguar, Gas Turbine Starter Unit (GTSU) - 110 M2 and 127E of Light Combat Aircraft, Auxiliary Power Units of IMRH and Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft, Gas Turbine Electrical Generator (GTEG)-60 for An-32 aircraft.

4. Hardeep Singh Puri has inaugurated the National Street Food Festival 2023 in which city?

हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने किस शहर में नेशनल स्ट्रीट फूड फेस्टिवल 2023 का उद्घाटन किया है?

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

Ans. b

Sol. Hardeep Puri inaugurates India's first 'Zero Waste Street Food Festival' in Delhi

Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs and Petroleum & Natural Gas, has inaugurated the National Street Food Festival 2023 in New Delhi.

This street food festival was organized by the National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. This festival is the first 'Zero Waste Street Food Festival' in India.

The Minister appreciated NASVI for providing training to 1,50,000 street vendors in food safety and hygiene. He also noted the establishment of two Regional Street Food Vendors Training Institutes (SVTI) which will be launched by NASVI in 2024 in Delhi and Patna.

 **ambitious baba**.com

5. What is the revised return on the Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme (SSAS) for the first quarter of 2024?

2024 की पहली तिमाही के लिए सुकन्या समृद्धि खाता योजना (एसएसएसएस) पर संशोधित रिटर्न क्या है?

- (a) 7.2%
- (b) 8.2%
- (c) 6.9%
- (d) 7.7%
- (e) 8.5%

Ans. b

Sol. Sukanya Samriddhi Schemes' interest rates hiked up to 20 bps for Q4FY24

The Centre hiked the interest rates of some of the small savings schemes, such as Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme, and 3-year Time Deposit, for the January-March 2024 quarter.

As per the latest revised list, the interest rate of Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme will be 8.2%, while for 3-year TD it would be 7.1% for the last quarter of the current fiscal.

Earlier, the interest rates for the Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme and 3-year TD were 8.0%, and 7.1%, respectively.

The PPF rates were kept unchanged for more than 3 years. It was last tweaked in April-June 2020, when it was slashed to 7.1 percent from 7.9 percent. Before the revision, the interest rates on small savings schemes ranged between 4 percent (post office savings deposits) and 8.2 percent (Senior Citizens Savings Scheme).

Interest rates for Jan-March 2024

- Savings Deposit- 4 per cent
- 1-Year Post Office Time Deposits- 6.9 percent
- 2-Year Post Office Time Deposits- 7.0 percent
- 3-Year Post Office Time Deposits- 7.1 percent
- 5-Year Post Office Time Deposits- 7.5 percent
- 5-Year Recurring Deposits- 6.7 percent (6.5 percent earlier)
- National Saving Certificates (NSC)- 7.7 percent
- Kisan Vikas Patra- 7.5 percent (will mature in 115 months)
- Public Provident Fund- 7.1 per cent
- Sukanya Samriddhi Account- 8.2 per cent
- Senior Citizens Savings Scheme- 8.2 per cent
- Monthly Income Account- 7.4 per cent

6. Who has been appointed as Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission?

16वें वित्त आयोग के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey / ऋत्विक् रंजनम पांडे
- (b) Arvind Panagariya / अरविंद पनगढ़िया
- (c) NK Singh / एनके सिंह
- (d) B.V.R. Subrahmanyam / बी.वी.आर. सुब्रह्मण्यम
- (e) Suman Bery / सुमन बेरी

Ans. b

Sol. Arvind Panagariya appointed as 16th Finance Commission Chairman

The government has appointed former NITI Aayog vice chairman Arvind Panagariya as the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission.

Joint Secretary in the finance ministry Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey will be the secretary to the commission.

The commission will submit its report for the five-year period (2026-27 to 2030-31) to the President by October 31, 2025.

The Finance Commission is a constitutional body that gives suggestions on center-state financial relations.

The erstwhile 15th Finance Commission under NK Singh had recommended that states be given 41 percent of the divisible tax pool of the Centre during the five-year period 2021-22 to 2025-26, which is at the same level as was recommended by the 14th Finance Commission.

Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **Chief Risk Officer of LIC** - S Sunder Krishnan (replace Pratap Chandra Paikray)
- **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

7. Who has been appointed as the Deputy Executive Director (Management) of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres?

संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासचिव एंटोनियो गुटेरेस द्वारा संयुक्त राष्ट्र जनसंख्या कोष (UNFPA) के उप कार्यकारी निदेशक (प्रबंधन) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Monica Ferro / मोनिका फेरो
- (b) Kofi Annan / कोफी अन्नान
- (c) Andrew Saberton / एंड्रयू सबर्टन
- (d) Amina J. Mohammed / अमीना जे मोहम्मद
- (e) Ban Ki-moon / बान की मून

Ans. c

Sol. Andrew Saberton appointed as the Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Andrew Paul Saberton of the United Kingdom as Assistant Secretary-General to serve as Deputy Executive Director (Management) of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Saberton succeeds Ib Petersen of Denmark, to whom the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UNFPA are grateful for his dedicated service.

Saberton has served as the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director (Management) ad interim since November 2023 and as UNFPA Comptroller and Director for the Division of Management Services since September 2016.

Previously, he was the Chief of the Finance Branch (2011-2016) and Chief of the Accounts Section (2009-2011) at UNFPA, and a Senior Finance Officer at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (2001-2009).

Recent Appointment

- **CMD of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd** - Uday A Kaole
- **Director (Works) of National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL)** - Pramod Sharma
- **DG of Prisons and Correctional Services** - Maheshwar Dayal
- **CEO and MD of Stellantis India** - Aditya Jairaj (replace Roland Bouchara)
- **President of FICCI** - Anish Shah (replace Subhrakant Panda)

8. Which edition of the Joint Military Exercise Desert Cyclone, between India & UAE, will be conducted from 02 Jan to 15 Jan 2024 in Rajasthan?

भारत और संयुक्त अरब अमीरात के बीच संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास डेजर्ट साइक्लोन का कौन सा संस्करण 02 जनवरी से 15 जनवरी 2024 तक राजस्थान में आयोजित किया जाएगा?

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

Ans. a

Sol. India, UAE to conduct joint military exercise 'Desert Cyclone' in Rajasthan

The Inaugural edition of Joint Military Exercise Desert Cyclone, between India & UAE, will be conducted from 02 Jan to 15 Jan 2024 in Rajasthan.

The joint manoeuvres during 'Desert Cyclone 2024' aim to boost interoperability through the exchange of knowledge and best practices in urban operations.

The exercise aims to enhance interoperability by learning & sharing best practices in Urban Operations.

Recent Exercise

- 4th edition of **Military Exercise VINBAX-2023** between India & Vietnam - Hanoi, Vietnam
- 14th edition of **Exercise Vajra Prahar2023** 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

9. In January 2024, The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has launched _____ X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

जनवरी 2024 में, भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO) ने श्रीहरिकोटा के सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र से _____ एक्स-रे पोलारिमीटर सैटेलाइट (XPoSat) लॉन्च किया है।

- (a) C54
- (b) C55
- (c) C58
- (d) C60
- (e) C52

Ans. c

Sol. ISRO launched XPoSat aboard PSLV-C58

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched the PSLV-C58 X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat).

The PSLV, in its 60th mission, lifted off at 9.10 a.m. on 1 Jan, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, and 22 minutes later launched the XPoSat into an eastward low inclination orbit.

The PSLV-C58 has placed the primary satellite at the XPoSat in the desired orbit of 650 km with six-degree inclination.

XPoSat is the first dedicated scientific satellite from the ISRO to carry out research in space-based polarisation measurements of X-ray emission from celestial sources. It carries two payloads, namely POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays) and XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing).

POLIX has been developed by Raman Research Institute (RRI) Bengaluru and XSPECT by Space Astronomy Group of URSC, Bengaluru.

The successful launch of the XPoSAT put India in an elite category, as it has become the second nation to send an observatory to study astronomical sources, such as black holes, neutron stars, among others.

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

10. David Warner has recently announced his retirement from One Day Internationals (ODIs). Which country does he belong to?

डेविड वार्नर ने हाल ही में एक दिवसीय अंतर्राष्ट्रीय (वनडे) से संन्यास की घोषणा की है। वह किस देश से सम्बंधित है?

- (a) England / इंग्लैंड
- (b) New Zealand / न्यूजीलैंड
- (c) Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया
- (d) South Africa / दक्षिण अफ्रीका
- (e) Ireland / आयरलैंड

Ans. c

Sol. Australian batter David Warner announces his retirement from ODI

Australian batter David Warner has announced his retirement from One Day Internationals (ODIs).

The 2 time ODI World Cup Winner had previously announced that he would be ending his Test career after Australia's upcoming Test against Pakistan in Sydney.

However, the opener has said that he will keep himself available for selection in the Champions Trophy in 2025.

Warner is Australia's sixth-highest run scorer in the ODI format and is only second to former captain Ricky Ponting's tally for most Centuries for Australia in ODIs.

Recently Retired Players

- Dean Elgar - International cricket - South Africa
- 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

11. Global Family Day is celebrated every year on which day?

वैश्विक परिवार दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 1 January / 1 जनवरी
- (b) 2 January / 2 जनवरी
- (c) 3 January / 3 जनवरी
- (d) 4 January / 4 जनवरी
- (e) 5 January / 5 जनवरी

Ans. a

Sol. 1 January - Global Family Day

Global Family Day is celebrated every year on January 1.

The day aims at commencing the new year with peace, unity and brotherhood among people and across nations and cultures.

The idea to mark the day was first initiated in November 1997 after people were inspired by a book named, One Day In Peace – January 1, 2000.

The book was released by the United Nations. Around the same time, the United Nations General Assembly launched the International Decade for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World.

Later, in 1999, UN members received a formal invitation to officially mark January 1 as – Global Family Day.

12. Which state government will observe 15 January every year as state sports day?

कौन सी राज्य सरकार हर साल 15 जनवरी को राज्य खेल दिवस के रूप में मनाएगी?

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

Ans. d

Sol. Maharashtra govt to observe 15 January as state sports day

The Maharashtra government will observe January 15 every year as

the state sports day to celebrate the birth anniversary of wrestler Khashaba Jadhav, the first Indian to win an independent medal in the Olympics in 1952.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had announced in Pune about having a day devoted to sports on the birthday of Jadhav, who was born in Maharashtra.

Jadhav had won a bronze medal at the 1952 Summer Olympics held at Helsinki in Finland. A government resolution was issued directing schools and colleges to organize sporting events on this day.

Students can interact with sports personalities on online platforms. International and national sportspersons will be felicitated by the government on the state sports day.

13. Gujarat has set a Guinness record for performing mass Surya Namaskar simultaneously at ____ places in the state on the first day of the new year.

गुजरात ने नए साल के पहले दिन राज्य में ____ स्थानों पर एक साथ सामूहिक सूर्य नमस्कार करने का गिनीज रिकॉर्ड बनाया है।

- (a) 51
- (b) 101
- (c) 108
- (d) 121
- (e) 150

Ans. c

Sol. Guinness world record of performing mass Surya Namaskar created in Gujarat on New Year Day

Gujarat has set a Guinness record for performing mass Surya Namaskar simultaneously at 108 places in the state on the first day of the new year.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, and Minister for Home Affairs Harsh Sanghavi attended the State level event that took place at the iconic Sun Temple in Modhera in Mahesana district.

More than 2500 people performed Surya Namaskar at the state-level function held at the iconic Modhera Sun Temple.

The function also witnessed the felicitation of the winners of the state-level Mega Surya Namaskar Competition. This month-long competition was organized for the first time in the state by the Gujarat State Yog Board and the state government to popularise Surya Namaskar practice among people.

About Gujarat

- Capital- Gandhinagar
- Chief Minister- Bhupendra Rajnikant Patel
- Governor- Acharya Devvrat

14. In January 2024, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has flagged off how many electric buses for pollution-free Guwahati?

जनवरी 2024 में, असम के मुख्यमंत्री हिमंत बिस्वा सरमा ने प्रदूषण मुक्त गुवाहाटी के लिए कितनी इलेक्ट्रिक बसों को हरी झंडी दिखाई है?

- (a) 100
- (b) 200
- (c) 300
- (d) 400
- (e) 500

Ans. b

Sol. Assam CM flags off 200 green buses for pollution-free Guwahati

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has flagged off 200 electric buses from Guwahati.

The initiative as the government's one of the biggest push towards a pollution-free environment.

By 2025, we want to establish Guwahati as the country's first city to be powered by a 100 per cent green public transportation system. This new fleet builds upon the 100 CNG buses dedicated to the New Year.

About Assam

- **Capital** – Dispur
- **Chief Minister** –Himanta Biswa Sarma
- **Governor** – Gulab Chand Kataria

15. Reliance Power has inked an agreement to sell its 1,200 MW Kalai II hydroelectric project for Rs 128.39 crore to THDC India. Kalai II hydroelectric project is located in which state?

रिलायंस पावर ने अपनी 1,200 मेगावाट की कलाई II जलविद्युत परियोजना को 128.39 करोड़ रुपये में टीएचडीसी इंडिया को बेचने के लिए एक समझौता किया है। कलाई II जलविद्युत परियोजना किस राज्य में स्थित है?

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh / अरुणाचल प्रदेश
- (b) Sikkim / सिक्किम
- (c) Himachal Pradesh / हिमाचल प्रदेश
- (d) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (e) Uttarakhand / उत्तराखंड

Ans. a

Sol. Reliance Power to sell Kalai II hydropower project to THDC India

Reliance Power has inked an agreement to sell its 1,200 MW Kalai II hydroelectric project in Arunachal Pradesh for Rs 128.39 crore to THDC India.

The purpose of entering into the agreement was to monetise the hydroelectric power project.

Under the pact, there will transfer of the development rights and associated physical assets, studies, clearances, designs and intellectual properties of the proposed 1,200 MW Kalai-II hydroelectric project located at the Lohit River basin of Arunachal Pradesh to THDC for an aggregate consideration of Rs 128.39 crore, subject to certain indemnities, representations and covenants.

About THDC India Limited

- Founded - 12 July 1988
- Headquarters - Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
- Chairman & MD - R K Vishnoi

16. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the three-day annual conference of Director Generals and Inspector Generals of Police in which city?

प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी किस शहर में पुलिस महानिदेशकों और महानिरीक्षकों के तीन दिवसीय वार्षिक सम्मेलन में भाग लेंगे?

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) Jaipur / जयपुर
- (c) Hyderabad / हैदराबाद
- (d) Ahmedabad / अहमदाबाद
- (e) Mumbai / मुंबई

Ans. b

Sol. PM to attend DGP conference at Jaipur

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the three-day annual conference of Director Generals and Inspector Generals of Police, beginning from January 5 at Jaipur.

Objective - To deliberate on challenges posed by artificial intelligence (AI), cyber security, counter terrorism, left wing extremism and narcotics smuggling.

The 58th all-India annual conference of DGPs and IGPs will be held at Rajasthan International Centre located at Jhalana in Jaipur, which is after a new BJP government has come to power in the State, pointed out sources.

With Prime Minister Modi's directive to have conferences and meetings outside Delhi, the last one was held in Agartala in November, to draw attention over the need to have better coordination between the State police of north-east and central agencies.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Ministers of State for Home, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, DGPs and IGPs of States and the UTs and heads of the CAPFs will sit through most of sessions at the conference.

Action taken on the issues flagged last year will also be taken up for discussion.

17. Recently, which country has officially declined the invitation to join the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) grouping of major emerging economies?

हाल ही में, किस देश ने प्रमुख उभरती अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के समूह ब्रिक्स (ब्राजील, रूस, भारत, चीन, दक्षिण अफ्रीका) में शामिल होने के निमंत्रण को आधिकारिक तौर पर अस्वीकार कर दिया है?

- (a) Argentina / अर्जेन्टीना
- (b) Ethiopia / इथियोपिया
- (c) Saudi Arabia / सऊदी अरब
- (d) Egypt / मिस्र
- (e) Iran / ईरान

Ans. a

Sol. Argentina Rejects BRICS Membership Under President Javier Milei

Argentine President Javier Milei has officially declined the invitation to join the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) grouping of major emerging economies.

The bloc — made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — in August announced it was admitting six new members in a bid to counter the Western-led global order.

The membership of Argentina, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates was due to take effect from January 1, 2024. The rejection was conveyed through letters sent to BRICS leaders, solidifying Argentina's decision to abstain from the bloc.

President Milei's rejection was grounded in the assertion that Argentina's membership was "not considered appropriate at this time.

The president highlighted that his geopolitical alignment prioritizes ties with the United States and Israel, eschewing alliances with communist nations.

About Argentina

- Capital- Buenos Aires
- Currency- Argentine Peso
- President - Javier Milei
- National sport- Pato

18. How much lakh crore rupees were GST collected in December 2023?

दिसंबर 2023 में कितने लाख करोड़ रुपये का जीएसटी संग्रह हुआ?

- (a) 1,45,867 crore
- (b) 1,64,882 crore
- (c) 1,72,003 crore
- (d) 1,60,122 crore
- (e) 1,67,929 crore

Ans. b

Sol. GST collection rises 10.3% in December to Rs 1.64 lakh cr

The gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections in December 2023 were recorded at Rs 164,882 crore, 10.3 percent higher than Rs Rs 149,507 crore in December 2022, according to data released by the Ministry of Finance.

In November 2023, GST collections were recorded at Rs 167,929 crore.

During the month, the revenues from domestic transactions (including import of services) were 13 percent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year. This marks the seventh month so far this financial year, with collections exceeding Rs 1.60 trillion. Out of the total of Rs 1.64 trillion, Central GST was Rs 30,443 crore; State GST was Rs 37,935 crore, Integrated GST was Rs 84,255 crore, and cess was Rs 12,249 crore. The government has settled Rs 40,057 crore to CGST and Rs 33,652 crore to SGST from IGST. The total revenue of Centre and the States in the month of December 2023 after regular settlement is Rs 70,501 crore for CGST and Rs 71,587 crore for the SGST.

GST Collection of Previous Months

- July 2023 - 1,65,105 crore
- August 2023 - 1,59,069 crore
- September 2023 - 1,62,712 crore
- October 2023 - 1,72,003 crore
- November 2023 – 1,67,929 crore
- December 2023 – 1,64,882 crore

19. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Grid Corporation (PGC)?
पावर ग्रिड कॉर्पोरेशन (पीजीसी) के नए अध्यक्ष और प्रबंध निदेशक (सीएमडी) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Anshika Singh / अंशिका सिंह
- (b) Ravindra Kumar Tyagi / रवींद्र कुमार त्यागी
- (c) Vasudha Gupta / वसुधा गुप्ता
- (d) Ipsita Dasgupta / इप्सिता दासगुप्ता
- (e) Raghu Srinivasan / रघु श्रीनिवासन

Ans. b

Sol. Ravindra Kumar Tyagi takes over as CMD of Power Grid Corporation

State-owned Power Grid Corporation has appointed Ravindra Kumar Tyagi as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD). Tyagi will take over from Sreekant Kandikuppa, who retired after reaching the age of superannuation, who was heading the organisation since August 2019.

Prior to this, he was serving as Director (Operations) of the company.

Tyagi has over 33 years of rich experience in the power sector at various key positions in leading CPSUs. He has handled multi-disciplinary work in various business areas of Power Grid such as asset management, engineering, business development (domestic and overseas), telecom, load despatch & communication, NTAMC, DMS etc. and head of Power Grid's North Eastern Region.

Power Grid is a Maharatna PSU under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power, Govt of India.

Recent Appointment

- **Deputy Executive Director (Management) of UNFPA** - Andrew Paul Saberton, UK (replace Ib Petersen, Denmark)
- **CMD of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd** - Uday A Kaole
- **Director (Works) of National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL)** - Pramod Sharma
- **DG of Prisons and Correctional Services** - Maheshwar Dayal
- **CEO and MD of Stellantis India** - Aditya Jairaj (replace Roland Bouchara)

20. Veteran banker Ashok Vaswani has taken over as the Managing Director (MD) and CEO of the Kotak Mahindra Bank. He has replaced whom?

अनुभवी बैंकर अशोक वासवानी ने कोटक महिंद्रा बैंक के प्रबंध निदेशक (एमडी) और सीईओ का पदभार संभाला है। उन्होंने किसका स्थान लिया है?

- (a) Rajnish Kumar / रजनीश कुमार
- (b) Dipak Gupta / दीपक गुप्ता /
- (c) Deepak Mohanty / दीपक मोहंती
- (d) Uday Kotak / उदय कोटक
- (e) Siddhartha Mohanty / सिद्धार्थ मोहंती

Ans. b

Sol. Ashok Vaswani assumes charge as Kotak Mahindra Bank's MD and CEO

Veteran banker Ashok Vaswani has taken over as the Managing Director (MD) and CEO of the Kotak Mahindra Bank.

He succeeded Dipak Gupta, who served as the interim MD and CEO after founder director Uday Kotak stepped down as the head of the bank, effective September 1, 2023.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in October 2023 approved the appointment of Vaswani as the bank's MD and CEO for a period of three years.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in October 2023 approved the appointment of Vaswani as the bank's MD and CEO for a period of three years

Prior to this, Vaswani served as the CEO of Citigroup Asia Pacific and was a member of both the Citigroup Global Operating Committee and management committees.

About Kotak Mahindra Bank

- **Founded** – 21 November 1985
- **Founders** - Uday Kotak
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman** - CS Rajan (replace Prakash Apte)
- **MD & CEO** - Ashok Vaswani (replace Dipak Gupta)

Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **Chairman of 16th Finance Commission** - Arvind Panagariya (15th Finance Commission – N K Singh)
- **Secretary of 16th Finance Commission** - Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey
- **Chief Risk Officer of LIC** - S Sunder Krishnan (replace Pratap Chandra Paikray)
- **Part-time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank** - CS Rajan (replace Prakash Apte)
- **Interim MD & CEO of North East SFB** - Satish Kumar Kalra

21. Felix Tshisekedi has been re-elected as the president of Congo. What is the currency of Congo?

फेलिक्स त्सेसीकेदी को कांगो के राष्ट्रपति के रूप में फिर से चुना गया है। कांगो की मुद्रा क्या है?

- (a) Dollar
- (b) Pound
- (c) Franc
- (d) Peso
- (e) Krone

Ans. c

Sol. Tshisekedi re-elected president of Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) President Felix Tshisekedi won re-election with more than 70 percent of the vote.

Businessman Moise Katumbi finished behind Tshisekedi with 18 percent of the vote.

Martin Fayulu, a former oil company executive, received 5 percent, while Nobel Peace Prize winner Denis Mukwege, a physician renowned for treating women brutalised by sexual violence in eastern DR Congo, got less than 1 percent.

The election had over 40 percent turnout, with some 18 million people voting. The results will be sent to the constitutional court for confirmation, election chief Denis Kadima said.

About Congo

- Capital- Kinshasa
- Currency- Congolese Franc
- President- Felix Tshisekedi
- Prime minister- Sama Lukonde
- Official language- French

Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President

- President of Egypt - Abdel Fattah El-Sisi (3rd term)
- 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

22. Who has won the Girls' Under-19 Title at the 2023 Scottish Junior Open squash held in Edinburgh?

एडिनबर्ग में आयोजित 2023 स्कॉटिश जूनियर ओपन स्क्वैश में लड़कियों का अंडर-19 खिताब किसने जीता है?

- (a) Dipika Pallikal / दीपिका पल्लीकल
- (b) Anshika Singh / अंशिका सिंह /
- (c) Shreya Ghosa / श्रेया घोषा
- (d) Joshna Chinnappa / जोशना चिनप्पा
- (e) Anahat Singh / अनाहत सिंह

Ans. e

Sol. Anahat wins U-19 girls' title at Scottish Junior Open squash

Delhi's Talented Indian teenager Anahat Singh produced a dominant performance, bagging the girls' under-19 title at the 2023 Scottish Junior Open squash held in Edinburgh.

Anahat claimed a 11-6, 11-1, 11-5 victory over home favourite Robyn McAlpine in the final.

Anahat recorded the under-19 and senior National championship double and won the mixed doubles bronze along with Abhay Singh both at the Asian Games and in the inaugural Asian Mixed Doubles Championships.

Meanwhile, India's Subhash Choudhary rallied to beat compatriot Shiven Agarwal 5-11, 11-4, 6-11, 11-8, 11-5 in the boys' under-15 final, while Shresht Iyer beat Shreyansh Jah 11-8, 11-8, 3-11, 11-8 in an all-Indian boys' under-13 final.

Divyanshi Jain finished runner-up in the girls' under-11 category.

23. DRDO's Foundation Day is observed on January 1 every year. In which year DRDO was established?

डीआरडीओ का स्थापना दिवस हर साल 1 जनवरी को मनाया जाता है। DRDO की स्थापना किस वर्ष हुई थी?

- (a) 1950
- (b) 1952
- (c) 1958
- (d) 1968
- (e) 1971

Ans. c

Sol. DRDO celebrates 66th Foundation Day

DRDO's Foundation Day is observed on January 1 every year to commemorate the excellent work of the organisation in making the nation strong and self-reliant in terms of science and technology and especially military technologies.

What is DRDO?

- DRDO is the R&D wing of the Ministry of Defence, Govt of India, with a vision to empower India with cutting-edge defence technologies and a mission to achieve self-reliance in critical defence technologies and systems, while equipping our armed forces with state-of-the-art weapon systems and equipment in accordance with requirements laid down by the three Services.
- DRDO's pursuit of self-reliance and successful indigenous development and production of strategic systems and platforms such as Agni and Prithvi series of missiles; light combat aircraft, Tejas; multi-barrel rocket launcher, Pinaka; air defence system, Akash; a wide range of radars and electronic warfare systems; etc., have given quantum jump to India's military might, generating effective deterrence and providing crucial leverage.

History of DRDO

- DRDO'S Formation-DRDO was formed in 1958 from the amalgamation of the then already functioning Technical Development Establishment (TDEs) of the Indian Army and the Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO).
- DRDO was then a small organisation with 10 establishments or laboratories. Over the years, it has grown multi-directionally in terms of the variety of subject disciplines, number of laboratories, achievements and stature.
- The beginning of the Defence Research & Development Establishment goes back to 1947. The then Maharaja of Gwalior, Jiwaji Rao Scindia, the ruler of the Gwalior state, created a laboratory named Jiwaji Industrial Research Laboratory (JIRL).
- The JIRL was inaugurated by the then Governor-General of India Lord Earl Mountbatten on December 28, 1947. The JIRL was taken over by the Ministry of Defence, Government of India in November 1963.
- Till 1972, it was under the administrative control of the Defence Research Laboratory (Materials), Kanpur. After that in 1973, it was made a full-fledged independent unit as the Defence Research & Development Establishment (DRDE).

24. Copyright Law Day is celebrated every year on which day?

कॉपीराइट कानून दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 1 January / 1 जनवरी
- (b) 2 January / 2 जनवरी
- (c) 3 January / 3 जनवरी
- (d) 4 January / 4 जनवरी
- (e) 5 January / 5 जनवरी

Ans. a

Sol. 1 January - Copyright Law Day

Copyright Law Day is celebrated every year on 1 January to emphasize on the need to give credit where it is due.

The first copyright statute was made by British Statute of Anne 1710 and applied only to books.

In 1787, the United States Constitution protected copyrights to promote the progress of science and useful arts.

Even back then, the primary intention of copyrights was to promote the creation of new works and allow authors the profit of copyrights. However, illegal downloading and usage of copyrighted products still continue to haunt us, and make the industries suffer.

25. World Day of Peace is celebrated every year on which day?

विश्व शांति दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 1 January / 1 जनवरी
- (b) 2 January / 2 जनवरी
- (c) 3 January / 3 जनवरी
- (d) 4 January / 4 जनवरी
- (e) 5 January / 5 जनवरी

Ans. a

Sol. 1 January - World Day of Peace

World Day of Peace is celebrated on January 1 every year, is primarily a Catholic feast day dedicated to universal peace on the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.

On this occasion, Popes generally make authoritative declarations on the Catholic Social Teachings (C.S.T.).

The Pope and the Vatican Church stress the need to care and share tolerance for each other and to create a society that focuses on good moral values and does not yield to the temptation to disregard others.

World Day of Peace began in 1967 when Pope Paul VI announced that the world needs to be sensitized and oriented for peace and understanding.

26. Rajnath Singh has inaugurated its first all-girls Sainik School in which city of Uttar Pradesh?

राजनाथ सिंह ने उत्तर प्रदेश के किस शहर में अपने पहले पूर्ण-गर्ल्स सैनिक स्कूल का उद्घाटन किया है?

- (a) Ayodhya / अयोध्या
- (b) Varanasi / वाराणसी
- (c) Kanpur / कानपुर
- (d) Lucknow / लखनऊ
- (e) Vrindavan / वृन्दावन

Ans. e

Sol. India inaugurated its first all-girls Sainik School in Vrindavan, UP

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the inaugural all-girls Sainik School in Vrindavan Uttar Pradesh, hailing it as a guiding light for young women aspiring to serve in the armed forces and safeguard the nation.

The inauguration of the Samvid Gurukulam Girls Sainik School marks a significant milestone. It is the inaugural all-girls Sainik School, hosting approximately 870 students.

This establishment is part of the broader initiative to establish 100 new Sainik Schools through collaboration with NGOs, private entities, and state government schools across all states and Union territories.

These new establishments are supplementary to the 33 existing Sainik Schools operating under the previous pattern.

Singh, in 2019, approved the admission of girl children to Sainik Schools from academic session 2021-22 in a phased manner. The decision was taken following the pilot project's success started by the defence ministry in Sainik School Chhingchhip in Mizoram.

The vision behind establishing 100 new Sainik Schools is aligned with the goals of the National Education Policy 2020. The primary objectives include offering students high-quality education and enhancing their career prospects, including opportunities to join the armed forces.

27. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated a new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli International Airport in which state?

प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने किस राज्य में तिरुचिरापल्ली अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर एक नए टर्मिनल भवन का उद्घाटन किया है?

- (a) Kerala / केरल
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Odisha / ओडिशा
- (d) Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश
- (e) Telangana / तेलंगाना

Ans. b

Sol. PM Modi inaugurates new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli airport

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli International Airport in Tamil Nadu.

The new terminal building has been developed at a cost of more than Rs 1100 crore.

The airport's design has been inspired by the cultural vibrancy of Tiruchirappalli. It would depict art forms from Kolam art to colours of Srirangam Temple and other theme artworks.

The two-level new international terminal building has the capacity to serve more than 44 lakh passengers annually and about 3500 passengers during peak hours.

Tiruchirappalli International Airport is the second largest airport in terms of international passenger traffic after Chennai in Tamil Nadu.

The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than ₹19,850 crore in Tamil Nadu.

28. Recently, which city has achieved 100% saturation in 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra'?

हाल ही में, किस शहर ने 'विकसित भारत संकल्प यात्रा' में 100% संतृप्ति हासिल की है?

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) Panaji / पणजी
- (c) Bhubaneswar / भुवनेश्वर
- (d) Udhampur / उधमपुर
- (e) Mumbai / मुंबई

Ans. d

Sol. Udhampur achieved 100% saturation in 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra'

Dr. Jitendra Singh commends Udhampur's success, nearing full implementation in key schemes and flagship projects.

PMGSY and RDD departments were lauded for excellence in road connectivity and efficient completion of Area Development Plan.

All the "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" schemes as well as all the flagship schemes of Govt. of India are nearing 100% saturation in district Udhampur.

29. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has organized which edition of Divya Kala Mela in Surat, Gujarat?

दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग ने सूरत, गुजरात में दिव्य कला मेले के किस संस्करण का आयोजन किया है?

- (a) 10th
- (b) 12th
- (c) 14th
- (d) 16th
- (e) 20th

Ans. b

Sol. Surat Hosts 12th Divya Kala Mela 2023

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, organized 'the 12th edition of Divya Kala Mela' in Surat, Gujarat.

The Mela is co-hosted by the National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC).

The primary objective of the 'Divya Kala Mela' is to contribute to the economic empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwD)/Divyangjan.

This event aimed at showcasing the products and craftsmanship of Divyang entrepreneurs and artisans from across the nation.

 **ambitious baba**.com

30. Which Union Territory has become the first Union Territory to implement the PM Vishwakarma Yojana (PMVY) in the country?

कौन सा केंद्र शासित प्रदेश देश में पीएम विश्वकर्मा योजना (पीएमवीवाई) लागू करने वाला पहला केंद्र शासित प्रदेश बन गया है?

- (a) Delhi / दिल्ली
- (b) Chandigarh / चंडीगढ़
- (c) Jammu and Kashmir / जम्मू और कश्मीर
- (d) Ladakh / लद्दाख
- (e) Puducherry / पुदुचेरी

Ans. c

Sol. J&K becomes first UT to implement PM Vishwakarma Yojana

Jammu and Kashmir has become the first Union Territory (UT) to implement the PM Vishwakarma Yojana (PMVY).

It is an initiative that aims to empower and enhance the skills of the craftsman community.

The inauguration of the training programme for the first batch of 30 trainees (Vishwakarmas) in 'darzi craft' was virtually conducted by Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, and Secretary of the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Atul Kumar Tiwari, at ITI Shopian.

PMVY, an initiative launched by the Central government in September 2023, aims to recognize artisans and craftspeople through PM Vishwakarma certificates and ID cards.

The scheme includes basic training of five to seven days, advanced training of 15 days or more, a stipend of ₹500 per day, and a free modern toolkit worth ₹15,000 for trained Vishwakarmas.

Additionally, the yojana offers linkage with credit-based soft loans and marketing support to expand their businesses.

31. Who has been appointed as the new Defence Minister of China?

चीन का नया रक्षा मंत्री किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Dhoi Soo-jong / धोई सू-जोंग
- (b) Shin Ye-eun / शिन ये-यूं
- (c) Hwang Kwanghee / ह्वांग कांगही
- (d) Dong Jun / डोंग जून
- (e) Choi Soo-jong / चोई सू-जोंग

Ans. d

Sol. Dong Jun Named As China's New Defense Minister

China named former Navy chief Dong Jun as its new defence minister to replace the last minister, Li Shangfu, who disappeared from public view four months ago.

The appointment by Chinese lawmakers comes as President Xi Jinping upgrades the military as part of his push to make China a dominant world power, a goal that has alarmed many neighbours, especially its assertiveness towards self-ruled Taiwan and in the disputed South China Sea.

The role of China's defence minister is to be the public face of the People's Liberation Army in its engagement with the media and with other armed forces.

Dong Jun, a former navy commander, has been appointed as China's new defense minister. At 62 years old, Dong previously served as the commander of the navy since August 2021.

His extensive military experience includes holding the position of deputy commander of the Chinese military's Southern Theatre Command, which operates in the contested South China Sea region.

About China

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

32. How much total transaction value was done through UPI in the year 2023?

वर्ष 2023 में UPI के माध्यम से कुल कितने मूल्य का लेनदेन किया गया?

- (a) ₹8-lakh crore
- (b) ₹28-lakh crore
- (c) ₹18-lakh crore
- (d) ₹22-lakh crore
- (e) ₹14-lakh crore

Ans. c

Sol. UPI ends 2023 with record transactions worth ₹18-lakh crore

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ended 2023 at a high, recording over 1,200 crore transactions worth more than ₹18-lakh crore in December, a peak for both the transaction count and value.

Over 11,765 UPI transactions worth ₹182.2-lakh crore were processed in 2023, up 59 percent in terms of volume and 45 percent in terms of value compared with 2022, as per data by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Transactions worth ₹18.23-lakh crore were processed during December, significantly higher than the previous high of ₹17.40-lakh crore in November. In percentage terms, the value of transactions was 4.8 percent higher on the month and 42 percent on year.

The number of transactions on the UPI network breached the 1,200 crore mark to 1,202 crore transactions, higher by 6.9 percent on month and 54 percent on year

On-year growth in UPI transactions has consistently remained over 40 percent for the value of transactions and above 50 percent for the volume of UPI trades in 2023 and FY24 so far.

In FY23, the UPI platform processed 8,376 crore transactions, aggregating ₹139-lakh crore.

33. Popular Queen Margrethe II to step down after 52 years on throne. She is the Queen of which country?

लोकप्रिय रानी मार्ग्रेथ द्वितीय 52 वर्षों तक सिंहासन पर रहने के बाद पद छोड़ेंगी। वह किस देश की रानी हैं?

- (a) Denmark / डेनमार्क
- (b) France / फ्रांस
- (c) Brazil / ब्राजील
- (d) Finland / फिनलैंड
- (e) Scotland / स्कॉटलैंड

Ans. a

Sol. Denmark's Queen Margrethe II to step down after 52 years on throne

Denmark's popular Queen Margrethe II, Europe's longest-serving monarch, would abdicate on January 14 and pass the baton to her son Crown Prince Frederik.

Margrethe, 83, has reigned for 52 years and has been Europe's only reigning queen after the death of Britain's Elizabeth II.

She has been hailed for subtly modernising Danish royalty in her half-century on the throne. The queen, known for her artistic talents, has been hugely popular in Denmark.

She has managed to be a queen who has united the Danish nation in a time of large changes: globalization, the appearance of the multicultural state, economic crises in the 1970s, 1980s and again in 2008 to 2015, and the pandemic.

About Denmark

- Capital- Copenhagen
- Currency- Danish krone
- Prime Minister - Mette Frederiksen

34. Who has been appointed as the Director General of Fire Service, Civil Defence & Home Guards?

अग्निशमन सेवा, नागरिक सुरक्षा और होम गार्ड के महानिदेशक 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) Vivek Srivastava / विवेक श्रीवास्तव

Ans. e

Sol. Vivek Srivastava appoints as DG of Fire Service

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has recently approved the appointment of Vivek Srivastava as the Director General of Fire Service, Civil Defence & Home Guards under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

He is a seasoned 1989-batch IPS officer of the Gujarat cadre.

This significant appointment is set to take effect from the date of Srivastava's joining the post and will continue until June 30, 2025, or until further orders, whichever occurs earlier.

Recent Appointment

- **CMD of Power Grid Corporation** - Ravindra Kumar Tyagi (replace Sreekant Kandikuppa)
- **Deputy Executive Director (Management) of UNFPA** - Andrew Paul Saberton, UK (replace Ib Petersen, Denmark)
- **Chairman of 16th Finance Commission** - Arvind Panagariya (15th Finance Commission – N K Singh)
- **Secretary of 16th Finance Commission** - Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey
- **CMD of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd** - Uday A Kaole

35. Kia India has appointed Gwanggu Lee as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer with immediate effect. Kia is the company of which country?

किआ इंडिया ने तत्काल प्रभाव से ग्वांगगु ली को नया प्रबंध निदेशक और मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी नियुक्त किया है। किआ किस देश की कंपनी है?

- (a) South Korea / दक्षिण कोरिया
- (b) USA / यूएसए
- (c) Japan / जापान
- (d) Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया
- (e) Germany / जर्मनी

Ans. a

Sol. Kia India names Gwanggu Lee as new MD & CEO

Kia India has appointed Gwanggu Lee as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer with immediate effect.

He will be the third MD and CEO of Kia India, succeeding Kook Hyun Shim and Tae Jin Park.

Kia currently sells five models, including Seltos, Sonet, and Carens, in the Indian market.

Kia and Kia Motors Corporation is a South Korean multinational automobile manufacturer.

CEO at Kia Global - Ho-Sung Song

36. Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal has launched a new e-commerce start-up to help emerging e-commerce brands expand globally.

What is the name of this startup?

फ्लिपकार्ट के सह-संस्थापक बिन्नी बंसल ने उभरते ई-कॉमर्स ब्रांडों को वैश्विक स्तर पर विस्तार करने में मदद करने के लिए एक नया ई-कॉमर्स स्टार्ट-अप लॉन्च किया है। इस स्टार्टअप का नाम क्या है?

- (a) InDoor
- (b) OutDoor
- (c) OppDoor
- (d) AppDoor
- (e) eDoor

Ans. c

Sol. Flipkart co-founder launched e-commerce start-up 'OppDoor'

Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal has launched a new e-commerce start-up OppDoor, business-to-business (B2B) platform.

The software services platform will help emerging e-commerce brands expand globally.

OppDoor is a 'managed services platform for global expansion'. It will help e-commerce brands by offering them end-to-end services on global markets, customer behaviour, taxation and compliance, partnerships, and third-party vendors.

OppDoor delivers fully managed Amazon services aimed at expanding private label brands across multiple regions globally.

About OppDoor

- The startup is registered in Singapore and was established in May 2021.
- The company is operating as a venture capital firm and was earlier known as 'Three State Ventures Pte Ltd.' The company is receiving investment from different startups across India (like Curefood, and Scapia).
- The company's main aim is to help firms achieve e-commerce excellence across the globe. Its main purpose is to support e-commerce companies to expand operations globally by providing them with end-to-end solutions

OppDoor has presence in 8 countries

- OppDoor provides services primarily in eight countries – Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Singapore, the UK, and the US.
- The company is currently not providing services in India as there was no mention of India on its website. The company website doesn't provide details of Benny Bansal as its owner.

37. Beatrice Chebet smashed the women's world 5km record in Barcelona. She is from which country?

बीट्राइस चेबेट ने बार्सिलोना में महिलाओं के विश्व 5 किमी के रिकॉर्ड को तोड़ दिया। वह किस देश से है?

- (a) Kenya / केन्या
- (b) Ghana / घाना
- (c) Sudan / सूडान
- (d) Zimbabwe / जिम्बाब्वे
- (e) Oman / ओमान

Ans. a

Sol. Beatrice Chebet breaks 5 km world record in Barcelona event

Kenya's Beatrice Chebet smashed the women's world 5km record in Barcelona.

The 23-year-old's time of 14min 13sec improved on the previous women-only world record of 14:29 set by Ethiopia's Senbere Teferi in September 2021.

Her performance also bettered the women's world record set in a mixed race of 14:19, achieved by Ethiopia's Ejegayehu Taye at the same Barcelona meet in 2021.

Taye finished second behind Chebet on Sunday, clocking 14:21, while Kenya's Lilian Kasait Rengeruk was third in 14:26 as the top three dipped under the previous women-only world record mark.

Uganda's Joy Cheptoyek was also inside that mark, finishing fourth in 14:28.

The men's race was won by Swiss Dominic Lobalu in 13:12, six seconds clear of runner-up Mathew Kipkoech Kipruto of Kenya.

38. World Introvert Day is observed every year on which day?

विश्व अंतर्मुखी दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 1 January / 1 जनवरी
- (b) 2 January / 2 जनवरी
- (c) 3 January / 3 जनवरी
- (d) 4 January / 4 जनवरी
- (e) 5 January / 5 जनवरी

Ans. b

Sol. 2 January - World Introvert Day

World Introvert Day is observed on January 2 every year.

It is a day committed to understanding and valuing the exceptional characteristics of introverted people.

An introvert person is somebody who is shy, calm and likes to invest energy alone instead of frequently being with others.

World Introvert Day was started from a blog post by psychologist and author Felicitas Heyne named, "Here's Why We Need a World Introvert Day" on her site "iPersonic".

The date January 2 was picked in light of the fact that it denotes the end of the holiday season beginning from Christmas to New Year and permits introverts to take a collective full breath.

39. Legal scholar Professor Ved Prakash Nanda passed away recently. In which year was he given the Padma Bhushan award?

कानूनी विद्वान प्रोफेसर वेद प्रकाश नंदा का हाल ही में निधन हो गया। उन्हें किस वर्ष पद्म भूषण पुरस्कार दिया गया था?

- (a) 2015
- (b) 2018
- (c) 2020
- (d) 2021
- (e) 2022

Ans. b

Sol. Professor Ved Prakash Nanda died

Legal scholar Professor Ved Prakash Nanda passed away.

Professor Nanda was a distinguished academic whose contributions to the legal field are invaluable and his work highlights his strong commitment to legal education.

Professor Ved Prakash Nanda was also a prominent member of the Indian diaspora in USA and was passionate about strong India-USA relations.

In 2018, Professor Ved Prakash Nanda had received the prestigious Padma Bhushan award.

As a professor of International Law at the University of Denver, Colorado, Prof. Nanda carved a significant niche in the academic realm. He served as President of the World Jurist Association, honorary Vice President of the American Society of International Law and in advisory council of the United States Institute of Human Rights.

40. Which of the following has declared 2024 as the 'Year of Human Resource Development and Discipline'?

निम्नलिखित में से किसने 2024 को 'मानव संसाधन विकास और अनुशासन का वर्ष' घोषित किया है?

- (a) NABARD / नाबार्ड
- (b) RBI / आरबीआई
- (c) IREDA / आईआरईडीए
- (d) SEBI / सेबी
- (e) SIDBI / सिडबी

Ans. c

Sol. IREDA Declared 2024 as 'Year of HR Development and Discipline'

CMD of IREDA, Pradip Kumar Das has declared 2024 as the 'Year of Human Resource Development and Discipline'.

The CMD praised the efforts of the employees that have propelled IREDA to new heights.

The year 2024 will be christened as 'Year of Human Resource Development and Discipline' to mark IREDA's future roadmap into new strategic sectors and geographies.

The move suggests IREDA's commitment to evolving and adapting to new challenges while prioritizing the development and discipline of its human resources to drive the organization's progress.

About Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)

- IREDA is a Mini Ratna (Category - I) Government of India Enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- IREDA is a Public Limited Government Company established as a Non-Banking Financial Institution in 1987
- Motto- "ENERGY FOR EVER"
- Chairman & MD- Pradip Kumar Das
- CFO- Bijay Kumar Mohanty

41. Which company has become the first Indian company to receive International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC)-Plus?

कौन सी कंपनी अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्थिरता और कार्बन प्रमाणन (आईएससीसी)-प्लस प्राप्त करने वाली पहली भारतीय कंपनी बन गई है?

- (a) Reliance Industries Limited / रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड
- (b) Larsen & Toubro (L&T) / लार्सन एंड टुब्रो (एल एंड टी)
- (c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited / हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड
- (d) Tata Advanced Systems / टाटा एडवांस्ड सिस्टम्स
- (e) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) / भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स लिमिटेड (बीईएल)

Ans. a

Sol. Reliance Industries first in India to receive ISCC-Plus certification

Reliance Industries has become the first Indian company to chemically recycle plastic waste-based pyrolysis oil into International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC)-Plus certified circular polymers.

This innovation is a testimony to Reliance's commitment to reducing plastic waste and supporting the circular economy in India.

Reliance shipped its first batch of ISCC-Plus-certified circular polymers, named CircuRepol (Polypropylene) and CircuRelene (Polyethylene).

CircuRepol and CircuRelene have been designed to lead the way in circular economy practices. Reliance's Jamnagar refinery became the first refinery to get the important ISCC-Plus certification, proving that it can produce circular polymers through chemical recycling

The ISCC-Plus certification guarantees that traceability and rules are followed in making circular polymers.

Reliance has developed a technology that turns different types of plastic waste, including single-use and multi-layered plastics, into pyrolysis oil.

42. Which company will invest ₹211 crore (\$ 25.712 million) over a five-year period for exploration stage activities of five lithium blocks in Fiambala area of Argentina?

कौन सी कंपनी अर्जेन्टीना के फियाम्बाला क्षेत्र में पांच लिथियम ब्लॉकों की अन्वेषण चरण गतिविधियों के लिए पांच साल की अवधि में ₹211 करोड़ (\$25.712 मिलियन) का निवेश करेगी?

- (a) Adani Group / अदानी ग्रुप
- (b) Tata Group / टाटा ग्रुप
- (c) Reliance Industries Limited / रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड
- (d) Khanij Bidesh India Ltd / खनिज विदेश इंडिया लिमिटेड
- (e) NTPC Limited / एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड

Ans. d

Sol. KABIL to invest over ₹200 cr towards securing lithium supplies in Argentina

India's KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd) will invest ₹211 crore (\$ 25.712 million) over a five-year period for exploration stage activities of five lithium blocks in Fiambala area of Argentina.

An exploration and development agreement in this regard is expected to be signed with CAMYEN, a state-owned miner in Argentina's Catamarca province, later this month.

The KABIL board approved proposals of signing an exploration and development agreement with CAMYEN and opening of branch office in Catamarca; as well as the investment proposal towards exploration stage activities of the five lithium blocks in June last year.

About Argentina

- Capital- Buenos Aires
- Currency- Argentine Peso
- President - Javier Milei
- National sport- Pato

43. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the Punjab government's purchase of a private thermal plant, Goindwal Sahib Thermal Power Plant, for _____.

भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (सीसीआई) ने पंजाब सरकार को एक निजी थर्मल प्लांट, गोइंदवाल साहिब थर्मल पावर प्लांट, को _____ में खरीदने की मंजूरी दे दी है।

- (a) ₹ 1,180 crore
- (b) ₹ 1,280 crore
- (c) ₹ 1,380 crore
- (d) ₹ 1,080 crore
- (e) ₹ 980 crore

Ans. d

Sol. CCI approved Punjab government's buy of private thermal plant

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the Punjab government's purchase of a private thermal plant, Goindwal Sahib Thermal Power Plant.

CCI approves the proposed acquisition of 100 percent shareholding of GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Ltd by Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd (PSPCL).

The government had created history by buying a private thermal plant, Goindwal Sahib Thermal Power Plant for ₹ 1,080 crore, at the cheapest price in the country.

This is the first time that a State has purchased a thermal plant. The 540-MW thermal plant would be named after Guru Amardass, the third Guru of Sikhs.

About Punjab Power Corporation

- PSPCL is a fully owned undertaking of the Government of Punjab.
- The erstwhile Punjab State Electricity Board (PSEB), was a statutory body formed on February 1, 1959 under the Electricity Supply Act, 1948.
- The PSEB was "unbundled" by the Government of Punjab on April 16, 2010 into two separate entities – Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) and Punjab State Transmission Corporation Limited (PSTCL).
- GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Ltd was incorporated in December 1997 and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of GVK Energy Ltd, which in turn, is the subsidiary of GVK Power and Infrastructure Ltd.

44. Which country has taken over the chairmanship of BRICS for 2024?

किस देश ने 2024 के लिए BRICS की अध्यक्षता संभाली है?

- (a) Saudi Arabia / सऊदी अरब
- (b) China / चीन
- (c) Russia / रूस
- (d) India / भारत
- (e) UAE / संयुक्त अरब अमीरात

Ans. c

Sol. Russia takes over the BRICS chairmanship

Russia has taken over the BRICS chairmanship as of January 1, following the decision made during the 15th BRICS Summit in August 2022.

Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates have joined BRICS as new full members which is a strong indication of the growing authority of the association and its role in international affairs.

BRICS continues to attract a growing number of supporters and like-minded nations that share fundamental principles such as sovereign equality, respect for diverse developmental paths, mutual consideration of interests, openness, consensus-building, the pursuit of a multipolar global order, a fair global financial and trade system, and collective solutions to major global challenges.

About Russia

- **Capital** – Moscow
- **Currency** – Rubel
- **President** – Vladimir Putin

 **ambitious baba**
.COM

45. Who has become the first woman to hold a \$100 billion fortune, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index?

ब्लूमबर्ग बिलियनेयर्स इंडेक्स के अनुसार, 100 बिलियन डॉलर की संपत्ति रखने वाली पहली महिला कौन बन गई है?

- (a) Neeta Ambani / नीता अंबानी
- (b) Roshni Nadar / रोशनी नादर
- (c) Françoise Bettencourt Meyers / फ्रेंकोइस बेटेनकोर्ट मेयर्
- (d) Liliane Bettencourt / लिलियन बेटेनकोर्ट
- (e) Miriam Adelson / मरियम एडेलसन

Ans. c

Sol. Françoise Bettencourt Meyers becomes first woman with a \$100 billion

Françoise Bettencourt Meyers, heiress to the L'Oréal beauty empire, has made history as the world's first woman to surpass a net worth of \$100 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

This milestone was achieved through the surge in L'Oréal S.A. stock. As of that day, her net worth stood at \$100.1 billion, shows Bloomberg's data.

Established in 1909 by Bettencourt Meyers' chemist grandfather, Eugene Schueller to sale a hair dye, the company has been led by non-family executives for many decades.

L'Oreal Group, the world's largest cosmetics company, owns brands like Lancome and Maybelline.

L'Oreal acquires Australian brand Aesop in a \$2.5 billion deal in 2022. Marks the largest brand acquisition in L'Oreal's history.

46. PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands submarine optical fiber connection (KLI-SOFC) project. What is the total link distance of this cable?

पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी ने कोच्चि-लक्षद्वीप द्वीप समूह पनडुब्बी ऑप्टिकल फाइबर कनेक्शन (KLI-SOFC) परियोजना का उद्घाटन किया है। इस केबल की कुल लिंक दूरी कितनी है?

- (a) 1068 km
- (b) 1168 km
- (c) 1868 km
- (d) 1668 km
- (e) 1268 km

Ans. c

Sol. PM inaugurates Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Optical Fibre Connection

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands submarine optical fiber connection (KLI-SOFC) project.

He also inaugurated various developmental projects worth more than Rs 1,150 crore covering a wide range of sectors including technology, energy, water resources, healthcare, and education.

The KLI-SOFC project will lead to an increase in internet speed unlocking new possibilities & opportunities. For the first time since independence, Lakshadweep will be connected through Submarine Optic Fibre Cable.

The dedicated submarine OFC will ensure a paradigm shift in communication infrastructure in the Lakshadweep islands, enabling faster and more reliable internet services, telemedicine, e-governance, educational initiatives, digital banking, digital currency usage, digital literacy, etc.

Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Optical Fiber Connection (KLI - SOFC) project has been dedicated to people today and will ensure 100 times faster Internet for the people of Lakshadweep.

The project will play a significant role in achieving the objective of 'Digital India' and 'National Broadband Mission' and for rolling out of various e-governance projects of the Government of India in Lakshadweep Islands.

The bandwidth created under this project will be available to all Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) to strengthen their telecom services in the Lakshadweep Islands.

Total link distance: 1,868 kilometers.

Total cost of project: Rs 1072 crore plus taxes.

47. Who has been nominated by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) as the Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee?

राष्ट्रीय कानूनी सेवा प्राधिकरण (NALSA) द्वारा सुप्रीम कोर्ट कानूनी सेवा समिति के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे नामित किया गया है?

- (a) Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde / जस्टिस शरद अरविंद बोबड़े
- (b) Justice D.Y. Chandrachud / जस्टिस डी. वाई. चंद्रचूड़
- (c) Justice Uday Lalit / जस्टिस उदय ललित
- (d) Justice N. V. Ramana / जस्टिस एन वी रमना
- (e) Justice BR Gavai / जस्टिस बीआर गवई

Ans. e

Sol. Justice BR Gavai appoints chairperson of SC legal services committee.

National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has nominated Justice BR Gavai as the Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee.

Succeeds Justice Sanjiv Khanna as the Chairperson of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna was previously the senior-most puisne judge and currently serves as the Executive Chairperson of NALSA.

Justice Khanna was recently appointed Executive Chairperson of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

Recent Appointment

- **MD & CEO of Kia India** - Gwanggu Lee
- **Defense Minister of China** - Dong Jun (replace Li Shangfu)
- **DG of Fire Service, Civil Defence & Home Guards** - Vivek Srivastava
- **CMD of Power Grid Corporation** - Ravindra Kumar Tyagi (replace Sreekant Kandikuppa)
- **Deputy Executive Director (Management) of UNFPA** - Andrew Paul Saberton, UK (replace Ib Petersen, Denmark)

48. Nadia Calviño has been appointed as the president of the European Investment Bank (EIB). She is from which country?
नादिया कैल्विनो को यूरोपीय निवेश बैंक (ईआईबी) का अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किया गया है। वह किस देश से है?

- (a) France / फ्रांस
- (b) Italy / इटली
- (c) UK / यूके
- (d) Spain / स्पेन
- (e) Canada / कनाडा

Ans. d

Sol. Nadia Calviño takes over as EIB President

Nadia Calviño took over as president of the European Investment Bank, replacing Werner Hoyer.

The eighth president of the EU bank, Calviño is the first woman to lead the institution. She is also the first Spaniard to head the Bank.

President Calviño was previously first vice-president of the government of Spain and minister of economy, trade, and enterprise.

In the past, Calviño has also held various positions at the European Commission, where she was deputy director general with special responsibility for financial services, deputy director general for competition, and later director general in charge of the budget.

Calviño takes over from Werner Hoyer, who had been president of the Bank since 2012. Hoyer gave the Bank a higher public profile, in part through its evolution into the EU climate bank.

Recent Appointment

- **Chairman of 16th Finance Commission** - Arvind Panagariya
- **Secretary of 16th Finance Commission** - Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey
- **CMD of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd** - Uday A Kaole
- **Director (Works) of National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL)** - Pramod Sharma
- **DG of Prisons and Correctional Services** - Maheshwar Dayal

49. The Maharashtra government has approved the Maharashtra Drone Mission (MDM) to harness drone technology. This five-year implementation plan has been prepared based on a report by which IIT's experts?

महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने ड्रोन प्रौद्योगिकी का उपयोग करने के लिए महाराष्ट्र ड्रोन मिशन (एमडीएम) को मंजूरी दे दी है। यह पंचवर्षीय कार्यान्वयन योजना किस आईआईटी के विशेषज्ञों की रिपोर्ट के आधार पर तैयार की गई है?

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

Ans. d

Sol. Maharashtra aims to become Global Drone hub

The Maharashtra government has approved the Maharashtra Drone Mission (MDM) to harness drone technology.

Functions include security surveillance, disaster rescue, delivery of emergency medicines, vaccines to remote areas, infrastructure project monitoring, and traffic management.

A five-year implementation plan has been prepared based on a report by a team of experts from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Bombay which would be monitored by a committee headed by the Chief Secretary.

The Drone Mission will be headquartered at IIT-B.

The Drone Mission will help Maharashtra become a Global Drone hub, the notification said. The IIT-B report, which led the government to approve the Mission, was submitted in October last year.

50. Hyderabad & Bengaluru Airports have bagged global second and third positions in the Circum's on-time performance review 2023. Which airport has topped the list?

हैदराबाद और बेंगलुरु हवाई अड्डों ने सर्कम की ऑन-टाइम प्रदर्शन समीक्षा 2023 में वैश्विक दूसरा और तीसरा स्थान हासिल किया है। किस हवाई अड्डे ने सूची में शीर्ष स्थान हासिल किया है?

- (a) St Paul International Airport / सेंट पॉल अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा
- (b) Changi Airport / चांगी हवाई अड्डा
- (c) Charles de Gaulle airport / चार्ल्स डी गॉल हवाई अड्डा
- (d) Haneda Airport / हनेडा हवाई अड्डा
- (e) Hong Kong airport / हांगकांग हवाई अड्डा

Ans. a

Sol. Hyderabad, Bengaluru airports score high in global on-time ranking

Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport bagged third position in the world for its annual On-Time Performance (OTP) in the year 2023.

According to a report released by aviation analytics firm Circum, Hyderabad airport is ranked as the second most punctual airport in the world and Bengaluru airport stands next.

The Circum report stated that a flight is considered punctual if it departs or arrives with a difference of 15 minutes from the scheduled time.

The Kempegowda International Airport has achieved 84.08 % punctuality in the year 2023, making it one of the most punctual airports in the world. However, Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport beat Bengaluru airport with a slightly higher punctuality rate stands at 84.42%.

Meanwhile, America's Minneapolis' St Paul International Airport topped the list of most airports across the globe with a punctuality rate of 84.44%.

51. India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has upgraded the rating of PNB Housing Finance Company's Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) to _____ from 'IND AA' with stable outlook.

इंडिया रेटिंग्स एंड रिसर्च (इंड-रा) ने स्थिर दृष्टिकोण के साथ पीएनबी हाउसिंग फाइनेंस कंपनी के गैर-परिवर्तनीय डिबेंचर (एनसीडी) की रेटिंग को 'IND AA' से _____ तक अपग्रेड कर दिया है।

- (a) IND A+
- (b) IND AA+
- (c) IND AB+
- (d) IND B+
- (e) IND BB+

Ans. b

Sol. India Ratings revises PNB Housing Finance NCD ratings from AA to AA+

PNB Housing Finance, a housing finance company, said that India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has upgraded the rating of the company's non-convertible debentures (NCDs) to 'IND AA+' from 'IND AA' with stable outlook.

Further, Ind-Ra said that NCDs limit has been split into bank loans and NCDs and 'IND AA+' rating has been assigned to the bank loans.

The rating rationale mentions that the key drivers for the rating upgrade are granularization of loan book with 96 percent being retail and almost complete rundown of the corporate book, robust capital buffers post equity infusion of ₹2,500 through rights issue, improved asset quality, diversified resource profile with the ability to raise funds from banks and the capital markets, adequate liquidity and improvement in profitability.

52. Which bank has introduced Super Special Fixed Deposit with an incredibly enticing interest rate of 7.50% per annum?

किस बैंक ने 7.50% प्रति वर्ष की अविश्वसनीय रूप से आकर्षक ब्याज दर के साथ सुपर स्पेशल फिक्स्ड डिपॉजिट पेश किया है?

- (a) Bank of Baroda / बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
- (b) Indian Overseas Bank / इंडियन ओवरसीज बैंक
- (c) Bank of India / बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
- (d) Karnataka Bank / कर्नाटक बैंक
- (e) Karur Vyasya Bank / करूर व्यास बैंक

Ans. c

Sol. Bank of India introduced Super Special Fixed Deposit

Bank of India has introduced Super Special Fixed Deposit with an incredibly enticing interest rate of 7.50% per annum.

This offer is available for both existing customers and the general public, but only for deposits ranging from ₹2 Crores to less than Rs. 50 Crores.

The fixed deposit has a specific maturity period of 175 days, starting from January 1st, 2024.

The Super Special Fixed Deposit offers an excellent opportunity for High Net Worth Individuals (HNIs) and Corporates to invest their surplus funds for the short term.

With a high yield of 7.50% per annum for a period of 175 days, this fixed deposit stands out as one of the most attractive options for short-term investments. It surpasses other fixed deposit options of similar tenure.

Senior citizens aged 60 years and above but below 80 years will receive an additional interest rate of 0.50% on their retail term deposits (below Rs. 2 Crores) for a tenor of 6 months and above, up to 3 years.

On the other hand, super senior citizens aged 80 years and above will be eligible for an additional interest rate of 0.65% on the same retail term deposits for the same tenor range.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- IndusInd Bank has launched the '**IndusInd Bank eSvarna**', India's first Corporate Credit Card on RuPay network.
- 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

53. Who has been honoured with the prestigious MS Swaminathan Award in recognition of his contributions as a scientist and extension specialist in the field of agronomy?

कृषि विज्ञान के क्षेत्र में एक वैज्ञानिक और विस्तार विशेषज्ञ के रूप में उनके योगदान के लिए प्रतिष्ठित एमएस स्वामीनाथन पुरस्कार से किसे सम्मानित किया गया है?

- (a) Amitav Ghosh / अमिताव घोष
- (b) Vikram Seth / विक्रम सेठ
- (c) B R Kamboj / बी आर कंबोज
- (d) Aravind Adiga / अरविंद अडिगा
- (e) Priya A.S. / प्रिया ए.एस

Ans. c

Sol. Prof B R Kamboj honoured with M S Swaminathan Award

Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University's Vice Chancellor Prof. B.R. Kamboj has been honoured with the prestigious MS Swaminathan Award in recognition of his contributions as a scientist and extension specialist in the field of agronomy.

The award ceremony took place at the International Conference on 'One Health One World,' held at Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Agricultural University at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh.

The agricultural recommendations put forth by Prof. Kamboj, stemming from his research work and collaborative extension activities with university scientists, have consistently proven to be highly advantageous for farmers.

Prof Kamboj has published about 300 research papers and articles in national and international journals, books, and technical magazines.

Recent Awards

- **First Indian Company to receive ISCC-Plus certification** - Reliance Industries
- **Conferred Honorary Doctorate By Japanese University** - Devendra Fadnavis
- **National Energy Conservation Award 2023** - Karnataka
- **SASTRA Ramanujan Award 2022** -Yunqing Tang
- **SASTRA Ramanujan Award 2023** - Ruixiang Zhan

54. World Braille Day is observed every year on which day?

विश्व ब्रेल दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 6 January / 6 जनवरी
- (b) 7 January / 7 जनवरी
- (c) 8 January / 8 जनवरी
- (d) 4 January / 4 जनवरी
- (e) 5 January / 5 जनवरी

Ans. d

Sol. 4 January - World Braille Day

World Braille Day is observed every year on January 4 to honour the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of the Braille writing system for blind and visually impaired individuals.

The primary objective of recognising World Braille Day is to promote Braille literacy and raise awareness among people about its importance.

Despite the advent of new technologies and systems, visually impaired and blind people still face significant challenges in leading an independent life.

Louis Braille was a Frenchman who invented the Braille system. He was blind after a car accident at a young age. Before Braille's system was developed, blind and visually impaired people used the Haüy system, which was a Latin system designed on thick paper or leather.

However, this method only allowed people to read and not write. Due to its technical limitations, Braille created a user-friendly Braille system that used codes consisting of symbols written in raised dots. People could use this system by touch to recognise the Braille code and continue their communication.

55. IIT Madras has partnered with which company to build "Asia's first" Hyperloop test track facility in Tamil Nadu?

आईआईटी मद्रास ने तमिलनाडु में "एशिया की पहली" हाइपरलूप परीक्षण ट्रैक सुविधा बनाने के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) ArcelorMittal / आर्सेलर मित्तल
- (b) TP renewable Microgrid / टीपी रिन्यूएबल माइक्रोग्रिड
- (c) Steel Authority of India / स्टील अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया
- (d) NTPC Limited / एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड
- (e) Torrent Power / टोरेंट पावर

Ans. a

Sol. ArcelorMittal partners with IIT Madras to create Hyperloop facility

Steel giant ArcelorMittal has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras to build "Asia's first" Hyperloop test track facility in Tamil Nadu.

The companies, ArcelorMittal and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS), are providing foundational steel materials as well as engineering, design, and project management expertise to support the construction of Asia's first Hyperloop test track at the 163-acre Discovery campus of IIT Madras, located at Thaiyur on the outskirts of Chennai.

ArcelorMittal is collaborating with the IIT Madras's Hyperloop Technology teams -- Avishkar Hyperloop, a student team, and TuTr Hyperloop, a startup incubated in IIT Madras, for the project. The Ministry of Railways is also a key partner.

ArcelorMittal and AM/NS will supply 400 tonnes of steel for the fabrication of a 400-metre vacuum tube at the site, while engineers from AMDEC, the design and engineering arm of ArcelorMittal, will help oversee the project.

The test facility is expected to be operational by the end of Q1, 2024.

IITs in News

- Reliance Jio joins hands with IIT Bombay to launch Bharat GPT
- IIT Guwahati collaborated with Assam govt's Arohan Scheme over STEM
- 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

56. Which state has been ranked first in recording the highest entry rate on the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) platform, conceptualized by the Supreme Court's e-committee and implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs?

सुप्रीम कोर्ट की ई-समिति द्वारा संकल्पित और गृह मंत्रालय द्वारा कार्यान्वित इंटर-ऑपरेबल क्रिमिनल जस्टिस सिस्टम (ICJS) प्लेटफॉर्म पर उच्चतम प्रवेश दर दर्ज करने में किस राज्य को पहला स्थान दिया गया है?

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

Ans. a

Sol. U.P. tops in entry rate on ICJS platform

Uttar Pradesh has been ranked first for the third consecutive year in recording the highest entry rate on the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) platform, conceptualized by the Supreme Court's e-committee and implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Notably, the ICJS platform facilitates the seamless transfer of data and information among various pillars of the criminal justice system nationwide.

It enables the exchange of data related to crimes and criminals between courts, police, jails, and forensic science laboratories through a single-window system.

Uttar Pradesh has recorded 1,56,22,514 entries on the ICJS platform so far. He added that Madhya Pradesh is in the second spot with 35,04,828 entries, and Bihar is in third place with 16,65,107 entries.

Through ICJS, records such as FIRs, case numbers, jail IDs, and details from filing FIRs against suspects to the imprisonment of culprits are maintained.

Additionally, details of court cases, trials, judgments, prosecution, and forensic information can be accessed by courts, police, jails, and forensic science laboratories through a single platform.

57. The Kerala Government has recently launched K-SMART, which will bring all services of the three-tier local self-government institutions on a unified digital platform. What is the meaning of 'T' in 'K-SMART'?

केरल सरकार ने हाल ही में K-SMART लॉन्च किया है, जो त्रिस्तरीय स्थानीय स्व-सरकारी संस्थानों की सभी सेवाओं को एक एकीकृत डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म पर लाएगा। 'K-SMART' में 'T' का क्या अर्थ है?

- (a) Traverse
- (b) Timeline
- (c) Tech
- (d) Transformation
- (e) Transfer

Ans. d

Sol. Kerala launches K-Smart tech solution

The Kerala Government has launched K-SMART (Kerala Solutions for Managing Administrative Reformation and Transformation), which will bring all services of the three-tier local self-government institutions on a unified digital platform.

This is the first such initiative in the country that the entire bouquet of services of a department is being made available to the public on a digital platform.

Kerala is showing the way in using modern technology. Kerala is the first state in the country to declare Internet access a fundamental right. K-SMART would provide a major relief to expatriates who want to avail various services of the local bodies without visiting the offices.

Initially, K-SMART application, developed by the Information Kerala Mission of the state IT department, will be operational in corporations and municipalities. Gradually, it will be rolled out in gram panchayats.

K-SMART adapts diverse technological disciplines, encompassing blockchain, artificial intelligence, GIS/spatial data, chatbot, message integration, API integration of various software, machine learning, data science, cloud computing, virtual and augmented reality, Internet of things among others.

About Kerala

- **Capital** – Thiruvananthapuram
- **Chief Minister** – Pinarayi Vijayan
- **Governor** – Arif Mohammad Khan

58. Which country's PM is to be the Chief Guest at the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit to be held from January 10-12 in Gandhinagar?

गांधीनगर में 10-12 जनवरी तक आयोजित होने वाले 10वें वाइब्रेंट गुजरात वैश्विक निवेशक शिखर सम्मेलन में किस देश के प्रधान मंत्री मुख्य अतिथि होंगे?

- (a) France / फ्रांस
- (b) Italy / इटली
- (c) UK / यूके
- (d) Spain / स्पेन
- (e) Czech Republic / चेक गणराज्य

Ans. e

Sol. Czech PM to be chief guest at Vibrant Gujarat Summit

The Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Petr Fiala is to be the Guest of Honour at the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit to be held from January 10-12 in Gandhinagar.

Besides PM Fiala, Timor-Leste's President José Ramos-Horta, President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Mozambique's President Filipe Nyusi will also be attending.

The Prime Minister will open the event on January 10th in Gandhinagar.

The biennial event has become a crucial platform for policymakers, diplomats, business leaders, investors, and corporates to foster collaborations, and partnerships and explore investment opportunities.

As many as 28 countries and 14 organizations have so far confirmed that they will be partners in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGGS) 2024, the state government said.

The theme for the 10th edition of the VGGGS is 'Gateway to the Future'. It will be held in Gandhinagar from January 10 to 12.

Countries that agreed to join as partners are: Australia, Bangladesh, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Malta, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Singapore, Tanzania, Thailand, the UAE, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Ghana, and Vietnam.

Partner organizations include the American Chamber of Commerce in India (AMCHAM India) EPIC India-University of Chicago, Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC), Indo-African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, International Solar Alliance, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), and Korea Trade and Investment Agency, among others.

59. Who has inaugurated Mega Expo under the theme “Emerging StartUp Trends in North India” at Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir?

कठुआ, जम्मू और कश्मीर में "उत्तर भारत में उभरते स्टार्टअप रुझान" विषय के तहत मेगा एक्सपो का उद्घाटन किसने 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. e

Sol. Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated Startup Expo in Kathua

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has inaugurated Mega Expo under the theme “Emerging StartUp Trends in North India” at Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir.

The Startup Expo was organized jointly by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), DBT, GoI, and CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu.

A total of 25 startups from North India, i.e. from Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Delhi showcased their innovations and products in the Mega Expo.

VP Dhankhar also interacted with the distinguished gathering of traders, academicians, technocrats, and members of the civil society. In the expo, StartUps exhibited their products, prototypes, and services, providing attendees with hands-on experiences of cutting-edge technologies.

60. Which state government has reduced the qualifying age for old-age pension for tribals and Dalits to 50 years from the previous 60 years?

किस राज्य सरकार ने आदिवासियों और दलितों के लिए वृद्धावस्था पेंशन की अर्हता आयु को पिछले 60 वर्ष से घटाकर 50 वर्ष कर दिया है?

- (a) Tripura / त्रिपुरा
- (b) Jharkhand / झारखंड
- (c) Assam / असम
- (d) Bihar / बिहार
- (e) Meghalaya / मेघालय

Ans. b

Sol. Jharkhand govt reduces qualifying age for old-age pension to 50

Jharkhand Government has reduced the qualifying age for old-age pension for tribals and Dalits to 50 years from the previous 60 years.

According to the government, only 16 lakh people received pension benefits in the 20 years after the formation of Jharkhand in 2000, but his government has provided pensions to 36 lakh people - mostly to those aged above 60 years.

The government has decided to provide pension benefits to tribals and Dalits on reaching the age of 50 years. The death rate among them is high and they do not get jobs after 60 years.

The CM also asserted that his government was working relentlessly for the welfare of the people and a large number of schemes were being implemented for the first time, including his government's outreach programme 'Aapki Yojna, Aapki Sarkar, Aapke Dwar' delivering benefits of the government schemes to villagers at their doorsteps.

About Jharkhand

- **Capital** – Ranchi
- **Chief Minister** – Hemant Soren
- **Governor** - C.P. Radhakrishnan

61. Which state government has launched the upgraded social welfare pension of ₹3,000 per month with an expanded reach to cover 66.34 lakh beneficiaries?

किस राज्य सरकार ने 66.34 लाख लाभार्थियों को कवर करने के लिए विस्तारित पहुंच के साथ ₹3,000 प्रति माह की उन्नत सामाजिक कल्याण पेंशन शुरू की है?

- (a) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Odisha / ओडिशा
- (d) Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश
- (e) Kerala / केरल

Ans. d

Sol. Andhra Pradesh CM boosts social security pension to Rs 3,000.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched the upgraded social welfare pension of ₹3,000 per month with an expanded reach to cover 66.34 lakh beneficiaries.

This would mark an increase of ₹250 as till now pension was at ₹2,750.

The State government was spending ₹1,968 crore every month on social pensions, and volunteers, irrespective of public holidays were distributing pensions at sun-rise on the first of every month to the pensioners.

The State government spent ₹26,000 crore on Amma Vodi, ₹33,330 crore on Rythu Bharosa, ₹19,178 crore on YSR Asara and ₹14,129 crore on YSR Cheyutha benefitting around 45 lakh mothers and Fifty-four lakh farmers. Additionally, the schemes benefitted 79 lakh women of self-help groups and Twenty-six lakh women of 45-to 60-years respectively.

About Andhra Pradesh

- **Capital** – Amaravati
- **Chief Minister** – YS Jagan Mohan Reddy
- **Governor** – S. Abdul Nazeer

62. Which country will become the first European country to issue digital Schengen visas to visitors for the upcoming Olympics?

कौन सा देश आगामी ओलंपिक के लिए आगंतुकों को डिजिटल शेंगेन वीजा जारी करने वाला पहला यूरोपीय देश बन जाएगा?

- (a) France / फ्रांस
- (b) Italy / इटली
- (c) UK / यूके
- (d) Spain / स्पेन
- (e) Germany / जर्मनी

Ans. a

Sol. France becomes first European country to issue digital Schengen visas

France will become the first European country to issue digital Schengen visas to visitors for the upcoming Paris Olympics.

France has announced plans to shift entirely to online procedures for 70,000 French Schengen Visas, in a move that aligns with the EU's digitalization plans. France began operations of the "Olympic Consulate" system from January 1, 2024 - dedicated to processing visa applications for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The "Olympic Consulate" is expected to handle applications from 15,000 international athletes, 9,000 journalists, and delegations from foreign countries participating in the upcoming sporting events.

The initiative aims to streamline the visa application process, avoiding any mix-up with the surge of files currently undergoing processing at French visa centers worldwide.

The Schengen area includes 23 of the 27 EU member countries, along with associated neighbors Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.

About France

- Capital- Paris
- President- Emmanuel Macron
- Prime Minister- Elisabeth Borne
- Official language- French

63. India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has revised India's GDP growth estimate for FY24 to how much percent from 6.2 percent?
इंडिया रेटिंग्स एंड रिसर्च (इंड-रा) ने FY24 के लिए भारत की जीडीपी वृद्धि अनुमान को 6.2 प्रतिशत से संशोधित करके कितने प्रतिशत कर दिया है?

- (a) 6.3%
- (b) 6.4%
- (c) 6.6%
- (d) 6.7%
- (e) 6.9%

Ans. d

Sol. India Ratings raises GDP growth forecast for FY'24 to 6.7% from 6.2%

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has revised upwards its GDP growth estimate for FY24 to 6.7 percent from 6.2 percent earlier.

The revision is led by a number of factors, including the resilience of the Indian economy (which grew 7.6 percent yoy in 2QFY24); sustained government capex; the deleveraged balance sheet of corporates/ banking sector; prospects for a new private corporate capex cycle; and sustained momentum in business and software services exports, coupled with remittances from across the world.

The revision comes on the heels of Reserve Bank of India upping its GDP growth forecast for 2023-24 by 50 basis points to 7 percent, from 6.5 percent earlier.

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)

64. Which bank will launch a Data Analytics center in Bengaluru?

कौन सा बैंक बेंगलुरु में डेटा एनालिटिक्स सेंटर लॉन्च 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. e

Sol. Canara Bank to launch Data Analytics center in Bengaluru

Public sector banking behemoth Canara Bank will open a separate cyber-security wing from April 1 as the bank steps up its investment in cyber security initiatives to prevent customers from falling into the trap of online fraudsters.

The wing will be headed by a general manager and monitor digital transactions on a real-time basis and trigger alerts if a fraudster is trying to break into a customer's account.

After opening the bank's new data and analytics centre (DnA) in Bengaluru, the PSU bank has been at the forefront in leveraging analytics for improving customer experience and operations.

AI is reshaping our lives in unprecedented ways, and we are committed to adopting it to spur business growth while ensuring data privacy and security.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- Bank of India introduced **Super Special Fixed Deposit** with interest rate of 7.50% per annum
- IndusInd Bank has launched the '**IndusInd Bank eSvarna**', India's first Corporate Credit Card on RuPay network.
- 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**

65. Who has been appointed as Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)?

विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) के प्रवक्ता के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Vinay Mohan Kwatra / विनय मोहन क्वात्रा
- (b) Ruchira Kamboj / रुचिरा कंबोज
- (c) Randhir Jaiswal / रणधीर जयसवाल
- (d) T. S. Tirumurti / टी. एस. तिरुमूर्ति
- (e) Anurag Srivastava / अनुराग श्रीवास्तव

Ans. c

Sol. Randhir Jaiswal became Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs

Randhir Jaiswal, a Senior Indian Foreign Service officer, assumed the position of Spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs. A seasoned 1998 batch IFS officer, Jaiswal replaced Arindam Bagchi in this capacity.

Earlier in October 2023, MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi was appointed India's next Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva.

A 1995-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, Bagchi is an Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Mr. Bagchi took over as spokesperson in March 2021. His tenure was eventful as it spanned the COVID-19 pandemic, the standoff with China in eastern Ladakh, India hosting the G20 Summit in September this year and the increased pace of India's engagements with various partners.

Mr. Jaiswal has served in Portugal, Cuba, South Africa and at India's permanent mission to the UN in New York.

Recent Appointment

- **President of European Investment Bank** - Nadia Calviño (replace Werner Hoyer)
- **Chairperson of SC legal services committee by NALSA** - Justice BR Gavai (replace Justice Sanjiv Khanna)
- **MD & CEO of Kia India** - Gwanggu Lee
- **Defense Minister of China** - Dong Jun (replace Li Shangfu)
- **DG of Fire Service, Civil Defence & Home Guards** - Vivek Srivastava

66. Who has been appointed as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, of Western Naval Command (WNC)?

पश्चिमी नौसेना कमान (WNC) के फ्लैग ऑफिसर कमांडिंग-इन-चीफ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Anish Dayal Singh / अनीश दयाल सिंह
- (b) Sujoy Lal Thaosen / सुजॉय लाल थाउसेन
- (c) Sanjay Jasjit Singh / संजय जसजीत सिंह
- (d) Pankaj Kumar Singh / पंकज कुमार सिंह
- (e) Subodh Kumar Jaiswal / सुबोध कुमार जायसवाल

Ans. c

Sol. Sanjay Jasjit Singh took charge of Western Naval Command

Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh has assumed the role of Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command (WNC). Singh succeeds Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi.

Before this, Singh served as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff, boasting a versatile naval career of about 38 years.

Singh has held notable positions such as Assistant Chief of Naval Staff, Flag Officer Sea Training, Western Fleet Commander, and more.

Recent Appointment in Defence Sector

- **DG of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** - Nina Singh (first woman Director)
- **DG of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** - Rahul Rasgotra (replace Anish Dayal Singh)
- **DG of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** - Anish Dayal Singh
- **DG of the Fire Service** - Vivek Srivastava
- **Vice Chief of Naval Staff** - Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi

67. Which state government has decided to declare January 22 as a "dry day" as the consecration of Ram temple will take place in Ayodhya on that day?

किस राज्य सरकार ने 22 जनवरी को "सूखा दिन" घोषित करने का निर्णय लिया है क्योंकि उस दिन अयोध्या में राम मंदिर का अभिषेक होगा?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh / उत्तर प्रदेश
- (b) West Bengal / पश्चिम बंगाल
- (c) Assam / असम
- (d) Karnataka / कर्नाटक
- (e) Chhattisgarh / छत्तीसगढ़

Ans. e

Sol. Chhattisgarh declared dry day on January 22 to honor Ram temple

Chhattisgarh government has decided to declare January 22 as a "dry day" as the consecration of Ram temple will take place in Ayodhya on that day.

Ram Raj has been the model of our good governance, CM said.

We are fortunate that Chhattisgarh is Lord Ram's 'nanihal' (the place of Lord Ram's maternal grandparents) and it is also fortunate that 'pran pratistha' of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya will take place on January 22,".

The state's rice millers association has sent 300 metric tonnes of aromatic rice to Ayodhya for the ceremony and cultivators from the state will also dispatch vegetables to the city in Uttar Pradesh.

Lord Ram had passed through several places located in Chhattisgarh during his 14-year exile from Ayodhya. Chandkhuri, a village located 27 km from Chhattisgarh capital Raipur, is considered as the birthplace of Mata Kaushalya, mother of Lord Ram.

The ancient Mata Kaushalya temple situated in the village was given a magnificent look during the previous Congress government in the state.

About Chhattisgarh

- **Capital** – Raipur
- **Chief Minister** – Vishnu Deo Sai (replace Bhupesh Baghel)
- **Deputy CM** - Arun Sao & Vijay Sharma
- **Governor** – Biswabhusan Harichandan
- **Speaker of Chhattisgarh Assembly** - Dr. Raman Singh

68. Prabir Majumdar passed away recently at the age of 77. He was related to which sport?

प्रबीर मजूमदार का हाल ही में 77 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. d

Sol. Former India defender Prabir Majumdar passes away

Former Indian defender Prabir Majumdar passed away at the age of 77.

A stylish wing-back of the 1960s and 1970s, Majumdar was a member of the Indian team in the 1974 Asian Games.

He also featured for the national side during the 1974 Asian Games held in Tehran, where the team failed to create an impact and finished at the bottom of the group table.

In the domestic circuit, Majumdar was a part of East Bengal and Eastern Railways, besides also representing Bengal in the Santosh Trophy.

Majumdar won several titles with East Bengal, which included the Calcutta Football League, IFA Shield, Durand Cup, Rovers Cup, DCM Trophy, Bordoloi Trophy, and many more.

69. Which of the following has inked a MoU with ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) to develop and report a 'Green Cover Index' for the extensive network of the Indian National Highways?

निम्नलिखित में से किसने भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के व्यापक नेटवर्क के लिए 'ग्रीन कवर इंडेक्स' विकसित करने और रिपोर्ट करने के लिए इसरो के राष्ट्रीय रिमोट सेंसिंग सेंटर (एनआरएससी) के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Border Roads Organisation / सीमा सड़क संगठन
- (b) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways / सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय
- (c) National Highways Authority of India / भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण
- (d) National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited / राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग और बुनियादी ढांचा विकास निगम लिमिटेड
- (e) Larsen & Toubro / लार्सन एंड टुब्रो

Ans. c

Sol. NHAI collaborates with NRSC to develop 'Green Cover Index'

The National Highways Authority of India (NHA) has inked a MoU with ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) to develop and report a 'Green Cover Index' for the extensive network of the Indian National Highways.

NHAI's collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) satellite centre data will take three years to map the entire highway network, promoting environmental awareness and sustainable development.

The tech-enabled Green Cover Index The NRSC will undertake a comprehensive pan-India estimation of green cover, referred to as the 'Green Cover Index' for National Highways using high-resolution satellite imagery.

The index will witness the use of emerging technologies to enhance in-situ data collection, supplement plantation management, and monitoring, including performance audits conducted by NHAI.

Besides, the innovative approach promises to be a robust and reliable mechanism, providing a time-saving and cost-effective solution to generate a macro-level estimate along national highways.

Recent MoU

- TGL and Flipkart sign MoU for supply chain decarbonization
- 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

70. Which company has signed an MoU with Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) to extend financial support of up to Rs 35,000 crore for infrastructure projects over the next five years?

किस कंपनी ने अगले पांच वर्षों में बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाओं के लिए 35,000 करोड़ रुपये तक की वित्तीय सहायता देने के लिए रेल विकास निगम लिमिटेड (आरवीएनएल) के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) ReNew Power / रिन्यू पावर
- (b) Adani Enterprises / अडानी एंटरप्राइजेज
- (c) REC Limited / आरईसी लिमिटेड
- (d) NTPC Limited / एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड
- (e) Torrent Power / टॉरेंट पावर

Ans. c

Sol. REC limited signs with RVN to finance multi-modal.

REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Power, has signed a MoU with Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) to extend financial support of up to Rs. 35,000 crore for infrastructure projects over the next five years.

The agreement encompasses a wide spectrum of projects, including multi-modal logistics hubs, rail infrastructure, road development, port facilities, and metro projects that RVNL is venturing into.

REC Limited, established in 1969, is a "Maharatna" Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) that operates under the Ministry of Power. REC has traditionally focused on the power infrastructure sector, covering generation, transmission, distribution, renewable energy, and emerging technologies like electric vehicles, battery storage, and green hydrogen.

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), classified as a "Schedule 'A' Navratna" CPSE under the Ministry of Railways, plays a crucial role in fulfilling around 30 percent of Indian Railways' infrastructure needs.

Beyond railway projects, RVNL has ventured into road development, port facilities, irrigation, and metro projects, often interconnected with railway infrastructure.

71. Which state government has distributed loans totaling Rs 6,55,684 crore in the last six and a half years to boost the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in state?

किस राज्य सरकार ने राज्य में सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम (MSME) क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा देने के लिए पिछले साढ़े छह वर्षों में कुल 6,55,684 करोड़ रुपये के ऋण वितरित किए हैं?

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

Ans. a

Sol. UP distributed loans over Rs 6 lakh crore to boost MSME sector

The Yogi government has distributed loans totaling Rs 6,55,684 crore in the last six and a half years to boost the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in Uttar Pradesh.

The sector has provided employment to 2.5 crore youths during the period. The government has been providing loans to aspiring entrepreneurs every year, with the amount exceeding the target each time.

The MSME sector, which was dying of neglect during the previous governments, got a fresh lease of life when Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took over in 2017 and launched various initiatives such as the One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme, Mukhyamantri Gramodyog Rojgar Yojana, Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana and Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana among others.

The objective of the Yogi government behind these schemes is to make the state's youth, women, and small businesses self-reliant, which has so far benefited scores of artisans, craftsmen, and small entrepreneurs in the state

In the financial year 2017-18, the Yogi government set a target of providing a loan of Rs 31,330 crores to the MSME sector but distributed Rs 46,594 crores, which was 149 percent of the target. Similarly, in the financial year 2018-19, against the target of Rs 41,402 crores, the government disbursed loans of Rs 57,809 crores, up 140 percent.

About Uttar Pradesh

- **Capital** - Lucknow
- **Chief Minister** – Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor** - Anandiben Patel

72. Which of the following cities will host the International Kite Festival 2024?

निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा शहर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय पतंग महोत्सव 2024 की मेजबानी करेगा?

- (a) Varanasi / वाराणसी
- (b) Leh / लेह
- (c) Bhubaneswar / भुवनेश्वर
- (d) Ahmedabad / अहमदाबाद
- (a) Ayodhya / अयोध्या

Ans. e

Sol. Ayodhya to host International Kite Festival ahead of Ram Temple consecration

Ahead of the Ram Temple consecration ceremony scheduled for January 22, the Uttar Pradesh government will host an International Kite Festival here.

The Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA) has initiated preparations for the festival, which is likely to take place between January 19 and 21, providing renowned kite flyers from both within the country and around the world with an opportunity to showcase their art.

To organize this festival on a grand scale, inspiration is being taken from various kite festivals being held in the country and abroad. A visitors' area would be designed with seating arrangements for 750 people along with a VVIP lounge to accommodate 50 special invitees to the event.

ambitious baba.com

73. India's External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar will represent India at the 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in which country?

भारत के विदेश मंत्री डॉ. एस जयशंकर किस देश में 19वें गुटनिरपेक्ष आंदोलन (NAM) शिखर सम्मेलन में भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व करेंगे?

- (a) Sri Lanka / श्रीलंका
- (b) Ghana / घाना
- (c) Uganda / युगांडा
- (d) Zimbabwe / जिम्बाब्वे
- (e) Oman / ओमान

Ans. c

Sol. EAM Jaishankar to represent India at Uganda NAM Summit in January 2024

India's External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar will represent India at the upcoming Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in Uganda's capital Kampala January 2024.

Scheduled from January 17 to 20, 2024, the 19th edition of the NAM summit will be preceded by a crucial foreign ministerial meeting from January 15. Additionally, the African country will host the Third South Summits and G77 meeting from January 21 to 23.

At the 2019 NAM summit in Azerbaijan, and the 2016 NAM Venezuela summits, India was represented at the Vice President level.

Uganda will be the chair of the NAM grouping from 2024-2027. The African country was chosen to host the 19th Non-Aligned Movement Summit on October 19, 2019, during the meeting held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The membership of NAM today comprises 53 countries from Africa, 40 from Asia, 26 from Latin America and the Caribbean, and one from Europe (Belarus).

There are 18 countries and 10 international organizations that are Observers at NAM. The grouping is 2nd only to the UN in terms of membership of countries, making it one of the largest groupings on the planet.

About Uganda

- **Capital** - Kampala
- **Currency** - Ugandan shilling
- **Official languages**- Swahili, English
- **Prime minister**- Robinah Nabbanja
- **President** - Yoweri Museveni

74. State-owned REC Ltd has signed an MoU with which bank to jointly offer loans for power, infrastructure, and logistics projects in India over the next three years?

राज्य के स्वामित्व वाली आरईसी लिमिटेड ने अगले तीन वर्षों में भारत में बिजली, बुनियादी ढांचे और रसद परियोजनाओं के लिए संयुक्त रूप से ऋण देने के लिए किस बैंक के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (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. a

Sol. REC Limited and Bank of Baroda join hands to finance Power, Infra, and Logistics Projects

State-owned REC Ltd has inked an initial pact with Bank of Baroda to jointly offer loans for power, infrastructure and logistics projects in India over the next three years.

Both entities endeavour to champion initiatives that will invigorate economic development and enhance accessibility to essential services nationwide.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Vivek Kumar Dewangan, Chairperson and Managing Director of REC, and Debadatta Chand, Managing Director & CEO of Bank of Baroda, along with Lalit Tyagi, Executive Director at Bank of Baroda.

Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- NABARD and ADB jointly launch climate action initiative in India with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- SBI to sign \$165 million LoC with World Bank for rooftop solar projects
- 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

75. State Bank of India (SBI) has raised _____ through issuance of the Green Notes to fund sustainable projects.

भारतीय स्टेट बैंक (एसबीआई) ने टिकाऊ परियोजनाओं को वित्त पोषित करने के लिए ग्रीन नोट्स जारी करके _____ जुटाए हैं।

- (a) USD 100 million
- (b) USD 150 million
- (c) USD 250 million
- (d) USD 200 million
- (e) USD 350 million

Ans. c

Sol. SBI raises \$250 mn via Green Bonds to fund sustainable projects

State Bank of India (SBI) has raised USD 250 million through issuance of the Green Notes to fund sustainable projects.

The bank has concluded the successful placement of USD 250 million senior unsecured Green floating rate notes, referred to as 'The Green Notes'.

This issuance, maturing on December 29, 2028, is part of SBI's USD 10 billion medium-term note programme and was conducted through a private placement facilitated by its London branch.

Green Notes were issued on a floating rate basis of 1.20 per cent above the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) and have been listed on the India International Exchange.

Continuing its commitment towards sustainable development, proceeds will be allocated to eligible green projects according to the Bank's ESG Financing Framework.

About State Bank of India (SBI)

- **Founded** - 1 July 1955
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman** - Dinesh Kumar Khara
- The presidency Banks of Bengal, Bombay and Madras with merged in 1921 to Imperial Bank of India.
- **Tagline** - (1) Pure Banking Nothing Else
(2) With you all the way
(3) A bank of the common man
(4) The banker to every Indian
(5) The Nation banks on us

76. Who has been appointed as the MD & CEO of the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)?

नेशनल एसेट रिकंस्ट्रक्शन कंपनी (NARCL) के एमडी और सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Rajnish Kumar / रजनीश कुमार
- (b) P Santhosh / पी संतोष
- (c) Deepak Mohanty / दीपक मोहंती
- (d) Tablesch Pandey / तबलेश पांडे
- (e) Siddhartha Mohanty / सिद्धार्थ मोहंती

Ans. b

Sol. P Santhosh appoints as MD & CEO of NARCL

Chief General Manager of Canara Bank, P Santhosh has been appointed as the Managing Director of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL).

He succeeds Natarajan Sundar, who resigned from the post.

Canara Bank is the sponsor bank of NARCL with over a 10 percent stake. Public sector banks are major shareholders of NARCL.

A total of 10 Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have transferred Non-Performing Assets of over Rs 11,617 crore to NARCL between January and November last year.

Sundar was with State Bank of India before taking charge at NARCL.

During his stint at SBI, Sundar held the position of Deputy Managing Director (DMD) and was working as Chief Credit Officer for the Bank.

He carries over three decades of experience in the banking sector, spanning across Corporate and wholesale Banking, Corporate Credit, International Banking, Project Finance, etc.

Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank** - Ashok Vaswani (replace Dipak Gupta)
- **Chairman of 16th Finance Commission** - Arvind Panagariya (15th Finance Commission – N K Singh)
- **Secretary of 16th Finance Commission** - Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey
- **Chief Risk Officer of LIC** - S Sunder Krishnan (replace Pratap Chandra Paikray)
- **Part-time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank** - CS Rajan (replace Prakash Apte)

77. Who has been elected as the president of the All-India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA)?

अखिल भारतीय रबर उद्योग संघ (AIRIA) के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे चुना गया है?

- (a) Ganesan Kannabiran / गणेशन कन्नाबीरन
- (b) Neeraj Akhoury / नीरज अखौरी
- (c) Pramod Sharma / प्रमोद शर्मा
- (d) Shashi Singh / शशि सिंह
- (e) Anant Maheshwari / अनंत माहेश्वरी

Ans. d

Sol. Shashi Singh appointed as new president of AIRIA

Shashi Singh has been elected as the president of the All-India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA), the apex body for rubber industries in India.

Singh will be succeeding Ramesh Kejriwal as the President of AIRIA, playing a pivotal role in steering the association forward.

Prior to assuming the role of President, Shashi Singh held the position of senior vice president within AIRIA.

His extensive involvement in the association includes serving on various committees and acting as the chief convener for the western region, overseeing the organization the National Rubber Conference in 2019.

Zafar Ahmed, Managing Director of New India Rubber Works Pvt Ltd, has been elected as the senior vice-president of AIRIA for 2023-24.

Indra Parekh has been elected as the vice president of the Association.

78. Who has been appointed as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS)?

नौसेना स्टाफ (वीसीएनएस) के उप प्रमुख के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Anish Dayal Singh / अनीश दयाल सिंह
- (b) Sujoy Lal Thaosan / सुजॉय लाल थाउसेन
- (c) M A Ganapathy / एम ए गणपति
- (d) Dinesh K. Tripathi / दिनेश के. त्रिपाठी
- (e) Subodh Kumar Jaiswal / सुबोध कुमार जायसवाल

Ans. d

Sol. Vice Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi appointed as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff

Vice-Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi took over as the Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS).

Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh took over from him as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOCINC), Western Naval Command, at INS Shikra in Mumbai.

The Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R. Hari Kumar, is set to step down on superannuation on April 30 when Vice-Admiral Tripathi will be the senior-most Naval officer.

Recent Appointment in Defence Sector

- **Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command (WNC)** - Sanjay Jasjit Singh (replace Dinesh K Tripathi)
- **DG of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** - Nina Singh (first woman Director)
- **DG of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** - Rahul Rasgotra (replace Anish Dayal Singh)
- **DG of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** - Anish Dayal Singh
- **DG of the Fire Service** - Vivek Srivastav

79. Who has been appointed as the MD & CEO of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (IIFL)?

नेशनल इन्वेस्टमेंट एंड इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर फंड लिमिटेड (IIFL) के एमडी और सीईओ 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) Sanjiv Aggarwal / संजीव अग्रवाल

Ans. e

Sol. Sanjiv Aggarwal appoints as MD & CEO of IIFL

Government-backed National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited has appointed Sanjiv Aggarwal as its chief executive officer and managing director.

Aggarwal succeeds Rajiv Dhar, who served as interim CEO and MD from May 2023.

Aggarwal had previous stints with Citigroup and ANZ Investment Bank in the Indian energy and infrastructure sectors.

The National Infrastructure and Investment Fund (NIIF) is India's first-ever sovereign wealth fund (SWF). The state-owned fund was set up by the Indian Government in the year 2015.

NIIF, which is 49% owned by the government, manages over \$4.9 billion of equity capital commitments across its four funds—master fund, fund of funds, strategic opportunities fund, and India-Japan Fund.

80. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)?

भारतीय ओलंपिक संघ (आईओए) के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Raghuram Iyer / रघुराम अय्यर
- (b) Sourav Kothari / सौरव कोठारी
- (c) Mohammad Azharuddin/ मोहम्मद अज़हरुद्दीन
- (d) Kapil Dev / कपिल देव
- (e) Sourav Ganguly / सौरव गांगुली

Ans. a

Sol. Raghuram Iyer appointed as CEO of Indian Olympic Association

The Indian Olympic Association has appointed Raghuram Iyer as the Chief Executive Officer.

The appointment, long-awaited and in response to reminders from the International Olympic Committee (IOC), brings a wealth of experience to the forefront.

Iyer was selected unanimously for the post by the IOA Nomination Committee after thorough interviews and careful consideration of the shortlisted candidates.

Raghuram Iyer comes with a rich experience in the sports management field, having served as the CEO of Indian Premier League (IPL) sides Rajasthan Royals, Lucknow Super Giants and Rising Pune Supergiant.

Iyer has also worked with Indian Super League (ISL) club ATK Mohun Bagan in football and Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) franchise RPSG Mavericks.

Recent Appointment

- **MD & CEO of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIFFL)** - Sanjiv Aggarwal (replace Rajiv Dhar)
- **President of All India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA)** - Shashi Singh (Ramesh Kejriwal)
- **Senior VP of AIRIA** - Zafar Ahmed
- **Vice president of AIRIA** - Indra Parekh
- **India's Permanent Representative to UN** - Arindam Bagchi

81. The United States of America (USA) declares _____ as National Bird Day to raise awareness of the significance of birds to our ecosystem.

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका (यूएसए) ने हमारे पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र में पक्षियों के महत्व के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए _____ को राष्ट्रीय पक्षी दिवस घोषित किया है।

- (a) 6 January / 6 जनवरी
- (b) 7 January / 7 जनवरी
- (c) 8 January / 8 जनवरी
- (d) 4 January / 4 जनवरी
- (e) 5 January / 5 जनवरी

Ans. e

Sol. 5 January - National Birds Day

The United States of America (USA) declares January 5 as National Bird Day to raise awareness of the significance of birds to our ecosystem.

The day is set apart to make all of us understand that birds are not made to be caught or had as showpieces in our homes, rather, they are nature's lovely creatures that deserve to live with complete freedom.

Theme 2023 - Right To Fight

The day was first observed by the Avian Welfare Coalition, which is involved in the cause of promoting awareness about birds that are caught or end up in captivity for either monetary profit or for human entertainment.

National Birds Day has been celebrated in America since 2002. This date was picked in light of the fact that it likewise is the day for the yearly Christmas Bird Count.

82. World Day of War Orphans is observed every year on which day?

विश्व युद्ध अनाथ दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 6 January / 6 जनवरी
- (b) 7 January / 7 जनवरी
- (c) 8 January / 8 जनवरी
- (d) 4 January / 4 जनवरी
- (e) 5 January / 5 जनवरी

Ans. a

Sol. 6 January - World Day of War Orphans

World Day of War Orphans is observed every year on January 6 to highlight the plight of children orphaned by wars and conflicts.

The day aims to raise awareness about the trauma experienced by orphans and the social, psychological and physical obstacles they often need to overcome to lead a normal life.

The World Day of War Orphans was founded by the French organisation SOS Enfants en Detresses. The organisation works to help children in distress.

Organizations like UNICEF, the Red Cross, and various NGOs have been actively involved in supporting war orphans by providing assistance, advocating for their rights, and working to ensure their well-being and integration into societies.

83. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated the 58th DGSP/IGSP Conference 2023 in which city?

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने किस शहर में 58वें DGSP/IGSP सम्मेलन 2023 का उद्घाटन किया है?

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) Jaipur / जयपुर
- (c) Hyderabad / हैदराबाद
- (d) Ahmedabad / अहमदाबाद
- (e) Mumbai / मुंबई

Ans. b

Sol. Amit Shah inaugurates 58th DGSP/IGSP conference 2023 in Jaipur

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated the 58th DGSP/IGSP Conference 2023 at Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur.

The three-day Conference was held in hybrid mode with DGSP/IGSP and Chiefs of Central Police Organisations attending physically from Jaipur and over 500 Police officers of various ranks participating through video conferencing from across the country.

The Union Home Minister distributed Police Medals for Meritorious Service to IB officers and awarded trophies for the three best Police Stations.

84. The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU between India and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/India) to support Indian Railways in achieving 'net zero carbon emission' by which year?

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने किस वर्ष तक 'शुद्ध शून्य कार्बन उत्सर्जन' प्राप्त करने में भारतीय रेलवे का समर्थन करने के लिए भारत और यूनाइटेड स्टेट्स एजेंसी फॉर इंटरनेशनल डेवलपमेंट (यूएसएआईडी/इंडिया) के बीच समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर करने को मंजूरी दे दी है?

- (a) 2025
- (b) 2028
- (c) 2030
- (d) 2040
- (e) 2047

Ans. c

Sol. Cabinet Approves India-USAID MoU For Railways' Net-Zero Emission Goal

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the signing of MoU between India and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/India) to support Indian Railways in achieving 'net zero carbon emission' by 2030.

The MoU provides a platform for Indian Railways to interact and share the latest developments and knowledge in the railway sector. The MoU facilitates utility modernization, advanced energy solutions and systems, regional energy and market integration and private sector participation and engagement, training and seminars/workshops focusing on specific technology areas like Renewable Energy, energy efficiency and other interactions for knowledge sharing.

Earlier, USAID/India had also worked with IR focused on deployment of rooftop solar across railway platforms.

85. Ayodhya Airport has been renamed “ _____ ” reflecting the historical and cultural significance of the region.

क्षेत्र के ऐतिहासिक और सांस्कृतिक महत्व को दर्शाते हुए अयोध्या हवाई अड्डे का नाम बदलकर “ _____ ” कर दिया गया है।

- (a) Kalidasa International Airport, Ayodhyadham / कालिदास अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, अयोध्याधाम
(b) Vishvamitra International Airport, Ayodhyadham / विश्वामित्र अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, अयोध्याधाम
(c) Dasharatha International Airport, Ayodhyadham / दशरथ अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, अयोध्याधाम
(d) Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham / महर्षि वाल्मिकी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, अयोध्याधाम
(e) Dasharatha International Airport, Ayodhyadham / दशरथ अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, अयोध्याधाम

Ans. d

Sol. Ayodhya Airport Renamed As 'Maharishi Valmiki International Airport'

The Union Cabinet recently gave its approval to declare Ayodhya Airport as an international airport.

The airport will be named “Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham,” reflecting the historical and cultural significance of the region.

The airport is paramount for realizing Ayodhya's economic potential and its significance as a global pilgrimage site, opening doors to foreign pilgrims and tourists.

The first phase of the airport is developed at a cost of more than Rs 1,450 crore. The airport's terminal building will have an area of 6500 sqm, equipped to serve about 10 lakh passengers annually.

The facade of the terminal building depicts the temple architecture of the upcoming Ram Temple of Ayodhya.

About Uttar Pradesh

- **Capital** - Lucknow
- **Chief Minister** – Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor** - Anandiben Patel

86. Union Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has chaired the first Inland Waterways Development Council Meeting in which city?

केंद्रीय बंदरगाह, जहाजरानी और जलमार्ग मंत्री सर्बानंद सोनोवाल ने किस शहर में पहली अंतर्देशीय जलमार्ग विकास परिषद की बैठक की अध्यक्षता की है?

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) Kolkata / कोलकाता
- (c) Chennai / चेन्नई
- (d) Greater Noida / ग्रेटर नोएडा
- (e) Thiruvananthapuram / तिरुवनंतपुरम

Ans. b

Sol. Sarbananda Sonowal chair first Inland Waterways Development Council Meeting in Kolkata

Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has chaired the first Inland Waterways Development Council Meeting in Kolkata.

During the meeting, Mr Sonowal unveiled groundbreaking initiatives, including Harit Nauka - Guidelines for Green Transition of Inland Vessels and the River Cruise Tourism Roadmap 2047.

The Ministry has set a target to elevate the modal share of Inland Water Transportation from the current two percent to five percent, aligning with the goals outlined in the Maritime India Vision 2030.

The establishment of the Inland Waterways Development Council in October last year underscores the government's commitment to the comprehensive development of inland waterways and the associated Inland Water Transport ecosystem for improved cargo efficiency, passengers.

Sarbananda Sonowal in News

- Sarbananda Sonowal launches **Port Health Organization** under Sagar Setu
- Sarbananda Sonowal launches **3rd edition of Global India Maritime Summit**
- Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates **DGNSS "SAGAR SAMPARK"**
- Sarbananda Sonowal launches '**SAGAR SAMRIDDI**'
- Sarbananda Sonowal flags off **India's 1st International Cruise Vessel** from Chennai to Sri Lanka
- Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated "**PCIM&H e-Office Portal**" and an online portal.

87. Who has chaired the 'National PACS Mega Conclave' on 'Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi?

विज्ञान भवन, नई दिल्ली में प्रधान मंत्री भारतीय जन औषधि केंद्र के रूप में 'प्राथमिक कृषि ऋण समितियों (पीएसीएस)' पर 'राष्ट्रीय पैक्स मेगा कॉन्क्लेव' की अध्यक्षता किसने की है?

- (a) Anurag Thakur / अनुराग ठाकुर
- (b) Piyush Goyal / पीयूष गोयल
- (c) Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya / डॉ. मनसुख मंडाविया
- (d) Suresh Prabhu / सुरेश प्रभु
- (e) Amit Shah / अमित शाह

Ans. e

Sol. Amit Shah chairs 'National PACS Mega Conclave' in New Delhi

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah has chaired the 'National PACS Mega Conclave' on 'Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra' at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

The Mega Conclave is being organized by the Ministry of Cooperation in collaboration with the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) provide quality generic medicines to the general public, which cost 50-90 percent less than the branded medicines available in the open market.

More than 2000 types of generic medicines and around 300 surgical items are made available through these Kendras to common citizens at affordable prices. This initiative will provide new opportunities to PACS for diversification and expansion of their economic activities, thus leading to an increase in the incomes of millions of small and marginal farmers associated with them. It will also help in creating new employment opportunities in rural areas.

Amit Shah in News

- Amit Shah launched logo, website and brochure of National Cooperative for Exports Limited (NCEL)
- Amit Shah inaugurated India's first nano DAP plant in Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Amit Shah chairs review meeting on Left Wing Extremism in New Delhi]
- Amit Shah chaired Northern Zonal Council at Amritsar
- Amit Shah chaired Northern Zonal Council at Amritsar
- Amit Shah launches "Amrit Kalash Yatra" under 'Meri Maati-Mera Desh' campaign in New Delhi.

88. Who has etched her name in the annals of music history by setting a new world record for singing in the most languages during a single concert in the UAE?

संयुक्त अरब अमीरात में एक ही संगीत कार्यक्रम के दौरान सबसे अधिक भाषाओं में गाने का नया विश्व रिकॉर्ड स्थापित करके किसने संगीत इतिहास के इतिहास में अपना नाम दर्ज कराया है?

- (a) Suchetha Satish / सुचेता सतीश
- (b) Sonu Nigam / सोनू निगम
- (c) Mohit Chauhan / मोहित चौहान
- (d) Sunidhi Chauhan / सुनिधि चौहान
- (e) Javed Ali / जावेद अली

Ans. a

Sol. Suchetha Satish sets new world record for singing in most languages during single concert in Dubai. In a historic and awe-inspiring event, Suchetha Satish (from Kerala) has etched her name in the annals of music history by setting a new world record for singing in the most languages during a single concert in the UAE.

The Guinness Book of World Records officially attested to this feat earlier this week.

Suchetha's groundbreaking performance was part of a Concert for Climate, a unique initiative aimed at raising awareness about the critical issue of climate change.

The talented artist delivered an astounding rendition of songs in an unprecedented 140 languages, captivating the audience with her musical prowess and a powerful message.

89. Who has been appointed as Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB)?

एशियाई विकास बैंक (एडीबी) के कार्यकारी निदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Vikas Sheel / विकास शील
- (b) Smita Sarangi / स्मिता सारंगी
- (c) Kalyan Revella / कल्याण रेवेल
- (d) Tanu Singh / तनु सिंह
- (e) Senthil Pandian C / सेंथिल पांडियन सी

Ans. a

Sol. Vikas Sheel appointed as ED of Asian Development Bank

India has appointed seven accomplished civil servants to crucial positions abroad, showcasing the country's global engagement.

Senior bureaucrat Vikas Sheel has been appointed as Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Sheel, a 1994-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Chhattisgarh cadre, is currently Additional Secretary and Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

He has been appointed as ED, Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a period of three years from the date of assumption of the charge.

While, Smita Sarangi has been appointed to the post of Adviser to the Executive Director, ADB, Manila, Philippines for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge.

Senior bureaucrat Kalyan Revella will be Counsellor (Economic) in the Embassy of India, Beijing for 3 years.

Senthil Pandian C, a 2002-batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, has been appointed to the post of Ambassador/Permanent Representative (PR), Permanent Mission of India (PMI) to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Geneva.

M Balaji has been appointed to the post of Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Brussels. He is a 2005-batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre.

Parveen Kumar, a 2004 batch Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) officer will be Adviser to the Executive Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Washington DC, USA.

He was appointed, in place of Simanchala Dash, for a period of three years.

Tanu Singh, an Indian Trade Service (2012 batch) officer, has been named as First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India (PMI), World Trade Organization (WTO), Geneva for a period of three years.

Recent Appointment in Foreign

- **India's Permanent Representative to UN** - Arindam Bagchi
- **President of European Investment Bank** - Nadia Calviño (replace Werner Hoyer)
- **Defense Minister of China** - Dong Jun (replace Li Shangfu)
- **Deputy Executive Director (Management) of UNFPA** - Andrew Paul Saberton, UK (replace Ib Petersen, Denmark)

About Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- **Founded** - 19 December 1966
- **Headquarters** - Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- **President** - Masatsugu Asakawa
- **Vice President** - Ashok Lavasa
- **Director of ADB for India** - Takeo Konishi
- **Executive Director** - Vikas Sheel
- **Adviser to the Executive Director** - Smita Sarangi
- **Member Countries** - 68 (Niue)

90. Who has been named as a 'Class C' director on the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York?

न्यूयॉर्क के फेडरल रिजर्व बैंक के निदेशक मंडल में 'क्लास सी' निदेशक के रूप में किसे नामित किया गया है?

- (a) Rajiv Shah / राजीव शाह
- (b) Neeraj Akhouri / नीरज अखौरी
- (c) Pramod Sharma / प्रमोद शर्मा
- (d) Parminder Chopra / परमिंदर चोपड़ा
- (e) Vivek Srivastava / विवेक श्रीवास्तव

Ans. a

Sol. Rajiv Shah named as 'Class C' director on Board of Directors of Federal Reserve Bank of New York

In the US, Dr. Rajiv Shah, current president of 'the Rockefeller Foundation' and former head of USAID, has been named as a 'Class C' director on the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

He has been appointed by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a three-year term ending the 31st of December, 2026.

Shah has been leading the prominent philanthropic organization 'the Rockefeller Foundation' since 2017.

Recent Appointment

- **CEO of Indian Olympic Association** - Raghuram Iyer
- **MD & CEO of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIFFL)** - Sanjiv Aggarwal (replace Rajiv Dhar)
- **President of All India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA)** - Shashi Singh (Ramesh Kejriwal)
- **Senior VP of AIRIA** - Zafar Ahmed
- **Vice president of AIRIA** - Indra Parekh
- **Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs** - Randhir Jaiswal (replace Arindam Bagchi)

91. Who has been appointed as the Secretary-General of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)?

बहु-क्षेत्रीय तकनीकी और आर्थिक सहयोग के लिए बंगाल की खाड़ी पहल (बिम्स्टेक) के महासचिव के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Smita Sarangi / स्मिता सारंगी
- (b) Arindam Bagchi / अरिंदम बागची
- (c) Indra Mani Pandey / इंद्र मणि पांडे
- (d) Tanu Singh / तनु सिंह
- (e) Senthil Pandian C / सेंथिल पांडियन सी

Ans. c

Sol. Indra Mani Pandey assumes charge of BIMSTEC Secretary General

Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, a senior diplomat of India, assumed the position of Secretary General (SG) of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in Dhaka.

Pandey, who succeeded Tenzin Lekphell of Bhutan, is the 4th SG of BIMSTEC and will remain in office for a period of three years.

The new SG reiterated his commitment to work earnestly and with a new vigour to translate into reality the grand vision of BIMSTEC member states.

A career diplomat, Ambassador Pandey joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1990.

Prior to taking over as SG, he served as the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva.

About Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

- **Founded** - 6 June 1997
- **Headquarters** - Dhaka, Bangladesh
- **Membership** - 7 (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka & Thailand)
- **Secretary General** - Indra Mani Pandey (India)

92. Who has been appointed as CEO of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone?

अदानी पोर्ट्स और विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र के सीईओ 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) Ashwani Gupta / अश्विनी गुप्ता

Ans. e

Sol. Ashwani Gupta appointed as CEO of Adani Ports

Ashwani Gupta has been appointed as CEO of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone.

He was the former global Chief Operating Officer at Nissan Motors.

This appointment is part of Adani Port's internal restructuring that also elevated Karan Adani to the role of Managing Director and Gautam Adani has been re-designated as 'Executive Chairman' of APSEZ.

Gupta, an automotive market veteran was appointed Nissan COO in December 2019 and has a notable track record in fostering key partnerships worldwide, and brings nearly three decades of experience across the automotive, retail and manufacturing sectors. He has played key role in the Renault Nissan Alliance as well.

93. According to the National Statistical Office (NSO)'s recent data, the Indian economy will grow by how much percent in the Financial Year 2023-24?

राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकी कार्यालय (NSO) के हालिया आंकड़ों के अनुसार, वित्तीय वर्ष 2023-24 में भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था कितने प्रतिशत की दर से बढ़ेगी?

- (a) 7.1%
- (b) 7.2%
- (c) 7.3%
- (d) 7.4%
- (e) 7.5%

Ans. c

Sol. Indian economy to grow at 7.3 percent in current financial year; NSO

According to the National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the Indian economy will grow by a robust 7.3 percent in the Financial Year 2023-24 over and above the provisional growth rate of 7.2 percent during the last financial year.

NSO in its report based on First Advance Estimates (FAE) of National Income for the financial year 2023-24, said that the construction sector has been estimated to have double-digit growth of 10.7 percent.

It highlighted that all the economic sectors have fared well by witnessing more than six percent, except for the Agriculture and Allied sectors, for which the estimated growth is 1.8 percent.

The Advance Estimates of National Income are indicator-based and are compiled using the benchmark-indicator method. This report has been prepared based on data inputs collected from various Ministries, Departments, and Private Agencies.

94. Which company and Stanford University have introduced Mobile ALOHA, a low-cost open-source hardware system for bimanual teleoperation?

किस कंपनी और स्टैनफोर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी ने द्वि-मैन्युअल टेलीऑपरेशन के लिए कम लागत वाला ओपन-सोर्स हार्डवेयर सिस्टम मोबाइल ALOHA पेश किया है?

- (a) Microsoft / माइक्रोसॉफ्ट
- (b) Apple / ऐप्पल
- (c) Infosys / इंफोसिस
- (d) Google DeepMind / गूगल डीपमाइंड
- (e) IBM / आईबीएम

Ans. d

Sol. Google DeepMind Introduces Mobile ALOHA Humanoid Technology

Researchers at Google DeepMind and Stanford University has introduced Mobile ALOHA, a low-cost open-source hardware system for bimanual teleoperation.

It is a humanoid robot that can be remote operated by a user and perform autonomously by imitation learning.

ALOHA can autonomously cook and serve shrimps, call and take the elevator, and store a 3lbs pot in a cabinet – tasks it learned through imitation of 50 demos.

Further, through user-controlled teleoperations, it can do laundry, self-charge, use a vacuum cleaner, water plants, load and unload a dishwasher, use a coffee machine and much more.

ALOHA is a lightweight robot walking at a human speed of 1.42 metre a second and can carry up to 100-kilogramme weight.

Both the hardware and machine-learning algorithm of ALOHA are open-sourced.

The whole system costs less than \$20,000 with off-the-shelf robots and 3D-printed components, according to Trossen Robotics website where buyers can place an order for ALOHA.

Other humanoid robots

Optimus by Tesla

- Optimus, the robotics arm of Elon Musk's auto behemoth Tesla, released its first version of humanoid robot Bumblebee in September 2022, followed by Optimus Gen-1 and Optimus Gen-2 last year.

Sophia by Hanson Robotics

- Sophia by far is the oldest and most loved humanoid robot which shot to fame in 2017 when Saudi Arabia granted her citizenship, making her the world's first robot to become a legal person in any country.

95. Earth's Rotation Day is celebrated every year on which day?

पृथ्वी का घूर्णन दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 6 January / 6 जनवरी
- (b) 7 January / 7 जनवरी
- (c) 8 January / 8 जनवरी
- (d) 9 January / 9 जनवरी
- (e) 10 January / 10 जनवरी

Ans. c

Sol. 8 January - Earth's Rotation Day

Earth's Rotation Day is celebrated every year on January 8.

It's a day dedicated to recognizing the pivotal discovery of Earth's rotation on its axis.

In 470 BC, the Greeks claimed that the earth rotated on its own back. In 1851, French Physicist Leon Foucault showed the world's rotation with the assistance of a pendulum.

This was additionally used to exhibit the experimentation and was subsequently shown at the Pantheon in Greece and the Paris Observatory.

Earth's Rotation Day is celebrated to mark the experiment by Leon Foucault to demonstrate the rotation of earth, and this is given importance over other different experiments that were conducted to prove the earth's rotation around its axis.

Significant Facts

- The Earth's diameter is 12,714 kilometres (7,900 miles) from the North toward the South Poles and 12,756 kilometres (12,756 miles) via the equator (7,926 miles).
- There has been a cyclical connection between the continents of Earth for millions of years.
- 70% of Earth's surface is covered by water. Just 3% of that is freshwater, with 97% being saltwater.

96. South African Native National Congress (SANNC) Day is observed every year on which day?

दक्षिण अफ्रीकी मूलनिवासी राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस (SANNC) दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 6 January / 6 जनवरी
- (b) 7 January / 7 जनवरी
- (c) 8 January / 8 जनवरी
- (d) 9 January / 9 जनवरी
- (e) 10 January / 10 जनवरी

Ans. c

Sol. 8 January - South African Native National Congress (SANNC) Day

African National Congress (ANC) was formed on 8 January 1912. Its primary goal was to unite African people and defend their rights and freedoms.

South Africa's governing party is the African National Congress and has been in power since the transition to democracy in April 1994.

Initially, the organization was founded as the South African Native National Congress (SANNC) on 8 January 1912 in Bloemfontein.

It aimed to fight for the rights of black South Africans, to bring all Africans together as one people, and to defend their rights and freedoms.

97. India and which country have signed a MoU for cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector?

भारत और किस देश ने हाइड्रोकार्बन क्षेत्र में सहयोग के लिए एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Sri Lanka / श्रीलंका
- (b) Ghana / घाना
- (c) Guyana / गुयाना
- (d) Zimbabwe / जिम्बाब्वे
- (e) Oman / ओमान

Ans. c

Sol. Union Cabinet Approved India-Guyana MoU For Hydrocarbon Sector

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, India and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Guyana, on cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector.

The proposed MoU encompasses a comprehensive range of collaboration across the hydrocarbon value chain, underscoring the depth of engagement between the two nations.

The MoU with Guyana will strengthen bilateral trade, foster investment in each other countries and help diversify the source of crude oil, thus augmenting the energy and supply security of the country.

Recently India signed MoUs with others countries

- India and Malaysia sign an MoU for Cooperation in Broadcasting
- India and Italy signed Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement
- 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

98. How many Rajya Sabha Members are set to retire in 2024?

2024 में कितने राज्यसभा सदस्य सेवानिवृत्त होने वाले हैं?

- (a) 4
- (b) 57
- (c) 68
- (d) 78
- (e) 15

Ans. c

Sol. 68 Rajya Sabha Members Set to Retire in 2024

68 Rajya Sabha members, including nine Union ministers, are completing their tenures this year, triggering a race of sorts among leaders across political parties to eye a six-year term in the Upper House of Parliament.

Of the 68 vacancies, elections have already been called for three seats in Delhi where AAP leaders Sanjay Singh, Narain Dass Gupta, and Sushil Kumar Gupta will complete their tenures on January 27.

As many as 57 leaders, including Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, Health Minister Mansukh Madaviya, and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, will complete their tenures in April.

Uttar Pradesh will have the highest number of vacancies of 10 seats, followed by Maharashtra and Bihar (six each), Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal (five each), Karnataka and Gujarat (four each), Odisha, Telangana, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh (three each), Jharkhand and Rajasthan (two each), and Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Chhattisgarh (one each).

Four nominated members are retiring in July.

99. Which of the following state government will set up a pharma park in the state?

निम्नलिखित में से कौन सी राज्य सरकार राज्य में फार्मा पार्क स्थापित करेगी?

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

Ans. a

Sol. Uttar Pradesh to set up pharma park

The Uttar Pradesh government will set up a pharma park in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, covering 1,472-acre across five villages, according to the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA).

The plan will unfold in two phases, with an initial focus on immediate development efforts covering 300 acre of land.

The villages identified for the survey include Saidpur (426 acre), Gadolikala (249 acre), Largan (239 acre), Karounda (116 acre), and Rampur (441 acre).

The establishment of the Pharma Park and the acceleration of associated projects mark a strategic move by the Uttar Pradesh government towards fostering industrial growth and economic development.

UPSIDA is also taking steps to expedite development projects at site-1 and site-2 in Orai, along with the Plastic City project in Dibiyaapur.

The plastic park, spread across 274.4 acre, encompasses industrial units, residential areas, and basic infrastructure.

About Uttar Pradesh

- **Capital** - Lucknow
- **Chief Minister** – Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor** - Anandiben Patel

100. In which of the following states has Gangasagar Fair started?

निम्नलिखित में से किस राज्य में गंगासागर मेला शुरू हुआ है?

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

Ans. b

Sol. Gangasagar Mela begins in West Bengal

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has inaugurated the Gangasagar Mela.

The Mela will continue till 17th of January. The 'Shahi Snan' will be held on 15th and 16th January.

Chief Minister has also inaugurated nine projects at Sagar.

The state government has sent a letter to UNESCO to declare Gangasagar Mela a heritage site. This year pilgrimage tax has been waived off for the pilgrims, instead 5 lakhs rupees insurance will be given to all.

About West Bengal

- **Capital** – Kolkata
- **Chief Minister** – Mamata Banerjee
- **Governor** – C V Ananda Bose

101. Which of the following countries has officially declared the snow leopard as its national symbol, underscoring its commitment to conservation and ecological balance?

निम्नलिखित में से किस देश ने संरक्षण और पारिस्थितिक संतुलन के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता को रेखांकित करते हुए आधिकारिक तौर पर हिम तेंदुए को अपना राष्ट्रीय प्रतीक घोषित किया है?

- (a) Turkmenistan / तुर्कमेनिस्तान
- (b) Kazakhstan / कजाखस्तान
- (c) Uzbekistan / उज़्बेकिस्तान
- (d) Tajikistan / तजाकिस्तान
- (e) Kyrgyzstan / किर्गिज़स्तान

Ans. e

Sol. Kyrgyzstan Declares Snow Leopard As National Symbol

Kyrgyzstan has officially declared the snow leopard as its national symbol, underscoring its commitment to conservation and ecological balance.

The snow leopard is not only a symbol of natural wealth and cultural prosperity, but also an indicator of the stability and health of the mountain ecosystem, which occupies 1/3 of the global territory.

The loss of snow leopards in the wild will lead to the risk of disturbing the fragile ecological balance, which will have a detrimental impact on various animal species and on humans.”

In ancient Kyrgyz culture, Panthera uncia, or the snow leopard, held significance as a totem animal linked to the legendary hero of the Kyrgyz people, Manas. Within Kyrgyz culture, the snow leopard symbolizes greatness, nobility, courage, bravery, and resilience.

Kyrgyzstan has taken a leading role in snow leopard conservation at the international level, hosting the inaugural Global Snow Leopard Forum in 2013 in the capital, Bishkek. The habitat of snow leopards spans the mountainous regions of 12 countries in Asia, including Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

According to the World Wildlife Organization, this extensive range covers approximately 772,204 square miles, with China hosting 60% of the habitat. Notably, over 70% of the snow leopard's habitat remains unexplored.

About Kyrgyzstan

- Capital- Bishkek
- Currency- Kyrgystani Som
- Official languages- Kyrgyz, Russian
- Continent- Asia
- President- Sadyr Japarov

102. In January 2024, which of the following payments bank has applied to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for small finance bank license?

जनवरी 2024 में, निम्नलिखित में से किस पेमेंट्स बैंक ने लघु वित्त बैंक लाइसेंस के लिए भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) को आवेदन किया है?

- (a) Airtel Payments Bank / एयरटेल पेमेंट्स बैंक
- (b) India Post Payments Bank / इंडिया पोस्ट पेमेंट्स बैंक
- (c) FINO Payments Bank / फिनो पेमेंट्स बैंक
- (d) Paytm Payments Bank / पेटीएम पेमेंट्स बैंक
- (e) Jio Payments Bank / जियो पेमेंट्स बैंक

Ans. c

Sol. Fino Payments Bank applies to RBI for SFB license

Fino Payments Bank has applied to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), seeking a small finance bank license.

During the quarter ended 31 December 2023, the RBI received one application under the Guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Small Finance Banks in the Private Sector dated December 5, 2019 from Fino Payments Bank Limited.

As per the norms, payment banks that are controlled by residents and have completed five years of operations are eligible for conversion into small finance banks after complying with the legal and regulatory requirements of various authorities.

Fino Payments Bank started operations in 2017 and completed five years of business in 2022. In July 2023, MD and CEO Rishi Gupta said that the bank was keen to become a small finance bank.

The payments bank is a subsidiary of Fino Paytech, which is backed by investors such as Bharat Petroleum, ICICI Group, Blackstone, IFC, Intel, and Life Insurance Corporation of India, among others.

Originally a remittance service provider, Fino Payments converted all its Fino Money Mart outlets into bank branches after it received the payments bank license. It is also the only payment bank to be listed on the bourses.

103. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH)?

फेडरेशन ऑफ एसोसिएशन इन इंडियन टूरिज्म एंड हॉस्पिटैलिटी (FAITH) के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Puneet Chhatwal / पुनीत छतवाल
- (b) Neeraj Akhoury / नीरज अखौरी
- (c) Pramod Sharma / प्रमोद शर्मा
- (d) Parminder Chopra / परमिंदर चोपड़ा
- (e) Vivek Srivastava / विवेक श्रीवास्तव

Ans. a

Sol. Puneet Chhatwal Appointed Chairman of FAITH

The Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH) has appointed Puneet Chhatwal as its Chairman.

Chhatwal will be taking over from Nakul Anand, the former executive director at ITC Hotels.

Chhatwal is the managing director and chief executive officer at Indian Hotels Company Limited. He will also continue as the president of the Hotel Association of India (HAI), a position he was re-elected to in 2022.

104. G Ram Mohan Rao has been appointed as the Executive Director of which of the following organizations for three years?
जी राम मोहन राव को तीन वर्षों के लिए निम्नलिखित में से किस संगठन का कार्यकारी निदेशक नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) NABARD / नाबार्ड
- (b) RBI / आरबीआई
- (c) PFRDA / पीएफआरडीए
- (d) SEBI / सेबी
- (e) SIDBI / सिडबी

Ans. d

Sol. SEBI Appoints G Ram Mohan Rao As Executive Director

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has appointed G Ram Mohan Rao as Executive Director (ED) for a period of three years. Rao will be handling the investigation department and the internal inspection department.

He has been with the markets regulator for over 25 years during which he has supervised diverse portfolios such as inspections, litigation, recovery, investor awareness, grievance redressal, etc.

Prior to the appointment, Rao was the regional director of the Eastern Regional Office of Sebi.

About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- **Founded** - 12 April 1988
- **Act** - 1992
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai
- **Chairman** - Madhabi Puri Buch
- **Executive Director** - G Ram Mohan Rao
- **SEBI Set up** - Uday Kotak committee

Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **MD & CEO of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)** - P Santhosh (replace Natarajan Sundar)
- **MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank** - Ashok Vaswani (replace Dipak Gupta)
- **Chairman of 16th Finance Commission** - Arvind Panagariya (15th Finance Commission – N K Singh)
- **Secretary of 16th Finance Commission** - Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey

105. Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been re-elected for a fifth term. What is the name of Sheikh Hasina's party?
बांग्लादेश की प्रधान मंत्री शेख हसीना को पांचवें कार्यकाल के लिए फिर से चुना गया है। शेख हसीना की पार्टी का क्या नाम है?

- (a) Bangladesh Nationalist Party / बांग्लादेश नेशनलिस्ट पार्टी
- (b) Bangladesh Congress / बांग्लादेश कांग्रेस
- (c) Bangladesh League / बांग्लादेश लीग
- (d) Jatiya Party / जातीय पार्टी
- (e) Awami League / अवामी लीग

Ans. e

Sol. Sheikh Hasina wins fifth term in Bangladesh PM

Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been re-elected for a fifth term, marking a significant milestone in the country's political landscape. The ruling Awami League, under Hasina's leadership, has triumphed once again, securing more than half of the parliamentary seats. This victory reaffirms Sheikh Hasina's position as the world's longest-serving female head of government.

Instead of any political party, independent candidates secured a total of 63 seats, the second highest after Hasina's Awami League (AL), which won 222, creating a problem of finding a parliamentary opposition.

The current opposition, the Jatiya Party, managed to secure just 11 of the 300 parliamentary seats, according to the Election Commission.

About Bangladesh

- **Capital**- Dhaka
- **Currency** – Taka
- **President** – Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu
- **Prime Minister** - Sheikh Hasina

Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President

- President of Congo - Felix Tshisekedi (2nd term)
- President of Egypt - Abdel Fattah El-Sisi (3rd term)
- 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)

106. Who has been appointed as the first woman Director General of Police (DGP) of Maharashtra?

महाराष्ट्र की पहली महिला पुलिस महानिदेशक (डीजीपी) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Smita Sarangi / स्मिता सारंगी
- (b) Arindam Bagchi / अरिंदम बागची
- (c) Rashmi Shukla / रश्मी शुक्ला
- (d) Tanu Singh / तनु सिंह
- (e) Senthil Pandian C / सेंथिल पांडियन सी

Ans. c

Sol. Rashmi Shukla becomes Maharashtra's first woman DGP

The Maharashtra government has appointed 1988 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Rashmi Shukla as the Director General of Police.

Ms. Shukla became the first woman police officer to hold the top police post in the State.

She takes over from another 1988 IPS batch officer Rajnish Seth, who retired last week to take charge as chairman of the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC).

Mumbai police commissioner Vivek Phansalkar has been holding additional charge as Maharashtra DGP Maharashtra since Mr. Seth retired on December 31.

Ms. Shukla was on Central deputation heading the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) – the border guarding force, before her latest appointment as Maharashtra DGP.

Prior to this, she was appointed as Additional Director-General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in February 2021.

Recent Appointment

- **CEO of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone** - Ashwani Gupta
- **CEO of Indian Olympic Association** - Raghuram Iyer
- **MD & CEO of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIFFL)** - Sanjiv Aggarwal (replace Rajiv Dhar)
- **President of All India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA)** - Shashi Singh (Ramesh Kejriwal)
- **Senior VP of AIRIA** - Zafar Ahmed

About Maharashtra

- **Capital** - Mumbai
- **Chief Minister** - Eknath Sindhe
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Devendra Fadnavis & Ajit Pawar
- **Governor** - Ramesh Bais

107. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of NIVEA India?

NIVEA इंडिया के प्रबंध निदेशक (MD) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Anshika Singh / अंशिका सिंह
- (b) Radhika Goel / राधिका गोयल
- (c) Vasudha Gupta / वसुधा गुप्ता
- (d) Shivani Tyagi / शिवानी त्यागी
- (e) Geetika Mehta / गीतिका मेहता

Ans. e

Sol. NIVEA India Appoints Geetika Mehta As New MD

Nivea India has appointed Geetika Mehta as Managing Director (MD). With this, she joins the growing list of women heading fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies.

Mehta's previous stint was at Hershey India for two and a half years as MD, and before that she was at the country's largest FMCG firm, Hindustan Unilever, for 18 years.

Geetika, with a distinguished career in the FMCG sector, has a proven track record of developing small businesses as well as managing large-scale corporations across markets including South Asia, Thailand, Brazil, and South Africa.

Her extensive experience and strategic vision align seamlessly with Nivea India's objective of providing consumers with superior product quality in line with its care proposition.

108. Who has been appointed as the Secretary of Railway Board?

रेलवे बोर्ड के सचिव के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Smita Sarangi / स्मिता सारंगी
- (b) Radhika Goel / राधिका गोयल
- (c) Vasudha Gupta / वसुधा गुप्ता
- (d) Tanu Singh / तनु सिंह
- (e) Aruna Nayar / अरुणा नायर

Ans. e

Sol. Aruna Nayar takes over as Secretary of Railway Board

Aruna Nayar has been appointed as Railway Board Secretary. She is an Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS) Officer of 1987 Batch and Level-16 empanelled IRMS officer.

Nayar was earlier working in Railway Board as Additional Member, Staff, from May 2023, and as Principal Executive Director/Staff, Railway Board, from Feb 2022 to May 2023.

Nayar is also the first IRPS officer to be empanelled in IRMS in Level-16.

Nayar has worked as Principal Chief Personnel Officer (PCPO) in Eastern Railway, Dy. CPO, Metro Railway/Kolkata, PCPO in Southern Railway and in other capacities in Railway Recruitment Board (Chennai), Railway Divisions of Chennai & Palghat and Golden Rock Workshop & Division at Tiruchirapalli.

She has also worked as Director (Pers), in the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications & IT under Central Staffing Scheme from 2005 to 2009.

109. Swashbuckling batter Heinrich Klaasen has announced retirement from Test cricket. He is from which country?

धाकड़ बल्लेबाज हेनरिक क्लासेन ने टेस्ट क्रिकेट से संन्यास की घोषणा कर दी 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. South Africa batter Heinrich Klaasen announces retirement from Test cricket

South Africa swashbuckling batter Heinrich Klaasen has announced retirement from Test cricket (longest format of the game).

Klaasen, who was among the top run getters for South Africa in last year's ODI World Cup, wasn't a regular in the red ball setup.

Having made his debut in 2019, the 32-year-old only had four Test matches under his belt. However, on the tour of the West Indies, Klaasen notched up a mere 56 runs from four innings.

Recently Retired Players

- David Warner – International ODI & Test – Australia
- Dean Elgar - International cricket - South Africa
- Asad Shafiq - All forms of cricket - Pakistan
- Gurkeerat Singh Mann – International Cricket – India
- Meg Lanning – International Cricket – Australia
- Sunil Narine - International cricket – West Indies

110. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) or NRI Day is celebrated in India every year on which day?

प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस (पीबीडी) या एनआरआई दिवस भारत में हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 6 January / 6 जनवरी
- (b) 7 January / 7 जनवरी
- (c) 8 January / 8 जनवरी
- (d) 9 January / 9 जनवरी
- (e) 10 January / 10 जनवरी

Ans. d

Sol. 9 January - Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) or NRI Day is celebrated in India every year on 9 January.

The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi from South Africa to India in 1915 for the struggle of Independence.

One of the main aims of recognising Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is to pay homage and honour to the Overseas Indian community who play a significant role in the development of the country.

The inaugural celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas took place in 2003.

111. In January 2024, which state government has received investment proposals worth ₹6.64 lakh crore through 631 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)?

जनवरी 2024 में, किस राज्य सरकार को 631 समझौता ज्ञापनों (एमओयू) के माध्यम से ₹6.64 लाख करोड़ के निवेश प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैं?

- (a) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (d) Himachal Pradesh / हिमाचल प्रदेश
- (e) Punjab / पंजाब

Ans. b

Sol. Tamil Nadu receives investment proposals worth ₹6.64 lakh crore

Tamil Nadu has attracted an impressive investment commitment to the tune of over ₹6,64,180 crore through 631 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs). It would generate nearly 27 lakh jobs across sectors at the conclusion of the first Global Investors Meet (GIM 2024) conducted by the DMK government at Chennai Trade Centre.

A total of 26,90,657 jobs are expected to be generated from these investments that include direct employment for 14,54,712 persons and indirect employment for 12,35,945 persons.

Some of the big-ticket investment proposals were made by Tata Power (₹70,800 crore), Adani Group (₹42,768 crore), Sembcorp (₹36,238 crore), Leap Green Energy Pvt. Ltd. (₹17,400 crore) and Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (₹17,000 crore).

With this GIM, this government that espouses the 'Dravidian model' of governance has laid the foundation for Tamil Nadu's growth for the next 20 years. The proposed investments would be across sectors such as advanced electronics manufacturing, green energy non-leather footwear, automobiles and e-vehicles, defence and aerospace, data centres, global capability centres, Information Technology and Digital Services.

The TN government attain its ambitious target to make Tamil Nadu a \$1 trillion economy by 2030 and play a key role in India's economic growth.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated TANFUND, which aims to bridge the gap between start-ups in Tamil Nadu and investment partners in India and across the world.

About Tamil Nadu

- **Formation** – 26 January 1950
- **Capital** – Chennai
- **Chief Minister** – M K Stalin
- **Governor** – R N Ravi

112. India has signed an MoU with which country for small satellite project?

भारत ने लघु उपग्रह परियोजना के लिए किस देश के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Iran / ईरान
- (b) Maldives / मालदीव
- (c) Bhutan / भूटान
- (d) Mauritius / मॉरीशस
- (e) Sri Lanka / श्रीलंका

Ans. d

Sol. India and Mauritius collaborate on Rs 20 crore small satellite project

The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its nod to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Indian Space Research Organization (Isro) and the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC).

The agreement, which was inked on November 1, 2023, in Port Louis, Mauritius, lays the groundwork for the joint development of a small satellite.

The MoU is set to establish a robust framework for cooperation, leveraging the MRIC's Ground Station and involving the participation of Indian industries in the development of some of the satellite's subsystems.

This partnership is expected to not only enhance industrial capabilities but also generate employment opportunities within India.

The implementation of this MoU is projected to lead to the realization of the joint small satellite within a 15-month period. The Government of India has earmarked an estimated Rs 20 crore for the development of the joint satellite, with no additional exchange of funds between the two parties involved.

The roots of space cooperation between India and Mauritius trace back to the late 1980s when Isro established a ground station in Mauritius to provide tracking and telemetry support for its missions.

Recently India signed MoUs with others countries

- India and Guyana signed MoU for Hydrocarbon Sector
- India and Malaysia sign an MoU for Cooperation in Broadcasting
- India and Italy signed Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement
- 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 modernizations

113. Who has inaugurated and lays foundation stone of 12 National Highway projects with a total length of 105 km worth over Rs 1464 Crore in Kerala?

केरल में 1464 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की कुल 105 किमी लंबाई वाली 12 राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन और शिलान्यास किसने किया?

- (a) Anurag Thakur / अनुराग ठाकुर
- (b) Piyush Goyal / पीयूष गोयल
- (c) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी
- (d) Nitin Gadkari / नितिन गडकरी
- (e) Amit Shah / अमित शाह

Ans. d

Sol. Nitin Gadkari inaugurates and lays foundation stone of 12 National Highway projects in Kerala

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated and lays foundation stone of 12 National Highway projects with a total length of 105 km worth over Rs 1464 Crore in Kerala.

The proposed projects aim to enhance seamless connectivity between Tamil Nadu and Kerala, ensuring swift and trouble-free transportation. This initiative holds the promise of reducing overall transportation costs. Furthermore, a focus on eliminating black spots on National Highways is anticipated to contribute to a significant decrease in road accidents.

The undertaking is poised to generate substantial employment opportunities, both directly and indirectly, fostering socio-economic growth in Kerala.

Additionally, the improved accessibility to Munnar is expected to boost tourism potential, while the construction of a high-level bridge will eliminate a 27 km detour during floods, streamlining travel and benefiting the export of key Kerala products.

Nitin Gadkari In News

- Nitin Gadkari addresses 5th edition of India STEM Summit 2023 in New Delhi
- Nitin Gadkari launches India Jewellery Shopping Festival (IJSF) 2023
- Nitin Gadkari launches Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Programme)
- Nitin Gadkari inaugurates and lays foundation stone of 11 highway project worth Rs 5600 crore in Rajasthan
- Nitin Gadkari inaugurates four projects worth Rs 1450 Crore in Assam

114. Indian Railways has achieved 6,577 route kilometers electrification in the calendar year 2023. The Indian Railways has set a target to become the world's largest green railway by which year?

भारतीय रेलवे ने कैलेंडर वर्ष 2023 में 6,577 रूट किलोमीटर विद्युतीकरण हासिल किया है। भारतीय रेलवे ने किस वर्ष तक दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी हरित रेलवे बनने का लक्ष्य रखा है?

- (a) 2027
- (b) 2028
- (c) 2029
- (d) 2030
- (e) 2032

Ans. d

Sol. Indian Railways Electrifies 6,577 Route Kilometers in 2023

Indian Railways has achieved 6,577 route kilometers electrification in the calendar year 2023.

Till December 2023, 61,508 route Kms have been electrified, which is 93.83 percent of total Broad-Gauge route of 65,556 kms.

With a vision of providing an eco-friendly, faster and energy-efficient mode of transportation, Indian Railways is marching ahead towards 100 per cent electrification of Broad-Gauge tracks.

The Indian Railways has set a target to become the world's largest green railway by 2030.

So far, the Indian Railways has achieved 100 per cent railway electrification in at least 14 states/UTs.

The push towards the electrification drive is aligned with the government's efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goals endorsed by the United Nations.

115. Which ministry has organized Kala Utsav 2024 in New Delhi?

नई दिल्ली में कला उत्सव 2024 का आयोजन किस मंत्रालय ने 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 Jal Shakti (Water) / जल शक्ति मंत्रालय (जल)

Ans. d

Sol. Dharmendra Pradhan attends inaugural ceremony of Kala Utsav

Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan attended the inaugural ceremony of the Kala Utsav as the Guest of Honour.

Minister of State for Education, Annpurna Devi also be present at the function as the Guest of Honour.

The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) are going to organize Kala Utsav 2024 at National Bal Bhavan and the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi.

Kala Utsav 2023 which will be held from 9-11 January 2024 will witness performances in 10 art forms: 1. Vocal Music – Classical; 2. Vocal Music – Traditional Folk; 3. Instrumental Music – Percussive; 4. Instrumental Music – Melodic; 5. Dance – Classical; 6. Dance – Folk; 7. Visual Arts (2-dimensional); 8. Visual Arts (3-dimensional); 9. Indigenous Toys and Games; and 10. Drama (Solo acting).

Around 700 students from 36 States and Union Territories, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti will showcase their art forms in all these genres.

116. Union minister Parshottam Rupala has laid the foundation stone for the upgradation of the Paradip Fishing Harbour (PFH) in which state for Rs 108.91 crore?

केंद्रीय मंत्री परशोत्तम रूपाला ने किस राज्य में 108.91 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से पारादीप फिशिंग हार्बर (पीएफएच) के उन्नयन की आधारशिला रखी है?

- (a) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Odisha / ओडिशा
- (d) Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश
- (e) Kerala / केरल

Ans. c

Sol. Parshottam Rupala Lays Foundation Stone For Upgradation Of Paradip Fishing Harbour

Union minister Parshottam Rupala has laid the foundation stone for the upgradation of the Paradip Fishing Harbour in Odisha for Rs 108.91 crore.

The modernisation and upgradation of the Paradip Fishing Harbour (PFH) will improve its hygienic conditions and make it clean, pollution-free, and aesthetically pleasing.

PFH will be upgraded in 18 months by Paradip Port Authority using 100 per cent central assistance from the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) under the Sagarmala Scheme.

Modernisation of the fishing harbour will improve the lives of the thousands of fishermen and allied workers who depend on the harbour for their livelihood.

PHF spread across 43 acres, is one of Odisha's largest fishing harbours located on the right bank of the river Mahanadi, two kilometres upstream of the river mouth in Jagatsinghpur district.

The harbour was initially built to oversee 370 numbers of 10-metre vessels, 80 numbers of 13-metre vessels, and 50 numbers of 15-metre vessels, as well as traditional watercraft.

Now, approximately 640 numbers of 15-metre vessels and 100 numbers of 9-metre Gill Netter (FRP boats) use the harbour amenities.

117. Which state government has launched “Yogyasree” scheme to provide free training modules for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students?

किस राज्य सरकार ने अनुसूचित जाति (एससी) और अनुसूचित जनजाति (एसटी) छात्रों के लिए मुफ्त प्रशिक्षण मॉड्यूल प्रदान करने के लिए "योगीश्री" योजना शुरू की है?

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

Ans. b

Sol. West Bengal CM launches ‘Yogyasree’ for SC/ST students

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has launched a comprehensive social welfare scheme named “Yogyasree.”

The initiative aims to provide free training modules for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in West Bengal, specifically targeting entrance and competitive examinations.

Fifty centres will be opened all across the state where the SC and ST students will be able to take training completely free of cost for competitive examinations.

Similar 46 centres will offer free training to the SC & ST students for students aspiring for government jobs, civil services etc.

She also started a student's internship programme where 2500 students will be receiving such internships.

About West Bengal

- **Capital** – Kolkata
- **Chief Minister** – Mamata Banerjee
- **Governor** – C V Ananda Bose

118. Who has been appointed as the post of Member (Operations & Business Development), Railway Board?

रेलवे बोर्ड के सदस्य (संचालन एवं व्यवसाय विकास) के पद पर किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Smita Sarangi / स्मिता सारंगी
- (b) Seema Kumar / सीमा कुमार
- (c) Indra Mani Pandey / इंद्र मणि पांडे
- (d) Tanu Singh / तनु सिंह
- (e) Senthil Pandian C / सेंथिल पांडियन सी

Ans. b

Sol. Seema Kumar takes charge as Member of Railway Board

Ms. Seema Kumar has taken over the charge of the post of Member (Operations & Business Development), Railway Board.

Prior to this, Ms Seema Kumar was Additional Member (Tourism & Catering), Railway Board.

She also held the additional charge of Additional Member (Traffic), Additional Member (Marketing & Business Development) and also of Chairman & Managing Director of IRCTC at various intervals.

Ms. Seema Kumar joined Indian Railways Traffic Service (IRTS) in 1988. She is a Gold Medalist in M.Sc. (Physics) from Meerut University and an M. Tech. from IIT Delhi.

She is the recipient of various prestigious awards like Platinum Award for Web based Citizen Services in the year 2009, Silver Award for e-Governance 2010-2011 under the category 'Innovative Use of ICT by PSUs for Customer's Benefits' and National Tourism Award 2014-2015 for showcasing Cultural Heritage and Local Talent.

Recent Appointment

- **Secretary of Railway Board** - Aruna Nayar
- **MD of NIVEA India** - Geetika Mehta
- **First woman DGP of Maharashtra** - Rashmi Shukla (replace Rajnish Seth)
- **CEO of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone** - Ashwani Gupta
- **CEO of Indian Olympic Association** - Raghuram Iyer

119. Gabriel Attal has been elected as the new Prime Minister of which country after the resignation of Elisabeth Borne?
एलिज़ाबेथ बॉर्न के इस्तीफे के बाद गेब्रियल अटल को किस देश का नया प्रधान मंत्री चुना गया है?

- (a) France / फ़्रांस
- (b) Italy / इटली
- (c) UK / यूके
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) Canada / कनाडा

Ans. a

Sol. Gabriel Attal becomes France's youngest PM

French President Emmanuel Macron has named Gabriel Attal as the country's new prime minister.

Attal, the current education minister, will become the youngest person to occupy France's second-highest office at 34 years old.

It follows the apparently reluctant resignation of Elisabeth Borne, who said in a letter that she had been informed it was Macron's wish.

About France

- Capital- Paris
- President- Emmanuel Macron
- Prime Minister- Gabriel Attal (replace Elisabeth Borne)
- Official language- French

Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President

- Prime Minister of Bangladesh – Sheikh Hasina (5th term)
- President of Congo - Felix Tshisekedi (2nd term)
- President of Egypt - Abdel Fattah El-Sisi (3rd term)
- Prime Minister of Poland - Donald Tusk
- Prime Minister of Luxembourgish - Luc Frieden
- Prime Minister of Spain - Pedro Sanchez (re-elected)

120. Who has been appointed as Member of (Traction & Rolling Stock) in Railway Board in the Ministry of Railways?

रेल मंत्रालय में रेलवे बोर्ड में (ट्रैक्शन एंड रोलिंग स्टॉक) के सदस्य के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Ganesan Kannabiran / गणेशन कन्नाबीरन
- (b) Satish Kumar / सतीश कुमार
- (c) Pramod Sharma / प्रमोद शर्मा
- (d) Parminder Chopra / परमिंदर चोपड़ा
- (e) Vivek Srivastava / विवेक श्रीवास्तव

Ans. b

Sol. Satish Kumar appoints as Member of (TRACTION & ROLLING STOCK), Railways Board

Satish Kumar has appointed as Member of (Traction & Rolling Stock) in Railway Board in the Ministry of Railways.

He is from the 1986 batch of Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers. Kumar joined Indian Railways in March 1988 and has a rich experience of 34 years.

Before joining as MTRS, Railway Board, he worked as General Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj.

Earlier, Kumar had worked in Jhansi Division and BLW (Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi), NER, Gorkahpur, Patiala Locomotive Works in various capacities. He was trained in Total Quality Management, under UNDP programme in 1996 and has handled many project in his career.

He had also worked as Divisional Railway Manager, Lucknow Division of Northern Railway from April 2017 to April 2019. A large number of infrastructural works were accomplished during his tenure as DRM, Lucknow.

121. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PhonePe's international payments business?

PhonePe के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय भुगतान व्यवसाय के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (CEO) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Anshika Singh / अंशिका सिंह
- (b) Ritesh Pai / रितेश पई
- (c) Vasudha Gupta / वसुधा गुप्ता
- (d) Joyeeta Gupta / जोयिता गुप्ता
- (e) Raghu Srinivasan / रघु श्रीनिवासन

Ans. b

Sol. PhonePe Appoints Ritesh Pai As CEO For International Payments Division

Walmart-owned fintech firm PhonePe has appointed Ritesh Pai as chief executive officer of its international payments business.

his development aligns with India's ambition to globalize the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), attracting interest from countries like Japan, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, France, and the United Kingdom.

In his last role, as the president of products and solutions at TerraPay, he was responsible for launching and implementing payment products and solutions globally.

Before that, he served as the senior group president and chief digital officer at Yes Bank, where he led the digital strategy and transformation for the bank and launched multiple successful partnerships with many of today's leading fintech players.

Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **Executive Director of SEBI** - G Ram Mohan Rao (for 3 years)
- **'Class C' Director on Board of Directors of Federal Reserve Bank of New York** - Rajiv Shah
- **MD & CEO of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)** - P Santhosh (replace Natarajan Sundar)
- **MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank** - Ashok Vaswani (replace Dipak Gupta)
- **Chairman of 16th Finance Commission** - Arvind Panagariya (15th Finance Commission – N K Singh)
- **Secretary of 16th Finance Commission** - Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey

122. Which company has launched AI Odyssey to skill 1 lakh developers in India in AI Tech?

किस कंपनी ने भारत में 1 लाख डेवलपर्स को AI टेक में कौशल प्रदान करने के लिए AI ओडिसी लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Microsoft / माइक्रोसॉफ्ट
- (b) Apple / ऐप्पल
- (c) Adobe / एडोब
- (d) Google / गूगल
- (e) Meta / मेटा

Ans. a

Sol. Microsoft launches AI Odyssey to skill 1 lakh developers in India

Microsoft has launched an initiative that aims to skill one lakh developers in India in the latest AI technologies and tools.

The program offers a comprehensive learning experience that helps developers acquire and demonstrate relevant skills needed to execute critical projects using AI technologies that align with business goals and outcomes.

Through programs like AI Odyssey, Microsoft is offering opportunities for developers to build solutions for India's growth and showcase their talent to solve real-world problems, said the company.

The month-long program is open to all AI enthusiasts in India, regardless of experience level or background. The program has two levels that participants need to complete by January 31, 2024.

The first level of the program educates participants on how to use Azure AI services to create and deploy AI solutions for different scenarios. This will give them access to useful resources, code samples, and guides to master practical AI skills.

The second level of the program challenges participants to prove their AI skills by completing an online assessment with interactive lab tasks that earns them Microsoft Applied Skills credentials, a new verifiable credential that validates their ability to solve real-world problems with AI.

Participants completing both the levels of challenges will also stand a chance to win a VIP Pass to attend the Microsoft AI Tour in Bangalore on February 8, 2024, and witness the impact of generative AI.

123. 23-year-old Divyakriti Singh Rathore of Rajasthan has received the prestigious Arjuna Award from President Droupadi Murmu. She becomes the first Indian Woman Arjuna Awardee for which sport?

राजस्थान की 23 वर्षीय दिव्यकृति सिंह राठौड़ को राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू से प्रतिष्ठित अर्जुन पुरस्कार मिला है। वह किस खेल के लिए पहली भारतीय महिला अर्जुन पुरस्कार विजेता बनीं है?

- (a) Karate / कराटे
- (b) Shotput / गोला फेंक
- (c) Wrestling / कुश्ती
- (d) Wushu / वुशु
- (e) Equestrian / घुड़सवारी

Ans. e

Sol. Divyakriti Singh Becomes 1st Indian Woman Arjuna Awardee for Equestrian Sports

23-year-old Divyakriti Singh Rathore of Rajasthan received the prestigious Arjuna Award from President Droupadi Murmu for her remarkably outstanding stint in Equestrian sports.

Singh, the first Indian female to receive the Arjuna in the Equestrian sport, has mastered the tricks of the sport after rigorous practice over the years.

It was a proud moment not only for Divyakriti Singh but also for her home state of Rajasthan, as she stands as the sole representative to receive an Arjuna Award not only this year, but for the past five years.

Ranked No. 1 in Asia and No. 14 worldwide in the Global Dressage Rankings by the International Equestrian Federation, Divyakriti also scored a gold in team dressage event held last year at the Asian Games in China Hangzhou.

The recipients (2023 awards)

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award for 2023

Chirag Shetty and Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy (badminton).

Arjuna Awards

Ojas Pravin Deotale (archery), Aditi Gopichand Swami (archery), Murali Sreeshankar (athletics), Parul Chaudhary (athletics), Mohammad Hussamuddin (boxing), R. Vaishali (chess), Mohammed Shami (cricket), Anush Agarwalla (equestrian), **Divyakriti Singh (equestrian dressage)**, Diksha Dagar (golf), Krishan Bahadur Pathak (hockey), Sushila Chanu (hockey), Pawan Kumar (kabaddi), Ritu Negi (kabaddi), Nasreen (kho-kho), Pinki (lawn bowls), Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (shooting), Esha Singh (shooting), Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu (squash), Ayhika Mukherjee (table tennis), Sunil Kumar (wrestling), Antim Panghal (wrestling), Naorem Roshibina Devi (wushu), Sheetal Devi (para archery), Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy (blind cricket), Prachi Yadav (para canoeing).

Dronacharya Award (regular category) for outstanding coaches

Lalit Kumar (wrestling), R.B. Ramesh (chess), Mahaveer Prasad Saini (para-athletics), Shivendra Singh (hockey), Ganesh Prabhakar Devrukhkar (mallakhamb).

Dronacharya Award (life-time category) for outstanding coaches

Jaskirat Singh Grewal (golf), Bhaskaran E (kabaddi), Jayanta Kumar Pushilal (table tennis).

Dhyan Chand Award for lifetime achievement

Manjusha Kanwar (badminton), Vineet Kumar Sharma (hockey), Kavitha Selvaraj (kabaddi).

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2023

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar (overall winner university); Lovely Professional University, Punjab (1st runner -up), Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra (2nd runner-up).

124. World Hindi Day is celebrated every year on 10 January. What is the theme of World Hindi Day 2024?

विश्व हिंदी दिवस हर साल 10 जनवरी को मनाया जाता है। विश्व हिंदी दिवस 2024 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Hindi Vishwa Aur Bharatiya Sanskriti
- (b) Hindi–Bridging Traditional Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence
- (c) Hindi Sanskriti
- (d) To make Hindi a part of public opinion
- (e) Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence

Ans. b

Sol. 10 January - World Hindi Day

World Hindi Day is celebrated every year on 10 January.

The Hindi Diwas is used to spread awareness about the use of the Indian language as well as the ongoing issues with Hindi usage and promotion.

Theme 2024 - Hindi–Bridging Traditional Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence

It marks the day when Hindi was first spoken in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1949.

Hindi speakers around the world began to celebrate the language and its culture, and the first World Hindi Day was celebrated in 2006.

The day was celebrated for the first time under the instructions of former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.

World Hindi Day is celebrated on January 10 every year, whereas, Hindi Diwas is celebrated on September 14.

125. India will host which session of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in New Delhi for the first time in July 2024?

भारत जुलाई 2024 में पहली बार नई दिल्ली में यूनेस्को की विश्व धरोहर समिति के किस सत्र की मेजबानी करेगा?

- (a) 39th
- (b) 49th
- (c) 59th
- (d) 46th
- (e) 26th

Ans. d

Sol. India to host UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in July 2024

India is set to chair UNESCO's World Heritage Committee and host its 46th session in New Delhi from July 21 to 31, 2024, marking a historic milestone for our nation.

Vishal V Sharma, India's Permanent Representative to UNESCO, announced this decision.

During its 19th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2023), the World Heritage Committee resolved to hold its 46th session in India.

The World Heritage Committee, comprising representatives from 21 member states, gathers annually to recognize global cultural and natural heritage. Their work contributes to the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage Sites list.

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

126. Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated 'Prasadam,' the nation's first healthy and hygienic food street in which city?

केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डॉ. मनसुख मंडाविया ने किस शहर में देश की पहली स्वस्थ और स्वच्छ फूड स्ट्रीट 'प्रसादम' का उद्घाटन किया है?

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Ujjain / उज्जैन
- (d) Greater Noida / ग्रेटर नोएडा
- (e) Indore / इंदौर

Ans. c

Sol. Ujjain Unveils India's First Hygienic Food Street 'Prasadam'

Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated 'Prasadam,' the nation's first healthy and hygienic food street, in a grand ceremony at Neelkanth Van, Mahakal Lok, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.

The 'PRASADAM' initiative aims to connect common citizens across the nation with pure and safe local and traditional food.

This effort will align people, both residents and tourists, to adopt safe and healthy eating habits.

Spanning an impressive 939 square meters, "Prasadam" stands as a symbol of holistic development. The food street comprises 17 shops, each offering a unique culinary experience.

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

127. Which airport will host the aviation extravaganza "Wings India 2024" from January 18 to 21?

कौन सा हवाई अड्डा 18 से 21 जनवरी तक विमानन समारोह "विंग्स इंडिया 2024" की मेजबानी करेगा?

- (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) Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad / बेगमपेट हवाई अड्डा, हैदराबाद
- (e) Mangaluru International Airport, Mangaluru / मंगलुरु अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, मंगलुरु

Ans. d

Sol. Wings India To Be Held At Hyderabad's Begumpet Airport

Hyderabad's Begumpet Airport will host the aviation extravaganza, Wings India 2024 from January 18 to 21, marking the country's most significant civil aviation event.

It is organized by the Airports Authority of India in collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, this four-day extravaganza is anticipated to be Asia's largest congregation.

This dedicated period aims to offer the public an immersive experience, showcasing the latest technologies and advancements within the aviation industry.

128. The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has signed a major media rights agreement with which company to broadcast and stream the upcoming FIH Cup?

इंटरनेशनल हॉकी फेडरेशन (FIH) ने आगामी FIH कप को प्रसारित करने और स्ट्रीम करने के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ एक प्रमुख मीडिया अधिकार समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Star Sport
- (b) ESPN
- (c) Viacom18
- (d) Disney Star
- (e) Sony Pictures

Ans. c

Sol. FIH and Viacom18 Ink Four-Year Media Rights Deal

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has signed a major media rights agreement with Viacom18. This agreement runs for a four-year cycle (2023-2027) and includes all FIH events, except the FIH Nations Cup.

As part of the partnership, Viacom18 will broadcast and stream the upcoming FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers, the first ever FIH Hockey5s World Cup, the FIH Hockey Pro League, and the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup on Sports18 and JioCinema, respectively.

129. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has inaugurated a mega food show in which city, that aims to promote global trade from the sector?

वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री पियुश गोयल ने किस शहर में एक मेगा फूड शो का उद्घाटन किया है, जिसका उद्देश्य इस क्षेत्र से वैश्विक व्यापार को बढ़ावा देना है?

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) Hyderabad / हैदराबाद
- (c) Chennai / चेन्नई
- (d) Greater Noida / ग्रेटर नोएडा
- (e) Thiruvananthapuram / तिरुवनंतपुरम

Ans. d

Sol. Piyush Goyal Inaugurates Indus Food 2024 in Greater Noida

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has inaugurated a mega food show in Greater Noida, which aims to promote global trade from the sector.

The 'Indusfood 2024' show is organised annually by the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) with the support of the Department of Commerce.

The food exports from India holds an immense potential and this this fiscal, the country's agri exports will be more than last year's level of USD 53 billion despite restrictions imposed on shipments of certain key commodities.

The show is the "largest" food and beverages show in South Asia. Over 1,200 exhibitors, 7,500 global buyers are participating in the three-day exhibition.

Exhibitors from over 15 countries, including EU, China, Russia, UAE, Canada, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Nepal, UK, Turkiye, are also showcasing their products.

131. The year 2023 was the planet's hottest on record by a substantial margin and likely the world's warmest in the last 100,000 years. This data was published by which of the following?

वर्ष 2023 काफी अंतर से रिकॉर्ड के अनुसार ग्रह का सबसे गर्म वर्ष था और संभवतः पिछले 100,000 वर्षों में दुनिया का सबसे गर्म वर्ष था। यह डेटा निम्नलिखित में से किसके द्वारा प्रकाशित किया गया था?

- (a) World Meteorological Organization / विश्व मौसम विज्ञान संगठन
- (b) India Meteorological Department / भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग
- (c) NASA / नासा
- (d) European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service / यूरोपीय संघ की कोपरनिकस जलवायु परिवर्तन सेवा
- (e) European Union Meteorological Department / यूरोपीय संघ मौसम विज्ञान विभाग

Ans. d

Sol. 2023 recorded hottest year ever as Earth nears critical 1.5C limit

Last year was the planet's hottest on record by a substantial margin and likely the world's warmest in the last 100,000 years, according to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).

Scientists had widely expected the milestone after climate records were repeatedly broken. Since June, every month has been the world's hottest on record compared with the corresponding month in previous years.

C3S confirmed 2023 as the hottest year in global temperature records going back to 1850. When checked against paleoclimatic data records from sources such as tree rings and air bubbles in glaciers, Buontempo said it was "very likely" the warmest year in the last 100,000 years.

On average, in 2023 the planet was 1.48 degrees Celsius warmer than in the 1850-1900 pre-industrial period, when humans began burning fossil fuels on an industrial scale, pumping carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Countries agreed in the 2015 Paris Agreement to try to prevent global warming surpassing 1.5C (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), to avoid its most severe consequences.

It was also the first year in which every day was more than 1C hotter than pre-industrial times. For the first time, two days - both of them in November - were 2C warmer than in the pre-industrial period.

132. Which bank has launched the Samman RuPay Credit Card" in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)?

किस बैंक ने नेशनल पेमेंट्स कॉरपोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (NPCI) के साथ साझेदारी में सम्मान रुपये क्रेडिट कार्ड लॉन्च किया 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. c

Sol. IndusInd Bank introduces the 'Samman RuPay Credit Card'

IndusInd Bank has introduced the "IndusInd Bank Samman RuPay Credit Card", equipped with UPI functionality, in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Tailored for government sector employees, the card is designed to offer a variety of exclusive perks, aiming to elevate their banking experience. Combining the advantages of a conventional credit card with the advanced functionalities of UPI, the IndusInd Bank Samman RuPay Credit Card presents a seamless financial instrument.

This card comes with a myriad of benefits, such as cashback on various expenses, complimentary movie tickets, zero fees on cash advances, and exemptions from surcharges on IRCTC transactions and fuel purchases.

These features are crafted not just to offer financial incentives but also to streamline and enhance the everyday transactional journey for government employees.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- Canara Bank to launch **Data Analytics center** in Bengaluru from 1 April
- Bank of India introduced **Super Special Fixed Deposit** with interest rate of 7.50% per annum
- IndusInd Bank has launched the '**IndusInd Bank eSvarna**', India's first Corporate Credit Card on RuPay network.
- 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**

133. According to the latest World Bank report, what is the India's GDP growth for FY25?

विश्व बैंक की नवीनतम रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, FY25 के लिए भारत की GDP वृद्धि क्या है?

- (a) 6.4%
- (b) 6.5%
- (c) 6.6%
- (d) 6.7%
- (e) 6.9%

Ans. a

Sol. World Bank keeps India's FY25 GDP growth estimate unchanged at 6.4%

The World Bank kept its FY25 economic growth projection for India unchanged at 6.4 percent, mainly on account of strong domestic demand, rising public infrastructure spending and strong private-sector credit growth.

However, it projected that the private consumption growth might taper off due to high food inflation and diminishing pent-up demand.

In its biannual 'Global Economic Prospects' report, the World Bank said India was likely to maintain the fastest growth rate among the world's largest economies, but its post-pandemic recovery was expected to slow, with estimated growth of 6.3 percent in FY24, before recovering gradually to 6.5 percent in FY26.

The Washington-based organization forecast that the world economy will expand 2.4 percent this year. That would be down from 2.6 percent growth in 2023, 3 percent in 2022 and 6.2 percent in 2021, which reflected the robust recovery from the pandemic recession of 2020.

Updated GDP List

- India Ratings – 6.7% (FY24)
- 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)

134. Who has been appointed as Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisition) in the Defence Ministry?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में अतिरिक्त सचिव और महानिदेशक (अधिग्रहण) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Smita Sarangi / स्मिता सारंगी
- (b) Arindam Bagchi / अरिंदम बागची
- (c) Indra Mani Pandey / इंद्र मणि पांडे
- (d) Tanu Singh / तनु सिंह
- (e) Samir Kumar Sinha / समीर कुमार सिन्हा

Ans. e

Sol. Samir Kumar Sinha takes over as DG (Acquisition) in Defence Ministry

Senior IAS officer Samir Kumar Sinha has been appointed as Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisition) in the Defence Ministry. Sinha, a 1994-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, is currently working in his Assam-Meghalaya cadre.

Bharat Harbanslal Khera, a 1995-batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Chandra Bhushan Kumar will be Additional Secretary as well as Mission Director for the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation's Jal Jeevan Mission.

Puja Singh Mandol, currently Joint Director General in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, has been appointed as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Sanjeev Kumar Jindal, at present a Joint Secretary in the Home Ministry, will now be Additional Secretary.

Asit Gopal, Commissioner of Eklavya Model Residential School of the National Educational Society for Tribal Students under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has been named as Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor in the Ministry of Textiles.

Senior bureaucrat Tripti Gurha will be Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Recent Appointment

- **Member of (TRACTION & ROLLING STOCK) in Railways Board** - Satish Kumar
- **Post of Member (Operations & Business Development), Railway Board** - Seema Kumar
- **Secretary of Railway Board** - Aruna Nayar
- **MD of NIVEA India** - Geetika Mehta
- **First woman DGP of Maharashtra** - Rashmi Shukla (replace Rajnish Seth)

135. Which of the following companies has unveiled the world's first wireless transparent TV "Signature OLED"?
निम्नलिखित में से किस कंपनी ने दुनिया का पहला वायरलेस पारदर्शी टीवी "सिग्नेचर OLED" का अनावरण किया है?

- (a) Apple
- (b) Panasonic
- (c) Sony
- (d) Samsung
- (e) LG

Ans. e

Sol. LG unveils world's 1st wireless transparent OLED TV

LG Electronics has unveiled the world's first wireless transparent TV.

Called LG Signature OLED T, the TV has a glass for a display that looks as if it disappears when turned off.

The TV combines transparent OLED technology with wireless AV transmission and reception for viewers to "see beyond the screen and eliminating the need for visible wires around the screen"

The TV has a self-lit pixel technology that enables it to maintain the picture quality and it has a 4K resolution.

LG Signature OLED T offers two distinctive screen modes: transparent and black. In transparent mode, those watching the TV can watch content overlapping with what's behind it. If you want to watch the TV in the traditional style, you can click on the remote control to switch the screen to black.

OLED (Organic Light Emitting Diodes) is a flat light emitting technology, made by placing a series of organic thin films between two conductors. When electrical current is applied, a bright light is emitted. OLEDs are emissive displays that do not require a backlight and so are thinner and more efficient than LCD displays (which do require a white backlight).

LG Electronics Inc. is a South Korean multinational electronics company headquartered in Yeouido-dong, Seoul, South Korea.

135. Which country has won the United Cup Title 2024?

किस देश ने यूनाइटेड कप खिताब 2024 जीता है?

- (a) Poland / पोलैंड
- (b) USA / यूएसए
- (c) Japan / जापान
- (d) Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया
- (e) Germany / जर्मनी

Ans. e

Sol. Zverev-led Germany beat Swiatek's Poland to win United Cup

Germany defeated Poland 2-1 in a gripping United Cup final in Sydney. Alexander Zverev emerged as the hero for Germany, as his performance saved two championship points against Poland's Hubert Hurkacz.

Zverev and Laura Siegemund defeated Hurkacz and Iga Swiatek 6-4, 5-7, 10-4 in a crucial mixed-doubles match at the Ken Rosewall Arena, guiding Germany to the United Cup title.

Germany had a relatively poor group stage and just about qualified for the knockouts, but Zverev and Siegemund formed a formidable pair to rescue their side by winning three deciders in as many days to lead their team to the title.

 **ambitious baba**.com

136. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is organizing the Startup India Innovation Week 2024 from ____ to ____.

उद्योग संवर्धन और आंतरिक व्यापार विभाग (DPIIT) ____ से ____ तक स्टार्टअप इंडिया इनोवेशन वीक 2024 का आयोजन कर रहा है।

- (a) 11 January - 18 January / 11 जनवरी - 18 जनवरी
- (b) 10 January - 18 January / 10 जनवरी - 18 जनवरी
- (c) 12 January - 18 January / 11 जनवरी - 18 जनवरी
- (d) 9 January - 18 January / 9 जनवरी - 18 जनवरी
- (e) 13 January - 19 January / 13 जनवरी - 19 जनवरी

Ans. b

Sol. DPIIT organizes Startup India Innovation Week 2024

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is organizing the Startup India Innovation Week 2024 from 10 January to 18 January.

This week-long initiative seeks to unite startups, entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, and stakeholders to celebrate and advance the Indian Startup Ecosystem, culminating in the National Startup Day on January 16th, 2024.

The Startup India initiative was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 16th January 2016 to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation, boosting startups, and encouraging investments in the startup ecosystem of the country.

The Indian startup ecosystem has grown from strength to strength over the years. It said, the number of recognized startups has increased to over one lakh 17 lakh thousand from about four hundred startups in 2016.

137. The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has launched an indigenous assault rifle" for the armed forces. What is the effective range of this rifle?

रक्षा अनुसंधान और विकास संगठन (DRDO) ने सशस्त्र बलों के लिए एक स्वदेशी असॉल्ट राइफल लॉन्च की है। इस राइफल की प्रभावी रेंज क्या है?

- (a) 100 metres
- (b) 200 metres
- (c) 300 metres
- (d) 400 metres
- (e) 500 metres

Ans. e

Sol. DRDO launches 'Ugram' assault rifle for armed forces

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has launched Ugram, a state-of-the-art assault rifle of the 7.62 x 51 mm calibre.

It has been indigenously designed, developed and manufactured in collaboration with a private industry partner.

The assault rifle has been designed for the operational requirements of armed forces, paramilitary and state police entities.

The first operational prototype of the rifle, which has been named Ugram, which means ferocious, was unveiled at the hands of Dr Shailendra V Gade, Director General, Armament and Combat Engineering Systems of the DRDO in Pune.

The rifle has an effective range of 500 metres and weighs less than four kilograms and has been developed by DRDO's Pune-based facility Armament Research and Development Establishments (ARDE) in collaboration with Hyderabad-based Dvipa Armour India Private Limited.

About Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)

- **Founded** - 1 January 1958
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi
- **Motto** - "Strength's Origin is in Knowledge"
- **Chairman** - Dr. Samir V Kamat

138. Hindustani classical singer and music maestro Ustad Rashid Khan passed away recently at the age of 55. In which year he was honoured with Padma Bhushan Award, the third-highest civilian award in the country?

हिंदुस्तानी शास्त्रीय गायक और संगीत उस्ताद उस्ताद राशिद खान का हाल ही में 55 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। उन्हें किस वर्ष देश के तीसरे सबसे बड़े नागरिक पुरस्कार पद्म भूषण पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया था?

- (a) 2019
- (b) 2022
- (c) 2023
- (d) 2017
- (e) 2018

Ans. b

Sol. Music maestro Ustad Rashid Khan dies

Hindustani classical singer and music maestro Ustad Rashid Khan passed away in Kolkata at the age of 55.

Born in Badayun, Uttar Pradesh, Rashid Khan received his initial training from his maternal grand-uncle, Ustad Nissar Hussain Khan (1909–1993). He gave his first concert at age eleven.

In April 1980, when Nissar Hussain Khan moved to Kolkata, Rashid Khan came to the city with his grandfather. Rashid Khan also joined the ITC Sangeet Research Academy at the age of 14.

The vocalist won several awards including Padma Shri and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2006. In 2022, he was honoured with the Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award of the country.

The West Bengal government also honoured Ustad Rashid Khan with Banga Bibhushan and Sangeet Mahasamman.

139. Franz Beckenbauer has passed away recently at the age of 78. He was related to which sport?

फ्रान्ज बेकेनबॉयर का हाल ही में 78 साल की उम्र में निधन हो गया है। वह किस खेल से संबंधित थे?

- (a) Hockey / हॉकी
- (b) Tennis / टेनिस
- (c) Badminton / बैडमिंटन
- (d) Football / फुटबॉल
- (e) Cricket / क्रिकेट

Ans. d

Sol. Football player Franz Beckenbauer passed away

Football player Franz Beckenbauer has died at the age of 78 in Germany.

Known in football-obsessed Germany as "the Kaiser" meaning "the Emperor", Beckenbauer played a central role in some of the country's greatest sporting achievements.

He collected 103 caps for West Germany, winning the 1972 European championship and then the World Cup on home soil.

Franz Beckenbauer's Bayern Munich team was the best club side in the world during the mid-1970s.

140. The Government of Maharashtra has declared a new Conservation Reserve in the forest land of _____ district namely 'Atpadi Conservation Reserve'.

महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने _____ जिले की वन भूमि में 'अटपाडी संरक्षण रिजर्व' नाम से एक नया संरक्षण रिजर्व घोषित किया है।

- (a) Ahmednagar / अहमदनगर
- (b) Amravati / अमरावती
- (c) Osmanabad / उस्मानाबाद
- (d) Kolhapur / कोल्हापुर
- (e) Sangli / सांगली

Ans. e

Sol. Maharashtra govt declares new Atpadi Conservation Reserve in Sangli district

The Government of Maharashtra has declared a new Conservation Reserve in the forest land of Sangli district namely 'Atpadi Conservation Reserve'.

The newly formed Atpadi Conservation Reserve connects the Maini Conservation Area in the west with the Maldhok Bird Sanctuary in the northeast.

This will help in the protection of wildlife corridors and preserve the habitat of wolves, deer, foxes, civets and other mammals in the area

This newly declared Conservation Reserve hosts three types of forest cover, Semi-evergreen, moist deciduous and dry deciduous.

36 tree species, 116 herb species, 15 shrub species, 14 vine species and 1 parasitic plant are found in this area. The Atpadi

Conservation Reserve will help preserve the habitat of wolves, jackals, deer, foxes, civets, rabbits and other mammals in the area.

About Maharashtra

- **Capital** - Mumbai
- **Chief Minister** - Eknath Sindhe
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Devendra Fadnavis & Ajit Pawar
- **Governor** - Ramesh Bais

141. Which state government has launched the "Ram Lalla Darshan" (Ayodhya Dham) scheme under which, 20,000 eligible residents of the state will be taken to the holy city for pilgrimage every year?

किस राज्य सरकार ने "राम लला दर्शन" (अयोध्या धाम) योजना शुरू की है, जिसके तहत राज्य के 20,000 पात्र निवासियों को हर साल तीर्थ यात्रा के लिए पवित्र शहर ले जाया जाएगा?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh / मध्य प्रदेश
- (b) West Bengal / पश्चिम बंगाल
- (c) Assam / असम
- (d) Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश
- (e) Chhattisgarh / छत्तीसगढ़

Ans. e

Sol. Chhattisgarh govt launches 'Ramlala Darshan' scheme

Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai has launched the "Ram Lala Darshan" (Ayodhya Dham) Yojana.

Under the scheme, 20,000 eligible residents of the State would be taken to the holy city for pilgrimage every year.

The Chhattisgarh Tourism Board will implement the scheme and the budget for it will be provided by the Tourism Department.

It added that those between the age of 18 and 75 years and found fit in the health examination by District Medical Board will be considered eligible for the trip under this scheme. In the first phase, however, this facility will be made available for people of age above 55 years.

From different points in Chhattisgarh, batches of pilgrims will be taken to the main destination of Ayodhya Dham in Uttar Pradesh in trains. The trip will also include a visit to Varanasi where they will go to Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor and witness the Ganga Aarti.

The distance to be covered under this trip to Ayodhya will be approximately 900 kilometres, for which an MoU will be signed between Chhattisgarh Tourism Board and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation.

About Chhattisgarh

- **Capital** – Raipur
- **Chief Minister** – Vishnu Deo Sai (replace Bhupesh Baghel)
- **Deputy CM** - Arun Sao & Vijay Sharma
- **Governor** – Biswabhusan Harichandan
- **Speaker of Chhattisgarh Assembly** - Dr. Raman Singh

142. Who has inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of 29 national highway projects worth Rs 4,000 crore in Punjab?
ਪੰਜਾਬ ਮੇਂ 4,000 ਕਰੋੜ ਰੁਪਏ ਕੀ 29 ਰਾਸ਼ਟੀਯ ਰਾਜਮਾਰਗ ਪਰਿਯੋਜਨਾਓਂ ਕਾ ਉਦਘਾਟਨ ਔਰ ਸ਼ਿਲਾਨਿਆਸ ਕਿਸਨੇ ਕਿਆ ਹੈ?

- (a) Anurag Thakur / अनुराग ठाकुर
- (b) Piyush Goyal / पीयूष गोयल
- (c) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी
- (d) Nitin Gadkari / नितिन गडकरी
- (e) Amit Shah / अमित शाह

Ans. d

Sol. Nitin Gadkari inaugurates, lays foundation stones of 29 highway projects worth Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated and laid foundation stones of 29 national highway projects worth Rs 4,000 crore in Punjab.

The projects included Ladhawal bypass in Ludhiana, six-lane flyover and two-lane road over bridge in Ludhiana, four laning of Jalandhar-Kapurthala section, and three bridges on the Jalandhar-Makhu Rsssoad.

Gadkari laid the foundation stones of several projects, including four laning of Hoshiarpur-Phagwara Road and four laning of Ferozepur bypass.

Five greenfield expressways and economic corridors are being built at a cost of Rs 1.20 lakh crore for better connectivity from Punjab to Delhi, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana.

Nitin Gadkari In News

- Nitin Gadkari inaugurates and lays foundation stone of 12 National Highway projects in Kerala
- Nitin Gadkari addresses 5th edition of India STEM Summit 2023 in New Delhi
- Nitin Gadkari launches India Jewellery Shopping Festival (IJSF) 2023
- Nitin Gadkari launches Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Programme)

143. In January 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over 30,500 crore rupees in which state?

जनवरी 2024 में, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने किस राज्य में 30,500 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की कई विकास परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन और शिलान्यास किया है?

- (a) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (d) Himachal Pradesh / हिमाचल प्रदेश
- (e) Punjab / पंजाब

Ans. a

Sol. PM Modi inaugurated & laid foundation stone of multiple development projects in Maharashtra

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over 30,500 crore rupees in Maharashtra.

Modi has inaugurated Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewari - Nhava Sheva Atal Setu to improve ease of mobility by strengthening urban transport infrastructure. Atal Setu has been constructed at a total cost of more than 17,840 crore rupees.

It is about a 21.8 km long 6-lane bridge having about 16.5 km length over sea and about 5.5 km on the land. Prime Minister Modi had laid the foundation stone of the bridge in December 2016.

Modi also laid the foundation stone of the underground road tunnel connecting Eastern Freeway's Orange Gate to Marine Drive. The 9.2 Km tunnel will be built at a cost of more than 8,700 crore rupees. It will be a significant infrastructure development in Mumbai which will reduce travel time between Orange Gate and Marine Drive.

Prime Minister also inaugurated Bharat Ratnam for Gems and Jewellery sector at Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone- Special Economic Zone, which is the first of its kind in India with the best available machines in the world including 3D Metal printing.

PM Modi in News

- PM inaugurates Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Optical Fibre Connection
- PM Modi inaugurates new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli airport
- PM Modi attend DGP conference at Jaipur
- PM Modi inaugurates Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2.0 in Varanasi
- PM Modi inaugurates second Delhi-Varanasi Vande Bharat Express
- PM Modi inaugurated Surat Diamond Exchange in Gujara

144. Which state government has launched the Blue Carbon Agency to preserve and restore coastal ecosystems?

किस राज्य सरकार ने तटीय पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को संरक्षित और पुनर्स्थापित करने के लिए ब्लू कार्बन एजेंसी लॉन्च की है?

- (a) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (d) Himachal Pradesh / हिमाचल प्रदेश
- (e) Punjab / पंजाब

Ans. b

Sol. Tamil Nadu launched special vehicle to restore coastal ecosystems

Tamil Nadu government has launched the Tamil Nadu Blue Carbon Agency to preserve and restore coastal ecosystems.

This part of the Tamil Nadu Coastal Mission was announced in the 2023-24 state budget, with a Rs 2000 crore cost backed by World Bank funding.

A special-purpose vehicle called the Tamil Nadu Blue Carbon Agency has been set up for preservation and restoration of coastal ecosystems, including mangroves, corals, seagrass, and salt marshes.

This is a significant move towards environmental conservation, focusing on protection and revitalisation of the state's coastal ecology.

About Tamil Nadu

- **Formation** – 26 January 1950
- **Capital** – Chennai
- **Chief Minister** – M K Stalin
- **Governor** – R N Ravi

145. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has projected a modest rise in the global unemployment rate to how much percent in 2024, citing an increase in joblessness across advanced economies?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय श्रम संगठन (ILO) ने उन्नत अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में बेरोजगारी में वृद्धि का हवाला देते हुए, 2024 में वैश्विक बेरोजगारी दर में कितने प्रतिशत की मामूली वृद्धि का अनुमान लगाया है?

- (a) 3.2%
- (b) 4.2%
- (c) 5.2%
- (d) 6.2%
- (e) 7.2%

Ans. c

Sol. Global unemployment seen inching up to 5.2% in 2024: ILO

The International Labour Organization (ILO), a United Nations agency, has projected a modest rise in the global unemployment rate to 5.2% in 2024, citing an increase in joblessness across advanced economies.

According to the ILO's 2024 World Employment and Social Outlook report, the anticipated rise would result in the global unemployment rate inching up from 5.1% recorded in 2023.

The report forecasts that the number of unemployed individuals globally will surge by two million, contributing to the uptick in the unemployment rate.

Despite a brief growth spurt as countries recovered from the pandemic, the ILO highlighted that aggregate labour productivity growth had swiftly returned to the sluggish pace observed over the previous decade.

146. Which country has launched the Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI) initiative to boost collaborative efforts between the two countries in the sustainable energy solutions sector?

किस देश ने टिकाऊ ऊर्जा समाधान क्षेत्र में दोनों देशों के बीच सहयोगात्मक प्रयासों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए ग्रीन फ्यूल्स अलायंस इंडिया (GFAI) पहल शुरू की है?

- (a) Netherland / नीदरलैंड
- (b) Denmark / डेनमार्क
- (c) Brazil / ब्राजील
- (d) Finland / फिनलैंड
- (e) Scotland / स्कॉटलैंड

Ans. b

Sol. Denmark introduced green fuels alliance in India.

Denmark has launched the Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI) initiative to boost collaborative efforts between the two countries in the sustainable energy solutions sector and advance their joint global goal towards carbon neutrality.

The new alliance is a strategic initiative poised to play a pivotal role in advancing the green fuels sector, including green hydrogen, by fostering innovation, collaboration, and partnerships between Danish industries and their counterparts in India.

GFAI's primary objective is to promote sustainable energy growth in India by establishing an ecosystem that encourages collaboration among businesses, government entities, research institutions, and financial stakeholders from both the Indian and Danish sectors.

The GFAI aligns with India's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2070 and Denmark's by 2050.

About Denmark

- Capital- Copenhagen
- Currency- Danish krone
- Prime Minister - Mette Frederiksen

147. After Zanzibar, in which country will IIT Madras open its new campus?

ज़ांज़ीबार के बाद, आईआईटी मद्रास किस देश में अपना नया परिसर खोलेगा?

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

Ans. e

Sol. IIT Madras to open new campus at Kandy in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's Education minister Dr. Susil Premajyantha has said that a new campus of IIT Madras would be started in Kandy in Sri Lanka.

The proposal was part of the Budget 2024 presented by Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremasinghe in his capacity as Finance Minister.

Dr. Premajyantha added that a team of academics would be sent by his ministry to IIT Madras before the team from IIT would visit Sri Lanka for starting the Campus.

Earlier in December it was announced that IIT Delhi is scheduled to inaugurate a campus in Abu Dhabi, while IIT Madras has established a presence in Zanzibar, focusing on addressing the educational needs of African countries.

This initiative underscores the international efforts within the Indian education sector.

IITs in News

- ArcelorMittal partners with IIT Madras to create Hyperloop facility in Tamil Nadu
- Reliance Jio joins hands with IIT Bombay to launch Bharat GPT
- IIT Guwahati collaborated with Assam govt's Arohan Scheme over STEM
- 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.

148. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director for Experian in India?

भारत में एक्सपीरियन के प्रबंध निदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Manish Jain / मनीष जैन
- (b) Neeraj Akhoury / नीरज अखौरी
- (c) Pramod Sharma / प्रमोद शर्मा
- (d) Parminder Chopra / परमिंदर चोपड़ा
- (e) Vivek Srivastava / विवेक श्रीवास्तव

Ans. a

Sol. Credit bureau Experian appointed Manish Jain as MD for India

Experian, a leading global information services company, has appointed Manish Jain as its new Country Managing Director for Experian in India.

He will lead the company's strategic initiatives, drive business growth, and cultivate strong partnerships with clients and stakeholders.

Manish Jain has more than two and a half decades of experience in financial services and technology.

Before joining Experian, Manish led transformative initiatives in global organizations, ensuring sustainable business expansion. He served as the Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Excelrate, and in this role, he advised organizations on their growth strategies and implemented large-scale plans in the banking industry for the faster realization of their revenue goals.

Recent Appointment

- **Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** - Bharat Harbanslal Khera
- **Additional Secretary as well as Mission Director for the Dept of Drinking Water and Sanitation's Jal Jeevan Mission** - Chandra Bhushan Kumar
- **Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** - Puja Singh Mandol
- **Additional Secretary of Home Ministry** - Sanjeev Kumar Jindal
- **Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Women and Child Development** - Tripti Gurha

149. The Rural Development Ministry has signed an MoU with which bank to facilitate enterprise financing for rural self-help groups (SHG)?

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय ने ग्रामीण स्वयं सहायता समूहों (एसएचजी) के लिए उद्यम वित्तपोषण की सुविधा के लिए किस बैंक के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन 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. Rural Development Ministry signs pact with SBI to facilitate loans for SHGs

The Rural Development Ministry and the State Bank of India have signed an MoU to facilitate enterprise financing for rural self-help groups (SHG).

The MoU was signed by Additional Secretary Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission, Charanjit Singh and Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Corporate office Mumbai, Shantanu Pendsey.

State Bank of India introduced a specialised financial product Svyam Siddha, exclusively tailored for SHG women entrepreneurs seeking loans up to Rs 5 lakhs.

This initiative is designed to alleviate the challenges associated with extensive documentation requirements for bank loan applications and reduce the turnaround time (TAT).

Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- REC Limited and Bank of Baroda join hands to finance Power, Infra, and Logistics Projects
- NABARD and ADB jointly launch climate action initiative in India with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- SBI to sign \$165 million LoC with World Bank for rooftop solar projects
- Karur Vysya Bank, HDFC Life enter into corporate agency tie-up
- Aditya Birla Sun Life collaborates with IDFC First Bank for financial solutions

150. Sheetal Devi, the teenage armless archer who has widely earned recognition for India through her performance in para-archery, was conferred with the Arjuna Award by President Droupadi Murmu. She is from which state/UTs?

पैरा तीरंदाजी में अपने प्रदर्शन के माध्यम से भारत के लिए व्यापक पहचान अर्जित करने वाली किशोर हाथ रहित तीरंदाज शीतल देवी को राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू द्वारा अर्जुन पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया। वह किस राज्य/केंद्र शासित प्रदेश से है?

- (a) Jammu and Kashmir / जम्मू और कश्मीर
- (b) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (c) Himachal Pradesh / हिमाचल प्रदेश
- (d) Punjab / पंजाब
- (e) Ladakh / लद्दाख

Ans. a

Sol. Sheetal Devi, the world's first armless woman archer won Arjuna Award

Sheetal Devi, the teenaged armless archer who has widely earned recognition for India through her performance in para-archery, was conferred with the Arjuna Award, one of the country's top civilian honours by President Droupadi Murmu.

Arjuna Awardee Sheetal Devi is a para-archer from Jammu and Kashmir.

She emerged as the first armless woman to clinch a Para World Archery Championships medal in 2023. She defeated Singapore's Alim Nur Syahidah 144-142 in the gold medal-deciding fixture.

Sheetal scripted history at the Para Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China, by winning three medals - two gold and one silver.

Devi, notably, became the first Indian woman to win two gold medals in a single edition of the Asian Para Games in October 2023.

151. In Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023, Indore and Surat are the 'cleanest cities' in India. This is the _____ time that Indore has won the accolade of the cleanest city in India.

स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण पुरस्कार 2023 में, इंदौर और सूरत भारत के 'सबसे स्वच्छ शहर' हैं। यह _____ बार है जब इंदौर ने भारत में सबसे स्वच्छ शहर का पुरस्कार जीता है।

- (a) 5th
- (b) 6th
- (c) 7th
- (d) 8th
- (e) 4th

Ans. c

Sol. Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023: Indore, Surat 'cleanest cities' in India

Indore and Surat were declared the joint cleanest cities of India as part of the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023 presented by President Draupadi Murmu in the category of more than one lakh population.

This was the seventh time that Indore won the accolade of the cleanest city in India

Saswad in Maharashtra got the cleanest city award for urban centres with less than 1 lakh population while Patan in Chhattisgarh and Lonavla in Maharashtra were the second and third cleanest cities.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra got the first prize for cleanliness in the state category, Madhya Pradesh got second and Chhattisgarh got the award of third cleanest state. Varanasi and Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh clinched the top spots as the Cleanest Ganga Towns.

One lakh sites in 4,477 cities were accessed for this Swachh Survekshan and responses of twelve crore citizens were taken. He said, in 2014 only 15 to 16 percent of waste was scientifically processed and currently 76 percent of waste is being processed.

Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Vishnu Deo Sai said that since the inception of the Swachh Survekshan Award in 2017, the state has received 67 awards. He added that is a great moment for Chhattisgarh, to secure third position in the state category.

152. In January 2024, Adani Group unveiled India's First Medium Altitude Long Endurance Drone for the Navy. What is the name of this drone?

जनवरी 2024 में, अदानी समूह ने नौसेना के लिए भारत के पहले मीडियम एल्टीट्यूड लॉन्ग एंड्योरेंस ड्रोन का अनावरण किया। इस ड्रोन का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Srishti 10 'Starliner'
- (b) Drishti 20 'Starliner'
- (c) Drishti 10 'Starliner'
- (d) Srishti 20 'Starliner'
- (e) Dhurv 10 'Starliner'

Ans. c

Sol. Adani Group Unveils India's First Medium Altitude, Long Endurance Drone

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar has flagged off the first indigenously manufactured "Drishti 10 Starliner" Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for the Navy.

Drishti 10 'Starliner' is an advanced Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) platform with 36 hours endurance, 450 kgs payload capacity, the only all-weather military platform with STANAG 4671 certification, and clear to fly in both segregated and unsegregated airspace.

The sophisticated, state-of-the-art UAV marks a significant step towards strategic autonomy and technological leadership in high-endurance, combat-proven, and indigenized advanced aerial systems.

The flag-off ceremony took place at Adani Aerospace Park in Hyderabad. Adani Defence and Aerospace is building capabilities to help achieve self-reliance in defence and security and also take a global leadership position in the sector.

Adani Defence and Aerospace has already established capabilities in a wide domain such as small arms, unmanned aerial vehicles, radars, defence electronics and avionics, tactical communication systems and electro-optical systems to support the Army and other paramilitary forces.

153. Who has been appointed by New Zealand Cricket (NZC) as the bowling coach of the men's team for the upcoming five-match T20I home series against Pakistan?

न्यूजीलैंड क्रिकेट (NZC) ने पाकिस्तान के खिलाफ आगामी पांच मैचों की T20I घरेलू श्रृंखला के लिए पुरुष टीम का गेंदबाजी कोच किसे नियुक्त किया है?

- (a) Daniel Vettori / डैनियल विटोरी
- (b) Brendon McCullum / ब्रेंडन मैकुलम
- (c) Stephen Fleming / स्टीफन फ्लेमिंग
- (d) Chris Cairns / क्रिस केर्न्स
- (e) Andre Adams / आंद्रे एडम्स

Ans. e

Sol. New Zealand appoints Adams as bowling coach

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) has appointed former all-rounder Andre Adams as the bowling coach of the men's team for the upcoming five-match T20I home series against Pakistan.

The 48-year-old will join head coach Gary Stead's group, which also consists of Luke Ronchi as batting coach.

This appointment comes after Shane Jurgensen stepped down from his role following the 2023 ODI World Cup. Adams, who has previously played one Test, 42 ODIs, and four T20Is for New Zealand, brings a wealth of experience to the role.

Adams' coaching career includes a successful stint with the Australia domestic side New South Wales, where he was instrumental in helping Mitchell Starc regain form in 2019. He also worked with the Sydney Sixers in the Big Bash League (BBL) and with Auckland, contributing to the development of Lockie Ferguson's career

154. Rashtriya Yuva Diwas, commonly known as National Youth Day is observed every year on which day?

राष्ट्रीय युवा दिवस, जिसे आमतौर पर राष्ट्रीय युवा दिवस के रूप में जाना जाता है, हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 11 January / 11 जनवरी
- (b) 12 January / 12 जनवरी
- (c) 13 January / 13 जनवरी
- (d) 9 January / 9 जनवरी
- (e) 10 January / 10 जनवरी

Ans. b

Sol. 12 January - National Youth Day

Rashtriya Yuva Diwas, commonly known as National Youth Day, is observed on Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary.

This day serves to raise awareness and impart knowledge about the rights of individuals in India, emphasizing the importance of proper conduct within the nation.

The primary goal of this celebration is to inspire and motivate the youth, disseminating the ideals propagated by Swami Vivekananda to contribute towards creating a more promising future for the country.

In 1984, the Indian government initially announced the observance of Swami Vivekananda's birthday, specifically on January 12, as National Youth Day.

155. Union Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has laid the foundation stone of the permanent campus of the Regional Research Institute for Homoeopathy and Integrated Ayush Wellness Centre in which city?

केंद्रीय आयुष मंत्री सर्बानंद सोनोवाल ने किस शहर में क्षेत्रीय होम्योपैथी अनुसंधान संस्थान और एकीकृत आयुष कल्याण केंद्र के स्थायी परिसर की आधारशिला रखी है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Sarbananda Sonowal laid foundation stone of the Regional Research Institute for Homoeopathy at Guwahati

Union Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has laid the foundation stone of the permanent campus of the Regional Research Institute for Homoeopathy and Integrated Ayush Wellness Centre at Azara, Guwahati.

A total amount of Rs. 53.89 cr has been sanctioned for this project.

This Institute was established as a Clinical Research Unit of Homeopathy in 1984 in the rented building at Odalbakra, Guwahati.

Presently it is situated at Bhetapara, Guwahati in old building of Central Ayurveda Research Institute.

The Institute is providing laboratory services at very nominal rates and successfully completed clinical trials on Skin disorders, Cholera /Gastroenteritis, chronic sinusitis & bronchitis, Influenza like illness, uterine fibroid, otitis media, Hypertension, vitiligo, psoriasis, migraine etc.

Sarbananda Sonowal in News

- Sarbananda Sonowal launches **Port Health Organization** under Sagar Setu
- Sarbananda Sonowal launches **3rd edition of Global India Maritime Summit**
- Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates **DGNSS "SAGAR SAMPARK**
- Sarbananda Sonowal launches '**SAGAR SAMRIDDHI**'
- Sarbananda Sonowal flags off **India's 1st International Cruise Vessel** from Chennai to Sri Lanka

156. Which defence force will observe 2024 as the "Year of Technology Absorption"?

कौन सा रक्षा बल 2024 को "प्रौद्योगिकी अवशोषण वर्ष" के रूप में मनाएगा?

- (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) National Security Guard / राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा गार्ड

Ans. a

Sol. 2024 is 'Year of Technology Absorption' for Army

The year 2024 will be observed as the "Year of Technology Absorption" by the Indian Army.

This theme underscores our commitment to leverage technology as a catalyst for transformative change, as well as to utilise in-house expertise to innovate solutions to our operational and logistic requirements and give shape to these projects in collaboration with the domestic defence industry.

The Indian Army personnel are being trained to leverage technology and exploit the cyber domain effectively through institutionalised, procedural and technological measures.

Project SAMBHAV is an end-to-end, secure, network-agnostic mobile ecosystem to provide secure communication with instant connectivity on the move.

Operating on state-of-the-art contemporary 5G technology, it represents a significant leap forward in India's defence capability.

A project that will not only set the stage for productive and fruitful employment of more than 62,000 Indian Army soldiers retiring every year but also empower the skilling & employment of our veterans.

157. Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has announced the inauguration of five new airports in which state?

नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री ज्योतिरादित्य सिंधिया ने किस राज्य में पांच नए हवाई अड्डों के उद्घाटन की घोषणा की है?

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

Ans. a

Sol. Uttar Pradesh to welcome 5 new airports in expansion drive

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has announced the inauguration of five new airports in Uttar Pradesh.

New airports in Azamgarh, Aligarh, Moradabad, Chitrakoot, and Shravasti aim to improve air connectivity in the state, facilitating greater accessibility and economic development.

About Uttar Pradesh

- **Capital** - Lucknow
- **Chief Minister** – Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor** - Anandiben Patel

158. Which country will publish a bill that will legalize same-sex marriage in a bid to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation?

कौन सा देश यौन रुझान के आधार पर भेदभाव को खत्म करने के लिए समलैंगिक विवाह को वैध बनाने वाला विधेयक प्रकाशित करेगा?

- (a) Netherland / नीदरलैंड
- (b) Greece / ग्रीस
- (c) Brazil / ब्राजील
- (d) Finland / फिनलैंड
- (e) Scotland / स्कॉटलैंड

Ans. b

Sol. Greece drafts bill to legalize same-sex marriage

Greece will publish a bill shortly that will legalize same-sex marriage in a bid to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said

Greece has implemented a series of reforms over the past decade to improve LGBT+ rights in the country where the Orthodox Church has long opposed equal rights for same-sex couples.

Mitsotakis, who is trying to break away from the traditional image of a conservative leader, has drafted a national strategy on LGBT+ rights that may win support from the left but create opposition in more conservative quarters.

In 2015, Greece recognised cohabitation agreements for same-sex couples providing them with some rights and benefits, but they are still not allowed to have or adopt children as a couple.

About Greece

- Capital - Athens
- Currency - Euro (€)
- Official languages - Greek, Modern Greek
- Prime Minister - Kyriakos Mitsotakis

159. Consider the following statements about the Henley Passport Index 2024:

- (i) France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and Spain have been ranked at the top in the Henley Passport Index.**
- (ii) Japan and Singapore have continued to top the list for six years now.**
- (iii) India and Kazakhstan stand at the 80th rank in the list of most powerful passports with 62 destinations.**
- (iv) The least powerful passport in the world is Afghanistan. It ranked at 108th spot with access to 28 countries.**

Find the CORRECT statements-

- (a) Only i
- (b) Only iii
- (c) Only i & ii
- (d) Only iii & iv
- (e) All are correct

Ans. a

Sol. Henley Passport Index 2024; India ranks 80th

The Henley Passport Index 2024 has been released to highlight the "power" of passports of 199 countries.

The index, which ranks countries based on the number of destinations that allow visa-free entry to their passport was topped by France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and Spain.

Passports of all these countries have visa-free access to 194 destinations, three more than last year.

Japan and Singapore have continued to top the list for five years now.

South Korea, Sweden, and Finland rose one spot to take joint second place, with access to 193 countries.

Austria, Denmark, Ireland, and the Netherlands shared third place, allowing travel to 192 places.

The UK, Belgium, Luxemburg, Norway, and Portugal ranked fourth with access to 191 destinations.

Canada, Hungary, and the US at seventh position with access to 188 destinations.

India and Uzbekistan stand at the 80th rank in the list of most powerful passports with 62 destinations. Its passport has visa-free access to 62 nations, including Angola, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Djibouti, El Salvador, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Qatar and Zimbabwe.

In 2023, too, India's passport was ranked at the 80th spot, up five places from 2022. However, the number of visa-free destinations has jumped from 57 to 62 this year.

Which are the least powerful passports in the world?

- The least powerful passport in the world is Afghanistan. It ranked at 104th spot with access to 28 countries. It is followed by Syria (103), Iraq (102), Pakistan (101) and Yemen (100).

Which passports have shown the most improvement in ranking?

- The United Arab Emirates was the fastest climber over the past decade, jumping to 11th place and offering access to 183 destinations without a visa. China, up two spots this year to 62nd place, has visa-free access to 85 destinations — almost twice as many as ten years ago.

Recent index

- **Mercer's Quality of Living City Index 2023** - Rank 1. Vienna (Austria), Rank 2. Zurich (Switzerland), Rank 3. Vancouver (Canada), Hyderabad (153rd), Pune (154th), Chennai (161st), Mumbai (164th), Kolkata (170th), New Delhi (172nd), Khartoum (Sudan) at the bottom-most position (241st spot).
- **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

160. Indian Bank has partnered with FPL Technologies to launch the 'Indian Bank one co-branded credit card' powered by Visa and RuPay. Where is the headquarters of Indian Bank?

इंडियन बैंक ने वीज़ा और रुपये द्वारा संचालित 'इंडियन बैंक वन सह-ब्रांडेड क्रेडिट कार्ड' लॉन्च करने के लिए एफपीएल टेक्नोलॉजीज के साथ साझेदारी की है। इंडियन बैंक का मुख्यालय कहाँ है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Indian Bank launches 'Indian Bank One Co-Branded Credit Card'

Indian Bank has launched an 'Indian Bank One co-branded credit card' with FPL Technologies.

Leveraging the Visa and RuPay platforms, these cards will be issued by Indian Bank and managed by FPL Technologies.

The Indian Bank One co-branded credit card boasts of international validity with a 1% forex fee and aims to offer a range of features tailored to the diverse needs of digitally savvy Indian consumers.

"By offering the card on not one but two networks, we aim to introduce a new paradigm in credit accessibility and usability," said Anurag Sinha, Co-founder & CEO of FPL Technologies.

About Indian Bank

- **Founded** - 1907
- **Headquarters** - Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- **MD & CEO** - Shanti Lal Jain
- **Tagline** - Your Own Bank

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- IndusInd Bank lunched '**Samman RuPay Credit Card**' exclusively for government employees.
- Canara Bank to launch **Data Analytics center** in Bengaluru from 1 April
- Bank of India introduced **Super Special Fixed Deposit** with interest rate of 7.50% per annum
- IndusInd Bank has launched the '**IndusInd Bank eSvarna**', India's first Corporate Credit Card on RuPay network.
- Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance launched **T.U.L.I.P (Term with Unit Linked Insurance Plan)** Product

161. Tshering Tobgay has become prime minister for a second time in which country?

शेरिंग टोबगे किस देश के दूसरी बार प्रधान मंत्री बने हैं?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Bhutan's Tshering Tobgay becomes PM for second time

Bhutanese voters have elected Tshering Tobgay to become Prime Minister for a second time after his party won nearly two-thirds of seats.

Tobgay, head of the liberal People's Democratic Party (PDP), who served as prime minister of the Himalayan kingdom from 2013 to 2018, won 30 of 47 seats in Tuesday's election, official figures showed.

Bhutan also lies sandwiched between the globe's two most populous countries, China and India, who watched the vote with keen interest as they eye strategic contested border zones.

Bhutan is a landlocked mountain nation of about 800,000 people, similar in area to Switzerland.

Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President

- Prime Minister of France - Gabriel Attal (replace Elisabeth Borne)
- Prime Minister of Bangladesh – Sheikh Hasina (5th term)
- President of Congo - Felix Tshisekedi (2nd term)
- President of Egypt - Abdel Fattah El-Sisi (3rd term)
- Prime Minister of Poland - Donald Tusk

162. Maheshwar Rao has been appointed as Managing Director of which Metro Rail Corporation Limited?

महेश्वर राव को किस मेट्रो रेल कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड का प्रबंध निदेशक नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) Jaipur / जयपुर
- (c) Hyderabad / हैदराबाद
- (d) Ahmedabad / अहमदाबाद
- (e) Mumbai / मुंबई

Ans. a

Sol. Maheshwar Rao appointed as MD of Bangalore Metro

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has appointed Maheshwar Rao as the full-time managing director of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL).

The appointment addresses the demand for a full-time MD, which has been persistent since the former MD, Anjum Parvez, assumed the additional chief secretary role in rural development last year.

Rao has served as the commissioner of industrial development and director of industries and commerce. He has also served as the deputy commissioner and district magistrate in Dakshina Kannada and Mandya districts.

BMRCL recently reached a new milestone when it recorded a whopping 2 crore ridership in December 2023—around 6.8 lakh passengers on an average daily—fetching a fare revenue of Rs 55 crore.

The boost in ridership came after BMRCL opened the missing link between Baiyappanahalli and KR Puram, which increased the ridership from 6.4 lakh in October to 6.6 lakh in November last year.

Bengaluru's metro network spans 73.81 km with phase 1 connecting Kadugodi and Challaghatta (East-West corridor) with Silk Institute and Nagasandra (South-North corridor).

Recent Appointment

- **MD of Experian India** - Manish Jain
- **Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** - Bharat Harbanslal Khera
- **Additional Secretary as well as Mission Director for the Dept of Drinking Water and Sanitation's Jal Jeevan Mission** - Chandra Bhushan Kumar
- **Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** - Puja Singh Mandol
- **Additional Secretary of Home Ministry** - Sanjeev Kumar Jindal
- **Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Women and Child Development** - Tripti Gurha

163. Who has been appointed as the Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO)?

विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) के कार्यकारी बोर्ड में संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के प्रतिनिधि के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Smita Sarangi / स्मिता सारंगी
- (b) Arindam Bagchi / अरिंदम बागची
- (c) Indra Mani Pandey / इंद्र मणि पांडे
- (d) Tanu Singh / तनु सिंह
- (e) Vivek Murthy / विवेक मूर्ति

Ans. e

Sol. Vivek Murthy appoints as US Representative on WHO Board

President Joe Biden has reappointed Indian American Surgeon General Vivek Murthy to serve as Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization.

The White House re-sent Murthy's nomination as a representative to WHO as his confirmation has been pending in the Senate since October 2022. He will continue his duties as Surgeon General.

The first Surgeon General of Indian descent, Vivek Hallegere Murthy, was confirmed by the US Senate in March 2021 to serve as the 21st Surgeon General under Biden. He previously served as the 19th Surgeon General under President Barack Obama.

Recent Appointment in Foreign

- **Secretary General of BIMSTEC** - Indra Mani Pandey (replace Tenzin Lekphell, Bhutan)
- **'Class C' Director on Board of Directors of Federal Reserve Bank of New York** - Rajiv Shah
- **Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB)** - Vikas Sheel (for 3 years)
- **Adviser to the Executive Director of ADB** - Smita Sarangi
- **Counsellor (Economic) in the Embassy of India in Beijing** - Kalyan Revella (for 3 years)
- **Ambassador/Permanent Representative (PR) in World Trade Organization (WTO)** - Senthil Pandian

164. In January 2024, who among the following has been appointed as the member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)?
जनवरी 2024 में, निम्नलिखित में से कौन संघ लोक सेवा आयोग (UPSC) के सदस्य के रूप में नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Smita Sarangi / स्मिता सारंगी
- (b) Sheel Vardhan Singh / शील वर्धन सिंह
- (c) Indra Mani Pandey / इंद्र मणि पांडे
- (d) Tanu Singh / तनु सिंह
- (e) Vivek Murthy / विवेक मूर्ति

Ans. b

Sol. Sheel Vardhan Singh Assumes Role As UPSC Member

The Central government has appointed former Central Industrial Security Force Director General Sheel Vardhan Singh as a member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Singh is a 1986-batch IPS officer.

The President appointed Sheel Vardhan Singh as Member Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) under Article 316 (11) of the Constitution of India.

The term of his appointment will be regulated in accordance with the provisions of Article 316(2) of the Constitution of India, and the conditions of service will be governed by UPSC (Members) Regulations 1969 as amended from time to time.

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) conducts civil services examination annually to select officers of IAS, Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS), among others.

The Commission is headed by a chairman and it can have a maximum of 10 members.

A UPSC member is appointed for a term of six years or until attaining 65 years of age.

About UPSC

- Establishment - 1 October 1926
- Headquarters - New Delhi
- Chairman – Manoj Soni
- UPSC is the central recruitment agency in India for Group 'A' officer posts under the Government of India.
- It is established as a constitutional body under Article 315 of the Indian Constitution.
- Chairman – Manoj Soni

165. Which of the following cities has won the 'Cleanest Ganga Towns' Award in the Swachh Survekshan 2023?

निम्नलिखित में से किस शहर ने स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2023 में 'सबसे स्वच्छ गंगा शहर' का पुरस्कार जीता है?

- (a) Rishikesh / ऋषिकेश
- (b) Kanpur / कानपुर
- (c) Haridwar / हरिद्वार
- (d) Varanasi / वाराणसी
- (e) Prayagraj / प्रयागराज

Ans. d

Sol. Varanasi wins 'Cleanest Ganga Towns' Award

The spiritual city of Varanasi has secured the top spot in the Cleanest Ganga Town category of Swachh Survekshan 2023, surpassing Prayagraj. Despite this achievement, Varanasi faced a setback, slipping to the 41st position from the 21st spot in the national ranking for cities with a population exceeding 10 lakh.

Last year witnessed an improvement for Varanasi, climbing nine positions to secure the 21st rank. In 2021, the city held the 30th position.

While Varanasi excelled as the 'Best Ganga Town' in Swachh Survekshan 2021, it relinquished the top spot to Hardwar in 2022.

In the latest survey, among Indian cities with a population exceeding 10 lakh, Noida secured the 14th position, Ghaziabad 38th, Aligarh 40th, Varanasi 41st, and Lucknow 44th.

This is a great achievement because a total of 13 cities in the country have received this national award out of which two are from UP.

The Swachh Survekshan, evolving since its initiation in 2016 with 73 major cities, now encompasses 4,477 cities in 2023. The recent ranking underscores the focus on addressing legacy dumpsites, effective plastic waste management, and the implementation of the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle.

Howrah, West Bengal, is ranked as the dirtiest city in India according to the annual cleanliness survey. The bottom spots were occupied by Shillong, Khagaria, and Sitamarhi.

Indore clinched the title of the cleanest city for the seventh time, followed by Surat, Navi Mumbai, Visakhapatnam, and Bhopal.

166. Indian Navy will host the which edition of the multi-national exercise MILAN 24 in Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27, 2024?
भारतीय नौसेना 19 से 27 फरवरी 2024 तक विशाखापत्तनम में बहुराष्ट्रीय अभ्यास MILAN 24 के किस संस्करण की मेजबानी करेगी?

- (a) 11th
- (b) 12th
- (c) 13th
- (d) 14th
- (e) 15th

Ans. b

Sol. Indian Navy to host multi-national naval exercise MILAN in Feb

In a move to strengthen maritime cooperation and security in the Indian Ocean region, the Indian Navy will host the 12th edition of the multi-national exercise MILAN 24 in Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27.

Earlier 11th edition of this exercise was held in Feb-Mar 22 in Visakhapatnam under the Eastern Naval Command with the theme 'Camaraderie-Cohesion-Collaboration'.

MILAN is a biennial multi-national naval exercise that started in 1995 with participation of four foreign countries (Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand) in consonance with India's 'Look East policy'.

The MILAN Exercise flourished under the aegis of Andaman and Nicobar command till its 10th edition. Visakhapatnam is chosen as the preferred venue for future MILAN exercises.

MILAN 24 exercise would comprise two phases - 'Harbour phase' and 'Sea phase'. The harbour phase, aims to promote cultural sharing amongst the participating Nations and the Sea phase includes ships with Maritime Patrol aircraft and submarines of Friendly Foreign Countries.

Recent Exercise

- 1st edition of **Military Exercise 'Desert Cyclone'** between India & UAE - Rajasthan
- 4th edition of **Military Exercise VINBAX-2023** between India & Vietnam - Hanoi, Vietnam
- 14th edition of **Exercise Vajra Prahar2023** 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, Kazakhsta

167. National Road Safety Week 2024 will observe from _____ to _____ .

राष्ट्रीय सड़क सुरक्षा सप्ताह 2024 _____ से _____ तक मनाया जाएगा।

- (a) 11 - 17 January / 11 - 17 जनवरी
- (b) 12 - 17 January / 12 - 17 जनवरी
- (c) 13 - 18 January / 13 - 18 जनवरी
- (d) 10 - 17 January / 10 - 17 जनवरी
- (e) 9 - 16 January / 9 - 16 जनवरी

Ans. a

Sol. 11 to 17 January - National Road Safety Week

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways provides a platform to celebrate National Road Safety Week every year.

This significant week is observed from January 11 to 17 to create awareness around road safety.

National Road Safety Week aims to educate the public about the perils of reckless or irresponsible driving.

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways published its annual report for 2022-23 with Road Accident statistics. In the report, the total number of road accidents in the year 2021 totalled 4,12,432.

168. Which state government has launched 'Yuva Nidhi' scheme to offer financial aid to graduates and diploma holders who are yet to get a job?

किस राज्य सरकार ने उन स्नातकों और डिप्लोमा धारकों को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए 'युवा निधि' योजना शुरू की है जिन्हें अभी तक नौकरी नहीं मिली है?

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

Ans. b

Sol. Karnataka govt. launched 'Yuva Nidhi' Scheme For Jobless Youth

Chief Minister of Karnataka Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar have launched the Yuva Nidhi scheme in Shivamogga, Karnataka.

The scheme offers financial aid to graduates and diploma holders who are yet to get a job, but only for a maximum of two years. Training will be provided to the graduates and diploma holders who register themselves on the Skill Connect portal of the State Government.

The government has promised ₹3,000 per month to degree holders and ₹1,500 per month to diploma holders who were unable to get a job in the past six months and are not pursuing higher studies. The aid will be paid for two years.

The launch was held on the birth anniversary of youth icon Swami Vivekananda.

About Karnataka

- **Capital** – Bengaluru
- **Chief Minister** – Siddaramaiah
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - DK Shivakumar
- **Governor** – Thawar Chand Gehlot

169. Which of the following cities has organized the International Camel Festival?

निम्नलिखित में से किस शहर ने अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ऊँट महोत्सव का आयोजन किया है?

- (a) Jaipur / जयपुर
- (b) Udaipur / उदयपुर
- (c) Chittorgarh / चित्तौड़गढ़
- (d) Jodhpur / जोधपुर
- (e) Bikaner / बीकानेर

Ans. e

Sol. International Camel Festival organized in Bikaner, Rajasthan

The three-day International Camel Festival has organized with great fervor in the culturally rich district of Bikaner, Rajasthan.

The festival commenced with an enthralling Heritage Walk, setting the stage for a celebration of folk culture that captivated both domestic and foreign tourists.

The Tourism Department organized Rangoli, Mehndi, and drawing competitions for the participants at Bikaji ki Tekri, with the winners receiving mementoes in recognition of their skills and talents.

Camels have always been an integral part of Bikaner's culture and history. The Bikaner army had a Camel corps called "Ganga Risala", which played a vital role in both the World Wars and conflicts in Somaliland, Egypt, and China.

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

170. Who has inaugurated the 27th National Youth Festival in Nashik, Maharashtra?

नासिक, महाराष्ट्र में 27वें राष्ट्रीय युवा महोत्सव का उद्घाटन 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. a

Sol. PM Modi Inaugurates the 27th National Youth Festival in Nashik

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 27th National Youth Festival in Nashik, Maharashtra.

The festival, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, celebrated youthful talent and skills across the nation.

He also witnessed a march past by the state's team and a cultural program on the theme of 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047 - Yuva ke liye, Yuva ke dwara' which included Rhythmic gymnastics, Mallakhamb, Yogasana and National Youth Festival song.

PM Modi in News

- PM Modi inaugurated & laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over 30,500 crore rupees in Maharashtra
- PM inaugurates Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Optical Fibre Connection
- PM Modi inaugurates new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli airport
- PM Modi attend DGP conference at Jaipur
- PM Modi inaugurates Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2.0 in Varanasi

171. According to which union minister's statements, the first 'Made In India' Memory chip is expected to be produced in Gujarat in 2024?

किस केंद्रीय मंत्री के बयान के अनुसार, पहली 'मेड इन इंडिया' मेमोरी चिप का उत्पादन 2024 में गुजरात में होने की उम्मीद है?

- (a) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी
- (b) Ashwini Vaishnaw / अश्विनी वैष्णव
- (c) Amit Shah / अमित शाह
- (d) Piyush Goyal / पीयूष गोयल
- (e) Anurag Thakur / अनुराग ठाकुर

Ans. b

Sol. First 'Made In India' Memory chip is expected to be produced in 2024: Ashwini Vaishnav

Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said the first 'Made In India' Memory chip is expected to be produced in Gujarat this year.

Addressing a seminar on Semiconductors and Electronics at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in Gandhinagar, the Minister said Micron's investment in Gujarat will pave the way for creating a Semiconductor ecosystem in India.

The Minister also asked Semicon Giant Micron to undertake research in the semiconductor industry and set up a research centre at IIT Gandhinagar.

During the summit, an MoU was exchanged between Gujarat Government and Korean company Simmtec. Also, partnership agreements were signed between Micron and Nantech, and Cisco and Nantec.

172. The second edition of the International AYUSH Conference and Exhibition has been inaugurated in which city?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय आयुष सम्मेलन और प्रदर्शनी के दूसरे संस्करण का उद्घाटन किस शहर में किया गया है?

- (a) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (b) Berlin / बर्लिन
- (c) Paris / पेरिस
- (d) Dubai / दुबई
- (e) London / लंदन

Ans. d

Sol. 2nd International AYUSH Conference Inaugurated in Dubai

The second International AYUSH Conference and Exhibition was inaugurated at the Dubai World Trade Centre, orchestrated by the Science India Forum and the Ministry of AYUSH.

The three-day event was dedicated to showcasing AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy) as a reliable healthcare system for preventing and managing Non-Communicable Chronic Diseases (NCDs).

The focal theme of the conference, "Non-Communicable Chronic Diseases – Prevention & Management through AYUSH," aims to highlight AYUSH as a prevention-oriented and cost-effective approach to creating a disease-free society.

With over 1500 experts expected from India, the Middle East, Far East, Africa, Europe, Australia, and America, the conference is set to become a global platform for discussions and collaborations in the field of traditional medicine.

173. Which country's parliament has passed a Bill banning the production and sale of dog meat?

किस देश की संसद ने कुत्ते के मांस के उत्पादन और बिक्री पर प्रतिबंध लगाने वाला विधेयक पारित किया है?

- (a) South Korea / दक्षिण कोरिया
- (b) USA / यूएसए
- (c) Japan / जापान
- (d) Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया
- (e) Germany / जर्मनी

Ans. a

Sol. South Korea Bans Trade Of Dog Meat In New Law

The South Korean parliament has passed a Bill banning the production and sale of dog meat, in a decision that campaigners hailed as a “historic victory” for animal welfare. Although the Bill does not criminalise the consumption of dog meat, it aims to ban the sale, distribution, butchery, and breeding of dogs for their meat by 2027.

Why has the Bill been passed now?

- Consuming dog meat in South Korea is a centuries-old practice. Historically, cows were highly valued and so prized that people had to obtain a government permit to slaughter them up until the late 19th Century. Therefore, dog meat became the best source of protein and was enjoyed by people across the class spectrum.
- In recent years, however, the practice has been increasingly shunned as incomes, pet ownership and concern for animal welfare spiked steadily.
- About 93% of South Korean adults said they didn't want to consume dog meat in the future, and 82% said they supported a ban, according to a survey conducted last year by Aware, an animal welfare organisation in Seoul.

What does the Bill say?

- The Bill intends to prevent the cruel slaughter of dogs without actually banning their consumption. According to activists, dogs are electrocuted or hanged when slaughtered for meat. Breeders and traders, however, have argued that slaughtering has become more humane in recent years.
- Its provisions will be implemented in 2027, following a three-year grace period for dog farm owners, meat restaurants, and other workers in the trade to close their businesses or find alternative sources of employment.
- Under the Bill, slaughtering dogs for consumption can attract fines of up to 30 million won (approximately Rs 19 lakh) or imprisonment of up to three years.
- Selling and breeding dogs for consumption can also attract a 2-year prison sentence or a fine of 20 million won (Rs 12.58 lakh).

About South Korea

- **Capital** – Seoul
- **Currency** – South Korean Won
- **Prime Minister** - Han Duck-soo
- **President** - Yoon Seok-youl

174. Which bank has launched a Green Rupee Term Deposit (SGRTD) of 1,111 days, 1,777 days, and 2,222 days tenor for resident individuals, non-individuals, and NRI customers?

किस बैंक ने निवासी व्यक्तियों, गैर-व्यक्तियों और एनआरआई ग्राहकों के लिए 1,111 दिन, 1,777 दिन और 2,222 दिन की अवधि का ग्रीन रुपया टर्म डिपॉजिट (एसजीआरटीडी) लॉन्च किया है?

- (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. SBI launches Green Rupee Term Deposit

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched the SBI Green Rupee Term Deposit (SGRTD) of 1,111 days, 1,777 days, and 2,222 days tenor for resident individuals, non-individuals, and NRI customers.

The deposit has been introduced with the aim of mobilizing funds to support environment-friendly initiatives and projects, thereby fostering the growth of a green finance ecosystem in India.

Currently, the scheme is available through the branch network, and it will soon be made available through other digital channels such as YONO and Internet Banking Services (INB).

What is Green Deposit?

Green deposit refers to an interest-bearing deposit received by regulated entities (RE) for a fixed period, with the proceeds earmarked for allocation towards green finance as per RBI's notification dated April 11, 2023.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- Indian Bank launches '**Indian Bank One Co-Branded Credit Card**'
- IndusInd Bank launched '**Samman RuPay Credit Card**' exclusively for government employees.
- Canara Bank to launch **Data Analytics center** in Bengaluru from 1 April
- Bank of India introduced **Super Special Fixed Deposit** with interest rate of 7.50% per annum

175. The government has appointed the reappointment of RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra for how many years?

सरकार ने RBI के डिप्टी गवर्नर माइकल पात्रा को कितने वर्षों के लिए पुनः नियुक्त किया है?

- (a) 1 year
- (b) 2 years
- (c) 3 years
- (d) 4 years
- (e) 5 years

Ans. a

Sol. Govt approves reappointment of RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra for 1 year

Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor Michael D. Patra, who is in charge of monetary policy and is a member of the monetary policy committee, has been given a one-year extension ahead of the end of his tenure.

Patra, with RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, played a vital role in dealing with COVID-related impact on the economy.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the re-appointment of Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a further period of one year with effect from 15.01.2024 or until further orders.

Patra was appointed as RBI Deputy Governor in January 2020, and last year he got an extension of one year.

The three other Deputy Governors of the bank are M Rajeshwar Rao, T Rabi Sankar, and Swaminathan Jankiraman.

Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **CEO of PhonePe For International Payments Division** - Ritesh Pai
- **Executive Director of SEBI** - G Ram Mohan Rao (for 3 years)
- **'Class C' Director on Board of Directors of Federal Reserve Bank of New York** - Rajiv Shah
- **MD & CEO of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)** - P Santhosh (replace Natarajan Sundar)
- **MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank** - Ashok Vaswani (replace Dipak Gupta)

176. Denmark's King Frederik X took the throne after the abdication of his mother Queen Margrethe II. What is the capital of Denmark?

डेनमार्क के राजा फ्रेडरिक एक्स ने अपनी मां रानी मार्ग्रेथ द्वितीय के त्याग के बाद गद्दी संभाली। डेनमार्क की राजधानी क्या है?

- (a) Budapest / बुडापेस्ट
- (b) Copenhagen / कोपेनहेगन
- (c) Stockholm / स्टॉकहोम
- (d) Oslo / ओस्लो
- (e) Helsinki / हेलसिंकी

Ans. b

Sol. Denmark's King Frederik X takes the throne after abdication of Queen

Denmark's King Frederik X took the throne after the abdication of his mother Queen Margrethe II.

For many in Denmark, his mother Margrethe was the only monarch they had ever known. But her shock abdication, after more than five decades on the throne, paved the way for her son, the former Crown Prince Frederik, to succeed her.

The Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen then publicly proclaimed the King's accession from the balcony of the palace – a tradition in place since the constitution of 1849.

Frederik followed the proclamation with a short speech, before being joined by his Australian-born wife Queen Mary and their four children, including the Crown Prince Christian, the new successor to the throne.

Denmark is a constitutional monarchy, and its royals perform an important but symbolic ambassadorial role in addition to signing off any new legislation.

Formal powers lie with the elected parliament and its government based at Christiansborg Palace in the heart of the capital, Copenhagen.

It's the first time in 900 years a Danish king or queen has abdicated. It will be a more festive occasion than the last time when a young Margrethe took over.

About Denmark

- Capital- Copenhagen
- Currency- Danish krone
- Prime Minister - Mette Frederiksen

Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President

- Prime Minister of France - Gabriel Attal (replace Elisabeth Borne)
- Prime Minister of Bangladesh – Sheikh Hasina (5th term)
- President of Congo - Felix Tshisekedi (2nd term)
- President of Egypt - Abdel Fattah El-Sisi (3rd term)
- Prime Minister of Poland - Donald Tusk

177. In January 2024, William Lai was elected president of which country?

जनवरी 2024 में विलियम लाई को किस देश का राष्ट्रपति चुना गया?

- (a) Taiwan / ताइवान
- (b) Laos / लाओस
- (c) South Korea / दक्षिण कोरिया
- (d) North Korea / उत्तर कोरिया
- (e) Japan / जापान

Ans. a

Sol. William Lai elected president of Taiwan

William Lai, also known as Lai Ching-te, from the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) won Taiwan's presidential election.

Lai, the current vice president of Taiwan garnered around 40% of the vote share after counting was done from over 90% of polling stations.

He was competing against two other candidates, including Hou Yu-ih from the conservative Kuomintang (KMT) and former Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je from the Taiwan People's Party which was only founded in 2019.

Lai, 64, grew up poor in a coal-mining village in northern Taiwan. His father, a miner, died in a coal mine disaster when he was two years old. Lai was brought up by his mother alongside five siblings.

Lai also served as Taiwan's premier — nominally the principal advisor to the president of the republic and positioned as the head of the central government — from 2017 to 2019.

About Taiwan

- Capital- Taipei City
- Currency- New Taiwan dollar
- President- William Lai

178. Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the overall champion at the inaugural Beach Games 2024, held at the pristine blue flag-certified Ghoghla Beach in Diu. How many gold medals have been won by Madhya Pradesh in this game?

दीव के प्राचीन नीले ध्वज-प्रमाणित घोघला बीच पर आयोजित उद्घाटन बीच गेम्स 2024 में मध्य प्रदेश समग्र चैंपियन के रूप में उभरा है। इस खेल में मध्य प्रदेश ने कितने स्वर्ण पदक जीते हैं?

- (a) 3
- (b) 4
- (c) 5
- (d) 6
- (e) 7

Ans. e

Sol. MP emerges overall Champion of first ever Beach Games held in Diu

Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the overall champion at the inaugural Beach Games 2024, held at the pristine blue flag-certified Ghoghla Beach in Diu.

The landlocked state secured a staggering total of 18 medals, including an impressive haul of 7 golds, highlighting the depth of talent within its contingent.

The competition witnessed 1404 young athletes from 28 states and Union Territories participating in a diverse array of disciplines. Maharashtra clinched 14 medals, including 3 golds, while Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, and hosts Dadra, Nagar Haveli, Diu & Daman secured 12 medals each. Notably, Assam secured 8 medals, with an impressive 5 golds.

Lakshadweep made history by securing the gold medal in Beach Soccer. Their victory, a 5-4 triumph over Maharashtra in the final, not only added diversity to the medal tally but also underscored the inclusive and nationwide impact of the Diu Beach Games 2024. India, endowed with some of the world's most beautiful beaches, now has 12 with Blue Flag certification for cleanliness and sustainable tourism.

179. Armed Forces Veterans Day is celebrated every year on 14th January. The day was first celebrated in which year?

सशस्त्र बल वयोवृद्ध दिवस हर साल 14 जनवरी को मनाया जाता है। यह दिवस पहली बार किस वर्ष मनाया गया था?

- (a) 2011
- (b) 2013
- (c) 2014
- (d) 2016
- (e) 1996

Ans. d

Sol. 14 January 2024 - 7th Armed Forces Veterans Day

Armed Forces Veterans Day is celebrated every year on 14th January.

The day was first celebrated in 2016.

The 14th of January is commemorated as Armed Forces Veterans Day as a mark of respect and recognition for the services rendered by Field Marshall KM Cariappa.

He was the first Indian Chief of the Indian Army. He retired from service on 14th January 1953.

180. International Kite Day is observed every year on which day?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय पतंग दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 17 January / 17 जनवरी
- (b) 16 January / 16 जनवरी
- (c) 13 January / 13 जनवरी
- (d) 14 January / 14 जनवरी
- (e) 15 January / 15 जनवरी

Ans. d

Sol. 14 January - International Kite Day

International Kite Day is observed on 14 January every year.

The day celebrates the end of winter and the onset of summer. It also marks the arrival of harvest season.

It is believed that the kite was invented in China in the 28th century BC and the popularity of kite-flying peaked in Lucknow in the 1700s.

Benjamin Franklin, an American scientist and author, stated that lightning is electricity with the help of a kite.

International Kite Day was first observed

181. Legendary classical singer and Padma Vibhushan recipient Prabha Atre passed away recently at the age of 92. She belonged to which Gharana?

प्रसिद्ध शास्त्रीय गायिका और पद्म विभूषण प्राप्तकर्ता प्रभा अत्रे का हाल ही में 92 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह किस घराने से संबंधित थीं?

- (a) Kirana Gharana / किराना घराना
- (b) Gwalior Gharana / ग्वालियर घराना
- (c) Agra Gharana / आगरा घराना
- (d) Bhendibazaar Gharana / भिंडीबाजार घराना
- (e) Mewati Gharana / मेवाती घराना

Ans. a

Sol. Renowned classical singer Prabha Atre passes away

Legendary classical singer and Padma Vibhushan recipient Prabha Atre passed away at the age of 92.

She was considered the doyenne of the Kirana Gharana.

The much-feted Atre, who played a significant role in popularising classical music across the globe, won the Padma Shri in 1990, the Padma Bhushan in 2002, and the Padma Vibhushan in 2022, during a rich career spanning seven decades.

Born in September 1932 in Pune, she received her training in classical music from the renowned Sureshbabu Mane, a prominent exponent of the Kirana gharana.

She was equally proficient in different classical genres, be it khyal, tarana, thumri, dadra, ghazal and bhajan, citing the influence of Ustad Amir Khan (founder of the Indore gharana) for khyal and Bade Ghulam Ali Khan (Kasur gharana) for thumri.

182. Renowned Poet Munawwar Rana passed away recently at the age of 71. He was the poet of which language?

प्रसिद्ध कवि मुनव्वर राणा का हाल ही में 71 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह किस भाषा के कवि थे?

- (a) Hindi
- (b) Urdu
- (c) Sanskrit
- (d) Marathi
- (e) Bengali

Ans. b

Sol. Urdu poet Munawwar Rana passes away

Renowned poet Munawwar Rana passed away at the age of 71.

Born in 1952 in Rae Bareli, Munawwar Rana was awarded the Gyanpeeth Award in 2014 for 'Shahdaba'.

His use of simple words in the poems made his works popular among the common people in Gujarat. Individuals from across the globe came to show off their kites

183. Simmtech has signed an MoU with the Gujarat government to set up its plant in Sanand at a cost of Rs1,250 crore to create a semiconductor ecosystem in the state. Simmtech is the company of which country?

सिम्मटेक ने राज्य में सेमीकंडक्टर पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र बनाने के लिए 1,250 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से साणंद में अपना संयंत्र स्थापित करने के लिए गुजरात सरकार के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। सिम्मटेक किस देश की कंपनी है?

- (a) South Korea / दक्षिण कोरिया
- (b) USA / यूएसए
- (c) Japan / जापान
- (d) Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया
- (e) Germany / जर्मनी

Ans. a

Sol. South Korean firm Simmtech signs MoU for creating semiconductor ecosystem in Gujarat

After US chipmaker Micron and Tata group, South Korean firm Simmtech has signed an MoU with the Gujarat government to set up its plant in Sanand at a cost of Rs1,250 crore as part of creating a semiconductor ecosystem in the state.

South Korean firm has been allotted 30 acres of land and the work will start in the next two-three months. The company will need 6-7 months to set up the plants.

Simmtech is the world's biggest manufacturer of semiconductor substrates.

The company has been given subsidy under SPECS (Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS) by the centre as well as state government.

Recent MoU

- TGL and Flipkart sign MoU for supply chain decarbonization
- 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

184. The Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) has been marked as India's first Dark Sky Park and the fifth such park in Asia. Pench Tiger Reserve is located between which of the following two states?

पेंच टाइगर रिजर्व (पीटीआर) को भारत के पहले डार्क स्काई पार्क और एशिया में पांचवें ऐसे पार्क के रूप में चिह्नित किया गया है। पेंच टाइगर रिजर्व निम्नलिखित में से किन दो राज्यों के बीच स्थित है?

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

Ans. e

Sol. Maharashtra's Pench Tiger Reserve becomes India's First Dark Sky Park

The Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra has been marked as India's first Dark Sky Park and the fifth such park in Asia.

This prestigious acknowledgment underscores the reserve's unwavering commitment to protecting the sanctity of the night sky and creating an optimal setting for astronomy enthusiasts.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) emphasizes on the recognition of the intrinsic value of the night sky as a natural, cultural, and historical resource.

The IUCN also highlights the need to preserve natural darkness for the sake of nature conservation, ecological integrity in protected areas, and the well-being of communities in healthy cities.

About Pench Tiger Reserve

- Pench Tiger Reserve or Pench National Park is one of the premier tiger reserves of India and the first one to straddle across two states - Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- The fictional works of Rudyard Kipling, *The Jungle Book* and *The Second Jungle Book*, are set in the region. Kipling himself never visited the area, instead basing his descriptions on other locations in India.

What is a Dark Sky Park?

- A dark-sky preserve is an area, usually surrounding a park or observatory, that restricts artificial light pollution. The purpose of the dark-sky movement is generally to promote astronomy.
- The Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO), a high-altitude astronomy station located in Hanle, and operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, is India's first dark-sky preserve.
- Situated in the Western Himalayas at an elevation of 4,500 meters (14,764 ft), the IAO is one of the world's highest-located sites for optical, infrared, and gamma-ray telescopes.

185. In January 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released how much rupees the first installment for pucca homes under the PM-JANMAN Scheme?

जनवरी 2024 में, प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने PM-JANMAN योजना के तहत पक्के घरों के लिए पहली किस्त कितने रुपये जारी की है?

- (a) ₹240 crore
- (b) ₹340 crore
- (c) ₹440 crore
- (d) ₹640 crore
- (e) ₹540 crore

Ans. e

Sol. PM Modi Releases First Instalment of PM-JANMAN Scheme for Pucca Homes

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released ₹540 crore — the first installment of funding — for pucca homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) to one lakh Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) beneficiary families as part of the recently-launched PM-JANMAN package for the overall development of PVTG habitations.

Simultaneously, in 100 districts, officials of both the Centre and the respective State governments will distribute benefits under the package to Gram Panchayats and village chiefs.

In the two months since the Prime Minister launched the scheme on November 15, the government had sanctioned projects worth over ₹4,700 crore through nine Ministries under the PM-JANMAN package, which includes the first installment for PMAY(G) homes for one lakh beneficiaries.

About Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)

- PM-JANMAN was launched for the socio-economic welfare of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) on November 15, 2023 on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.
- PM-JANMAN, with a budget of approximately ₹24,000 crore, focuses on 11 critical interventions through nine ministries.
- It is aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of PVTGs by saturating PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition, electricity, road and telecom connectivity, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

186. India's Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal to provide insurance cover to casual workers employed by the Border Roads Organization (BRO) to build infrastructure in remote areas. The scheme will provide how much rupees to the families of casual-paid labourers in the event of death?

भारत के रक्षा मंत्री, राजनाथ सिंह ने दूरदराज के क्षेत्रों में बुनियादी ढांचे के निर्माण के लिए सीमा सड़क संगठन (बीआरओ) द्वारा नियोजित आकस्मिक श्रमिकों को बीमा कवर प्रदान करने के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दे दी है। यह योजना आकस्मिक वेतन पाने वाले मजदूरों की मृत्यु की स्थिति में उनके परिवारों को कितने रुपये प्रदान करेगी?

- (a) 5 lakh
- (b) 10 lakh
- (c) 15 lakh
- (d) 25 lakh
- (e) 21 lakh

Ans. b

Sol. Defense Minister Sanctions Insurance Scheme for BRO Workers

India's Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal to provide insurance cover to casual workers employed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to build infrastructure in remote areas.

The scheme will provide INR 10 lakh (\$13,500) to the families of casual-paid labourers in the event of death.

The insurance scheme will serve as a social security and welfare measure and will go a long way in securing the livelihoods of their families.

BRO employs up to one lakh casual workers for infrastructure projects in border areas.

BRO has completed around 300 crucial projects during the last three years at a cost of ₹8,000 crore.

186. Dr. V.K. Saraswat has inaugurated the first National Highway Steel Slag Road section on NH-66 _____.

डॉ. वी.के. सारस्वत ने NH-66 _____ पर पहले राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग स्टील स्लैग रोड खंड का उद्घाटन किया है।

- (a) Mumbai-Pune / मुंबई-पुणे
- (b) Mumbai-Jaipur / मुंबई-जयपुर
- (c) Mumbai-Delhi / मुंबई-दिल्ली
- (d) Mumbai-Ahmedabad / मुंबई-अहमदाबाद
- (e) Mumbai-Goa / मुंबई-गोवा

Ans. e

Sol. Maiden National Highway steel slag road on NH-66 Mumbai-Goa inaugurated

Dr. V.K. Saraswat has inaugurated the first National Highway Steel Slag Road section on NH-66 Mumbai-Goa.

Developed by CSIR-CRRI, converts steel industry waste into a resource, contributing to the construction of robust and eco-friendly national highways.

This innovation aligns with the National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) efforts to enhance infrastructure sustainability in the country.

Under the technological guidance of CSIR-CRRI, JSW Steel has successfully constructed a 1 km long four-lane steel slag road section on the Indapur-Panvel Section of NH-66 Mumbai-Goa.

The construction process involved converting approximately 80,000 tons of CONARC Steel slag into processed steel slag aggregates at the JSW Steel Dolvi plant in Raigad.

These processed steel slag aggregates exhibit superior mechanical properties compared to natural aggregates and have been used in all layers of the road, replacing traditional natural aggregates.

The road includes bituminous and cement concrete steel slag sections on both the right-hand and left-hand carriageways.

187. Which of the following state governments has recently declared January 22 as a dry day to mark the consecration of Lord Ram's temple in Ayodhya?

निम्नलिखित में से किस राज्य सरकार ने हाल ही में अयोध्या में भगवान राम के मंदिर की प्रतिष्ठा के उपलक्ष्य में 22 जनवरी को शुष्क दिवस घोषित किया है?

- (a) Tripura / त्रिपुरा
- (b) West Bengal / पश्चिम बंगाल
- (c) Madhya Pradesh / मध्य प्रदेश
- (d) Karnataka / कर्नाटक
- (e) Rajasthan / राजस्थान

Ans. c

Sol. MP govt declares January 22 as dry day to mark consecration of Ram temple in Ayodhya

Madhya Pradesh government has declared January 22 as a dry day, when liquor shops will remain closed to mark the consecration of Lord Ram's temple in Ayodhya.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that keeping in view the public sentiments, the state government has decided that all types of shops including liquor and Bhang outlets will remain closed on the 22nd of this month.

Meanwhile, states including Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, and Assam have already declared January 22 a 'dry day' given the Pran Pratishtha ceremony.

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

188. In January 2024, The Reserve Bank imposed penalties totalling how much crore rupees on Dhanlaxmi Bank, Punjab and Sind Bank, and ESAF Small Finance Bank for contravention of regulatory norms?

जनवरी 2024 में, रिज़र्व बैंक ने नियामक मानदंडों के उल्लंघन के लिए धनलक्ष्मी बैंक, पंजाब एंड सिंध बैंक और ESAF स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक पर कुल कितने करोड़ रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया है?

- (a) 2.29 crore
- (b) 2.39 crore
- (c) 2.49 crore
- (d) 2.69 crore
- (e) 2.89 crore

Ans. c

Sol. RBI imposes fine on Dhanlaxmi Bank, ESAF Small Finance Bank, Punjab and Sind Bank over non-compliances

The Reserve Bank has imposed penalties totalling ₹2.49 crore on three banks, including Dhanlaxmi Bank and Punjab and Sind Bank, for contravention of regulatory norms.

A penalty of ₹1.20 crore has been slapped on Dhanlaxmi Bank for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Loans and Advances — Statutory and Other Restrictions', KYC, and certain norms related to interest rate on deposits.

Further, a fine of ₹1 crore has been imposed on Punjab and Sind Bank for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Loans and Advances — Statutory and Other Restrictions'.

The central bank has also imposed a penalty of ₹29.55 lakh on ESAF Small Finance Bank for non-compliance with the directions issued by it on 'Customer Service in Banks'.

The penalties are based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and are not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the lenders with their customers.

189. Hyderabad DLabs at the Indian School of Business (ISB) has launched 'Build for Billions' in partnership with Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) and which bank?

इंडियन स्कूल ऑफ बिजनेस (ISB) में हैदराबाद डीलैब्स ने रिजर्व बैंक इनोवेशन हब (RBIH) और किस बैंक के साथ साझेदारी में 'बिल्ड फॉर बिलियन्स' लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Punjab & Sind Bank / पंजाब एंड सिंध बैंक
- (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. DLabs at ISB launches 'Build for Billions' jointly with RBI Innovation Hub, Union Bank of India

Hyderabad DLabs at the Indian School of Business (ISB) has launched 'Build for Billions', a startup accelerator programme, themed around financial inclusion for the informal economy, in partnership with Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) and Union Bank of India.

Gig workers, migrant workers, domestic workers, street vendors, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, and construction labourers — representing the informal economy -- face multifaceted challenges.

These include low and volatile income; irregular income streams; limited access to credit and savings; and a lack of social security nets. Recognising these hurdles, Build for Billions is poised to support visionary fintech startups dedicated to addressing these issues.

The 50-day equity-free accelerator by the business incubator DLabs, offers comprehensive support, including mentorship, capacity building, resources, networking opportunities, the chance to pitch to banks and investors, and a unique piloting opportunity with Union Bank.

The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India, focuses on promoting and facilitating an environment that accelerates innovation across the financial sector, while DLabs, a business incubator at the Indian School of Business (ISB), specialises in incubation, acceleration, and funding for startups.

CEO of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub - Rajesh Bansal

Executive Director of Union Bank of India - Nitesh Ranjan

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- SBI launched **Green Rupee Term Deposit** of 1,111 days, 1,777 days, and 2,222 days tenor for resident individuals, non-individuals, and NRI customers.
- Indian Bank launches '**Indian Bank One Co-Branded Credit Card**'
- IndusInd Bank launched '**Samman RuPay Credit Card**' exclusively for government employees.
- Canara Bank to launch **Data Analytics center** in Bengaluru from 1 April
- Bank of India introduced **Super Special Fixed Deposit** with interest rate of 7.50% per annum

190. Which company has signed pacts to buy Capital Foods, Organic India?

कैपिटल फूड्स, ऑर्गेनिक इंडिया को खरीदने के लिए किस कंपनी ने समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Smart Point / स्मार्ट प्वाइंट
- (b) Big Bazar / बिग बाजार
- (c) Vishal Mega Mart / विशाल मेगा मार्ट
- (d) Jio Mart / जियो मार्ट
- (e) Tata Consumer / टाटा कंज्यूम

Ans. e

Sol. Tata Consumer signs pacts to buy Capital Foods, Organic India

Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) has signed definitive agreements to fully acquire Capital Foods, owner of Ching's Secret and Smith & Jones, and Organic India, the Fabindia-backed organic teas and health products maker.

TCPL will pay an enterprise value on a no cash-no debt basis of ₹5,100 crore for 100% stake in Capital Foods.

TCPL will acquire 75% of Capital Foods upfront and the remaining 25% over the next three years.

191. According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, what is India's retail inflation in December 2023?

सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार, दिसंबर 2023 में भारत की खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति क्या है?

- (a) -1.36%
- (b) -0.26%
- (c) -0.52%
- (d) 0.26%
- (e) 0.73%

Ans. e Wholesale inflation rises to 0.73% in December

Sol. The wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation rose in December at 0.73% mainly due to a sharp rise in food prices.

The WPI inflation was in the negative zone from April to October and had turned positive in November at 0.26%.

Positive rate of inflation in December 2023 is primarily due to the increase in prices of food articles, machinery & equipment, other manufacturing, other transport equipment and computer, electronics & optical products, etc.

Food inflation rose to 9.38% in December from 8.18% in November 2023.

Inflation in vegetables was 26.30%, while in pulses it was 19.60% in December. Retail or consumer price-based inflation (CPI) print for December rose to a 4-month high of 5.69%.

Recent WPI-based Wholesale inflation in India

- **July 2023** – (-) 1.36%
- **August 2023** – (-) 0.52%
- **September 2023** – (-) 0.26%
- **October 2023** – (-) 0.52%
- **November 2023** – 0.26%
- **December 2023** – 0.73%

192. Shaun Marsh has announced his retirement from professional cricket. He is from which country?

शॉन मार्श ने पेशेवर 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. c

Sol. Australian cricketer Shaun Marsh announces retirement

Australian cricketer Shaun Marsh has announced his retirement from professional cricket.

With the Melbourne Renegades' fixture against Sydney Thunder in the Big Bash League being his last assignment.

Marsh also had a great stint with Australia across formats, scoring more than 5,200 runs and 13 centuries, while his last outing for the Kangaroos was against Sri Lanka at The Oval during the 2019 ODI World Cup.

Recently Retired Players

- David Warner – International ODI & Test – Australia
- Dean Elgar - International cricket - South Africa
- Asad Shafiq - All forms of cricket - Pakistan
- Gurkeerat Singh Mann – International Cricket – India
- Meg Lanning – International Cricket – Australia
- Sunil Narine - International cricket – West Indies

193. Who has become the first men's player to play 150 T20Is?

150 T20I खेलने वाले पहले पुरुष खिलाड़ी कौन बन गए हैं?

- (a) Virat Kohli / विराट कोहली
- (b) Rohit Sharma / रोहित शर्मा
- (c) KL Rahul / केएल राहुल
- (d) Glenn Maxwell / ग्लेन मैक्सवेल
- (e) Suryakumar Yadav / सूर्यकुमार यादव

Ans. b

Sol. Rohit Sharma Becomes The First Men's Player To Play 150 T20Is

India captain Rohit Sharma has become the first men's player to play 150 T20Is.

Rohit achieved this feat during the second T20I match against Afghanistan at the Holkar Cricket Stadium.

Rohit returned to India's T20I setup for the first time since the end of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022. He led his side to a 6-wicket victory over Afghanistan in the first T20I in Mohali.

Rohit also secured another milestone by becoming the first player to win 100 T20Is.

Stirling has played 134 matches in his career. His Ireland colleague, George Dockrell, is third on the list, having played 128 matches.

Rohit is one of the top run scorers in the T20Is. He has scored 3853 runs in 149 games, with a strike rate of about 140. He has also scored four hundreds in T20Is, tying Glenn Maxwell and Suryakumar Yadav for the most.

194. National Startup Day is observed every year on 16 January. In which year was officially declared 16 January as National Startup Day?

राष्ट्रीय स्टार्टअप दिवस हर साल 16 जनवरी को मनाया जाता है। किस वर्ष आधिकारिक तौर पर 16 जनवरी को राष्ट्रीय स्टार्टअप दिवस घोषित किया गया था?

- (a) 2015
- (b) 2016
- (c) 2018
- (d) 2022
- (e) 2023

Ans. d

Sol. 16 January - National Startup Day

In 2022, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had officially declared 16 January as National Startup Day.

Under the Startup India programme, startups in the country expanded from around 400 to 1.18 lakh.

In 2024, Startup India recognized 10-18 January as Innovation Week 2024 with the theme, "Celebrating 8 Years of Innovation."

So far, the Indian government has given 2,977 income tax exemptions and provided 3,658 startups with funds under the SIDBI Fund of Funds scheme, established in 2016 with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore.

The scheme also gives capital to Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) registered with SEBI, also called daughter funds. These funds invest money in startups through equity and equity-linked instruments.

195. Indian Army Day is celebrated every year on 15 January. This year (2024), _____ Army Day was observed.
भारतीय सेना दिवस हर साल 15 जनवरी को मनाया जाता है। इस वर्ष (2024), _____ सेना दिवस मनाया गया।

- (a) 74th
- (b) 75th
- (c) 76th
- (d) 77th
- (e) 78th

Ans. c

Sol. 15 January - Indian Army Day

Indian Army Day is celebrated every year on 15 January. This year, we are celebrating 76th Army Day.

This day is celebrated to commemorate the victory of the Indian Army over the British Army. On 15 January 1949, Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa became the first Commander-in-chief of the Indian Army and took over the authority from the British Commander-in-Chief General Francis Butcher.

Theme 2024 - In Service of the Nation

The Indian Army hold its 76th Army Day parade at the 11 Gorkha Rifles Regimental Centre in Lucknow — the headquarters of the Army's Central Command.

196. Global aerospace giant Boeing has opened its first distribution center in which state of India?

वैश्विक एयरोस्पेस दिग्गज बोइंग ने भारत के किस राज्य में अपना पहला वितरण केंद्र खोला है?

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

Ans. a

Sol. Boeing opens its first distribution center in India

Global aerospace giant Boeing has opened its first distribution center in India, located in Khurja, Uttar Pradesh.

Spanning 36,000 square feet, this parts warehouse aims to assist regional aviation customers in optimizing fleet utilization.

This new facility is part of its ongoing efforts to expand its footprint in the country, providing an efficient, cost-effective, and localized solution.

This is one of Boeing's eight distribution centers in the world.

Furthermore, Boeing has pledged a USD 100 million investment in infrastructure and pilot training programs to meet India's growing demand for pilots over the next two decades.

About Uttar Pradesh

- **Capital** - Lucknow
- **Chief Minister** – Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor** - Anandiben Patel

197. IndoSpace has signed an MoU with which state government to invest Rs 2,000 crore in the state?

इंडोस्पेस ने किस राज्य सरकार के साथ राज्य में 2,000 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश करने के लिए 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. b

Sol. IndoSpace Signs Rs 2000 Cr Deal With Tamil Nadu Govt

India's leading developer and owner of Grade A industrial real estate, IndoSpace has signed an MoU with the government of Tamil Nadu to invest over Rs 2,000 crore in the state.

This investment by IndoSpace is expected to generate 15,000 new jobs, providing a substantial boost to employment opportunities in the state.

IndoSpace has an existing land bank of around 600 acres in the region. With an expansive presence of 14 Grade A industrial and logistics parks strategically located around the main industrial hubs, IndoSpace has developed and leased around 13 million sq ft with a total investment of Rs 4,000 crore in the state.

This investment agreement with the Tamil Nadu government is a part of the company's continued commitment towards supporting industrial requirements and has led to the planning of an additional 5 million sq ft of land in the state.

Recent MoUs

- South Korean firm Simmtech signs MoU for creating semiconductor ecosystem in Gujarat
- REC limited signs with RVN to finance multi-modal
- NHAI signed MoU with NRSC to develop 'Green Cover Index'*A
- TGL and Flipkart sign MoU for supply chain decarbonization
- Bharat Electronics Secures ₹445 Cr Deal For UP Dial 112 Project

198. Which company has secured a mega-contract worth Rs 10,000 crore from an authorized Japanese agency to construct an electrification system for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed rail project in India?

किस कंपनी ने भारत में मुंबई-अहमदाबाद हाई-स्पीड रेल परियोजना के लिए विद्युतीकरण प्रणाली के निर्माण के लिए एक अधिकृत जापानी एजेंसी से 10,000 करोड़ रुपये का मेगा-अनुबंध हासिल किया है?

- (a) Reliance Industries Limited / रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड
- (b) Larsen & Toubro (L&T) / लार्सन एंड टुब्रो (एल एंड टी)
- (c) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited / भारत हेवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स लिमिटेड
- (d) Tata Advanced Systems / टाटा एडवांस्ड सिस्टम्स
- (e) Bharat Electronics Limited / भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स लिमिटेड

Ans. b

Sol. L&T wins Rs 10,000 crore electrification order for high-speed rail project

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has secured a mega contract from an authorized Japanese agency to construct an electrification system for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed rail project in India.

Valued in the range of Rs 10,000 crore to Rs 15,000 crore, the project, according to company executives, is the largest single rail-electrification order in India.

This would be the first of its kind railway project in India involving the implementation of Japanese Shinkansen High-Speed Electrification Technology.

This electrification system will enable trains to travel at speeds of up to 320 kmph.

199. Which of the following companies has become the first ISO 27001:2022 certified petrochemical organization in the industry by BSI (British Standards Institution)?

निम्नलिखित में से कौन सी कंपनी BSI (ब्रिटिश स्टैंडर्ड इंस्टीट्यूशन) द्वारा उद्योग में पहली ISO 27001:2022 प्रमाणित पेट्रोकेमिकल संगठन बन गई है?

- (a) Johnson & Johnson / जॉनसन एंड जॉनसन
(b) Pfizer / फाइजर
(c) Sanofi / सनोफी
(d) Novartis Petrochemicals Ltd / नोवार्टिस पेट्रोकेमिकल्स लिमिटेड
(e) Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd/ हल्दिया पेट्रोकेमिकल्स लिमिटेड

Ans. e

Sol. Haldia Petrochemicals becomes India's first BSI Certified ISO 27001:2022 Petrochemical firm

Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd (HPL), a leading petrochemicals company in India, has become the first ISO 27001:2022 certified petrochemical organization in the industry by BSI (British Standards Institution), a renowned certification body.

This milestone showcases HPL's commitment to maintaining a robust and secure information security governance structure throughout its digital transformation journey.

The Certification demonstrates HPL's commitment towards a secure and reliable digital environment for a seamless exchange of information across internal and external stakeholders.

By achieving this certification, HPL has demonstrated its ability to protect sensitive information and ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of valuable data and systems. ISO 27001:2022 is the standard of ISMS (Information Security Management System) program to protect the information assets of the organization.

About BSI

- British Standards Institution (BSI) is the world's first Standards Body and founding member of ISO from the United Kingdom.
- BSI produces technical standards on various products, services, and supplies certification and standards-related services to businesses.
- They are among the most respected and reputable management systems certification bodies globally and are accredited by around 20 local and international bodies.

200. Which of the following country will host Ukraine Peace Summit at the request of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy?

यूक्रेनी राष्ट्रपति वलोडिमिर ज़ेलेन्स्की के अनुरोध पर निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा देश यूक्रेन शांति शिखर सम्मेलन की मेजबानी करेगा?

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

Ans. e

Sol. Switzerland to Host Ukraine Peace Summit

Switzerland has agreed to host a global peace summit on Ukraine at the request of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy.

Neutral Switzerland has previously acted as a broker to resolve conflicts and could now help find a resolution for the war that began when Russia sent troops into Ukraine on Feb 24, 2022.

The summit, aimed at resolving the conflict sparked by Russia's incursion into Ukraine in 2022, highlights Switzerland's role as a neutral mediator.

About Ukraine

- Capital- Kyiv
- Currency - Hryvnia
- President - Volodymyr Zelenskyy
- Prime Minister - Denys Shmyhal

201. Which bank has launched the 'Platinum Credit Card' in association with EazyDiner?

किस बैंक ने ईजीडायनर के साथ मिलकर 'प्लेटिनम क्रेडिट कार्ड' लॉन्च किया 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. c

Sol. IndusInd Bank ties up with EazyDiner to launch credit card

IndusInd Bank has launched the 'EazyDiner IndusInd Bank Platinum Credit Card' in association with EazyDiner.

The credit card offers an additional discount of ₹500 while paying through the EazyDiner App via PayEazy for both dining and takeaway at select restaurants.

Cardholders get an EazyDiner Prime membership for three months, with guaranteed discounts of 25 percent to 50 percent, at over 2,000 premium restaurants, without any joining or annual fees. Users can renew their membership upon payment of ₹30,000 every 90 days.

The card offers up to 2 reward points on every ₹100 spent; in addition to the discounts, the reward points earned can be redeemed instantly against dining bills on the EazyDiner app.

IndusInd Bank

- **Founded** - 1994
- **Founder** - S.P. Hinduja
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- **MD & CEO** - Sumant Kathpalia
- **Tagline** - We Make You Feel Richer

202. Which bank has launched SmartFin, an end-to-end digital supply chain finance (SCF) platform, powered by Veefin Solutions?
किस बैंक ने वीफिन सॉल्यूशंस द्वारा संचालित एंड-टू-एंड डिजिटल सप्लाई चेन फाइनेंस (एससीएफ) प्लेटफॉर्म स्मार्टफिन लॉन्च 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) IDFC First Bank / आईडीएफसी फर्स्ट बैंक

Ans. c

Sol. Yes Bank deploys Veefin's SmartFin supply chain finance solution

Yes Bank has launched SmartFin, an end-to-end digital supply chain finance (SCF) platform, powered by Veefin Solutions.

The initiative reflects Yes Bank's commitment to fostering innovation and enhancing its digital offerings, particularly in the realm of working capital efficiencies.

The SmartFin platform, through its end-to-end digital offerings, will help us drive the required operational & financial efficiencies for all stakeholders.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- DLabs at ISB launches 'Build for Billions' jointly with RBI Innovation Hub, Union Bank of India
- SBI launched **Green Rupee Term Deposit** of 1,111 days, 1,777 days, and 2,222 days tenor for resident individuals, non-individuals, and NRI customers.
- Indian Bank launches '**Indian Bank One Co-Branded Credit Card**'
- IndusInd Bank launched '**Samman RuPay Credit Card**' exclusively for government employees.
- Canara Bank to launch **Data Analytics center** in Bengaluru from 1 April

203. Which company has regained its status as the most valued public sector undertaking, surpassing the market capitalization of State Bank of India?

किस कंपनी ने भारतीय स्टेट बैंक के बाजार पूंजीकरण को पीछे छोड़ते हुए सबसे मूल्यवान सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रम के रूप में अपना दर्जा फिर से हासिल कर लिया है?

- (a) NTPC / एनटीपीसी /
- (b) Axis Bank / एक्सिस बैंक
- (c) LIC / एलआईसी
- (d) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (e) ICICI Bank / आईसीआईसीआई बैंक

Ans. c

Sol. LIC overtakes SBI to become the most valuable PSU

Life Insurance Corporation of India, a government-owned insurance giant, has regained its status as the most valued public sector undertaking, surpassing the market capitalization of State Bank of India.

While SBI holds a market value of Rs 5.63 lakh crore, LIC has surpassed it with a market capitalization (MCap) of Rs 5.64 lakh crore.

In 17 Jan, SBI stock witnessed a 1.5 percent decline to Rs 624, whereas LIC traded at Rs 896 on the BSE, showing a 0.2 percent increase. Concurrently, the benchmark BSE Sensex experienced a 1.02 percent loss, settling at 72,386 points.

In 2023, LIC witnessed a remarkable gain of over 22%, and in the ongoing year, 2024, it has surged by an additional 7.5%. In contrast, SBI made modest progress with an advancement of nearly 5% in the previous year, but in the current year, it has incurred a loss of over 1%.

204. Who has been appointed as the Commandant in the Indian Naval Academy?

भारतीय नौसेना अकादमी में कमांडेंट के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Anish Dayal Singh / अनीश दयाल सिंह
- (b) Sujoy Lal Thaisen / सुजॉय लाल थाउसेन
- (c) Vineet McCarty / विनीत मैक्कार्ती
- (d) Umesh Mishra / उमेश मिश्रा
- (e) Subodh Kumar Jaiswal / सुबोध कुमार जायसवाल

Ans. c

Sol. Vineet McCarty appointed as Commandant in Indian Naval Academy

Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty took over as Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy.

The Flag Officer was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 Jul 1989 and is a graduate of Defence Service Staff College, Wellington (2005) and National Defence College, New Delhi (2017).

A specialist in 'Gunnery and Missiles', he served as the commissioning crew of INS Delhi and did all his specialist tenures onboard the frontline Guided Missile Destroyer.

Before assuming charge as the Commandant of Indian Naval Academy, he was Flag Officer Commanding the Western Fleet.

Recent Appointment in Defence Sector

- **DG (Acquisition) of Defence Ministry** - Samir Kumar Sinha
- **Vice Chief of the Naval Staff** - Dinesh K. Tripathi
- **Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command (WNC)** - Sanjay Jasjit Singh (replace Dinesh K Tripathi)
- **DG of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** - Nina Singh (first woman Director)
- **DG of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** - Rahul Rasgotra (replace Anish Dayal Singh)

205. Who has assumed charge as the Director General Naval Operations (DGNO)?

नौसेना संचालन महानिदेशक (डीजीएनओ) के रूप में किसने कार्यभार संभाला है?

- (a) R K Gupta / आर के गुप्ता
- (b) Kalikesh Singh Deo / कलिकेश सिंह देव
- (c) Raj Shukla / राज शुक्ला
- (d) AN Pramod / एएन प्रमोद
- (e) Paritosh Tripathi / परितोष त्रिपाठी

Ans. d

Sol. AN Pramod assumed charge as the Director General Naval Operations (DGNO)

Vice Admiral AN Pramod has assumed charge as the Director General Naval Operations (DGNO).

An alumnus of the 38th Integrated Cadet Course, Naval Academy, Goa, he was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 July 1990.

The Flag Officer is a CAT 'A' Sea King Air Operations Officer and a Communication & Electronics Warfare Specialist. He did the Staff Course at DSSC Wellington (Nilgiris) and the Naval Higher Command Course at NWC, Goa.

Recent Appointment in Defence Sector

- **DG of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** - Anish Dayal Singh
- **DG of the Fire Service** - Vivek Srivastava
- **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

206. Bengaluru-based space data company, Pixxel has inaugurated its first spacecraft manufacturing facility in which city?

बेंगलुरु स्थित अंतरिक्ष डेटा कंपनी, Pixxel ने किस शहर में अपनी पहली अंतरिक्ष यान निर्माण सुविधा का उद्घाटन किया है?

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) Hyderabad / हैदराबाद
- (c) Chennai / चेन्नई
- (d) Greater Noida / ग्रेटर नोएडा
- (e) Thiruvananthapuram / तिरुवनंतपुरम

Ans. a

Sol. Pixxel opens new spacecraft manufacturing facility in Bengaluru

Bengaluru-based space data company, Pixxel has inaugurated its first spacecraft manufacturing facility in Bengaluru.

The new facility holds significance as it targets to launch six satellites this year and 18 more by 2025, further advancing its mission of building a “health monitor” for the planet.

Spread across 30,000 square feet, the facility, at its full capacity, is equipped to handle more than 20 satellites simultaneously that can be turned around within a timeframe of six months, making possible a total of 40 large satellites per year.

The facility was inaugurated by S. Somanath, chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

207. Indian Navy and which country's navy has conducted the first edition of bilateral exercise 'Ex-Ayutthaya'?
भारतीय नौसेना और किस देश की नौसेना ने द्विपक्षीय अभ्यास 'एक्स-अयुत्था' का पहला संस्करण आयोजित किया है?

- (a) France / फ्रांस
- (b) Thailand / थाईलैंड
- (c) Sri Lanka / श्रीलंका
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) Israel / इजराइल

Ans. b

Sol. India, Thailand organized first bilateral exercise "Ex-Ayutthaya"

The Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) conducted a maiden bilateral exercise, named 'Ex-Ayutthaya', which symbolizes the significance of 'Ayodhya' in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand, which holds historic legacies and has rich cultural ties.

The Indian Naval ships Kulish and IN LCU 56 participated in the inaugural edition of the exercise.

The Royal Thai Navy side was represented by His Thai Majesty's Ship (HTMS) Prachuap Khiri Khan.

The 36th edition of the India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) was also conducted along with the maiden bilateral exercise. Moreover, the Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies participated in the sea phase of the exercise.

Recent Exercise

- 1st edition of **Military Exercise 'Desert Cyclone'** between India & UAE – Rajasthan
- 12th edition of **multi-national naval exercise MILAN 24** - Visakhapatnam
- 4th edition of **Military Exercise VINBAX-2023** between India & Vietnam - Hanoi, Vietnam
- 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

208. Who has inaugurated the 5th Edition of the Meghalaya Games in Tura, Meghalaya?

मेघालय के तुरा में मेघालय खेलों के 5वें संस्करण का उद्घाटन किसने किया है?

- (a) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी
- (b) Amit Shah / अमित शाह
- (c) Anurag Thakur / अनुराग ठाकुर
- (d) Droupadi Murmu / द्रौपदी मुर्मु
- (e) Jagdeep Dhankhar / जगदीप धनखड़

Ans. d

Sol. Indian President Inaugurated 5th Meghalaya Games

President of India, Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated the 5th Edition of the Meghalaya Games in Tura, Meghalaya.

The President highlighted the tremendous potential for the development of sports and sportspersons in the North East region, citing its rich tradition of a strong sports culture.

It is the first time ever that the Meghalaya Games have been conducted in Garo hills in Tura. Around 3000 athletes will compete across 23 sports disciplines.

The torch's final lap through Tura's West Garo Hills was carried by Shri Simeon Marak, a Northeast Olympics representative, during the inauguration ceremony at the P.A. Sangma Stadium.

The Torch Relay Ceremony illuminated the state's commitment to athleticism, unity, and youth empowerment, setting the stage for the upcoming Meghalaya Games, 2024.

209. Who has won the ICC Women's Player of the Month Award for December 2023?

दिसंबर 2023 के लिए ICC महिला प्लेयर ऑफ़ द मंथ का पुरस्कार किसने जीता है?

- (a) Harleen Deol / हरलीन देओल
- (b) Ellyse Perry / एलिसे पेरी
- (c) Sarah Taylor / सारा टेलर
- (d) Smriti Mandhana / स्मृति मंधाना
- (e) Deepti Sharma / दीप्ति शर्मा

Ans. e

Sol. Pat Cummins and Deepti Sharma won ICC Players of the Month for December 2023

ICC revealed the Men's and Women's Player of the Month award winners for December 2023.

Australia skipper Pat Cummins wins ICC Men's Player of the Month award for December 2023 for bowling heroics in the Test triumph against Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Deepti Sharma of India won the maiden ICC Women's Player of the Month award for December 2023 thanks to her multi-format brilliance against England and Australia.

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)
- December 2023 - Pat Cummins (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)
- December 2023 - Deepti Sharma (India)

210. Who has won the gold medal in the men's 25m centre fire pistol competition in Jakarta, Indonesia?

जकार्ता, इंडोनेशिया में पुरुषों की 25 मीटर सेंटर फायर पिस्टल प्रतियोगिता में किसने स्वर्ण पदक जीता है?

- (a) Gagan Narang / गगन नारंग
- (b) Saurabh Chaudhary / सौरभ चौधरी
- (c) Vijay Kumar / विजय कुमार
- (d) Abhinav Bindra / अभिनव बिंद्रा
- (e) Yogesh Singh / योगेश सिंह

Ans. e

Sol. Yogesh Singh wins gold medal in men's 25m centre fire pistol

Yogesh Singh won the gold medal in the men's 25m centre fire pistol competition in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Yogesh claimed the individual gold medal after shooting 573, finishing ahead of silver winner Muad Al Balushi of Oman (570) and Indonesia's Anang Yulianto (567).

The other two Indian participants in the event, Pankaj Yadav (567) and Akshay Jain (564), ended fourth and sixth.

In the women's event, the Indian trio of Shreyasi, Manisha Keer and Bhavya Tripathi, however, won the silver medal in the women's trap team event with a total of 328, finishing behind China and ahead of Kazakhstan.

211. Women's Healthy Weight Day is observed every year on which day?

महिला स्वस्थ वजन दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) Third Thursday of January / जनवरी का तीसरा गुरुवार
- (b) Third Friday of January / जनवरी का तीसरा शुक्रवार
- (c) Third Saturday of January / जनवरी का तीसरा शनिवार
- (d) Third Sunday of January / जनवरी का तीसरा रविवार
- (e) Third Wednesday of January / जनवरी का तीसरा बुधवार

Ans. a

Sol. 18 January 2024 - Women's Healthy Weight Day

Women's Healthy Weight Day is observed every year on the Thursday of the third week of January.

This year it's being celebrated on January 18.

The day aims at spreading awareness around the concept of healthy weight and steps to achieve the ideal weight.

Maintaining a healthy weight is important for both men and women and it not only helps you feel better and more energetic but can also reduce risk of falling ill due to chronic diseases like cardiovascular illness, hypertension, type 2 diabetes, fatty liver disease, thyroid issues to name a few. A balanced meal should be consumed to maintain a healthy weight whether you are on a higher or lower side of the ideal weight.

Shedding extra pounds doesn't require a strenuous workout routine, but a regular effort to maintain the required weight for overall well-being.

212. In January 2024, which company has received an order of ₹695 crore from Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd for the supply of spares related to missile systems?

जनवरी 2024 में, किस कंपनी को मिसाइल सिस्टम से संबंधित पुर्जों की आपूर्ति के लिए मझगांव डॉक शिपबिल्डर्स लिमिटेड से ₹695 करोड़ का ऑर्डर प्राप्त हुआ है?

- (a) Reliance Industries Limited / रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड
- (b) Larsen & Toubro (L&T) / लार्सन एंड टुब्रो (एल एंड टी)
- (c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited / हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड
- (d) Tata Advanced Systems / टाटा एडवांस्ड सिस्टम्स
- (e) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) / भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स लिमिटेड (बीईएल)

Ans. e

Sol. BEL bags ₹695-crore order from Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

Navratna PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has received an order of ₹695 crore from Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd for the supply of spares related to missile systems.

The PSU has also received additional orders worth ₹339.31 crore since the last disclosure on December 2023, and these orders pertain to the Combat Management System, Composite Communication System, Transmit and Receive Modules, Mobile Autonomous Stabilization System, and other spares and services.

With the latest order, BEL has received cumulative orders of ₹27,647.31 crore in the current financial year.

213. Union Minister of Fisheries, Parshotham Rupala has launched the project of depositing Artificial Reefs in the seabed in Vizhinjam, Thiruvananthapuram. The project is being implemented under which scheme?

केंद्रीय मत्स्य पालन मंत्री, परशोथम रूपाला ने तिरुवनंतपुरम के विझिंजम में समुद्र तल में कृत्रिम चट्टानें जमा करने की परियोजना शुरू की है। यह परियोजना किस योजना के तहत क्रियान्वित की जा रही है?

- (a) National Horticulture Mission / राष्ट्रीय बागवानी मिशन
- (b) Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana / प्रधानमंत्री मत्स्य सम्पदा योजना
- (c) Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana / प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वंदना योजना
- (d) Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana / प्रधानमंत्री मुद्रा योजना
- (e) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana / प्रधानमंत्री कौशल विकास योजना

Ans. b

Sol. Parshotham Rupala Launches Project for Artificial Reefs in Vizhinjam

Union Minister of Fisheries, Parshotham Rupala has launched the project of depositing artificial reefs in the seabed in Vizhinjam, Thiruvananthapuram.

The project, a joint initiative of the Central and State governments, is aimed at increasing the income of fishermen by enhancing the fish population in the region.

The project is being implemented under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana with a total outlay of 13.02 crore. Out of this, 7.812 crore is being provided by the Central Government and 5.208 crore is the State government's share.

Kerala State Coastal Area Development Corporation implements the project with technical assistance from the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute.

In the first phase, 6,300 artificial reefs will be laid in 42 fishing villages from Pozhiyur to Varkala in Thiruvananthapuram district.

214. Who has inaugurated the new building of the office of Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies office at the World Trade Centre in New Delhi?

नई दिल्ली में वर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेंटर में सहकारी समितियों के केंद्रीय रजिस्ट्रार कार्यालय के नए भवन का उद्घाटन किसने 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. b

Sol. Amit Shah Inaugurates New Cooperative Office for Strengthening Societies and Rural Economy

Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated the new building of the office of Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies office at the World Trade Centre, Naroji Nagar in New Delhi.

The cooperative sector makes a big contribution to India's five trillion dollars economy goal.

Amit said that, after the establishment of the Cooperation Ministry, Cooperative Societies are being strengthened and Rural Economy is getting connected with Modern Technologies.

Before the formation of the Ministry of Cooperation, the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies did not have enough staff and there was no computerization.

Amit Shah in News

- Amit Shah chairs 'National PACS Mega Conclave' in New Delhi
- Amit Shah inaugurates 58th DGSP/IGSP conference 2023 in Jaipur
- Amit Shah launched logo, website and brochure of National Cooperative for Exports Limited (NCEL)
- Amit Shah inaugurated India's first nano DAP plant in Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Amit Shah chairs review meeting on Left Wing Extremism in New Delhi

215. Who has inaugurated the 12th General Assembly of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace in New Delhi?

नई दिल्ली में शांति के लिए एशियाई बौद्ध सम्मेलन की 12वीं महासभा 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. e

Sol. Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurates 12th General Assembly of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has inaugurated the 12th General Assembly of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace in New Delhi.

Vice President said that the world today faces challenges like climate change, conflict, terrorism, and poverty which are universal and can be addressed by common resolve and collaborative and collective approach.

He said, when we talk of Buddhism in Asia, it is a large part of area and population which is multicultural encompassing diverse customs and traditions, art, architecture, music, literature, lifestyle, philosophy, food, politics, and religion.

216. Secretary of MeitY, S Krishnan has launched two flagship programs – “Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Intelligent Internet of Things (IIoT) Sensors” and “India Innovation Centre for Graphene (IICG)” in which state?

MeitY के सचिव, एस कृष्णन ने किस राज्य में दो प्रमुख कार्यक्रम - "इंटेलिजेंट इंटरनेट ऑफ थिंग्स (IIoT) सेंसर में उत्कृष्टता केंद्र (CoE)" और "इंडिया इनोवेशन सेंटर फॉर ग्राफीन (IICG)" लॉन्च किए हैं?

- (a) Kerala / केरल
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Odisha / ओडिशा
- (d) Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश
- (e) Telangana / तेलंगाना

Ans. a

Sol. MeitY Secretary launches “Centre of Excellence in Intelligent Internet of Things Sensors” in Kerala Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), S Krishnan has launched two flagship programs – “Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Intelligent Internet of Things (IIoT) Sensors” and India’s first Graphene Centre “India Innovation Centre for Graphene (IICG)” at Maker Village, Kochi, Kerala. The CoE in IIoT Sensors is a unique facility established at Makers Village Kochi by MeitY, the Government of India, and the government of Kerala to catalyze the development of sensors within the realm of Intelligent IoT systems covering a broad spectrum of applications of intelligent sensors in networks, devices, and sensor systems.

Digital University Kerala (DUK) (formerly IIITMK) and Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (CMET)-Thrissur are the technical partner for setting up these centers at Makers Village Kochi.

The complete full-fledged facility for R&D, incubation, innovation, skilling, capacity building, testing & certification shall be established at these centers by the experts of these agencies.

217. Consider the following statements about the 2024 Global 500 IT Services Ranking:

- (i) TCS ranked second most valuable IT brand in global list.
- (ii) The rankings released by CSR Finance.
- (iii) TCS' brand value has surged to \$19.2 billion from \$16.2 billion in 2023.
- (iv) Accenture maintained its position as the world's most valuable IT services brand.

How many of the statements give above are CORRECT?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All are correct
- (e) All are incorrect

Ans. b

Statements

- (i) TCS ranked second most valuable IT brand in global list. **(Correct)**
- (ii) The rankings released by CSR Finance. **(Incorrect)**
- (iii) TCS' brand value has surged to \$19.2 billion from \$17.2 billion in 2023. **(Incorrect)**
- (iv) Accenture maintained its position as the world's most valuable IT services brand. **(Correct)**

Sol. TCS ranked second most valuable IT brand in global list

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been rated as the second most valuable IT services brand in the world in the 2024 Global 500 IT Services Ranking by Brand Finance.

TCS' brand value has surged to \$19.2 billion from \$17.2 billion in 2023, showing a strong growth of 11.5 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y).

The incremental \$2-billion growth is the highest absolute growth posted among the top 25 leading IT firms in the world.

Besides TCS, Accenture and Infosys boosted their brand value as well. The three firms topped the list of IT firms in terms of brand value.

Accenture maintained its position as the world's most valuable IT services brand, with a brand value of \$40.5 billion, up 1.6 per cent from last year.

The brand finance report suggests that adoption of technologies like generative AI has played a major role in boosting brand value of IT firms especially Accenture.

Meanwhile, Azim-Premji-backed Wipro was the only IT services major to have witnessed an erosion in brand value by 7.6 per cent on a y-o-y basis to \$6.2 billion.

218. Consider the following statements about Expo Wings India 2024

- (i) Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated Wings India 2024.
- (ii) The event was organized by the Airports Authority of India in collaboration with the Ministry and CCI.
- (iii) The event is organized at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru.
- (iv) The theme of this expo is 'Connecting India with the World in Amritkal'.

Find the INCORRECT statements

- (a) only ii
- (b) only iii
- (c) only ii & iii
- (d) only i & iv
- (e) All are correct

Ans. c

Sol. Jyotiraditya Scindia Inaugurates Asia's Largest Aviation Expo Wings India 2024

Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M Scindia has inaugurated Wings India 2024, Asia's largest aviation expo, at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad.

This event marks a significant milestone in the Indian aviation sector, highlighting its growth and future potential.

The four-day event is being organized by the Airports Authority of India in collaboration with the Ministry and FICCI.

The Wings India, supposed to be the biggest civil aviation show in Asia, will be showcasing an array of new-generation aircraft displays, allied aviation services, auxiliary unit industries, and advancements in the tourism sector.

The biennial event is being held with the main theme 'Connecting India with the World in Amritkal' and witness deliberations over the strategies and strategic framework for the future Aviation Sector of the country.

About 1500 delegates from over 100 countries, about five thousand business representatives and over one lakh visitors are expected to take part in the event. About 500 Business to Business meetings are also scheduled to be held during the event.

Meanwhile, the latest widebody Boeing aircraft, 777-9, and the new engineering marvel, Airbus A350 will be displayed for the first time at the Wings India air show in Hyderabad.

219. The Adani Group will invest Rs 12,400 crore in which state in the next few years?

अडाणी समूह अगले कुछ वर्षों में किस राज्य में 12,400 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश करेगा?

- (a) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (d) Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश
- (e) Telangana / तेलंगाना

Ans. e

Sol. Adani Group plans to invest Rs12,400 crore in Telangana

The Adani Group headed by its chairman Gautam Adani has announced investments to the tune of Rs 12,400 crore in Telangana in the next few years.

Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) will invest over Rs 5,000 crore in a 100-MW data centre to be powered by renewable energy, over the coming 5-7 years.

AEL will work closely with local micro, small and medium enterprises and start-ups to develop a globally competent supplier base for the project. It would provide direct and indirect jobs to 600 people.

Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) will invest over Rs 5,000 crore to set up two pump storage projects (PSPs) – 850 MW at Koyabestagudem and 500 MW at Nacharam in the State.

Ambuja Cements, which was acquired by the Ahmedabad-based group, will invest Rs 1,400 crore to set up a 6 MTPA cement plant in the next five years. The unit would be set up across 70 acres and would significantly enhance Ambuja's capability. It will provide employment to over 4,000 people, both directly and indirectly.

Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Ltd will invest over Rs 1,000 crore in 10 years to set up a comprehensive ecosystem for the research, development, design, manufacturing and integration of counter drone and missile systems at the Adani Aerospace Park.

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

220. Which country has introduced the world's first sustainability accreditation framework 'EcoMark Global' for Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs)?

किस देश ने सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम आकार के उद्यमों (MSMEs) के लिए दुनिया का पहला स्थिरता मान्यता ढांचा 'इकोमार्क ग्लोबल' पेश किया है?

- (a) Netherland / नीदरलैंड
- (b) India / भारत
- (c) USA / यूएसए
- (d) Singapore / सिंगापुर
- (e) UAE / यूएई

Ans. e

Sol. UAE unveils groundbreaking 'EcoMark' green accreditation framework

UAE has introduced the world's first sustainability accreditation framework for Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs). 'EcoMark' Global Accreditation, based on ISO standards, aims to enhance MSMEs' global competitiveness in the green economy. Digitally enabled certification includes resources for document requirements, sustainability roadmap, and standardized application process.

About United Arab Emirates (UAE)

- **Capital** - Abu Dhabi
- **Currency** - Dirham
- **President** - Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- **Prime Minister** - Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
- **Official language** - Arabic

221. Consider the statements about the Classical Language of India

- (i) Hindi was the first language in India to be accorded classical language status in 2004.
- (ii) The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution lists the official languages of the Republic of India, including 22 languages.
- (iii) India to include Farsi as one of 9 classical languages.

Find the CORRECT statements

- (a) only i
- (b) only i & ii
- (c) only ii & iii
- (d) All are correct
- (e) All are incorrect

Ans. c

Sol. In a significant move to deepen cultural ties, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced that the Government of India has decided to include Farsi (Persian) as one of the nine classical languages in India under the New Education Policy.

Jaishankar also highlights the cultural, literary, and linguistic connections between Iran and India.

This recognition reflects a commitment to fostering greater understanding and appreciation of Farsi's rich heritage within the Indian educational framework.

Tamil was the first language in India to be accorded classical language status in 2004.

Sanskrit, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia are the other languages that have been declared classical languages in India by the central government.

In addition to these classical languages Pali, Persian, and Prakrit; and their works of literature too must be preserved for their richness and for the pleasure and enrichment of posterity," according to India's National Education Policy-2020.

Before Farsi's inclusion, India recognized six languages as classical: Tamil (2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).

The criteria for declaring a language as 'Classical' include a recorded history of 1500-2000 years, a valuable heritage of ancient literature, an original literary tradition, and distinctness from modern forms or offshoots.

8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution

The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution lists the official languages of the Republic of India, including 22 languages. This schedule is pivotal for representation on the Official Languages Commission and enriches Hindi and English, the official languages of the Union.

The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, governed by Articles 344(1) and 351, lists the official languages of India, currently numbering 22. This schedule initially included 14 languages in 1950, with gradual additions over the years, reflecting India's linguistic diversity and cultural richness.

222. Who has been appointed as the Chief Staff Officer (Operations) at the Headquarters of Eastern Naval Command?

पूर्वी नौसेना कमान के मुख्यालय में मुख्य कर्मचारी अधिकारी (संचालन) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Smita Sarangi / स्मिता सारंगी
- (b) Shantanu Jha / शांतनु झा
- (c) Indra Mani Pandey / इंद्र मणि पांडे
- (d) Tanu Singh / तनु सिंह
- (e) Senthil Pandian C / सेंथिल पांडियन सी

Ans. b

Sol. Shantanu Jha Takes Over as Chief Staff Officer at Eastern Naval Command

Rear Admiral Shantanu Jha took charge as Chief Staff Officer (Operations) at the Headquarters, Eastern Naval Command.

Rear Admiral holds the key appointment of the Commodore in (Strategy, Concepts & Transformation) at Naval Headquarters before he took charge as Chief Staff Officer.

The Rear Admiral is a graduate of the National Defence Academy and Navigation and Direction specialist. The Admiral has a Master's degree in Defence Studies from Madras University and International Security & Strategy from Kings College, London.

His diverse experience in International Cooperation has also included his role as Naval Attaché at Tehran.

Recent Appointment in Defence Sector

- **Director General of Naval Operations (DGNO)** - AN Pramod
- **Commandant in Indian Naval Academy** - Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty
- **DG (Acquisition) of Defence Ministry** - Samir Kumar Sinha
- **Vice Chief of the Naval Staff** - Dinesh K. Tripathi
- **Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command (WNC)** - Sanjay Jasjit Singh (replace Dinesh K Tripathi)

223. Consider the following statements about the RuPay Prime Volleyball League 2024

- (i) Hrithik Roshan is appointed as brand ambassador of this league.
- (ii) RuPay Prime Volleyball powered by MPL.
- (iii) In 2024, it will be the 3rd edition of RuPay Prime Volleyball League.
- (iv) This year features ten franchises in the league.

Find the INCORRECT statements

- (a) Only ii
- (b) Only i & iii
- (c) Only ii & iv
- (d) Only iv
- (e) All are correct

Ans. c

Sol. Hrithik Roshan Onboards as Brand Ambassador for RuPay Prime Volleyball League

RuPay Prime Volleyball powered by A23 has appointed Hrithik Roshan as its brand ambassador.

Hrithik engaged in a discussion about the upcoming season of RuPay Prime Volleyball League powered by A23 with some of the top volleyball stars who will be competing in the third edition.

The actor has redefined the meaning of athleticism and fitness over the years and has been a true source of inspiration for many of our athletes.

The RuPay Prime Volleyball League powered by A23, co-owned and exclusively marketed by Baseline Ventures, will enter its third edition this year featuring nine franchises – Hyderabad Black Hawks, Ahmedabad Defenders, Kolkata Thunderbolts, Calicut Heroes, Kochi Blue Spikers, Chennai Blitz, Bengaluru Torpedoes, Mumbai Meteors, and the addition, Delhi Toofans.

Recent Brand Ambassador

- Katie Moon – 19th Tata Mumbai Marathon
- 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
- R Madhavan - The insurtech company Acko

224. Recently, which player has become India's number one chess player, surpassing Vishwanathan Anand?
हाल ही में, कौन सा खिलाड़ी भारत का नंबर एक शतरंज खिलाड़ी बन गया है, जो विश्वनाथन आनंद को पार कर गया है?

- (a) R Praggnanandhaa / आर प्रज्ञानानंद:
- (b) Aravindh Chithambaram / अरविंद चितंबरम
- (c) Alexandr Predke / एलेक्जेंडर प्रेडके
- (d) Abhijeet Gupta / अभिजीत गुप्ता
- (e) Jaykumar Sammed / जयकुमार सम्मेद

Ans. a

Sol. Praggnanandhaa Surpasses Viswanathan Anand to Become India's No.1 Chess Player

Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, an 18-year-old chess prodigy from Chennai, achieved a historic milestone in his career by defeating World Champion Ding Liren from China.

This significant victory occurred during the fourth round of the 2024 Tata Steel Chess Tournament held in Wijk aan Zee.

Praggnanandhaa also leapfrogged over five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand as the country's top-ranked chess player in the FIDE's live ratings with a rating of 2748.3, while Anand is at 2748. (FIDE discloses the published ratings at the start of each month).

Pragg became the second Indian after Anand to defeat a reigning world champion in classical chess.

At Wijk aan Zee, Ding is playing in a rare tournament after taking the world championship crown last year by defeating Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi.

Meanwhile, Gukesh, who last year had become the first Indian to overhaul Anand as India No 1 in 36 years in the FIDE published ratings, lost his encounter with Anish Giri.

225. Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma has created history by becoming the first batsman to score _____ centuries in T20 Internationals (T20Is).

भारतीय क्रिकेट टीम के कप्तान रोहित शर्मा ने टी20 अंतर्राष्ट्रीय (टी20आई) में _____ शतक बनाने वाले पहले बल्लेबाज बनकर इतिहास रच दिया है।

- (a) 4
- (b) 5
- (c) 6
- (d) 7
- (e) 8

Ans. b

Sol. Rohit Sharma becomes the most prolific T20I centurion

Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma has created history by becoming the first batsman to score five centuries in T20 Internationals (T20Is).

This milestone was achieved during the third T20I match against Afghanistan in Bengaluru.

The match between India and Afghanistan became the first in international cricket to feature two Super Overs. It is only the second T20 match to have two super overs - Mumbai Indians vs Kings XI Punjab in the IPL in 2020 was the first teams scoring 214.

5 Hundreds for Rohit Sharma in T20I cricket are the most for any batter in the format, going one ahead of Glenn Maxwell and Suryakumar Yadav.

Rohit had set the record for most T20I hundreds in November 2018, with his fourth century to surpass Colin Munro (3). That record was equalled recently by Maxwell (in November 2023) and Suryakumar (in Dec 2023) before Rohit claimed it back.

226. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has released the book 'Fertilising the Future: Bharat's March Towards Fertilizer Self-Sufficiency'. Who is the author of this book?

उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़ ने 'फर्टिलाइजिंग द फ्यूचर: भारतस मार्च टुवर्ड्स फर्टिलाइजर सेल्फ सफिशिएंसी' पुस्तक का विमोचन किया है। इस पुस्तक के लेखक कौन हैं?

- (a) Anurag Thakur / अनुराग ठाकुर
- (b) Arjun Munda / अर्जुन मुंडा
- (c) Jitendra Singh / जितेंद्र सिंह
- (d) Suresh Prabhu / सुरेश प्रभु
- (e) Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya / डॉ. मनसुख मंडाविया

Ans. e

Sol. Jagdeep Dhankhar released book titled 'Fertilising the Future

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has released the book 'Fertilising the Future: Bharat's March Towards Fertilizer Self-Sufficiency'.

It is written by Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.

The Hindi version of the book is titled 'Urvarak-Atmanirbharta ki Raah.'

The book delineated the journey of making India self-reliant in the fertilizer sector under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the revolutionary changes that have taken place till date.

Recent Books

- **The Babri Masjid Ram Mandir Dilemma: An Acid Test for India's Constitution** - Madhav Godbole
- **Why Bharat Matters** – S Jaishankar
- **Breaking the Mould** – Raghuram Rajan & Rohit Lamba
- **Madam Commissioner: The Extraordinary Life of an Indian Police Chief** - Meeran Chadha Borwankar
- **Zeba: An Accidental Superhero** - Huma Qureshi

227. In which city, PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Boeing's new global engineering and technology centre campus?

किस शहर में, पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी ने बोइंग के नए वैश्विक इंजीनियरिंग और प्रौद्योगिकी केंद्र परिसर का उद्घाटन किया है?

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) Hyderabad / हैदराबाद
- (c) Chennai / चेन्नई
- (d) Greater Noida / ग्रेटर नोएडा
- (e) Thiruvananthapuram / तिरुवनंतपुरम

Ans. a

Sol. PM Modi inaugurates Boeing's India Engineering and Technology Center

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Boeing's new global engineering and technology centre campus near Bengaluru city. Built at a cost of Rs 1,600 crore, the 43-acre Boeing India Engineering and Technology Centre (BIETC) campus is the plane-maker's largest such investment outside the US.

The campus at Hightech Defence and Aerospace Park in Devanahalli on the city outskirts will become a cornerstone for partnerships with the vibrant startups, private and government ecosystem in India, and will help develop next-generation products and services for the global aerospace and defence industry.

PM also launched the 'Boeing Sukanya Programme' that "aims to support the entry of more girl children from across India into the country's growing aviation sector.

The programme will provide opportunities for girls and women to learn critical skills in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) fields and train for jobs in the aviation sector.

For young girls, the programme will create STEM labs at 150 planned locations to help spark interest in STEM careers. It will also provide scholarships to women who are training to be pilots.

PM Modi in News

- PM Modi inaugurated the 27th National Youth Festival in Nashik, Maharashtra.
- PM Modi inaugurated & laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over 30,500 crore rupees in Maharashtra
- PM inaugurates Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Optical Fibre Connection
- PM Modi inaugurates new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli airport
- PM Modi attend DGP conference at Jaipur

228. Who has released a series of commemorative postage stamps dedicated to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and a book featuring stamps from around the world honouring the revered deity?

किसने अयोध्या में राम मंदिर को समर्पित स्मारक डाक टिकटों की एक श्रृंखला और पूज्य देवता के सम्मान में दुनिया भर के टिकटों की विशेषता वाली एक पुस्तक जारी की है?

- (a) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी
- (b) Amit Shah / अमित शाह
- (c) Yogi Adityanath / योगी आदित्यनाथ
- (d) Droupadi Murmu / द्रौपदी मुर्मू
- (e) Jagdeep Dhankhar / जगदीप धनखड़

Ans. a

Sol. PM Modi released commemorative postage stamps, book on Ram Temple

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a series of commemorative postage stamps dedicated to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and a book featuring stamps from around the world honouring the revered deity.

The intricate design of the stamps captures the essence of Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir, with six distinct components. These include the Ram Mandir itself, the timeless Choupai 'Mangal Bhavan Amangal Hari', a radiant depiction of the sun, the sacred Saryu River, and sculptures found in and around the temple.

The six stamps within the collection represent key figures and elements from the Ramayana. These include the Ram Temple, Lord Ganesh, Lord Hanuman, Jatayu, Kevatraj, and Ma Shabri.

Each stamp is adorned with a touch of elegance, featuring a gold leaf of sun rays and the Choupai, adding a majestic touch to the entire miniature sheet.

Accompanying the Stamp Release is a 48-page book that sheds light on the international resonance of Lord Ram. The book showcases stamps issued by more than 20 countries, including the United States, New Zealand, Singapore, Canada, Cambodia, and even by international organizations such as the United Nations.

This collection aims to underline the universal appeal and influence of Lord Ram on diverse societies across the globe.

229. India and which country have agreed to jointly fund scientific research projects in the fields of health, decarbonized hydrogen, marine sciences, and applied mathematics?

भारत और किस देश ने स्वास्थ्य, डीकार्बोनेटेड हाइड्रोजन, समुद्री विज्ञान और अनुप्रयुक्त गणित के क्षेत्र में संयुक्त रूप से वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान परियोजनाओं को निधि देने के लिए सहमति व्यक्त की है?

- (a) France / फ्रांस
- (b) Russia / रूस
- (c) UK / यूके
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) Canada / कनाडा

Ans. a

Sol. India, France to jointly fund science research projects

India and France have agreed to jointly fund scientific research projects in the fields of health, decarbonized hydrogen, marine sciences, and applied mathematics.

The decision was taken during a meeting of the Indo-French Joint Committee on Science and Technology (JCST) in the India International Science Festival.

The two sides also pointed out the key role of mobility and networking in preparing future cutting-edge scientific cooperation.

Recently India signed MoUs with others countries

- India and Mauritius collaborate on Rs 20 crore small satellite project
- India and Guyana signed MoU for Hydrocarbon Sector
- India and Malaysia sign an MoU for Cooperation in Broadcasting
- India and Italy signed Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement
- India, Russia ink pacts on construction of future power generating units of Kudankulam nuclear plant, Tamil Nadu

230. The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to set up 1x660 MW thermal power station in Madhya Pradesh and 2x800 MW thermal power plant in Odisha. By which company will these power plants be established?

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने मध्य प्रदेश में 1x660 मेगावाट और ओडिशा में 2x800 मेगावाट का थर्मल पावर प्लांट स्थापित करने के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दे दी है। ये बिजली संयंत्र किस कंपनी द्वारा स्थापित किये जायेंगे?

- (a) ReNew Power / रिन्यू पावर
- (b) Adani Enterprises / अडानी एंटरप्राइजेज
- (c) JSW Energy / जेएसडब्ल्यू एनर्जी
- (d) NTPC Limited / एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड
- (e) Coal India Limited / कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड

Ans. e

Sol. Cabinet approves Coal India power projects through JVs

The Union Cabinet has approved setting up of two pithead thermal power plants through joint ventures by subsidiaries South Eastern Coalfields (SECL) and Mahanadi Coalfields (MCL) aimed at providing cheaper power.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Narendra Modi approved proposals to set up a 1x660 MW thermal power plant at Amarkantak Thermal Power Station in Chachai, Madhya Pradesh. The CCEA also approved a 2x800 MW Thermal Power Plant in Sundergarh, Odisha.

The plant at Amarkantak thermal power station will be set through a joint venture between SECL and MPPGCL. The proposal for equity investment at a capital of Rs 823 crore by SECL and 49 percent equity investment in JV company with an estimated project capex of Rs 5,600 crore has been approved.

For the Sundergarh project, a proposed equity capital of Rs 4,784 crore by MCL with an estimated project capex of Rs 15,947 crore through MBPL has been approved. The Cabinet gave its nod to MBPL, a special-purpose vehicle of MCL to set up the plant.

Coal India Limited the largest coal mining company in the world, will set up two Pithead Thermal Power Plants, through its subsidiaries, with a view to provide cheaper power to the country.

231. Consider the following statements about the International Kolkata Book Fair 2024:

- (i) West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee inaugurated the 49th edition of the International Kolkata Book Fair.
- (ii) The France is the theme country for this year's fair.

Find the CORRECT statement?

- (a) Only i
- (b) Only ii
- (c) Both are correct
- (d) Both are incorrect

Ans. d

Sol. West Bengal CM inaugurates 47th International Kolkata Book Fair

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has inaugurated the 47th edition of the International Kolkata Book Fair.

The United Kingdom is the theme country for this year's fair, which has about 1,000 stalls and is scheduled to run from January 18 to January 31 at Salt Lake's Central Park here.

Nearly 20 countries were participating in this year's book fair, which has become a big festival for Kolkata.

This year marks the U.K. as the theme country for the fourth time at the International Kolkata Book Fair. The U.K. pavilion is designed to immerse visitors in the essence of British culture, highlighting its modern contributions to education, the English language, and the arts. A stall of The Hindu has also been put up at the fair after a gap of almost 15 years. Several special publications, including The Cholas, The Himalayas as well as The Hindu Book of Editorials are being displayed at the stall.

About West Bengal

- **Capital** – Kolkata
- **Chief Minister** – Mamata Banerjee
- **Governor** – C V Ananda Bose

232. Which of the following ministries will organize the “Bharat Parv” from 23-31 January at the Lawns and Gyan Path in front of the historic Red Fort in Delhi?

निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा मंत्रालय दिल्ली में ऐतिहासिक लाल किले के सामने लॉन और ज्ञान पथ पर 23-31 जनवरी तक "भारत पर्व" का आयोजन करेगा?

- (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 Tourism / पर्यटन मंत्रालय

Ans. e

Sol. Ministry of Tourism to organize “Bharat Parv” from 23-31 January

The nine-day extravaganza, part of the Republic Day celebrations, is set to unfold from January 23rd to January 31, at the Lawns and Gyan Path in front of the historic Red Fort in Delhi.

Since its inception in 2016, Bharat Parv has evolved into a grand celebration, bringing together the rich tapestry of India's cultural heritage, citizen-centric initiatives, and vibrant traditions.

The event promises a captivating blend of Republic Day Parade tableaux, dynamic cultural performances, engaging presentations, and a feast of delectable delicacies from every corner of the country.

This year's Bharat Parv showcases the participation of 26 Central Ministries and Departments, each highlighting citizen-centric schemes and government initiatives such as Mission Life, One District One Product, Viksit Bharat, Nari Shakti, and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

To enhance the cultural experience, thematic pavilions of more than 30 states and union territories have been set up, providing visitors with a glimpse of the diverse tourist attractions of the country. The event is not only a celebration of heritage but also a platform for local artisans to shine, with "Vocal for Local" being promoted through their participation in displaying and selling their products.

233. Consider the following statements regarding the Finance Commission:

- (i) The Finance Commission is a statutory body that gives suggestions on Centre-State financial relations.
- (ii) The Union Cabinet approved the creation of three posts at the level of Joint Secretary for the 16th Finance Commission.
- (iii) In December 2023, Anoop Singh Pandey was named as the Secretary to the 16th Finance Commission.
- (ii) The 16th Finance Commission chaired by Arvind Panagariya.

How many of the statements given above are CORRECT?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All are correct
- (e) All are incorrect

Ans. b

Statements

- (i) The Finance Commission is a statutory body that gives suggestions on Centre-State financial relations. **(Incorrect)**
- (ii) The Union Cabinet approved the creation of three posts at the level of Joint Secretary for the 16th Finance Commission. **(Correct)**
- (iii) In December 2023, Anoop Singh Pandey was named as the Secretary to the 16th Finance Commission. **(Incorrect)**
- (ii) The 16th Finance Commission chaired by Arvind Panagariya. **(Correct)**

Sol. Cabinet approves creation of posts for 16th Finance Commission

The Cabinet has approved the creation of three officer-level posts for assisting the 16th Finance Commission, chaired by Arvind Panagariya.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the creation of three posts at the level of Joint Secretary i.e. two posts of Joint Secretary and one post of Economic Adviser, for the 16th Finance Commission.

The newly created posts are required to assist the Commission in carrying out its functions. All other posts in the commission have already been created as per the delegated powers.

In December 2023, the government appointed the former vice chairman of Niti Aayog Panagariya as the chairman of the 16th Finance Commission. While, Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey was named as the Secretary to the Commission.

The Commission would submit its report to the President by October 31, 2025. The report would be for five years commencing April 1, 2026.

Besides suggesting tax devolution between the Centre and States and revenue augmentation measures, the Commission would review the present arrangements for financing disaster management initiatives with reference to the funds constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

The erstwhile 15th Finance Commission under N.K. Singh had recommended that States be given 41% of the divisible tax pool of the Centre during five-year period 2021-22 to 2025-26, which is at the same level as was recommended by the 14th Finance Commission.

As for the Fifteenth finance commission, it was chaired by N.K. Singh and members included Shaktikanta Das, Ashok Lahiri, Ramesh Chand and Anoop Singh.

About Finance Commission

- The Finance Commission was constituted in pursuance of Article 280 of the Constitution.
- The Finance Commission is a constitutional body that gives suggestions on Centre-State financial relations.

234. Which bank has launched the Money2India app, which allows customers of any Canadian bank to send money to any bank in India?
किस बैंक ने Money2India ऐप लॉन्च किया है, जो किसी भी कनाडाई बैंक के ग्राहकों को भारत के किसी भी बैंक में पैसे भेजने की अनुमति देता 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. ICICI Bank Canada Launches 'Money2India (Canada)' Mobile Banking App

ICICI Bank Canada, a subsidiary of ICICI Bank Ltd., has launched the app Money2India, which allows customers of any Canadian bank to send money to any bank in India without an account with ICICI Bank Canada.

Customers can send money directly through the app via Visa or Mastercard.

Customers can send up to \$22,446 in a single transaction and can set up recurring transfers. The app features two-factor authentication and a one-time password.

The introduction of the 'Money2India (Canada)' app reflects our commitment to providing users with a convenient and enriched experience.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- IndusInd Bank launch **Platinum Credit Card** association with EazyDiner
- Yes Bank launched **SmartFin supply chain** powered by Veefin finance solution
- DLabs at ISB launches '**Build for Billions**' jointly with RBI Innovation Hub, Union Bank of India
- SBI launched **Green Rupee Term Deposit** of 1,111 days, 1,777 days, and 2,222 days tenor for resident individuals, non-individuals, and NRI customers.
- Indian Bank launches '**Indian Bank One Co-Branded Credit Card**'

235. Daljit Singh Chaudhary has been appointed as the Director General of which of the following forces?

दलजीत सिंह चौधरी को निम्नलिखित में से कौन सी सेना के महानिदेशक के रूप में नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) CISF / सीआईएसएफ
- (b) BSF / बीएसएफ
- (c) ITBP / आईटीबीपी
- (d) SSB / एसएसबी
- (e) CRPF / सीआरपीएफ

Ans. d

Sol. Daljit Singh Chaudhary appointed Director General of SSB

Senior IPS officer Daljit Singh Chaudhary has appointed as the Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

Chaudhary, a 1990 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, is presently working as Special Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment as the DG, SSB for a period up to November 30, 2025..

The SSB guards India's frontiers with Nepal and Bhutan.

Recent Appointment in Defence Sector

- **Vice Chief of the Naval Staff** - Dinesh K. Tripathi
- **DG of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** - Nina Singh (first woman Director)
- **DG of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** - Rahul Rasgotra (replace Anish Dayal Singh)
- **DG of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** - Anish Dayal Singh
- **DG of the Fire Service** - Vivek Srivastava

236. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Praveen Achuthan Kutty as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of which bank?

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने किस बैंक के प्रबंध निदेशक और मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी के रूप में प्रवीण अच्युतन कुट्टी की नियुक्ति को मंजूरी दे दी है?

- (a) DCB Bank / डीसीबी बैंक
- (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. a

Sol. Praveen Achuthan Kutty appointed as MD & CEO of DCB Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Praveen Achuthan Kutty as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of DCB Bank.

The appointment is for a period of three years with effect from April 29, 2024, the bank said in a regulatory filing. The term of the bank's MD & CEO Murali Natrajan ends on April 28, 2024.

Praveen Achuthan Kutty has over 32 years of experience in all aspects of Retail & SME banking.

Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **Deputy Governor of RBI** - Michael Patra (1 year extension)
- **CEO of PhonePe For International Payments Division** - Ritesh Pai
- **Executive Director of SEBI** - G Ram Mohan Rao (for 3 years)
- **'Class C' Director on Board of Directors of Federal Reserve Bank of New York** - Rajiv Shah
- **MD & CEO of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)** - P Santhosh (replace Natarajan Sundar)

237. Who has been appointed as the CEO of PepsiCo India?
पेप्सिको इंडिया के सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Ganesan Kannabiran / गणेशन कन्नाबीरन
- (b) Neeraj Akhoury / नीरज अखौरी
- (c) Pramod Sharma / प्रमोद शर्मा
- (d) Jagrut Kotecha / जाग्रुत कोटेचा
- (e) Anant Maheshwari / अनंत माहेश्वरी

Ans. d

Sol. PepsiCo India appoints Jagrut Kotecha as new CEO

Jagrut Kotecha has been appointed as the CEO of Snacks and beverage major 'PepsiCo India'.

He will succeed Ahmed El Sheikh, who will take over as CEO for the Middle East Business Unit, in March, after a seven-year stint in India.

Kotecha is currently Chief Commercial Officer for PepsiCo in Africa, Middle East, and South Asia (AMESA).

Recent Appointment

- **As a member of the UPSC - Sheel Vardhan Singh**
- **MD of Bangalore Metro - Maheshwar Rao**
- **MD of Experian India - Manish Jain**
- **Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution - Bharat Harbanslal Khera**
- **Additional Secretary as well as Mission Director for the Dept of Drinking Water and Sanitation's Jal Jeevan Mission - Chandra Bhushan Kumar**
- **Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation - Puja Singh Mandol**

238. Which of the following country is hosting ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2024?

निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा देश ICC U-19 क्रिकेट विश्व कप 2024 की मेजबानी कर रहा है?

- (a) Pakistan / पाकिस्तान
- (b) Bangladesh / बांग्लादेश
- (c) Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया
- (d) South Africa / दक्षिण अफ्रीका
- (e) India / भारत

Ans. d

Sol. South Africa host ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2024

South Africa is hosting the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2024. The World Cup started on 19 January and will conclude on 11 February.

This 50-over tournament will feature 16 teams, with a total of 41 matches scheduled to be played.

The initial phase of the tournament organizes the teams into four groups, each containing four teams. This will be followed by the Super Six stage, comprising two groups of six teams each. This stage will be crucial in determining which teams advance to the semifinals and ultimately compete in the final.

The ICC U19 World Cup 2024 in India will be broadcast on Star Sports Network TV channels. The live streaming will be available on the Disney+ Hotstar app and website for free.

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

239. Who will be honored with Assam's highest civilian award 'Assam Baibhav'?

असम के सर्वोच्च नागरिक पुरस्कार 'असम बैभव' से किसे सम्मानित किया जाएगा?

- (a) Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde / जस्टिस शरद अरविंद बोबडे
- (b) Justice D.Y. Chandrachud / जस्टिस डी. वाई. चंद्रचूड़
- (c) Justice Uday Lalit / जस्टिस उदय ललित
- (d) Justice N. V. Ramana / जस्टिस एन वी रमना
- (e) Justice Ranjan Gogoi / जस्टिस रंजन गोगोई

Ans. e

Sol. Former CJI Ranjan Gogoi to be honoured with 'Assam Baibhav' Award

Former Chief Justice of India and current Rajya Sabha MP, Ranjan Gogoi is to be honored with the prestigious 'Assam Baibhav' award, the highest civilian award in Assam.

This announcement was made by the Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, who highlighted Gogoi's significant contributions to the field of justice and jurisprudence.

The award ceremony is scheduled to take place on February 10.

This is the third year on which the awards will be given. "In the first year, we gave the Assam Baibhav award to Ratan Tata and last year we gave the award to Tapan Saikia.

Ranjan Gogoi held the office of the 46th Chief Justice of India. During his tenure as CJI, the Supreme Court delivered its ruling on the long-pending Ayodhya Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute in 2019. This marked the conclusion of the decade-old controversial case.

Recent Awards

- **Environment Officer Award by VSI** - Deepa Bhandare
- **Kuvempu Award 2023** - Shirshendu Mukyopadhyaya (Bengali Writer)
- **M S Swaminathan Award** - Prof. B.R. Kamboj
- **First Indian Company to receive ISCC-Plus certification** - Reliance Industries
- **Conferred Honorary Doctorate By Japanese University** - Devendra Fadnavis

240. Which company has been conferred with the prestigious SCOPE Eminence Award in the category of Women Empowerment for the period 2019-20?

2019-20 की अवधि के लिए महिला सशक्तिकरण की श्रेणी में किस कंपनी को प्रतिष्ठित स्कोप एमिनेंस अवार्ड से सम्मानित किया गया है?

- (a) ReNew Power / रिन्यू पावर
- (b) Adani Enterprises / अडानी एंटरप्राइजेज
- (c) JSW Energy / जेएसडब्ल्यू एनर्जी
- (d) NTPC Limited / एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड
- (e) Engineers India Limited / इंजीनियर्स इंडिया लिमिटेड

Ans. e

Sol. EIL conferred with SCOPE Eminence Award

Engineers India Limited (EIL) has been conferred with the prestigious SCOPE Eminence Award in the category of Women Empowerment for the period 2019-20.

The award recognizes EIL's exemplary commitment to fostering an inclusive & diverse work environment and celebrates the outstanding achievement of its women workforce.

The award was presented to EIL by the Vice-President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar and received by EIL's Director (Finance) Sanjay Jindal and Director (Commercial) Atul Gupta, during an award ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

241. India and which country have signed an MoU in the field of sharing successful digital solutions implemented at population scale for digital transformation?

भारत और किस देश ने डिजिटल परिवर्तन के लिए जनसंख्या पैमाने पर कार्यान्वित सफल डिजिटल समाधानों को साझा करने के क्षेत्र में सहयोग पर एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Cuba / क्यूबा
- (b) Ghana / घाना
- (c) Sudan / सूडान
- (d) Zimbabwe / जिम्बाब्वे
- (e) Oman / ओमान

Ans. a

Sol. India, Cuba signed an MoU on digital public infrastructure collaboration

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Communications of the Republic of Cuba on Cooperation in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions Implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation in New Delhi.

The MoU intends to promote digital transformation through capacity-building programs, exchange of best practices, and other collaborative activities to mutually benefit the digital ecosystems of both countries.

India to assist Cuba in adopting Digital Public Infrastructure, fostering development partnerships for enhanced collaboration.

Recently India signed MoUs with others countries

- India and France to jointly fund science research projects
- India and Mauritius collaborate on Rs 20 crore small satellite project
- India and Guyana signed MoU for Hydrocarbon Sector
- India and Malaysia sign an MoU for Cooperation in Broadcasting
- India and Italy signed Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement

242. In January 2024, Ethnic Mamani Festival has been celebrated in which place?

जनवरी 2024 में जातीय ममानी महोत्सव किस स्थान पर मनाया गया है?

- (a) Jammu and Kashmir / जम्मू और कश्मीर
- (b) Guwahati / गुवाहाटी
- (c) Kolkata / कोलकाता
- (d) Ujjain / उज्जैन
- (e) Ladakh / लद्दाख

Ans. e

Sol. Ladakh organized Mamani Festival

In Ladakh, the annual Ethnic Mamani Festival was organized at Historical Styangkung Village and Chiktan Shagaran.

The Steyangkung village is around 500 years old and still well-preserved till now and is being developed as one of the well-maintained heritage villages in Ladakh.

The history of the celebration of the Mamani Festival in Ladakh goes back to the ancient tradition of giving food to departed family members.

During Mamani, people would exchange food with their relatives and neighbours and worship a variety of spirits (Lha). These Festivals have helped in the revival of more than 35 Cuisines of Kargil Ladakh.

The Mamani Festival is organized by Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation (HCHF) and the Ladakh Tourism Department.

243. Who has launched the 'Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan' in Delhi, a nationwide campaign to connect with rural and urban communities?

दिल्ली में ग्रामीण और शहरी समुदायों से जुड़ने के लिए एक राष्ट्रव्यापी अभियान 'गाँव चलो अभियान' किसने शुरू किया है?

- (a) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी
- (b) Amit Shah / अमित शाह
- (c) Arvind Kejriwal / अरविंद केजरीवाल
- (d) Droupadi Murmu / द्रौपदी मुर्मु
- (e) JP Nadda / जेपी नड्डा

Ans. e

Sol. JP Nadda launches 'Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan' in Delhi

BJP President JP Nadda has launched the 'Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan' in Delhi, a nationwide campaign to connect with rural and urban communities.

The program is scheduled from February 4th to 11 February.

Under the Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan, BJP workers aim to reach seven lakh villages and urban booths, disseminating the achievements of the Modi government.

Over 30 lakh party workers will participate in the Abhiyaan.

244. Who has inaugurated the National Skill Training Institute in Hyderabad, Telangana?

हैदराबाद, तेलंगाना में राष्ट्रीय कौशल प्रशिक्षण संस्थान का उद्घाटन किसने किया है?

- (a) Anurag Thakur / अनुराग ठाकुर
- (b) Piyush Goyal / पीयूष गोयल
- (c) Jitendra Singh / जितेंद्र सिंह
- (d) Sarbananda Sonowal / सर्बानंद सोनोवाल
- (e) G Kishan Reddy / जी किशन रेड्डी

Ans. e

Sol. G Kishan Reddy inaugurates National Skill Training Institute in Hyderabad
Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy has inaugurated the National Skill Training Institute in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Constructed for 19.90 crore rupees in 4 acres of area, the institute offers both short-term and long-term skilling courses to women in various sectors.

Reddy said that the empowerment of women has been a major priority for the Central Government. He said the Government has launched numerous schemes dedicated to empowering women across India. He recalled the initiatives like Beti Bachao Beti Padhav and PM Ujjwala.

245. Who has laid the foundation stone for Ayush Diksha Centre in Odisha?

ओडिशा में आयुष दीक्षा केंद्र की आधारशिला किसने रखी है?

- (a) Anurag Thakur / ते अनुराग ठाकुर
- (b) Piyush Goyal / पीयूष गोयल
- (c) Jitendra Singh / जितेंद्र सिंह
- (d) Sarbananda Sonowal / सर्बानंद सोनोवाल
- (e) Amit Shah / अमित शाह

Ans. d

Sol. Sarbananda Sonowal laid foundation stone for Ayush Diksha Centre in Odisha

Union minister of Ayush and ports, shipping and waterways Sarbananda Sonowal has laid the foundation stone for Ayush Diksha, a first-of-its-kind centre for the development of human resources for Ayush professionals.

This state-of-the-art centre will be developed within the campus of Central Ayurveda Research Institute, Bhubaneswar.

The Ayush Diksha centre is being built with a budget of Rs 30 crore. It will be equipped with state-of-the-art facilities including two auditoriums, 40 modern rooms with all amenities, suites for VIPs, dedicated space for a natural library, discussion rooms, modular kitchen, dining lounge, among other amenities.

The Ayush Diksha Centre will enable the Ayush professionals to hone their skills and upscale their dexterity in providing world-class patient care services to the people of the country.

The institution will offer training programmes for Ayush professionals, especially those from Ayurveda, as it aims to collaborate with national institutes of prominence for capacity development, strengthening human resources, facilitating research and development, achieving self-sustainability with an objective to generate revenue.

246. In January 2024, Hardeep Singh Puri launched the first pilot project to make jet fuel from alcohol in which city?

जनवरी 2024 में, हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने किस शहर में अल्कोहल से जेट ईंधन बनाने का पहला पायलट प्रोजेक्ट लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) Hyderabad / हैदराबाद
- (c) Chennai / चेन्नई
- (d) Pune / पुणे
- (e) Thiruvananthapuram / तिरुवनंतपुरम

Ans. d

Sol. Hardeep S Puri launches first pilot project to make jet fuel from alcohol

The first pilot technology project to make jet fuel from alcohol was inaugurated by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in Pune.

This project will produce sustainable biological aviation fuel or SAF.

This pilot project has been set up in the research and development department of Praj Udyog Group in Pirangut Industrial Estate near Pune.

The flight from Pune to Delhi was completed last year using bioaviation fuel made from alcohol. At that time, Puri welcomed the flight at the Delhi airport.

This biofuel production industry will have a huge scope in the future as even if at least one percent of the total aviation fuel used in India is blended with this sustainable bio aviation fuel, at least 14 crore litres of biofuel will be needed every year.

247. In January 2024, A Popular Festival known as 'Gole Mela' has been organized in which temple?
जनवरी 2024 में, 'गोले मेला' के नाम से जाना जाने वाला एक लोकप्रिय उत्सव किस मंदिर में आयोजित किया गया है?

- (a) Shree Padmanabhaswamy Temple / श्री पद्मनाभस्वामी मंदिर
- (b) Shree Somnath Jyotirlinga Temple / श्री सोमनाथ ज्योतिर्लिंग मंदिर
- (c) Shree Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple / श्री अरुल्मिगु रामनाथस्वामी मंदिर
- (d) Jagannath Temple / जगन्नाथ मंदिर
- (e) Ram Temple / राम मंदिर

Ans. d

Sol. Jagannath Temple Hosts 'Gole Mela' Festival in Udhampur

In Jammu and Kashmir, a Popular Festival known as 'Gole Mela' has been organized at Jagannath temple in Udhampur.

A large number of devotees assembled and paid obeisance at Jagannath temple. Various of stalls were established at the venue of the festival.

Gole Mela is organized twice every year. Devotees believe that from today the night time starts decreasing and day time starts increasing day by day.

Moreover, two ancient temples are dedicated to Lord Jagannatha across India. One is situated in Puri, Orissa, and other in Udhampur District of Jammu and Kashmir.

248. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel have laid the foundation stone of Khodaldham Trust Cancer Hospital in which city of the state?

केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री मनसुख मंडाविया और गुजरात के मुख्यमंत्री भूपेन्द्र पटेल ने राज्य के किस शहर में खोडलधाम ट्रस्ट कैंसर अस्पताल की आधारशिला रखी है?

- (a) Surat / सूरत /
- (b) Ahmedabad / अहमदाबाद
- (c) Rajkot / राजकोट
- (d) Gandhinagar / गांधीनगर
- (e) Vadodara / वडोदरा

Ans. c

Sol. Mansukh Mandaviya laid foundation stone for cancer hospital in Rajkot

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel laid the foundation stone of Khodaldham Trust Cancer Hospital in Rajkot.

The Shree Khodaldham Trust (SKT), an organization for the Leuva Patel community, will build a hospital and a cancer research center in Amreli village in Padadhari taluka of Rajkot.

Earlier, PM Modi, while virtually addressing the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the hospital, said that 30 new cancer hospitals were developed in the state in the last nine years.

Gujarat has made unprecedented progress in the field of health in the last 20 years. Today, Gujarat is becoming a big medical hub in India. Till 2002, there were only 11 medical colleges in Gujarat, and their number has increased to 40 currently.

In 20 years, the number of MBBS seats has increased five times, and the number of PG seats has increased three times. The central government has built around 1.5 lakh 'Ayushman Arogya Mandirs'.

These Mandirs focus on the early detection of cancer and other life-threatening diseases. The early detection of cancer helps doctors treat it.

249. Union Cabinet Minister Kiren Rijiju has inaugurated the Young Scientist Conference at India International Science Festival 2023 in which city?

केंद्रीय कैबिनेट मंत्री किरें रिजिजू ने किस शहर में भारत अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान महोत्सव 2023 में युवा वैज्ञानिक सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन किया है?

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Chennai / चेन्नई
- (d) Faridabad / फ़रीदाबाद
- (e) Thiruvananthapuram / तिरुवनंतपुरम

Ans. d

Sol. Kiren Rijiju inaugurates the Young Scientist Conference at IISF 2023

Union Cabinet Minister Kiren Rijiju has inaugurated the Young Scientist Conference at India International Science Festival 2023 in Faridabad, Haryana.

He emphasized the pivotal role of the Young Scientist Conference (YSC) in providing a platform for nurturing aspiring researchers in the realm of frontier sciences.

The Young Scientist Conference serves as a vibrant platform, bringing together young postgraduates, research scholars, postdocs, academicians, scientists, entrepreneurs, and innovators under the age of 45.

Participants are drawn from diverse backgrounds, including R&D laboratories, academic institutions, and industries. The conference aims to facilitate the exchange of experiences, ideas, and discussions that contribute to the country's scientific vision.

250. Union Minister of Mines, Coal, and Parliamentary Affairs, Pralhad Joshi has inaugurated the 2nd State Mining Ministers' Conference in which city?

केंद्रीय खान, कोयला और संसदीय कार्य मंत्री, प्रल्हाद जोशी ने किस शहर में दूसरे राज्य खनन मंत्रियों के सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन किया है?

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

Ans. d

Sol. Pralhad Joshi inaugurated State Mining Minister's Conference in Bhopal
Union Minister of Mines, Coal, and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi has inaugurated the 2nd State Mining Ministers' Conference in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

This 2nd Conference of State Mining Ministers provides opportunities to discuss & deliberate issues pertaining to the mining sector paving way to implement the reforms done in the mining sector.

The focal point of the conference is to develop strategies and increase the effectiveness of the new policy reforms brought out by the Union Government.

251. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, marking a momentous occasion in India's history. The Ram Lalla idol has been crafted by which sculptor?

प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने अयोध्या में राम मंदिर का उद्घाटन किया है, जो भारत के इतिहास में एक महत्वपूर्ण अवसर है। रामलला की मूर्ति किस मूर्तिकार द्वारा बनाई गई है?

- (a) Ramkinkar Baij / रामकिंकर बैज
- (b) Anish Kapoor / अनीश कपूर
- (c) Ram V. Sutar / राम वी. सुतार
- (d) Sompura family/ सोमपुरा परिवार
- (e) Arun Yogiraj / अरुण योगीराज

Ans. e

Sol. PM Modi inaugurated the Ayodhya Ram Mandir

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, marking a momentous occasion in India's history.

The inauguration involved the 'Pran Pratishtha' (consecration) ceremony of the Ram Lalla idol, a pivotal event that symbolizes the infusion of life into the idol.

The event, attended by over 7,000 dignitaries, was not just a religious ceremony but also a cultural milestone for India.

The Ram Lalla idol, crafted by renowned sculptor Arun Yogiraj from Karnataka, is a 51-inch black-coloured depiction of Lord Ram as a five-year-old child.

Ayodhya Dham Architecture

- The temple is 76 metres (250 ft) wide, 120 metres (380 ft) long and 49 metres (161 ft) high.
- The temple complex will be the world's third largest Hindu temple.
- It is designed in the Gurjara-Chaulukya style of Nagara style architecture, a type of Hindu temple architecture
- Main Deity - Ram Lalla Virajman, the infant form of Rama, an avatar of Vishnu, is the presiding deity of the temple.
- Ram Lalla's dress was stitched by tailors Bhagwat Prasad and Shankar Lal.
- Architect of the Temple - Sompura Family Ram Mandir. Sompura comes from a long line of temple architects and is the 15th generation of the family, hailing from Ahmedabad.
- Construction Company - Larsen & Toubro
- The main temple complex covers 2.7 acres (Total 70 acres)

Dimensions of the temple

•The temple is having 5 mandapas named 'Kudu, Nritya, Rang, Kirtana, and Prarthana.'

- Total Area- 2.7 acres
- Total Built-up Area- 57,400 s ft.
- The total length of the temple- 360 feet
- Total width of the temple- 235 feet
- The total height of the temple including the peak-161 feet
- Total number of floors- 3
- Height of each floor- 20 feet
- Number of columns on the ground floor of the temple- 160
- Number of columns on the first floor of the temple- 132
- Number of columns on the second floor of the temple- 74
- Number of peaks and pavilions in the temple- 5
- Number of gates in the temple- 12

252. Bernardo Arevalo was sworn in as president of which country?

बर्नार्डो अरेवलो ने किस देश के राष्ट्रपति के रूप में शपथ ली है?

- (a) Nicaragua / निकारागुआ
- (b) Honduras / होंडुरस
- (c) Ecuador / इकेडोर
- (d) Guatemala / ग्वाटेमाला
- (e) El Salvador / अल साल्वाडोर

Ans. d

Sol. Arevalo sworn in as Guatemala's president

Anti-corruption crusader Bernardo Arevalo was sworn in as Guatemala's president.

Guatemala's attorney general, an ally of Giammattei, has made several attempts to hinder Arevalo's transition to the presidency, including trying to strip Arevalo and his vice president of legal immunity, attempting to suspend his Semilla party and annul the election.

Arevalo won August elections by a landslide and about 9 hours after his inauguration was scheduled to start, he took the oath as president, replacing conservative politician Alejandro Giammattei whose government has been engulfed in corruption scandals. Giammattei skipped the ceremony.

About Guatemala

- Capital- Guatemala City
- Currency- Guatemalan Quetzal
- Continent- North America
- Official language- Spanish
- President - Bernardo Arevalo

Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President

- President of Taiwan - William Lai
- King of Denmark - King Frederik X (replace Queen Margrethe II)
- Prime Minister of France - Gabriel Attal (replace Elisabeth Borne)
- Prime Minister of Bangladesh – Sheikh Hasina (5th term)
- President of Congo - Felix Tshisekedi (2nd term)
- President of Egypt - Abdel Fattah El-Sisi (3rd term)

253. State-owned Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has partnered with which bank to co-finance renewable energy projects in India?

राज्य के स्वामित्व वाली भारतीय नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा विकास एजेंसी (आईआरईडीए) ने भारत में नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं के सह-वित्तपोषण के लिए किस बैंक के साथ साझेदारी की 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. b

Sol. IREDA, Indian Overseas Bank ink pact to co-finance renewable energy projects

State-owned Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has partnered with the Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) to co-finance renewable energy projects in India.

The agreement was signed in the presence of IREDA CMD Pradip Kumar Das and IOB MD and CEO Ajay Kumar Srivastava in the national capital. The partnership aims to streamline loan syndication and underwriting processes, management of Trust and Retention Account (TRA) for IREDA borrowers, and work towards fixed interest rates over a 3-4-year period for IREDA borrowings.

This collaboration builds upon IREDA's successful partnerships with other prominent financial institutions, including Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Union Bank of India, India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited, and Bank of Maharashtra.

IREDA, under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, is a non-banking financial institution engaged in promoting, developing, and extending financial assistance for setting up projects related to new and renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency/conservation.

About Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)

- IREDA is a Mini Ratna (Category - I) Government of India Enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- IREDA is a Public Limited Government Company established as a Non-Banking Financial Institution in 1987
- Motto- "ENERGY FOR EVER"
- Chairman & MD - Pradip Kumar Das
- CFO- Bijay Kumar Mohanty

Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- IREDA and Indian Overseas Bank ink pact to co-finance renewable energy projects
- Rural Development Ministry signs pact with SBI to facilitate loans for SHGs
- REC Limited and Bank of Baroda join hands to finance Power, Infra, and Logistics Projects
- NABARD and ADB jointly launch climate action initiative in India with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- SBI to sign \$165 million LoC with World Bank for rooftop solar projects

254. Which bank has launched its new deposit scheme '360'?

किस बैंक ने अपनी नई जमा योजना '360' लॉन्च की 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. a

Sol. BoB launches new 'bob 360' deposit scheme

An Indian public sector bank, Bank of Baroda launched its new 'bob-360 deposit scheme'.

The scheme pays out an annual interest rate of 7.60 percent.

In this, general fixed deposit account holders will receive interest of up to 7.10 percent, while senior citizens will receive 7.60 percent interest.

"bob-360" is an excellent opportunity for depositors who are looking for higher interest rates and assured returns for a shorter time period.

According to the bank, new as well as existing customers can benefit from the scheme at any Bank of Baroda branch across India, both online and offline method.

About Bank of Baroda (BOB)

- **Founded** - 1908
- **Headquarters** - Vadodara, Gujarat
- **MD & CEO** - Debadatta Chand
- **Tagline** - India's International Bank

255. Which insurance company has launched a new saving and annuity plan "Jeevan Dhara II"?

किस बीमा कंपनी ने नई बचत और वार्षिकी योजना "जीवन धारा II" लॉन्च की 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) Life Insurance Corporation of India / भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
- (e) Universal Sompo General Insurance / यूनिवर्सल सोम्पो जनरल इंश्योरेंस

Ans. d

Sol. LIC launches Jeevan Dhara II plan

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a new saving and annuity plan Jeevan Dhara II.

The minimum age of entry into the Jeevan Dhara II policy is 20 years and the maximum age of entry into the policy can be 80/70/65 years minus the deferment period, depending upon the annuity option chosen.

The annuity is guaranteed from inception and 11 annuity options are available to prospective policyholders.

The non-participating plan provides life cover during deferment period and offers higher annuity rate at higher age. Loan facility shall be available during or after the deferment period under annuity options with return of premium/ purchase price.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- ICICI Bank Canada launched 'Money2India (Canada)' Mobile Banking App
- IndusInd Bank launch **Platinum Credit Card** association with EazyDiner
- Yes Bank launched **SmartFin supply chain** powered by Veefin finance solution
- DLabs at ISB launches 'Build for Billions' jointly with RBI Innovation Hub, Union Bank of India
- SBI launched **Green Rupee Term Deposit** of 1,111 days, 1,777 days, and 2,222 days tenor for resident individuals, non-individuals, and NRI customers.

256. Which of the following airports have jointly bagged the best airport award for the year at the 4th edition of “The Wings India Awards” in the Civil Aviation Sector?

निम्नलिखित में से किस हवाई अड्डे ने नागरिक उड्डयन क्षेत्र में "द विंग्स इंडिया अवार्ड्स" के चौथे संस्करण में संयुक्त रूप से वर्ष के लिए सर्वश्रेष्ठ हवाई अड्डे का पुरस्कार जीता है?

- (a) Hyderabad & Delhi Airports / हैदराबाद और दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे
- (b) Ayodhya & Delhi Airports / अयोध्या और दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे
- (c) Bangalore & Hyderabad Airports / बैंगलोर और हैदराबाद हवाई अड्डे
- (d) Bangalore & Mumbai Airports / बैंगलोर और मुंबई हवाई अड्डे
- (e) Bangalore & Delhi Airports / बैंगलोर और दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे

Ans. e

Sol. Bangalore & Delhi Airports jointly bagged best airport award

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia has presented the Wings India Awards 2024 at an event held in Hyderabad.

Bangalore and Delhi Airports have jointly bagged the best airport award for the year at the 4th edition of “Wings India Awards” in the Civil Aviation Sector.

Vistara bagged the Best Airline of the Year award. Air India has been recognized for International Connectivity while Alliance Air has recognition for Regional Connectivity.

Air India Express was declared a Sustainability Champion.

GMR Group has been honoured as the Best Aviation Service Provider while Skyways Air Services for cargo services, Indian Oil Skytanking Pvt. Ltd for Fuel Services, GMR for Aero Academy.

Besides these, several other organizations were recognized by Wings India for their excellence in different categories of civil aviation.

Recent Awards

- **SCOPE Eminence Award in category of Women Empowerment for the period of 2019-20** - Engineers India Limited
- **Assam Baibhav Award by Assam government** - Former CJI Ranjan Gogoi
- **Environment Officer Award by VSI** - Deepa Bhandare
- **Kuvempu Award 2023** - Shirshendu Mukyopadhyaya (Bengali Writer)
- **M S Swaminathan Award** - Prof. B.R. Kamboj

257. Who is the author of the book titled "Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan"?

"असम के ब्रेवहार्ट लाचित बरफुकन" नामक पुस्तक के लेखक कौन हैं?

- (a) Amitav Ghosh / अमिताव घोष
- (b) Vikram Seth / विक्रम सेठ
- (c) Jhumpa Lahiri / झुंपा लाहिड़ी
- (d) Arup Kumar Dutta / अरूप कुमार दत्ता
- (e) Priya A.S. / प्रिया ए.एस

Ans. d

Sol. Amit Shah launched book 'Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan'

Amit Shah has launched the book 'Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan' at the Srimanta Sankardeva International Auditorium in Guwahati.

It is written by Arup Kumar Dutta.

The book "Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan" has been published by the State government in English language and translated in 24 Scheduled Indian languages.

Lachit Barphukan is not just an icon for Assam alone, he is a national hero and all Indians must know his greatness and valour.

Recent Books

- **Fertilizing the Future** - Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya (launched by VP Jagdeep Dhankhar)
- **The Babri Masjid Ram Mandir Dilemma: An Acid Test for India's Constitution** - Madhav Godbole
- **Why Bharat Matters** - S Jaishankar
- **Breaking the Mould** - Raghuram Rajan & Rohit Lamba
- **Madam Commissioner: The Extraordinary Life of an Indian Police Chief** - Meeran Chadha Borwankar
- **Zeba: An Accidental Superhero** - Huma Qureshi

258. Tata Group has won the right to remain the IPL title sponsor for which year for Rs 2500 crore?

टाटा समूह ने 2500 करोड़ में किस वर्ष तक आईपीएल टाइटल प्रायोजक बने रहने का अधिकार जीता है?

- (a) 2026
- (b) 2028
- (c) 2030
- (d) 2029
- (e) 2032

Ans. b

Sol. Tata Group to continue as IPL title sponsor until 2028

Tata Group will pay Rs 2,500 crore, the highest-ever sponsorship amount in the history of the Indian Premier League, as it won the title sponsorship rights of IPL, which has become a decacorn and is the richest cricket league in the world.

Tata has won the rights for five years. The TATA Group earlier held the title sponsorship rights for the IPL in 2022 and 2023, paying Rs 670 crore for the two-year rights.

Tata is also the title sponsor of the Women's Premier League, the largest women's T20 league globally.

Tata retained title sponsorship rights from 2024 to 2028 by matching Aditya Birla Group's (ABG) bid, sources had told ET earlier. Aditya Birla Group and Tata Sons were the only companies in contention for the title sponsorship rights of IPL.

According to the tender released on December 2023, the BCCI set the base price for the five-year rights at Rs 1750 crore, translating to Rs 350 crore per year for 74 matches.

IPL has attained decacorn status, witnessing a remarkable 28% surge in its combined brand value to reach \$10.7 billion, as reported by Brand Finance. Furthermore, the overall brand value of the IPL system has experienced an impressive 433% increase since its inception in 2008.

DLF, Pepsi, Vivo, and Dream11 have previously held these rights, with the annual value increasing from Rs 40 crore, paid by DLF for 2008–12, to Rs 440 crore per year, as offered by Vivo for 2018–19.

259. Which of the following states have NOT celebrated its foundation day on 21 January?

निम्नलिखित में से किस राज्य ने 21 जनवरी को अपना स्थापना दिवस नहीं मनाया है?

- (i) Tripura
- (ii) Mizoram
- (iii) Meghalaya
- (iv) Manipur
- (v) Arunachal Pradesh
- (a) only i & ii
- (b) only i, iii & iv
- (c) only i, ii & iii
- (d) only ii & v
- (e) All are correct

Ans. d

Sol. Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya celebrate 52nd Statehood Day

Three northeastern states-- Tripura, Meghalaya, and Manipur-- on 21 January celebrated their 52nd Statehood Day.

With the introduction of the North-East Area (Re-organisation) Act 1971, Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya attained statehood on January 21, 1972.

At the time of independence, the North East comprised the Assam plains, hill districts, and North Eastern Frontier Tracts (NEFT) of the North-Eastern border. Manipur and Tripura states were granted Union Territory status in 1949. Nagaland achieved statehood on December 1, 1963.

260. Parakram Diwas is observed every year on 23 January to mark the birth anniversary of which freedom fighter?

पराक्रम दिवस हर साल 23 जनवरी को किस स्वतंत्रता सेनानी की जयंती के उपलक्ष्य में मनाया जाता है?

- (a) Jawaharlal Nehru / जवाहर लाल नेहरू
- (b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel / सरदार वल्लभभाई पटेल
- (c) Swami Vivekananda / स्वामी विवेकानंद
- (d) Rajendra Prasad / राजेन्द्र प्रसाद
- (e) Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose / नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र बोस

Ans. e

Sol. 23 January - Parakram Diwas

Parakram Diwas is observed every year on 23 January to mark the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, a prominent figure in India's freedom struggle.

This day is celebrated to honour his indomitable spirit and invaluable contribution to India's independence. This year nation observed the 127th edition of Parakram Diwas 2024.

Parakram Diwas 2024 is a national event celebrated annually in India since 2021. The day serves as a reminder of the courage and determination of one of India's most revered freedom fighters.

Netaji, born on January 23, 1897, was a charismatic leader whose contribution to India's independence movement was unparalleled. His call for "Purna Swaraj" (complete independence) and his leadership of the Azad Hind Fauj (Indian National Army) galvanized the Indian masses against colonial rule.

261. World's tallest statue of Dr BR Ambedkar, who is known as the architect and developer of the Indian Constitution, was unveiled in which city of Andhra Pradesh by the state government?

भारतीय संविधान के वास्तुकार और विकासकर्ता के रूप में जाने जाने वाले डॉ. बीआर अंबेडकर की विश्व की सबसे ऊंची प्रतिमा का अनावरण राज्य सरकार द्वारा आंध्र प्रदेश के किस शहर में किया गया?

- (a) Visakhapatnam / विशाखापत्तनम
- (b) Tirupati / तिरुपति
- (c) Amaravati / अमरावती
- (d) Kurnool / कुरनूल
- (e) Vijayawada / विजयवाड़ा

Ans. e

Sol. World's tallest Ambedkar statue unveiled in Andhra Pradesh

World's tallest statue of Dr BR Ambedkar, who is known as the architect and developer of the Indian Constitution, was unveiled in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh by the state government.

It is going to be the tallest statue of Ambedkar. One of the tallest Ambedkar statues outside India is situated in Maryland, US.

This Ambedkar statue is called the Statue of Justice and it is around 206 feet from the ground. This Ambedkar statue in Andhra Pradesh is under the list of top 50 tallest statues around the world, in which Statue of Unity tops.

The height of the Statue of Justice is around 125 feet and the pedestal where this statue stands is 81 feet, thus the total height of the statue becomes 206 feet from the ground.

The project to build the statue of justice cost around 404.35 crore.

The project is built and spread over 18.81 acres of land which is built as a green park.

Around 400 tonnes of steel were used to build the Statue of Justice.

About Andhra Pradesh

- **Capital** – Amaravati
- **Chief Minister** – YS Jagan Mohan Reddy
- **Governor** – S. Abdul Nazeer

262. Which foundation will Build 'Masjid Muhammed bin Abdullah' Mosque in Ayodhya?

कौन सी संस्था अयोध्या में 'मस्जिद मुहम्मद बिन अब्दुल्ला' मस्जिद का निर्माण करेगी?

- (a) Muslim Education Foundation
- (b) Islamic Culture Centre
- (c) Iqra Altruism Association
- (d) Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation
- (e) Indian Muslim Educational Social & Charitable Trust

Ans. d

Sol. IICF To Build 'Masjid Muhammed bin Abdullah' Mosque In Ayodhya

The Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF) has announced the commencement of the construction of a grand mosque in Ayodhya, starting this May.

Haji Arfat Shaikh, the head of the development committee of the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF) that is overseeing the mosque project.

The mosque, named "Masjid Muhammed bin Abdullah" after Prophet Muhammad, aims to foster unity and goodwill among people, transcending religious differences.

Hindu zealots razed a 16th-century mosque in the northern Indian city of Ayodhya in 1992, saying that it was built over an ancient temple on the site that marked the birthplace of Hindu god-king Ram.

The dispute had scarred relations between the communities for decades and the destruction of the mosque sparked nationwide riots that killed 2,000 people, mostly Muslims.

India's top court said in 2019 that the razing of the mosque was unlawful, but ruled that evidence showed there was a non-Islamic structure beneath it.

It ordered that the site be given to Hindu groups to build a temple and Muslim community leaders be given land elsewhere in the city for constructing a mosque.

263. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently launched 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana'. This is a government scheme under which how many houses will get rooftop solar energy system?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने हाल ही में 'प्रधानमंत्री सूर्योदय योजना' लॉन्च की है। यह एक सरकारी योजना है जिसके तहत कितने घरों को छत पर सौर ऊर्जा प्रणाली मिलेगी?

- (a) 1 crore
- (b) 10 crore
- (c) 11 crore
- (d) 15 crore
- (e) 21 crore

Ans. a

Sol. PM Modi launched 'PM Suryodaya Yojana'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana', a government scheme under which one crore households will get rooftop solar power systems.

According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's website, solar power installed capacity in India has reached around 73.31 GW as of December 2023. Meanwhile, rooftop solar installed capacity is around 11.08 GW as of December 2023.

In 2014, the government launched the Rooftop Solar Programme that aimed to achieve a cumulative installed capacity of 40,000 megawatts (MW) or 40 gigawatts (GW) by 2022 — watt is a unit of power and is calculated as the amount of energy used over time, specifically one Joule per second. However, this target couldn't be achieved.

The Centre currently has a National Rooftop Scheme that provides financial assistance totalling 40% of the capital cost of a solar rooftop project

What is 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana'?

- 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana', a government scheme under which one crore households will get rooftop solar power systems.
- The scheme aims to equip one crore poor to middle-class households with rooftop solar panels in a bid to provide electricity from solar energy.
- The scheme would not only reduce the electricity bill of the poor and middle class but would also make India self-reliant in the energy sector.
- Rooftop solar panels are the photovoltaic panels installed on the roof of a building which is connected to main power supply unit. Thus, it reduces the consumption of grid-connected electricity and saves electricity cost for the consumer.
- In a solar rooftop system, there is only an upfront capital investment and minimal cost for maintenance.

264. The Indian stock market has pipped Hong Kong to become the _____ -highest equity market globally.

भारतीय शेयर बाजार ने हांगकांग को पछाड़कर वैश्विक स्तर पर _____-सर्वोच्च इक्विटी बाजार बन गया है।

- (a) Third
- (b) Fourth
- (c) Fifth
- (d) Sixth
- (e) Second

Ans. b

Sol. Indian Stock Market Surpasses Hong Kong To Become 4th Biggest Equity Market Globally

The Indian stock market has pipped Hong Kong to become the fourth-highest equity market globally. The combined value of shares listed on Indian exchanges reached USD 4.33 trillion, versus USD 4.29 trillion for Hong Kong, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

That makes India the fourth-biggest equity market globally. Its value crossed \$4 trillion for the first time on Dec 5, with about half of that coming in the past four years.

The top three stock markets are the U.S., China, and Japan.

Currently, the US is the world's biggest market with a mcap of \$50.86 trillion, followed by China with a mcap of \$8.44 trillion and Japan at \$6.36 trillion.

265. The "Hal-5-23" system has been seen in the news recently. What is this?

"हैल-5-23" प्रणाली को हाल ही में समाचारों में देखा गया है। यह क्या है?

- (a) Drone System
- (b) NASA's Telescope
- (c) Underwater nuclear weapons system
- (d) Artillery Gun
- (e) World's Fastest Super Computer

Ans. c

Sol. North Korea conducts test of underwater nuclear weapons system.

North Korea has conducted a test of its underwater nuclear weapons system in a protest against joint military drills by South Korea, the United States, and Japan.

The test of the "Haeil-5-23" system, a name North Korea has given to its nuclear-capable underwater attack drones, was carried out by the defence ministry's think tank in the waters off its east coast.

Dubbed "Haeil", which means tsunami, the new drone system was first reportedly tested in March 2023. it was intended to make sneak attacks in enemy waters and destroy naval strike groups and major operational ports by creating a large radioactive wave through an underwater explosion.

About North Korea

- Capital - Pyongyang
- Currency - won
- President - Kim Jong-un

266. In January 2024, which of the following countries has been certified malaria-free country by WHO?

जनवरी 2024 में निम्नलिखित में से किस देश को WHO द्वारा मलेरिया मुक्त देश प्रमाणित किया गया है?

- (a) Mauritius / मॉरीशस
- (b) Côte d'Ivoire / कोटे डी आइवर
- (c) Burundi / बुरुंडी
- (d) Comoros / कोमोरोस
- (e) Cabo Verde / काबो वर्डे

Ans. e

Sol. WHO certifies Cabo Verde as malaria-free

The World Health Organization (WHO) has certified Cabo Verde as a malaria-free country, marking a significant achievement in global health.

With this announcement, Cabo Verde joins the ranks of 43 countries and 1 territory that WHO has awarded this certification.

Cabo Verde is the third country to be certified in the WHO African region, joining Mauritius and Algeria which were certified in 1973 and 2019 respectively.

Malaria burden is the highest on the African continent, which accounted for approximately 95% of global malaria cases and 96% of related deaths in 2021.

Cabo Verde, an archipelago of 10 islands in the Central Atlantic Ocean, has faced significant malaria challenges. Before the 1950s, all islands were affected by malaria.

Since the last peak of malaria cases in the late 1980s, malaria in Cabo Verde has been confined to two islands: Santiago and Boa Vista, which have now both been malaria-free since 2017.

About Cabo Verde

- Capital- Praia
- Currency- Cape Verdean Escudo
- Continent - Africa
- Official language- Portuguese

About World Health Organization (WHO)

- Formation** - 7 April 1948
- Headquarters** - Geneva, Switzerland
- First President** - Andrija Štampar
- Director General** - Tedros Adhanom (Ethiopia)
- Deputy Director General** - Soumya Swaminathan (Indian)
- Member Countries** - 194

267. Who has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Jindal Stainless Ltd?

जिंदल स्टेनलेस लिमिटेड के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (सीईओ) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Ganesan Kannabiran / गणेशन कन्नाबीरन
- (b) Tarun Khulbe / तरूण खुल्बे
- (c) Pramod Sharma / प्रमोद शर्मा
- (d) Parminder Chopra / परमिंदर चोपड़ा
- (e) Vivek Srivastava / विवेक श्रीवास्तव

Ans. b

Sol. Tarun Khulbe appoints as CEO of Jindal Stainless

Tarun Khulbe has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Jindal Stainless Ltd.

He has been serving as the Whole Time Director of the company since May 2018. He will continue to hold the post besides that of the CEO.

Khulbe has around 35 years of industry experience in business development, supply chain management, people practices, and IT enablement.

Khulbe joined JSL as a general manager for the cold rolling mills at Hisar, Haryana, in October 2004. Part of O P Jindal Group, Jindal Stainless is India's largest stainless-steel manufacturer.

Recent Appointment

- **CEO of PepsiCo India** - Jagrut Kotecha (replace Ahmed El Sheikh)
- **As a member of the UPSC** - Sheel Vardhan Singh
- **MD of Bangalore Metro** - Maheshwar Rao
- **MD of Experian India** - Manish Jain
- **Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** - Bharat Harbanslal Khera

268. The government of Uttar Pradesh has announced the prestigious 'UP Gaurav Samman' award for two distinguished personalities – eminent scientist Dr Ritu Karidhal Srivastava and renowned entrepreneur Naveen Tewari. Dr Ritu played an important role in the development of which mission of India?

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने दो प्रतिष्ठित हस्तियों - प्रख्यात वैज्ञानिक डॉ. रितु करिधल श्रीवास्तव और प्रसिद्ध उद्यमी नवीन तिवारी के लिए प्रतिष्ठित 'यूपी गौरव सम्मान' पुरस्कार की घोषणा की है। डॉ. रितु ने भारत के किस मिशन के विकास में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई थी?

- (a) Chandrayaan-2
- (b) Mangalyaan
- (c) Chandrayaan-3
- (d) Aditya-L1
- (e) Gaganyaan

Ans. b

Sol. UP Govt to Honour Dr. Ritu and Naveen with 'UP Gaurav Samman'

The government of Uttar Pradesh has announced the prestigious 'UP Gaurav Samman' award for two distinguished personalities – eminent scientist Dr. Ritu and renowned entrepreneur Naveen.

This award highlights the government's commitment to acknowledging excellence and inspiring future generations.

Dr. Ritu Karidhal Srivastava, who resides in Lucknow, played a crucial role in the development of India's Mars Orbiter Mission, Mangalyaan. She also served as the Deputy Operations Director for this mission. Mangalyaan was one of ISRO's greatest achievements, making India the fourth country in the world to reach Mars.

Eminent entrepreneur Naveen Tewari, a resident of Kanpur, who is regularly featured on the covers of magazines like Forbes and Fortune, has created two unicorns and given India its first unicorn.

He has established the world's largest independent mobile ad tech platform, connecting local businesses in Uttar Pradesh and India with national and international audiences. His lock screen software is present on more than 40 crore smartphones globally.

Entrepreneur Naveen has established his presence in 26 countries, positioning India on the global stage. He has directly employed 3000 people while giving employment to thousands indirectly.

About Uttar Pradesh

- **Capital** - Lucknow
- **Chief Minister** – Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor** - Anandiben Patel

269. In January 2023, which country has become the 5th country to achieve a soft moon landing with the successful deployment of the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) spacecraft?

जनवरी 2023 में, कौन सा देश स्मार्ट लैंडर फॉर इन्वेस्टिगेटिंग मून (SLIM) अंतरिक्ष यान की सफल तैनाती के साथ चंद्रमा पर नरम लैंडिंग हासिल करने वाला 5वां देश बन गया है?

- (a) South Korea / दक्षिण कोरिया
- (b) France / फ्रांस
- (c) Japan / जापान
- (d) Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया
- (e) Germany / जर्मनी

Ans. c

Sol. Japan achieved a historic soft moon landing with SLIM Mission

Japan has become the 5th country to achieve a soft moon landing with the successful deployment of the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) spacecraft.

The mission, led by Japan's space agency JAXA, marks a significant leap in precision landing technology with potential applications for future lunar exploration.

Japan's Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (Slim) spacecraft successfully touched down on the lunar surface on Friday, making Japan the fifth nation to achieve a soft landing on the Moon.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has confirmed the landing of the spacecraft equipped with a variety of instruments, including a camera, a laser altimeter, and a magnetometer, which will be used to study the Moon's geology, environment, and resources. However, Slim's solar panel had failed to generate power, which could shorten its activity on the moon, the Japanese space agency said. Slim attempted to land within 100 metres (328 feet) of its target, versus the conventional accuracy of several kilometres.

About Japan

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

270. Who has been awarded the Polly Umrigar Award for the best men's cricketer of the year for 2023 by BCCI?

बीसीसीआई द्वारा 2023 के लिए वर्ष के सर्वश्रेष्ठ पुरुष क्रिकेटर के लिए पॉली उमरीगर पुरस्कार से किसे सम्मानित किया गया है?

- (a) Virat Kohli / विराट कोहली
- (b) Rohit Sharma / रोहित शर्मा
- (c) KL Rahul / केएल राहुल
- (d) Shubman Gill / शुबमन गिल
- (e) Suryakumar Yadav / सूर्यकुमार यादव

Ans. d

Sol. Ravi Shastri received lifetime achievement award

World Cup-winning former India all-rounder and ex-head coach Ravi Shastri has received the prestigious lifetime achievement award in the Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) Awards in Hyderabad.

While Shubman Gill received the Polly Umrigar Award for the best men's cricketer of the year for 2023. Jasprit Bumrah won the honour in 2019, a year after making his Test debut.

Gill scored 2154 runs in international cricket, most by any batter in 2023. He hit 7 hundred, including an ODI double-hundred and his maiden T20I century.

Ravi Shastri played 80 Tests and 150 ODIs for India, scoring 6938 runs in international cricket, including 15 hundreds. He picked 280 wickets for India at the highest level. The left-arm spinner was part of India's World Cup triumph in 1983 and the 1985 Champions of Champions triumph.

The BCCI Awards ceremony was held for the first time since 2019 after having seen multiple delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Recent Awards

- **4th Wings India Awards in the Civil Aviation Sector - Bangalore & Delhi Airports**
- **Best Airline of the Year award - Vistara**
- **SCOPE Eminence Award in category of Women Empowerment for the period of 2019-20 - Engineers India Limited**
- **Assam Baibhav Award by Assam government - Former CJI Ranjan Gogoi**
- **Environment Officer Award by VSI - Deepa Bhandare**

271. Tai Tzu Ying won the first women's singles title at the India Open Title defeating Chen Yu Fei in a dominant straight-game victory. She is from which country?

ताई त्जु यिंग ने चैन यू फ़ेई को सीधे गेम में हराकर इंडिया ओपन टाइटल में पहला महिला एकल खिताब जीता। वह किस देश से है?

- (a) South Korea / दक्षिण कोरिया
- (b) North Korea / उत्तर कोरिया
- (c) Japan / जापान
- (d) Taiwan / ताइवान
- (e) China / चीन

Ans. d

Sol. Tai Tzu Ying clinches first women's singles title at India Open

Tai Tzu Ying (Taiwan) secures her maiden women's singles India Open title, defeating Chen Yu Fei in a dominant straight-game victory.

The former world number one from Chinese Taipei is set to retire after this season.

The summit clash rematch of the Tokyo Olympic final sees Tai Tzu Ying prevail 21-16, 21-12, highlighting her status as one of the game's greatest players.

272. Which city will become the new host of the Spanish Grand Prix starting from 2026?

कौन सा शहर 2026 से शुरू होने वाले स्पेनिश ग्रां प्री का नया मेजबान बनेगा?

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) Paris / पेरिस
- (c) Dubai / दुबई
- (d) Greater Noida / ग्रेटर नोएडा
- (e) Madrid / मैड्रिड

Ans. e

Sol. Madrid to host Spanish F1 GP from 2026

Madrid will become the new host of the Spanish Grand Prix starting from 2026.

This decade-long commitment will see the heart of Spain's capital transformed into a thrilling F1 racing venue, with the action set to unfold around IFEMA Madrid's exhibition center.

The announcement heralds a fresh era for the prestigious event, which has been traditionally held at the Circuit de Catalunya near Barcelona since 1991.

The transition will see Madrid hosting the Grand Prix for 10 years, from 2026 to 2035, introducing a brand-new circuit to the world of Formula 1.

The new circuit in Madrid, designed around the IFEMA exhibition centre, will feature a mix of street and non-street sections, spanning 5.47 kilometres with 20 corners.

It promises a thrilling and challenging experience for the drivers, with a qualifying lap time projected at 1 minute and 32 seconds. This innovative circuit layout is currently pending FIA homologation and final design specifications.

273. Consider the following statements about the 'Cyclone Exercise'

- (i) This exercise is conducted between India and Egypt.
- (ii) In January 2024, the 2nd edition of this exercise was conducted.
- (iii) In January 2024, this exercise was conducted at Meghalaya.

How many of the statements given above are CORRECT?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All are incorrect
- (d) All are correct

Ans. b

Statements

- (i) This exercise is conducted between India and Egypt. **(Correct)**
- (ii) In January 2024, the 2nd edition of this exercise was conducted. **(Correct)**
- (iii) In January 2024, this exercise was conducted at Meghalaya. **(Incorrect)**

Sol. India, Egypt begin 2nd edition of joint exercise 'CYCLONE'

The Indian Army contingent comprising 25 personnel reached Egypt to take part in the 2nd edition of a joint exercise called 'Cyclone' between special forces of India and Egypt.

The exercise will be conducted at Anshas, Egypt from 22nd January to 1st February 2024. The first edition of the exercise was conducted last year in India. The exercise is aimed to acquaint both sides with each other's operating procedures in the backdrop of special operations in desert/semi-desert terrain under chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

The exercise will involve the planning and execution of special operations in the sub-conventional domain and conducted in three phases.

The first phase will include military exhibitions and tactical interactions.

The second phase will focus on training on Improvised Explosive Device (IED), counter IED and Combat First Aid.

The third and final phase will encompass a Joint Tactical Exercise based on Fighting in Built-up Areas and Hostage Rescue Scenarios.

Recent Exercise

- 1st edition of **Navy Exercise 'Ex-Ayutthaya'** between India & Thailand
- 1st edition of **Military Exercise 'Desert Cyclone'** between India & UAE – Rajasthan
- 12th edition of **multi-national naval exercise MILAN 24** - Visakhapatnam
- 1st edition of **Military Exercise 'Desert Cyclone'** between India & UAE – Rajasthan
- 4th edition of **Military Exercise VINBAX-2023** between India & Vietnam - Hanoi, Vietnam

274. Which edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Khanjar' has started at the Special Forces Training School in Himachal Pradesh's Bakloh?

भारत-किर्गिस्तान संयुक्त विशेष बल अभ्यास 'खंजर' का कौन सा संस्करण हिमाचल प्रदेश के बकलोह में विशेष बल प्रशिक्षण स्कूल में शुरू हुआ है?

- (a) 10th
- (b) 11th
- (c) 12th
- (d) 13th
- (e) 14th

Ans. b

Sol. India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Khanjar' commences in HP

The 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise Khanjar started at the Special Forces Training School in Himachal Pradesh's Bakloh.

The exercise is being conducted from January 22 to February 3.

The exercise will provide an opportunity for both sides to fortify defence ties while addressing common concerns of international terrorism and extremism.

The Indian Army contingent, comprising 20 personnel, is being represented by troops from The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces), according to the press release. Meanwhile, the Kyrgyzstan contingent comprising 20 personnel is represented by the Scorpion Brigade.

275. National Girl Child Day is observed every year on which day?

राष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 22 January / 22 जनवरी
- (b) 23 January / 23 जनवरी
- (c) 24 January / 24 जनवरी
- (d) 25 January / 25 जनवरी
- (e) 27 January / 27 जनवरी

Ans. c

Sol. 24 January - National Girl Child Day

National Girl Child Day is observed every year on 24 January.

Objective- To raise awareness of the difficulties that girls in Indian society endure.

The day promotes equal opportunities in education, healthcare, and nutrition while raising awareness of the injustices that girls face.

Every year on January 24, people celebrate National Girl Child Day, which commemorates the inaugural anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) on January 22, 2015.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched this day in 2008.

276. Which of the following will host the 7th edition of Uttishtha 2024, an 'Agri Mela' Startup Expo scheduled for Jan 27-28?

निम्नलिखित में से कौन 27-28 जनवरी को होने वाले 'कृषि मेला' स्टार्टअप एक्सपो, उत्तिष्ठ 2024 के 7वें संस्करण की मेजबानी करेगा?

- (a) IIT Guwahati/ आईआईटी गुवाहाटी
- (b) IIT Delhi / आईआईटी दिल्ली
- (c) IIT Madras / आईआईटी मद्रास
- (d) IIM Kashipur / आईआईएम काशीपुर
- (e) IIM Shillong / आईआईएम शिलांग

Ans. d

Sol. IIM Kashipur to host Uttishtha 2024

IIM Kashipur will host the 7th edition of Uttishtha 2024, an 'Agri Mela' Startup Expo scheduled for Jan 27-28.

The two-day summit, organized by the Foundation for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (FIED) and e-Cell IIM Kashipur, and supported by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, aims to provide a platform for agri-startups, industry stakeholders, and investors to share insights on entrepreneurship.

The event anticipates participation from over 2,000 business-school students, over 20 vice-chancellors and entrepreneur talks, and more than 100 startups.

277. The 14th All India Police Commando competition has been organized in which city?

14वीं अखिल भारतीय पुलिस कमांडो प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किस शहर में किया गया है?

- (a) Siliguri, West Bengal / सिलीगुड़ी, पश्चिम बंगाल
- (b) Chandimandir, Haryana / चंडीमंदिर, हरियाणा
- (c) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh / विशाखापत्तनम, आंध्र प्रदेश
- (d) Jodhpur, Rajasthan / जोधपुर, राजस्थान
- (e) Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh / बकलोह, हिमाचल प्रदेश

Ans. c

Sol. 14th All India Police Commando Competition organized in Visakhapatnam

The 14th All India Police Commando competition organized at the A.P. Police Greyhounds Training Facility, Visakhapatnam.

Around 16 states have sent their elite commando forces for the competition including forces such as the Special Operations Group (SOG) from Odisha and Chhattisgarh, C- 60 from Maharashtra, the paramilitary forces such as BSF, CRPF, Assam Rifles, ITBP, RPF, SSB and CISF, among others.

Each team will comprise 13-15 commandos and the competition will be held in five phases in a week, wherein the participants' skill, endurance and teamwork will be tested.

The commandos will be judged by an expert team from the Intelligence Bureau (IB).

The State team comprises personnel from the Greyhounds and Octopus.

 **ambitious baba**
INDIA'S BEST GOVERNMENT JOBS PORTAL

278. Who has inaugurated a year-long pan-India campaign 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman' to commemorate the 75th Year of India as a Republic?

गणतंत्र के रूप में भारत के 75वें वर्ष के उपलक्ष्य में एक साल तक चलने वाले अखिल भारतीय अभियान 'हमारा संविधान, हमारा सम्मान' 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. e

Sol. Vice-President inaugurated 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman' campaign

The Vice-President, Jagdeep Dhankhar has inaugurated a year-long pan-India campaign 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman' to commemorate the 75th Year of India as Republic at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre.

The campaign aims to reaffirm our collective commitment to the principles enshrined in the Constitution of India and celebrate the shared values that bind our nation.

This nationwide initiative envisages to instill a sense of pride and responsibility to uphold the ideals outlined in the constitutional framework.

Another activity named Nav Bharat Nav Sankalp aims to encourage the masses to embrace the resolutions of Panch Pran by reading the Panch Pran Pledge.

The third activity Vidhi Jagriti Abhiyan aims to involve the students to carry the message Panch Pran in the villages adopted by the Law colleges, under the Pro Bono Club scheme.

279. In January 2024, Aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) imposed a fine of how much rupees on Air India for safety violations amid a series of flight irregularities?

जनवरी 2024 में, विमानन नियामक नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (DGCA) ने उड़ान अनियमितताओं की एक श्रृंखला के बीच सुरक्षा उल्लंघन के लिए एयर इंडिया पर कितने रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया है?

- (a) Rs 1.10 crore
- (b) Rs 1.20 crore
- (c) Rs 1.30 crore
- (d) Rs 1.40 crore
- (e) Rs 1.50 crore

Ans. a

Sol. DGCA slaps Rs 1.10 crore penalty on Air India for safety violations

Aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.10 crore on Air India for safety violations amid a series of incidents of flight irregularities.

According to the receipt of a voluntary safety report from an airline employee alleging safety violations of flights operated by Air India on certain long-range terrain critical routes.

Recently, IndiGo was fined Rs 1.20 crore as the passengers of one of its flights came out on the tarmac and started eating food.

280. Which insurance company has recently launched two products– ‘Saral Swadhan Supreme’ and ‘Smart Swadhan Supreme’?

किस बीमा कंपनी ने हाल ही में दो उत्पाद- 'सरल स्वधन सुप्रीम' और 'स्मार्ट स्वधन सुप्रीम' लॉन्च किए हैं?

- (a) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance / बजाज अलियांज जनरल इंश्योरेंस
- (b) Bharti AXA General Insurance / भारती एक्सा जनरल इंश्योरेंस
- (c) Reliance Nippon Life Insurance / रिलायंस निप्पॉन लाइफ इंश्योरेंस
- (d) SBI Life Insurance / एसबीआई लाइफ इंश्योरेंस
- (e) Reliance General Insurance / रिलायंस जनरल इंश्योरेंस

Ans. d

Sol. SBI Life Insurance launches two new term plans with return of premium

SBI Life Insurance, a private life insurer, has launched two products– ‘SBI Life - Saral Swadhan Supreme’ and ‘SBI Life - Smart Swadhan Supreme’.

These two new products not only provide a life cover but also benefit of return of premiums at maturity, to fulfill customers’ financial objectives.

The new products are designed to empower customers by catering to the growing awareness of the essential link between insurance and financial well-being.

These plans offer a lumpsum benefit on the policyholder’s demise during the policy term and also pay back the total premiums paid in case the life assured survives the policy term.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- LIC launched new saving and annuity plan **Jeevan Dhara II**.
- Bank of Baroda launched '**bob-360**' **deposit scheme** with annual interest rate of 7.60 percent.
- ICICI Bank Canada launched '**Money2India (Canada)**' Mobile Banking App
- IndusInd Bank launch **Platinum Credit Card** association with EazyDiner
- Yes Bank launched **SmartFin supply chain** powered by Veefin finance solution

281. In January 2024, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed merger of Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited with which Small Finance Bank?

जनवरी 2024 में, भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (CCI) ने फिनकेयर स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड को किस स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक के साथ प्रस्तावित विलय को मंजूरी दे दी है?

- (a) AU Small Finance Bank Limited / एयू स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड
- (b) Capital Small Finance Bank Limited / कैपिटल स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड
- (c) ESAF Small Finance Bank Limited / ESAF स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड
- (d) Shivalik Small Finance Bank / शिवालिक स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक
- (e) Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited / इक्विटास स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड

Ans. a

Sol. CCI approves proposed merger of Fincare SFB with AU Small Finance Bank

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed merger of Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited into and with AU Small Finance Bank.

The board of the bank had approved the merger in October 2023 following which it received the shareholder approval in November 2023.

The merger is now awaiting the approval of the Reserve Bank of India.

The merger will help the bank expand its reach, diversify its offerings and promote its financial inclusion portfolio. It had also guided that the merged entity should come into effect from February 1, 2024, subject to necessary approvals.

About AU Small Finance Bank Limited

- Founded - 1996
- Founder - Sanjay Agarwal
- Headquarters - Jaipur, Rajasthan
- MD & CEO - Sanjay Agarwal
- Tagline - Chaloo Aage Badhein

282. Which bank has become the first Indian bank to execute an export finance transaction on the International Trade Financing Services Platform (ITFS) of RXIL Global IFSC Limited (RXIL)?

कौन सा बैंक RXIL ग्लोबल IFSC लिमिटेड (RXIL) के इंटरनेशनल ट्रेड फाइनेंसिंग सर्विसेज प्लेटफॉर्म (ITFS) पर निर्यात वित्त लेनदेन निष्पादित करने वाला पहला भारतीय बैंक बन 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. c

Sol. Yes Bank becomes first Indian bank to conduct export finance transactions on RXIL's ITFS

Yes Bank has become the first Indian bank to execute an export finance transaction on the International Trade Financing Services Platform (ITFS) of RXIL Global IFSC Limited (RXIL), a leading cross-border fintech company registered under the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).

This strategic partnership facilitates arranging credit for exporters and importers from both Indian and Global Institutions through Factoring, Forfaiting, and other trade financing services at competitive pricing with quick turnaround using a digital platform.

This is the first transaction on the ITFS platform in collaboration with any bank in India.

The collaboration between Yes Bank and RXIL is a testament to the Bank's commitment towards digitalisation and fostering cross-border business.

About Yes Bank

- **Founded** - 2004
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **MD & CEO** - Prashant Kumar
- **Chairman** – Sunil Mehta
- **Tagline** - Experience our Expertise

283. Who has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) for Colliers Project Leaders Middle East?

कोलियर्स प्रोजेक्ट लीडर्स मिडिल ईस्ट के अध्यक्ष और प्रबंध निदेशक (सीएमडी) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Smita Sarangi / स्मिता सारंगी
- (b) Arindam Bagchi / अरिंदम बागची
- (c) Indra Mani Pandey / इंद्र मणि पांडे
- (d) Sankey Prasad / सैके प्रसाद
- (e) Senthil Pandian C / सेंथिल पांडियन सी

Ans. d

Sol. Sankey Prasad appointed as CMD for Project Leaders Middle East

Global diversified professional services and investment management company has appointed Sankey Prasad as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) for India and Middle East Engineering and project management business, which is under the name of Colliers Project Leaders Middle East.

Under Prasad's leadership in India, Colliers has diversified into new markets, developed cutting-edge technologies, expanded its range of services, delivered more than 130 million square feet of real estate development spanning India, West Asia, Africa, and South Asia, and achieved 30 percent y-o-y growth in four years.

Recent Appointment

- **CEO of Jindal Stainless Ltd** - Tarun Khulbe
- **CEO of PepsiCo India** - Jagrut Kotecha (replace Ahmed El Sheikh)
- **As a member of the UPSC** - Sheel Vardhan Singh
- **MD of Bangalore Metro** - Maheshwar Rao
- **MD of Experian India** - Manish Jain

284. In January 2024, The Union government appointed _____ Chief Justice Prasanna Bhalachandra Varale as a judge of the Supreme Court.

जनवरी 2024 में, केंद्र सरकार ने _____ के मुख्य न्यायाधीश प्रसन्न भालचंद्र वरले को सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश के रूप में नियुक्त किया है।

- (a) Allahabad High Court / इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय
- (b) Karnataka High Court / कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय
- (c) Gauhati High Court / गौहाटी उच्च न्यायालय
- (d) Bombay High Court / बंबई उच्च न्यायालय
- (e) Calcutta High Court / कलकत्ता उच्च न्यायालय

Ans. b

Sol. Karnataka HC Chief Justice appointed as Supreme Court judge

The Union government has approved the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendation for elevation of Karnataka High Court's Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale as a judge of the top court.

In exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution, President, after consultation with Chief Justice of India, is pleased to appoint Justice Prasanna Bhalachandra Varale, Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court as Judge of Supreme Court.

After the development, the Supreme Court would work with its sanctioned strength of 34 judges.

On January 19, the five-judge Collegium led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud picked up name of Justice Varale, senior-most Judge belonging to a Scheduled Caste to fill up the vacancy created upon retirement of Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul on De 2023.

Justice Varale has served as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Karnataka from October 15, 2022. He is currently the only High Court Chief Justice from a Scheduled Caste community. He is also the seniormost High Court judge belonging to a Scheduled Caste.

Justice Varale's parent High Court is Bombay. He was appointed as a Bombay High Court judge on July 18, 2008. There are already three judges from the Bombay High Court on the Bench of the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of India has operated almost throughout last year with a full strength of 34 judges and, therefore, could achieve the distinction of recording an unprecedented rate of disposal by disposing of 52,191 cases in the calendar year 2023, according to the Collegium resolution.

285. Consider the following statements about Karpoori Thakur who has been awarded Bharat Ratna recently:

- (i) He served as Bihar's Chief Minister thrice.**
- (ii) He is the 47th person to be awarded the Bharat Ratna.**
- (iii) He served as Bihar's Chief Minister from December 1977 to April 1979.**
- (iv) Bharat Ratna was instituted in 1952.**
- (v) He was born in January 1924.**

How many of the statements given above are INCORRECT?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All are correct

Ans. c

- (i) He served as Bihar's Chief Minister thrice. **(Incorrect)**
- (ii) He is the 47th person to be awarded the Bharat Ratna. **(Incorrect)**
- (iii) He served as Bihar's Chief Minister from December 1977 to April 1979. **(Correct)**
- (iv) Bharat Ratna was instituted in 1952. **(Incorrect)**
- (v) He was born in January 1924. **(Correct)**

Sol. Former Bihar CM Karpoori Thakur Awarded Bharat Ratna Posthumously

Former Chief Minister of Bihar Karpoori Thakur was conferred the nation's highest honour, Bharat Ratna, posthumously by the President of India Droupadi Murmu.

The award comes 35 years after his death -- Karpoori Thakur died on February 17, 1988.

Karpoori Thakur, born in January 1924, was a prominent figure in Bihar's political landscape. Known for his deep connection with the backward classes, Thakur's political journey was marked by his steadfast commitment to social justice.

He served as Bihar's Chief Minister twice, first from December 1970 to June 1971 and again from December 1977 to April 1979.

About Bharat Ratna

- The Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in the country, has been granted to 49 individuals so far, with 17 posthumously. Instituted in 1954, this award is open to anyone, regardless of race, occupation, position, or gender.
- It is awarded in recognition of outstanding service or performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour. The prime minister makes recommendations directly to the President, and no formal recommendations are required. The annual awards are limited to a maximum of three per year.

286. Who has been awarded the International Women's Cricketer of the Year award for the 2022-23 season by BCCI?

बीसीसीआई द्वारा 2022-23 सीज़न के लिए वर्ष की अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला क्रिकेटर का पुरस्कार किसे प्रदान किया गया है?

- (a) Harleen Deol / हरलीन देओल
- (b) Harmanpreet Kaur / हरमनप्रीत कौर
- (c) Renuka Singh / रेणुका सिंह
- (d) Smriti Mandhana / स्मृति मंधाना
- (e) Deepti Sharma / दीप्ति शर्मा

Ans. e

Sol. Shastri, Engineer honoured with Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award

Foremer Coach of Indian cricket team Ravi Shastri and former India wicketkeeper Farokh Engineer have been honoured with the CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award by BCCI.

Star batter Shubman Gill was conferred with the Polly Umrigar Best Men's International Cricketer of the Year (2022-23) award.

Last year, Gill became the fastest batsman to reach the 2000-run mark in ODIs in the process of making 1584 runs from 29 matches at an average of 63.36 including five hundreds.

Young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal grabbed the award for the Best International Debut during the 2022-23 season after cracking a 171 against the West Indies at Roseau in July last year.

Spinner Deepti Sharma grabbed the International Women's Cricketer of the Year award for the 2022-23 season.

List of awards

- Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement award: Ravi Shastri, Farokh Engineer (2019-20).
- Polly Umrigar Award for Best Men's Cricketer of the Year
 - Shubman Gill (2022-23)
 - Jasprit Bumrah (2021-22)
 - Ravichandran Ashwin (2020-21)
 - Mohammed Shami (2019-20).
- Best International Women's Cricketer of the Year
 - Deepti Sharma (2019-20, 2022-23)
 - Smriti Mandhana (2020-21, 2021-22)
- Best International Debut, Men:
 - Mayank Agarwal (2019-20)
 - Axar Patel (2020-21)
 - Shreyas Iyer (2021-22)
 - Yashasvi Jaiswal (2022-23)
- Best International Debut, Women

- Priya Punia (2019-20)
- Shafali Varma (2020-21)
- S Meghna (2021-22)
- Amanjot Kaur (2022-23)
- Dilip Sardesai Award (2022-23)
 - Highest Runs: Yashasvi Jaiswal
 - Highest Wickets: R Ashwin
- Most Runs in ODIs – Wome
 - Punam Raut (2019-20)
 - Mithali Raj (2020-21)
 - Harmanpreet Kaur (2021-22)
 - Jemimah Rodrigues (2022-23)
- Most Wickets in ODIs – Women
 - Poonam Yadav (2019-20)
 - Jhulan Goswami (2020-21)
 - Rajehwari Gayakwad (2021-22)
 - Devika Vaidya (2022-23).
- Best Umpire in Domestic Cricket
 - KN Ananthapadmanabhan (2019-20)
 - Vrinda Rathi (2020-21)
 - J Madangopal (2021-22)
 - Rohan Pandit (2022-23).
- Best performance in domestic tournaments
 - Mumbai (2019-20)
- Lala Amarnath Award: Best all-rounder in domestic limited-over competitions
 - Baba Aparajith (2019-20)
 - Rishi Dhawan (2020-21, 2021-22)
 - Riyan Parag (2022-23).
- Lala Amarnath Award: Best all-rounder in Ranji Trophy
 - Manishankar Mura Singh (2019-20)
 - Shams Mulani (2021-22)
 - Saransh Jain (2022-23)



- Madhavrao Scindia Trophy: Highest run-getter in Ranji Trophy
 - Rahul Dalal (2019-20)
 - Sarfraz Khan (2021-22)
 - Mayank Agarwal (2022-23)
- Madhavrao Scindia Trophy: Highest wicket-taker in Ranji Trophy
 - Jaydev Unadkat (2019-20)
 - Shams Mulani (2021-22)
 - Jalaj Saxena (2022-23)
- MA Chidambaram Trophy: Highest wicket-taker in U19 Cooch Behar Trophy
 - Harsh Dubey (2019-20)
 - AR Nishad (2021-22)
 - Manav Chothani (2022-23)
- MA Chidambaram Trophy: Highest run-getter in U19 Cooch Behar Trophy
 - P. Kanpillewar (2019-20)
 - Mayank Shandilya (2021-22)
 - Danish Malewar (2022-23)
- MA Chidambaram Trophy: Highest wicket-taker in U23 Col Cok Nayudu Trophy
 - Ankush Tyagi (2019-20)
 - Harsh Dubey (2021-22)
 - Vishal Jayswal (2022-23)
- MA Chidambaram Trophy: Highest run-getter in U23 Col Cok Nayudu Trophy
 - Parth Palawat (2019-20)
 - YV Rathod (2021-22)
 - Kshitij Patel (2022-23)



287. 60 Parachute Field Hospital has been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2024 for its excellent work in Disaster Management. It is located in which state?

आपदा प्रबंधन में उत्कृष्ट कार्य के लिए 60 पैराशूट फील्ड हॉस्पिटल को सुभाष चंद्र बोस आपदा प्रबंधन पुरस्कार-2024 के लिए चुना गया है। यह किस राज्य में स्थित है?

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

Ans. a

Sol. UP selected Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2024

For the year 2024, 60 Parachute Field Hospital, Uttar Pradesh, in the Institutional category, has been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2024 for its excellent work in Disaster Management.

The Government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has instituted an annual award known as Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar to recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organizations in India in the field of disaster management.

The award is announced every year on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution and Rs. 5 lakh and a certificate in case of an individual.

About 60 Parachute Field Hospital

- 60 Parachute Field Hospital, Uttar Pradesh, was established in 1942. It is the sole airborne medical establishment of the Indian Armed Forces, recognized for its exceptional service in various global crisis.
- The primary mission includes Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations during natural calamities, nationally and internationally, both in time of peace and war.
- It had provided medical assistance during the Uttarakhand floods (2013), Nepal Earthquake under the operation name 'Maitri' (2015), and Indonesian Tsunami as part of Operation Samudra Maitri (2018).

288. The National Voters' Day is celebrated every year in India on January 25 to encourage the country's voters to participate in the electoral process. This year celebrated which edition of National Voters' Day?

देश के मतदाताओं को चुनावी प्रक्रिया में भाग लेने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए भारत में हर साल 25 जनवरी को राष्ट्रीय मतदाता दिवस मनाया जाता है। इस वर्ष राष्ट्रीय मतदाता दिवस का कौन सा संस्करण मनाया गया?

- (a) 11th
- (b) 15th
- (c) 12th
- (d) 13th
- (e) 14th

Ans. e

Sol. 25 January - National Voters Day

The National Voters' Day is celebrated every year in India on January 25 to encourage the country's voters to participate in the electoral process.

This year, it is the 14th edition which is being celebrated.

Theme 2024 - Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure

The first-ever National Voters' Day was celebrated on January 25, 2011, to encourage more young voters to take part in the electoral process where the Union government, then led by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, had approved a proposal of the law ministry to this effect.

289. Who is the author of the book titled "Conversations with Aurangzeb"?

"कन्वर्सेशन्स विद औरंगज़ेब" नामक पुस्तक के लेखक कौन हैं?

- (a) Amitav Ghosh / अमिताव घोष
- (b) Vikram Seth / विक्रम सेठ
- (c) Jhumpa Lahiri / झुंपा लाहिड़ी
- (d) Charu Nivedita / चारु निवेदिता
- (e) Priya A.S. / प्रिया ए.एस

Ans. d

Sol. "Conversations with Aurangzeb" written by Charu Nivedita

Tamil writer Charu Nivedita's "Conversations with Aurangzeb", translated by Nandini Krishnan, is an unpredictable book.

In it, a writer begins a novel with an idea but soon meets the spirit of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, who decides to seize the opportunity to tell his side of the story.

The writer and Aurangzeb speak of the past and present, of Mughals and Marxism, of satire and Sunny Leone, and a host of other contemporary subjects. Krishnan says the novel is "defiant of all genres".

Recent Books

- **Conversations with Aurangzeb** - Charu Nivedita (translated by Nandini Krishnan)
- **Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan** - Arup Kumar Dutta (launched by Amit Shah)
- **Fertilising the Future** - Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya (launched by VP Jagdeep Dhankhar)
- **The Babri Masjid Ram Mandir Dilemma: An Acid Test for India's Constitution** - Madhav Godbole
- **Why Bharat Matters** – S Jaishankar
- **Breaking the Mould** – Raghuram Rajan & Rohit Lamba

290. International Day of Education is observed every year on which day?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 22 January / 22 जनवरी
- (b) 23 January / 23 जनवरी
- (c) 24 January / 24 जनवरी
- (d) 25 January / 25 जनवरी
- (e) 27 January / 27 जनवरी

Ans. c

Sol. 24 January - International Day of Education

The International Day of Education is observed across the globe on January 24 to underscore education as a basic human right and a public responsibility.

International Day of Education is envisioned to promote gender equality, inclusivity, and poverty eradication through quality education and democratic participation.

Theme 2024 - Learning for lasting peace

On December 3, 2018, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution that proclaimed January 24 as the International Day of Education.

The UNGA aimed to highlight and celebrate the role of learning for development.

The adoption of the resolution 73/25 "International Day of Education" was co-authored by Nigeria and 58 other member states to promote inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all.

291. Which state will setup World's First 'Black Tiger Safari' in the state?

कौन सा राज्य राज्य में विश्व की पहली 'ब्लैक टाइगर सफारी' स्थापित करेगा?

- (a) Kerala / केरल
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Odisha / ओडिशा
- (d) Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश
- (e) Telangana / तेलंगाना

Ans. c

Sol. Odisha to Setup World's First 'Black Tiger Safari'

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has unveiled plans for the establishment of the world's first 'black tiger safari' near the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj.

This visionary project aims to provide tourists and visitors with a rare glimpse of the melanistic tigers, commonly known as black tigers, recently spotted at the Similipal National Park.

The safari will be established near Baripada over a 200-hectare area, adjoining National Highway 18. About 100 hectare will be display area and the balance area shall be utilised for creation of veterinary care facilities, including rescue center, staff infrastructure, and visitor amenities.

About Odisha

- **Capital** – Bhubaneswar
- **Chief Minister** – Naveen Patnaik
- **Governor** – Raghubar Das

292. India and which country have signed an agreement to foster collaboration and cooperation in the field of Information Technology (IT)?

भारत और किस देश ने सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी (आईटी) के क्षेत्र में सहयोग और सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Tanzania / तंजानिया
- (b) Bangladesh / बांग्लादेश
- (c) Oman / ओमान
- (d) Singapore / सिंगापुर
- (e) UAE / यूएई

Ans. c

Sol. Cabinet Approved for India-Oman IT Cooperation MoU

The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the MoU between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of India and the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology of Oman.

The MoU, inked on December 15 last year, aims to foster collaboration and cooperation in the field of Information Technology (IT).

The comprehensive cooperation outlined in the MoU covers a spectrum of activities, including mutual support, sharing of technologies, information exchange, and investments in the IT sector.

This move is anticipated to strengthen the ties between India and Oman, promoting bilateral collaboration in both government-to-government (G2G) and business-to-business (B2B) dimensions.

The background of this collaboration is rooted in the mandate given to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to promote international cooperation in emerging and frontier areas of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) under bilateral and regional frameworks.

Recently India signed MoUs with others countries

- India and Cuba signed an MoU on digital public infrastructure collaboration
- India and France to jointly fund science research projects
- India and Mauritius collaborate on Rs 20 crore small satellite project
- India and Guyana signed MoU for Hydrocarbon Sector
- India and Malaysia sign an MoU for Cooperation in Broadcasting
- India and Italy signed Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement

293. India's second VLF communication station will be set up in which state?

भारत का दूसरा वीएलएफ संचार स्टेशन किस राज्य में स्थापित किया जाएगा?

- (a) Kerala / केरल
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Odisha / ओडिशा
- (d) Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश
- (e) Telangana / तेलंगाना

Ans. e

Sol. India's second VLF communication station to come up in Telangana

The State government has transferred 1,174 hectares of forest land under the Damagudem Reserve Forest near Pudur village in Vikarabad district to the Indian Navy to set up India's second Very Low Frequency (VLF) radar station.

The Navy had been in discussions with the State government since 2010, but the allocation of land faced delays under the previous governments.

The Union Forest and Environment Department approved the Navy's proposals in 2014. Campa funds of ₹133.54 crore were allocated for the transfer of forest land, and the Navy contributed ₹18.56 crore for land conservation measures.

The naval unit is expected to house approximately 600 naval personnel and civilians, providing homes for around 2,500 to 3,000 people.

This marks the second VLF station in the country, with the first being the INS Kattabomman Radar Station at Vijayanarayanam in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu, operational since 1990.

The Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam had identified Telangana as an ideal location for a second radar station several years ago.

294. The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with which company for the acquisition of 14 fast patrol vessels (FPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at a cost of ₹1,070.47 crore?

रक्षा मंत्रालय ने ₹1,070.47 करोड़ की लागत से भारतीय तट रक्षक (ICG) के लिए 14 तेज़ गश्ती जहाजों (FPV) के अधिग्रहण के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ एक 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. MoD inks ₹1,070 crore pact with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders for 14 fast patrol vessels for ICG

The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Mumbai-based Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) for the acquisition of 14 fast patrol vessels (FPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at a cost of ₹1,070.47 crore.

These multi-role FPVs will be indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured by MDL under Buy (Indian-IDD) Category and will be delivered in total 63 months.

These modern FPVs will play a critical role in enhancing fisheries protection and monitoring, control and surveillance, anti-smuggling operations, search and rescue operations including in shallow waters, assistance to ship/crafts in distress, towing capabilities, assistance and monitoring during marine pollution response operations, anti-piracy operations.

295. The Cabinet has approved the setting up of two coal gasification plants in West Bengal and Odisha. These plants will be set up by which company?

कैबिनेट ने पश्चिम बंगाल और ओडिशा में दो कोयला गैसीकरण संयंत्र स्थापित करने को मंजूरी दे दी है। ये प्लांट किस कंपनी द्वारा लगाए जाएंगे?

- (a) ReNew Power / रिन्यू पावर
- (b) Adani Enterprises / अडानी एंटरप्राइजेज
- (c) JSW Energy / जेएसडब्ल्यू एनर्जी
- (d) NTPC Limited / एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड
- (e) Coal India Limited / कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड

Ans. e

Sol. Cabinet approves setting up of two coal gasification plants in West Bengal and Odisha

The Government has approved that Coal India Limited (CIL) will set up two Coal Gasification Plants with a view to achieve the target of 100 MT coal gasification by the year 2030 and to fulfil India's dual objectives of self-reliance and energy independence.

Total investment in the joint venture of CIL and GAIL for the proposed Coal-to-Synthetic Natural Gas at Sonepur Bazari Area of Eastern Coalfields Limited in West Bengal will be of 13 thousand 52 crore rupees.

The Centre has also approved a proposal for equity investment for setting up of Coal-to-Synthetic Natural Gas Project through a Joint venture of Coal India Limited - CIL and Gas Authority of India Limited- GAIL.

It has also approved for setting up of the Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project through a Joint venture of CIL and Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited- BHEL.

296. Who has been invited by the Ministry of Defence as “Special Guests” to witness the Republic Day Parade, 2024 at Kartavya Path, New Delhi?

रक्षा मंत्रालय द्वारा कर्तव्य पथ, नई दिल्ली में गणतंत्र दिवस परेड, 2024 को देखने के लिए "विशेष अतिथि" के रूप में किसे आमंत्रित किया गया है?

- (a) Arjun Awardee
- (b) Ujjawal Yojana beneficiaries
- (c) Chandrayaan-3's Team
- (d) Ram Temple's workers
- (e) PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries

Ans. e

Sol. PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries invited as “special guests” to witness the Republic Day Parade 2024

The beneficiaries under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme have been invited by the Ministry of Defence as “Special Guests” to witness the Republic Day Parade, 2024 at Kartavya Path, New Delhi.

The PM Vishwakarma Scheme was launched on 17.09.2023 by the Prime Minister of India.

This is a holistic scheme that provides end-to-end support to the artisans & craftspeople belonging to 18 trades. As on date, a total of 2,85,420 applications have been registered successfully under the scheme.

256 beneficiaries of PM Vishwakarma scheme, along with their spouse, are attending the Republic Day Event on 26th January 2024.

These beneficiaries belong to rural and urban areas of 20 States, including North Eastern States and 4 Union Territories. Few of them are from Aspirational districts.

There are 108 female artisans and 148 male artisans, who represent the trades covered under the scheme.

297. Which country will open the first alcohol store in its capital that will exclusively serve non-Muslim diplomats?

कौन सा देश अपनी राजधानी में पहला शराब स्टोर खोलेगा जो विशेष रूप से गैर-मुस्लिम राजनयिकों को सेवा प्रदान करेगा?

- (a) Iran / ईरान
- (b) Iraq / इराक
- (c) UAE / यूएई
- (d) Syria / सीरिया
- (e) Saudi Arabia / सऊदी अरब

Ans. e

Sol. Saudi Arabia to Open First Alcohol Store for Diplomats

Saudi Arabia will open its first alcohol store in the capital Riyadh which will serve exclusively non-Muslim diplomats.

Customers will have to register via a mobile app, get a clearance code from the foreign ministry, and respect monthly quotas with their purchases.

The move is a milestone in the kingdom's efforts, led by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, to open the ultra-conservative Muslim country for tourism and business as drinking alcohol is forbidden in Islam.

This move is expected to enhance Saudi Arabia's diplomatic relations, particularly with Western countries, where alcohol consumption is a part of social and official engagements.

Saudi Arabia has strict laws against drinking alcohol which can be punishable by hundreds of lashes, deportation, fines, or imprisonment and expatriates also face deportation. As part of the reforms, whipping has largely been replaced by jail sentences.

Alcohol has been available only through diplomatic mail or on the black market.

About Saudi Arabia

- **Capital-** Riyadh
- **Currency-** Saudi riyal
- **Prime minister-** Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud

298. Which finance company will lend up to ₹1.2 trillion for the installation of rooftop solar panels under the Pradhan Mantri Suryoday Yojana?

कौन सी वित्त कंपनी प्रधानमंत्री सूर्योदय योजना के तहत छत पर सौर पैनलों की स्थापना के लिए ₹1.2 ट्रिलियन तक का ऋण देगी?

- (a) State Bank of India / भारतीय स्टेट बैंक
- (b) NTPC Limited / एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड
- (c) REC Ltd / आरईसी लिमिटेड
- (d) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (e) JSW Energy / जेएसडब्ल्यू एनर्जी

Ans. c

Sol. REC to lend 1.2 trillion for solar panels

State-run REC Ltd 'a Maharatna power finance company' will lend up to ₹1.2 trillion for the installation of rooftop solar panels under the Pradhan Mantri Suryoday Yojana.

The company has been designated as the programme implementation agency for the implementation of the scheme and its board of directors has approved letters of credit of about ₹15,000 crore each for eight central public sector undertakings would set up the rooftop panels across states.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has designated REC as the overall programme implementation agency for the implementation of rooftop solar in the country and we have been given a target of 1 crore households to be covered in a period of 1 year.

REC's Board has authorized the management to issue a Line of Credit to eight central public sector undertakings that are going to act as renewable energy services companies to the tune of about Rs 15,000 crore each.

299. Which bank has become the first lender in the country to achieve the milestone of 20 million credit cards in force?

कौन सा बैंक 20 मिलियन क्रेडिट कार्ड की उपलब्धि हासिल करने वाला देश का पहला ऋणदाता बन गया है?

- (a) State Bank of India / भारतीय स्टेट बैंक
- (b) Axis Bank / एक्सिस बैंक
- (c) Yes Bank / यस बैंक
- (d) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (e) ICICI Bank / आईसीआईसीआई बैंक

Ans. d

Sol. HDFC Bank first lender to issue 20 million credit cards,

HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, has become the first lender in the country to achieve the milestone of 20 million credit cards in force.

The lender forayed into the credit card business in 2001 and hit the 10-million mark in 2017. The next 10 million issuances came in a little over six years.

HDFC Bank is the largest issuer of card issuers in the country, which commands over a fourth of the overall card market in terms of numbers.

According to the Reserve Bank of India data for November 2023, HDFC Bank's cards in circulation stood at nearly 19.51 million as compared to 19.18 million cards in October 2023.

HDFC Bank is followed by SBI Card, ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank, in terms of the number of credit cards issued.

300. The Reserve Bank of India has approved the Life Insurance Corporation of India's (LIC) application to acquire up to 9.99 percent aggregate holding of paid-up share capital in which bank?

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक ने किस बैंक में चुकता शेयर पूंजी की कुल 9.99 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी हासिल करने के लिए भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम (LIC) के आवेदन को मंजूरी दे दी 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. d

Sol. LIC gets RBI nod for 9.99% stake buy in HDFC Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has approved insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation of India's (LIC) application to acquire up to 9.99 percent aggregate holding of paid-up share capital in HDFC Bank, the country's largest private sector bank.

The approval has been granted with reference to the application made by LIC to RBI.

LIC has been advised by RBI to acquire the major shareholding in HDFC Bank within a period of one year. Further, LIC must ensure that the aggregate holding in the Bank does not exceed 9.99% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights of the Bank at all times.

301. In January 2024, which food delivery company received the certificate of authorization from RBI to operate as a payment aggregator?

जनवरी 2024 में, किस खाद्य वितरण कंपनी को भुगतान एग्रीगेटर के रूप में काम करने के लिए RBI से प्राधिकरण का प्रमाण पत्र प्राप्त हुआ है?

- (a) Zomato
- (b) Swiggy
- (c) Food panda
- (d) Domino's
- (e) Eat Fit

Ans. a

Sol. Zomato receives RBI nod to operate as payment aggregator

Food delivery major Zomato's subsidiary has received the certificate of authorization from RBI to operate as a payment aggregator. The company's wholly-owned subsidiary Zomato Payments Pvt Ltd (ZPPL) has been incorporated to carry out the business as payment aggregator and issuer of pre-paid payment instruments.

ZPPL has been granted certificate of authorization dated January 24, 2024, from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as an 'Online Payment Aggregator' in India with effect from January 24, 2024, as per the guidelines issued by the RBI."

Earlier, players such as Razorpay, Tata Pay and Cashfree bagged similar payment aggregators licenses. The Gurugram-based food delivery major had, last year, announced a partnership with ICICI Bank to launch its own payments business, Zomato Pay.

302. In January 2024, which of the following countries have conducted 'Desert Knight' exercise over the Arabian Sea?
जनवरी 2024 में, निम्नलिखित में से किन देशों ने अरब सागर के ऊपर 'डेजर्ट नाइट' अभ्यास आयोजित किया है?

- (a) India, Russia, and UAE / भारत, रूस और यूएई
- (b) India, USA, and UAE / भारत, अमेरिका और यूएई
- (c) USA, France, and UAE / यूएसए, फ्रांस और यूएई
- (d) India, UK, and UAE / भारत, यूके और यूएई
- (e) India, France, and UAE / भारत, फ्रांस और संयुक्त अरब अमीरात

Ans. e

Sol. India, France, UAE conduct mega air exercise over Arabian Sea

India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) carried out a mega air exercise over the Arabian Sea against the backdrop of rising global concerns over Houthi militants targeting several commercial vessels in the strategic waterways in the region.

The 'Desert Knight' exercise featured several frontline aerial assets and combat jets of the air forces of the three countries.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) component at the drills consisted of Su-30 MKI, MiG-29, and Jaguar fighter jets besides AWACS (airborne early warning and control aircraft, C-130-J transport plane, and air-to-air refuelling aircraft).

The main focus of exercise 'Desert Knight' was enhancing synergy and interoperability between the three air forces," the Indian Air Force said.

The exercise took place in the Indian FIR (Flight Information Regions) and with IAF aircraft operated from several bases in India.

All airspace worldwide is divided into FIRs and each of them is managed by a controlling authority responsible for ensuring that air traffic services are provided to aircraft flying within it.

Recent Exercise

- 11th edition of **Khanjar Exercise** between India-Kyrgyzstan - Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
- 2nd edition of **'Cyclone' exercise** between India and Egypt - Anshas, Egypt
- 1st edition of **Navy Exercise 'Ex-Ayutthaya'** between India & Thailand
- 1st edition of **Military Exercise 'Desert Cyclone'** between India & UAE – Rajasthan
- 12th edition of **multi-national naval exercise MILAN 24** - Visakhapatnam

303. Consider the following statements about the Padma Awards 2024:

- (i) For the year 2024, the President approved the conferment of 132 Padma awards.
- (ii) The list comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 15 Padma Bhushan and 112 Padma Shri awards.
- (iii) 29 awardees in the list are women.
- (iv) Bindeshwar Pathak conferred with Padma Vibhushan in the category of Public Affairs.
- (v) M Venkaiah Naidu conferred with Padma Vibhushan in the category of Social Work.

How many of the statements given above are INCORRECT?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All are correct

Ans. d

Statements

- (i) For the year 2024, the President approved the conferment of 132 Padma awards. **(Correct)**
- (ii) The list comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 15 Padma Bhushan and 112 Padma Shri awards. **(Incorrect)**
- (iii) 29 awardees in the list are women. **(Incorrect)**
- (iv) Bindeshwar Pathak conferred with Padma Vibhushan in the category of Public Affairs. **(Incorrect)**
- (v) M Venkaiah Naidu conferred with Padma Vibhushan in the category of Social Work. **(Incorrect)**

Sol. Padma Awards 2024 Announced

Former Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, actors Chiranjeevi and Vyjayanthimala Bali, and Bharatanatyam dancer Padma Subrahmanyam have been conferred with Padma Vibhushan, the country's second-highest civilian award. While, Bindeshwar Pathak, founder of Sulabh International, conferred with the award posthumously.

Late actor Vijayakant, M. Fathima Beevi, the first female judge to be appointed to the Supreme Court of India, Satyabrata Mookherjee, former president of Bharatiya Janata Party in West Bengal, and Togdan Rinpoche, spiritual leader of the Drikung Kagyu Tradition in Ladakh, were conferred with Padma Bhushan posthumously.

Young Liu, chairman of Taiwan's Foxconn Group, has also been conferred with a Padma Bhushan.

For the year 2024, the President approved conferment of 132 Padma awards, up from 106 such awards last year. The list comprises five Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 110 Padma Shri awards. While 30 awardees are women, the list also includes nine persons from the category of "Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI" and nine posthumous awardees.

Complete List of Padma Awards

Padma Vibhushan Awards 2024			
S.No.	Awardee Name	Field	State
1.	Ms. Vyjayantimala Bali	Art	Tamil Nadu
2.	Shri Konidela Chiranjeevi	Art	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Shri M Venkaiah Naidu	Public Affairs	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Shri Bindeshwar Pathak	Social Work	Bihar
5.	Ms. Padma Subrahmanyam	Art	Tamil Nadu

Padma Bhushan Awards 2024			
S.No.	Awardee Name	Field	State/Country
1.	Ms. M Fathima Beevi	Public Affairs	Kerala
2.	Shri Hormusji N Cama	Literature & Education	Maharashtra
3.	Shri Mithun Chakraborty	Art	West Bengal
4.	Shri Sitaram Jindal	Trade & Industry	Karnataka
5.	Shri Young Liu	Trade & Industry	Taiwan
6.	Shri Ashwin Balachand Mehta	Medicine	Maharashtra
7.	Shri Satyabrata Mookherjee	Public Affairs	West Bengal
8.	Shri Ram Naik	Public Affairs	Maharashtra
9.	Shri Tejas Madhusudan Patel	Medicine	Gujarat
10.	Shri Olanchery Rajagopal	Public Affairs	Kerala

11.	Shri Dattatray Ambadas Mayaloo alias Rajdutt	Art	Maharashtra
12.	Shri Togdan Rinpoche	Others – Spiritualism	Ladakh
13.	Shri Pyarelal Sharma	Art	Maharashtra
14.	Shri Chandreshwar Prasad Thakur	Medicine	Bihar
15.	Ms. Usha Uthup	Art	West Bengal
16.	Shri Vijaykanth	Art	Tamil Nadu
17.	Shri Kundan Vyas	Literature & Education – Journalism	Maharashtra

Padma Shri Awards 2024			
SN	Name	Field	State/Country
1	Shri Khalil Ahamad	Art	Uttar Pradesh
2	Shri Badrappan M	Art	Tamil Nadu
3	Shri Kaluram Bamaniya	Art	Madhya Pradesh
4	Ms. Rezwana Choudhury Bannya	Art	Bangladesh
5	Ms. Naseem Bano	Art	Uttar Pradesh
6	Shri Ramlal Bareth	Art	Chhattisgarh
7	Ms. Gita Roy Barman	Art	West Bengal
8	Ms. Parbati Baruah	Social Work	Assam
9	Shri Sarbeswar Basumatary	Others – Agriculture	Assam

10	Shri Som Datt Battu	Art	Himachal Pradesh
11	Ms. Takdira Begum	Art	West Bengal
12	Shri Sathyanarayana Beleri	Others – Agriculture	Kerala
13	Shri Drona Bhuyan	Art	Assam
14	Shri Ashok Kumar Biswas	Art	Bihar
15	Shri Rohan Machanda Bopanna	Sports	Karnataka
16	Ms. Smriti Rekha Chakma	Art	Tripura
17	Shri Narayan Chakraborty	Science & Engineering	West Bengal
18	Shri A Velu Ananda Chari	Art	Telangana
19	Shri Ram Chet Chaudhary	Science & Engineering	Uttar Pradesh
20	Ms. K Chellammal	Others – Agriculture	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
21	Ms. Joshna Chinappa	Sports	Tamil Nadu
22	Ms. Charlotte Chopin	Others – Yoga	France
23	Shri Raghuveer Choudhary	Literature & Education	Gujarat
24	Shri Joe D Cruz	Literature & Education	Tamil Nadu
25	Shri Ghulam Nabi Dar	Art	Jammu & Kashmir
26	Shri Chitta Ranjan Debbarma	Others – Spiritualism	Tripura
27	Shri Uday Vishwanath Deshpande	Sports	Maharashtra
28	Ms. Prema Dhanraj	Medicine	Karnataka
29	Shri Radha Krishan Dhiman	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh

30	Shri Manohar Krishana Dole	Medicine	Maharashtra
31	Shri Pierre Sylvain Filliozat	Literature & Education	France
32	Shri Mahabir Singh Guddu	Art	Haryana
33	Ms. Anupama Hoskere	Art	Karnataka
34	Shri Yazdi Maneksha Italia	Medicine	Gujarat
35	Shri Rajaram Jain	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
36	Shri Jankilal	Art	Rajasthan
37	Shri Ratan Kahar	Art	West Bengal
38	Shri Yashwant Singh Kathoch	Literature & Education	Uttarakhand
39	Shri Zahir I Kazi	Literature & Education	Maharashtra
40	Shri Gaurav Khanna	Sports	Uttar Pradesh
41	Shri Surendra Kishore	Literature & Education – Journalism	Bihar
42	Shri Dasari Kondappa	Art	Telangana
43	Shri Sridhar Makam Krishnamurthy	Literature & Education	Karnataka
44	Ms. Yanung Jamoh Lego	Others – Agriculture	Arunachal Pradesh
45	Shri Jordan Lepcha	Art	Sikkim
46	Shri Satendra Singh Lohia	Sports	Madhya Pradesh
47	Shri Binod Maharana	Art	Odisha
48	Ms. Purnima Mahato	Sports	Jharkhand
49	Ms. Uma Maheshwari D	Art	Andhra Pradesh

50	Shri Dukhu Majhi	Social Work	West Bengal
51	Shri Ram Kumar Mallick	Art	Bihar
52	Shri Hemchand Manjhi	Medicine	Chhattisgarh
53	Shri Chandrashekhar Mahadeorao Meshram	Medicine	Maharashtra
54	Shri Surendra Mohan Mishra (Posthumous)	Art	Uttar Pradesh
55	Shri Ali Mohammed & Shri Ghani Mohammed* (Duo)	Art	Rajasthan
56	Ms. Kalpana Morparia	Trade & Industry	Maharashtra
57	Ms. Chami Murmu	Social Work	Jharkhand
58	Shri Sasindran Muthuvel	Public Affairs	Papua New Guinea
59	Ms. G Nachiyar	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
60	Ms. Kiran Nadar	Art	Delhi
61	Shri Pakaravur Chithran Namboodiripad (Posthumous)	Literature & Education	Kerala
62	Shri Narayanan E P	Art	Kerala
63	Shri Shailesh Nayak	Science & Engineering	Delhi
64	Shri Harish Nayak (Posthumous)	Literature & Education	Gujarat
65	Shri Fred Negrit	Literature & Education	France
66	Shri Hari Om	Science & Engineering	Haryana
67	Shri Bhagabat Padhan	Art	Odisha
68	Shri Sanatan Rudra Pal	Art	West Bengal
69	Shri Shankar Baba Pundlikrao Papalkar	Social Work	Maharashtra

70	Shri Radhe Shyam Pareek	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
71	Shri Dayal Mavjibhai Parmar	Medicine	Gujarat
72	Shri Binod Kumar Pasayat	Art	Odisha
73	Ms. Silbi Passah	Art	Meghalaya
74	Ms. Shanti Devi Paswan & Shri Shivan Paswan* (Duo)	Art	Bihar
75	Shri Sanjay Anant Patil	Others – Agriculture	Goa
76	Shri Muni Narayana Prasad	Literature & Education	Kerala
77	Shri K S Rajanna	Social Work	Karnataka
78	Shri Chandrashekar Channapatna Rajannachar	Medicine	Karnataka
79	Shri Bhagwatilal Rajpurohit	Literature & Education	Madhya Pradesh
80	Shri Romalo Ram	Art	Jammu & Kashmir
81	Shri Navjivan Rastogi	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
82	Ms. Nirmal Rishi	Art	Punjab
83	Shri Pran Sabharwal	Art	Punjab
84	Shri Gaddam Sammaiah	Art	Telangana
85	Shri Sangthankima	Social Work	Mizoram
86	Shri Machihan Sasa	Art	Manipur
87	Shri Omprakash Sharma	Art	Madhya Pradesh
88	Shri Eklabya Sharma	Science & Engineering	West Bengal
89	Shri Ram Chander Sihag	Science & Engineering	Haryana

90	Shri Harbinder Singh	Sports	Delhi
91	Shri Gurvinder Singh	Social Work	Haryana
92	Shri Godawari Singh	Art	Uttar Pradesh
93	Shri Ravi Prakash Singh	Science & Engineering	Mexico
94	Shri Seshampatti T Sivalingam	Art	Tamil Nadu
95	Shri Somanna	Social Work	Karnataka
96	Shri Kethavath Somlal	Literature & Education	Telangana
97	Ms. Shashi Soni	Trade & Industry	Karnataka
98	Ms. Urmila Srivastava	Art	Uttar Pradesh
99	Shri Nepal Chandra Sutradhar (Posthumous)	Art	West Bengal
100	Shri Gopinath Swain	Art	Odisha
101	Shri Laxman Bhatt Tailang	Art	Rajasthan
102	Ms. Maya Tandon	Social Work	Rajasthan
103	Ms. Aswathi Thirunal Gouri Lakshmi Bayi Thampuratty	Literature & Education	Kerala
104	Shri Jagdish Labhshanker Trivedi	Art	Gujarat
105	Ms. Sano Vamuzo	Social Work	Nagaland
106	Shri Balakrishnan Sadanam Puthiya Veetil	Art	Kerala
107	Shri Kurella Vittalacharya	Literature & Education	Telangana
108	Shri Kiran Vyas	Others – Yoga	France
109	Shri Jageshwar Yadav	Social Work	Chhattisgarh
110	Shri Babu Ram Yadav	Art	Uttar Pradesh

304. The union cabinet has approved the Protocol for the establishment of a joint Economic and Trade Committee between India and which country?

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने भारत और किस देश के बीच एक संयुक्त आर्थिक और व्यापार समिति की स्थापना के लिए प्रोटोकॉल को मंजूरी दे दी है?

- (a) Mangolia / मंगोलिया
- (b) Ghana / घाना
- (c) Dominican Republic / डोमिनिकन गणराज्य
- (d) Namibia / नामीबिया
- (e) Oman / ओमान

Ans. c

Sol. Cabinet approves Protocol for establishment of joint Economic and Trade Committee between India and Dominican Republic
The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved the proposal for signing of a protocol for establishment of Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) between the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic.

Bilateral relations between India and the Dominican Republic have been friendly and continue to deepen in all spheres. At present, there is no bilateral institutional mechanism between India and Dominican Republic on trade and commerce.

India primarily imports gold from the Dominican Republic and exports pharmaceuticals, marine products, motor vehicles, two and three-wheelers etc. to them.

The establishment of JETCO will strengthen the economic ties between India and the Dominican Republic and shall play a pivotal role and provide a platform for discussions, exchange of information, knowledge and ideas which would in turn facilitate trade and industry.

The Joint Committee will provide a platform for exchange of information between various authorities and their counterparts. This would help in facilitating trade of goods and services and consequentially help in better employment opportunities for professionals in both countries.

About Dominican Republic

- Capital- Santo Domingo
- Currency- Dominican Peso
- Continent- North America
- Official language- Spanish

305. AI startup, Krutrim become India's first unicorn in 2024. Which Indian company launched this technology?

AI स्टार्टअप, क्कुट्रिम 2024 में भारत का पहला यूनिकॉर्न बन गया। किस भारतीय कंपनी ने इस तकनीक को लॉन्च किया?

- (a) Ola
- (b) Flipkart
- (c) Snapdeal
- (d) Amazon
- (e) Rapido

Ans. a

Sol. Krutrim becomes India's first \$1 billion AI startup

Ola Krutrim, the artificial intelligence (AI) startup founded by serial entrepreneur Bhavish Aggarwal, has achieved unicorn status following a successful funding round that secured \$50 million from prominent investors, including Matrix Partners India.

The company proudly announced its newfound status as the first Indian AI startup to reach a billion-dollar valuation, a remarkable feat achieved within a month of unveiling a large language model.

The startup, aptly named Krutrim, translating to "artificial" in Sanskrit, is not only focusing on advancing AI language capabilities but is also delving into the development of data centres. The ultimate goal is to create servers and supercomputers tailored to the evolving needs of the AI ecosystem.

Krutrim will be available in beta version for consumers in February 2024. Additionally, it will also be available as an API for enterprises and developers, seeking to create AI applications.

306. Telecom major Reliance Jio has joined hands with which company to set up a 5G innovation lab in India?

टेलीकॉम प्रमुख रिलायंस जियो ने भारत में 5G इनोवेशन लैब स्थापित करने के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ हाथ मिलाया है?

- (a) Apple
- (b) Microsoft
- (c) Samsung
- (d) OnePlus
- (e) Nokia

Ans. d

Sol. Reliance Jio and OnePlus join hands to set up 5G innovation lab in India

Telecom major Reliance Jio and Chinese smartphone company OnePlus have joined hands to set up a 5G innovation lab in India.

The alliance between OnePlus and Jio aims to provide OnePlus and Jio True 5G users with differentiated features and an unparalleled network experience.

To bolster these initiatives, both brands are excited to announce the establishment of a state-of-the-art 5G Innovation Lab. The lab will serve as a hub for testing and developing new technologies.

85 per cent of the entire 5G deployment in India has been made by Jio.

307. FM Nirmala Sitharaman will be the second finance minister to present her _____ straight budget after equalling her record with former PM Morarji Desai on 1 Feb 2024.

1 फरवरी 2024 को पूर्व पीएम मोरारजी देसाई के साथ अपने रिकॉर्ड की बराबरी करने के बाद एफएम निर्मला सीतारमण अपना _____ सीधा बजट पेश करने वाली दूसरी वित्त मंत्री होंगी।

- (a) 4th
- (b) 5th
- (c) 6th
- (d) 7th
- (e) 8th

Ans. c

Sol. Nirmala Sitharaman To Become 2nd FM To Present 6 Consecutive Union Budgets

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will set a record by presenting the sixth Budget in a row -- five annual Budgets and one interim -- a feat achieved so far only by former Prime Minister Morarji Desai.

With the presentation of the interim Budget on February 1, Ms Sitharaman will surpass the records of her predecessors like Manmohan Singh, Arun Jaitley, P. Chidambaram, and Yashwant Sinha, who had presented five budgets in a row.

Mr. Desai, as Finance Minister, had presented five annual Budgets and one interim Budget between 1959-1964.

Former Prime Minister Morarji Desai who holds the tag of presenting 10 Budgets -- the maximum by any Finance Minister -- had presented six of them, including one interim, in a row.

308. Four companies have received market regulator SEBI's nod to raise funds through initial public offerings (IPOs) in January 2024. Which of the following companies has not received approval?

चार कंपनियों को जनवरी 2024 में प्रारंभिक सार्वजनिक पेशकश (आईपीओ) के माध्यम से धन जुटाने के लिए बाजार नियामक सेबी की मंजूरी मिल गई है। निम्नलिखित में से किस कंपनी को मंजूरी नहीं मिली है?

- (a) JNK India / जेएनके इंडिया
- (b) Stallion India Fluorochemicals / स्टैलियन इंडिया फ्लोरोकेमिकल्स
- (c) Akme Fintrade / एक्मे फिनट्रेड
- (d) Entero Healthcare Solutions / एंटरो हेल्थकेयर सॉल्यूशंस
- (e) Exicom Tele-Systems / एक्सिकॉम टेली-सिस्टम्स

Ans. b

Sol. Four companies get SEBI's nod to launch IPOs

Entero Healthcare Solutions, JNK India, Exicom Tele-Systems and Akme Fintrade (India) have received markets regulator SEBI's approval to raise funds through initial public offerings.

However, the Securities and Exchange Board of India has returned the IPO papers of Stallion India Fluorochemicals.

These four firms, which had filed their preliminary papers with the markets watchdog between June and October, obtained observation letters on January 16-19, an update with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

In Sebi's parlance, obtaining observation letters means its go-ahead to launch an IPO.

309. The Tata Group and European aerospace company Airbus have signed an agreement to manufacture which civilian helicopters together in India?

टाटा समूह और यूरोपीय एयरोस्पेस कंपनी एयरबस ने भारत में मिलकर कौन से नागरिक हेलीकॉप्टर बनाने के लिए एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) H25
- (b) H55
- (c) H125
- (d) H225
- (e) H155

Ans. c

Sol. Tata Group, Airbus team up to make helicopters

The Tata Group and European aerospace company Airbus have signed an agreement to manufacture H125 civilian helicopters together in India.

The partnership would include air and space tech, maritime tech, including underwater domain awareness, and equipment and systems related to land warfare.

It also heavily focuses on cutting-edge technology, including robotics, artificial intelligence, cyber-defence, and autonomous vehicles and platforms.

Also, in partnership with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL), Airbus Helicopters will set up a final assembly line (FAL) for H125 civilian helicopters. This will be India's first private helicopter manufacturing facility.

The FAL will take 24 months to set up and deliveries of the first 'made-in-India' H125s are expected to commence in 2026.

This announcement came as India and France adopted a joint defence production road map and an agreement on defence space partnership, following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron.

310. Bank of Baroda's wholly-owned subsidiary for cards, 'BOB Financial Solutions Limited', has been rebranded as 'BOBCARD Limited' with the tagline "_____".

कार्ड के लिए बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा की पूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली सहायक कंपनी, 'बीओबी फाइनेंशियल सॉल्यूशंस लिमिटेड' को टैगलाइन "_____ " के साथ 'बॉबकार्ड लिमिटेड' के रूप में पुनः ब्रांडेड किया गया है।

- (a) Debit Reimagined
- (b) Credit Reimagined
- (c) Loan Reimagined
- (d) BoB Reimagined
- (e) Baroda Reimagined

Ans. b

Sol. Bank of Baroda's arm rebranded as 'BOBCARD Limited'

Bank of Baroda's wholly-owned subsidiary for cards, 'BOB Financial Solutions Limited', has been rebranded as 'BOBCARD Limited' with the tagline "Credit Reimagined".

The NBFC has also unveiled a new logo called 'Baroda Sun', which comprises dual 'B' letterforms that hold the rays of the rising sun. The rebranding embodies "revitalised commitment to reimagine the country's credit landscape with excellent credit solutions and customer-centric offerings". BOBCARD offers an array of consumer and commercial credit cards and caters to all segments of customers with varied needs, including shopping, travel and business cards for large corporates and MSMEs.

The company also has exclusive credit cards for Defence Personnel including the Indian Army, Indian Navy, the Indian Coast Guard, Assam Rifles, professionals like ICAI, ICMAI & ICSI, co-branded cards with HPCL, Snapdeal, IRCTC, Premium Lifestyle cards like Eterna, Premier, among others.

About Bank of Baroda (BOB)

- **Founded** - 1908
- **Headquarters** - Vadodara, Gujarat
- **MD & CEO** - Debadatta Chand
- **Tagline** - India's International Bank

311. The 63rd Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB) Meeting was held in which city?

63वीं केंद्रीय भूवैज्ञानिक प्रोग्रामिंग बोर्ड (सीजीपीबी) की बैठक किस शहर में आयोजित की गई?

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

Ans. e

Sol. 63rd Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB) Meeting Convened In Bhopal

The 63rd gathering of the Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB) took place in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Shri V.L. Kantha Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Mines. Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Shri Janardan Prasad, Director General, GSI, senior functionaries of different Ministries, State Directorates of Mining & Geology, PSUs, representatives from private mining industry, Mining associations and other stakeholders attended the crucial meeting.

The proposed Annual Programme for the ensuing Field Season year 2024-25 was placed before the Board for discussion.

During the ensuing year 2024-25 GSI has formulated about 1055 scientific programs for the year 2024-25, which include 392 Mineral Development projects (G2; G3; G4; and Offshore Explorations) that have the potential to generate auctionable mineral blocks in near future.

312. Consider the following statements about Young Liu, who was honoured with the Padma Award recently:

- (i) Young Liu has been bestowed with the prestigious Padma Vibhushan award.**
- (ii) Young Liu is the CEO of Foxconn Company.**
- (iii) Young Liu received this award in the field of Science and Engineering.**
- (iv) Young Liu's company is a South Korea-based company.**

How many of the statements given above are INCORRECT?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All are correct
- (e) All are incorrect

Ans. c

Statements

- (i) Young Liu has been bestowed with the prestigious Padma Vibhushan award. **(Incorrect)**
- (ii) Young Liu is the CEO of Foxconn Company. **(Correct)**
- (iii) Young Liu received this award in the field of Science and Engineering. **(Incorrect)**
- (iv) Young Liu's company is a South Korea-based company. **(Incorrect)**

Sol. Foxconn CEO Young Liu honoured with Padma Bhushan

In a remarkable recognition of his outstanding contributions to the technology industry, Young Liu, the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Foxconn, the Taiwanese multinational electronics contract manufacturer, has been bestowed with the prestigious Padma Bhushan award.

Young Liu, a seasoned entrepreneur and innovator, boasts an impressive career spanning over four decades.

His entrepreneurial journey began in 1988 when he founded Young Micro Systems, a motherboard company. Subsequently, in 1995, he ventured into the realm of IC design, focusing on PC chipsets. In 1997, Liu established ITE Tech, known as ITeX, marking the third successful venture in his illustrious career.

Foxconn, headquartered in Taiwan, stands as the world's largest contract manufacturer, responsible for assembling approximately 70% of iPhones.

The company has strategically diversified its production away from China in response to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and escalating geopolitical tensions.

The Padma Bhushan Award is one of the highest civilian honours in India. This year, the President approved 132 Padma awards across various fields, including art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, and civil service.

313. Which edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' between India and Saudi Arabia will be held from January 29 to February 10 in Rajasthan?

भारत और सऊदी अरब के बीच संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास 'SADA TANSEEQ' का कौन सा संस्करण 29 जनवरी से 10 फरवरी तक राजस्थान में आयोजित किया जाएगा?

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

Ans. a

Sol. Joint military exercise - SADA TANSEEQ between India & Saudi Arabia to be held in Rajasthan

The inaugural edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' between India and Saudi Arabia will be held from January 29 to February 10 in Rajasthan. The exercise aims to enhance synergy, interoperability and joint Manship by learning and sharing best practices between the Armies of both nations.

The joint exercise will focus on counter-terrorism operations under the United Nations Mandate.

During the exercise, participants will engage in missions ranging from joint planning, operations, joint tactical drills, and will provide field commanders and troops an opportunity to interact with each other.

Earlier in January, India and Saudi Arabia signed a bilateral agreement under which New Delhi has been allocated a quota of 1,75,025 pilgrims for the annual Haj pilgrimage in 2024.

Recent Exercise

- **Desert Knight Exercise** between India, France, UAE - over Arabian Sea
- 11th edition of **Khanjar Exercise** between India-Kyrgyzstan - Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
- 2nd edition of '**Cyclone**' exercise between India and Egypt - Anshas, Egypt
- 1st edition of **Navy Exercise 'Ex-Ayutthaya'** between India & Thailand
- 1st edition of **Military Exercise 'Desert Cyclone'** between India & UAE – Rajasthan

314. Who has been awarded the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year Award for 2023?

2023 के लिए ICC पुरुष वनडे क्रिकेटर ऑफ द ईयर पुरस्कार से किसे सम्मानित किया गया है?

- (a) Virat Kohli / विराट कोहली
- (b) Rachin Ravindra / रचिन रवींद्र /
- (c) Pat Cummins / पैट कमिंस
- (d) Usman Khawaja / उस्मान ख्वाजा
- (e) Suryakumar Yadav / सूर्यकुमार यादव

Ans. a

Sol. Virat Kohli wins ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year Award 2023

Indian batting maestro Virat Kohli was crowned the ICC men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2023 for his excellent run in the format last year headlined by a phenomenal outing in the World Cup at home.

This is the fourth such award for Kohli, who was the second most prolific run-scorer in ODIs last year behind compatriot Shubman Gill.

The former India skipper finished the year with 1,377 runs which included six centuries and eight half-centuries.

This is the seventh individual ICC award won by Kohli during his glittering career, and his fourth in the ODI category after previous wins in 2012, 2017 and 2018.

He also won the Test award in 2018 while the years 2017 and 2018 saw him also win the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year.

Others Awards

- ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year (Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy) - Pat Cummins (Australia)
- ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year (Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy) - Nat Sciver-Brunt (England)
- ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year - Usman Khawaja (Australia)
- ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year - Virat Kohli (India)
- ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year - Chamari Athapathth (Sri Lanka)
- ICC Men's T20I Teams of the Year - Surya Kumar Yadav (India)
- ICC Women's T20I Teams of the Year - Chamari Athapathth (Sri Lanka)
- ICC Umpire of the Year (David Shepherd Trophy) - Richard Illingworth (England)
- ICC Spirit of Cricket of the Year Award - Zimbabwe
- ICC Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year - Rachin Ravindra (New Zealand)
- ICC Women's Emerging Cricketer of the Year - Phobe Litchfield (Australia)

315. International Day of Clean Energy is observed every year on which day?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ ऊर्जा दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 25 January / 25 जनवरी
- (b) 26 January / 26 जनवरी
- (c) 27 January / 27 जनवरी
- (d) 28 January / 28 जनवरी
- (e) 29 January / 29 जनवरी

Ans. b

Sol. 26 January - International Day of Clean Energy

International Day of Clean Energy is observed every year on January 26.

This day serves as a reminder of the critical role clean energy plays in combating climate change, reducing carbon emissions, and ensuring a healthier planet for future generations.

Adopting clean energy is integral to the fight against climate change. For decades, science has shown that to limit climate change, we need to end our reliance on fossil fuels and invest in alternative sources of energy that are clean, sustainable, accessible, affordable, and reliable.

 **ambitious baba**.com

316. International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust is observed every year on which day?
नरसंहार के पीड़ितों की याद में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्मरणोत्सव दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 25 January / 25 जनवरी
- (b) 26 January / 26 जनवरी
- (c) 27 January / 27 जनवरी
- (d) 28 January / 28 जनवरी
- (e) 29 January / 29 जनवरी

Ans. c

Sol. 27 January - International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

January 27th marks a solemn occasion recognized globally as the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

This day serves as a poignant reminder of the horrors of the Holocaust and the enduring need to fight against hatred, bigotry, and racism in all its forms.

In November 2005, the United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 as an "International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust"(Resolution 60/7).

It reaffirmed that the Holocaust, which resulted in the murder of one-third of the Jewish people, along with countless members of other minorities, will forever be a warning to all people of the dangers of hatred, bigotry, racism, and prejudice.

On January 27, 2006, the first worldwide International Holocaust Remembrance Day celebrated.

317. Which of the following has unveiled 'Pahal'- the insightful house journal of its Vigilance Department?

निम्नलिखित में से किसने अपने सतर्कता विभाग की व्यावहारिक गृह पत्रिका 'पहल' का अनावरण किया है?

- (a) NABARD / नाबार्ड
- (b) RBI / आरबीआई
- (c) IREDA / आईआरईडीए
- (d) SEBI / सेबी
- (e) SIDBI / सिडबी

Ans. c

Sol. IREDA releases vigilance journal 'Pahal'

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), GoI enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has unveiled released 'Pahal'- the insightful house journal of its Vigilance Department.

The initiative marks a significant step towards transparency, accountability, and the promotion of renewable energy initiatives by IREDA.

The unveiling ceremony was led by IREDA's Chairman & Managing Director, Shri Pradip Kumar Das at the registered office in New Delhi.

318. Who has inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Supreme Court of India on 28 January at the Supreme Court auditorium in Delhi?

28 जनवरी को दिल्ली के सुप्रीम कोर्ट सभागार में भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के हीरक जयंती समारोह का उद्घाटन किसने किया है?

- (a) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी
- (b) Arjun Ram Meghwal / अर्जुन राम मेघवाल
- (c) Justice D.Y. Chandrachud / जस्टिस डी. वाई. चंद्रचूड़
- (d) Droupadi Murmu / द्रौपदी मुर्मु
- (e) Jagdeep Dhankhar / जगदीप धनखड़

Ans. a

Sol. PM Modi inaugurates Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Supreme Court

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Supreme Court of India on 28 January at the Supreme Court auditorium in Delhi.

He also launched citizen-centric information and technology initiatives that include Digital Supreme Court Reports (Digi SCR), Digital Courts 2.0 and a new website of the Supreme Court.

Government has also given approval of 800 crore rupees for the new Supreme Court building.

The Supreme Court of India held its inaugural sitting on January 28, 1950.

PM Modi in News

- PM Modi released commemorative postage stamps, book on Ram Temple
- PM Modi inaugurated Boeing's India Engineering and Technology Center in Bengaluru
- PM Modi inaugurated the 27th National Youth Festival in Nashik, Maharashtra.
- PM Modi inaugurated & laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over 30,500 crore rupees in Maharashtra
- PM inaugurates Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Optical Fibre Connection

319. Which city will host the seventh edition of the India Rubber Meet (IRM 2024) on 23 February?

23 फरवरी को कौन सा शहर इंडिया रबर मीट (IRM 2024) के सातवें संस्करण की मेजबानी करेगा?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Rubber meet to be held in Guwahati

The seventh edition of the India Rubber Meet (IRM 2024) will be held in Guwahati on February 23.

The theme this year is 'Natural Rubber — Changing Landscape, Emerging Trends and Insights for Tomorrow'.

The event, organized by the India Rubber Meet Forum (IRMF), will feature talks, panel discussions, and interactions on various topics including the future of the global and Indian natural rubber industry, economy and commodity prices, and challenges and opportunities in the tyre, non-tyre, and synthetic rubber industry.

The objective of the meeting is to provide a platform for rubber stakeholders to interact, share knowledge, address future concerns, and network for the advancement of the rubber industry.

The event is expected to attract around 500 delegates from India and abroad, and registration can be done online.

320. In January 2024, which bank has raised ₹5,000 crore through the issuance of long-term infrastructure bonds?

जनवरी 2024 में, किस बैंक ने दीर्घकालिक बुनियादी ढांचा बांड जारी करके ₹5,000 करोड़ जुटाए हैं?

- (a) Bank of Baroda / बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
- (b) Indian Overseas Bank / इंडियन ओवरसीज बैंक
- (c) State Bank of India / भारतीय स्टेट बैंक
- (d) Axis Bank / एक्सिस बैंक
- (e) Yes Bank / यस बैंक

Ans. a

Sol. BoB raises Rs 5,000 Crore via 10-year infrastructure bonds

State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) has raised ₹5,000 crore through the issuance of long-term infrastructure bonds.

The bank received a total of 128 bids amounting to ₹14,950 crore against the total issue size of ₹5,000 crore (base issue of ₹1,000 crore and greenshoe option to retain oversubscription up to ₹4,000 crore).

The bonds have a base issue of Rs 1,000 crore, with retain oversubscription of Rs 4,000 crore as a greenshoe option. It is a provision in an underwriting agreement that grants the underwriter the right to sell investors more bonds than initially planned by the issuer if the demand for a security issue proves higher than expected.

About Bank of Baroda (BOB)

- **Founded** - 1908
- **Headquarters** - Vadodara, Gujarat
- **MD & CEO** - Debadatta Chand
- **Tagline** - India's International Bank

321. JD(U) president Nitish Kumar took oath as Chief Minister of Bihar for a record ____ time after a dramatic volte-face.

जद (यू) अध्यक्ष नीतीश कुमार ने नाटकीय उलटफेर के बाद रिकॉर्ड ____ बार बिहार के मुख्यमंत्री के रूप में शपथ ली।

- (a) 7th
- (b) 8th
- (c) 9th
- (d) 10th
- (e) 11th

Ans. c

Sol. Nitish Kumar takes oath as Bihar chief minister for record ninth time

JD(U) president Nitish Kumar took oath as Chief Minister of Bihar for a record ninth time after a dramatic volte-face.

Eight other cabinet ministers also took oath at Rajbhavan with him. Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered oath of office and secrecy to three BJP and three JD(U) leaders.

Besides this, one member from Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and one Independent also took oath.

Deputy Chief Minister - Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha

About Bihar

- **Capital** – Patna
- **Chief Minister** – Nitish Kumar (9th)
- **Governor** – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

322. President Droupadi Murmu has approved how many gallantry awards on the 75th Republic Day?

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने 75वें गणतंत्र दिवस पर कितने वीरता पुरस्कारों को मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) 75
- (b) 80
- (c) 85
- (d) 72
- (e) 58

Ans. b

Sol. President Murmu approves 80 gallantry awards

President Droupadi Murmu has approved 80 gallantry awards including six Kirti Chakra and 16 Shaurya Chakra on the 75th Republic Day.

Out of the six Kirti Chakra, three were conferred posthumously. The 16 Shaurya Chakra, included two posthumous.

The Kirti Chakra is India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award after Ashok Chakra. Shaurya Chakra is the country's third-highest peacetime gallantry award.

The Kirti Chakra awardees are Major Digvijay Singh Rawat of the 21st Battalion, the Parachute Regiment (Special Forces), Major Deependra Vikram Basnet from the Sikh Regiment's Fourth Battalion and Havildar Pawan Kumar Yadav from the 21st Battalion of the Mahar Regiment.

Those conferred the award posthumously are Captain Anshuman Singh from the 26th battalion of the Punjab Regiment (Army Medical Corps), Havildar Abdul Majid of the Parachute Regiment's ninth battalion (special forces) and Sepoy Pawan Kumar from the 55th battalion of the Rashtriya Rifles.

The President also approved 311 defence decorations to Armed Forces and other personnel. These include 31 Param Vishisht Seva Medals; four Uttam Yudh Seva Medals; two Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medals; 59 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals; 10 Yudh Seva Medals; 8 Bar to Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty); 38 Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty); 10 Nao Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty); 14 Vayu Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty); 5 Bar to Vishisht Seva Medal and 130 Vishisht Seva Medals.

323. Which airport has been selected for the prestigious Excellence Award by Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI) in the recent National Convention on Quality Concepts 2024 in Nagpur, Maharashtra?

हाल ही में नागपुर, महाराष्ट्र में क्वालिटी कॉन्सेप्ट्स 2024 पर राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन में क्वालिटी सर्कल फोरम ऑफ इंडिया (QCFI) द्वारा प्रतिष्ठित उत्कृष्टता पुरस्कार के लिए किस हवाई अड्डे को चुना 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) Thiruvananthapuram International Airport/ तिरुवनंतपुरम अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा

Ans. e

Sol. Thiruvananthapuram airport bags excellence award

Thiruvananthapuram International Airport has been selected for the prestigious Excellence Award by Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI) in the recent National Convention on Quality Concepts 2024 in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

The TIA was selected for the recognition based on its continuous improvement initiatives undertaken for airport operations.

QCFI is recognised as the institution representing The Quality Circle Movement in India and has represented the country in several international forums.

The award jury praised Thiruvananthapuram Airport's initiatives in establishing an effective mechanism to maintain the Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (OLS) free from obstacles for safe aircraft operations and sustenance of the biodiversity through its sustainability initiatives.

324. Which IIT's scholar has achieved the "Best Product Design" award in the Water and Sanitation category at the prestigious Vishwakarma Awards 2023?

किस आईआईटी के विद्वान ने प्रतिष्ठित विश्वकर्मा पुरस्कार 2023 में जल और स्वच्छता श्रेणी में "सर्वश्रेष्ठ उत्पाद डिजाइन" पुरस्कार हासिल 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 scholar wins 'Best Product Design' at Vishwakarma Awards

Satyam, a PhD Scholar in the department of biosciences and bioengineering at the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT-Guwahati), has achieved the "Best Product Design" award in the Water and Sanitation category at the prestigious Vishwakarma Awards 2023.

The competition, organized by the IIT-Delhi in collaboration with Maker Bhavan Foundation and the WIN Foundation, aimed to recognize and support innovative minds in technology from science and engineering colleges across India.

The theme for 2023 focused on water and sanitation, clean technology and smart mobility.

Satyam's winning device, R-SAM-PRO, is an IoT-enabled water quality monitoring system that outshines existing devices in terms of cost-effectiveness and integration with the Internet of Things (IoT).

325. Who has been awarded the Vayu Sena Medal for Gallantry on the 75th Republic Day?

75वें गणतंत्र दिवस पर वीरता के लिए वायु सेना पदक से किसे सम्मानित किया गया है?

- (a) Avani Chaturvedi / अवनि चतुर्वेदी
- (b) Bhawana Kanth / भावना कंठ
- (c) Nikita Malhotra / निकिता मल्होत्रा
- (d) Shivangi Singh / शिवांगी सिंह
- (e) Shaliza Dhama / शालिजा धामी

Ans. c

Sol. Squadron Leader Nikita Malhotra conferred with Vayu Sena Medal

Nikita Malhotra, a Squadron Leader of the Indian Air Force (IAF), was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal for Gallantry on the 75th Republic Day.

She was also part of the Tangail formation of fighters during the flypast over the Kartavya Path on Republic Day Parade.

She was piloting a Dornier aircraft of the formation which included one Dakota aircraft and two Dorniers.

Based on the twin themes of 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Bharat-Loktantra ki Matraka', this year's parade witnessed the participation of around 13,000 special guests.

Recent Awards

- **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2024** - 60 Parachute Field Hospital, UP
- **UP Gaurav Samman** - Dr. Ritu Karidhal Srivastava & Naveen Tiwari
- **Lifetime achievement award by BCCI** - Ravi Shastri
- **Polly Umrigar Award for Best Men's Cricketer of the Year for 2023 by BCCI** - Shubman Gill
- **4th Wings India Awards in the Civil Aviation Sector** - Bangalore & Delhi Airports

326. Which country will host the World Test Championship (WTC) 2027 Final?

कौन सा देश विश्व टेस्ट चैम्पियनशिप (डब्ल्यूटीसी) 2027 फाइनल की मेजबानी करेगा?

- (a) England / इंग्लैंड
- (b) New Zealand / न्यूजीलैंड
- (c) Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया
- (d) South Africa / दक्षिण अफ्रीका
- (e) India / भारत

Ans. a

Sol. England to host 2027 World Test Championship Final

England will host the 2027 World Test Championship (WTC) final in June, marking the fourth consecutive time.

The ICC issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Social Responsibility Provider for the period 2024-2027.

So far, India have been played in both WTC Finals that took place in 2021 and 2023. While India lost to New Zealand in the inaugural final, the Rohit Sharma-led side lost to Australia in the summit clash last year in June.

Currently, in WTC 2023-25 table, Australia hold the top spot, followed by India.

ICC also announces the introduction of the Women's T20 Champions Trophy. The inaugural edition is slated to take place in Sri Lanka in February 2027.

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

327. The Indian pair of _____ has won India's first gold medal at the ISSF Shooting World Cup 2024 in Cairo.
_____ की भारतीय जोड़ी ने काहिरा में ISSF शूटिंग विश्व कप 2024 में भारत का पहला स्वर्ण पदक जीता है।

- (a) Manu Bhaker and Rhythm Sangwan / मनु भाकर और रिदम सांगवान /
- (b) Saurabh Chaudhary and Ujjwal Malik / सौरभ चौधरी और उज्ज्वल मलिक
- (c) Ujjwal Malik and Manu Bhaker / उज्ज्वल मलिक और मनु भाकर
- (d) Rhythm Sangwan and Manu Bhaker / रिदम सांगवान और मनु भाकर
- (e) Rhythm Sangwan and Ujjwal Malik / रिदम सांगवान और उज्ज्वल मलिक

Ans. e

Sol. Indian pair of Rhythm Sangwan and Ujjwal Malik claim 1st gold at ISSF Shooting World Cup

The Indian pair of Rhythm Sangwan and Ujjwal Malik won India's first gold medal at the ISSF Shooting World Cup 2024 in Cairo.

They defeated the Armenian pair of Elmira Karapetyan and Benik Khlghatyan 17-7 in the 10m air pistol mixed team event.

Earlier, Arjun Babuta and Sonam Uttam Maskar won silver in the 10-meter air rifle mixed team event. They lost 16-14 to Great Britain's Seonaid McIntosh and Dean Bale in the final.

328. Consider the following statements concerning the Australian Open 2024:

- (i) Rohan Bopanna wins men's doubles final teaming up with his partner Matthew Ebden.**
- (ii) Zheng Qinwen won the women's single title.**
- (iii) Jannik Sinner won the men's singles title.**
- (iv) Matthew Ebden is from Belarus.**

How many of the statements given above are INCORRECT?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All are correct
- (e) All are incorrect

Ans. b

Statements

- (i) Rohan Bopanna wins men's doubles final teaming up with his partner Matthew Ebden. **(Correct)**
- (ii) Zheng Qinwen won the women's single title. **(Incorrect)**
- (iii) Jannik Sinner won the men's singles title. **(Correct)**
- (iv) Matthew Ebden is from Belarus. **(Incorrect)**

Sol. Australian Open 2024: Rohan Bopanna wins men's doubles final

Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna created history as he became the oldest grand slam winner after teaming up with his Australian partner Matthew Ebden to defeat the Italian pair of Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori in the finals of the Australian Open 2024.

This is Rohan Bopanna's second grand slam title after the 2017 French Open win with his Canadian partner Gabriela Dabrowski in mixed doubles.

With a grand slam title at the age of 43, Rohan Bopanna surpassed the record of Australian tennis champion Ken Rosewall, who won a grand slam at 37.

Australian Open title 2024

Men's Singles

- Winner – Jannik Sinner (Italy)
- Runner Up - Daniil Medvedev (Russia)

Women's Singles

- Winner - Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)
- Runner Up - Zheng Qinwen (China)

Men's Doubles

- Winner - Rohan Bopanna (India) & Matthew Ebden (Australia)
- Runner Up - Simone Bolelli (Italy) and Andrea Vavassori (Italy)

Women's Doubles

- Winner - Hsieh Su-Wei (Taiwan) & Elise Mertens (Belgium)
- Runner Up - Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia) and Lyudmyla Kichenok (Ukraine)

Mixed Doubles title

- Winner - Hsieh Su-wei (Taiwan) & Jan Zielinski (Poland)
- Runner Up - Desirae Krawczyk (USA) & Neal Skupski (Britain)

329. Which of the following countries has won the inaugural edition of the FIH Hockey 5s Women's World Cup?

निम्नलिखित में से किस देश ने FIH हॉकी 5s महिला विश्व कप का उद्घाटन संस्करण जीता है?

- (a) Netherland / नीदरलैंड
- (b) India / भारत
- (c) Brazil / ब्राजील
- (d) Finland / फिनलैंड
- (e) Scotland / स्कॉटलैंड

Ans. a

Sol. Netherlands won FIH Hockey5s Women's World Cup

India finished as runner-up at the inaugural edition of the FIH Hockey 5s Women's World Cup after a 7-2 loss to the Netherlands in the final in Muscat.

India tried to make a comeback and scored twice – Jyoti Chhatri (20th minute) and Rutaja Dadaso Pisal (23rd minute) – but could not catch the Dutch team which added one more goal courtesy of Kalse before the full-time hooter.

Tournament Awards and Accolades

- Gold Medalists- Netherlands
- Silver Medalists- India
- Bronze Medalists- Poland
- Best Player- Noor De Baat (Netherlands)
- Best Goalkeeper- Marta Kucharska (Poland)
- Best Junior Player- Deepika Soreng (India)
- Top Scorer- Teresa Viana (Uruguay) with 19 goals
- Women's Challenger Trophy Winner- United States
- Women's Challenger Trophy Runner-Up- Namibia

330. Tanmay Agarwal scored the fastest first-class triple century, taking just 147 deliveries against Arunachal Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy 2023-2024 held at the NexGen Cricket Ground in Hyderabad. He is playing for which team?

तन्मय अग्रवाल ने हैदराबाद के नेक्सजेन क्रिकेट ग्राउंड में आयोजित रणजी ट्रॉफी 2023-2024 में अरुणाचल प्रदेश के खिलाफ सिर्फ 147 गेंदों में सबसे तेज प्रथम श्रेणी तिहरा शतक बनाया। वह किस टीम के लिए खेल रहे हैं?

- (a) Baroda / बड़ौदा /
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Hyderabad / हैदराबाद
- (d) Delhi / दिल्ली
- (e) Mumbai / मुंबई

Ans. c

Sol. Tanmay Agarwal's Record-Breaking Triple Century Sets the Ranji Trophy

Hyderabad batter Tanmay Agarwal bashed an unbeaten 323 off just 147 balls against Arunachal Pradesh during their Plate Group game in the Ranji Trophy 2023-24 at the NexGen Cricket Ground in Hyderabad.

His innings included 33 fours and 21 sixes, showcasing his aggressive batting style. As a result, the hosts smashed 529 in just 48 overs, at a run rate of 11.02.

147 Balls needed for Tanmay to complete his triple century. It is the fastest-recorded triple ton in the history of first-class cricket by balls taken, breaking the record held by South Africa's Marco Marais off 191 balls for Border against Eastern Province in 2017.

331. India's Newspaper Day is celebrated every year on which day?

भारत का समाचार पत्र दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 27 January / 27 जनवरी
- (b) 28 January / 28 जनवरी
- (c) 29 January / 29 जनवरी
- (d) 30 January / 30 जनवरी
- (e) 31 January / 31 जनवरी

Ans. b

Sol. 28 January - Indian Newspaper Day

India's Newspaper Day is celebrated every year on 28 January to commemorate the launch of the country's first newspaper in 1780. The occasion is observed to commemorate the day on which Irishman James Augustus Hicky launched the first printed newspaper in India.

It was known as the Original Calcutta General Advertiser or Hicky's Bengal Gazette. India has set aside a day to mark the launch of this English-language weekly.

It marks the inception of newspapers in India, a historic moment when James Augustus Hicky introduced the first printed newspaper, Hicky's Bengal Gazette, in 1780.

This article delves into the significance of this day, the historical backdrop of Hicky's Bengal Gazette, and the evolving role of newspapers in today's digital age.

332. Which state has organized the fourth edition of the annual Orange Festival 2024?

किस राज्य ने वार्षिक ऑरेंज फेस्टिवल 2024 के चौथे संस्करण का आयोजन किया है?

- (a) Tripura / त्रिपुरा
- (b) West Bengal / पश्चिम बंगाल
- (c) Nagaland / नागालैंड
- (d) Bihar / बिहार
- (e) Chhattisgarh / छत्तीसगढ़

Ans. c

Sol. 4th Orange Festival 2024 In Nagaland

The fourth edition of the annual Orange Festival began at Local ground in Rusoma village Kohima, Nagaland.

Theme 2024 - "Organic Orange"

The two-day festival was inaugurated by Minister for Women Resources & Horticulture Salhoutuonuo Kruse.

With approximately 3400 attendees, this year's event showcased the best of organic produce, community spirit, and rural entrepreneurship.

About Nagaland

- Formation - 1 December 1963
- Capital- Kohima
- Chief Minister- Neiphiu Rio
- Governor- La. Ganesan

333. Who has inaugurated the 173 km long double line electrified section between New Khurja - New Rewari on the Dedicated Freight Corridor?

डेडिकेटेड फ्रेट कॉरिडोर पर न्यू खुरजा - न्यू रेवाड़ी के बीच 173 किमी लंबी डबल लाइन विद्युतीकृत खंड का उद्घाटन किसने किया है?

- (a) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी
- (b) Ashwini Vaishnaw / अश्विनी वैष्णव
- (c) Amit Shah / अमित शाह
- (d) Piyush Goyal / पीयूष गोयल
- (e) Anurag Thakur / अनुराग ठाकुर

Ans. a

Sol. PM Modi Unveils Infrastructure Boost in Bulandshahr, UP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth over Rs 19,100 crore in Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh.

The projects are related to several sectors like rail, road, oil and gas and urban development and housing.

The PM also dedicated a 173 km long double line electrified section between New Khurja - New Rewari on the Dedicated Freight Corridor. He dedicated the fourth line connecting the Mathura-Palwal section and the Chipiyana Buzurg-Dadri section.

PM also inaugurated Indian Oil's Tundla-Gawaria Pipeline and dedicated 'Integrated Industrial Township at Greater Noida' (IITGN).

He inaugurated the renovated Mathura sewerage scheme.

334. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has collaborated with filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani for a short film to spread awareness about voting. What is the title of this short film?

भारतीय चुनाव आयोग (ईसीआई) ने मतदान के बारे में जागरूकता फैलाने के लिए एक लघु फिल्म के लिए फिल्म निर्माता राजकुमार हिरानी के साथ सहयोग किया है। इस लघु फिल्म का शीर्षक क्या है?

- (a) My Vote My Country
- (b) My Vote for my country
- (c) Value of one vote
- (d) My Vote Future for India
- (e) My Vote My Duty

Ans. e

Sol. Election Commission collaborates with Rajkumar Hirani for a short film

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has collaborated with filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani for a short film to spread awareness about voting.

Titled 'My Vote My Duty', the short is compiled from video messages by cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar as well as actors Rajkummar Rao, Amitabh Bachchan, R Madhavan, Raveena Tandon, Vicky Kaushal, Boman Irani, Arshad Warsi, Bhumi Pednekar and Mona Singh.

A short film 'My Vote My Duty' produced by #ECI in association with @RajkumarHirani featuring several renowned celebrities on the theme 'Value of one vote' was released on #NVD2024.

The film aims to address attitudinal barriers such as indifference and apathy and inspire citizens to recognise the significance of their votes.

About Election Commissioner of India (ECI)

- It is a constitutional body to conduct and regulate elections in the country.
- It consists of a chief election commissioner (CEC) and two election commissioners (usually retired IAS or IRS officers)
- Founded - 25 January 1950
- 25 January - Voter's Day
- HQ - New Delhi
- 1st Chief - Sukumar Sen
- 1st Women Chief - V.S. Ramadevi
- 25th Chief - Rajiv Kumar
- Commissioner - Anup Chandra Pandey & Arun Goel
- Tenure - 6/65yrs

335. The 23rd World Sustainable Development Summit will be held in which city from Feb 7-9?

23वां विश्व सतत विकास शिखर सम्मेलन 7-9 फरवरी तक किस शहर में आयोजित किया जाएगा?

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

Ans. b

Sol. World Sustainable Development Summit to be held in New Delhi

The 23rd World Sustainable Development Summit will be held in New Delhi from Feb 7-9.

The summit is Organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), this independent international summit aims to address global challenges such as conflict, planetary crises, and setbacks in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Under the theme 'Leadership for Sustainable Development and Climate Justice', the summit will emphasise the crucial role of visionary leadership in steering the world toward sustainability.

Expected to be inaugurated by the Vice President of India, the summit will host prominent speakers, including ministers from Fiji, Kiribati, and Spain, as well as representatives from the World Bank and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

ambitious baba.com

336. Which company has established a benchmark in Green Hydrogen production, by successfully implementing India's one of the first pilot project aligned with the "National Green Hydrogen Mission"?

किस कंपनी ने "राष्ट्रीय हरित हाइड्रोजन मिशन" के साथ संरेखित भारत के पहले पायलट प्रोजेक्ट में से एक को सफलतापूर्वक कार्यान्वित करके ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन उत्पादन में एक बेंचमार्क स्थापित किया है?

- (a) ReNew Power / रिन्यू पावर
- (b) Adani Enterprises / अडानी एंटरप्राइजेज
- (c) THDC India Limited / टीएचडीसी इंडिया लिमिटेड
- (d) NTPC Limited / एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड
- (e) Torrent Power / टोरेंट पावर

Ans. c

Sol. THDC dedicates India's largest Green Hydrogen pilot project

THDC India Limited, a leading Power Sector PSU, has established a benchmark in Green Hydrogen production, by successfully implementing India's one of the first pilot project aligned with the "National Green Hydrogen Mission".

The Project will be India's largest electrolyser end fuel cell-based pilot project.

THDC India Limited is under the ownership of National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, Ministry of Power, Government of India. It was incorporated in July 1988 to develop, operate and maintain the Tehri Hydro Power Complex and other Hydro Projects. THDC India Limited is a Mini Ratna Category-I Enterprise.

337. Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated which edition of the 4th National Chilika Birds Festival?

ओडिशा के मुख्यमंत्री नवीन पटनायक ने चौथे राष्ट्रीय चिल्का पक्षी महोत्सव के किस संस्करण का उद्घाटन किया है?

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

Ans. d

Sol. Odisha CM inaugurates 4th National Chilika Birds Festival

Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated the 3-day 4th National Chilika Birds Festival.

The festival, jointly organised by the Department of Tourism, the Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change and the Chilika Development Authority, kicked off with a captivating photo exhibition.

The exhibition showcased the pictures of renowned photographers including Shakti Nanda, Umakanta Biswal, Dhritiman Mukherjee and others.

The festival witnessed the participation of 52 selected birders from across the country.

About Odisha

- **Capital** – Bhubaneswar
- **Chief Minister** – Naveen Patnaik
- **Governor** – Raghubar Das

338. Who has become the first woman to hold the rank of Subedar in the Indian Army?

भारतीय सेना में सूबेदार का पद पाने वाली पहली महिला कौन बन गई हैं?

- (a) Anshika Singh / अंशिका सिंह
- (b) Sadhna Saxena Nair / साधना सक्सैना नायर
- (c) Vasudha Gupta / वसुधा गुप्ता
- (d) Ipsita Dasgupta / इप्सिता दासगुप्ता
- (e) Preeti Rajak / प्रीति रजक

Ans. e

Sol. Preeti Rajak Becomes Indian Army's 1st Woman Subedar

Havildar Preeti Rajak, who is a champion trap shooter, has become the first woman to hold the rank of Subedar in the Indian Army. Subedar Preeti Rajak joined the Army in the Corps of Military Police in December 2022.

Preeti Rajak has been awarded a promotion based on her spectacular performance in sports.

During the 19th Asian Games, held at Hangzhou in China, Preeti Rajak won a silver medal in the trap women team event.

Subedar Preeti Rajak is currently ranked sixth in India (trap women event) and is training at the Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU) in preparation for the Paris Olympic Games 2024.

Padma Shri and Arjuna awardee Subedar Major and Honorary Lieutenant Jitu Rai was also promoted to the rank of Subedar Major and Honorary Captain for his meritorious service.

Recent Appointment

- **CMD for Colliers Project Leaders Middle East** - Sankey Prasad
- **CEO of Jindal Stainless Ltd** - Tarun Khulbe
- **CEO of PepsiCo India** - Jagrut Kotecha (replace Ahmed El Sheikh)
- **As a member of the UPSC** - Sheel Vardhan Singh
- **MD of Bangalore Metro** - Maheshwar Rao
- **MD of Experian India** - Manish Jain

339. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)?

भारतीय दूरसंचार नियामक प्राधिकरण (TRAI) का नया अध्यक्ष किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Ganesan Kannabiran / गणेशन कन्नाबीरन
- (b) Anil Kumar Lahoti / अनिल कुमार लाहोटी
- (c) Pramod Sharma / प्रमोद शर्मा
- (d) PK Yadav / पीके यादव
- (e) Anant Maheshwari / अनंत माहेश्वरी

Ans. b

Sol. Anil Kumar Lahoti appoints as Chef of TRAI

Former Railway Board Chairman and CEO Anil Kumar Lahoti has been appointed as the Chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

The post of TRAI chairman has been lying vacant for four months since PD Vaghela's retirement on September 30.

The 1984 batch Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE) officer has been appointed as TRAI chief for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until he attains the age of 65 years or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

During his more than 36 years of career in railways, Lahoti worked in various capacities over Central, Northern, North Central, Western and West Central Railways and in Railway Board.

Recent Appointment

- **Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** - Bharat Harbanslal Khera
- **Additional Secretary as well as Mission Director for the Dept of Drinking Water and Sanitation's Jal Jeevan Mission** - Chandra Bhushan Kumar
- **Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** - Puja Singh Mandol
- **Additional Secretary of Home Ministry** - Sanjeev Kumar Jindal
- **Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Women and Child Development** - Tripti Gurha

340. Tableau 'India: Mother of Democracy' has clinched the First Spot at the Republic Day Parade 2024. This tableau belonged to which ministry/ organization?

झांकी 'भारत: लोकतंत्र की जननी' ने गणतंत्र दिवस परेड 2024 में पहला स्थान हासिल किया है। यह झांकी किस मंत्रालय/संगठन की थी?

- (a) Ministry of Culture / संस्कृति मंत्रालय
- (b) Ministry of Environment and Forests / पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय
- (c) Election Commission of India / भारत चुनाव आयोग
- (d) Ministry of Education / शिक्षा मंत्रालय
- (e) Ministry of Law and Justice / कानून और न्याय मंत्रालय

Ans. a

Sol. 'India: Mother of Democracy' clinches First Spot at Republic Day Parade 2024

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) announced that its tableau Bharat: Mother of Democracy' of the Ministry of Culture has secured the first prize at the Republic Day Celebration Parade 2024 at Kartavya Path, marking a significant triumph in the realm of cultural representation.

The tableau, a stunning blend of tradition and innovation, captivated audiences with its masterful use of the anamorphic technique alongside a rich display of Bharat's cultural heritage, often hailed as the mother of democracy.

The anamorphic technique, skillfully employed in the presentation, added a contemporary touch, reflecting the dynamism of the culture.

This modern twist seamlessly complemented the traditional elements, creating a tableau that stood out for its artistic finesse and cultural resonance.

341. Deep Grace Ekka has announced her international retirement recently. She was related to which sport?

दीप ग्रेस एक्का ने हाल ही में अपनी अंतरराष्ट्रीय सेवानिवृत्ति की घोषणा की है। वह किस खेल से संबंधित थीं?

- (a) Hockey / हॉकी
- (b) Tennis / टेनिस
- (c) Badminton / बैडमिंटन
- (d) Football / फुटबॉल
- (e) Cricket / क्रिकेट

Ans. a

Sol. Indian women's hockey player Deep Grace Ekka announces international retirement

Indian women's hockey team defender and penalty corner specialist Deep Grace Ekka has announced her international retirement. The 29-year-old was instrumental in India qualifying for the 2016 Rio Olympics. She was a vital cog in the team's defence line at the Tokyo Games where India finished fourth.

Ekka was also a member of the Indian team that won bronze in the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games. She also represented the Indian teams that won medals in 2014 and 2018 Asian Games.

She was also a member of the title-winning Indian teams in 2016 Women's Asian Champions Trophy and 2017 Asia Cup.

Ekka began her journey in international hockey as a 17-year-old in 2011 when she made her debut in the Four-Nation Tournament in Argentina

Recently Retired Players

- Shaun Marsh (Australia) – Professional Cricket
- Heinrich Klaasen (South Africa) - Test cricket
- David Warner (Australia) - – International ODI & Test
- Asad Shafiq (Pakistan)- All forms of cricket
- Gurkeerat Singh Mann (India) – International Cricket

342. In January 2024, the ICC Board lifted the suspension of which cricket board with immediate effect?

जनवरी 2024 में, ICC बोर्ड ने किस क्रिकेट बोर्ड का निलंबन तत्काल प्रभाव से हटा दिया है?

- (a) Sri Lanka / श्रीलंका
- (b) Afghanistan / अफगानिस्तान
- (c) UAE / यूएई
- (d) Zimbabwe / जिम्बाब्वे
- (e) Myanmar / म्यांमार

Ans. a

Sol. ICC lifts ban on Sri Lanka Cricket two months after suspension

The ICC Board has lifted the suspension of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) with immediate effect.

SLC was suspended in November for being in serious breach of its obligations as an ICC member, in particular, the requirement to manage its affairs autonomously and ensure that there is no government interference in the governance, regulation and/or administration of cricket in Sri Lanka.

The Board have been monitoring the situation since the suspension and are now satisfied that SLC are no longer in breach of membership obligations.

About Sri Lanka

- **Legislative capital** - Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- **Executive and Judicial capital** - Colombo
- **Currency** - Sri Lankan rupee
- **President** - Ranil Wickremesinghe
- **Prime Minister** - Dinesh Gunawardena

343. World Leprosy Day is observed every year on which day in India?

भारत में विश्व कुष्ठ रोग दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 28 January / 28 जनवरी
- (b) 29 January / 29 जनवरी
- (c) 30 January / 30 जनवरी
- (d) 31 January / 31 जनवरी
- (e) 27 January / 27 जनवरी

Ans. c

Sol. 28 January 2024 - World Leprosy Day

World Leprosy Day is observed on the last Sunday of January, across the globe. Therefore, it was observed on 28 January, this year. However, in India, this day is annually celebrated on 30 January.

World Leprosy Day helps to create awareness about the disease and eliminate the stigma and discrimination faced by those who suffer from the disease.

Theme 2024 - Beat Leprosy

The first World Leprosy Day was established in 1954 by French Journalist Raoul Follereau. He chose the date as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, who showed compassion and empathy towards people affected by leprosy.

The day aims to campaign for awareness about the disease and to highlight available treatment options.

344. India commemorates Martyrs' Day, also known as Shaheed Diwas, on January 30th each year. It is recognized to commemorate the death anniversary of which freedom fighter?

भारत प्रत्येक वर्ष 30 जनवरी को शहीद दिवस मनाता है यह किस स्वतंत्रता सेनानी की पुण्य तिथि के उपलक्ष्य में मान्यता प्राप्त है?

- (a) Lal Bahadur Shastri / लाल बहादुर शास्त्री
- (b) Rajiv Gandhi / राजीव गांधी
- (c) Indira Gandhi / इंदिरा गांधी
- (d) Jawaharlal Nehru / जवाहरलाल नेहरू
- (e) Mahatma Gandhi / महात्मा गांधी

Ans. e

Sol. 30 January - Martyrs Day or Shaheed Diwas

India commemorates Martyrs' Day, also known as Shaheed Diwas, on January 30th each year.

The death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi is 30 January. He was shot and killed by Nathuram Godse, a Hindu nationalist, on 30 January 1948, while he was on his way to address an evening prayer meeting at Birla Bhavan, Delhi.

Mahatma Gandhi is known as the 'Father of the Nation'. He led the freedom movement in India and emphasised the use of non-violent and peaceful methods to fight the British rule.

The International Day of Non-Violence is also celebrated on Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary on 2 October. This day is dedicated to promoting non-violent ways of conflict resolution and peace.

345. Rana Talwar passed away recently at the age of 76. Who was he?

राणा तलवार का हाल ही में 76 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह कौन थे?

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

Ans. b

Sol. Rana Talwar passed away

Veteran banker Rana Talwar, who was the first Indian to head a global bank -- Standard Chartered, died at the age of 76 years.

Talwar was a board member at DLF, having joined the realty major in 2006.

He began his career with Citibank India in 1969, swiftly ascending through the ranks to lead its retail businesses in Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Europe, and North America.

Then, in the summer of 1997, the St Stephens alumnus joined Standard Chartered, assuming the position of CEO after some months, becoming the first Asian to head an international bank.

346. Dr. Nitya Anand passed away recently at the age of 99. He was discovered _____.
डॉ. नित्या आनंद का हाल ही में 99 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। उनकी खोज _____ की गई थी।

- (a) India's first antiretroviral cabotegravi injection
- (b) India's first oral contraceptive pill 'Saheli'
- (c) India's first polio vaccine
- (d) India's first paracetamol tablet
- (e) India's first histopathological tests

Ans. b

Sol. Dr Nitya Anand dies at 99

Dr Nitya Anand, who discovered India's first oral contraceptive pill 'Saheli', passed away at the age of 99. Anand was also the former director of the Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) from 1974 to 1984. He has been with CDRI since its inception in 1951. He published over 400 research papers and over 130 patents and supervised 100 PhD students.

He was the brain behind the discovery of 'Centchroman', popularly known as 'Saheli.' It was the world's first and only non-steroidal, non-hormonal, once-a-week oral contraceptive pill. It was launched by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1986.

In 2016, Saheli was incorporated in the National Family Programme of India. Even today, it is the only non-steroidal non-hormonal contraceptive in the world, the publication reported.

347. Which company has signed a deal with UAE's ADNOC Gas to buy 0.5 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) annually for 10 years?

किस कंपनी ने 10 वर्षों के लिए सालाना 0.5 मिलियन टन तरलीकृत प्राकृतिक गैस (एलएनजी) खरीदने के लिए संयुक्त अरब अमीरात के एडीएनओसी गैस के साथ एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Hindustan Petroleum / हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम
- (b) Gas Authority of India Limited / गैस अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड
- (c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation / तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस निगम
- (d) Reliance Petroleum / रिलायंस पेट्रोलियम
- (e) Bharat Petroleum / भारत पेट्रोलियम

Ans. b

Sol. GAIL signs long-term LNG deal with UAE's ADNOC Gas

GAIL (Gas Authority of India Limited) has signed a deal with UAE's ADNOC Gas to buy 0.5 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) annually for 10 years.

This is the second long-term LNG purchase deal GAIL has signed this month. The deliveries under the ADNOC deal will start in 2026.

This "will contribute to bridging the gap in India's demand and supply of natural gas and will open more avenues of strategic partnership between GAIL and ADNOC in other areas of energy domain,

Earlier this month, GAIL had signed a deal with global commodity trader Vitol under which the Indian gas marketer would buy one million tonne of LNG every year for ten years starting in 2026.

Chairman and Managing Director of GAIL - Sandeep Kumar Gupta

348. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) extended the ban against the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) for how many years?

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय (एमएचए) ने स्टूडेंट्स इस्लामिक मूवमेंट ऑफ इंडिया (सिमी) के खिलाफ प्रतिबंध को कितने वर्षों के लिए बढ़ा दिया है?

- (a) 1 years
- (b) 2 years
- (c) 3 years
- (d) 4 years
- (e) 5 years

Ans. e

Sol. MoHA extends ban imposed on Students Islamic Movement of India for 5 years

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) extended the ban against the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) for another five years.

The organisation was declared an "unlawful association," under the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for the first time in 2001.

SIMI has been found involved in fomenting terrorism, disturbing peace and communal harmony to threaten the sovereignty, security and integrity of Bharat.

349. India's employable youth is up from 33.9% in 2014 to 51.3% in 2024. This data has been released by which department?

भारत में रोजगार योग्य युवाओं की संख्या 2014 में 33.9% से बढ़कर 2024 में 51.3% हो गई है। यह डेटा किस विभाग द्वारा जारी किया गया है?

- (a) Department of Finance / वित्त विभाग
- (b) Department of Trade and Industry / व्यापार और उद्योग विभाग
- (c) Department of Budget and Management / बजट और प्रबंधन विभाग
- (d) Department of Labor and Employment / श्रम और रोजगार विभाग
- (e) Department of Economic Affairs / आर्थिक मामलों का विभाग

Ans. e

Sol. India's employable youth up from 33.9% in 2014 to 51.3% in 2024: DEA

The Department of Economic Affairs, in its January 2024 review of the economy, said there is ample scope to mainstream skilling into education curriculum and upskilling a large chunk of the existing workforce into future-relevant skills on the back of a transformative journey in skill development in India in the last decade.

According to the report, the push to mass skilling since 2014 has begun to pay dividends. "The employable percentage of final-year and pre-final-year students increased from 33.9% in 2014 to 51.3% in 2024," it said citing the findings of the online Wheebox National Employability Test.

Further, the across-the-board progress in skilling has manifested in India's rising position in WorldSkills Competitions, from 39 in 2011 to 11 in 2022.

Combined with the rising enrolment in higher education (from 3.2 crore in 2013-14 to 4.1 crore in 2020-21), rising employability implies that India's young workforce is both expanding and becoming increasingly employable.

According to the report, India has 50.2% of men and 41% of women with ten or more years of schooling in the 15-49 age group.

There is an opportunity to make the education-skill continuum the greatest weapon in the Indian Miracle by reaching out to each of these youth who only need to attend finishing schools for employability.

350. In January 2024, which ride-hailing company launched e-bike services in Delhi and Hyderabad?

जनवरी 2024 में, किस राइड-हेलिंग कंपनी ने दिल्ली और हैदराबाद में ई-बाइक सेवाएं शुरू की हैं?

- (a) Ola / ओला
- (b) Uber / उबेर
- (c) Rapido / रैपिडो
- (d) Bolt /बोल्ट
- (e) DoorDash / डोरडैश

Ans. a

Sol. Ola launches e-Bike taxi service in Delhi & Hyderabad

Ride-hailing platform Ola has launched e-bike services in Delhi and Hyderabad.

Ola e-bike fares start from ₹25 for 5 km, ₹50 for 10 km and ₹75 for 15 km.

The company will deploy 10,000 electric scooters in both cities in the coming months.

Ola launched its e-bike taxi service in Bangalore on a pilot basis in September 2023. Within 3 months, the company saw a 40% market expansion, with over 1.75 million rides.

Ola has set up 200 charging stations in Bangalore.

351. International Monetary Fund (IMF) has increased its GDP growth estimate for India to what per cent from 6.3% in FY 24?
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (आईएमएफ) ने वित्त वर्ष 24 में भारत के लिए अपना जीडीपी विकास अनुमान 6.3% से बढ़ाकर कितने प्रतिशत कर दिया है?

- (a) 6.5%
- (b) 6.6%
- (c) 6.7%
- (d) 6.8%
- (e) 6.9%

Ans. c

Sol. IMF upgrades India's GDP growth rate to 6.7 per cent for current financial year. International Monetary Fund (IMF) has increased its GDP growth estimate for India to 6.7 per cent for the current financial year. It is 40 basis points higher than its previous forecast of 6.3 per cent. In its latest World Economic Outlook report, IMF also raised India's upward medium-term GDP growth to 6.5 per cent for 2025 and 2026.

Updated GDP List

- IMF – 6.7% (FY24), 6.5% (FY25), 6.5% (FY26)
- World Bank – 6.3% (FY24), 6.4% (FY25), 6.5% (FY26)
- India Ratings – 6.7% (FY24)
- Goldman Sachs – 6.2% (FY24)
- Fitch Rating – 6.9% (FY24), 6.5% (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)

352. Over 22.5 lakh accounts have been opened under the Mahila Samman Saving Certificate Scheme (MSSCS) in the first nine months of the fiscal with a deposit of over ₹14,500 crore. What is the interest rate of MSSCS?

वित्त वर्ष के पहले नौ महीनों में महिला सम्मान बचत प्रमाणपत्र योजना (एमएसएससीएस) के तहत 22.5 लाख से अधिक खाते खोले गए हैं, जिनमें 14,500 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की जमा राशि है। MSSCS की ब्याज दर क्या है?

- (a) 5.5%
- (b) 6.5%
- (c) 7.5%
- (d) 8.5%
- (e) 9.5%

Ans. c

Sol. Mahila Samman Savings Certificate collected over ₹14,500 crore in 9 months

Over 22.5 lakh accounts have been opened under the Mahila Samman Saving Certificate Scheme (MSSCS) in the first nine months of the fiscal with a deposit of over ₹14,500 crore.

The scheme was announced in the budget 2023. The scheme was notified on March 31 and made available through 1.6 lakh post offices from April 1.

Data shows, Maharashtra circle leads in opening accounts under MSSCS with over 4.5 lakh accounts and deposits of over 2,800 crore followed by Tamil Nadu circle (around 3.5 lakh accounts, around ₹1,600 crore of deposits), Odisha circle (over 2.5 lakh accounts, over ₹1,000 crore of deposits), Karnataka circle (around 1.7 lakh accounts, around ₹1,200 crore of deposits) and Andhra Pradesh circle (over 1.3 crore accounts, over ₹600 crore of deposits).

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her speech for the 2023-24 Union Budget announced: "For commemorating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a one-time new small savings scheme, Mahila Samman Savings Certificate, will be made available for two years up to March 2025. This will offer a deposit facility up to ₹2 lakh in the name of women or girls for a tenor of two years at a fixed interest rate of 7.5 per cent with partial withdrawal option.

TDS (tax deducted at source) is not applied on interest earned on MSSCS, but interest income will be added to total income for tax calculation.

353. Which department has released the report titled "The Indian Economy: A Review" in January 2024?

जनवरी 2024 में किस विभाग ने "द इंडियन इकोनॉमी: ए रिव्यू" शीर्षक से रिपोर्ट जारी की है?

- (a) Department of Expenditure
- (b) Department of Revenue
- (c) Department of Investment and Public Asset Management
- (d) Department of Financial Services
- (e) Department of Economic Affairs

Ans. e

Sol. FY 2023-24 marks third successive year of over 7% growth of Indian economy: Economic Review

The Financial Year 2024 marks the third successive year of over 7 percent growth of the Indian economy even as the global economy struggles to grow at more than 3 percent.

According to the Indian Economy Review released by the Department of Economic Affairs, India's unwavering commitment to ensuring steady economic growth is generating resources for investment needed for climate change adaptation, building resilience, and mitigating emissions. Projecting the good health of India's financial sector, the review said that the public sector capital investment has surged in the last 10 years. The report further highlights that the structural reforms implemented since 2014 have strengthened the macroeconomic fundamentals of the economy.

Marking a significant improvement in women-led development, the report noted that under PM Jan Dhan Yojana, the proportion of women having a bank account has increased from 53 percent in 2015-16 to 78.6 percent in 2019-21.

Female Labour Force Participation rose from 23.3 percent in 2017-18 to 37 per cent in 2022-23.

Highlighting the enhancement in the education levels of women, the review said that the female gross enrolment ratio in senior secondary education rose from 24.5 percent in 2005 to 58.2 percent in 2022.

Delineating the pivotal role of India's robust Digital Public Infrastructure, the report noted that the transformation in the authentication ecosystem has reduced the cost of conducting e-KYC from a thousand rupees to five rupees. It said that India is the third-largest fintech economy in the world after the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

India became the world's fourth-largest stock market in the world by market capitalisation due to the significant interest from domestic and global investors in the Indian stock market.

354. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Puducherry?

केंद्र शासित प्रदेश पुडुचेरी के नए मुख्य सचिव के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Smita Sarangi / स्मिता सारंगी
- (b) Arindam Bagchi / अरिंदम बागची
- (c) Sharat Chauhan / शरत चौहान
- (d) Tanu Singh / तनु सिंह
- (e) Vivek Murthy / विवेक मूर्ति

Ans. c

Sol. Sharat Chauhan Appointed As Puducherry's New Chief Secretary

Sharat Chauhan (Principal Commissioner, Finance, Planning and Investment Department, Arunachal Pradesh) is the new Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Puducherry.

The outgoing Chief Secretary, Rajeev Verma, has been posted as Adviser to the Administrator in Chandigarh.

Dr. Chauhan belongs to the 1994 AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre.

Dr. Chauhan has also served as an Executive Officer to the Regional Director of the World Health Organization (WHO), South East Asia Region.

Recent Appointment

- **Chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** - Anil Kumar Lahoti (replace PD Vaghela)
- **Indian Army's 1st Woman Subedar** - Preeti Rajak
- **CMD for Colliers Project Leaders Middle East** - Sankey Prasad
- **CEO of Jindal Stainless Ltd** - Tarun Khulbe
- **CEO of PepsiCo India** - Jagrut Kotecha (replace Ahmed El Sheikh)

355. Azali Assoumani has been re-elected as President of which country?

अज़ाली असौमानी को किस देश के राष्ट्रपति के रूप में फिर से चुना गया है?

- (a) Mangolia / मंगोलिया
- (b) Ghana / घाना
- (c) Sudan / सूडान
- (d) Namibia / नामीबिया
- (e) Comoros / कोमोरोस

Ans. e

Sol. AZALI Assoumani re-elected as President of the Comoros

The Comoros Supreme Court validated the contested re-election of President Azali Assoumani in the elections.

The court affirmed Azali's victory and secured 57.2% of the vote, a figure adjusted from the initially declared 62.97%.

He became head of state after staging a coup d'etat in 1999 and was elected president in 2002, 2016, 2019 and 2024.

Notably, Assoumani is also the Chairperson of the African Union. African Union is a union consisting of 55 member states in Africa. The move to include the African Union in the G20 grouping was proposed by PM Modi last June.

About Comoros

- Capital- Moroni
- Currency- Comorian Franc
- Continent- Africa
- President- Azali Assoumani
- Official languages- Comorian, French, Arabic

Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President

- President of Guatemala - Bernardo Arevalo
- President of Taiwan - William Lai
- King of Denmark - King Frederik X (replace Queen Margrethe II)
- Prime Minister of France - Gabriel Attal (replace Elisabeth Borne; youngest PM at 34)
- Prime Minister of Bangladesh – Sheikh Hasina (5th term)

356. Which company has been certified as a Top Employer in India by the Top Employers Institute?

शीर्ष नियोक्ता संस्थान द्वारा किस कंपनी को भारत में शीर्ष नियोक्ता के रूप में प्रमाणित किया गया है?

- (a) ReNew Power / रिन्यू पावर
- (b) Adani Enterprises / अडानी एंटरप्राइजेज
- (c) REC Limited / आरईसी लिमिटेड
- (d) NTPC Limited / एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड
- (e) Reliance Limited / रिलायंस लिमिटेड

Ans. d

Sol. NTPC Limited gets certified as a Top Employer 2024 in India

The 2024 Top Employers of the Top Employers Institute have been announced and NTPC Limited has been certified as a Top Employer in India by the institute.

NTPC completed the following steps in order to qualify for the certification: HR Best Practice Survey, Validation and Audit.

NTPC's performance score was rated against an international standard and NTPC has achieved Top Employer status.

NTPC Limited, formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation, is an Indian central Public Sector Undertaking under the ownership of the Ministry of Power and the Government of India, which is engaged in the generation of electricity and other activities.

The headquarters of the PSU are situated at New Delhi.

NTPC is India's largest energy conglomerate with roots planted way back in 1975 to accelerate power development in India.

357. Who has won the U.S.-based National Boxing Association's intercontinental super featherweight title after defeating American Gerardo Esquivel at Toppenish City, Washington?

टॉपपेनिश सिटी, वाशिंगटन में अमेरिकी गेरार्डो एस्क्विवेल को हराकर अमेरिका स्थित नेशनल बॉक्सिंग एसोसिएशन का इंटरकॉन्टिनेंटल सुपर फेदरवेट खिताब किसने जीता है?

- (a) Kavita Chahal / कविता चहल
- (b) Manish Kaushi / मनीष कौशिक
- (c) Amit Panghal / अमित पंगाल
- (d) Mandeep Jangra / मनदीप जांगड़ा
- (e) Vijender Singh / विजेंदर सिंह

Ans. d

Sol. Indian boxer Mandeep Jangra wins intercontinental title in U.S.

Indian boxer Mandeep Jangra has won the U.S.-based National Boxing Association's intercontinental super featherweight title after defeating American Gerardo Esquivel at Toppenish City, Washington.

Undefeated in his professional career so far the 30-year-old, who trains under former Olympic silver-medallist Roy Jones Jr, dropped down from his previous 75kg weight class to compete for this title.

Before the win against Esquivel, Jangra, who made his professional boxing debut in 2021, registered knockout wins in four out of his six fights.

Jangra had a decent run in the amateur circuit as well and won a Commonwealth Games silver medal in the 2014 Glasgow edition.

The National Boxing Association (NBA) is a Florida-based sanctioning body for professional bouts.

358. Two-time Asian Games medallist Naorem Roshibina Devi has been named International Wushu Federation's (IWUF) Female Athlete of the Year. She is from which state?

दो बार की एशियाई खेलों की पदक विजेता नाओरेम रोशिबिना देवी को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वुशु महासंघ (IWUF) की वर्ष की महिला एथलीट नामित किया गया है। वह किस राज्य से है?

- (a) Tripura / त्रिपुरा
- (b) Mizoram / मिजोरम
- (c) Assam / असम
- (d) Manipur / मणिपुर
- (e) Meghalaya / मेघालय

Ans. d

Sol. Naorem Roshibina Crowned Female Wushu Athlete Of The Year

Two-time Asian Games medallist Naorem Roshibina Devi (Manipur) has been named International Wushu Federation's (IWUF) female athlete of the year in the sanda category after a month-long public voting.

The 23-year-old Roshibina, who won a bronze and a silver in the 2018 and 2022 Asian Games respectively, polled 93545 votes to beat Shahrbanu Mansouriyani Semiromi (88179) of Iran and Wu Xiaowei (46753) of China.

After the IWUF Athletes Committee's preliminary evaluation, 45 candidates from 23 countries and regions entered in the public voting in various categories.

The Manipuri also won a bronze medal in the 2016 World Junior Wushu Championships. She was conferred with the Arjuna Award this year.

Roshibina had lost to Xiaowei in the women's 60kg Wushu sanda event final at the Hangzhou Asian Games last year.

359. Who has clinched Gold in the 10m Air Rifle Event at the ISSF World Cup?

ISSF विश्व कप में 10 मीटर एयर राइफल स्पर्धा में स्वर्ण पदक किसने जीता है?

- (a) Abhinav Bindra / अभिनव बिंद्रा
- (b) Gagan Narang / गगन नारंग
- (c) Manu Bhaker / मनु भाकर
- (d) Divyansh Singh Panwar / रुद्राक्ष पाटिल
- (e) Rudranksh Patil /-सौरभ चौधरी

Ans. d

Sol. Divyansh Singh Panwar Clinches ISSF World Cup Gold In 10m Air Rifle Event

21 years old, Divyansh Singh Panwar has securing his fourth World Cup gold in the 10m air rifle event.

This latest triumph adds to his impressive collection, which includes victories in Munich, Beijing, and Delhi since 2019.

The former world no. 1, Olympian Divyansh qualified in style by topping the field with 632.4. He beat Danilo Sollazzo of Italy by 1.9 points for the gold.

The earlier world record of 253.3 for the men's final was achieved by Sheng Lihao of China in the Asian Games last year in Hangzhou. Sheng's qualification world record stays at 637.9

360. International Zebra Day is observed annually on which day?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ज़ेबरा दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 28 January / 28 जनवरी
- (b) 29 January / 29 जनवरी
- (c) 30 January / 30 जनवरी
- (d) 31 January / 31 जनवरी
- (e) 27 January / 27 जनवरी

Ans. d

Sol. 31 January - International Zebra Day

International Zebra Day is observed annually on January 31.

Objective - To raise awareness about the conservation of zebras.

These unique animals, easily recognizable by their black and white stripes, are an integral part of Africa's wildlife and ecosystem.

According to the African Wildlife Foundation, their population has decreased by approximately 54% over the past three decades.

361. Sukhbir Singh Gill passed away recently at the age of 48. He was related to which sport?

सुखबीर सिंह गिल का हाल ही में 48 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. a

Sol. First hockey Olympian of Chandigarh dies

Chandigarh's first hockey Olympian, Sukhbir Singh Gill passed away at the age of 48.

Sukhbir Singh Gill, who represented the Indian men's hockey team at the Sydney 2000 Olympics and the 2002 Hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur.

He also helped the Indian team to a gold medal finish at the 2001 Men's Hockey Champions Challenge in Malaysia.

 **ambitious baba**
INDIA'S BEST GOVERNMENT JOBS PORTAL

[Join Telegram Channel to Get Early Updates and PDFs](#)

[Click here Join our Whatsapp Group](#)

[Download Current Affairs Android APP](#)

[Download Online Test Series Android APP](#)

[Subscribe our YouTube Channel for Free Banking Classes](#)

Online Mock Test Available on App as well as [Web](#)



ambitious baba .com

2024 Preparation Kit PDF

[Most important PDF's for Bank, SSC, Railway and Other Government Exam : Download PDF Now](#)

AATMA-NIRBHAR Series- Static GK/Awareness Practice Ebook PDF	Get PDF here
The Banking Awareness 500 MCQs E-book Bilingual (Hindi + English)	Get PDF here
AATMA-NIRBHAR Series- Banking Awareness Practice Ebook PDF	Get PDF here
Computer Awareness Capsule 2.0	Get PDF here
AATMA-NIRBHAR Series Quantitative Aptitude Topic-Wise PDF 2020	Get PDF here
Memory Based Puzzle E-book 2016-19 Exams Covered	Get PDF here
Caselet Data Interpretation 200 Questions	Get PDF here
Puzzle & Seating Arrangement E-Book for BANK PO MAINS (Vol-1)	Get PDF here
ARITHMETIC DATA INTERPRETATION 2.0 E-book	Get PDF here

Best Online Test Series

Visit: test.ambitiousbaba.com

