



# Best 300+ MCQs

February 2024

## Current Affairs PDF

**1. India is home to around 718 snow leopards, according to the first-ever population estimation exercise conducted by the Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPA) Programme. The highest number of snow leopards were recorded in which place?**

सो लेपर्ड पॉपुलेशन असेसमेंट इन इंडिया (एसपीएआई) कार्यक्रम द्वारा आयोजित पहली जनसंख्या आकलन अभ्यास के अनुसार, भारत लगभग 718 हिम तेंदुओं का घर है। हिम तेंदुओं की सर्वाधिक संख्या किस स्थान पर दर्ज की गई?

- (a) Jammu and Kashmir / जम्मू और कश्मीर
- (b) Uttarakhand / उत्तराखंड
- (c) Himachal Pradesh / हिमाचल प्रदेश
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh / अरुणाचल प्रदेश
- (e) Ladakh / लद्दाख

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** India home to 718 snow leopards: SPA report

India is home to around 718 snow leopards, according to the first-ever population estimation exercise conducted by the Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPA) Programme.

The highest number of snow leopards were recorded in Ladakh (477), followed by Uttarakhand (124), Himachal Pradesh (51), Arunachal Pradesh (36), Sikkim (21), and Jammu and Kashmir (9).

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) was the National Coordinator for the exercise that was carried out with the support of all snow leopard range states and two conservation partners, the Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru, and WWF-India.

Until recent years, the snow leopard range in India was undefined due to a lack of extensive nationwide assessments for this vulnerable species. Before 2016, approximately one-third of the range (around ca. 100,347 square kilometres) received minimal research attention, reduced to just 5 per cent in pockets like Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh.

The recent status surveys have significantly increased understanding, providing preliminary information for 80 per cent of the range (about 79,745 square kilometres), compared to 56 per cent in 2016.

To gather robust information on snow leopard numbers, the SPA exercise surveyed habitats using a substantial network of camera traps.

**2. Which state government has launched a new initiative called the 'Sadak Suraksha Force' to improve traffic movement and reduce road accidents in the state?**

किस राज्य सरकार ने राज्य में यातायात व्यवस्था में सुधार और सड़क दुर्घटनाओं को कम करने के लिए 'सड़क सुरक्षा बल' नामक एक नई पहल शुरू की है?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh / उत्तर प्रदेश
- (b) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (c) Rajasthan / राजस्थान
- (d) Punjab / पंजाब
- (e) Haryana / हरियाणा

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Punjab CM Flagged Off Sadak Suraksha Force

The Chief Minister of Punjab, Bhagwant Mann has launched a new initiative called the 'Sadak Suraksha Force' to improve traffic movement and reduce road accidents in the state.

The force aims to protect people and streamline traffic movements in the state.

The 'Sadak Suraksha Force' will comprise 144 vehicles and 5,000 employees who will be deployed every 30 kilometers on the roads to ensure the safety of the people.

According to available data, 17-18 people lose their lives in road accidents in Punjab every day, which amounts to more than 500 deaths per month and nearly 6,000 deaths per year.

**About Punjab**

- **Capital** – Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister** – Bhagwant Mann
- **Governor** – Banwarilal Purohit

**3. Which company sold a record 11.2 million vehicles in 2023, taking the crown as the world's top-selling automaker for a fourth straight year?**

**किस कंपनी ने 2023 में रिकॉर्ड 11.2 मिलियन वाहन बेचे, और लगातार चौथे वर्ष दुनिया की सबसे अधिक बिकने वाली वाहन निर्माता कंपनी का ताज अपने नाम किया?**

- (a) Toyota Motor / टोयोटा मोटर
- (b) Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd / महिंद्रा एंड महिंद्रा लिमिटेड
- (c) Suzuki Motor Corporation / सुजुकी मोटर कॉर्पोरेशन
- (d) Mercedes-Benz / मर्सिडीज बेंज
- (e) Tata Motors Ltd / टाटा मोटर्स लिमिटेड

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Toyota keeps crown as world's top-selling automaker in 2023

Toyota Motor sold a record 11.2 million vehicles in 2023, taking the crown as the world's top-selling automaker for a fourth straight year.

The Japanese automaker reported a 7.2% jump in global group sales last year, including those of truck unit Hino Motors and small-car maker Daihatsu, helped by record overseas sales of 8.9 million vehicles.

Sales of Toyota's parent-only vehicles, which include those of its namesake and Lexus brands, hit a record of 10.3 million vehicles in 2023.

Second-ranked German rival Volkswagen Group earlier this month reported a 12% rise in deliveries last year to 9.2 million cars, marking a post-pandemic recovery as supply chain bottlenecks eased.

**4. In January 2024, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed which payments bank to cease all deposits and credit transactions after 29 February 2024?**

जनवरी 2024 में, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने किस भुगतान बैंक को 29 फरवरी 2024 के बाद सभी जमा और क्रेडिट लेनदेन बंद करने का निर्देश दिया 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. d**

**Sol.** RBI Imposes Major Restrictions on Paytm Payments Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed Paytm Payments Bank to cease all deposits and credit transactions after February 29, 2024.

This action stems from persistent non-compliances and ongoing supervisory concerns within the bank, raising questions about the impact on its customers.

In exercise of its powers under section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, RBI has directed that no further deposits and credit transactions or top-ups shall be allowed in any customer accounts, prepaid instruments, wallets, and FASTags after the 29th of February, other than any interest, cashbacks, or refunds which may be credited anytime.

Withdrawal or utilisation of balances by its customers from their accounts including savings bank accounts, current accounts, prepaid instruments, FASTags, and National Common Mobility Cards, are to be permitted without any restrictions, up to their available balance.

RBI added that the Nodal Accounts of One97 Communications Ltd and Paytm Payments Services Ltd. are to be terminated at the earliest, in any case not later than the 29th of February.

**5. Consider the following statements about the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2023:**

- (i) The index prepared by Economist Intelligence Unit.
- (ii) On a scale of 0 to 100 on which countries are judged, 0 is very clean and 100 is highly corrupt.
- (iii) India is at 93rd spot.
- (iv) India's overall score was 49 in 2023.
- (v) Denmark is the first place.
- (vi) Sudan is the most corrupt country.

**How many of the statements given above are INCORRECT?**

- (a) only two
- (b) only three
- (c) only four
- (d) all are incorrect
- (e) all are correct

**Ans. c**

**Statements**

- (i) The index prepared by Economist Intelligence Unit. **(Incorrect)**
- (ii) On a scale of 0 to 100 on which countries are judged, 0 is very clean and 100 is highly corrupt. **(Incorrect)**
- (iii) India is at 93rd spot. **(Correct)**
- (iv) India's overall score was 49 in 2023. **(Incorrect)**
- (v) Denmark is the first place. **(Correct)**
- (vi) Sudan is the most corrupt country. **(Incorrect)**

**Sol.** India slips 8 places on Transparency International's corruption perception index

Transparency International (TI) released the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2023. India slipped 8 places to 93rd in CPI, as India's rank in 2022 was 85th.

The index prepared by Transparency International ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption drawn from experts and business people.

On a scale of 0 to 100 on which countries are judged, 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.

India's overall score was 39 in 2023 while it was 40 in 2022.

Seventy-one per cent of the countries across Asia and the Pacific have a CPI score below the regional average score of 45 and the global average of 43 out of 100, observed the report.

The CPI 2023 report ranks India in a better position than its neighbours. In this, except Bhutan (26) and China (76), other countries have been ranked below India. Myanmar (162), Bangladesh (149), Pakistan (133), Sri Lanka (115), China (76), Bhutan (26), Australia (14), Hong Kong (14), Japan (16), Bhutan (26), Taiwan (28) and South Korea (32).

**Countries with least corruption**

- Denmark is the first place where corruption is most prevalent, whereas countries like New Zealand (3) and Singapore (5) have higher scores and less corruption.

**Countries with most corruption**

- North Korea (172), Myanmar and Afghanistan (162) are at the bottom of the index.
- Somalia is the most corrupt country in terms of corruption. Somalia is at the bottom of the list of 180 countries in the world.

**Recent index**

- **Henley Passport Index 2024** - Rank 1 - France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and Spain with 194 destinations; Rank 80 - India and Uzbekistan with 62 destinations; Rank 104 - Afghanistan with 28 countries destinations
- **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

**6. Who has been elected the new Chief Minister of Jharkhand?**

**झारखंड का नया मुख्यमंत्री किसे चुना गया है?**

- (a) Kalpana Soren / कल्पना सोरेन
- (b) Sristhy Soren / सृष्टि सोरेन
- (c) Pushpa Soren / पुष्प सोरेन
- (d) Harihant Soren / अरिहंत सोरेन
- (e) Champai Soren / चंपई सोरेन

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Champai Soren to be next Jharkhand CM

Hemant Soren has resigned as Jharkhand's Chief Minister while the ruling JMM-led coalition proposed the name of senior leader and State Transport Minister Champai Soren as the new Chief Minister.

Hemant Soren tendered his resignation to Governor CP Radhakrishnan at the Raj Bhavan after about seven hours of questioning by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case linked to a land scam.

Champai Soren was unanimously elected as the JMM Legislature Party leader by the ruling alliance in the State.

**About Jharkhand**

- **Capital** – Ranchi
- **Chief Minister** – Champai Soren (replace Hemant Soren)
- **Governor** - C.P. Radhakrishnan

**7. Sanjay Vinayak Mudaliar has been appointed as Executive Director of which bank?**

**संजय विनायक मुदलियार को किस बैंक का कार्यकारी निदेशक नियुक्त किया गया 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.** ACC approves Sanjay Mudaliar as ED of Bank of Baroda

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the Department of Financial Services (DFS) proposal to post Sanjay Vinayak Mudaliar as Executive Director at Bank of Baroda.

Mudaliar is currently the Executive Director at Indian Overseas Bank.

Mudaliar will serve his new post from the day he assumes charge for the remainder of his term, i.e. up to Dec 31, 2025.

Simultaneously, ACC has approved the DFS proposal to post Joydeep Dutta Roy, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda, as Executive Director in the Indian Overseas Bank.

Roy will serve his new posting from the day he took charge for the remainder of his term, i.e. up to October 20, 2024, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

**Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- **MD & CEO of DCB Bank** - Praveen Achuthan Kutty (replace Murali Natrajan) *effect from 29/4/24*
- **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



**8. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC)?**

**एशियाई क्रिकेट परिषद (एसीसी) के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Roger Binny /रोजर बिन्नी
- (b) Rajeev Shukla / राजीव शुक्ला
- (c) Zaka Ashraf / जका अशरफ
- (d) Jay Shah / जय शाह
- (e) Arjuna Ranatung / अर्जुन रणतुंगा

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Jay Shah reappointed as chairman of ACC

Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah was appointed as the president of the Asian Cricket Council for a third consecutive term.

His reappointment as the continental body's chief was unanimously agreed upon during the ACC Annual General Meeting in Bali on Wednesday, January 31.

Jay Shah was appointed as the president of the Asian Cricket Council for the first time in 2021 when he replaced Nazmul Hassan in January that year.

His tenure as the ACC president was extended until 2024 January. At 32 in 2021, Jay Shah had become the youngest administrator to take over the ACC chief role.

The ACC also announced the Women's T20 Asia Cup which will be held in September 2024. The Emerging Asia Cup for men and women was brought back last year. The ACC had also announced U19 Asia Cup tournaments in 2023 and 2024.

**Recent Appointment**

- **Chief Secretary of Puducherry** - Sharat Chauhan (replace Rajeev Verma)
- **Adviser to the Administrator in Chandigarh** - Rajeev Verma
- **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

**9. Consider the following statements about the Republic Day Parade 2024:**

- i. Best Marching Contingent – Rajputana Rifles Regimental Marching Contingent; by the panel of judges**
- ii. Odisha (Woman Empowerment in Viksit Bharat) Tableau at first position in the state/UTs; by the panel of judges**
- iii. Ministry of Culture (Bharat: Mother of Democracy) is Best Tableau in Ministries and Departments; by the panel of judges**
- iv. Best Marching Contingent– Sikh Regiment Contingent; by the citizens' vote**
- v. Gujrat (Dhordo: A Global Icon of Gujarat's Border Tourism) Tableau at first position in the state/UTs; by the citizens' vote**

**Find the Correct Statements?**

- (a) only iii
- (b) only iii & iv
- (c) only ii, iii & v
- (d) only i, ii & iv
- (e) All are correct

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Best Republic Day tableaux: Odisha wins 1st prize

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt gave away the best marching contingents and tableaux awards for the Republic Day Parade.

He announced separate results – one by a panel of judges and other through an online public vote conducted by MyGov and congratulated all the winners.

Three panels of judges were appointed for assessing the performance of Marching Contingents from three Services, Marching Contingents from Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)/other auxiliary forces and tableaux from various States/Union Territories and Ministries/Departments.

- **The Results are:**
- Best Marching Contingent among the three services – Sikh Regiment Contingent
- Best Marching Contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces – Delhi Police Women Marching Contingent
- Best three Tableaux (States/UTs)

First – Odisha (Woman Empowerment in Viksit Bharat)

Second – Gujrat (Dhordo : A Global Icon Of Gujarat's Border Tourism)

Third – Tamil Nadu (Kudavolai System in ancient Tamil Nadu – Mother of Democracy)

- Best Tableau (Ministries/Departments) - Ministry of Culture – (Bharat: Mother of Democracy)
- Special Prize - Central Public Works Department (Central Vista -Viksit Bharat Ka Pratibimb)
- Special memento to 'Vande Bharatam' – Dance Group

• In addition to the panel of judges, a web page was created on MyGov platform for online registration of citizens for watching the Republic Day Parade and Beating the Retreat Ceremony 2024 online. An online poll was conducted by MyGov for the citizens to vote for their favourite Tableaux from States/UTs and Ministries/Departments as also amongst the Marching contingents to select the best amongst popular choice category.

**•The Results are:**

- Best Marching Contingent among the three services – Rajputana Rifles Regimental Marching Contingent
- Best Marching Contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces - CRPF Woman Marching Contingent
- Best three Tableaux (States/UTs):

First - Gujrat (Dhordo: A Global Icon Of Gujarat's Border Tourism)

Second - Uttar Pradesh (Viksit Bharat Samradh Virasat)

Third – Andhra Pradesh (Transforming School Education in Andhra Pradesh – Making Students Globally Competitive)

- Best Tableau (Central Ministries/Departments) – Vibrant Villages (Ministry of Home Affairs)

**10. The UK has named nine scientists, including three researchers of Indian descent, as recipients of a prestigious UK's Blavatnik Awards for young scientists who are advancing science and improving the world. Who among the following Indian Scientists is NOT included in UK's Blavatnik Awards?**

ब्रिटेन ने विज्ञान को आगे बढ़ाने और दुनिया में सुधार करने वाले युवा वैज्ञानिकों के लिए ब्रिटेन के प्रतिष्ठित ब्लावाटनिक पुरस्कार के प्राप्तकर्ताओं के रूप में भारतीय मूल के तीन शोधकर्ताओं सहित नौ वैज्ञानिकों को नामित किया है। निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा भारतीय वैज्ञानिक यूके के ब्लावाटनिक पुरस्कारों में शामिल नहीं है?

- (i) **Rahul R Nair**
- (ii) **Sristhy Verma**
- (iii) **Mehul Malik**
- (iv) **Tanmay Bharat**
- (v) **Deepanshu Vats**

- (a) only ii
- (b) only iii
- (c) only ii & v
- (d) only iii & v
- (e) only ii & iv

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Three Indian Scientists To Be Honored With Prestigious UK Prize In London

The UK has named nine scientists, including three researchers of Indian descent, as recipients of a prestigious award for young scientists who are advancing science and improving the world.

The UK's Blavatnik Awards For Young Scientists honour research in three categories—Chief Sciences, Physical Sciences & Engineering, and Life Sciences—that is revolutionising technology, medicine, and our understanding of the world.

The recipients, including Professors Rahul R Nair, Mehul Malik, and Tanmay Bharat will be honoured at a black-tie gala dinner and award ceremony in London on February 27 and will receive grants totalling 480,000 pounds.

Rahul R Nair, a materials physicist at The University of Manchester, was named Laureate in Physical Sciences & Engineering for developing novel membranes based on two-dimensional (2D) materials that will enable energy-efficient separation and filtration technologies.

Mehul Malik, the award finalist, was recognised for advancing quantum communications through groundbreaking techniques that harness high-dimensional entanglement, a complex quantum physics phenomenon.

Tanmay Bharat, PhD, from the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology (Life Sciences), was recognised for developing cutting-edge techniques in electron cryotomography (cryo-ET) to create atomic-level pictures of cell-surface molecules produced by microscopic bacteria and archaea, as they form multicellular communities including biofilms and microbiome.

#### **Recent Awards**

- **Certified as a Top Employer 2024 in India by Top Employers Institute** - NTPC Limited
- **Female Wushu Athlete Of The Year** - Naorem Roshibina Devi (Manipur)
- **Excellence Award by Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI)** -Thiruvananthapuram Intl. Airport
- **Best Product Design at Vishwakarma Awards** - Satyam (IIT Guwahati's scholar)
- **Vayu Sena Medal** - Squadron Leader Nikita Malhotra

### 11. What is the mascot of the Khelo India Winter Games 2024?

खेलो इंडिया शीतकालीन खेल 2024 का शुभंकर क्या है?

- (a) Nokki, Lekki, and Tsukki
- (b) Neve, Gliz and Aster
- (c) Miga, Quatchi, Sumi
- (d) Sheen-e She
- (e) Tun Tun

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Khelo India Winter Games 2024 mascot, snow leopard 'Sheen-e She' (Shan) reveals

The mascot and logo of Khelo India Winter Games were launched. The first part of the Winter Games, a mouth-watering event for winter sports athletes, will be held in Union Territory of Ladakh for the first time from February 2-6. The second portion is scheduled in Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir from February 21-25.

In keeping with the tradition and biodiversity of the region, the mascot of the Khelo India Winter Games 2024 is a snow leopard. It has been named 'Sheen-e She' or Shan in Ladakh region.

#### **ABOUT KHELO INDIA WINTER GAMES 2024**

- The Khelo India Winter Games 2024 is the fourth edition of the annual event in the Khelo India calendar.
- The Union Territory of Ladakh is making its debut as hosts this year alongside the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, which has organised the Games from 2020.
- Leh will be the venue for the first part of the Games from February 2-6. The Games are scheduled to move to Gulmarg between February 21-25. While Ladakh will be conducting games -- ice Hockey and speed skating -- Jammu and Kashmir will conduct ski mountaineering, Alpine skiing, snowboarding, Nordic ski and gondola.

**12. Who is the author of the book titled 'Ek Samandar, Mere Andar'?**

**एक समंदर, मेरे अंदर' नामक पुस्तक के लेखक कौन हैं?**

- (a) Amitav Ghosh / अमिताव घोष
- (b) Vikram Seth / विक्रम सेठ
- (c) Jhumpa Lahiri / झुंपा लाहिड़ी
- (d) Sanjeev Joshi / संजीव जोशी
- (e) Priya A.S. / प्रिया ए.एस

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** 'Ek Samandar, Mere Andar' book written by Sanjeev Joshi

BrahMos Aerospace Deputy CEO Sanjeev Joshi's 'Ek Samandar, Mere Andar' is a 75 poetic creation.

Sanjeev Joshi explores a diverse range of topics, including emotions, experiences, and reflections on life in and beyond the realm of defense.

The book launch gathered eminent figures including NSA Ajit Doval, General Anil Chauhan, and Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt.

**Recent Books**

- **Pranab My father** – Sharmistha Mukherjee
- **The Cooking Books** – Ramchandra Guha
- **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

**13. World Interfaith Harmony Week is celebrated annually on \_\_\_\_\_.**

**विश्व अंतरधार्मिक सद्भाव सप्ताह प्रतिवर्ष \_\_\_\_\_ को मनाया जाता है।**

- (a) 1-7 February / 1-7 फरवरी
- (b) 2-7 February / 2-7 फरवरी
- (c) 3-8 February / 3-8 फरवरी
- (d) 1-6 February / 1-6 फरवरी
- (e) 1-5 February / 1-5 फरवरी

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 1-7 February - World Interfaith Harmony Week

World Interfaith Harmony Week is celebrated annually in the first week of February.

The week transforms into a global platform for fostering peace and understanding.

Established in 2010 by the United Nations General Assembly, it serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of dialogue, respect, and collaboration across different faiths.

The story of World Interfaith Harmony Week begins with King Abdullah II of Jordan, who presented the concept to the UN in 2010.

Recognizing the need for mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue, the UNGA unanimously adopted the resolution, designating February 1-7 as a dedicated time to celebrate harmony among people of all faiths.

**14. Indian Coast Guard Day is observed every year on February 1. The Indian Coast Guard was established on which year?**

**भारतीय तटरक्षक दिवस हर साल 1 फरवरी को मनाया जाता है। भारतीय तटरक्षक की स्थापना किस वर्ष की गई थी?**

- (a) 1952
- (b) 1959
- (c) 1969
- (d) 1977
- (e) 1988

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** 1 February - Indian Coast Guard Day

Indian Coast Guard Day is observed every year on February 1.

The day aims to honour the contribution of the Coast Guard. The Indian Coast Guard Day is dedicated to the officers and personnel who look after maritime security.

This year, the Indian Coast Guard Day will be commemorating its 48th Raising Day.

The Indian Coast Guard was established on February 1, 1977, to prevent the sea-borne smuggling of goods that hampered the economy.

The responsibilities of the Coast Guard include offshore security, marine safety, and coastal security as well as safeguarding India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

On August 18, 1978, the Parliament announced that the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Day would be celebrated on February 1.

**15. How many sites recently added to Ramsar Sites from India?**

हाल ही में भारत से कितनी साइटें रामसर साइटों में जोड़ी गई है?

- (a) 3
- (b) 4
- (c) 5
- (d) 6
- (e) 7

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Five more Indian wetlands added to Ramsar list

India has added five more wetlands to the List of Wetlands of International Importance, or the Ramsar List, taking the number of such sites in the country to 80.

The announcement of adding five more sites, three in Karnataka and two in Tamil Nadu, to the list was made by Federal Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav.

Three of these sites, Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve, Aghanashini Estuary and Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve are located in Karnataka whereas two, Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary and Longwood Shola Reserve Forest are in Tamil Nadu.

With the addition of these five wetlands to the List of Wetlands of International Importance, the total area covered under Ramsar sites is now 1.33 million ha which is an increase of 5,523.87 ha from existing area (of 1.327 million ha).

Tamil Nadu continues to have the maximum number of Ramsar Sites (16 sites) followed by Uttar Pradesh (10 sites).

India is one of the contracting parties to the wetland convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, and ratified the convention in 1982.

India is one of the Contracting Parties to Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971.

World Wetlands Day (WWD) is celebrated across the globe to commemorate the adoption of this international agreement on wetlands on 2nd February 1971.

India ratified this Convention on 1st February 1982. Earlier in August 2022, India achieved a significant milestone of taking the total number of Ramsar Sites to 75 during the 75th Year of Independence.

Due to a significant policy push from the Government of India, the number of Ramsar sites has increased from 26 to 80 in the last ten years, of which 38 have been added in the last three years alone.



**16. Who has launched 'Ministry of Education - AICTE Investor Network' in New Delhi?**

**नई दिल्ली में 'शिक्षा मंत्रालय - AICTE इन्वेस्टर नेटवर्क' किसने लॉन्च किया है?**

- (a) Anurag Thakur / अनुराग ठाकुर
- (b) Piyush Goyal / पीयूष गोयल
- (c) Smriti Irani / स्मृति ईरानी
- (d) Dharmendra Pradhan / धर्मेन्द्र प्रधान
- (e) Amit Shah / अमित शाह

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Dharmendra Pradhan launches MoE - AICTE Investor Network

Union Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan has launched 'Ministry of Education - AICTE Investor Network' in New Delhi.

This initiative to be a ground-breaking beginning that will bring students, faculty, investors and the market on one platform to strengthen the culture of innovation.

The network aims to provide crucial financial support, mentoring, and strategic guidance to early-stage student or faculty-led startups.

Through this unique network, the Ministry of Education seeks to encourage private investment in student- and faculty-led startups.

**17. North India's first human DNA bank has been established in which university?**

**उत्तर भारत का पहला मानव डीएनए बैंक किस विश्वविद्यालय में स्थापित किया गया है?**

- (a) Jawaharlal Nehru University / जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय
- (b) Lucknow University / लखनऊ विश्वविद्यालय
- (c) Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University / बाबा साहेब भीमराव अम्बेडकर विश्वविद्यालय
- (d) Banaras Hindu University / बनारस हिंदू विश्वविद्यालय
- (e) University of Delhi / दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** BHU gets automated DNA extractor machine

North India's first human DNA bank is being set up at Banaras Hindu University (BHU).

The Automated DNA Extractor Machine has been installed in the Gnyaneshwar Lab of the Zoology Department of BHU.

These machines are completely indigenous to Make in India. It has been made in such a way that the minimum plastic is used in it, so that there is no harm to the environment.

With this machine, DNA can be extracted from any biological material, like blood, saliva, hair or tissue. With its help, DNA can be separated from about 32 samples at one time in 30 minutes.

**18. Which of the following countries are not join BRICS group recently?**

**निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा देश हाल ही में ब्रिक्स समूह में शामिल नहीं हुआ है?**

- (a) Saudi Arabia
- (b) UAE
- (c) Egypt
- (d) Iran
- (e) Iraq

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Saudi Arabia, UAE, Ethiopia, Iran, Egypt confirmed they are joining BRICS

The BRICS group, a key platform for emerging markets and developing countries, has officially welcomed five new members: Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Ethiopia.

The five countries were extended invitations along with Argentina at a summit in August in Johannesburg to join the bloc comprising Brazil, Russia, China, India and South Africa.

Argentina has declined the invitation to join.

The newly enlarged BRICS now boasts a combined population of 3.5 billion and an economy exceeding \$28.5tn, constituting around 28% of the global economy

**19. WHO has awarded its first-ever certificates validating progress in eliminating industrially produced trans fatty acids to five countries. What is the name of these five countries?**

**WHO ने पांच देशों को औद्योगिक रूप से उत्पादित ट्रांस फैटी एसिड को खत्म करने में प्रगति को मान्य करने वाले अपने पहले प्रमाणपत्र से सम्मानित किया है। इन पांच देशों का क्या नाम है?**

- (a) Finland, Lithuania, Poland, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand
- (b) Denmark, India, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand
- (c) Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, UAE, and Bangladesh
- (d) Finland, Sri Lanka, USA, China and Thailand
- (e) Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** WHO awards countries for progress in eliminating industrially produced trans fats for first time

WHO has awarded its first-ever certificates validating progress in eliminating industrially produced trans fatty acids to five countries.

Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand have each demonstrated they have a best practice policy for industrially produced trans-fatty acids (iTFA) elimination in effect, supported by adequate monitoring and enforcement systems.

While the ambitious target set by WHO in 2018—to fully eliminate iTFA from the global food supply by the end of 2023—was not met, there has been remarkable progress made towards this goal in every region of the world.

In 2023 alone, new best-practice policies became effective in 7 countries (Egypt, Mexico, Moldova, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Philippines, and Ukraine).

**What is TFA?**

- Trans-fatty acids (TFA) are semisolid to solid fats that occur in two forms: industrially produced and naturally occurring. Intake of TFA is associated with increased risk of heart attacks and death from heart disease. TFA have no known health benefits, and foods high in iTFA (e.g. fried foods, cakes and ready meals) are often high in sugar, fat and salt.
- A total of 53 countries have now best practice policies in effect for tackling iTFA in food, vastly improving the food environment for 3.7 billion people, or 46% of the world's population, as compared to 6% just 5 years ago. These policies are expected to save approximately 183,000 lives a year.

**20. How much lakh crore rupees was GST collected in January 2024?**

**जनवरी 2024 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) 1,72,129 crore

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** GST collections rise 10% to ₹1.72 lakh crore in January

The gross GST revenue collected in the month of January 2024 is ₹1,72,129 crore, which shows a 10.4% Year-o-Year (Y-oY) growth over the revenue of ₹155,922 crore collected in January 2023.

Notably, this is the second-highest monthly collection ever and marks the third month in this financial year with collection of ₹1.70 lakh crore or more.

The government has settled ₹43,552 crore to CGST and ₹37,257 crore to SGST from the IGST collection.

During the April 2023-January 2024 period, cumulative gross GST collection witnessed 11.6% y-o-y growth, reaching ₹16.69 lakh crore, as against ₹14.96 lakh crore collected in the same period of the previous year (April 2022-January 2023).

**GST Collection of Previous Months**

- September 2023 - 1,62,712 crore
- October 2023 - 1,72,003 crore
- November 2023 – 1,67,929 crore
- December 2023 – 1,64,882 crore
- January 2024 - 1,72,129 crore

**21. As per Union Budget 2024, Government has allocated how much percent of GDP for Capital Expenditure Boost?**

केंद्रीय बजट 2024 के अनुसार, सरकार ने पूंजीगत व्यय को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का कितना प्रतिशत आवंटित किया है?

- (a) 3.2%
- (b) 3.3%
- (c) 3.4%
- (d) 3.5%
- (e) 3.6%

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Government allocates 3.4% of GDP for Capital Expenditure Boost

The government proposes to increase capital expenditure outlay by 11.1 per cent to Rs 11.11 lakh crore in 2024-25, amounting to 3.4 per cent of the GDP, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her interim Budget. The central government will focus especially on five eastern states - Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and West Bengal.

A capital expenditure, or capex, is used to set up long-term physical or fixed assets.

Coming to the fiscal deficit, the government pegged for 2024-25 at 5.1 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

In 2023-24, the government pegged the fiscal deficit target for 2023-24 at 5.9 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). Sitharaman said that the fiscal deficit of 2023-24 was downwardly revised to 5.8 per cent. The government intends to bring the fiscal deficit below 4.5 per cent of GDP by the financial year 2025-26.

**22. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has revised estimate of the fiscal deficit for FY24 stands at what percent?**

वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने वित्त वर्ष 2024 के लिए राजकोषीय घाटे का संशोधित अनुमान कितने प्रतिशत पर रखा है?

- (a) 5.2%
- (b) 5.4%
- (c) 5.6%
- (d) 5.8%
- (e) 6.3%

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Govt revised the fiscal deficit estimates at 5.8% in FY24

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has revised estimate of the fiscal deficit for FY24 stands at 5.8 per cent while presenting the Interim Budget 2024-25.

The Revised Estimate of the fiscal deficit is 5.8 per cent of GDP, improving on the Budget Estimate, notwithstanding moderation in the nominal growth estimates.

The government is committed to reducing the fiscal deficit below 4.5 per cent by 2025-26, adding that the fiscal deficit in 2024-25 is estimated to be 5.1 per cent of GDP.

The reduced fiscal deficit projection at 5.1 per cent of GDP in FY25, down from 5.8 per cent in FY24, will create room for increased private sector borrowings.

**23. Former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Harun Rashid Khan has been appointed as the non-executive chairman of which Small Finance Bank?**

**भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) के पूर्व डिप्टी गवर्नर हारुन राशिद खान को किस लघु वित्त बैंक के गैर-कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष के रूप में नियुक्त किया गया है?**

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

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** AU SFB appoints HR Khan as non-executive chairman

Private sector lender AU Small Finance Bank has appointed Harun Rashid Khan, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as non-executive chairman following approval from the shareholders.

Khan's tenure will begin from the date of taking charge, January 30, 2024, after approval from the Board of Directors and from the RBI and shareholders of the bank.

Khan will take charge from Raj Verma, whose tenure as Part-time Chairman ended on January 29, 2024.

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

- **Executive Director of Bank of Baroda** - Sanjay Vinayak Mudaliar
- **Executive Director of Indian Overseas Bank** - Joydeep Dutta Roy
- **MD & CEO of DCB Bank** - Praveen Achuthan Kutty (replace Murali Natrajan) effect from 29/4/24
- **Deputy Governor of RBI** - Michael Patra (1 year extension)
- **CEO of PhonePe For International Payments Division** - Ritesh Pai



**24. Ibrahim Iskandar has become the new Sultan of which country?**

**इब्राहिम इस्कंदर किस देश के नए सुल्तान बने हैं?**

- (a) Malaysia / मलेशिया
- (b) Maldives / मालदीव
- (c) Bhutan / भूटान
- (d) Mauritius / मॉरीशस
- (e) Sri Lanka / श्रीलंका

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar sworn in as Malaysia's 17th king

Ibrahim Iskandar of Johor State in Malaysia has become the new Sultan of the country.

Ibrahim Iskandar was sworn in as the country's 17th Sultan. Sultan Ibrahim received the reins from the Sultan of Pahang State, Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah.

Ibrahim Iskandar will remain in office as the country's Sultan for the next five years.

The Sultan has been elected every five years in Malaysia since 1957, after gaining independence from Britain.

**Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President**

- President of Comoros - Azali Assoumani (4th time)
- 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)

**25. In February 2024, who has taken oath as the Member of UPSC?**

**फरवरी 2024 में, किसने यूपीएससी के सदस्य के रूप में शपथ ली है?**

- (a) Smita Sarangi / स्मिता सारंगी
- (b) Sanjay Verma / संजय वर्मा
- (c) Indra Mani Pandey / इंद्र मणि पांडे
- (d) Tanu Singh / तनु सिंह
- (e) Vivek Murthy / विवेक मूर्ति

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Sanjay Verma takes the oath of Office and Secrecy as Member, UPSC

Sanjay Verma, Indian Foreign Service of 1990 batch takes the oath of Office and Secrecy as Member, UPSC in the Central Hall, Main Building of UPSC.

The oath was administered to him by the UPSC Chairman Dr Manoj Soni.

Sanjay Verma joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1990, and his overseas assignments have included: Ambassador to Spain and Andorra; Ambassador to Ethiopia, Djibouti and the African Union; Consul General, Dubai; Counsellor (Economic and Commercial), Indian Embassy, Beijing; Spokesperson and Counsellor (Press, Information and Culture), Indian Embassy, Kathmandu; Second Secretary (Press and Political), Indian Embassy, Manila and Economic and Commercial Officer, Hong Kong.

**Recent Appointment**

- **Chairman of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC)** - Jay Shah (3rd time)
- **Chief Secretary of Puducherry** - Sharat Chauhan (replace Rajeev Verma)
- **Adviser to the Administrator in Chandigarh** - Rajeev Verma
- **Chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** - Anil Kumar Lahoti (replace PD Vaghela)
- **Indian Army's 1st Woman Subedar** - Preeti Rajak

**26. What is SARVATRA, which was seen in the news recently?**

**सर्वत्र क्या है, जो हाल ही में समाचारों में देखा गया था?**

- (a) Military Operation
- (b) New alloy of steel
- (c) Missile System
- (d) Multispan Mobile Bridging System
- (e) New Version of INS Sarvan

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** SARVATRA: A Multispan Mobile Bridging System Developed by DRDO

SARVATRA, a Multispan Mobile Bridging System designed and developed by Armament and Combat Engineering Systems (ACE) of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the Ministry of Defence.

SARVATRA assists the Army in constructing bridges over flowing water, ensuring robust connectivity between two areas during natural disasters.

SARVATRA's truck-mounted design facilitates swift setup, ensuring operational readiness within 100 minutes, a critical capability during emergencies and natural disasters.

Constructed from aluminum alloy, SARVATRA's five scissor bridges exhibit exceptional durability, capable of spanning distances of up to 75 meters, overcoming various terrain challenges with ease.

Equipped with telescopic legs, SARVATRA offers versatility in adjusting height from 2.5 meters to six meters, minimizing visibility and enhancing operational flexibility for the Indian Army.

**27. Consider the following statements about 69th Filmfare Awards 2024:**

- (i) The 69th edition of the Filmfare Awards 2024 took place in Goa.**
- (ii) Best Film - 12th Fail**
- (iii) Best Director -Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)**
- (iv) Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male) – Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)**
- (v) Best Debut Director -Tarun Dubeja (Dhak Dhak)**

**How many of the statements given above are INCORRECT?**

- (a) only two
- (b) only three
- (c) only four
- (d) all are incorrect
- (e) all are correct

**Ans. a**

**Statements**

- (i) The 69th edition of the Filmfare Awards 2024 took place in Goa. **(Incorrect)**
- (ii) Best Film - 12th Fail **(Correct)**
- (iii) Best Director -Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail) **(Correct)**
- (iv) Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male) – Ranbir Kapoor (Animal) **(Incorrect)**
- (v) Best Debut Director -Tarun Dubeja (Dhak Dhak) **(Correct)**

**Sol.** Filmfare Awards 2024 announced

The 69th edition of the Filmfare Awards 2024 took place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

The event featured hosting by Karan Johar, and performances by Kareena Kapoor, Karisma Kapoor, Varun Dhawan, and Kartik Aaryan among others.

Category	Winner
Best Film	12th Fail
Best Director	Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)

Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male)	Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female)	Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male)	Vicky Kaushal (Dunki)
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female)	Shabana Azmi (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
Best Playback Singer (Male)	Bhupinder Babbal (Arjan Vailly – Animal)
Best Playback Singer (Female)	Shilpa Rao (Besharam Rang – Pathaan)
Best Actress (Critics')	Rani Mukerji (Mrs Chatterjee vs. Norway), Shefali Shah (Three of Us)
Best Lyrics	Amitabh Bhattacharya ("Tere Vaaste" – Zara Hatke Zara Bachke)
Best Music Album	Animal (Pritam, Vishal Mishra, Manan Bhardwaj, Shreyas Puranik, Jaani, Bhupinder Babbal, Ashim Kemson, Harshwardhan Rameshwar, Gurinder Seagal)
Best Debut Director	Tarun Dudeja (Dhak Dhak)
Best Debut Male	Aditya Rawal (Faraaz)

Best Debut Female	Alizeh Agnihotri (Farrey)
Best Screenplay	Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
Best Dialogue	Ishita Moitra (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
Best Background Score	Harshavardhan Rameshwar (Animal)
Best Cinematography	Avinash Arun Dhaware (Three of Us)
Best Production Design	Subrata Chakraborty, Amit Ray (Sam Bahadur)
Best Costume Design	Sachin Lovelekar, Divvyaa Gambhir, Nidhhi Gambhir (Sam Bahadur)
Best Sound Design	Kunal Sharma (Mpse) (Sam Bahadur) Sync Cinema (Animal)
Best Editing	Jaskunwar Singh Kohli- Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
Best Action	Spiro Razatos, Anl Arasu, Craig Macrae, Yannick Ben, Kecha Khamphakdee, Sunil Rodrigues (Jawan)
Best VFX	Red Chillies VFX (Jawan)
Best Choreography	Ganesh Acharya ("What Jhumka?" – Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
Lifetime Achievement Award	David Dhawan

**28. World Wetlands Day is observed every year on 2 February. What is the theme of World Wetlands Day 2024?**

**विश्व आर्द्रभूमि दिवस हर साल 2 फरवरी को मनाया जाता है। विश्व आर्द्रभूमि दिवस 2024 का विषय क्या है?**

- (a) Wetland Restoration
- (b) Wetlands Action for People and Nature
- (c) Wetlands and Water
- (d) Wetlands and Biodiversity
- (e) Wetlands and Human Wellbeing

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** 2 February - World Wetlands Day

World Wetlands Day is observed every year on 2 February.

The day primarily aims to raise global awareness regarding the crucial role of the wetlands for human beings and the planet.

Theme 2024 - Wetlands and Human Wellbeing

It also marks the date of adopting the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971, in Ramsar, Iran.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme, around 90% of the world's wetlands have been degraded since the 1700s.

As per the data, the wetlands are now depleting three times faster than the forests, and as these are critically important for the ecosystem World Wetlands Day plays a pivotal role.

**What are wetlands?**

- To define the crucial part of the ecosystem, it is a piece of land that is saturated or flooded with water either permanently or seasonally as well.
- It includes water bodies such as lakes, rivers, underground aquifers, swamps, wet grasslands, peatlands, deltas, tidal flats, mangroves, coral reefs, and other coastal areas as well.
- These wetlands can be classified into three segments such as inland wetlands, coastal wetlands, and human-made wetlands

**29. Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day is observed every year on which day?**

**रुमेटीइड गठिया जागरूकता दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 1 February / 1 फरवरी
- (b) 2 February / 2 फरवरी
- (c) 3 February / 3 फरवरी
- (d) 4 February / 4 फरवरी
- (e) 5 February / 5 फरवरी

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 2 February - Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day

Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day is observed every year on February 2nd.

Objective - To raise awareness of rheumatoid arthritis, an inflammatory disease that affects the joints.

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA), another name for rheumatoid disease, is an autoimmune disease in which the body attacks and damages the lining of the joints, mistaking it for foreign material.

This causes pain and inflammation. Although it can affect people of any age, sex, race or ethnicity, women are more likely to be affected (2.5 times more likely than men).

The most common age group is between 20 and 50.

Alfred B. Garrod first used the word "rheumatoid arthritis" to describe the disease in 1858. It had previously been confused with osteoarthritis. The first methotrexate treatments became available in 1988.



**30. Indian Navy has declared 2024 as "\_\_\_\_\_".**  
**भारतीय नौसेना ने 2024 को "\_\_\_\_\_ " घोषित किया है।**

- (a) Year of Navy
- (b) Year of Naval Servants
- (c) Year of Naval INS
- (d) Year of Naval Civilians
- (e) Year of Civic

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Indian Navy Declares 2024 As 'Year of Naval Civilians'

Indian Navy has declared 2024 as 'Year of Naval Civilians' to improve administration, efficiency and well-being of Naval Civilians by addressing all facets of Civilian HR Management in a time bound manner.

Major focus areas towards maximising administrative efficiency, digital initiatives, generic and specific training programmes and welfare activities have been identified for implementation in 2024.

Naval Civilian Personnel constitute about a third of the Indian Navy's total workforce and contribute significantly to its operational effectiveness across all domains.

**31. Which state government will launch the annual Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign to eradicate filariasis diseases from February 5 to 15?**

कौन सी राज्य सरकार 5 से 15 फरवरी तक फाइलेरिया रोगों को खत्म करने के लिए वार्षिक मास ड्रग एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन (एमडीए) अभियान शुरू करेगी?

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

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Annual Mass Drug Administration Campaign to Eradicate Filariasis by UP

The Uttar Pradesh government will launch the annual Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign to eradicate filariasis diseases from February 5 to 15.

The campaign, to be carried out as part of a mission to eradicate filariasis from the state, will be conducted in 17 districts of the state.

During the campaign, skilled health workers will go door-to-door and administer the medicine for prevention of filariasis to the entire population.

With the exception of children under two years of age, pregnant women and people suffering from serious illnesses.

The Chief Minister has appealed to all the residents to actively participate in the campaign during the MDA round.

The central government aims to eliminate filariasis from the country by 2027.

**About Uttar Pradesh**

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

**32. The Centre has announced an ambitious programme to upgrade how many standard rail coaches to Vande Bharat standards in Budget 2024?**

केंद्र ने बजट 2024 में कितने मानक रेल डिब्बों को वंदे भारत मानकों में अपग्रेड करने के लिए एक महत्वाकांक्षी कार्यक्रम की घोषणा की है?

- (a) 400
- (b) 4000
- (c) 40000
- (d) 400000
- (e) 10000

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 40,000 rail bogies to be converted to Vande Bharat standards

In a move to modernize the Indian Railways, the Centre has announced an ambitious programme to upgrade 40,000 standard rail coaches to Vande Bharat standards.

This initiative, announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in while presenting the interim budget for fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25), aims to elevate the safety, convenience, and comfort of rail travel while also providing a boost to private sector railway manufacturers through new refurbishment contracts.

The initiative to elevate regular rail bogies to Vande Bharat standards represents a substantial opportunity for railway sector players.

The projected contracts are estimated to be worth ₹4,000 crore annually for the next few years.

The comprehensive refurbishment of 40,000 coaches is planned to be phased over 8-10 years, with an approximate rate of 4,000 bogies per year.

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**33. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced that PM SVANIDHI, a flagship initiative focusing on street vendors has extended credit assistance to \_\_\_\_\_ street vendors across the country.**

केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने घोषणा की है कि स्ट्रीट वेंडरों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने वाली एक प्रमुख पहल, पीएम स्वनिधि ने देश भर में \_\_\_\_\_ स्ट्रीट वेंडरों को ऋण सहायता प्रदान की है।

- (a) 68 lakh
- (b) 78 lakh
- (c) 88 lakh
- (d) 98 lakh
- (e) 58 lakh

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** PM SVANIDHI provided credit assistance to 78 lakh street vendors

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced that PM SVANIDHI, a flagship initiative focusing on street vendors has extended credit assistance to 78 lakh street vendors across the country.

2.3 lakh vendors have availed loans for the third time under this initiative.

**What is PM SVANidhi Scheme?**

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched the Prime Minister Street Vendors' Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme on June 1, 2020.

The scheme focuses on assisting street vendors, severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, in restarting their businesses without the need for any guarantee.

**Under the scheme:**

1. A working capital loan of up to ₹10,000, without any guarantee, is provided for a one-year tenure. Timely repayment allows beneficiaries to avail a second loan of ₹20,000 and a third loan of ₹50,000.
2. Regular repayment is encouraged through a 7% interest subsidy.
3. Digital transactions are promoted with a cashback of up to ₹1,200 per year for digital payments.

The scheme initially started by offering a working capital loan of up to ₹10,000, and later, recognizing the increased financial requirements, a second loan of up to ₹20,000 was introduced from April 9, 2021. Additionally, a third loan of up to ₹50,000 became available from June 1, 2022.

The Ministry modified the cashback scheme, effective from February 1, 2023. This modification provides a cashback of ₹1 for every digital transaction, capped at ₹100 per month and ₹1,200 per year.

The PM SVANidhi Scheme has played a crucial role in supporting street vendors during challenging times, contributing to their financial stability and promoting digital transactions.

**34. The Defence Budget has touched Rs 6.21 lakh crore in the Financial Year 2024-25. This comes out to be \_\_\_\_\_ of total Union Budget 2024.**

**वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 में रक्षा बजट 6.21 लाख करोड़ रुपये तक पहुंच गया है। यह कुल केंद्रीय बजट 2024 का \_\_\_\_\_ है।**

- (a) 11.04%
- (b) 12.04%
- (c) 13.04%
- (d) 14.04%
- (e) 15.04%

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Record Rs 6.21 lakh crore allocation to Defence in Interim Budget 2024-25

In the current geopolitical scenario and with the twin objective of promoting self-reliance and exports, the Defence Budget has touched Rs 6,21,540.85 crore in the Financial Year 2024-25.

This comes out to be 13.04% of total Union Budget. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) continues to receive the highest allocation among the Ministries.

The budgetary allocation to Defence for FY 24-25 is higher by approx. one lakh crore (18.35%) over the allocation for the FY 2022-23 and 4.72% more than allocation of FY 23-24.

Of this, a major share of 27.67% goes to capital, 14.82% for revenue expenditure on sustenance and operational preparedness, 30.68% for Pay and allowances, 22.72% for defence pensions and 4.11% for civil organisations under MoD.

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**35. India and which country have signed an agreement to provide a framework for collaboration in new areas of defence engagement including procurement of military equipment?**

भारत और किस देश ने सैन्य उपकरणों की खरीद सहित रक्षा जुड़ाव के नए क्षेत्रों में सहयोग के लिए एक रूपरेखा प्रदान करने के लिए एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** India, Oman ink pact for collaboration in defence sector

India and Oman has signed an agreement that would provide a framework for collaboration in new areas of defence engagement including procurement of military equipment.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was firmed up at a meeting of India-Oman joint military cooperation committee (JMCC) in Muscat.

Both sides discussed effective and practical initiatives to further boost bilateral defence engagements with focus on defence industries collaboration.

The two sides also inked an MoU pertaining to procurement of defence material and equipment which would provide a framework for defence collaboration in new areas.

**Recently India signed MoUs with others countries**

- India and Oman signed MoU on defence sector
- India and Oman signed MoU on IT Cooperation
- 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

**36. For which age group did Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has proposed to “encourage vaccination as a preventive measure against cervical cancer”?**

केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने किस आयु वर्ग के लिए "सर्वाइकल कैंसर के खिलाफ निवारक उपाय के रूप में टीकाकरण को प्रोत्साहित करने" का प्रस्ताव दिया है?

- (a) 10 -18 Years
- (b) 9 -15 Years
- (c) 9 -14 Years
- (d) 10 -14 Years
- (e) 9 -18 Years

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Govt to focus on vaccination against cervical cancer

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced the government's plans to focus on vaccination against cervical cancer for girls aged 9 to 14 as part of her Interim Budget 2024.

The FM also announced multiple other health-related schemes in her speech, including extending Ayushman Bharat cover to all Asha workers and Anganwadi workers and helpers.

Cervical cancer, which develops in a woman's cervix, is the second-most common cancer among women in India.

It is caused by persistent infection by the human papillomavirus (HPV). India accounts for nearly a quarter of all cervical cancer deaths in the world.

Presently, the Serum Institute's made-in-India vaccine against cervical cancer, CERVAVAC, is available in the private market for about Rs 2,000 per dose.

MSD Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Merck Sharp and Dohme (known as Merck and Co, Inc in the US and Canada) continues to sell its HPV vaccine Gardasil 4 (quadrivalent vaccine) in India which is currently priced at Rs 3,927 per dose.

**37. Tamil Superstar Vijay has recently launched his political party. What is the name of party?**

तमिल सुपरस्टार विजय ने हाल ही में अपनी राजनीतिक पार्टी लॉन्च की है। पार्टी का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Tamilaga Kazhagam
- (b) Tamilaga Metri Kazhagam
- (c) Tamil Vetri Kazhagam
- (d) Tamilaga Vetri Kazim
- (e) Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Tamil Superstar Vijay launches his political party

Tamil superstar Vijay has announced the name of his new political party "Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam".

Vijay will contest 2026 Assembly Elections in Tamil Nadu, when the current term of MK Stalin-led DMK party ends.

The Tamil movie superstar is fondly called by his fans as Thalapathy, meaning General or Commander.



**38. According to RBI, what percentage of Rs 2,000 notes have returned to the system by January 31, 2024?**

**RBI के अनुसार, 31 जनवरी 2024 तक कितने प्रतिशत 2,000 रुपये के नोट सिस्टम में वापस आ गए हैं?**

- (a) 97.50%
- (b) 98.50%
- (c) 99.50%
- (d) 96.50%
- (e) 95.50%

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 97.50% of Rs 2,000 Notes Returned to System: RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced nearly 97.5 per cent of the Rs 2,000 bank notes have been returned to the banking system, and only about Rs 8,897 crore worth of the withdrawn notes are still with the public.

On May 19, 2023 the RBI announced the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 denomination bank notes from circulation.

The total value of Rs 2,000 banknotes in circulation, which was Rs 3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023.

When the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 banknotes was announced, has declined to Rs 8,897 crore at the close of business on January 31, 2024," the RBI said in a statement.

The Rs 2,000 bank notes were introduced in November 2016, following the demonetisation of the then-prevailing Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 bank notes.

**39. Consider the following statements about Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2024:**

- (i) PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Surajkund International Crafts Mela - 2024 at Surajkund in Faridabad.**
- (ii) This is 37th edition of Surajkund International Crafts Mela.**
- (iii) Tanzania is a partner country for the mela.**
- (iv) Uttar Pradesh is the theme state.**

**How many of the statements given above are INCORRECT?**

- (a) only two
- (b) only three
- (c) only one
- (d) all are incorrect
- (e) all are correct

**Ans. a**

**Statements**

(i) PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Surajkund International Crafts Mela - 2024 at Surajkund in Faridabad.

**(Incorrect)**

(ii) This is 37th edition of Surajkund International Crafts Mela. **(Correct)**

(iii) Tanzania is a partner country for the mela. **(Correct)**

(iv) Uttar Pradesh is the theme state. **(Incorrect)**

**Sol.** President Murmu inaugurated 37th Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2024

President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated the 37th Surajkund International Crafts Mela - 2024 at Surajkund in Faridabad district, Haryana.

Tanzania is a partner country for the mela, which reflects India's strong ties with the African Union. Gujarat is the theme state.

The Surajkund Fair will continue till February 18.

**40. Who among the following will be honoured with Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in India?**

**निम्नलिखित में से किसे भारत के सर्वोच्च नागरिक पुरस्कार भारत रत्न से सम्मानित किया जाएगा?**

- (a) Amitabh Bachchan / अमिताभ बच्चन
- (b) MS Dhoni / एमएस धोनी
- (c) Dr Manmohan Singh / डॉ. मनमोहन सिंह
- (d) Ratan Tata / रतन टाटा
- (e) Lal Krishna Advani / लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** LK Advani to be awarded Bharat Ratna

BJP veteran Lal Krishna Advani will be honoured with Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in India.

This prestigious honour is a testament to Advani's indelible contribution to Indian politics and society over several decades.

Lal Krishna Advani served as the 7th Deputy Prime Minister of India from 2002 to 2004. He is one of the co-founders of the BJP and a member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Advani is also the longest-serving Minister of Home Affairs and the longest-serving Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

He was the prime ministerial candidate of the BJP during the 2009 general election.

He has been a member of both Houses of the Parliament between 1970 and 2019.

Born in Karachi, in present-day Pakistan, on November 8, 1927, Advani through the years had served as the President of the Bharatiya Janata Party for the longest period since its inception in 1980.

## 41. Who has been selected as a torchbearer for 2024 Paris Olympic Games?

2024 पेरिस ओलंपिक खेलों के लिए मशाल वाहक के रूप में किसे चुना गया है?

- (a) Sakshi Malik / साक्षी मलिक
- (b) Abhinav Bindra / अभिनव बिंद्रा
- (c) Gagan Narang / गगन नारंग
- (d) Mary Kom / मैरी कॉम
- (e) Neeraj Chopra / नीरज चोपड़ा

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Abhinav Bindra selected as torchbearer for the 2024 Paris Olympics

Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual gold medalist at the Olympic Games, has been selected as a torchbearer for the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

He will be part of the Olympic torch relay to be held from April 16 to July 26.

Bindra, a member of the Athletes Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), clinched the gold medal in the men's 10m air rifle event at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008. The inaugural lighting of the torch for the Paris 2024 Olympic Torch Relay is scheduled for April 16, adhering to the ancient tradition, utilizing the sun's rays, during a ceremony at the Olympia sanctuary in Greece.

The Olympic Flame will then journey from the Peloponnese to Athens, boarding the Belem to cross the Mediterranean Sea. On May 8, the flame will arrive in Marseille, marking the commencement of its extensive journey across France.

The torch relay is set to last 68 days, covering 65 territories, including five overseas territories. A total of 11,000 torchbearers have been selected throughout France, with 10,000 participating in the Olympic Torch Relay and 1,000 in the Paralympic Torch Relay.

The Paris Olympics is scheduled to take place from July 26 to August 11, promising an exciting and symbolic event for athletes and enthusiasts worldwide

**42. Who has been given the "Maha Gaurav 2024" award by Maharashtra government?**

**महाराष्ट्र सरकार द्वारा "महा गौरव 2024" पुरस्कार किसे दिया गया है?**

- (a) Smriti Irani / स्मृति ईरानी
- (b) Nikhil Wagh / निखिल वाघ
- (c) Chalu Pandey / चालू पांडे
- (d) Ratan Tata / रतन टाटा
- (e) Lal Krishna Advani / लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Maha Gaurav 2024 award presented to Nikhil Wagh by Maharashtra govt Nikhil Mukund Wagh, who works as a Public Relations Officer at Goa Shipyard Limited, was given the "Maha Gaurav 2024" award.

This award was handed to him by Ajit Pawar, the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, during a ceremony at Kaneri Math in Kolhapur.

The award is a big deal because it recognizes Nikhil's great work in public relations.

### **Recent Awards**

- **The UK's Blavatnik Awards** - 3 Indian Scientist (Rahul R Nair, Mehul Malik, and Tanmay Bharat)
- **Certified as a Top Employer 2024 in India by Top Employers Institute** - NTPC Limited
- **Female Wushu Athlete Of The Year** - Naorem Roshibina Devi (Manipur)
- **Excellence Award by Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI)** -Thiruvananthapuram Intl. Airport
- **Best Product Design at Vishwakarma Awards** - Satyam (IIT Guwahati's scholar)

**43. US State Department has approved how many Q-9B SkyGuardian drones to India for nearly \$4 billion?**

**अमेरिकी विदेश विभाग ने भारत को लगभग 4 बिलियन डॉलर में कितने Q-9B स्काईगार्डियन ड्रोन को मंजूरी दी है?**

- (a) 11
- (b) 21
- (c) 31
- (d) 41
- (e) 52

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** US State Department approves 31 armed drones to India

The US State Department has given the go-ahead for the possible sale of 31 armed MQ-9B SkyGuardian drones, related missiles, and equipment to India for nearly \$4 billion.

This comes after years of discussions between the two nations about such a deal.

India has long expressed interest in buying large, armed drones from the United States, but certain bureaucratic hurdles have hindered progress towards finalizing the potential agreement.

**44. International Day of Human Fraternity is observed every year on which day?**

**अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मानव बंधुत्व दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 1 February / 1 फरवरी
- (b) 2 February / 2 फरवरी
- (c) 3 February / 3 फरवरी
- (d) 4 February / 4 फरवरी
- (e) 5 February / 5 फरवरी

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** 4 February - International Day of Human Fraternity

International Day of Human Fraternity is observed every year on 4 February.

The day serves as a powerful reminder of the beauty of unity and the strength found in diversity.

On December 21, 2020, International Day of Human Fraternity was established by the United Nations General Assembly.

**45. Which state's police have adopted Self-Balancing e-scooters for Smart patrols?**

**किस राज्य की पुलिस ने स्मार्ट गश्त के लिए सेल्फ-बैलेंसिंग ई-स्कूटर को अपनाया है?**

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Uttarakhand Police Adopt Self-Balancing e-scooters For Smart Patrols

Abhinav Kumar, Director General of Police, Uttarakhand, has flagged off four cutting-edge self-balancing electric scooters from the Police Headquarters to patrol the vibrant streets of Haridwar.

For the safety of tourists and local citizens, police in Haridwar will patrol with self-balancing scooters.

Donated by Utkarsh Small Finance Bank, these eco-friendly electric scooters are equipped to navigate narrow streets, allowing police personnel to efficiently monitor walking paths, Ganga ghats, and crowded areas of the city.

The partnership between the police department and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank exemplifies a commitment to community welfare and corporate social responsibility.

These scooters, which can move easily in narrow streets, will help in crowd management. Apart from this, this electric scooter is also environment friendly.

**About Uttarakhand**

- Capital** - Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)
- Chief Minister** - Pushkar Singh Dhama
- Governor** - Gurmit Singh



**46. Who has inaugurated the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) - Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CASGC) 2024 in New Delhi?**

**नई दिल्ली में कॉमनवेल्थ लीगल एजुकेशन एसोसिएशन (CLEA) - कॉमनवेल्थ अटॉर्नी और सॉलिसिटर जनरल कॉन्फ्रेंस (CASGC) 2024 का उद्घाटन किसने किया?**

- (a) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी
- (b) Amit Shah / अमित शाह
- (c) Justice D.Y. Chandrachud / जस्टिस डी. वाई. चंद्रचूड़
- (d) Droupadi Murmu / द्रौपदी मुर्मू
- (e) Jagdeep Dhankhar / जगदीप धनखड़

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** PM Modi inaugurates CLEA-CASGC 2024 Conference

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) - Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CASGC) 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

The theme of the conference is "Cross-Border Challenges in Justice Delivery".

This conference has deliberated on important issues pertaining to law and justice like judicial transition and the ethical dimensions of legal practice; executive accountability; and revisiting modern-day legal education, among others.

This Conference have participated of Attorney Generals and Solicitors from the Commonwealth nations spanning the Asia-Pacific, Africa, and the Caribbean along with various international delegations.

**PM Modi in News**

- PM Modi Unveils Infrastructure Boost in Bulandshahr, UP
- PM Modi inaugurates Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Supreme Court
- 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.

**47. NPCI International Payments (NIPL) has partnered with which company to enable UPI payments from the Eiffel Tower in France?**

एनपीसीआई इंटरनेशनल पेमेंट्स (एनआईपीएल) ने फ्रांस में एफिल टॉवर से यूपीआई भुगतान को सक्षम करने के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Adyen
- (b) Payoneer
- (c) Global Payment
- (d) Shopify
- (e) Lyra

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** India launches UPI Payments at Eiffel Tower in Paris

India has officially introduced the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) at the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris, marking a significant step towards realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of globalizing UPI.

This initiative follows the digital payments sector agreement signed between India and France in July of the previous year, making France the first European country to adopt India's UPI for retail transactions.

NPCI International Payments (NIPL) has partnered with French e-commerce and proximity payments company, Lyra, to facilitate the acceptance of UPI payments in France. The strategic tie-up ensures a seamless integration of the UPI payment mechanism, starting with the Eiffel Tower.

The UPI is India's mobile-based payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPIL) in 2016. It allows people to make round-the-clock payments through a virtual payment address created by the customer.

UPI is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application of any participating bank, merging several banking features, seamless fund routing and merchant payments into one hood.

**48. Consider the following statements about Brand Guardianship Index 2024:**

- (i) The index is compiled by World Economic Forum.**
- (ii) Mukesh Ambani ranked first among all the Indians and second globally in the index.**
- (iii) The score of Mukesh Ambani in index is 81.6.**
- (iv) The Index is topped by Huateng Ma.**

**How many of the statements given above are INCORRECT?**

- (a) only two
- (b) only three
- (c) only one
- (d) all are incorrect
- (e) all are correct

**Ans. a**

**Statements**

- (i) The index is compiled by World Economic Forum. **(Incorrect)**
- (ii) Mukesh Ambani ranked first among all the Indians and second globally in the index. **(Correct)**
- (iii) The score of Mukesh Ambani in index is 81.6. **(Incorrect)**
- (iv) The Index is topped by Huateng Ma. **(Correct)**

**Sol.** Mukesh Ambani tops Brand Guardianship Index 2024 among Indians

Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited, Mukesh Ambani has been ranked first among all the Indians and second globally in the Brand Guardianship Index 2024 compiled by Brand Finance.

The Brand Guardianship Index is a global recognition of CEOs, who are building business value in a sustainable manner by balancing the needs of all stakeholders - employees, investors, and the wider society.

Ambani was ranked ahead of global majors like Satya Nadella of Microsoft, Google's Sundar Pichai, Apple's Tim Cook and Tesla's Elon Musk, as well as fellow Indians such as N Chandrasekaran of Tata Group and Anish Shah of Mahindra Group, among many others.

Brand Finance's survey gave Mukesh Ambani a BGI score of 80.3, just below 81.6 of Huateng Ma of China-based Tencent.

Tata Sons Chairman's N Chandrasekaran is ranked at 5<sup>th</sup>, Mahindra and Mahindra's Anish Shah at 6<sup>th</sup>, Infosys's Salil Parekh at 16<sup>th</sup>.

**49. Digital payments across the country registered a growth of how much per cent in a year through March 2023, as per RBI's index that measures the adoption of online transactions?**

ऑनलाइन लेनदेन को अपनाने को मापने वाले RBI के सूचकांक के अनुसार, मार्च 2023 तक देश भर में डिजिटल भुगतान में एक वर्ष में कितने प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई?

- (a) 9.94 per cent
- (b) 10.94 per cent
- (c) 11.94 per cent
- (d) 12.94 per cent
- (e) 13.94 per cent

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Digital payments rise 10.94 pc annually at September-end 2023: RBI

Digital payments across the country registered a growth of 10.94 per cent in a year through March 2023, as per RBI's index that measures the adoption of online transactions.

RBI's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) stood at 418.77 at end-September 2023 compared to 377.46 in September 2022 and 395.57 in March 2023.

The RBI-DPI index has increased across all parameters and was driven particularly by growth in payment enablers, payment performance and consumer centricity across the country over the period.

The central bank had announced the construction of a composite RBI-DPI in March 2018 as a base to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.

The index comprises five broad parameters that enable the measurement of the depth and penetration of digital payments in the country over different periods.

These parameters are Payment Enablers (weight 25 per cent); Payment Infrastructure - Demand-side factors (10 per cent); Payment Infrastructure - Supply-side factors (15 per cent); Payment Performance (45 per cent); and Consumer Centricity (5 per cent).

The index is published on a semi-annual basis beginning from March 2021 with a lag of four months.

**50. What is the allocated budget for Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) issuance in the upcoming fiscal year 2024-25?**  
**आगामी वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 में सॉवरेन गोल्ड बॉन्ड (SGB) जारी करने के लिए आवंटित बजट क्या है?**

- (a) 1600 crore
- (b) 2100 crore
- (c) 3000 crore
- (d) 3500 crore
- (e) 4000 crore

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Government Boosts Sovereign Gold Bond Issuance to 3,500 Crore in FY 25

The Indian government has decided to substantially increase the issuance of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB) for the upcoming fiscal year.

The allocation for SGBs has been more than doubled, rising from ₹1,500 crore in the financial year ending March 31, 2023, to a significant ₹3,500 crore for the fiscal year 2024-25.

Incidentally, gold imports have jumped 20 per cent to 781 tonnes last year even as the run-away prices have suppressed demand, according to the World Gold Council data.

The physical domestic demand for gold still ranges between 700-750 tonnes per annum and has not been impacted much by issuance of SGBs.

Last November, the central bank redeemed the maiden tranche of SGBs, which had more than doubled investment in eight years.

The first tranche of SGB, which was issued at ₹2,684 per gm in November 2015, was redeemed at ₹6,132 per gm. This apart, investors had earned an interest of 2.75 per cent per annum (reduced subsequently to 2.50 per cent).

The next issuance of SGB will be open for subscription between February 12-16. The RBI had issued three SGBs last year in the price range between ₹5,923 and ₹6,199 per gm.

**51. Which small finance bank has partnered with Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance to offer Life Insurance?**

**जीवन बीमा की पेशकश करने के लिए किस लघु वित्त बैंक ने एडलवाइस टोकियो लाइफ इंश्योरेंस के साथ साझेदारी की है?**

- (a) AU Small Finance Bank Limited / एयू स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड
- (b) Capital Small Finance Bank Limited / कैपिटल स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड
- (c) Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited / फिनकेयर स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड
- (d) ESAF Small Finance Bank Limited / ESAF स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड
- (e) Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited / इक्विटास स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** ESAF Small Finance Bank and Edelweiss Insurance partner to offer Life Insurance

ESAF Small Finance Bank has partnered with a bancassurance collaboration with Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance.

The partnership plays a crucial role in ESAF Small Finance Bank's strategy to broaden its range of offerings, demonstrating its commitment to providing financial security to a more extensive segment of the unbanked and under-banked population.

The aim of this partnership is to widen the accessibility of innovative life insurance products, capitalizing on ESAF Small Finance Bank's strong presence across rural markets in India.

The alliance plays a pivotal role in Edelweiss Tokio Life's comprehensive multi-channel distribution strategy, setting the stage for establishing new standards in customer-focused insurance services.

**About ESAF Small Finance Bank**

- **Founded-** 10 March 2017
- **Founders-** K. Paul Thomas, Mereena Paul, Jacob Samuel
- **Headquarters-** Thrissur, Kerala
- **MD & CEO** - Paul Thomas K

**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

**52. What percentage of increase in volume and value did January's 2024 UPI transactions have compared to the same month in the previous financial year?**

पिछले वित्तीय वर्ष के इसी महीने की तुलना में जनवरी 2024 के यूपीआई लेनदेन की मात्रा और मूल्य में कितने प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है?

- (a) 42% volume, 52% value
- (b) 60% volume, 40% value
- (c) 35% volume, 65% value
- (d) 42% volume, 38% value
- (e) 52% volume, 42% value

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** UPI transactions reach a record Rs 18.41 trillion in January: NPCI

Unified payments interface (UPI) has started 2024 on a strong note, with transaction spends staying over the ₹18-lakh crore mark and touching a new record high.

Transactions worth ₹18.41-lakh crore were processed during January, nearly 1 per cent higher than the previous record of ₹18.23-lakh crore in December 2023. The value of transactions was 42 per cent higher on year, as per data by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

The number of transactions on the UPI network remained flat on month at 1,202 crore for January. On year, the volume of transactions was 52 per cent higher.

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

In FY23, the UPI platform processed 8,376 crore transactions aggregating ₹139-lakh crore. Over 11,765 UPI transactions worth ₹182.25-lakh crore were processed in 2023, up 59 per cent in terms of volume and 45 per cent in terms of value compared with 2022.

UPI transactions are expected to breach 100 crore transactions per day by FY27, as per a report by PwC India, which projects UPI to dominate the retail digital payments landscape, accounting for 90 per cent of total transaction volumes over the next five years.

**53. Which country has won the first FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup 2024?**

**किस देश ने पहला FIH पुरुष हॉकी5s विश्व कप 2024 जीता है?**

- (a) Malaysia / मलेशिया
- (b) Netherland / नीदरलैंड
- (c) Bhutan / भूटान
- (d) India / भारत
- (e) Sri Lanka / श्रीलंका

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India finished fifth at FIH Hockey5s World Cup

The first ever men's FIH Hockey5s World Cup came to a thrilling conclusion with the Netherlands overcoming Malaysia to lift the trophy.

Malaysia can be justifiably proud of their silver medal.

Six of their players were part of the squad that clinched the gold medal at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, which was played in the Hockey5s format.

Earlier, India had a point to prove against Egypt, having lost to them in the pool stage, and they came out firing in a 6-4 win for 5th place.

**Men's Hockey5s World Cup 2024**

- Host Country – Oman
- Teams – 16
- Winner – Netherland
- Runner Up -Malaysia
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Oman
- Top Scorer – Waheed Rana (Pakistan, 23 goals)
- Best Player – Akhimullah Annur (Malaysia)
- Best Young Player – Hannan Shahid (Pakistan)
- Best Goal Keeper – Joey van Walstijn (Netherlands)

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**54. Who has been appointed as the head of its consumer lending and mortgages in Bandhan Bank?**

**बंधन बैंक में उपभोक्ता ऋण और बंधक के प्रमुख के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Smita Sarangi / स्मिता सारंगी
- (b) Santosh Nair / संतोष नायर
- (c) Indra Mani Pandey / इंद्र मणि पांडे
- (d) Tanu Singh / तनु सिंह
- (e) Vivek Murthy / विवेक मूर्ति

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Bandhan Bank appoints Santosh Nair as its consumer lending and mortgages head

Bandhan Bank has appointed Santosh Nair, chief executive of HDFC Sales Private Limited, as the head of its consumer lending and mortgages. Bandhan Bank's Shantanu Sengupta will step down from the post of Head. However, he will assist the bank in a smooth transition and will leave the organisation in early FY2024–25 to pursue opportunities outside the bank.

Nair, a veteran with over three decades of experience in banks and financial services companies, will drive Bandhan Bank's housing finance portfolio and also the retail lending franchise and distribution.

Earlier, Santosh Nair was the CEO of HDFC Sales and also worked at HDFC and HDFC Bank in his three decades of experience in the industry.

**About Bandhan Bank**

- **Founded** - 2001
- **Founder** - Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- **Headquarters** - Kolkata
- **MD & CEO** - Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- **Chairperson** - Anup Kumar Sinha

**Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- **Non-executive chairman of AU Small Finance Bank** - HR Khan (replace Raj Verma)
- **Executive Director of Bank of Baroda** - Sanjay Vinayak Mudaliar
- **Executive Director of Indian Overseas Bank** - Joydeep Dutta Roy
- **MD & CEO of DCB Bank** - Praveen Achuthan Kutty (replace Murali Natrajan) effect from 29/4/24
- **Deputy Governor of RBI** - Michael Patra (1 year extension)

**55. The Indian Air Force will be conducting Exercise Vayu Shakti-24 on 17 February 2024 at which place?**

**भारतीय वायु सेना 17 फरवरी 2024 को किस स्थान पर वायु शक्ति-24 अभ्यास आयोजित करेगी?**

- (a) Jaisalmer, Rajasthan / जैसलमेर, राजस्थान
- (b) Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh / बकलोह, हिमाचल प्रदेश
- (c) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh / विशाखापत्तनम, आंध्र प्रदेश
- (d) Chennai, Tamil Nadu / चेन्नई, तमिलनाडु
- (e) Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand / पिथोरागढ़, उत्तराखंड

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Indian Air Force to conduct Exercise Vayu Shakti-2024

The Indian Air Force will be conducting Exercise Vayu Shakti-24 on 17 February 2024 at the Pokhran Air to Ground Range, near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

The last edition of exercise Vayu Shakti was held on 16 February 2019.

The exercise will also showcase joint operations with the Indian Army.

This year, the exercise will see participation by 121 aircraft, including the indigenous Tejas, Prachand and Dhruv. Other participating aircraft would include the Rafale, Mirage-2000, Sukhoi-30 MKI, Jaguar, Hawk, C-130J, Chinook, Apache and Mi-17.

Indigenous Surface to Air Weapon systems Akash and Samar will demonstrate their capability to track and shoot down an intruding aircraft.

Exercise Vayu Shakti will be a demonstration of the IAF's capability to deliver weapons with long range, precision capability as well as conventional weapon accurately, on time and with devastating effect, while operating from multiple air bases.

**Recent Exercise**

- 1st edition of **Military Exercise - SADA TANSEEQ** between India & Saudi Arabia - Rajasthan
- **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

**56. 59-year-old cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko has broken the world record for the most cumulative time spent in space. He is from which country?**

**59 वर्षीय अंतरिक्ष यात्री ओलेग कोनोनेंको ने अंतरिक्ष में सबसे अधिक समय बिताने का विश्व रिकॉर्ड तोड़ दिया है। वह किस देश से है?**

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

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Russian cosmonaut sets world record for time spent in space

Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko has broken the world record for the most cumulative time spent in space, Russia Space agency Roscosmos reported.

The 59-year-old has now spent more than 878 days and 12 hours in space, surpassing fellow Russian Gennady Padalka, who set the previous record of 878 days, 11 hours, 29 minutes, and 48 seconds in 2015.

Kononenko has made five journeys to the International Space Station, dating back to 2008.

Kononenko's current trip to the ISS began on September 15, 2023, when he launched alongside NASA astronaut Loral O'Hara and Roscosmos compatriot Nikolai Chub. By the end of this expedition, the cosmonaut is expected to become the first person to accumulate 1,000 days in space.

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**57. Who has released a book titled "9 Incredible Years of Haryana Government: Emergence of a New and Vibrant Haryana" in Surajkund, Faridabad?**

सूरजकुंड, फ़रीदाबाद में "हरियाणा सरकार के 9 अतुल्य वर्ष: एक नए और जीवंत हरियाणा का उद्भव" नामक पुस्तक का विमोचन किसने किया है?

- (a) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी
- (b) Amit Shah / अमित शाह
- (c) Manohar Lal Khattar / मनोहर लाल खट्टर
- (d) Droupadi Murmu / द्रौपदी मुर्मू
- (e) Jagdeep Dhankhar / जगदीप धनखड़

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Jagdeep Dhankhar Released the book titled '9 Incredible Years of Haryana Government

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has released a book titled "9 Incredible Years of Haryana Government: Emergence of a New and Vibrant Haryana" in Surajkund, Faridabad.

The book encapsulated perspectives from individuals occupying various positions in politics, education, social work, administration and the judiciary.

Insightful contributions from intellectuals regarding the state government's initiatives for the nation and society are also featured in the book.

#### **Recent Books**

- **Ek Samandar, Mere Andar** - Sanjeev Joshi
- **Pranab My father** – Sharmistha Mukherjee
- **The Cooking Books** – Ramchandra Guha
- **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)

**58. World Cancer Day is observed globally on which day?**

**विश्व कैंसर दिवस विश्व स्तर पर किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 6 February / 6 फरवरी
- (b) 7 February / 7 फरवरी
- (c) 8 February / 8 फरवरी
- (d) 4 February / 4 फरवरी
- (e) 5 February / 5 फरवरी

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** 4 February - World Cancer Day

World Cancer Day is observed globally on February 4 each year.

Objective - To raise awareness about cancer, its prevention, and the importance of early detection.

The theme for the 2022-2024 period is "Close the Care Gap: Everyone Deserves Access To Cancer Care.

The sub-theme, "Together, we challenge those in power," emphasizes accountability from leaders to allocate essential resources for eradicating cancer.

The history of World Cancer Day dates back to the World Summit Against Cancer in Paris in 1999, where the concept was proposed.

The Charter of Paris Against Cancer was signed on February 4, 2000, during the follow-up World Summit, officially marking the first observance of World Cancer Day.

The charter aimed to underscore the importance of global cooperation in the battle against cancer, addressing issues related to care and research.

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**59. Hage Geingob passed away recently at the age of 82. He was the president of which country?**

**हेज गिंगोब का हाल ही में 82 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह किस देश के राष्ट्रपति थे?**

- (a) Mangolia / मंगोलिया
- (b) Ghana / घाना
- (c) Sudan / सूडान
- (d) Namibia / नामीबिया
- (e) Oman / ओमान

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Namibia's President Hage Geingob passes away

Namibia's President Hage Geingob passed away at the age of 82 in Windhoek.

Geingob, who was serving his second term as President, revealed last month that he was receiving treatment for cancer.

First elected president in 2014, Geingob was Namibia's longest serving prime minister and third president.

In 2013, Geingob underwent brain surgery, and last year he underwent an aortic operation in neighbouring South Africa.

**About Namibia**

- **Capital** – Windhoek
- **Currency** – Namibian dollar, South African rand
- **Prime Minister** – Saara Kuugongelwa
- **Official language** – English

**60. Which state government has launched a welfare scheme "Mahtari Vandan Yojana" to provide financial assistance for married women?**

किस राज्य सरकार ने विवाहित महिलाओं को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए कल्याणकारी योजना "महतारी वंदन योजना" शुरू की है?

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Chhattisgarh govt launched Mahtari Vandan Yojana

Chhattisgarh government has launched a welfare scheme "Mahtari Vandan Yojana".

Under the scheme, government will provide Rs 1,000 financial assistance for married women.

Under the scheme, Rs 1,000 per month — i.e. Rs 12,000 per annum — will be sent into the bank accounts of married women accounts through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer).

The married women who are a domicile of Chhattisgarh and aged above 21 years as on January 1, 2024, will be eligible to avail benefit of the scheme.

Besides them, widows, divorced and abandoned women will also be eligible to avail its benefit if they fulfil the criteria.

The scheme is aimed at eliminating discrimination against women and to improve their health and nutrition level.

The government also decided to hike tendu leaf collection remuneration given to people collecting them to Rs 5,500 per standard sacks from existing Rs 4,000. Tendu leaves are used as a wrapper for beedis

#### **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

**61. In February 2024, Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of projects worth over ₹1330 crore in which state?**

**फरवरी 2024 में, नरेंद्र मोदी ने किस राज्य में ₹1330 करोड़ से अधिक की परियोजनाओं की आधारशिला रखी?**

- (a) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Goa / गोवा
- (d) Himachal Pradesh / हिमाचल प्रदेश
- (e) Punjab / पंजाब

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** PM Narendra Modi Unveils Projects Worth ₹1330 crore In Goa

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has participated in 'Viksit Bharat, Viksit Goa 2047' programme and inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of projects worth over ₹1330 crore.

The Prime Minister inaugurated the permanent campus of the National Institute of Technology Goa.

The newly built-up campus has various facilities such as tutorial complex, departmental complex, seminar complex, administrative complex, hostels, health centre, staff quarters, amenity centre, sports ground and other utilities to cater to the needs of students, faculty and staff of the Institute.

PM also dedicated the new campus of the National Institute of Watersports to the nation. The institute will introduce 28 tailor-made courses aimed at fostering the development of watersports and water rescue activities catering to both the public and the armed forces. PM also inaugurated a 100 TPD Integrated Waste Management Facility in South Goa. It has been designed for the scientific treatment of 60 TPD wet waste and 40 TPD dry waste, while also featuring a 500 KW solar power plant that generates surplus electricity.

Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for Passenger Ropeway, along with associated tourism activities, connecting Panaji and Reis Magos. The foundation stone for the construction of a 100 MLD Water Treatment Plant in South Goa will be laid by him.

**PM Modi in News**

- PM Modi inaugurated CLEA-CASGC 2024 Conference in New Delhi
- PM Modi Unveils Infrastructure Boost in Bulandshahr, UP
- PM Modi inaugurates Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Supreme Court
- PM Modi released commemorative postage stamps, book on Ram Temple
- PM Modi inaugurated Boeing's India Engineering and Technology Center in Bengaluru



**62. Dr Jitendra Singh has released the theme for the "National Science Day 2024" titled \_\_\_\_\_.**

**डॉ. जितेंद्र सिंह ने "राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान दिवस 2024" की थीम \_\_\_\_\_ जारी की है।**

- (a) Indigenous Technologies for Aatmanirbhar Bharat
- (b) Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat
- (c) Indigenous Technologies for Vikas Sheel Bharat
- (d) Indigenous Technologies for Amrit Kaal
- (e) Indigenous Technologies for 2047

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Dr Jitendra Singh launches the theme for National Science Day 'Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat'

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh has released the theme for the "National Science Day 2024", titled "Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat".

The NSD Theme for this year's celebration reflects a strategic focus on promoting public appreciation for Science, Technology and Innovation and accomplishments of Indian scientists to address challenges through home-grown technologies for over-all well-being.

The Theme not only marks a new era but also presents an opportunity for public and scientific fraternity, both domestically and internationally, to collaborate, work together, and contribute to the well-being of India and humanity as a whole.

The National Science Day (NSD) is celebrated every year on 28 February to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect'.

Government of India designated 28 February as National Science Day (NSD) in 1986.

On this day Sir C.V. Raman announced the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930.

**63. Which state government has launched 'Chief Minister Vayoshree Yojana' for senior citizens who suffer from some physical or mental disability?**

किस राज्य सरकार ने शारीरिक या मानसिक विकलांगता से पीड़ित वरिष्ठ नागरिकों के लिए 'मुख्यमंत्री वयोश्री योजना' शुरू की है?

- (a) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (d) Himachal Pradesh / हिमाचल प्रदेश
- (e) Punjab / पंजाब

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Maharashtra Govt decides to introduce 'Chief Minister Vayoshree Yojana'

Maharashtra Government has decided to introduce 'Chief Minister Vayoshree Yojana' that is likely to benefit 15 lakh senior citizens who suffer from some physical or mental disability.

These citizens, above the age of 65 years, will be screened and those found eligible will be paid three thousand rupees.

The scheme will be implemented across all districts at an approximate cost of 480 crore rupees.

**About Maharashtra**

- **Capital** - Mumbai
- **Chief Minister** - Eknath Sindhe
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Devendra Fadnavis & Ajit Pawar
- **Governor** - Ramesh Bais

**64. Which state's cabinet has approved the creation of two new districts for ease of administration to carve out Keyi Panyor district from Lower Subansiri and Bichom from East and West Kameng districts?**

किस राज्य की कैबिनेट ने प्रशासन की आसानी के लिए निचले सुबनसिरी से केई पन्योर जिले और पूर्व और पश्चिम कामेंग जिलों से बिचोम को अलग करने के लिए दो नए जिलों के निर्माण को मंजूरी दे दी है?

- (a) Tripura / त्रिपुरा
- (b) Sikkim / सिक्किम
- (c) Assam / असम
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh / अरुणाचल प्रदेश
- (e) Meghalaya / मेघालय

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet Approves 2 new district

The cabinet of Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has approved the creation of two new districts for ease of administration.

The cabinet decided to carve out Keyi Panyor district from Lower Subansiri and Bichom from East and West Kameng districts.

The number of districts in the northeastern state will now rise to 28.

### **About Arunachal Pradesh**

- **Capital** – Itanagar
- **Chief Minister** – Pema Khandu
- **Governor** – LG (Retd) Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik

**65. President Nayib Bukele has re-elected as the president of which country?**

**राष्ट्रपति नायब बुकेले किस देश के राष्ट्रपति के रूप में पुनः निर्वाचित हुए हैं?**

- (a) Finland / फिनलैंड
- (b) Scotland / स्कॉटलैंड
- (c) El Salvador / अल साल्वाडोर
- (d) Eritrea / इरिट्रिया
- (e) Finland / फिनलैंड

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** El Salvador's Bukele re-elected as president

President Nayib Bukele has secured a thumping victory in El Salvador's elections after voters cast aside concerns about erosion of democracy to reward him for a fierce gang crackdown that transformed security in the Central American country.

Bukele winning 83% support with just over 70% of the ballots counted.

As Bukele embarks on his second term, addressing poverty and fostering economic growth remain paramount. His initiatives, including the adoption of Bitcoin, aim to stimulate economic activity and alleviate poverty, despite skepticism from international observers.

#### **About El Salvador**

- Capital- San Salvador
- Currencies- Bitcoin, United States Dollar
- Official language- Spanish
- President- Nayib Bukele

#### **Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President**

- Sultan of Malaysia - Ibrahim Iskandar
- President of Comoros -Azali Assoumani (4th time)
- President of Guatemala - Bernardo Arevalo
- President of Taiwan - William Lai
- King of Denmark - King Frederik X (replace Queen Margrethe II)

**66. State Bank of India (SBI) has reported a drop in net profit for the first time in 12 quarters, with its third quarter (Q3FY24) standalone net profit declining how much per cent year-on-year (yoy) to ₹9,164 crore?**

भारतीय स्टेट बैंक (SBI) ने 12 तिमाहियों में पहली बार शुद्ध लाभ में गिरावट दर्ज की है, इसकी तीसरी तिमाही (Q3FY24) का स्टैंडअलोन शुद्ध लाभ साल-दर-साल (वर्ष-दर-वर्ष) कितने प्रतिशत घटकर ₹9,164 करोड़ रह गया है?

- (a) 25.5%
- (b) 35.5%
- (c) 45.5%
- (d) 15.5%
- (e) 23.5%

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** SBI's Q3FY24 net profit drops 35.5% due to one-time provisions

State Bank of India (SBI) has reported a drop in net profit for the first time in 12 quarters, with its third quarter (Q3FY24) standalone net profit declining 35.5 per cent year-on-year (yoy) to ₹9,164 crore.

As it absorbed one-time provisions relating to increase in pension liabilities and dearness relief neutralisation.

India's largest bank had reported a net profit of ₹14,205 crore in Q3 FY 2023.

Capital adequacy ratio (CAR) declined to 13.05 per cent in Q3FY24 from 14.28 per cent in Q2FY24.

#### **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

**67. Who has been appointed as the Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare?**

**स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग के सचिव 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) Apurva Chandra / अपूर्व चंद्रा

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Apurva Chandra appointed as Health Secretary

Information and Broadcasting Secretary, Apurva Chandra has been appointed as the Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare.

Chandra is a 1988-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Maharashtra cadre.

Meanwhile, senior bureaucrat Sanjay Jaju has been appointed as the new Information and Broadcasting Secretary, in place of Chandra.

Jaju, a 1992-batch IAS officer, is currently serving in his cadre state of Telangana.

A Neerja, currently Additional Secretary, Department of Fertilisers has been appointed as Special Secretary in the same department.

Also, Ashish Kumar Bhutani has been appointed as Secretary at Ministry of Cooperation.

**68. Justice Ritu Bahri was sworn in as the first woman Chief Justice of the which High Court?**

**न्यायमूर्ति रितु बाहरी ने किस उच्च न्यायालय की पहली महिला मुख्य न्यायाधीश के रूप में शपथ ली है?**

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Ritu Bahri Took Oath as the First Woman Chief Justice of Uttarakhand HC

Justice Ritu Bahri was sworn in as the first woman Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court.

She became the second woman to hold such a position amongst the 25 high courts in the country.

Last year, Sunita Aggarwal, a judge of the Allahabad High Court, was appointed Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court.

Prior to her appointment as the Chief Justice of Uttarakhand, Justice Bahri served as a judge in the Punjab and Haryana High Court from 2010.

She completed her schooling in Chandigarh and earned her law degree from Punjab University, beginning her legal practice in the Punjab and Haryana High Court. Justice Bahri specialised in civil, constitutional, taxation, labor, and service matters.

### **About Uttarakhand**

- **Capital** - Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)
- **Chief Minister** - Pushkar Singh Dhama
- **Governor** - Gurmit Singh

**69. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has appointed \_\_\_\_\_ as its country director for India.**  
**एशियाई विकास बैंक (एडीबी) ने भारत के लिए \_\_\_\_\_ को अपना देश निदेशक नियुक्त किया है।**

- (a) Mio Oka / मियो ओका
- (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. a**

**Sol.** ADB Appoints Mio Oka as New Country Director for India

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has appointed Mio Oka as its country director for India.

She will succeed Takeo Konishi who has been promoted as ADB Director General for South Asia at the Manila headquarters.

Oka will take charge of steering ADB operations in India and fostering relations with the government and the country's other development partners.

India is currently ADB's fourth largest shareholder and one of its largest borrowers since 2010.

In 2023, ADB committed USD 2.59 billion in sovereign lending to India in addition to USD 16.31 million in technical assistance and USD 5.25 million in grants under the sovereign portfolio.

The current India sovereign portfolio comprises 73 projects worth a total of USD 15.7 billion.

#### **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** - Mio Oka (replace Takeo Konishi)
- **Executive Director** - Vikas Sheel
- **Adviser to the Executive Director** - Smita Sarangi
- **Member Countries** - 68 (Niue)

#### **Recent Appointment in Foreign**

- **US Representative on WHO Board** - Vivek Murthy
- **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



**70. Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak has been elected the new Prime Minister of which country?**

**अहमद अवद बिन मुबारक को किस देश का नया प्रधान मंत्री चुना गया है?**

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

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Yemen Appoints Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak as New Prime Minister

Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council has appointed its foreign minister Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak as the country's new prime minister.

Outgoing PM Maeen Abdulmalik Saeed will take on the role of an advisor to the Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council.

Bin Mubarak came to prominence in 2015 when he was kidnapped by the country's Iran-aligned Houthis while he served as Yemen's presidential chief of staff during a power struggle with then-President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

In 2018, Bin Mubarak was also designated as the country's representative to the United Nations.

**About Yemen**

- Capital- Sana'a
- Official language- Arabic
- Currency- Yemeni Rial
- Prime Minister - Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak

**71. The government has set a target to have 25,000 Janaushadhi Kendras across the country by which year?**

**सरकार ने किस वर्ष तक देश भर में 25,000 जनऔषधि केंद्र खोलने का लक्ष्य रखा है?**

- (a) March 2025
- (b) March 2026
- (c) December 2025
- (d) December 2026
- (e) June 2025

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Govt plans to have 25,000 Janaushadhi Kendras by March 2026

The government has set a target to have 25,000 Janaushadhi Kendras across the country by March 31, 2026.

In a written reply in Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers Bhagwanth Khuba said that about 10,624 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) were functional across the country till January 31, 2024.

For further expansion of the scheme, the government has set a target for opening 25,000 Janaushadhi Kendras (JAKs) by March 31, 2026, he added.

Accordingly, the Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) has invited online applications from all districts of the country.

Prices of the Janaushadhi medicines are generally 50-90 per cent less than that of branded medicines' prices which are available in the open market.

During the past nine years, estimated savings of more than Rs 28,000 crore for the citizens have been possible.

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was launched by the government in 2008.

**72. Safer Internet Day is celebrated every year on which day?**

**सुरक्षित इंटरनेट दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 6 February / 6 फरवरी
- (b) 7 February / 7 फरवरी
- (c) 8 February / 8 फरवरी
- (d) 9 February / 9 फरवरी
- (e) 10 February / 10 फरवरी

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 6 February - Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day is celebrated on 6th February each year.

Objective - To promote a safer and more responsible use of online technology around the world

Theme 2024 - Inspiring Change. Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online

The day was started in 2004 as an initiative of the SafeBorders project, funded by the European Union (EU).

In 2005, Insafe took up the responsibility of organizing the day around the world. The European network has multiple awareness centres across the globe, which help people in understanding the various important factors of prioritising internet safety.

**73. International Day of Zero Tolerance against Female Genital Mutilation is observed every year on which day?**

महिला जननांग विकृति के विरुद्ध शून्य सहनशीलता का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 6 February / 6 फरवरी
- (b) 7 February / 7 फरवरी
- (c) 8 February / 8 फरवरी
- (d) 9 February / 9 फरवरी
- (e) 10 February / 10 फरवरी

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 6 February - International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

International Day of Zero Tolerance against Female Genital Mutilation is observed every year on 6 February.

The main objective of celebrating Female Genital Mutilation Day (FGM) is to give respect to women by completely eliminating female genital mutilation.

Theme 2024 - Her Voice Her Future

The United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund launched a joint campaign against female genital mutilation in 2007.

In 2012, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution declaring February 6 as the International Day Against Female Genital Mutilation with zero tolerance against female genital mutilation

**74. Mir Mohammad Farooq Nazki died at the age of 83. Who was he?**  
**मीर मोहम्मद फारूक नाज़की का 83 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह कौन थे?**

- (a) Poet / कवि
- (b) Politician / राजनेता
- (c) Actor / अभिनेता
- (d) Social Worker / सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता
- (e) Historian / इतिहासकार

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Veteran journalist Farooq Nazki dies

Veteran broadcaster, poet and Sahitya Akademi winner Mir Mohammad Farooq Nazki died at the age of 83.

Nazki, who held several important positions in All India Radio Kashmir and Doordarshan.

In 1995, Nazki won the Sahitya Academy award in Kashmiri language literature for his book of poetry, Naar Hyutun Kanzal Wanas (Fire in the Eyelashes).

**75. Who has launched the EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme in New Delhi?**

**नई दिल्ली में EdCIL विद्यांजलि छात्रवृत्ति कार्यक्रम किसने लॉन्च किया है?**

- (a) Anurag Thakur / अनुराग ठाकुर
- (b) Piyush Goyal / पीयूष गोयल
- (c) Smriti Irani / स्मृति ईरानी
- (d) Dharmendra Pradhan / धर्मेन्द्र प्रधान
- (e) Amit Shah / अमित शाह

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Dharmendra Pradhan launches EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme in New Delhi.

The Vidyanjali Scholarship Program symbolises a whole-of-society approach to empowerment through access and opportunities of education, particularly to students belonging to economically disadvantaged sections.

He commended the efforts of students of NVS and mentioned that nearly 14,000 students have succeeded in getting admission to reputed institutes including IITs, NITs, etc. without joining any coaching centres.

**76. Who has kicked off the BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships 2024 in New Delhi?**

**नई दिल्ली में बिस्स्टेक एक्वेटिक्स चैंपियनशिप 2024 की शुरुआत किसने की?**

- (a) Anurag Thakur / अनुराग ठाकुर
- (b) Piyush Goyal / पीयूष गोयल
- (c) Jitendra Singh / जितेंद्र सिंह
- (d) Nitin Gadkari / नितिन गडकरी
- (e) Amit Shah / अमित शाह

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Anurag Singh Thakur kicks off 1st BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur kicked off BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships 2024 in New Delhi. The BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships is being held for the first time.

The announcement for the same was made by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the 4th BIMSTEC Summit in 2018, where he announced the organizing of the BIMSTEC Youth Water Sports competition in India.

The event was initially proposed for the year 2021, however, it was later postponed to 2024 due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic across the world.

A total of 39 medals will be given out across three sporting events along with a total of 9 trophies that will be at stake. Over 500 personnel are expected at the events, including 268 athletes from various BIMSTEC member countries.

BIMSTEC (The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) constitutes a unique link between South and South-East Asian countries with five members from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka) and two members from South-East Asia (Myanmar & Thailand).

**77. In February 2024, which country has approved a visa-free policy for Indian citizens for a maximum stay of 15 days?**

**फरवरी 2024 में, किस देश ने भारतीय नागरिकों के लिए अधिकतम 15 दिनों के प्रवास के लिए वीजा-मुक्त नीति को मंजूरी दे दी है?**

- (a) Iran / ईरान
- (b) Iraq / इराक
- (c) UAE / यूएई
- (d) Syria / सीरिया
- (e) Saudi Arabia / सऊदी अरब

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Iran announces visa-free travel for Indian nationals

The Iranian government has approved a visa-free policy for Indian nationals. This policy will be only valid for tourism purposes. With this exemption, Indian citizens holding ordinary passports can enter Iran without a visa once every six months for a maximum stay of 15 days.

In December, Iran approved a new visa-free programme for India and 32 other countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and Malaysia.

If Indian citizens wish to stay for a longer period or make multiple entries within a six-month period or require other types of visas, it is mandatory to get necessary visas through the respective representations of Iran in India.

**About Iran**

- **Capital** – Tehran
- **Currency** – Rial
- **President** – Ebrahim Raisi



**78. Aether Industries will commission a 15 MW solar power project (Auto-Tracker Modules) under the Captive Power Producer (CPP) segment in which state?**

एथर इंडस्ट्रीज किस राज्य में कैप्टिव पावर प्रोड्यूसर (सीपीपी) सेगमेंट के तहत 15 मेगावाट की सौर ऊर्जा परियोजना (ऑटो-ट्रैकर मॉड्यूल) शुरू करेगी?

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

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Aether Industries to commission 15 MW solar power plant in Gujarat

Aether Industries will commission a 15 MW solar power project (Auto-Tracker Modules) under the Captive Power Producer (CPP) segment in the Bharuch district of Gujarat with an aim to become more sustainable.

Earlier, in July 2023, Aether Industries had commissioned a 16 MW solar power project (Fixed Modules) under the CPP segment and this new solar power plant under CPP will add to its renewable energy sources and further move towards sustainability.

The solar power farm will be in Gujarat's Bharuch District and spread across 60 acres.

The phase-wise commissioning of the solar power plant is set to begin as early as the next financial year starting April.

**About Gujarat**

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

**79. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), by which year India will become the largest source of global oil demand growth as its domestic production is down by 22 per cent?**

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा एजेंसी (IEA) के अनुसार, भारत किस वर्ष तक वैश्विक तेल मांग वृद्धि का सबसे बड़ा स्रोत बन जाएगा क्योंकि इसका घरेलू उत्पादन 22 प्रतिशत कम हो गया है?

- (a) 2028
- (b) 2030
- (c) 2035
- (d) 2032
- (e) 2029

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India to be world's biggest oil demand growth driver through 2030: IEA

India will in seven years become the largest source of global oil demand growth as its domestic production shrinks 22 per cent, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

The two trends have major implications as India is already the world's second largest net importer, said the agency in a report released at the India Energy Week in Goa.

India's crude imports reached 4.6 million b/d in 2023, increasing 36 per cent in a decade.

India's domestic production meets just 13 per cent of its needs. In 2023, domestic oil production averaged around 700 thousand b/d.

Electric vehicles and advances in energy efficiency will result in the country avoiding 480 thousand b/d of extra demand in 2023-2030.

**80. The Indian government has decided to build a fence or close border along with Myanmar. How many kilometers of border does India share with Myanmar?**

भारत सरकार ने म्यांमार के साथ लगती सीमा पर बाड़ लगाने या उसे बंद करने का फैसला किया है. भारत म्यांमार के साथ कितनी किलोमीटर लंबी सीमा साझा करता है?

- (a) 4096 km
- (b) 3488 km
- (c) 3323 km
- (d) 1751 km
- (e) 1643 km

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** India Decided to Fence its Border with Myanmar

The Indian government has decided to build a fence or close border along the 1,643-kilometer border with Myanmar, according to Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Several thousand anti-Junta rebels have fled to India since the Myanmar military coup in 2021 and tribal militants are also believed to enter into India through the porous border.

**About Indo-Myanmar Border**

- The India-Myanmar border spans 1,643 km and passes through four states - Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- A 10 km stretch in Moreh, Manipur, has already been fenced and two pilot projects using a Hybrid Surveillance System (HSS) are underway.
- These projects will fence one km each in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. Furthermore, fence works covering approximately 20 km in Manipur have also been approved and the work will commence soon.

**About Free Movement Regime (FMR)**

- The Free Movement Regime (FMR) is an agreement between India and Myanmar that allows local tribes living along the border to travel up to 16 kilometres inside the other country without requiring a visa.
- According to agreement, local tribes living in any area within 16 km on either side of the border can travel with one-year validity and stay for a maximum of two weeks.

**81. Bihar State Disaster Management Authority and IIT Patna have collaborated to develop a pendant-shaped device called NITISH for farmers. What is the meaning of second "I" in "NITISH"?**

बिहार राज्य आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण और आईआईटी पटना ने किसानों के लिए NITISH नामक एक लटकन के आकार का उपकरण विकसित करने के लिए सहयोग किया है। "NITISH" में दूसरे "I" का क्या मतलब है?

- (a) Initiative
- (b) Innovation
- (c) Intervention
- (d) Insurance
- (e) Inclusive

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Bihar govt launched Device 'NITISH' for farmers

Bihar State Disaster Management Authority and IIT Patna have collaborated to develop a pendant-shaped device called NITISH (Novel Initiative Technological Intervention for Safety of Humanlives)

The device uses voice messages to alert users about impending lightning, floods, heatwaves, and coldwaves, helping farmers and common people stay informed and protected.

The device is synced with the Bihar Meteorological Service Centre.

**About Bihar**

- **Capital** – Patna
- **Chief Minister** – Nitish Kumar (9<sup>th</sup> time)
- **Deputy CM** - Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha
- **Governor** – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

**82. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of how much percent stake by Zurich Insurance Company Ltd. (Acquirer) in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited (Target)?**

भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (CCI) ने कोटक महिंद्रा जनरल इश्योरेंस कंपनी लिमिटेड (लक्ष्य) में ज्यूरिख इश्योरेंस कंपनी लिमिटेड (अधिग्रहणकर्ता) द्वारा कितनी प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी के अधिग्रहण को मंजूरी दे दी है?

- (a) 35%
- (b) 55%
- (c) 50%
- (d) 70%
- (e) 85%

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** CCI approves acquisition of 70% stake by Zurich Insurance Company Ltd. in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of 70% stake by Zurich Insurance Company Ltd. (Acquirer) in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited (Target).

The Proposed Combination involves an acquisition of a majority stake in Target by the Acquirer from Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited. Pursuant to the Proposed Combination, the Acquirer will acquire a 51% stake in Target (through a combination of fresh growth capital and share purchase). In addition to the above, the Acquirer will also acquire an additional stake of up to 19% in the Target, over a period of time.

The Acquirer is a wholly owned subsidiary of Zurich Insurance Group Ltd. (Zurich Insurance Group) The Acquirer is a leading multi-line insurer serving people and businesses in more than 200 countries and territories.

The Acquirer as part of the Zurich group has about 60,000 employees and is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland.

**83. Which bank has launched four new small and medium enterprises (SME)-focused credit cards "BizFirst, BizGrow, BizPower, and BizBlack" to cater to the specific needs of entrepreneurs, freelancers, and professionals?**

किस बैंक ने उद्यमियों, फ्रीलांसरों और पेशेवरों की विशिष्ट आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए चार नए लघु और मध्यम उद्यम (एसएमई)-केंद्रित क्रेडिट कार्ड "बिज़फर्स्ट, बिज़ग्रो, बिज़पावर और बिज़ब्लैक" लॉन्च किए हैं?

- (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.** HDFC Bank rolls out 4 SME credit cards for entrepreneurs, freelancers

India's largest private sector bank, HDFC Bank has launched four new small and medium enterprises (SME)-focused credit cards to cater to the specific needs of entrepreneurs, freelancers, and professionals.

The biggest USP of the cards is that they will provide 55 days of interest-free credit, the highest number of days offered by any bank.

In addition, they also provide savings on core business spends like utility bills, GST, income tax, vendor payments, business travel, and business productivity tools.

The new cards will make up a part of the strong suite of SME payments solutions that the bank offers — BizFirst, BizGrow, BizPower, and BizBlack. The SME Payment Solution is designed to meet the diverse payment needs of self-employed individuals, SMEs and MSMEs.

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

- SBI Life Insurance launched two products— '**SBI Life - Saral Swadhan Supreme**' and '**SBI Life - Smart Swadhan Supreme**'.
- 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

**84. Max Financial Services has received approval from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for capital infusion of Rs 1,612 crore by which bank into the company's material subsidiary, Max Life Insurance?**

मैक्स फाइनेंशियल सर्विसेज को किस बैंक द्वारा कंपनी की सामग्री सहायक कंपनी मैक्स लाइफ इंश्योरेंस में 1,612 करोड़ रुपये की पूंजी डालने के लिए भारतीय बीमा नियामक और विकास प्राधिकरण (IRDAI) से मंजूरी मिल गई है?

- (a) Federal Bank / फेडरल बैंक
- (b) Axis Bank / एक्सिस बैंक
- (c) Yes Bank / यस बैंक
- (d) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (e) IndusInd Bank / इंडसइंड बैंक

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Max Financial gets IRDAI nod for capital infusion of Rs 1,612 cr by Axis Bank into Max Life Insurance

Max Financial Services has received approval from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for capital infusion of Rs 1,612 crore by Axis Bank into the company's material subsidiary, Max Life Insurance.

As part of the deal, Max Life will issue nearly 14,25,79,161 equity shares to Axis Bank for an aggregate investment of above-mentioned amount.

The capital infusion will help Max Life to support its future growth ambitions, to augment its capital position and to improve solvency margins.

While the financial services company has received green light from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) already, it has also sought approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for the deal.

**85. IIT Madras has partnered with which company to develop India's first indigenously-designed 155mm Smart Ammunition to achieve indigenization in the defence sector?**

आईआईटी मद्रास ने रक्षा क्षेत्र में स्वदेशीकरण हासिल करने के लिए भारत का पहला स्वदेशी रूप से डिजाइन किया गया 155 मिमी स्मार्ट गोला बारूद विकसित करने के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Munitions India Limited
- (b) Armoured Vehicles Nigam
- (c) Advanced Weapons and Equipment India
- (d) Tata Advanced Systems
- (e) Bharat Electronics Limited

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** IIT Madras to create India's first 155mm smart ammunition

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has partnered with Munitions India Limited (a Defence Public Sector Enterprise) to develop India's first indigenously-designed 155mm Smart Ammunition to achieve indigenisation in the defence sector.

The objective is to increase the accuracy of 155 mm shell within a Circular Error Probable (CEP) of 10 m. At present, ammunitions developed in India has a CEP of 500 m. Another goal is to increase the lethality at the terminal impact point.

**About Munitions India Limited**

- Munitions India comes under the Ministry of Defence.
- Headquarters - Pune
- Munitions India is the country biggest manufacturer and market leader engaged in the production, testing, research and development and marketing of a comprehensive range of ammunition and explosives for the Army, Navy, Air force and Paramilitary Forces.



**86. Which IIT has achieved a major milestone by successfully establishing and testing India's first hypervelocity expansion tunnel test facility?**

किस आईआईटी ने भारत की पहली हाइपरवेलोसिटी विस्तार सुरंग परीक्षण सुविधा की सफलतापूर्वक स्थापना और परीक्षण करके एक बड़ा मील का पत्थर हासिल किया है?

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

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** IIT Kanpur develops India's first hypervelocity expansion tunnel test facility

The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) has achieved a major milestone by successfully establishing and testing India's first hypervelocity expansion tunnel test facility.

With this technical facility developed by IIT Kanpur, hypersonic cruise missiles can be prepared for precise targeting.

According to IITK, the facility is capable of generating flight speeds between 3-10 km/s, simulating the hypersonic conditions encountered during atmospheric entry.

Thus, it is a valuable test facility for ongoing missions of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) including Gaganyaan, RLV (Reusable Launch Vehicle), and hypersonic cruise missiles.

**IITs in News**

- IIT Madras to open new campus at Kandy in Sri Lanka
- 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

**87. Who has been honored with the 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year 2023' award by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh?**

**रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह द्वारा 'आउटस्टैंडिंग बिजनेस वुमन ऑफ द ईयर 2023' पुरस्कार से किसे सम्मानित किया गया है?**

- (a) Tina Modi /टीना मोदी
- (b) Parul Modi / पारुल मोदी
- (c) Anshika Modi / अंशिका मोदी
- (d) Sapna Modi / सपना मोदी
- (e) Bina Modi / बीना मोदी

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Dr. Bina Modi selected as 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year 2023'

Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, Dr. Bina Modi has been honored with the 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year 2023' award by the Defence Minister of India, Rajnath Singh.

The award, presented to her at a prestigious conference by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) on 'Strengthening Indo-US Relationship in Amritkal-Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Dr. Bina Modi, the Chairperson of Modi Enterprises - KK Modi Group, also heads the Group's FMCG giant Godfrey Phillips India and one of India's agro-chemical leaders, Indofil, as the Chairperson and Managing Director.

#### **Recent Awards**

- **Maha Gaurav 2024 award by Maharashtra govt** - Nikhil Mukund Wagh.
- **The UK's Blavatnik Awards** - 3 Indian Scientist (Rahul R Nair, Mehul Malik, and Tanmay Bharat)
- **Certified as a Top Employer 2024 in India by Top Employers Institute** - NTPC Limited
- **Female Wushu Athlete Of The Year** - Naorem Roshibina Devi (Manipur)
- **Excellence Award by Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI)** -Thiruvananthapuram Intl. Airport

**88. Who has recently received the 'Lifetime Achievement' award from the Sports Journalists Federation of India and the Delhi Sports Journalists Association?**

हाल ही में स्पोर्ट्स जर्नलिस्ट फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया और दिल्ली स्पोर्ट्स जर्नलिस्ट एसोसिएशन से 'लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट' पुरस्कार किसे मिला है?

- (a) Ravi Shastri / रवि शास्त्री
- (b) PT Usha / पीटी उषा
- (c) Rahul Dravid / राहुल द्रविड़
- (d) Mahendra Singh Dhoni / महेन्द्र सिंह धोनी
- (e) Neeraj Chopra / नीरज चोपड़ा

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** PT Usha honoured with lifetime award by SJFI & DSJA

Legendary sprinter and IOA president PT Usha received the 'Lifetime Achievement' award from the Sports Journalists Federation of India and the Delhi Sports Journalists Association.

Usha is the fifth recipient of this award after tennis legend Vijay Amritraj, badminton icon Prakash Padukone, legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar and iconic sprinter Milkha Singh.

Usha, throughout her memorable career between 1977 and 2000, won 103 international medals for India.

She also claimed four gold and seven silver medals at the Asian Games and competed across three editions of the Olympics.

**89. National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is observed every year on which day?**

**राष्ट्रीय काला एचआईवी/एड्स जागरूकता दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 6 February / 6 फरवरी
- (b) 7 February / 7 फरवरी
- (c) 8 February / 8 फरवरी
- (d) 9 February / 9 फरवरी
- (e) 10 February / 10 फरवरी

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 7 February - National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is observed every year on 7 February.

National HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) was first observed in 1999.

Theme 2024- Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities

This observance is a day to acknowledge how HIV disproportionately affects Black people.

**90. Microsoft has announced an ambitious initiative "Dubbed ADVANTA(I)GE INDIA" to equip 2 million people in India with skills in artificial intelligence by which year?**

माइक्रोसॉफ्ट ने किस वर्ष तक भारत में 2 मिलियन लोगों को कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता में कौशल से लैस करने के लिए एक महत्वाकांक्षी पहल "डब्ड एडवांटा (आई) जीई इंडिया" की घोषणा की है?

- (a) 2025
- (b) 2026
- (c) 2027
- (d) 2028
- (e) 2029

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Microsoft to train over 2 million people in India in generative AI skills by 2025

Microsoft has announced an ambitious initiative to equip 2 million people in India with skills in artificial intelligence by 2025.

Dubbed ADVANTA(I)GE INDIA, the program aims to accelerate India's AI transformation and empower its workforce for the jobs of the future. The goal is to expand AI fluency nationwide for inclusive growth.

The announcement comes as part of Microsoft's broader Skills for Jobs initiative, aligned with its responsible AI principles. Training will be delivered through partnerships with government, nonprofits and businesses across India.

The program has three main components:

1. Partnering with the national government and 10 states to train 500,000 students at rural vocational centers in basic and advanced AI skills. This expands an existing collaboration on digital and cybersecurity training.
2. Providing in-depth AI training for 100,000 young women through higher education institutions in smaller cities. This involves distributing Microsoft's AI Trainer Toolkit and industry mentorships.
3. Raising AI career awareness for 400,000 students in remote, tribal areas through Microsoft's TEALS, Farm Beats and AI Guidance for Schools initiatives.

Additionally, Microsoft will help 250,000 government officers gain generative AI knowledge to deliver next-gen citizen services. It will also convene a summit for 2,500 nonprofits to leverage AI in their work, with LinkedIn.

**91. Divya Kala Mela 2024 has been organized in which state?**

**दिव्य कला मेला 2024 का आयोजन किस राज्य में किया गया है?**

- (a) Tripura / त्रिपुरा
- (b) Mizoram / मिजोरम
- (c) Assam / असम
- (d) Manipur / मणिपुर
- (e) Meghalaya / मेघालय

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Divya Kala Mela 2024 inaugurated in Agartala, Tripura

Divya Kala Mela is being organized from 6th to 11th February 2024 at Children Park, Agartala.

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) {DEPWD}, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, through National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation regularly organizes Divya Kala Mela.

The Divya Kala Mela was inaugurated by Shri Ratan Lal Nath, Minister of Power.

**About Tripura**

- **Capital** – Agartala
- **Chief Minister** - Manik Sarkar
- **Governor** – Indra Sena Reddy Nallu
- **Festivals** – Neermahal water Festival, Poush Sankranti Fair
- **Tribes** – Tripura/Tripuri, Riang, Jamatia

**92. Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami has initiated the "Dhami against drugs campaign". The campaign aims to eradicate drug abuse and cultivate a healthier, drug-free society by which year?**

उत्तराखंड के मुख्यमंत्री पुष्कर सिंह धामी ने "नशे के खिलाफ धामी अभियान" की शुरुआत की है। अभियान का लक्ष्य किस वर्ष तक नशीली दवाओं के दुरुपयोग को खत्म करना और एक स्वस्थ, नशा मुक्त समाज बनाना है?

- (a) 2025
- (b) 2026
- (c) 2027
- (d) 2028
- (e) 2029

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Uttarakhand CM launches "Dhami against drugs campaign"

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has initiated the "Dhami against drugs campaign," a significant effort led by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha Metropolitan Dehradun.

The "Dhami against drugs campaign" is a testament to Uttarakhand's proactive stance on public health and social well-being.

The campaign aims to eradicate drug abuse and cultivate a healthier, drug-free society by 2025.

The state aims to achieve a "Drugs Free Uttarakhand" by 2025.

#### **About Uttarakhand**

- **Capital** - Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)
- **Chief Minister** - Pushkar Singh Dhami
- **Governor** - Gurmit Singh

**93. Which countries have been declared the guests of honor at the 2024 World Governments Summit which set to take place in Dubai from February 12 to 14?**

**12 से 14 फरवरी तक दुबई में होने वाले 2024 विश्व सरकार शिखर सम्मेलन में किन देशों को सम्मानित अतिथि घोषित किया गया है?**

- (a) India, UAE & Qatar
- (b) India, Türkiye & Saudi Arabia
- (c) India, UK & Ukraine
- (d) India, Iran & Qatar
- (e) India, Türkiye & Qatar

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** India, Türkiye & Qatar Named Guests of Honor at 2024 World Governments Summit in Dubai

India, Türkiye, and Qatar have been declared the guests of honor at the 2024 World Governments Summit which set to take place in Dubai from February 12-14.

The summit, themed 'Shaping Future Governments,' will see the participation of over 25 government and state heads from around the world.

The delegations from Türkiye, India, and Qatar will be led by their respective leaders: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani.

The guest countries will showcase their successful government experiences and best developmental practices during the summit, which will bring together thought leaders, experts, and representatives of over 85 international and regional organizations with 120 governmental delegations, and 4,000 attendees.

The event is expected to draw over 4,000 attendees, including representatives from 85 international and regional organizations.



**94. According to the recent RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which of the following rate(s) is/are INCORRECT?**

हाल की आरबीआई मौद्रिक नीति समिति (एमपीसी) के अनुसार, निम्नलिखित में से कौन सी दर गलत है/हैं?

- (i) Repo Rate – 6.5%
- (ii) Bank Rate – 6.25%
- (iii) MSF – 6.5%
- (iv) SDF – 6.75%
- (v) GDP Growth Rate FY 25 – 7%

- (a) only i
- (b) only i, ii
- (c) only ii, iii
- (d) only ii, iii, iv
- (e) only iii, iv, v

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** RBI repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has kept repo rates unchanged at 6.5 percent.

It has also decided to remain focused on the withdrawal of the accommodative stance.

This is the sixth consecutive unchanged decision.

RBI keeps the repo rate steady at 6.5% with five out of six members voting in favour of the rate decision. Experts were also expecting the repo rate to remain steady at 6.5 percent. MPC also decided by a majority (5 out of 6 members) to remain focused on the withdrawal of accommodation to ensure the inflation progressively aligns with the target while supporting growth.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has maintained its inflation projection at 5.4% for 2023–2024.

CPI inflation is predicted to be 4.5% for the upcoming fiscal year 2024–2025, with Q1 at 5%, Q2 at 4%, Q3 at 4.6%, and Q4 at 4.7%.

Meanwhile, the RBI has projected the Indian economy to maintain a 7 per cent GDP growth rate in FY25.

During the last MPC, for the fifth consecutive time, the RBI maintained the repo rate at 6.5 percent. The last adjustment occurred in February 2023, increasing the rate from 6.25 percent.

**RBI Current Policy Rate are as**

- Policy Repo Rate – 6.50%
- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) - 6.25%
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) - 6.75%
- Bank Rate - 6.75%
- Reverse Repo Rate – 3.35%
- Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) – 4.50%
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) – 18

**96. Which company has launched a new life insurance plan "Index Plus"?**

**किस कंपनी ने नई जीवन बीमा योजना "इंडेक्स प्लस" 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 new plan "Index Plus" Policy

Life Insurance Corporation of India has launched the unit-linked, regular premium, individual life insurance plan "Index Plus" The plan offers life insurance cover-cum-savings throughout the term of the policy.

There is an option to partially withdraw the units at any time after the five-year lock-in period subject to conditions.

LIC Index Plus Plan is the regular premium policy with monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and yearly savings options. The insurance coverage will be seven times only if the age is above 51; and seven times and 10 times if the age is below 51.

Switching is allowed between two funds four times in a year. Policyholders can partially withdraw money after the fifth year.

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

- HDFC Bank launched 4 SME credit cards "**BizFirst, BizGrow, BizPower, and BizBlack**" for entrepreneurs, freelancers, and professionals
- SBI Life Insurance launched two products– '**SBI Life - Saral Swadhan Supreme**' and '**SBI Life - Smart Swadhan Supreme**'.
- 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

**97. In February 2024, which bank has raised \$300 million through its first-ever sustainable finance bond issue?**

**फरवरी 2024 में, किस बैंक ने अपने पहले स्थायी वित्त बांड जारी करके 300 मिलियन डॉलर जुटाए हैं?**

- (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.** HDFC Bank raises \$300 million through maiden sustainable finance bond issue

HDFC Bank has raised \$300 million through its first-ever sustainable finance bond issue. The fund raise is part of an overall raise of \$750 million through Regulation S Bonds.

The lender has raised \$300 million for three years with a 95 bps spread over US Treasury, and another \$450 million for 5 years with a 108 bps spread over US Treasury.

These are the tightest credit spreads achieved by an Indian issuer for a three-year sustainable bond and five-year senior unsecured bond for a similar size of USD Reg S issuance.

The proceeds of the sustainable finance bond will be utilized for funding green and social loans, and towards financing general banking activities.

The funds raised through the sustainable finance bonds will be prioritized for lending towards electric vehicles, SMEs and affordable housing.

The bonds will be listed on the India International Exchange (India INX) in Gift IFSC. The paper was rated Baa3 (stable) by Moody's and BBB- (stable) by S&P. The bank had mandated Barclays, BofA Securities, J.P. Morgan, MUFG and Standard Chartered Bank as joint global coordinators and joint lead managers.

**98. Name the bank that has partnered with Flywire Corporation to revolutionise the landscape of international education payments for Indian students.**

उस बैंक का नाम बताइए जिसने भारतीय छात्रों के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा भुगतान के परिदृश्य में क्रांति लाने के लिए फ्लाईवायर कॉर्पोरेशन के साथ साझेदारी की 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 partners with Flywire to modernize international education payments for students

State Bank of India (SBI) has partnered with Flywire Corporation to revolutionize the landscape of international education payments for Indian students.

This strategic partnership aims to simplify the traditionally complex payment process, offering students a seamless and fully digital experience. Integrated directly into SBI's platform, Flywire's technology would enable Indian students to complete their international education payments effortlessly in Indian rupees.

The collaboration will also allow automatic capturing of relevant student information, ensuring accuracy and traceability in transactions. It aligns with the Reserve Bank of India's Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) guidelines, enhancing transparency and compliance.

### **Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector**

- ESAF Small Finance Bank and Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance Partner to Offer Life Insurance
- 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

**99. Karnataka Bank has launched its centenary campaign, 'Bharat Ka Karnataka Bank'. What is the tagline of Karnataka Bank?**

कर्नाटक बैंक ने अपना शताब्दी अभियान, 'भारत का कर्नाटक बैंक' शुरू किया है। कर्नाटक बैंक की टैगलाइन क्या है?

- (a) India's International Bank
- (b) Experience our Expertise
- (c) Badhti Ka naam Zindagi
- (d) Hum Hai Na Khayal Apka
- (e) Your Family Bank Across India

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Karnataka Bank launches centenary campaign

Karnataka Bank has launched its centenary campaign, 'Bharat Ka Karnataka Bank'.

Jointly executed by Havas Media India and Havas Worldwide India, the campaign underscores Karnataka Bank's ability to adapt to the changing times while staying true to its core values.

The campaign aims to strengthen Karnataka Bank's brand awareness, fostering a deeper connection with customers while also inviting new patrons to be a part of its storied legacy.

#### **About Karnataka Bank**

- **Founded**- 18 February 1924
- **Headquarters**- Mangalore, Karnataka
- **MD & CEO** - Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma
- **Chairman** – P Pradeep Kumar
- **Tagline** – Your Family Bank Across India

**100. Venkatachalam H has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of which private life insurer company?**

**वेंकटचलम एच को किस निजी जीवन बीमाकर्ता कंपनी का मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (सीईओ) और प्रबंध निदेशक (एमडी) नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Bajaj Allianz Insurance / बजाज आलियांज इंश्योरेंस
- (b) Bharti AXA Insurance / भारती एक्सा इंश्योरेंस
- (c) SBI Life Insurance / एसबीआई लाइफ इंश्योरेंस
- (d) Max Life Insurance / मैक्स लाइफ इंश्योरेंस
- (e) Tata AIA Life Insurance / टाटा एआईए लाइफ इंश्योरेंस

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Venkatachalam H appointed as MD & CEO of Tata AIA Life

Private life insurer, Tata AIA Life Insurance has appointed Venkatachalam H as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of the company.

The appointment is subject to approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

Venkatachalam will take over from the incumbent, Naveen Tahilyani, who will be moving to another role in the Tata Group and has been elevated as a Non-Executive Director of Tata AIA Life Insurance Company.

Naveen Tahilyani has been serving as MD & CEO of the life insurance company since 2020.

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

- **Consumer lending and mortgages head of Bandhan Bank** - Santosh Nair (Shantanu Sengupta)
- **Non-executive chairman of AU Small Finance Bank** - HR Khan (replace Raj Verma)
- **Executive Director of Bank of Baroda** - Sanjay Vinayak Mudaliar
- **Executive Director of Indian Overseas Bank** - Joydeep Dutta Roy
- **MD & CEO of DCB Bank** - Praveen Achuthan Kutty (replace Murali Natrajan) effect from 29/4/24

**101. Olzhas Bektenov has been appointed as the new prime minister of which country?**

**ओल्ज़ास बेक्टेनोव को किस देश का नया प्रधान मंत्री नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Kazakhstan / कजाखस्तान
- (b) Uzbekistan / उज़्बेकिस्तान
- (c) Tajikistan / तजाकिस्तान
- (d) Kyrgyzstan / किर्गिज़स्तान
- (e) Turkmenistan / तुर्कमेनिस्तान

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Kazakhstan appoints Olzhas Bektenov as new Prime Minister

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has appointed Olzhas Bektenov, his chief of staff, as the new prime minister.

Bektenov (43), previously headed the state anti-corruption agency and assumed the role of presidential administration head in April 2023.

The swift approval from the ruling Amanat party-dominated parliament underscores the president's firm grip on power.

#### **About Kazakhstan**

- **Capital** –Astana
- **Currency** – Kazakhstani tenge
- **Prime Minister** - Olzhas Bektenov
- **President** – Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

#### **Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President**

- Prime Minister of Yemen - Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak
- President of El Salvador - Nayib Bukele (2<sup>nd</sup> time)
- Sultan of Malaysia - Ibrahim Iskandar (17th)
- President of Comoros -Azali Assoumani (4th time)
- President of Guatemala - Bernardo Arevalo
- President of Taiwan - William Lai

**102. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has appointed whom as non-executive chairman of the Board and independent director for a period of three years?**

नेशनल पेमेंट्स कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (NPCI) ने किसे तीन साल की अवधि के लिए बोर्ड के गैर-कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष और स्वतंत्र निदेशक के रूप में नियुक्त किया है?

- (a) Rajnish Kumar / रजनीश कुमार
- (b) Ajay Kumar Choudhary / अजय कुमार चौधरी
- (c) Deepak Mohanty / दीपक मोहंती
- (d) Tablesh Pandey / तबलेश पांडे
- (e) Siddhartha Mohanty / सिद्धार्थ मोहंती

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** NPCI appoints Ajay Kumar Choudhary as non-executive chairman of board

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has appointed Ajay Kumar Choudhary as non-executive chairman of the Board and independent director for a period of three years starting February 8, 2024. Choudhary succeeds Biswamohan Mahapatra who was appointed non-executive chairman in 2018. Dilip Asbe is the managing director and chief executive officer of NPCI. Venkatraman Srinivasan, Rishikesh Krishna, D Manjunath, and Padmini Khare Kaicker are independent directors at NPCI, an umbrella organisation handling retail payments and settlement systems in India. It has retail payment products such as RuPay card, Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM), Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS), National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) and Bharat BillPay.

### **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)
- **MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank** - Ashok Vaswani (replace Dipak Gupta)



**103. In February 2024, Which stadium has been re-named as the Niranjan Shah Stadium?**

**फरवरी 2024 में, किस स्टेडियम का नाम बदलकर निरंजन शाह स्टेडियम रखा गया है?**

- (a) Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Rajkot
- (b) Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai
- (c) MA Chidambaram Stadium, Bengaluru
- (d) Eden Gardens, Kolkata
- (e) Rajiv Gandhi Stadium, Hyderabad

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** SCA Stadium Renamed in Honor of Niranjan Shah

The Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA) stadium in Rajkot has been re-named as the Niranjan Shah Stadium.

This change comes as a tribute to the former first-class cricketer and senior cricket administrator, Niranjan Shah, marking his immense contributions to the sport and the region.

Niranjan Shah's legacy in cricket extends beyond his playing days; from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s, he represented Saurashtra in 12 first-class games, laying the groundwork for a lifelong association with cricket.

**104. Who is the author of the book titled "Artificial Intelligence and National Security"?**

**"आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस एंड नेशनल सिक््योरिटी" नामक पुस्तक के लेखक कौन हैं?**

- (a) Anil Chauhan / अनिल चौहान
- (b) Rajnath Singh / राजनाथ सिंह
- (c) Amit Shah / अमित शाह
- (d) Ajit Doval / अजीत डोभाल
- (e) S Jaishankar / एस जयशंकर

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** CDS Anil Chauhan reveals book "AI and National Security"

CDS Anil Chauhan revealed a book titled 'Artificial Intelligence and National Security' at the Defence Literature Festival 'Kalam and Kavach' in Pune.

The festival is hosted by Army Southern Command at the prestigious RSAMI Institute, Pune.

General Anil Chauhan, the Chief Guest, emphasized the importance of integrating age-old wisdom with modern military tactics.

CDS Chauhan highlighted the relevance of ancient Indian stratagems like Sun Tzu's 'Art of War' and Kautilya's 'Arthashastra' in modern warfare.

#### **Recent Books**

- **9 Incredible Years of Haryana Government: Emergence of a New and Vibrant Haryana** - Released by VP Jagdeep Dhankhar
- **Ek Samandar, Mere Andar** - Sanjeev Joshi
- **Pranab My father** – Sharmistha Mukherjee
- **The Cooking Books** – Ramchandra Guha
- **Conversations with Aurangzeb** - Charu Nivedita (translated by Nandini Krishnan)

**105. A stunning picture of a sleeping polar bear 'Ice Bed' has won the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award. The portrait titled 'Ice Bed' has been clicked by which photographer?**

सोते हुए ध्रुवीय भालू की एक शानदार तस्वीर 'आइस बेड' ने प्रतिष्ठित वाइल्डलाइफ फ़ोटोग्राफ़र ऑफ़ द ईयर पीपुल्स च्वाइस अवार्ड जीता है। 'आइस बेड' शीर्षक वाला चित्र किस फोटोग्राफर द्वारा क्लिक किया गया है?

- (a) Farhan Qurashi / फरहान कुरैशी
- (b) Atul Kasbekar / अतुल कस्बेकर
- (c) Ansel Adams / एंसल एडम्स
- (d) Dorothea Lange / डोरोथिया लैंग
- (e) Nima Sarikhani / नीमा सरीखानी

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Stunning Sleepy Polar Bear Image By UK Photographer Wins Top Picture Prize

A stunning picture of a sleeping polar bear has won the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award.

The portrait titled 'Ice Bed' has been clicked by British amateur photographer Nima Sarikhani.

His photo was crowned as champion following a contest in which a record 75,000 people voted.

Notably, Mr Sarikhani captured the image after three days of searching for polar bears off the coast of Norway. When his expedition vessel changed course, he finally encountered two polar bears and caught the younger one climbing onto a small iceberg and carving out his bed.

The image he took shows a male polar bear having a peaceful night's sleep.

**106. In February 2024, the Union Cabinet has approved auctions in how many spectrum bands for mobile phone services at a base price of Rs 96,317.65 crore to improve the quality of telecom services?**

फरवरी 2024 में, केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने दूरसंचार सेवाओं की गुणवत्ता में सुधार के लिए 96,317.65 करोड़ रुपये के आधार मूल्य पर मोबाइल फोन सेवाओं के लिए कितने स्पेक्ट्रम बैंड में नीलामी को मंजूरी दे दी है?

- (a) 5
- (b) 6
- (c) 7
- (d) 8
- (e) 11

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Cabinet approves telecom spectrum auctions at base price of Rs 96,317.65 cr

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved auctions in eight spectrum bands for mobile phone services at a base price of Rs 96,317.65 crore to improve the quality of telecom services and coverage for consumers.

The Ministry of Communication has announced auctions for spectrum in 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300 MHz and 26 GHz frequency bands.

The spectrum will be offered with a validity period of 20 years.

A total of 10,523.15 MHz is being offered with a valuation of Rs. 96,317.65 crore.

#### **Spectrum for Railways**

- During the meeting, the Cabinet also gave its green light to a proposal for spectrum requirements of rail-based urban/regional transit systems like NCRTC in the 700 MHz band for Automatic Train Protection (ATP) systems and operations.

**107. In February 2024, Union Cabinet has approved a Rs 6,000 crore sub-scheme under the flagship Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) with the objective of formalizing the largely unorganized fisheries sector in the country. In which year Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) was launched?**

फरवरी 2024 में, केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने देश में बड़े पैमाने पर असंगठित मत्स्य पालन क्षेत्र को औपचारिक बनाने के उद्देश्य से प्रमुख प्रधानमंत्री मत्स्य संपदा योजना (पीएमएमएसवाई) के तहत 6,000 करोड़ रुपये की उप-योजना को मंजूरी दी है। प्रधानमंत्री मत्स्य सम्पदा योजना (PMMSY) किस वर्ष शुरू की गई थी?

- (a) 2019
- (b) 2020
- (c) 2021
- (d) 2022
- (e) 2017

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Cabinet approves Rs 6,000 crore scheme for formalization of fisheries sector

The Union Cabinet has approved a Rs 6,000 crore sub-scheme under the flagship Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) with the objective of formalizing the largely unorganized fisheries sector in the country.

The formalization will be done through the creation of a national fisheries digital platform, facilitating access to institutional finance for the sector and creating an insurance product which would cover at least 100,000 hectares of aquaculture farms during the project period.

Almost half of the total project cost, that is around Rs 3,000 crore, will come from public financing that includes World Bank and the AFD external financing while the balance is expected investment from the private sector and the beneficiaries.

The scheme will run for four years starting from FY-24, incentivising fisheries and aquaculture microenterprises through performance grants for improving fisheries sector value-chain.

The scheme proposed a one-time incentive to the willing farmers against purchase of insurance with a farm size of four hectares of water spread area and less.

#### **About PMMSY**

- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) was launched on 10th September 2020.
- The aim of the scheme is to bring about Blue Revolution through the sustainable development of the fisheries sector over a period of five years (2020-2025.)
- PMMSY was announced in the union budget 2019-20.

**108. The Centre Government has launched a portal 'SARATHI' that aims to help insurance companies reach out to farmers and rural population with tailored products as well as the government's subsidized insurance products including Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). What is the full form of 'SARATHI'?**

केंद्र सरकार ने एक पोर्टल 'SARATHI' लॉन्च किया है जिसका उद्देश्य बीमा कंपनियों को किसानों और ग्रामीण आबादी तक अनुरूप उत्पादों के साथ-साथ प्रधान मंत्री फसल बीमा योजना (पीएमएफबीवाई) सहित सरकार के सब्सिडी वाले बीमा उत्पादों तक पहुंचने में मदद करना है।

**'SARATHI' का पूर्ण रूप क्या है?**

- (a) Smart for Agricultural and Rural Security, Technology and Insurance
- (b) Sandbox for Agricultural and Rural Safety, Technology and Insurance
- (c) Sandbox for Agricultural and Rural Security, Terms and Insurance
- (d) Sandbox for Agricultural and Rural Security, Technology and Insurance
- (e) Subsidized for Agricultural and Rural Security, Technology and Insurance

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Govt launches SARATHI portal to help insurance companies reach out to farmers

The Centre Government has launched a portal 'SARATHI' that aims to help insurance companies reach out to farmers and rural population with tailored products as well as the government's subsidized insurance products including Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

Sarathi (Sandbox for Agricultural and Rural Security, Technology and Insurance)

In the first phase, personal accident and hospital cash policies, while in the second phase health, shop and home insurance and in the third phase tractor, two-wheeler, livestock and non-PMFBY insurance products.

A learning material system about PMFBY, Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MIIS) and Kisan Credit Card (KCC) was also launched.

**109. In February 2024, Tech giant Google has signed an MoU with which state government to provide artificial intelligence (AI)-led solutions across key sectors in the state?**

फरवरी 2024 में, टेक दिग्गज Google ने राज्य के प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) आधारित समाधान प्रदान करने के लिए किस राज्य सरकार के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

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

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Google partners with Maharashtra govt to provide AI-led services

Tech giant Google has signed an MoU with the Government of Maharashtra to provide artificial intelligence (AI)-led solutions across key sectors in the state.

As a part of the collaboration, Google will leverage its AI capabilities to provide solutions in sectors like agriculture, healthcare, sustainability, education, and startups.

The company also launched a state-of-the-art AI Centre of Excellence at the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Nagpur.

This collaboration will empower our citizens with critical future-ready skills, revolutionise essential sectors like healthcare and agriculture, and create a thriving environment for the Maharashtra AI startups through the AI Center of Excellence at IIIT Nagpur.

**110. Adani Gas Pvt Ltd and which company will invest 25 billion rupees (\$301.24 million) over four years to double gas sales to small industries and households in India?**

**अदानी गैस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड और कौन सी कंपनी भारत में छोटे उद्योगों और घरों में गैस की बिक्री दोगुनी करने के लिए चार वर्षों में 25 अरब रुपये (\$301.24 मिलियन) का निवेश करेगी?**

- (a) Hindustan Petroleum / हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम
- (b) Indian Oil Corporation / इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन
- (c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation / तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस निगम
- (d) Reliance Petroleum / रिलायंस पेट्रोलियम
- (e) Bharat Petroleum / भारत पेट्रोलियम

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Indian Oil-Adani Gas joint venture announces Rs 2,500 crore investment

IndianOil-Adani Gas Pvt Ltd will invest 25 billion rupees (\$301.24 million) over four years as it looks to double gas sales to small industries and households in India.

The company, an equal joint venture of refiner Indian Oil Corp and Adani Total Gas, daily sells about one million standard cubic metres of gas through its 300 retail outlets.

The joint venture aims to double gas sales in four years and strengthen infrastructure to more than 600 retail outlets during the period to meet India's rising gas demand.



**111. Tata Trusts has launched India's first state-of-the-art Small Animal Hospital to save the lives of pets and strengthen the bond between pet parents and veterinarians in which city?**

टाटा ट्रस्ट ने किस शहर में पालतू जानवरों के जीवन को बचाने और पालतू माता-पिता और पशु चिकित्सकों के बीच संबंध को मजबूत करने के लिए भारत का पहला अत्याधुनिक लघु पशु अस्पताल लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Varanasi / वाराणसी
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Bhubaneswar / भुवनेश्वर
- (d) Ahmedabad / अहमदाबाद
- (e) Mumbai / मुंबई

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Tata Trusts inaugurated India's first small animal hospital in Mumbai

Tata Trusts has launched India's first state-of-the-art Small Animal Hospital, with a mission to save the lives of pets and strengthen the bond between pet parents and veterinarians.

The hospital, to be located in Mahalaxmi, Mumbai, will be a 5-floor, 98,000-square-foot facility, with 200 beds, and will dedicate itself to providing round-the-clock services.

The hospital will specialize in pet care to bridge the gap in quality pet care in India.

The hospital will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology, including diagnostic services, treatment facilities, and an emergency room. It will also have a dedicated training centre for pet parents and veterinarians.

**112. What is the rank of India in the US Green Building Council's (USGBC) annual list of top 10 countries and regions in the world for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification in 2023?**

**2023 में LEED (लीडरशिप इन एनर्जी एंड एनवायरनमेंटल डिज़ाइन) प्रमाणन के लिए दुनिया के शीर्ष 10 देशों और क्षेत्रों की यूएस ग्रीन बिल्डिंग काउंसिल (USGBC) की वार्षिक सूची में भारत का स्थान क्या है?**

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

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India ranks 3rd in USGBC's list on green building certification for 2023

India ranked third in the US Green Building Council's (USGBC) annual list of top 10 countries and regions in the world for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification in 2023.

While mainland China and Canada held the first and second positions, respectively. The United States has not been included in the list.

LEED is a green building rating system and the certification is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement and leadership.

The rating system is available for virtually all building types, thereby providing a framework for healthy, highly efficient and cost-saving green buildings.

In India, LEED is administered by the Green Business Certification Inc (GBCI).

**113. The Uttar Pradesh government will set up the country's first conservation centre for Gangatiri cows in which city?**

**उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार किस शहर में गंगातीरी गायों के लिए देश का पहला संरक्षण केंद्र स्थापित करेगी?**

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

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Varanasi to have country's first conservation centre for Gangatiri cows

The Uttar Pradesh government will set up the country's first conservation centre for Gangatiri, a breed of cows in Varanasi. This breed of cows originates along the Ganga banks. The state govt will establish a centre for genetic improvement and propagation of the breed in Varanasi with the help of the Central government.

Over the years, Gangatiri has been significantly overshadowed by high-yielding cow breeds like Sahiwal.

But the technology used at the centre will help produce cows of high genetic merit using the IVF and embryo transfer technology (ETT), in which embryos from genetically superior cows would be disseminated to other females to increase the number of genetically superior progenies.

**About Uttar Pradesh**

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

**114. Papanasam beach, which was seen in the news recently, is located in which state?**

**पापनाशम समुद्र तट, जिसे हाल ही में खबरों में देखा गया था, किस राज्य में स्थित है?**

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Papanasam beach at Kerala's Varkala secures spot among world's 100 best beaches

Varkala's Papanasham Beach has achieved a significant milestone by securing a place among the world's top 100 beaches in Lonely Planet's renowned guidebook, "Best Beaches: 100 of the World's Most Incredible Beaches."

Situated approximately 45 kilometers north of Kerala's capital, the beach is easily accessible via road and rail, attracting a plethora of backpackers due to its stunning cliffside setting.

Recognized as a geological monument by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), the beach offers breathtaking views of the Arabian Sea and serves as a popular destination for both international and domestic tourists.

**115. Ravi Kumar Jha has been appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of which of the following company?**

**रवि कुमार झा को निम्नलिखित में से किस कंपनी का प्रबंध निदेशक और मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Muthoot Finance / मुथूट फाइनेंस
- (b) SBI Life Insurance / एसबीआई लाइफ इंश्योरेंस
- (c) LIC Mutual Fund / एलआईसी म्यूचुअल फंड
- (d) LIC Housing Finance / एलआईसी हाउसिंग फाइनेंस
- (e) State Bank of India / भारतीय स्टेट बैंक

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Ravi Kumar Jha appoints as MD & CEO of LIC Mutual Fund

Ravi Kumar Jha has been appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of LIC Mutual Fund.

Jha, with a distinguished career and prior association with LIC, comes with a track record of over 30 years in handling diverse positions and he was serving as Executive Director - Corporate Strategy till December 2023.

His previous roles include Executive Director Corporate Strategy – LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management and various positions at LIC of India.

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

- **Non-executive Chairman of NPCI Board** - Ajay Kumar Choudhary (replace Biswamohan Mahapatra)
- **MD & CEO of Tata AIA Life Insurance** - Venkatachalam H (replace Naveen Tahilyani)
- **Consumer lending and mortgages head of Bandhan Bank** - Santosh Nair (Shantanu Sengupta)
- **Non-executive chairman of AU Small Finance Bank** - HR Khan (replace Raj Verma)
- **Executive Director of Bank of Baroda** - Sanjay Vinayak Mudaliar

**116. Former PM PV Narasimha Rao, Charan Singh, and scientist Dr MS Swaminathan will be conferred with the Bharat Ratna. In which year Bharat Ratna was established?**

पूर्व पीएम पीवी नरसिम्हा राव, चरण सिंह और वैज्ञानिक डॉ. एमएस स्वामीनाथन को भारत रत्न से सम्मानित किया जाएगा। भारत रत्न की स्थापना किस वर्ष की गई थी?

- (a) 1947
- (b) 1949
- (c) 1950
- (d) 1952
- (e) 1954

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Bharat Ratna For Former PMs Charan Singh, PV Narasimha Rao

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that former prime ministers PV Narasimha Rao and Charan Singh, and scientist Dr MS Swaminathan will be conferred with the Bharat Ratna.

Mr Narasimha Rao was the prime minister from 1991 to 1996 and is known to be the man who heralded the economic liberalisation of India. Mr Charan Singh, a champion of workers and farmers' rights, briefly served as the prime minister in 1979.

Dr Swaminathan, a renowned scientist, is known as the architect of India's green revolution.

The Prime Minister had also announced earlier that former Bihar CM Karpoori Thakur and LK Advani would also be awarded the Bharat Ratna in recognition of their outstanding contributions.

**About Bharat Ratna**

- The Bharat Ratna is India's highest civilian honor, which was established in 1954.
- This award is not limited to any specific caste, occupation, status, or gender and is awarded to individuals who have made exceptional contributions in any field of human endeavor.
- The Prime Minister recommends the Bharat Ratna recipients to the President, and no formal recommendation is required.
- The recipient of this award is presented with a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medal.
- However, no monetary grant is given to the recipient. According to Article 18(1) of the Constitution, the Bharat Ratna cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the name of the recipient.

**117. India was declared joint winners of SAFF Women's U-19 Championships with which country?**

**भारत को किस देश के साथ SAFF महिला अंडर-19 चैंपियनशिप का संयुक्त विजेता घोषित किया गया?**

- (a) Tanzania / तंजानिया
- (b) Bangladesh / बांग्लादेश
- (c) Oman / ओमान
- (d) Singapore / सिंगापुर
- (e) UAE / यूएई

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India declared joint winners Of SAFF Women's U-19 Championships with Bangladesh India was declared joint winners of the SAFF Women's Under-19 Football Championships with hosts Bangladesh though the visitors initially thought they have won the title through the toss of coins, in an unprecedented change of decision made by the match officials.

The match ended 1-1 after the regulation 90 minutes of play and direct penalty shootout was ordered by the referee.

**118. World Pulses Day is observed every year on which day?**

**विश्व दलहन दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 11 February / 6 फरवरी
- (b) 12 February / 7 फरवरी
- (c) 8 February / 8 फरवरी
- (d) 9 February / 9 फरवरी
- (e) 10 February / 10 फरवरी

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** 10 February - World Pulses Day

World Pulses Day is a global event observed on February 10 every year with the primary aim of educating the masses about its nutritional value and environmental benefits.

According to United Nations, the celebration of World Pulses Day offers an opportunity to highlight the role of its sustainable option for diversification as well.

Theme 2024 - Pulses: Nourishing Soils and People

Pulses, also known as legumes, are the edible seeds of leguminous plants cultivated to consume. Among the variety of types, dried beans, lentils, and peas are the most commonly consumed across the globe.

The UN General Assembly recognised the value of pulses in 2013 and initiated the process of adopting the year 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYP).



**119. The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is celebrated every year on which day?**

**विज्ञान में महिलाओं और लड़कियों का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 11 February / 6 फरवरी
- (b) 12 February / 7 फरवरी
- (c) 8 February / 8 फरवरी
- (d) 9 February / 9 फरवरी
- (e) 10 February / 10 फरवरी

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 11 February - International Day of Women and Girls in Science

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is celebrated on February 11 every year.

The day is observed by the United Nations to promote full and equal access and participation of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

This year will be the ninth International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly.

Theme - Women and Girls in Science Leadership, a New Era for Sustainability and the subtheme is "Think Science ... Think Peace"

**120. Sebastian Pinera, who recently died in a helicopter crash, was the former president of which country?**

सेबेस्टियन पिनेरा, जिनकी हाल ही में एक हेलीकॉप्टर दुर्घटना में मृत्यु हो गई, किस देश के पूर्व राष्ट्रपति थे?

- (a) Netherland / नीदरलैंड
- (b) Denmark / डेनमार्क
- (c) Chile / चिली
- (d) Finland / फिनलैंड
- (e) Scotland / स्कॉटलैंड

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Chile's former President Sebastian Pinera dies in helicopter crash  
Chilean ex-President Sebastian Pinera died in a helicopter crash.

The helicopter carrying Pinera, 74, and three others plunged into a lake in southern Chile. The former president was pronounced dead shortly after rescue personnel arrived at the scene. The other three passengers survived.

Pinera, aged 74, was a towering figure in Chilean politics, having served two terms as president, from 2010 to 2014 and again from 2018 to 2022.

**121. In February 2024, how much amount of loan has been signed by ADB to tackle the flood and erosion risk along Brahmaputra River?**

**फरवरी 2024 में, ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी के किनारे बाढ़ और कटाव के जोखिम से निपटने के लिए ADB द्वारा कितनी राशि का ऋण जारी किया गया है?**

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

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India and ADB sign \$200 million loan to tackle flood and erosion risk along Brahmaputra River

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$200 million loan to strengthen flood and riverbank erosion risk management along the 650 kilometres (km) long main stem of the Brahmaputra River in the state of Assam.

The project interventions include stabilising 60 km of riverbanks, installing 32 km of pro-siltation measures, and building 4 km of climate-resilient flood embankments in five high-priority districts (Dibrugarh, Goalpara, Kamrup Rural, Morigaon, and Tinsukia).

These will result in securing living spaces, supporting livelihoods and creating employment opportunities.

#### **Recent Loan approved by ADB**

- India, ADB sign \$250 million **for Delhi-Meerut RRTS**
- India, ADB sign \$250 million loan for **Industrial Corridor Development in India**
- India, ADB signed \$200 million loan agreement **for Uttarakhand power system project**
- India, ADB signed \$175 million loan deal **to improve Madhya Pradesh roads**
- India, ADB approved \$181 Million to **Improve Ahmedabad's Peri-urban Areas**
- ADB and Fourth Partner Energy Collaborate **for Solar Power Plant worth Rs 120 cr in Tamil Nadu**

**122. In February 2024, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar has inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit in New Delhi. The summit has been organized by which of the following?**

फरवरी 2024 में उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़ ने नई दिल्ली में विश्व सतत विकास शिखर सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन किया। शिखर सम्मेलन का आयोजन निम्नलिखित में से किसके द्वारा किया गया है?

- (a) IIT Delhi
- (d) NITI Aayog
- (e) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- (d) The Energy and Resources Institute
- (e) India Global Forum

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** VP Dhankhar inaugurates World Sustainable Development Summit in Delhi

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar has inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit in New Delhi in the presence of Prime Minister of Guyana Mark Phillips and Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav.

Objective - To drive the mainstreaming of environmental protection and climate justice at all levels, embedding these principles in the very fabric of our societies

The Summit was organized by 'The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).

**123. Which company will jointly work with South Eastern Railway (SER) to develop sustainable rail infrastructure by utilizing its slag-based aggregates?**

कौन सी कंपनी अपने स्लैग-आधारित समुच्चय का उपयोग करके टिकाऊ रेल बुनियादी ढांचे को विकसित करने के लिए दक्षिण पूर्व रेलवे (एसईआर) के साथ संयुक्त रूप से काम करेगी?

- (a) ReNew Power / रिन्यू पावर
- (b) Jindal Steel and Power / जिंदल स्टील एंड पावर
- (c) Tata Steel / टाटा स्टील
- (d) Reliance Steel / रिलायंस स्टील
- (e) Torrent Power / टॉरेंट पावर

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Tata Steel and South East Railway join hands to develop green infra

Private steel major Tata Steel will jointly work with South Eastern Railway (SER) to develop sustainable rail infrastructure by utilising its slag-based aggregates.

Tata Aggreto, a greener substitute of natural aggregates used in road construction, and Tata Nirman, used as a raw material in manufacturing fly ash bricks and cement making, will be used in the construction of blanketing layers in railway tracks.

In the endeavour to transform steel slag into sustainable aggregates, Tata Steel has set-up an accelerated weathering facility for processing LD slag through steam ageing.

The use of slag-based manufactured aggregates helps in the preservation of biodiversity by reducing the need for mining of natural aggregates and eliminates the requirement of transportation of aggregates across large distances.

**124. Which edition of Miss World will be held in India from February 18 to March 9?**

**मिस वर्ल्ड का कौन सा संस्करण 18 फरवरी से 9 मार्च तक भारत में आयोजित किया जाएगा?**

- (a) 70th
- (b) 71st
- (c) 72nd
- (d) 73rd
- (e) 74th

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Miss World pageant to take place in India from February 18 to March 9

The 71st edition of Miss World will be held in India from February 18 to March 9.

With its latest edition, the coveted international beauty pageant is making a return to the country after nearly three decades.

The pageant will commence with "The Opening Ceremony" and "India Welcomes the World Gala" by the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) in New Delhi on February 20.

It will conclude with a grand finale at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai on March 9 and will be streamed and telecast across the world.

The pageant will unfold across various venues, including the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi and will see 120 contestants from countries across the globe participate in various competitions and charitable initiatives.

India last hosted the international pageant in 1996. Chhillar was the most recent Indian to win the pageant, having bagged the crown in 2017.

Earlier, Reita Faria Powell, Aishwarya Rai, Diana Hayden, Yukta Mookhey and Priyanka Chopra Jonas won the competition.

**125. Railway Protection Force (RPF) will host the 67th All India Police Duty Meet (AIPDM) in which city?**

**रेलवे सुरक्षा बल (आरपीएफ) किस शहर में 67वीं अखिल भारतीय पुलिस ड्यूटी मीट (एआईपीडीएम) की मेजबानी करेगा?**

- (a) Lucknow / लखनऊ
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Bhubaneswar / भुवनेश्वर
- (d) Ahmedabad / अहमदाबाद
- (e) Mumbai / मुंबई

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** RPF to host the 67th All India Police Duty Meet in Lucknow

Railway Protection Force (RPF) will host the 67th All India Police Duty Meet (AIPDM) in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

It will last from February 12th to 16th 2024.

The chief guest of the opening ceremony on February 12th will be Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology.

Whereas Shri Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh, will be Chief Guest at the Closing Ceremony on February 16th.

The RPF was entrusted with organizing the event by the Central Coordinating Committee of AIPDM.

This event aims to promote excellence and collaboration among police officers. In turn, it enhances scientific detection and investigation of crimes in order to strengthen internal security.

**About Railway Protection Force (RPF)**

- Formed - 1872
- Headquarters - New Delhi
- Direct General - Manoj Yadava
- Motto - "Attain Honour"

**126. In February 2024, which of the following companies have received the final authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as payment aggregators?**

फरवरी 2024 में, निम्नलिखित में से किस कंपनी को भुगतान एग्रीगेटर के रूप में काम करने के लिए भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) से अंतिम प्राधिकरण प्राप्त हुआ है?

- (i) Juspay
- (ii) Zoho
- (iii) Instamojo
- (iv) Freecharge
- (v) Decentro
- (a) only i & ii
- (b) only ii & iii
- (c) only i, ii & v
- (d) only i, ii & iv
- (e) only i, v

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** RBI Grants Payment Aggregator Licences to Juspay, Zoho, and Decentro

Fintech firms Juspay and Decentro and software-as-a-service company Zoho have received the final authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as payment aggregators.

With this, the three players join the likes of Stripe, Zomato and Tata Pay who were a part of the regulator's approval list in January, besides fintech majors like Razorpay and Cashfree who secured the licence last year.

A payments aggregator, or PA, licence allows companies to provide payment services to merchants (online businesses or e-commerce firms) by accepting payment instruments from customers.

As part of the process, PAs pool the funds received from customers and transfer them to merchants after a certain time period.

Instamojo, Paytm Payments Services, Freecharge were among many players whose applications were returned as they failed to fulfil the eligibility criteria and were directed to halt new merchant onboarding.

fintech major PhonePe, Infibeam, Pine Labs and Easebuzz, await the final nod after being granted the in-principal approval, while application of Cred (Dreamplug Paytech) and PayU remain under process.



**127. The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has fixed how much percent interest rate on provident fund deposits for 2023-24, the highest in three years?**

कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन (ईपीएफओ) ने 2023-24 के लिए भविष्य निधि जमा पर कितने प्रतिशत ब्याज दर तय की है, जो तीन वर्षों में सबसे अधिक है?

- (a) 8.10%
- (b) 8.15%
- (c) 8.25%
- (d) 8.45%
- (e) 8.65%

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** EPFO Raises Interest Rate on PF Deposits to 8.25%

The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has fixed 8.25% interest rate on provident fund deposits for 2023-24, the highest in three years.

For 2022-23, the retirement fund body offered 8.15% interest, higher than 8.10% in 2021-22.

In March 2020, the EPFO reduced the interest rate on provident fund deposits to a seven-year low of 8.5 percent for 2019-20, down from 8.65 percent in 2018-19.

**About Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)**

- Founded - 1952
- Headquarters - New Delhi
- EPFO is the statutory body under the ownership of Ministry of Labour and Employment

**128. Who has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of The Fit India movement, a flagship initiative by the Government of India?**

**भारत सरकार की एक प्रमुख पहल, द फिट इंडिया मूवमेंट का नया ब्रांड एंबेसडर 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) Narendra Kumar Yadav / नरेंद्र कुमार यादव

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** IRS Officer Narendra Kumar Yadav appointed as Brand Ambassador for Fit India Movement

IRS officer Narendra Kumar Yadav, Additional Director GST, has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of The Fit India movement, a flagship initiative by the Government of India.

The Fit India movement is a nationwide initiative launched by the Centre, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to encourage Indians to develop physical activity and sports into their daily lives.

#### **About Narendra Kumar Yadav**

- Narendra Kumar Yadav is one the the youngest IRS officer who was appointed at the age of 22 in 2009.
- He cleared the Civil Services Examination in his first attempt.
- Narendra Yadav, who is well-known for his passion, commitment, and steadfast dedication to public service, has often motivated and mentored aspiring civil servants through his inspirational speeche.

#### **Recent Brand Ambassador**

- Hrithik Roshan - 3rd RuPay Prime Volleyball League
- Katie Moon - 19th edition of the Tata Mumbai Marathon ambassador
- Rishabh Pant – Iodex Ultra Gel+
- Deepika Padukone - Bisleri (Campaign Name - #DrinkItUp)
- Kartik Aaryan - Brand Ambassador for Football by Sony Sports Network

**129. Aerospace giant Embraer has partnered with Indian conglomerate Mahindra Group to work on C-390 Millennium aircraft. Embraer is the company of which country?**

एयरोस्पेस दिग्गज एम्ब्रेयर ने सी-390 मिलेनियम विमान पर काम करने के लिए भारतीय समूह महिंद्रा ग्रुप के साथ साझेदारी की है। एम्ब्रेयर किस देश की कंपनी है?

- (a) France / फ्रांस
- (b) Italy / इटली
- (c) UK / यूके
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) Brazil / ब्राजील

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Embraer teams up with Mahindra to bid for IAF's medium transport aircraft deal

With the Indian Air Force assessing its requirements for medium transport aircraft (MTA), Brazilian aerospace giant Embraer and Indian conglomerate Mahindra Group have announced a collaboration to work on C-390 Millennium aircraft.

The objective of the MoU is to jointly fulfil the acquisition of the C-390 Millennium multi-mission aircraft by the Indian Air Force in its upcoming MTA procurement project.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is looking for an MTA that can lift 18-30 tonnes, a process it expects to complete by 2025-26.

The C390 began operations with the Brazilian Air Force in 2019, has since been selected by the militaries of Portugal, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, the Czech Republic and, most recently, South Korea.

**130. Which of the following has been awarded the 2024 Nelson Mandela Award (NMA) by the World Health Organization (WHO) for Health Promotion?**

निम्नलिखित में से किसे स्वास्थ्य संवर्धन के लिए विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) द्वारा 2024 नेल्सन मंडेला पुरस्कार (NMA) से सम्मानित किया गया है?

- (a) IIT Hyderabad
- (b) IIT Delhi
- (c) IIT Madras
- (d) National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences
- (e) AIIMS Delhi

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** NIMHANS receives WHO Nelson Mandela Award for health promotion

The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) has been awarded the 2024 Nelson Mandela Award (NMA) by the World Health Organization (WHO) for Health Promotion.

The Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion, established by WHO in 2019, recognizes individuals, institutions and governmental or non-governmental organizations that have demonstrated remarkable contributions to health promotion.

This year, the award has been jointly presented to Professor Bontle Mbongwe of Botswana and NIMHANS.

The award is a testament to institute's dedication and outstanding contributions to promoting mental health and well-being.

NIMHANS has been at the forefront of mental health and neurosciences, championing innovative approaches to research, education, and patient care.

**131. Who has been felicitated with the Lakshminarayana International Award?**

**लक्ष्मीनारायण अंतर्राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार से किसे सम्मानित किया गया है?**

- (a) Alka Yagnik / अलका याग्निक
- (b) Shreya Ghoshal / श्रेया घोषाल
- (c) Sonu Nigam / सोनू निगम
- (d) Udit Narayan / उदित नारायण
- (e) Pyarelal Sharma / प्यारेलाल शर्मा

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Pyarelal Sharma awarded Lakshminarayana International Award

Pyarelal Sharma, one half of the iconic composer duo Laxmikant-Pyarelal, has been felicitated with the Lakshminarayana International Award. The award was presented to the 'My Name Is Lakhan' composer by musicians L Subramaniam and Kavita Krishnamurti Subramaniam as part of the Lakshminarayana Global Music Festival

Pyarelal is one of the most successful music composers in Hindi cinema in his career spanning over eight decades. The legendary musician has given iconic songs in collaboration with music maestro Laxmikant Shantaram Kudalkar.

The duo- Laxmikant-Pyarelal composed evergreen songs including 'Dosti', 'Hum Sab Ustad Hain', Aaye Din Bahar Ke, 'Mere Hamdam Mere Dost', 'Mera Gaon Mera Desh', 'Bobby', 'Roti' 'Kapda Aur Makaan', 'Amar Akbar Anthony, Aasha, Prem Rog, 'Meri Jung', 'Ram Lakhan', among others.

**Recent Awards**

- **Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award** - Stunning Sleepy Polar Bear (Ice Bed); clicked by Nima Sarikhani.
- **Lifetime Achievement award by Sports Journalists Federation of India & Delhi Sports Journalists Association** - PT Usha
- **Outstanding Business Woman of the Year 2023 by Rajnath Singh** - Dr. Bina Modi
- **Maha Gaurav 2024 award by Maharashtra govt** - Nikhil Mukund Wagh.
- **The UK's Blavatnik Awards** - 3 Indian Scientist (Rahul R Nair, Mehul Malik, and Tanmay Bharat)

**132. Who has been honoured with a plaque at the famous Ice Palace at Jungfrauoch, known as the 'Top of Europe', in Switzerland?**

स्विट्जरलैंड में 'यूरोप के शीर्ष' के रूप में जाने जाने वाले जंगफ्राउजोक के प्रसिद्ध आइस पैलेस में पट्टिका से किसे सम्मानित किया गया है?

- (a) Neeraj Chopra / नीरज चोपड़ा
- (b) DP Manu / डीपी मनु
- (c) Rohit Yadav / रोहित यादव
- (d) Kishore Kumar / किशोर कुमार
- (e) Arshad Nadeem / अरशद नदीम

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Neeraj Chopra honoured by Swiss tourism with plaque at Jungfrau's Ice Palace  
India's Olympic and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has been honoured with a plaque at the famous Ice Palace at Jungfrauoch, known as the 'Top of Europe', in Switzerland. Acknowledging Chopra's remarkable accomplishments, Jungfrauoch welcomed the sports icon to unveil the commemorative plaque.

The Wall of Fame at Jungfrauoch serves as a testament to the spirit of accomplishment and dedication.

**133. Consider the following statements about Under-19 Men's World Cup 2024:**

**(i) Australia has won the Under 19 Men's ODI World Cup beating India.**

**(ii) This is the sixth title of Australia.**

**(iii) New Zealand was the host country of this world cup.**

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

(a) only one

(b) only two

(c) All are correct

(d) All are incorrect

**Ans. a**

**Statements**

(i) Australia has won the Under 19 Men's ODI World Cup beating India. **(Correct)**

(ii) This is the sixth title of Australia. **(Incorrect)**

(iii) New Zealand was the host country of this world cup. **(Incorrect)**

**Sol.** Australia lift the Under-19 Men's World Cup trophy 2024

Australia has won the Under 19 Men's ODI World Cup beating India by 79 runs in the final at Benoni in South Africa.

This is the fourth title of Australia. Before this, Aussies also won the title in 1988, 2002 and 2010.

While, India are U19 WC defending champions and have won the U19 World Cup title 5 times – 2000, 2008, 2012, 2018, and 2022.

Chasing a target of 254 runs, team India was all out for 174 runs in 43.5 overs.

Earlier, Australia had scored 253 for 7 wickets in the stipulated 50 overs.

Australia are now the champions of the ICC Men's ODI World Cup, the World Test Championship, the Women's T20 World Cup, the Women's ODI World Cup and now the U19 Men's World Cup.

India Under-19 captain - Uday Saharan

Australia Under 19 captain - Hugh Weibgen

Venue - Willowmoore Park, Benoni

U19 Cricket World Cup Player of the Tournament - Kwena Maphaka (South Africa)

Player of the Match - Mahli Beardman (Australia)

**134. Which team has won the 15th CEC Ice Hockey Cup Championship at Khree Sultan Choo Ice Hockey Rink, Kargil, Ladakh?**

किस टीम ने ख्री सुल्तान चू आइस हॉकी रिंग, कारगिल, लद्दाख में 15वीं सीईसी आइस हॉकी कप चैम्पियनशिप जीती है?

- (a) Kharu
- (b) Bodhkarbo
- (c) Wakha Mulbkeh
- (d) Drass Warriors
- (e) None of above

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Drass Warriors clinch victory in 15th CEC Ice Hockey Cup Championship

The Drass Warriors clinched victory in the 15th CEC Ice Hockey Cup Championship at Khree Sultan Choo Ice Hockey Rink, Kargil, Ladakh.

They secured a resounding win of 7 goals against United Chiktan, with Wasim Bilal earning the prestigious titles of Man of the Series and Man of the Match.

The tournament, organized by the District Youth Service and Sports Department, drew 31 men's teams and 4 women's teams from across Kargil.

The Bodhkarbo Women Team also celebrated success, claiming the Women's Cup after defeating Wakha Mulbkeh.



**135. International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and When Conducive to Terrorism (PVE Day) is observed every year on which day?**

आतंकवाद के लिए अनुकूल हिंसक उग्रवाद की रोकथाम के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस (पीवीई दिवस) हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 11 February / 11 फरवरी
- (b) 12 February / 12 फरवरी
- (c) 13 February / 13 फरवरी
- (d) 14 February / 14 फरवरी
- (e) 15 February / 15 फरवरी

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 12 February - International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and When Conducive to Terrorism 2024

International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and When Conducive to Terrorism (PVE Day) is observed every year on 12 February.

This crucial day serves as a platform to raise awareness about the dangers of violent extremism and promote international cooperation in tackling this complex issue.

Theme 2024 - Living Together: Fostering Community Resilience to Prevent Violent Extremism as and When Conducive to Terrorism

**136. World Day of the Sick is observed every year on which day?**

**विश्व रोगी दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 11 February / 11 फरवरी
- (b) 12 February / 12 फरवरी
- (c) 13 February / 13 फरवरी
- (d) 14 February / 14 फरवरी
- (e) 15 February / 15 फरवरी

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 11 February - World Day of the Sick

World Day of the Sick is observed every year on 11 February.

Objective - To raise awareness about the importance of healthcare and the need for compassion and support for the sick.

This day was first established by Pope John Paul II in 1992. He had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease a year earlier but the Vatican Church kept this secret for almost 12 years.

The World Day of the Sick was established on 13 May 1992, in response to his neuro-degenerative condition. Pope John Paul II chose 11 February, because it is the Memorial Day of Our Lady of Lourdes.

**137. National Productivity Day is celebrated every year in India on 12 February. What is the theme of National Productivity Day 2024?**

भारत में हर साल 12 फरवरी को राष्ट्रीय उत्पादकता दिवस मनाया जाता है। राष्ट्रीय उत्पादकता दिवस 2024 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Self-Reliance through Productivity
- (b) Circular Economy for Productivity & Sustainability
- (c) Industry 4.0 Leapfrog Opportunity for India
- (d) Artificial Intelligence (AI)- Productivity Engine for Economic Growth
- (e) A chance to set goals 2047

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** 12 February - National Productivity Day

National Productivity Day is celebrated every year in India on 12 February to commemorate the founding of the National Productivity Council (NPC).

The goal of the NPC is to raise national awareness of the need to boost productivity.

Theme 2024 - Artificial Intelligence (AI)- Productivity Engine for Economic Growth

It is as an integral part of the Indian Productivity Week which is observed from February 12 to February 18.

On National Productivity Day, people can start forming positive habits that will boost productivity and raise awareness of the role that productivity plays in enhancing life quality in general.

**138. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has signed an MoU with which IIT for clean energy innovation?**

**भारतीय नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा विकास एजेंसी (आईआरईडीए) ने स्वच्छ ऊर्जा नवाचार के लिए किस आईआईटी के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

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

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** IREDA and IIT Bhubaneswar sign MoU for Clean Energy Innovation

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar have signed an MoU.

The partnership between IREDA and IIT Bhubaneswar will facilitate joint research ventures and technology exchange, and offer comprehensive support to budding start-ups.

Additionally, it will encompass capacity-building initiatives such as training programs, seminars, and workshops to enhance the skills of IREDA personnel.

IREDA, a distinguished Mini Ratna (Category – I) enterprise under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has consistently engaged in collaborative efforts to bolster the renewable energy landscape in the nation

In a notable move in September 2023, IREDA entered into an MoU with the Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) to spearhead co-lending and loan syndication endeavors for a diverse array of Renewable Energy projects nationwide.

It also inked MoUs with the Union Bank of India (UBI) and the Bank of Baroda (BoB) to foster co-lending and loan syndication initiatives for a broad spectrum of renewable energy projects.

**IITs in News**

- IIT Kanpur develops India's first hypervelocity expansion tunnel test facility
- IIT Madras to open new campus at Kandy in Sri Lanka
- 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

**139. In February 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched multiple development projects worth about 7,300 crore rupees in which state?**

**फरवरी 2024 में, प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने किस राज्य में लगभग 7,300 करोड़ रुपये की कई विकास परियोजनाएं शुरू की हैं?**

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** PM inaugurates projects worth Rs 7300 crores in Madhya Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched multiple development projects worth about 7,300 crore rupees in Jhabua, the tribal-dominated district of Madhya Pradesh.

The Prime Minister also disbursed monthly installments of Aahar Anudan under Aahar Anudan Yojna to about two lakh women beneficiaries.

Modi distributed 1 lakh 75 thousand records of rights to beneficiaries of the SVAMITVA Scheme.

The Prime Minister also transferred around 55 crore rupees for 559 villages under the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana.

The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of 'CM Rise School' in Jhabua.

Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of the drinking water supply scheme for more than one thousand villages of Dhar and Ratlam districts; and 14 urban water supply schemes under AMRUT 2.0 and Nal Jal Yojna for 50 Gram Panchayats of Jhabua.

He laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the redevelopment of Ratlam railway station and Meghnagar railway station, doubling of Indore-Dewas-Ujjain C cabin railway line; Itarsi-North-South grade separator with yard remodeling; and third line connecting Barkhera-Budni-Itarsi.

#### **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

#### **PM Modi in News**

- PM Narendra Modi Unveils Projects Worth ₹1330 crore In Goa
- PM Modi inaugurated CLEA-CASGC 2024 Conference in New Delhi
- PM Modi Unveils Infrastructure Boost in Bulandshahr, UP
- PM Modi inaugurates Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Supreme Court
- PM Modi released commemorative postage stamps, book on Ram Temple

**140. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has unveiled a life-size statue of General Bipin Rawat in which city?**

**रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने किस शहर में जनरल बिपिन रावत की आदमकद प्रतिमा का अनावरण किया है?**

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Chennai / चेन्नई
- (d) Dehradun / देहरादून
- (e) Thiruvananthapuram / तिरुवनंतपुरम

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Defence Minister unveils statue of Gen Bipin Rawat in Dehradun

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami have unveiled a life-size statue of General Bipin Rawat, the nation's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), at TonsBridge School in Dehradun.

The objective is to take the stories of valour of the armed forces to school students and instill patriotism and dedication in them.

Unfortunately, Gen Rawat, his wife Madhulika Rawat, and 12 other military personnel lost their lives in a helicopter crash near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu on December 8, 2021.

**141. Which company has made an additional investment of ₹537 crore in its UK subsidiary Optare PLC in the electric vehicle arm Switch Mobility field?**

किस कंपनी ने इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन शाखा स्विच मोबिलिटी क्षेत्र में अपनी यूके की सहायक कंपनी ऑटारे पीएलसी में ₹537 करोड़ का अतिरिक्त निवेश किया है?

- (a) Blue Energy Motors / ब्लू एनर्जी मोटर्स
- (b) Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd / महिंद्रा एंड महिंद्रा लिमिटेड
- (c) Suzuki Motor Corporation / सुजुकी मोटर कॉर्पोरेशन
- (d) Ashok Leyland / अशोक लीलैंड
- (e) Tata Motors Ltd / टाटा मोटर्स लिमिटेड

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Ashok Leyland invests ₹537 cr. in UK subsidiary

Ashok Leyland has made an additional investment of ₹537 crore in its U.K. subsidiary Optare PLC.

The investment is primarily to meet the capital expenditure, R&D and operational requirements of Optare PLC and Switch Mobility, both in the UK and India.

Consequent to the allotment, the shareholding of ALL in Optare has increased to 92.59% from 92.19% with Hinduja Automotive Ltd., the promoter, holding 6.90%.

Optare, which is into the manufacture and sales of commercial vehicles, had reported a consolidated revenue of ₹230 crore for FY23. Earlier, ALL had announced that it would invest ₹1,200 crore in its electric vehicle arm Switch Mobility as equity through its holding company Optare PLC, in one or more tranches. On December 5, ALL had invested ₹663 crore.

**142. According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, what is India's retail inflation in January 2024?**

सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार, जनवरी 2024 में भारत की खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति क्या है?

- (a) 5.1%
- (b) 5.2%
- (c) 5.3%
- (d) 5.4%
- (e) 5.5%

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** India's Retail inflation is at 3-mth low to 5.1% in January

India's retail inflation eased to a three-month low of 5.1% in January from 5.7% a month earlier, with food price rise cooling a bit to 8.3% compared with 9.5% in December 2023.

The number has remained within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) tolerance band of 2-6 per cent.

Inflation rate in rural and urban areas stood at 5.34 per cent, 4.92 per cent, down from 5.93 per cent and 5.46 per cent seen in the same month a year ago.

The sharp moderation in inflation can be attributed to cooling of food prices. The food inflation for January stood at 8.30 per cent versus 9.53 per cent recorded in December.

The vegetable inflation eased marginally to 27.03 per cent from 27.64 per cent in December. In addition, the fuel and light inflation contracted (-)0.60 per cent as against (-)0.99 per cent contraction in the month before.



**143. Who has been appointed as CEO of Sundaram Asset Management (SMC)?**

**सुंदरम एसेट मैनेजमेंट (एसएमसी) के सीईओ 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) Anand Radhakrishnan / आनंद राधाकृष्णन

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Sundaram AMC appoints Radhakrishnan as CEO

Sundaram Asset Management has appointed Anand Radhakrishnan as CEO.

Anand was earlier a part of the company for eight years from 1996 to 2004.

He previously served as Managing Director & CIO (Equity) at Franklin Templeton India

Incumbent MD Sunil Subramaniam will retire in June after leading the organization for 19 years. Radhakrishnan will take over as MD in July.

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

- **Non-executive Chairman of NPCI Board** - Ajay Kumar Choudhary (replace Biswamohan Mahapatra)
- **MD & CEO of Tata AIA Life Insurance** - Venkatachalam H (replace Naveen Tahilyani)
- **Consumer lending and mortgages head of Bandhan Bank** - Santosh Nair (replace Shantanu Sengupta)
- **Non-executive chairman of AU Small Finance Bank** - HR Khan (replace Raj Verma)
- **Executive Director of Bank of Baroda** - Sanjay Vinayak Mudaliar

**144. The RBI has increased the ceiling on fees payable to non-executive directors of banks to how much rupees per year from the existing level of 20 lakh rupees?**

**RBI ने बैंकों के गैर-कार्यकारी निदेशकों को देय शुल्क की सीमा मौजूदा 20 लाख रुपये से बढ़ाकर कितने रुपये प्रति वर्ष कर दी है?**

- (a) 25 lakh
- (b) 30 lakh
- (c) 40 lakh
- (d) 50 lakh
- (e) 1 crore

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** RBI increases ceiling on fees payable to non-executive directors of banks to Rs 30 lakh per year

The RBI has increased the ceiling on fees payable to non-executive directors of banks to 30 lakh rupees per year from the existing level of 20 Lakh rupees.

The revision comes two years after RBI came out with new guidelines for directors as a part of corporate governance, where it capped the remuneration for non-executive directors, excluding the chair of the board.

It revised the ceiling in recognition of the vital role of the non-executive operation of bank boards and their various committees.

RBI said the banks are required to have suitable criteria for granting fixed remuneration to its NEDs, with the approval of their boards.

The instructions on review of fixed remuneration granted to NEDs would be applicable to all the private sector banks including small finance banks (SFBs) and payment banks (PBs) as also the wholly owned subsidiaries of foreign banks.

**145. In February 2024, Following France India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services were roll out in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

**फरवरी 2024 में, फ्रांस के बाद भारत की यूनिफाइड पेमेंट इंटरफेस (UPI) सेवाएं \_\_\_\_\_ और \_\_\_\_\_ में शुरू की गईं।**

- (a) Sri Lanka and Bangladesh / श्रीलंका और बांग्लादेश
- (b) Sri Lanka and Bhutan / श्रीलंका और भूटान
- (c) Nepal and Mauritius / नेपाल और मॉरीशस
- (d) Bhutan and Mauritius / भूटान और मॉरीशस
- (e) Sri Lanka and Mauritius / श्रीलंका और मॉरीशस

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** India launches UPI payment services in Sri Lanka, Mauritius

India has launched its Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services in Sri Lanka and Mauritius.

RuPay card services were also introduced in Mauritius as part of this strategic initiative.

The UPI services, crafted by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), represent an instant real-time payment system designed to facilitate inter-bank transactions through mobile phones.

On the other hand, RuPay is a globally recognized card payment network originating from India, with widespread acceptance at various points of sale, ATMs, and online platforms.

The extension of RuPay services will also enable Mauritian banks to issue RuPay cards and use them for settlements in both India and Mauritius.

Earlier in the month, UPI services were enabled at the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France. Indian visitors can use their UPI-enabled application to make a payment by scanning a QR code on the Eiffel Tower website.

In February 2023, a link between UPI and PayNow was introduced by India and Singapore. Through virtual payment addresses, mobile numbers can now be used to transmit money from Singapore to India.

**146. In February 2024, Paytm E-commerce has rebranded itself as Pai Platforms, marking a shift in its corporate identity.**

**Paytm has recently acquired which of the following E-commerce Platform?**

फरवरी 2024 में, पेटीएम ई-कॉमर्स ने अपनी कॉर्पोरेट पहचान में बदलाव को चिह्नित करते हुए खुद को पै प्लेटफॉर्म के रूप में पुनः ब्रांडेड किया है। पेटीएम ने हाल ही में निम्नलिखित में से किस ई-कॉमर्स प्लेटफॉर्म का अधिग्रहण किया है?

- (a) Kia Fashion
- (b) Snapdeal
- (c) Smart Point
- (d) Bitsila
- (e) Kinley

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Paytm E-commerce rebrands to Pai Platforms

Paytm E-commerce has rebranded itself as Pai Platforms, marking a shift in its corporate identity.

The move comes alongside the acquisition of Bitsila, a prominent seller platform operating within the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

This strategic shift underscores Pai Platforms' ambition to assert its presence and gain a larger foothold in the fiercely competitive landscape of online retail.

Pai Platforms' acquisition of Bitsila underscores its commitment to strengthening its commerce capabilities within the ONDC network.

Bitsila, established in 2020, has ascended to become one of the top three seller platforms on ONDC, facilitating transactions for esteemed brands such as McDonald's and BigBasket.

**147. Chennai Super Kings have appointed whom as its brand ambassador for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024?**

**चेन्नई सुपर किंग्स ने इंडियन प्रीमियर लीग (आईपीएल) 2024 के लिए किसे अपना ब्रांड एंबेसडर नियुक्त किया है?**

- (a) Anushka Sharma / अनुष्का शर्मा
- (b) Alia Bhatt / अलिया भट्ट
- (c) Priyanka Chopra / प्रियंका चोपड़ा
- (d) Katrina Kaif / कैटरीना कैफ
- (e) Aishwarya Rai / ऐश्वर्या राय

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Katrina Kaif Joins CSK as Brand Ambassador for IPL 2024

Chennai Super Kings have appointed Katrina Kaif as their brand ambassador for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024.

The five-time champions have also changed their jersey logo before the new season.

The famous Bollywood actress, who is married to Vicky Kaushal, is also the brand ambassador of Etihad Airways. CSK recently signed a sponsorship deal with Etihad Airways and brought Katrina on board.

**Recent Brand Ambassador**

- Fit India Movement - IRS Officer Narendra Kumar Yadav
- Hrithik Roshan - 3rd RuPay Prime Volleyball League
- Katie Moon - 19th edition of the Tata Mumbai Marathon ambassador
- Rishabh Pant – Iodex Ultra Gel+
- Deepika Padukone - Bisleri (Campign Name - #DrinkItUp)

**148. Sindhu Ganapathy has been appointed as the first transwoman Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE) of \_\_\_\_\_.**

**सिंधु गणपति को \_\_\_\_\_ की पहली ट्रांसवुमन ट्रैवलिंग टिकट परीक्षक (टीटीई) के रूप में नियुक्त किया गया है।**

- (a) Eastern Railway
- (b) Western Railway
- (c) Southern Railway
- (d) Northern Railway
- (e) South-Western Railway

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Southern Railway appoints first Transwoman TTE

Sindhu Ganapathy's appointment as the first transwoman Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE) of Southern Railway marks a significant milestone in the journey towards inclusivity and acceptance in the Indian workforce.

At the age of 37, Ms. Ganapathy has not only broken barriers but also set a precedent for the transgender community's representation in prestigious government positions.

Ganapathy's career with the Railways began in 2003 when she joined as an Assistant.

**149. Consider the following statements about 'PAR' and 'IUHDSS', that was seen in news recently:**

**(i) PAR stands for Potable Approach Radar.**

**(ii) IUHDSS stands for Integrated Underwater Harbour Defence and Surveillance System.**

**(iii) IUHDSS will be helpful in safely landing the aircraft in low visibility conditions like heavy rain and fog.**

**(iv) PAR is capable of detecting, identifying and tracking surface and underwater targets in the vicinity of Naval Dockyards.**

**How many of the above given statements are INCORRECT.**

- (a) only one
- (b) only two
- (c) only three
- (d) all are correct
- (e) all are incorrect

**Ans. c**

**Statements**

(i) PAR stands for Precision Approach Radar. **(Incorrect)**

(ii) IUHDSS stands for Integrated Underwater Harbour Defence and Surveillance System. **(Correct)**

(iii) PAR will be helpful in safely landing the aircraft in low visibility conditions like heavy rain and fog. **(Incorrect)**

(iv) IUHDSS is capable of detecting, identifying and tracking surface and underwater targets in the vicinity of Naval Dockyards. **(Incorrect)**

**Sol.** Navy Chief Inaugurates New Defence System 'Precision Approach Radar'

Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral R. Hari Kumar has inaugurated a Precision Approach Radar (PAR) at INS Utkrosh in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which will enable "highly accurate horizontal and vertical guidance to land an aircraft safely in low visibility conditions, such as heavy rain and fog".

He also inaugurated the IUHDSS (Integrated Underwater Harbour Defence and Surveillance System) at Naval Jetty, Port Blair.

**About PAR**

- The Precision Approach Radar is manufactured by a Chennai company.
- PAR will be helpful in safely landing the aircraft in low visibility conditions like heavy rain and fog.
- The PAR will provide highly accurate horizontal and vertical guidance even in low visibility.

**About IUHDSS**

- The IUHDSS is capable of detecting, identifying and tracking surface and underwater targets in the vicinity of Naval Dockyards.
- This system significantly enhances the security of Port Blair harbour, safeguarding it against potential maritime threats and ensuring the safety of vital naval assets.

**150. Who has been awarded KPP Nambiar Award for 2024 by Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Kerala Section?**

**इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इलेक्ट्रिकल एंड इलेक्ट्रॉनिक इंजीनियर्स (IEEE) केरल सेक्शन द्वारा 2024 के KPP नांबियार पुरस्कार से किसे सम्मानित किया गया है?**

- (a) S Somanath /एस सोमनाथ
- (b) Ritu Karidhal / रितु करिधल
- (c) A. S. Kiran Kuma / ए.एस. किरण कुमा
- (d) Kailasavadivoo Sivan / कैलासवादिवू सिवान
- (e) P Veeramuthuvel / पी वीरमुथुवेल

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** ISRO Chairman S Somanath awarded KPP Nambiar Award

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Chairman, S Somanath has been awarded KPP Nambiar Award for 2024 by Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Kerala Section.

The award is named after KPP Nambiar, doyen of electronics industry and founder-chair of IEEE Kerala Section.

Somanath was chosen for the pivotal role he played in steering Chandrayaan-3, ISRO's lunar exploration programme, the award committee observed.

He also served various VSSC and ISRO missions, including as Project Manager, Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and Project Director, Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV Mk - III).

**Recent Awards**

- **WHO Nelson Mandela Award for health promotion** - National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS)
- **A Plaque at Jungfrau's Ice Palace by Swiss tourism** - Neeraj Chopra
- **Lakshminarayana International Award** - Pyarelal Sharma (For My Name Is Lakhan)
- **Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award** - Stunning Sleepy Polar Bear (Ice Bed) clicked by Nima Sarikhani.
- **Lifetime Achievement award by Sports Journalists Federation of India & Delhi Sports Journalists Association** - PT Usha



**151. World Radio Day is observed every year on which day?**

**विश्व रेडियो दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 11 February / 11 फरवरी
- (b) 12 February / 12 फरवरी
- (c) 13 February / 13 फरवरी
- (d) 14 February / 14 फरवरी
- (e) 15 February / 15 फरवरी

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 13 February - World Radio Day

World Radio Day is observed every year on 13 February.

Objective - To raise awareness among the people and the media about the importance of radio, and to encourage access to information through radio.

Theme 2024 - Radio: A Century informing, entertaining, and educating

The day was proclaimed by the member states of UNESCO in 2011 and subsequently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 as an International Day.

**152. International Epilepsy Day has been observed every on which day?**

**अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मिर्गी दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) Second Monday of February
- (b) Second Tuesday of February
- (c) Second Wednesday of February
- (d) Second Thursday of February
- (e) Second Sunday of February

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 12 February 2024 - International Epilepsy Day

International Epilepsy Day has been observed on the second Monday of February every year since 2015.

In 2024, the world will observe the International Epilepsy Day on February 12.

The day provides a platform to educate and create awareness among people.

**What is Epilepsy?**

- According to WHO, epilepsy is a chronic noncommunicable disease of the brain affecting close to 50 million people across the world. There are recurrent seizures, which are brief episodes of involuntary movement in part or entire body of an Epilepsy patient.
- Epilepsy is sometimes accompanied by loss of consciousness and control of bladder function.

**153. Dattajirao Gaekwad passed away recently at the age of 95. He was related to which sport?**

**दत्ताजीराव गायकवाड़ का हाल ही में 95 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह किस खेल से संबंधित थे?**

- (a) Hockey / हॉकी
- (b) Tennis / टेनिस
- (c) Kabaddi / कबड्डी
- (d) Football / फुटबॉल
- (e) Cricket / क्रिकेट

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** India's oldest Test cricketer Dattajirao Gaekwad dies

India's oldest Test cricketer and former captain Dattajirao Gaekwad passed away.

Gaekwad, who was the father of former India opener and national coach Aunshuman Gaekwad, was 95.

He played 11 Tests for India between 1952 and 1961, captaining the national team in 1959 when it toured England.

The right-hander made his debut against England at Leeds in 1952 and his final international game was against Pakistan in Chennai in 1961.

In the Ranji Trophy, Gaekwad represented Baroda from 1947 to 1961. He scored 3,139 runs at an average of 47.56, including 14 hundreds.

His highest was a 249 not out against Maharashtra in the 1959-60 season.

He became India's oldest living Test cricketer in 2016 after the death of former batter Deepak Shodhan at the age of 87 in Ahmedabad.

**154. The men's marathon world record holder, Kelvin Kiptum, 24, has died in a road accident. He was from which country?**

पुरुष मैराथन विश्व रिकॉर्ड धारक, 24 वर्षीय केल्विन किप्टम की एक सड़क दुर्घटना में मृत्यु हो गई है। वह किस देश से थे?

- (a) Kenya / केन्या
- (b) Uganda / युगांडा
- (c) USA / यूएसए
- (d) Zambia / जाम्बिया
- (e) Egypt / मिस्र

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** World Marathon Record Holder Kelvin Kiptum Dies in Road Accident

The men's marathon world record holder, Kenya's Kelvin Kiptum, 24, has died in a road accident in his home country.

He was killed alongside his coach, Rwanda's Gervais Hakizimana, in a car on a road in western Kenya.

Kiptum broke the men's marathon record in Chicago on 8 October 2023, with a time of two hours and 35 seconds.

The Kenyan slashed 34 seconds off two-time Olympic champion Eliud Kipchoge's previous world record from Berlin in 2022 to become the first man to run the marathon under two hours and one minute.

**155. Which company has acquired a 60 per cent stake in US-based insurtech Aggne Global for \$66 million to strengthen its competitive advantage in the insurance sector?**

बीमा क्षेत्र में अपने प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक लाभ को मजबूत करने के लिए किस कंपनी ने 66 मिलियन डॉलर में अमेरिका स्थित इंश्योरटेक एग्ने ग्लोबल में 60 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी का अधिग्रहण किया है?

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

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Wipro acquires Aggne for \$66 mn to boost capabilities in insurance sector

IT major Wipro has acquired a 60 per cent stake in US-based insurtech Aggne Global for \$66 million to strengthen its competitive advantage in the insurance sector, particularly in the property and casualty (P&C) insurance space.

Founded in 2019, Aggne is incorporated in the US and India, with offices in Tampa, Florida, and Hyderabad, India.

The company has 230 employees based in India and the United States.

With this investment, Wipro becomes a majority shareholder in Aggne, which brings to Wipro a unique set of capabilities and intellectual property (IP) in the P&C insurance space.

'The combined capabilities of Wipro and Aggne will help deliver enhanced value, faster speed-to-market, and differentiated services to clients in the P&C sector.

**156. Which state government has decided to provide interest-free loans up to Rs 1 lakh to youth of the state under the new government scheme 'Swayam'?**

किस राज्य सरकार ने नई सरकारी योजना 'स्वयं' के तहत राज्य के युवाओं को 1 लाख रुपये तक ब्याज मुक्त ऋण प्रदान करने का निर्णय लिया है?

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

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Odisha govt to give interest-free loans to youth under 'Swayam' scheme

Odisha government has decided to provide interest-free loans up to Rs 1 lakh to youth of the state under the new government scheme 'Swayam.'

Under the scheme 'Swayam' to create self-employment for youth, 1 lakh eligible rural and an equal number of urban youth in the age group of 18-35 years will receive interest-free loans of up to Rs 1 lakh for starting a new business.

Further, all rural unemployed youth or those with no outstanding loan for the same purpose from any central or state government-supported schemes in the age group of 18-35 years (18-40 years for a special category) desirous of starting a new business or expanding their existing business will be provided an interest-free bank loan for project costs up to Rs. 1 lakh.

The scheme will be operational for two years and Rs 672 crore will be spent from the state's coffers.

#### **About Odisha**

- **Capital** – Bhubaneswar
- **Chief Minister** – Naveen Patnaik
- **Governor** – Raghubar Das (26<sup>th</sup>)

#### **Recent Scheme in News**

- **CM Vayoshree Yojana (Maharashtra)** – For senior citizens who suffer from some physical or mental disability
- **Mahtari Vandan Yojana (Chhattisgarh)** – To provide Rs 1,000 financial assistance for married women.
- **Yuva Nidhi Scheme (Karnataka)** - To provide aid for Jobless Youth
- **Yogyasree Scheme (West Bengal)** - To provide free training modules for SC & ST Students

**157. Consider the following statements about "APAAR: One Nation One Student ID Card":**

**(i) APAAR stands for Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry.**

**(ii) It is a distinct and permanent 10-digit ID to each student.**

**(iii) This ID serves to centralize their academic accomplishments, providing easy access to their educational records.**

**(iv) The Education Ministry has proposed a deadline of 2027-28 for 100% integration of the education records of all students through the ID.**

**Find the incorrect statements.**

- (a) only i & ii
- (b) only ii & iii
- (c) only iii & iv
- (d) only ii & iv
- (e) all are correct

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Dharmendra Pradhan Inaugurates National Conference on APAAR: One Nation One Student ID Card

Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated the national conference to mark the creation of 25 crore 'APAAR: One Nation One Student ID Card.'

"One Nation, One Student ID" has been envisioned in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and the conference will deliberate on creating a seamless educational landscape, facilitating academic mobility, and ensuring data security and privacy for students.

The Education Ministry has proposed a deadline of 2026-27 for 100% integration of the education records of all students through the ID.

**About APAAR**

- The Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) stands as a transformative initiative in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020 and the National Credit and Qualifications Framework (NCrF).
- Its objective is to streamline and unify the academic journey of students throughout India by issuing a distinct and permanent 12-digit ID to each student. This ID serves to centralise their academic accomplishments, providing easy access to their educational records.
- Additionally, he emphasised the significance of the seamless integration of APAAR IDs, Academic Bank of Credit, and Digilocker, streamlining operations. Furthermore, he referenced other vital digital resources such as Swayam and DIKSHA.

**158. Which state government has declared 'Kaji Nemu' (citrus lemon) as its state fruit?**

**किस राज्य सरकार ने 'काजी नेमू' (खट्टे नींबू) को अपना राज्य फल घोषित किया है?**

- (a) Tripura / त्रिपुरा
- (b) Mizoram / मिजोरम
- (c) Assam / असम
- (d) Manipur / मणिपुर
- (e) Meghalaya / मेघालय

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Assam declares 'Kaji Nemu' as state fruit

The Assam government has announced that 'Kaji Nemu' (citrus lemon) has been recognized as the state fruit of Assam.

With its unique aroma and antioxidant properties, Assam lemon has enriched our local cuisines.

Kaji Nemu has already received a GI tag in 2016.

Kaji Nemu is a highly prized fruit for its culinary and medicinal properties. It has a distinctively strong and sour flavour, which adds a zesty flavour to a variety of dishes.

As per reports, it is also known for its digestive and anti-inflammatory properties. Kaji Nemu is a popular ingredient in traditional Assamese cuisine.

#### **About Assam**

- **Capital** – Dispur
- **Chief Minister** – Himanta Biswa Sarma
- **Governor** – Gulab Chand Kataria
- **State Fruit** - Kaji Nemu



**159. The 'Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director', which is part of the National Film Awards, has been renamed on the recommendation of the Committee for Rationalization of Film Awards. What is the new name of this award?**

**'निर्देशक की सर्वश्रेष्ठ पहली फिल्म के लिए इंदिरा गांधी पुरस्कार', जो राष्ट्रीय फिल्म पुरस्कारों का हिस्सा है, का नाम फिल्म पुरस्कारों के युक्तिकरण समिति की सिफारिश पर बदल दिया गया है। इस पुरस्कार का नया नाम क्या है?**

- (a) Sushma Swaraj Award Best Debut Film of a Director
- (b) Best Debut Promoting Film of a Director
- (c) Dadasaheb Phalke Award Best Debut Film of a Director
- (d) Best Debut Film of a Director
- (e) Best Film of a Director

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Government Names of 'Indira' and 'Nargis' Dropped From National Film Awards

The 'Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director' and the 'Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration', which are part of the National Film Awards, have been renamed on the recommendation of the Committee for Rationalisation of Film Awards.

The committee recommended that the 'Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director' be renamed as 'Best Debut Film of a Director', and the award money be increased to Rs 3 lakh.

It also recommended that the 'Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration' be renamed as 'Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social and Environmental Values'. This award carries a Rajat Kamal to the director and the producer with Rs 1.5 lakh each.

The committee recommended that it be clubbed with 'Best Film on Social Issues and Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation'. The award amount has been increased to Rs 2 lakh each to the director and producer.

Dadasaheb Phalke Award has increased from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 15 lakh.

**160. Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) has signed an MoU with which company for setting up a green hydrogen plant in the premises of Cochin Airport?**

कोचीन इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (CIAL) ने कोचीन हवाई अड्डे के परिसर में हरित हाइड्रोजन संयंत्र स्थापित करने के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Hindustan Petroleum / हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम
- (b) Indian Oil Corporation / इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन
- (c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation / तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस निगम
- (d) Steel Authority of India Limited / स्टील अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड
- (e) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited / भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** CIAL partnered with BPCL to set up first green hydrogen plant at Cochin airport

Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) for setting up a green hydrogen plant in the premises of Cochin Airport.

This collaborative effort will result in the world's first green hydrogen plant and fueling station located within an airport setting, CIAL said in a statement on Wednesday.

Green hydrogen, produced from water using renewable energy sources, is recognized as a future fuel and aligns with zero-carbon energy strategies.

**161. Who has been elected the President and Vice President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) respectively?**

**इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ चार्टर्ड अकाउंटेंट्स ऑफ इंडिया (ICAI) का क्रमशः अध्यक्ष और उपाध्यक्ष किसे चुना गया है?**

- (a) Parul Agarwal and Charanjot Singh Nanda
- (b) Rohit Kumar Agarwal and Charanjot Singh Nanda
- (c) Richa Agarwal and Chanchal Singh Nanda
- (d) Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal and Charanjot Singh Nanda
- (e) Rajnish Goel and Charanjot Singh Nanda

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** ICAI elects new President, Vice President

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has elected Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal as its new President.

He has assumed charge as the 72nd President of ICAI.

A graduate of Calcutta University, Agarwal has been a practicing Chartered Accountant for last 24 years. He is also a Company Secretary and DISA from ICAI. He was elected to the 23rd, 24th and 25th Central Council of ICAI three times in a row.

Additionally, Charanjot Singh Nanda has been elected as Vice President for the Year 2024-25.

Earlier, Nanda was appointed as a Central Council Member of ICAI India.

**Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- **CEO of Sundaram Asset Management Company** - Anand Radhakrishnan (replace Sunil Subramaniam)
- **MD & CEO of LIC Mutual Fund** - Ravi Kumar Jha
- **Non-executive Chairman of NPCI Board** - Ajay Kumar Choudhary (replace Biswamohan Mahapatra)
- **MD & CEO of Tata AIA Life Insurance** - Venkatachalam H (replace Naveen Tahilyani)
- **Consumer lending and mortgages head of Bandhan Bank** - Santosh Nair (Shantanu Sengupta)

**162. Former Prime Minister Alexander Stubb has been elected the president of which country?**

**पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री अलेक्जेंडर स्टब को किस देश का राष्ट्रपति चुना गया है?**

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

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Former PM Alexander Stubb wins Finland Presidential election

Former Prime Minister Alexander Stubb secured victory in Finland's presidential runoff against ex-Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto.

Stubb of the National Coalition Party secured 51.6% of the votes, while independent candidate Haavisto received 48.4%.

The former leader of the National Conservative Party's bid for the office was prompted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

**About Finland**

- Capital- Helsinki
- Currency- Euro
- Prime Minister- Petteri Orpo
- President - Alexander Stubb

**Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President**

- Prime Minister of Kazakhstan - Olzhas Bektenov
- Prime Minister of Yemen - Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak
- President of El Salvador - Nayib Bukele (2<sup>nd</sup> time)
- Sultan of Malaysia - Ibrahim Iskandar

**163. According to the Ministry of Commerce data, what is India's wholesale price index-based inflation in January 2024?**

**वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, जनवरी 2024 में भारत की थोक मूल्य सूचकांक आधारित मुद्रास्फीति क्या है?**

- (a) 0.73%
- (b) 0.69%
- (c) 0.27%
- (d) 0.47%
- (e) 0.37%

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India's WPI inflation eases to three-month low of 0.27 per cent in January

India's wholesale price index-based inflation eased further to 0.27 per cent in January 2024 on an annual basis, as against 0.73 per cent in December, stated provisional data from the Commerce Ministry

The month-on-month change in WPI index for January witnessed a contraction of (-)0.33 per cent from a contraction of (-)1.12 per cent in the preceding month.

Positive rate of inflation in January 2024 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, machinery & equipment, other manufacturing, minerals, other transport equipment etc.

Earlier this week, India's retail inflation data was released which showed that it has eased to 5.10 per cent on an annual basis as against a four-month high of 5.69 per cent in December, data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation showed.

#### **Recent WPI-based Wholesale inflation in India**

- **August 2023** – (-) 0.52%
- **September 2023** – (-) 0.26%
- **October 2023** – (-) 0.52%
- **November 2023** – 0.26%
- **December 2023** – 0.73%

**164. Which company has commissioned 14 MW of capacity at its Ayodhya Solar Photovoltaic Project?**

**किस कंपनी ने अपनी अयोध्या सौर फोटोवोल्टिक परियोजना में 14 मेगावाट क्षमता शुरू की है?**

- (a) ReNew Power / रिन्वू पावर
- (b) Adani Enterprises / अडानी एंटरप्राइजेज
- (c) JSW Energy / जेएसडब्ल्यू एनर्जी
- (d) NTPC Green Energy / एनटीपीसी ग्रीन एनर्जी लिमिटेड
- (e) Torrent Power / टोरेंट पावर

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** NTPC commissioned 14 MW unit of Ayodhya solar project

NTPC Green Energy Ltd, a subsidiary of NTPC Limited, has commissioned 14 MW of capacity at its Ayodhya Solar Photovoltaic Project.

The project is part of a larger 40 MW solar project being developed by NTPC Green Energy Ltd in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.

With this commissioning, the total installed and commercial capacity of the NTPC Group now stands at 73,888 MW.

**About Uttar Pradesh**

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

**165. India has won the 9th GovTech Prize for AI-Powered Government Services at World Government Summit 2024. The annual award is instituted by the government of \_\_\_\_\_?**

भारत ने विश्व सरकार शिखर सम्मेलन 2024 में AI-संचालित सरकारी सेवाओं के लिए 9वां गवर्नमेंट पुरस्कार जीता है। वार्षिक पुरस्कार \_\_\_\_\_ की सरकार द्वारा स्थापित किया गया है?

- (a) Saudi Arabia / सऊदी अरब
- (b) USA / यूएसए
- (c) Russia / रूस
- (d) UK / यूके
- (e) UAE / यूएई

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** India Wins 9th GovTech Prize for AI-Powered Government Services at World Government Summit 2024

India has secured the prestigious 9th GovTech Prize for its pioneering endeavors in Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered government services, at the World Government Summit 2024.

The annual award is instituted by the government of the UAE and is presented to government entities, central or local, worldwide, to recognize creative and innovative solutions.

The accolade recognizes the remarkable efforts of the Ministry for Road Transport & Highways, Government of India, for its transformative project known as iRASTE.

It is a collaborative initiative involving the government, industry, and academia, is revolutionizing road safety through the integration of AI technology.

**Recent Awards**

- **KPP Nambiar Award for 2024** - ISRO Chairman, S Somanath
- **WHO Nelson Mandela Award for health promotion** - National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS)
- **A Plaque at Jungfrau's Ice Palace by Swiss tourism** - Neeraj Chopra
- **Lakshminarayana International Award** - Pyarelal Sharma (For My Name Is Lakhan)
- **Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award** - Stunning Sleepy Polar Bear (Ice Bed) clicked by Nima Sarikhani.

166. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have won the ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month for January 2024, respectively.

\_\_\_\_\_ और \_\_\_\_\_ ने क्रमशः जनवरी 2024 के लिए ICC पुरुष और महिला प्लेयर ऑफ़ द मंथ का पुरस्कार जीता है।

- (a) Shamar Joseph, Harleen Deol / शमर जोसेफ, हरलीन देयोल
- (b) Kevin Sinclair, Amy Hunter / केविन सिंक्लेयर, एमी हंटर
- (c) Sikandar Raza, Ellyse Perry / सिकंदर रज़ा, एलिसे पेरी
- (d) Shamar Joseph, Amy Hunter / शमर जोसेफ, एमी हंटर
- (e) Suryakumar Yadav, Harleen Deol / हरलीन देओल

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Shamar Joseph and Amy Hunter awarded ICC Players of The Month for Jan 2024

International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the winners of the ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month for January 2024. West Indies' Joseph has become the first West Indian to win the Men's ICC Player of the Month award for his heroics in the Australia Test series.

While, Ireland's explosive young batter Amy Hunter claimed the honour in the women's category after her dominance against Zimbabwe.

### ICC Men's Player of the Month

- 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

- September 2023 - Chamari Athapaththu (Sri Lanka)
- October 2023 - Hayley Matthews (West Indies)
- November 2023 - Nahida Akter (Bangladesh)
- December 2023 – Deepti Sharma (India)



**167. The Ministry of Defence has signed a worth Rs 2,269 Crore contract with which company for the procurement of 11 Shakti Electronic Warfare Systems for the Indian Navy?**

**रक्षा मंत्रालय ने भारतीय नौसेना के लिए 11 शक्ति इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वारफेयर सिस्टम की खरीद के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ 2,269 करोड़ रुपये के अनुबंध पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited / ब्रह्मोस एयरोस्पेस प्राइवेट 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.** Defence Ministry Signs Rs 2,269 Crore Contract with BEL

The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the procurement of 11 Shakti Electronic Warfare Systems for the Indian Navy.

The contract is worth 2,269 Crore Rupees.

The Shakti EW System will be installed on-board capital warships of the Indian Navy. The project will generate employment of two and half lakh man-days over a period of four years with the participation of more than 155 industry partners including MSMEs, thus furthering the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

**About Shakti EW System**

- The Shakti EW System is indigenously designed, developed and manufactured.
- The Shakti EW System is capable of accurately intercepting electronic emissions and implementing countermeasures in dense electromagnetic environment.

**168. International Childhood Cancer Awareness Day is observed every year on which day?**

**अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाल्यावस्था कैंसर जागरूकता दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 16 February / 16 फरवरी
- (b) 17 February / 17 फरवरी
- (c) 18 February / 18 फरवरी
- (d) 14 February / 14 फरवरी
- (e) 15 February / 15 फरवरी

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** 15 February - International Childhood Cancer Day

International Childhood Cancer Awareness Day is observed every year on 15 February.

It is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness about childhood cancer and its difficulties.

It also serves as a reminder of the need for better support for children, adolescents, and their families as they battle this devastating disease.

This day was first established by Childhood Cancer International in 2002.

**169. World Hippo Day is celebrated every year on which day?**

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

- (a) 16 February / 16 फरवरी
- (b) 17 February / 17 फरवरी
- (c) 18 February / 18 फरवरी
- (d) 14 February / 14 फरवरी
- (e) 15 February / 15 फरवरी

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** 15 February - World Hippo Day

World Hippo Day is celebrated on 15 February every year.

Objective - To raise awareness about the plight of hippos, which are one of the most endangered large mammals on the planet.

Today, the hippo population is estimated to be between 115,000 and 130,000, with the decline being attributed to poaching, loss of access to fresh water, mechanised farming, and urbanization.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) listed them as a vulnerable species in 2006 after establishing that the hippo population had declined by as much as 20% within the previous two decades.

**What is Hippo?**

- Hippos are semiaquatic mammals, native to sub-Saharan Africa, and weigh up to 2,000 kg, making them the third-largest land mammal after elephants and rhinos.
- They are mostly found in rivers, lakes, and mangrove swamps, and have adapted to a semiaquatic lifestyle.
- Their diet consists mostly of leaves, roots, and stems, supported by a robust digestive system that is adapted to conserve nutrients.

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**170. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the first Hindu temple in the United Arab Emirates. What is the name of this temple?**

**प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने संयुक्त अरब अमीरात में पहले हिंदू मंदिर का उद्घाटन किया है. इस मंदिर का नाम क्या है?**

- (a) Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Sansthan Hindu Mandir
- (b) Birjumaharaj Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha Hindu Mandir
- (c) Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha Hindu Mandir
- (d) Bochasanwasi Annpurana Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha Hindu Mandir
- (e) Bochasanwasi Akshardham Swaminarayan Sanstha Hindu Mandir

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** PM Modi inaugurates grand BAPS Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi, the first Hindu temple in the United Arab Emirates.

The BAPS temple will be an enduring tribute to the values of harmony, peace and tolerance, which both India and the UAE share.

The pink sandstone temple sits on a 27-acre plot in Abu Dhabi, making it one of the largest in the Middle East. While Islam is the official religion of the UAE, the country is home to about 3.6 million Indian workers.

**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

**171. Armed Forces Medical Service has signed an MoU with which IIT to promote collaborative biomedical research?**

सशस्त्र बल चिकित्सा सेवा ने सहयोगात्मक जैव चिकित्सा अनुसंधान को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किस आईआईटी के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** AFMS & IIT Roorkee join hands to foster research

Armed Forces Medical Service has signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee.

The MoU aims towards promoting collaborative biomedical research, to aid in improving the combat medical support and patient care of serving personnel.

Under this MoU, Armed Forces Medical Services will be able to utilize the expertise of IIT Roorkee in various fields like, development of novel medical devices, robotics, nanotechnology, artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Apart from research, faculty exchange programme, joint academic activities and promotion of start-ups in the domain of health care.

#### **IITs in News**

- IIT Kanpur develops India's first hypervelocity expansion tunnel test facility
- IIT Madras to open new campus at Kandy in Sri Lanka
- 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

**172. Consider the following statements about electoral bonds which were in the news recently:**

- (i) Supreme Court declares electoral bonds scheme unconstitutional.
- (ii) The Supreme Court has found the Electoral Bonds Scheme, along with certain provisions of the Income Tax Act and Finance Act 2015, to be violative of Article 19(2)(a) of the Constitution.
- (iii) Electoral bonds are bearer instruments that function as interest-free banking instruments and promissory notes.
- (iv) They can be purchased by Indian citizens or Indian-incorporated bodies in denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1,00,000, Rs 10,00,000, and Rs 1,00,00,000 from any SBI branches.
- (v) The Electoral Bonds Scheme was introduced in 2018 through a Finance bill and implemented in 2019.

**How many of given statements are INCORRECT?**

- (a) only one
- (b) only two
- (c) only three
- (d) only four
- (e) all are correct

**Ans. c**

**Statements**

- (i) Supreme Court declares electoral bonds scheme unconstitutional. **(Correct)**
- (ii) The Supreme Court has found the Electoral Bonds Scheme, along with certain provisions of the Income Tax Act and Finance Act 2015, to be violative of Article 19(2)(a) of the Constitution. **(Incorrect)**
- (iii) Electoral bonds are bearer instruments that function as interest-free banking instruments and promissory notes. **(Correct)**
- (iv) They can be purchased by Indian citizens or Indian-incorporated bodies in denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1,00,000, Rs 10,00,000, and Rs 1,00,00,000 from any SBI branches. **(Incorrect)**
- (v) The Electoral Bonds Scheme was introduced in 2018 through a Finance bill and implemented in 2019. **(Incorrect)**

**Sol.** Supreme Court declares electoral bonds scheme unconstitutional

The Supreme Court has declared the electoral bonds scheme as "unconstitutional," stating that anonymous corporate contributions to political parties are "violative of the right to information."

The decision was announced by a bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud.

The verdict underscores the importance of transparency in political funding and upholding the right to information. It also reflects the judiciary's commitment to safeguarding the principles of democracy.

### **Key Observations and Directions from the Bench**

- The Supreme Court has found the Electoral Bonds Scheme, along with certain provisions of the Income Tax Act and Finance Act 2015, to be violative of Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.
- The issuing bank, State Bank of India (SBI), has been directed to cease issuing electoral bonds immediately.
- SBI is required to provide details of the political parties that have received electoral bonds, including particulars such as purchase dates, purchaser names, and bond denominations, to the Election Commission (EC) by March 6.
- Additionally, SBI must disclose details of each encashed bond.
- The EC has been instructed to publish the information received from SBI on its official website by March 13.
- Electoral bonds that remain encashed by political parties are to be returned and refunded to the purchasers.

### **What is Electoral Bonds?**

- Electoral bonds are bearer instruments that function as interest-free banking instruments and promissory notes.
- They can be purchased by Indian citizens or Indian-incorporated bodies in denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1,00,000, Rs 10,00,000, and Rs 1,00,00,000 from specified SBI branches.
- These bonds are available for purchase for a limited period in January, April, July, and October, with an additional 30-day period specified by the Central Government in the year of the General election to the House of People.
- The Electoral Bonds Scheme was introduced in 2017 through a Finance bill and implemented in 2018

**173. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in collaboration with the National Institute of Electronics and IT (NIELIT) will host the Future Skills Summit in which city?**

इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय (MeitY) नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एंड आईटी (NIELIT) के सहयोग से किस शहर में फ्यूचर स्किल्स शिखर सम्मेलन की मेजबानी करेगा?

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

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** MeitY to hold first-ever Future Skills Summit in Guwahati

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in collaboration with the National Institute of Electronics and IT (NIELIT) will host the Future Skills Summit in Guwahati.

The event will be inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

The Summit aims to bring together young Indians, thought leaders, industry experts, policymakers, educators, and technology enthusiasts to discuss strategies for catalyzing future-ready talent for India and the world.

The Summit will focus on the impact of rapid digitization globally, emphasizing new opportunities for young Indians in cutting-edge technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Semiconductors, Robotics, and Cybersecurity. These advancements offer significant prospects for the country's youth.



**175. In February 2024, which bank has won seven awards in various categories in the '19th Banking Technology Conference, Expo & Citations 2023' by the Indian Banks Association (IBA) in Mumbai?**

**फरवरी 2024 में, किस बैंक ने मुंबई में भारतीय बैंक संघ (IBA) द्वारा '19वें बैंकिंग प्रौद्योगिकी सम्मेलन, एक्सपो और उद्घरण 2023' में विभिन्न श्रेणियों में सात पुरस्कार जीते हैं?**

- (a) City Union Bank / सिटी यूनियन 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.** City Union Bank wins IBA's banking technology awards

Old private sector lender City Union Bank (CUB) has won seven awards in various categories in the '19th Banking Technology Conference, Expo & Citations 2023' by the Indian Banks Association (IBA) in Mumbai.

The awards aim at recognising the best technology providers in the banking industry and instill competition to demonstrate their state-of-the-art innovative products, and sense of purpose and bring huge value addition in Best Practices for serving the bank's clientele.

Along with his technology team, N Kamakodi, MD & CEO of City Union Bank received the awards from RBI's Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar

#### **About City Union Bank**

- Founded- 1904
- Founders- R. Santhanam Iyer; S. Krishna Iyer; V. Krishnaswami Iyengar
- Headquarters- Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu
- CEO- Dr. N. Kamakodi

**176. Which company has collaborated with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to roll out the 'Credit Lines on UPI' feature on its platform, which will create avenues of financial security and growth for the merchants?**

किस कंपनी ने अपने प्लेटफॉर्म पर 'क्रेडिट लाइन्स ऑन यूपीआई' सुविधा शुरू करने के लिए नेशनल पेमेंट्स कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (एनपीसीआई) के साथ सहयोग किया है, जो व्यापारियों के लिए वित्तीय सुरक्षा और विकास के रास्ते तैयार करेगा?

- (a) PhonePe
- (b) GooglePay
- (c) Paytm
- (d) BHIM
- (e) PayU

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** PayU, NPCI join hands to roll out Credit Lines on UPI' feature

Payments solution provider, PayU has collaborated with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for rolling out of the 'Credit Lines on UPI' feature on its platform, which will create avenues of financial security and growth for the merchants.

The company anticipates over 380 million UPI users to gain easier access to Credit Line.

The enablement of pre-sanctioned Credit Lines by banks through UPI will empower businesses and consumers alike, fostering India's financial inclusion agenda.

As part of integration, PayU will share information about the relevant identifiers related to the type of credit the consumer has undertaken, such as pay-later, personal loans, etc.

#### **Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector**

- SBI partners with Flywire to modernize international education payments for students
- ESAF Small Finance Bank and Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance Partner to Offer Life Insurance
- 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

**177. The 16th conference of the World Social Forum (WSF) 2024 commenced in which city?**

**विश्व सामाजिक मंच (डब्ल्यूएसएफ) 2024 का 16वां सम्मेलन किस शहर में शुरू हुआ?**

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** 16th conference of World Social Forum 2024 commences in Kathmandu

The 16th conference of the World Social Forum (WSF) 2024 commenced in Kathmandu.

The five-day WSF 2024 under the "Another World is Possible" banner aims to open horizontal exchange among civil society organisations, social movements, trade unions and individuals opposing neoliberal globalisation.

The participants of the march carried banners and placards with slogans in support of justice, peace, equality and an end to discrimination.

Various national and international organisations related to different sectors and rights expressed their solidarity in the march.

Some forty thousand people from 92 countries are expected to participate in the WSF.

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**178. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director of Boeing Defence India (BDI)?**

**बोइंग डिफेंस इंडिया (बीडीआई) के प्रबंध निदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Rajnish Kumar / रजनीश कुमार
- (b) Nikhil Joshi / निखिल जोशी
- (c) Deepak Mohanty / दीपक मोहंती
- (d) Tablesh Pandey / तबलेश पांडे
- (e) Siddhartha Mohanty / सिद्धार्थ मोहंती

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Nikhil Joshi appointed as MD of Boeing Defence India

US aerospace major Boeing has appointed Nikhil Joshi as managing director of Boeing Defence India (BDI).

Based in New Delhi, Joshi will lead current and future programmes for BDI to enhance the mission readiness and modernisation of India's defence forces.

Joshi has more than 25 years of aerospace and defence industry experience, including over two decades of service with the Indian armed forces in the aviation branch of the Indian Navy.

### **Recent Appointment**

- **President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** - Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal (72nd)
- **Vice President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** - Charanjot Singh Nanda
- **First Transwoman TTE of Southern Railway** - Sindhu Ganapathy's
- **Department of Health & Family Welfare Secretary** - Apurva Chandra

**179. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of IRCTC?**

**आईआरसीटीसी के नए अध्यक्ष और प्रबंध निदेशक (सीएमडी) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Anshika Singh / अंशिका सिंह
- (b) Sanjay Kumar Jain / संजय कुमार जैन
- (c) Vasudha Gupta / वसुधा गुप्ता
- (d) Ipsita Dasgupta / इप्सिता दासगुप्ता
- (e) Raghu Srinivasan / रघु श्रीनिवासन

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Sanjay Kumar Jain appoints as CMD of IRCTC

Railway PSU IRCTC (Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd) has appointed Sanjay Kumar Jain as its Chairman and Managing Director with immediate effect.

Prior to this role, Jain was Principal Chief Commercial Manager (PCCM) of Northern Railway, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC).

Jain is an Indian Railway Traffic Services (IRTS) Officer of 1990 batch.

A qualified Chartered Accountant (CA), Jain has been at leadership roles in policy making, commercial ventures and developmental ventures of the Government of India and PSUs.

#### **Recent Appointment**

- **President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** - Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal (72nd)
- **Vice President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** - Charanjot Singh Nanda
- **First Transwoman TTE of Southern Railway** - Sindhu Ganapathy's
- **Department of Health & Family Welfare Secretary** - Apurva Chandra
- **Information and Broadcasting Secretary** - Sanjay Jaju

**180. Virendra Bansal has been appointed as the new MD & CEO of which of the following?**

**वीरेंद्र बंसल को निम्न में से किसके नए एमडी और सीईओ के रूप में नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) State Bank of India / भारतीय स्टेट बैंक
- (b) SBI Capital Markets / एसबीआई कैपिटल मार्केट्स
- (c) RuPay / रुपये
- (c) PFRDA / पीएफआरडीए
- (d) SEBI / सेबी

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Virendra Bansal appointed new MD & CEO of SBI Capital Markets

SBI Capital Markets (SBICAPS), a wholly owned subsidiary and investment banking arm of the State Bank of India has appointed Virendra Bansal as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.

He replaces Rajay Kumar Sinha, who has been appointed as the Whole Time Member (Finance and Investment) of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for a period of three years.

Prior to this appointment, Bansal was Country Head for the US Operations of SBI, which included its offices in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Sao Paulo.

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

- **President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** - Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal (72nd)
- **Vice President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** - Charanjot Singh Nanda
- **CEO of Sundaram Asset Management Company** - Anand Radhakrishnan (replace Sunil Subramaniam)
- **MD & CEO of LIC Mutual Fund** - Ravi Kumar Jha
- **Non-executive Chairman of NPCI Board** - Ajay Kumar Choudhary (replace Biswamohan Mahapatra)

**181. Pranam Wahi has been appointed as an additional independent director of which bank for four years?**

**प्रणाम वाही को चार साल के लिए किस बैंक का अतिरिक्त स्वतंत्र निदेशक नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) South Indian Bank / साउथ इंडियन बैंक
- (b) Axis Bank / एक्सिस बैंक
- (c) Yes Bank / यस बैंक
- (d) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (e) ICICI Bank / आईसीआईसीआई बैंक

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Axis Bank appoints Pranam Wahi as Additional Director

The Board of Directors of Axis Bank has appointed Pranam Wahi as an additional independent director of the bank for four years. This appointment is subject to approval of shareholders.

A Chartered Accountant by qualification, Wahi has over 40 years of banking experience across various countries, including India, the United Arab Emirates / GCC, Indonesia, and Singapore, per the Bank's regulatory filing.

Wahi began his career with HSBC in 1982 where he was part of various functions and corporate banking within the HSBC Group in India.

Wahi subsequently joined DBS as CEO India in April 2004. His last position was Managing Director, Senior Risk Executive, DBS Indonesia, before retiring in 2023.

#### **About Axis Bank**

- **Founded** - 1993
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman** - Rakesh Makhija
- **MD & CEO** - Amitabh Chaudhary
- **Tagline** - Badhti Ka naam Zindagi

**182. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur handed over the Chess Olympiad Torch to which country?**

**केंद्रीय युवा मामले और खेल मंत्री अनुराग सिंह ठाकुर ने शतरंज ओलंपियाड मशाल किस देश को सौंपी?**

- (a) Hungary / हंगरी
- (b) Bangladesh / बांग्लादेश
- (c) Oman / ओमान
- (d) Singapore / सिंगापुर
- (e) UAE / यूएई

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Anurag Thakur hands over Chess Olympiad Torch to Hungary

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur handed over the Chess Olympiad Torch to Budapest, Hungary.

Hungary to host 45th edition of the Chess Olympiad.

The transfer of the torch took place at the Major Dhyanchand National Stadium in New Delhi.

The 44th edition of the Chess Olympiad held in Chennai in 2022 witnessed the participation of over 2500 players and 7000 participants globally.



**183. Recently, Rachna Kumari was banned for 12 years for failing multiple dope tests. She is related to which sport?**

हाल ही में रचना कुमारी पर कई डोप टेस्ट में फेल होने के कारण 12 साल का प्रतिबंध लगा दिया गया था। वह किस खेल से संबंधित है?

- (a) Hammer thrower / हथौड़ा फेंकने वाला
- (b) Shotput / गोला फेंक
- (c) Wrestling / कुश्ती
- (d) Wushu / वुशु
- (e) Boxing / बॉक्सिंग

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Indian hammer thrower Rachna Kumari banned for 12 years for doping

The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) has suspended hammer thrower Rachna Kumari for 12 years for a second anti-doping rule violation.

Rachna returned positive results for multiple anabolic androgenic steroids in samples collected out of competition at Patiala on September 24 and on November 1 at the National Games last year.

Rachna had earlier served a four-year suspension from 2015 to 2019. Her current suspension began on November 24.

**184. The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with which company for the manufacturing & supply of a total of 463 indigenously manufactured 12.7 mm Stabilised Remote-Control Guns (SRCG) for the Indian Navy & Indian Coast Guard at a total cost of Rs 1752.13 crores?**

रक्षा मंत्रालय ने 1752.13 करोड़ रुपये की कुल लागत पर भारतीय नौसेना और भारतीय तट रक्षक के लिए कुल 463 स्वदेशी निर्मित 12.7 मिमी स्थिर रिमोट कंट्रोल गन (एसआरसीजी) के निर्माण और आपूर्ति के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ एक अनुबंध पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited / ब्रह्मोस एयरोस्पेस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड
- (b) Larsen & Toubro (L&T) / लार्सन एंड टुब्रो (एल एंड टी)
- (c) Advanced Weapon Equipment India Ltd / एडवांस्ड वेपन इक्विपमेंट इंडिया लिमिटेड
- (d) Tata Advanced Systems / टाटा एडवांस्ड सिस्टम्स
- (e) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) / भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स लिमिटेड (बीईएल)

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** MoD signs contract with AWEIL for 463 Stabilised Remote-Control Guns for Indian Navy & Indian Coast Guard

The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Advanced Weapon Equipment India Ltd (AWEIL), Kanpur for the manufacturing & supply of a total of 463 indigenously manufactured 12.7 mm Stabilised Remote-Control Guns (SRCG) for the Indian Navy & Indian Coast Guard at a total cost of Rs. 1752.13 crores.

The SRCG will enhance the capability of Navy and Coast Guard to accurately engage small targets that post a threat to ships in an asymmetric environment, both by day and night.

This acquisition will provide further boost to the vision of "Aatmanirbharta in Defence".

This contract will also open up a large avenue in defence manufacturing for over 125 Indian Vendors.

**185. World Anthropology Day is observed every year on third \_\_\_\_\_ of February.**

**विश्व मानव विज्ञान दिवस हर साल फरवरी के तीसरे \_\_\_\_\_ को मनाया जाता है।**

- (a) Tuesday
- (b) Wednesday
- (c) Thursday
- (d) Friday
- (e) Saturday

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 15 February - World Anthropology Day

World Anthropology Day is observed every year on the third Thursday in February and this year it is being marked on February 15. To promote the field of anthropology and raise awareness about its significance in understanding human diversity, cultures and societies worldwide.

Anthropology Day was established by the American Anthropological Association (AAA) in 2015 and initially called National Anthropology Day.

It was changed in 2016 to World Anthropology Day as it seemed more appropriate since anthropology is essential to the whole world and not just one nation and the day was a part of AAA's larger efforts to promote the discipline and its contributions to society.

**186. India's first Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) will be started from which state?**

**भारत की पहली हेलीकॉप्टर आपातकालीन चिकित्सा सेवा (HEMS) किस राज्य से शुरू की जाएगी?**

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** India's 1st helicopter emergency medical service to start from Uttarakhand

India's first Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) will be started from Uttarakhand.

All Indian Institute of Medical Science in Rishikesh from where it can be sent anywhere within a radius area of 150 km to airlift the people to the hospital.

HEMS would operate under project 'Sanjeevani'. The helicopter is being assembled at present and is under the certification process.

**About Uttarakhand**

- **Capital** - Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)
- **Chief Minister** - Pushkar Singh Dhama
- **Governor** - Gurmit Singh

**187. Which state government has launched the 'Van Mitra' scheme to encourage community participation in tree-planting activities in non-forest areas?**

किस राज्य सरकार ने गैर-वन क्षेत्रों में वृक्षारोपण गतिविधियों में सामुदायिक भागीदारी को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए 'वन मित्र' योजना शुरू की है?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh / उत्तर प्रदेश
- (b) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (c) Rajasthan / राजस्थान
- (d) Punjab / पंजाब
- (e) Haryana / हरियाणा

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Haryana launched 'Van Mitra' Scheme to Boost Green Cover

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has launched the 'Van Mitra' scheme and its portal to encourage community participation in tree planting activities in non-forest areas.

The members of families with an annual income of less than Rs 1.80 lakh can register to become 'Van Mitras'.

The objective of this scheme is to directly involve the local public in increasing forest areas across the state, ensuring an increase in the survival rate of afforestation, and promoting tree planting in non-forest areas.

Each van mitra will receive an incentive based on the maintenance of the plant and they can plant a maximum of 1,000 saplings. Any individual aged between 18 and 60 can become a van mitra, according to an official statement.

In the first phase of the scheme, the selection of 7500 van mitra will be done through the portal. A van mitra can choose non-forest land for tree planting in their village, town, or city.

In the first year, van mitras will receive Rs 20 for each dug pit upon uploading geo-tagging and photograph of the pit on the mobile app.

They will receive Rs 10 per living plant for the maintenance and security of trees planted.

**About Haryana**

- **Capital** – Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister** – Manohar Lal Khattar
- **Governor** – Bandaru Dattatreya

**188. Who has inaugurated "SUFALAM: Start-Up Forum for Aspiring Leaders and Mentors Startup Conclave 2024"?**

**"सुफलम: स्टार्ट-अप फोरम फॉर एस्पायरिंग लीडर्स एंड मेंटर्स स्टार्टअप कॉन्क्लेव 2024" का उद्घाटन किसने किया है?**

- (a) Pashupati Kumar Paras / पशुपति कुमार पारस
- (b) Piyush Goyal / पीयूष गोयल
- (c) Jitendra Singh / जितेंद्र सिंह
- (d) Sarbananda Sonowal / सर्बानंद सोनोवाल
- (e) G Kishan Reddy / जी किशन रेड्डी

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Pashupati Paras Launches "SUFALAM" For Food Entrepreneurs

Union Minister of Food Processing Pashupati Kumar Paras has inaugurated "SUFALAM: Start-Up Forum for Aspiring Leaders and Mentors Startup Conclave 2024".

This initiative demonstrates the government's unwavering dedication to fostering entrepreneurship and building a supportive ecosystem for startups, which in turn empowers aspiring entrepreneurs in the food processing industry.

**About SUFALAM**

- The Startup Conclave for Food Processing Entrepreneurs has the potential to be a game-changing event, driving the sector towards a future marked by innovation, sustainability, and inclusive growth.
- As startups come together to exhibit their creativity and foresight, the conclave acts as a source of inspiration, encouraging the upcoming generation of food processing leaders to push the limits of what's possible.

**189. Uttar Pradesh government has increased the grant amount for Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana from Rs 15,000 to how much rupees from the financial year 2024-25?**

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 से मुख्यमंत्री कन्या सुमंगला योजना के लिए अनुदान राशि 15,000 रुपये से बढ़ाकर कितने रुपये कर दी है?

- (a) 20,000
- (b) 25,000
- (c) 30,000
- (d) 40,000
- (e) 21,000

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** UP govt. boosts Kanya Sumangala Yojana grant

The Uttar Pradesh government has increased the grant amount for Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 from the financial year 2024-25.

This amount is provided from the birth of daughters up to admission in undergraduate/diploma courses. The increase in grant amount will be effective from April 1.

Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana is a conditional cash transfer scheme that ensures social security to the girl child along with her development. In this scheme girl child can have monetary benefits in six stages.

Notably, in April 2019, the Women's Welfare Department launched the Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana with a multifaceted agenda.

This initiative aims to eradicate female foeticide, foster gender equality, prevent child marriages, enhance the health and education of girls, offer support for their self-reliance, and cultivate a positive societal perception towards girls, among other objectives.

#### **About Uttar Pradesh**

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

**190. Who has inaugurated the newly constructed Kalughat Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) terminal on National Waterways -1 in Bihar?**

**बिहार में राष्ट्रीय जलमार्ग -1 पर नवनिर्मित कालूघाट अंतर्देशीय जलमार्ग परिवहन (IWT) टर्मिनल 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. d**

**Sol.** Sonowal inaugurates Kalughat Inland Waterways Transport terminal in Bihar

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated the newly constructed Kalughat Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) terminal on National Waterways -1 (NW-1) at Kalugaht near Parmanandpur in Saran district in Bihar.

It has been constructed with a worth of 82.48 crore rupees.

It will provide seamless connectivity to vessels from Haldia and Kolkata ports along NW -1.

The new Intermodal Terminal cargo will enhance handling capacity along inland waterways.

#### **Sarbananda Sonowal in News**

- Sarbananda Sonowal laid foundation stone of the **Regional Research Institute for Homoeopathy** at Guwahati
- 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**'



**191. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated the Bagchi Sri Shankara Cancer Centre and Research Institute (BSCCRI) in which city?**

ओडिशा के मुख्यमंत्री नवीन पटनायक ने किस शहर में बागची श्री शंकर कैंसर केंद्र और अनुसंधान संस्थान (बीएससीसीआरआई) का उद्घाटन किया है?

- (a) Cuttack / कटक
- (b) Bhubaneswar / भुवनेश्वर
- (c) Brahmapur / ब्रह्मपुर
- (d) Raurkela / राउरकेला
- (e) Puri / पुरी

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Odisha CM inaugurates Bagchi Sri Shankara Cancer Center in Bhubaneswar

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the Bagchi Sri Shankara Cancer Centre and Research Institute (BSCCRI) in Bhubaneswar.

Objective - To provide quality treatment to patients at an affordable cost.

Set up in association with the Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in Bengaluru with a cost of Rs 410 crore, the new institute has 750 beds for treatment of patients.

It has a facility for providing radiotherapy to 300 patients and chemotherapy to 150 patients every day.

**About Odisha**

- **Capital** – Bhubaneswar
- **Chief Minister** – Naveen Patnaik
- **Governor** – Raghubar Das

**192. South Indian Bank has been honoured with the Best Technology Bank of the Year Award at the 19th IBA Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo, & Citations. The bank's outstanding performance was recognized with how many prestigious awards?**

साउथ इंडियन बैंक को 19वें आईबीए वार्षिक बैंकिंग प्रौद्योगिकी सम्मेलन, एक्सपो और उद्घरण में वर्ष के सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रौद्योगिकी बैंक पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया है। बैंक के उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन को कितने प्रतिष्ठित पुरस्कारों से सम्मानित किया गया है?

- (a) 5
- (b) 6
- (c) 7
- (d) 8
- (e) 9

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** South Indian Bank gets Best Technology Bank of the Year award

South Indian Bank has been honoured with the title of Best Technology Bank of the Year Award at the 19th IBA Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo, & Citations.

The bank's outstanding performance was recognized with a total of six prestigious awards.

In three categories, the bank emerged as the winner, secured the runner-up position in one, and received special mentions in two others.

The awards were presented to PR Seshadri, MD & CEO of South Indian Bank, by T Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, in Mumbai.

#### **About South Indian Bank**

- Founded - 1929
- Headquarters - Thrissur, Kerala
- Chairman - VJ Kurian (replace Salim Gangadharan)
- MD & CEO - PR Seshadri
- Tagline - Experience Next Generation Banking.

**193. With which country's central bank, RBI are planning to integrate their respective fast payment systems for facilitating cross-border remittances?**

किस देश के केंद्रीय बैंक के साथ, RBI सीमा पार प्रेषण की सुविधा के लिए अपने संबंधित तेज़ भुगतान प्रणालियों को एकीकृत करने की योजना बना रहा है?

- (a) China / चीन
- (b) Nepal / नेपाल
- (c) Bhutan / भूटान
- (d) Pakistan / पाकिस्तान
- (e) Iran / ईरान

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India, Nepal sign pact to link UPI, NPI for faster remittances

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Nepal Rastra Bank entered into an agreement integrating the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) of India and the National Payments Interface (NPI) of Nepal for cross-border remittances.

The integration of Indian and Nepalese fast payment systems is aimed at facilitating cross-border remittances between the two countries by enabling users of the two systems to make instant, low-cost fund transfers.

The collaboration between India and Nepal in linking their fast payment systems through the UPI-NPI linkage will deepen financial connectivity and reinforce the enduring historical, cultural, and economic ties between the two countries.

Recently, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and France have enabled the Indian digital payment system -- UPI in these countries.

#### **About Nepal**

- **Capital-** Kathmandu
- **Currency-** Nepalese rupee
- **President-** Ram Chandra Paudel
- **Prime minister-** Pushpa Kamal Dahal

**194. Who has been elected as the Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly?**

**बिहार विधान सभा का अध्यक्ष किसे चुना गया है?**

- (a) Tej Pratap Yadav / तेज प्रताप यादव
- (b) Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar / राजेंद्र विश्वनाथ आर्लेकर
- (c) Samrat Choudhary / सम्राट चौधरी
- (d) Vijay Kumar Sinha / विजय कुमार सिन्हा
- (e) Nand Kishore Yadav / नंद किशोर यादव

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Nand Kishore Yadav elected as Bihar Legislative Assembly Speaker

Senior BJP leader Nand Kishore Yadav was unanimously elected as the Speaker of Bihar Legislative Assembly.

A seventh-time MLA Yadav represents the Patna Sahib assembly constituency. He has also held different departments in the state government.

His political journey commenced in 1978 with his election as a councillor of the Patna Municipal Corporation, eventually becoming the deputy mayor of Patna in 1982.

First elected as an MLA in 1995, Yadav's career has been distinguished by his several tenures as a minister in the Nitish Kumar government, showcasing his versatility and leadership within the state's governance.

**About Bihar**

- **Capital** – Patna
- **Chief Minister** – Nitish Kumar (9<sup>th</sup> time)
- **Deputy CM** - Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha
- **Governor** – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

**195. Prabowo Subianto has been elected as President of which country?**

**प्रबोवो सुबिआंतो को किस देश का राष्ट्रपति चुना गया है?**

- (a) Indonesia / इंडोनेशिया
- (b) Nepal / नेपाल
- (c) Bhutan / भूटान
- (d) Pakistan / पाकिस्तान
- (e) Iran / ईरान

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Prabowo Subianto elected as Indonesia President

Prabowo Subianto emerges victorious in Indonesia's Presidential race, securing nearly 60% of the votes in the first round.

His military background and alignment with President Joko Widodo's policies propel him to a clear-cut victory, sparking positive reactions in Indonesian markets.

**About Indonesia**

- Capital - Jakarta
- Currency - Rupiah
- Official language - Indonesian
- President - Prabowo Subianto

**Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President**

- President of Finland - Alexander Stubb
- Prime Minister of Kazakhstan - Olzhas Bektenov
- Prime Minister of Yemen - Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak
- President of El Salvador - Nayib Bukele (2<sup>nd</sup> time)
- Sultan of Malaysia - Ibrahim Iskandar

**196. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the deadline for restrictions on deposit and credit transactions of Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने पेटीएम पेमेंट्स बैंक लिमिटेड (PPBL) के जमा और क्रेडिट लेनदेन पर प्रतिबंध की समय सीमा \_\_\_\_\_ तक बढ़ा दी है।**

- (a) 29 February 2024
- (b) 15 March 2024
- (c) 1 April 2024
- (d) 15 April 2024
- (e) 1 May 2024

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** RBI extends deadline for Paytm Payments Bank restrictions to March 15

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the deadline for restrictions on deposit and credit transactions of Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) to March 15, 2024 stating that customers and merchants might require "a little more time to make alternative arrangements.

The earlier deadline was February 29.

The regulator has clarified that merchants can accept payments using Paytm QR code, soundbox or point of sale (PoS) terminal even after March 15, if the receipt or transfer of funds are linked to any banks other than PPBL.

Merchants, however, cannot transact after March 15 if the QR code, PoS, and sound box are linked to PPBL.

It was also clarified that PPBL could not offer any banking services, including unified payments interface (UPI) facility after March 15 — the deadline of which was February 29 earlier. No money transfers into PPBL accounts via UPI is not allowed after March 15.

**197. Which edition of the MILAN naval exercise will be held in Visakhapatnam from February 19-27?**

**मिलन नौसैनिक अभ्यास का कौन सा संस्करण 19-27 फरवरी तक विशाखापत्तनम में आयोजित किया जाएगा?**

- (a) 10th
- (b) 11th
- (c) 12th
- (d) 13th
- (e) 14th

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 12th Edition of MILAN Naval Exercise will be held in Visakhapatnam

The 12th edition of the MILAN naval exercise will be held in Visakhapatnam from February 19-27, with over 50 countries participating.

The "Forging Naval Alliances for a Secure Maritime Future" is the theme of the exercise which aims to facilitate collaboration and idea-sharing among participating navies to enhance security on the high seas.

Its primary objective is to ensure the safety of maritime trade for the benefit of all stakeholders.

The previous edition of the exercise was held in Visakhapatnam under the Eastern Naval Command and had the theme 'Camaraderie-Cohesion-Collaboration'.

#### **Recent Exercise**

- 12th edition of **MILAN Naval Exercise** – Visakhapatnam
- Indian Air Force conduct **Exercise Vayu Shakti-2024** - Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- 1st edition of **Military Exercise - SADA TANSEEQ** between India & Saudi Arabia - Rajasthan
- **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

**198. Ravichandran Ashwin has become the \_\_\_\_\_ Indian and \_\_\_\_\_ bowler in the world to take 500 wickets in Test history.**  
**रविचंद्रन अश्विन टेस्ट इतिहास में 500 विकेट लेने वाले \_\_\_\_\_ भारतीय और दुनिया के \_\_\_\_\_ गेंदबाज बन गए हैं।**

- (a) second, fifth
- (b) second, ninth
- (c) first, fifth
- (d) first, ninth
- (e) third, fifth

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** R Ashwin joins elite 500 test wicket club

Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has claimed his 500th Test wicket in the first innings of the third Test match against England at the Niranjan Shah Stadium in Rajkot.

The 37-year-old achieved this monumental feat in his 98th Test Match. Ashwin dismissed Zak Crawley in the second day to join Anil Kumble as the second Indian to take 500 wickets in Test history.

Ashwin is the ninth bowler in Test history to reach 500 wickets and Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne, Anil Kumble, and Nathan Lyon are the only spinners who have taken more wickets than him in Test history.

Ashwin joins fellow spinners Muttiah Muralitharan (Sri Lanka - 800), the late Shane Warne (Australia - 708), Kumble and Nathan Lyon (Australia - 517) in the club.

 **ambitious baba**  
.COM



**199. Global Tourism Resilience Day is observed every year on which day**  
**वैश्विक पर्यटन लचीलापन दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 16 February / 16 फरवरी
- (b) 17 February / 17 फरवरी
- (c) 18 February / 18 फरवरी
- (d) 19 February / 19 फरवरी
- (e) 20 February / 20 फरवरी

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 17 February - Global Tourism Resilience Day

Global Tourism Resilience Day is observed every year on 17 February.

Objective - To raise awareness about the significance of resilient tourism.

Theme 2024 - Resilient Tourism: Building Back Better

**What is tourism resilience?**

- Tourism is a sector that is particularly vulnerable to climate change and other natural disasters.
- The term "tourism resilience" is used to describe a tourist destination's capacity to withstand and recover from a crisis.
- There are many initiatives and programs that need to be put in place at the local, state, and global levels to help the tourism sector become more resilient.

**200. Kavita Chaudhary passed away recently at the age of 67. Who was she?**

**कविता चौधरी का हाल ही में 67 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह कौन थीं?**

- (a) Writer / लेखक
- (b) Politician / राजनेता
- (c) Actor / अभिनेता
- (d) Social Worker / सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता
- (e) Historian / इतिहासकार

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Udaan' actor Kavita Chaudhary Passes Away

Kavita Chaudhary, known for her 1989 superhit TV show, 'Udaan', and for playing Lalita-ji in the iconic Surf ads, died at the age of 67.

Kavita Chaudhary was best known for her portrayal of IPS officer Kalyani Singh in Udaan a progressive show about women empowerment, which ran on Doordarshan between 1989 and 1991.

Besides starring, she wrote and directed the serial, which was inspired by the life of her elder sister and police officer Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya.

**201. India and which country have signed an MoU on cooperation 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) Mangolia / मंगोलिया
- (b) Ghana / घाना
- (c) Colombia / कोलंबिया
- (d) Namibia / नामीबिया
- (e) Oman / ओमान

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India, Colombia sign MoU on Cooperation in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions

India and Colombia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions Implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation.

It was signed between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Information Technologies and Communications of Colombia.

These infrastructures constitute a set of shared digital systems that are secure and interoperable. They can be built on open standards to deliver and provide equitable access to public and private services.

**Recently India signed MoUs with others countries**

- India and Oman signed MoU on defence sector
- India and Oman signed MoU on IT Cooperation
- 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

**202. Arunachal Pradesh has achieved 100 percent saturation in 'Har Ghar Jal' scheme under the Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The state has become \_\_\_\_\_ in the northeast and \_\_\_\_\_ state in the country to achieve a cent per cent saturation under the central government sponsored scheme.**

अरुणाचल प्रदेश ने केंद्र के जल जीवन मिशन (जेजेएम) के तहत 'हर घर जल' योजना में 100 प्रतिशत संतृप्ति हासिल की है। केंद्र सरकार प्रायोजित योजना के तहत शत-प्रतिशत संतृप्ति हासिल करने वाला राज्य पूर्वोत्तर में \_\_\_\_\_ और देश में \_\_\_\_\_ राज्य बन गया है।

- (a) first, tenth / पहला, दसवां
- (b) first, eleventh / प्रथम, ग्यारहवां
- (c) second, tenth / दूसरा, दसवां
- (d) third, tenth / तीसरा, दसवां
- (e) third, ninth / तीसरा, नौवां

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Arunachal Pradesh achieves 100% coverage under Har Ghar Jal

Arunachal Pradesh has achieved 100 percent saturation in 'Har Ghar Jal' scheme under the Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The state has become the first in the northeast and tenth in the country to achieve a cent per cent saturation under the central government sponsored scheme.

The Centre's share for the scheme in the state was ₹ 3,965.41 crore, while the state contributed ₹ 455.51 crore to complete the project, ensuring every household gets clean and safe piped water.

Launched in 2019 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections to all households in rural India by 2024.

### **About Arunachal Pradesh**

- **Capital** – Itanagar
- **Chief Minister** – Pema Khandu
- **Governor** – LG (Retd) Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik

**203. According to Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, which state has recorded the highest number of vehicle sales in October-December 2023?**

**सोसाइटी ऑफ इंडियन ऑटोमोबाइल मैनुफैक्चरर्स के अनुसार, अक्टूबर-दिसंबर 2023 में किस राज्य में सबसे अधिक वाहन बिक्री दर्ज की गई है?**

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

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** UP emerges as top state in total vehicle sales, Maharashtra 2nd: SIAM

Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of vehicle sales in October-December 2023, followed by Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, according to Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers.

As per data from SIAM, Uttar Pradesh clocked a total sale of 8,22,472 units across passenger and commercial vehicles; and two and three-wheeler categories. In two-wheeler category, Uttar Pradesh topped the list followed by Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh & Tamil Nadu. Maharashtra was second with 6,88,192 units across the four categories followed by Gujarat with 4,21,026 units and Tamil Nadu 4,19,189 units in the quarter.

Uttar Pradesh witnessed the highest number of three-wheelers sold in the quarter at 23,859 units, followed by Maharashtra (20,495), Gujarat (19,743) and Bihar (14,955).

Similarly, in the two-wheeler category, Uttar Pradesh topped the list with a total of 6,73,962 units sold in the state, followed by Maharashtra (5,15,612), Madhya Pradesh (3,35,478) and Tamil Nadu (3,24,918).

However, in passenger vehicle sales, Maharashtra clocked the highest sales with 1,21,030 units, followed by Uttar Pradesh (1,01,568), Gujarat (85,599) and Karnataka (71,549).

In the commercial vehicles category also, Maharashtra topped the list with 31,055 units, followed by Uttar Pradesh (23,083), Gujarat (20,391) and Karnataka (16,966).

**204. In February 2024, which bank has launched a self-subscribing journey for enrolment under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) schemes for its customers?**

**फरवरी 2024 में, किस बैंक ने अपने ग्राहकों के लिए प्रधानमंत्री जीवन ज्योति बीमा योजना (PMJJBY) और प्रधानमंत्री सुरक्षा बीमा योजना (PMSBY) योजनाओं के तहत नामांकन के लिए स्व-सदस्यता यात्रा शुरू की है?**

- (a) State Bank of India / भारतीय स्टेट बैंक
- (b) Punjab National Bank / पंजाब नेशनल बैंक
- (c) UCO Bank / यूको बैंक
- (d) Indian Bank / इंडियन बैंक
- (e) Canara Bank / केनरा बैंक

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** SBI launches digital enrolment for PMJJBY and PMSBY Schemes

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a self-subscribing journey for enrolment under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) schemes for its customers.

The facility will provide impetus to the Indian Government's drive of covering all eligible citizens under PMJJBY & PMSBY schemes.

The functionality enables customers to enrol under the schemes as per their convenience without visiting the branch or Customer Service Point.

The customer needs to key in the account number, date of birth on Jan Suraksha portal and to select the Bank. The Certificate of Insurance is generated instantly on payment of premium.

PMJJBY is a one-year cover term life insurance scheme, renewable from year to year, offering life insurance cover for death due to any cause.

PMSBY is an accident insurance scheme offering accidental death and disability cover for death or disability on account of an accident.

**About State Bank of India (SBI)**

- **Founded** - 1 July 1955
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman** - Dinesh Kumar Khara
- **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

**205. According to Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) data, which state tops the country in terms of public electric vehicle charging stations with 5,059?**

ऊर्जा दक्षता ब्यूरो (बीईई) के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, सार्वजनिक इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन चार्जिंग स्टेशनों के मामले में कौन सा राज्य 5,059 के साथ देश में शीर्ष पर है?

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

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Karnataka boasts highest number of EV charging stations in India: BEE

Karnataka tops the country in terms of public electric vehicle charging stations with 5,059, according to statistics from the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Union Ministry of Power.

Bengaluru Urban District has the most public charging stations with 4,281, which constitutes 85% of the charging infrastructure in the State.

In 2017, Karnataka became the pioneer in India by introducing the first electric vehicle (EV) policy.

At present, it leads in the number of public charging stations, with Maharashtra (3,079), Delhi (1,886), Kerala (958), Tamil Nadu (643), Uttar Pradesh (583), and Rajasthan (500) following suit.

Meanwhile, in terms of the number of EVs, Uttar Pradesh is top with 7.45 lakh, followed by Maharashtra (4.15 lakh), and Karnataka (3.31 lakh).

The State government, last year, in a bid to create a robust electric vehicle ecosystem in Karnataka, unveiled a revised draft EV policy (2023-28), which aims to attract ₹50,000 crore in investment while creating job opportunities for one lakh people.

In Karnataka, the registered number of EVs has increased from 9,703 in 2020 to 33,306 in 2021, 95,892 in 2022, and 1.52 lakh in 2023.

**About Karnataka**

- **Capital** – Bengaluru
- **Chief Minister** –Siddaramaiah
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - DK Shivakumar
- **Governor** – Thawar Chand Gehlo

**206. In February 2024, which of the following has reconstituted the Expert Committee on the implementation of Ind AS/IFRS?**

**फरवरी 2024 में, निम्नलिखित में से किसने Ind AS/IFRS के कार्यान्वयन पर विशेषज्ञ समिति का पुनर्गठन किया है?**

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

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** IRDAI reconstitutes expert committee for Ind AS/IFRS implementation

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has announced the reconstitution of the Expert Committee on the implementation of Ind AS/IFRS.

The 13-member committee, which will be headed by the Member (Finance and Investment) F&I of IRDAI, will also include the Chairman of the Accounting Standards Board (ASB) of ICAI, the President of the Institute of Actuaries of India (IAI), the CGM & HOD of IRDAI's Actuarial Department, among others.

The committee will work on steps that may be taken towards the effective implementation of the Indian Accounting Standards, along with giving phase-wise time-lines.

The panel members will also give recommendations on proforma financial statements, suggestions on financial disclosures in compliance with the Indian Accounting Standards, along with those which can be mandated with immediate effect.

The committee will also address the requirements of guidance notes, APS, and Education Material from respective professional institutes.



**207. Fintech firm One97 Communications -- owner of the brand Paytm -- has shifted its nodal account to which bank from Paytm Payments Bank?**

**फिनटेक फर्म वन97 कम्युनिकेशंस - ब्रांड पेटीएम के मालिक - ने अपना नोडल खाता पेटीएम पेमेंट्स बैंक से किस बैंक में स्थानांतरित कर दिया 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. b**

**Sol.** Paytm shifts nodal account to Axis Bank for seamless transactions

Fintech firm One97 Communications -- owner of the brand Paytm -- has shifted its nodal account to Axis Bank from Paytm Payments Bank.

The move will allow continuity of Paytm QR, Soundbox, and card machine after the March 15 set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as per a regulatory filing.

The company has also shifted its nodal account to Axis Bank (by opening an escrow account) to continue seamless merchant settlements as before.

This arrangement is expected to seamlessly replace the nodal account that OCL was using with Paytm Payments Bank.

The nodal account of Paytm is like a master account in which all its customers, and merchant transactions are settled.

**208. Which insurance company has launched the "Amritbaal" insurance plan for children?**

**किस बीमा कंपनी ने बच्चों के लिए "अमृतबाल" बीमा योजना शुरू 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 launched 'Amritbaal' plan for children

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched "Amritbaal", an insurance plan for children.

The new "non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings, life insurance" plan is specifically designed to have an adequate corpus to meet the higher education and other needs of a child.

The minimum sum assured (SA) for this policy is ₹2 lakh and there is no maximum SA (subject to underwriting decision).

This policy will facilitate the accumulation of corpus through guaranteed additions at the rate of ₹80 per thousand basic sum assured at the end of each policy year from the inception till the end of the policy term, provided the policy is in force.

The minimum and maximum age at entry is 30 days (completed) to 13 years (last birthday), respectively. The minimum and maximum age at maturity are 18 years (last birthday) and 25 years (last birthday), respectively.

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

- Karnataka Bank launched its centenary campaign '**Bharat Ka Karnataka Bank**'
- LIC launched new plan policy "**Index Plus**"
- HDFC Bank launched 4 SME credit cards "**BizFirst, BizGrow, BizPower, and BizBlack**" for entrepreneurs, freelancers, and professionals
- SBI Life Insurance launched two products— '**SBI Life - Saral Swadhan Supreme**' and '**SBI Life - Smart Swadhan Supreme**'.
- LIC launched new saving and annuity plan **Jeevan Dhara II**.

**209. Who will take over as Non-Executive Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank after G. C. Chaturvedi's term ends on 30 June 2024?**

**30 जून 2024 को जी.सी.चतुर्वेदी का कार्यकाल समाप्त होने के बाद ICICI बैंक के गैर-कार्यकारी अंशकालिक अध्यक्ष के रूप में कौन कार्यभार संभालेगा?**

- (a) Rajnish Kumar / रजनीश कुमार
- (b) Pradeep Kumar Sinha / प्रदीप कुमार सिन्हा
- (c) Deepak Mohanty / दीपक मोहंती
- (d) Tablesh Pandey / तबलेश पांडे
- (e) Siddhartha Mohanty / सिद्धार्थ मोहंती

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Pradeep Kumar Sinha to take over as Non-Executive Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank

Former Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha will take over as Non-Executive Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank after G. C. Chaturvedi's term ends on 30 June 2024.

The Bank's Board, has approved the appointment of Sinha as an Additional (Independent) Director for a period of five years, with immediate effect subject to the approval of shareholders.

Sinha joined the Indian Administrative Service (Uttar Pradesh in 1977).

He served as the Cabinet Secretary (from June 2015) for more than four years before moving to the Prime Minister's Office. He retired from there in March 2021.

#### **About Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) Bank**

- **Founded** - 1994
- **Headquarters** – Mumbai
- **MD & CEO** - Sandeep Bakhshi
- **Tagline** - Hum Hai Na Khayal Apka

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

- **Additional Director of Axis Bank** - Pranam Wahi
- **MD & CEO of SBI Capital Markets** - Virendra Bansal (replace Rajay Kumar Sinha)
- **President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** - Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal (72nd)
- **Vice President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** - Charanjot Singh Nanda
- **CEO of Sundaram Asset Management Company** - Anand Radhakrishnan (replace Sunil Subramaniam)

**210. Rizwan Javed was banned from all cricket for 17.5 years for his part in match-fixing attempts during the 2021 Abu Dhabi T10 League. For which country does he play cricket?**

**2021 अबू धाबी टी10 लीग के दौरान मैच फिक्सिंग के प्रयासों में भाग लेने के कारण रिजवान जावेद को सभी क्रिकेट से 17.5 साल का प्रतिबंध लगा दिया गया। वह किस देश के लिए क्रिकेट खेलते हैं?**

- (a) Pakistan / पाकिस्तान
- (b) Bangladesh / बांग्लादेश
- (c) Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया
- (d) UK / यूके
- (e) Bangladesh / बांग्लादेश

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** ICC bans UK cricketer Rizwan Javed for over 17.5 years for Match-Fixing

A UK club cricketer, Rizwan Javed received a 17.5 years ban from all cricket due to his participation in match-fixing attempts during the 2021 Abu Dhabi T10 League.

Authorities enforced the ban on September 19, 2023, as Javed failed to address charges related to his involvement in the league.

Javed was among eight players and officials charged by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on behalf of the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) in September last year.

Bangladesh all-rounder Nasir Hossain received charges and is currently serving a two-year ban.

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**211. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully launched INSAT-3DS satellite from SDSC-SHAR from Sriharikota. It is a which type of satellite?**

**भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO) ने श्रीहरिकोटा से SDSC-SHAR से INSAT-3DS उपग्रह को सफलतापूर्वक लॉन्च किया है। यह किस प्रकार का उपग्रह है?**

- (a) Astronomical satellites
- (b) Defence Satellite
- (c) Geostationary satellite
- (d) Meteorological satellite
- (e) None of above

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** ISRO launched INSAT-3DS Satellite from Sriharikota

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully launched meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS with the GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS mission from SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota.

This will help in enhancing the weather forecast.

This was ISRO's second success in the current calendar after the launch of XPoSAT from Sriharikota on January 1 in PSLV's 60th flight.

The GSLV-F14 - blasted from the second launch pad - was the 16th flight of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).

This was the seventh operational flight of a GSLV with an indigenous cryogenic state. The 51.7 m tall rocket with a lift-off mass of 420 tonnes, with indigenous cryogenic stages, placed the INSAD-3DS satellite weighing 2,274 kg into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.

**About INSAT-3DS**

- INSAT-3DS Satellite is a follow-on mission of Third Generation Meteorological Satellite from geostationary orbit.
- It is designed for enhanced meteorological observations and monitoring of land and ocean surfaces for weather forecasting and disaster warning.
- The satellite will augment the Meteorological services along with the presently operational INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR satellites.

**About GSLV-F14**

- GSLV is a three-stage 51.7 m long launch vehicle with a liftoff mass of 420 tonnes.
- The first stage (GS1) comprises a solid propellant (S139) motor having a 139-tonne propellant and four earth-storable propellant stages (L40) strap-ons, each carrying 40 tonnes of liquid propellant.
- The second stage (GS2) was also an earth-storable propellant stage loaded with 40-ton propellant. The third stage (GS3) was a cryogenic stage with a 15-ton propellant loading of liquid oxygen (LOX) and liquid hydrogen (LH2).

**212. Renowned Urdu poet Gulzar and Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya have been named the recipients of \_\_\_ Jnanpith Award.**

**प्रसिद्ध उर्दू कवि गुलज़ार और संस्कृत विद्वान जगद्गुरु रामभद्राचार्य को \_\_\_ ज्ञानपीठ पुरस्कार के प्राप्तकर्ता के रूप में नामित किया गया है।**

- (a) 56th
- (b) 57th
- (c) 58th
- (d) 59th
- (e) 60th

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Gulzar and Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Awarded Prestigious Jnanpith Award 2023

Renowned Urdu poet Gulzar and Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya have been named the recipients of the 58th Jnanpith Award 2023.

Sampooran Singh Kalra, popularly known as Gulzar, 89, is celebrated for his works in Hindi cinema and is considered one of the finest Urdu poets of this era. Rambhadracharya, 74, the founder and head of Tulsi Peeth in Chitrakoot, is a renowned Hindu spiritual leader, educator and writer of more than 240 books and texts, including four epics.

Gulzar received Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu in 2002, Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2013, Padma Bhushan in 2004, and at least five National Film awards for his works.

Rambhadracharya is one of the present four Jagadguru Ramanandacharyas of the Ramananda sect and has been holding this position since 1982. In 2015, he received the Padma Vibhushan award.

Goan writer Damodar Mauzo received the prestigious award for 2022.

This is the second time the award is being given for Sanskrit language and the fifth time for Urdu language.

#### **About Jnanpith Award**

- Established in 1961, the Jnanpith Award is given annually for outstanding contributions to Indian literature.
- The award carries a prize money of Rs 21 lakh, a statue of Vagdevi and a citation.
- The recipients for the award were decided by a selection committee chaired by Jnanpith awardee Pratibha Rai.

**213. World Human Spirit Day is observed every year on which day?**

**विश्व मानव आत्मा दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 16 February / 16 फरवरी
- (b) 17 February / 17 फरवरी
- (c) 18 February / 18 फरवरी
- (d) 19 February / 19 फरवरी
- (e) 20 February / 20 फरवरी

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 17 February - World Human Spirit Day

World Human Spirit Day is observed on 17 February each year.

It is a day to reflect on the human spirit and reconnect with our sense of awe and purpose.

The holiday was first established in 2003 by Michael Levy, and it is now more commonly associated with meditation and mindfulness as a way to induce relaxation and reconnect with our true selves.

**214. World Whale Day is observed every year on the third \_\_\_\_\_ of February.**

**विश्व व्हेल दिवस हर साल फरवरी के तीसरे \_\_\_\_\_ को मनाया जाता है।**

- (a) Sunday
- (b) Monday
- (c) Tuesday
- (d) Wednesday
- (e) Saturday

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 18 February 2024 - World Whale Day

World Whale Day is observed every year on the third Sunday of February. This year, the day falls on February 18. This day seeks to appreciate these aquatic creatures that are an important part of the ecosystem. It also goes beyond that and draws attention to the man-made challenges that have erupted making marine life difficult. Whales are not just marvels of the natural world; they are essential players in the Earth's environmental health. Their contribution to carbon capture is immense, with the International Monetary Fund valuing their ecosystem service at \$1 trillion.

Furthermore, whales bolster phytoplankton growth, which is crucial for oxygen production and carbon dioxide capture, thereby playing a vital role in combating climate change and maintaining marine biodiversity.



**215. Suhani Bhatnagar passed away recently at the age of 19. Who was she?**

**सुहानी भटनागर का हाल ही में 19 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह कौन थीं?**

- (a) Writer / लेखक
- (b) Magician / जादूगर
- (c) Actress / अभिनेत्री
- (d) Social Worker / सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता
- (e) Sculptor / मूर्तिकार

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Young 'Dangal' Star Suhani Bhatnagar passes away

Suhani Bhatnagar, who played young Babita Kumari Phogat in Aamir Khan's 'Dangal', died.

She was 19.

Suhani became a household name after playing young Babita Kumari Phogat in the 2016 film, 'Dangal'. She shared screen space with Aamir Khan, Sakshi Tanwar, and Zaira Wasim.

**216. The government of India has increased the authorized capital of Food Corporation of India (FCI) from ₹10,000 crore to how much crore to enhance the operational capabilities and fulfill its mandate effectively?**

भारत सरकार ने परिचालन क्षमताओं को बढ़ाने और अपने जनादेश को प्रभावी ढंग से पूरा करने के लिए भारतीय खाद्य निगम (FCI) की अधिकृत पूंजी ₹10,000 करोड़ से बढ़ाकर कितने करोड़ कर दी है?

- (a) 11,000 cr
- (b) 15,000 cr
- (c) 21,000 cr
- (d) 20,000 cr
- (e) 25,000 cr

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Government raises authorized capital of FCI from Rs 10,000 cr to Rs 21,000 cr

The government of India has increased the authorized capital of state-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) from ₹10,000 crore to ₹21,000 crore to enhance the operational capabilities and fulfill its mandate effectively.

FCI is the central government's nodal agency that undertakes the procurement of foodgrains at a minimum support price (MSP) to protect the interest of farmers. It also maintains strategic stocks and distributes the grains under different welfare schemes.

The increase in the authorized capital will reduce the interest burden, decrease the economic cost and ultimately affecting the government subsidy positively.

These measures are essential not only for reducing post-harvest losses but also for ensuring efficient distribution of food grains to consumers.

#### **About FCI**

- The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- It was set up in 1965 following the enactment of the Food Corporation Act, 1964.
- It was set up in 1965 with its initial headquarters at Chennai. Later this was moved to New Delhi.

**217. Who has launched the 'Sagar Aankalan' guidelines for the Indian port performance index to boost their efficiency and improve competitiveness?**

भारतीय बंदरगाह प्रदर्शन सूचकांक की दक्षता बढ़ाने और प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता में सुधार के लिए 'सागर आंकलन' दिशानिर्देश किसने लॉन्च किए हैं?

- (a) Anurag Thakur / 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.** Govt launches 'Sagar Aankalan' guidelines to boost efficiency, competitiveness

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has launched the 'Sagar Aankalan' guidelines for the Indian port performance index to boost their efficiency and improve competitiveness. The 'Sagar Aankalan' guidelines for National Benchmarking of Indian Ports Performance will be enforced across all seaports in India, with goal of boosting their efficiency and competitiveness.

India has 13 major ports - Deendayal (Kandla), Mumbai, Mormugao, New Mangalore, Cochin, Chennai, Ennore (Kamarajar), Tuticorin (V O Chidambaranar), Visakhapatnam, Paradip and Kolkata (including Haldia) and Jawaharlal Nehru Port.

The Union shipping ministry has also drawn up an action plan to speed up the implementation of agreements signed at the Global Maritime India Summit 2023.

During GMIS 2023, 360 MoUs were signed with an investment commitment of Rs 8.35 lakh crore and the announcement of additional investible projects worth Rs 1.68 lakh crore.

### **Sarbananda Sonowal in News**

- Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates **Kalughat Inland Waterways Transport terminal** in Bihar
- Sarbananda Sonowal laid foundation stone of the **Regional Research Institute for Homoeopathy** at Guwahati
- 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**

**218. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of Shri Kalki Dham temple in which state?**

**प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने किस राज्य में श्री कल्कि धाम मंदिर की आधारशिला रखी है?**

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

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** PM Modi lays foundation stone of Kalki Dham temple in UP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of Shri Kalki Dham temple in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal.

The construction of Shri Kalki Dham is overseen by the Shri Kalki Dham Nirman Trust, led by its chairman Acharya Pramod Krishnam.

The Prime Minister also inaugurate over 14,000 projects valued at more than ₹10 lakh crore across the state.

These projects stem from investment proposals received during the UP Global Investors Summit 2023 (UPGIS 2023) held the previous year.

**About Uttar Pradesh**

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

**219. The 11th International Puppet Festival begins in which city?**

**11वाँ अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कठपुतली महोत्सव किस शहर में शुरू हुआ?**

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

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 11th International Puppet Festival begins in Chandigarh

The 11th International Puppet Festival was inaugurated at Tagore Theatre in Chandigarh.

The festival's inauguration was presided over by the Governor of Punjab and Administrator UT Chandigarh, Banwarilal Purohit, along with Rajeev Verma, Adviser to the Administrator.

The festival started with a mesmerizing performance by the Novosibirsk Regional Puppet Theatre from Russia, presenting the renowned puppet show "Petrushka."

**220. Which bank has been authorized by the West Bengal government to collect tax and non-tax receipts on its behalf?**

**पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार ने किस बैंक को अपनी ओर से कर और गैर-कर रसीदें एकत्र करने के लिए अधिकृत किया है?**

- (a) ICICI Bank / आईसीआईसीआई बैंक
- (b) Axis Bank / एक्सिस बैंक
- (c) IndusInd Bank / इंडसइंड बैंक
- (d) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (e) Bandhan Bank / बंधन बैंक

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Bandhan Bank authorised to collected revenues of West Bengal govt

Private lender Bandhan Bank has been authorised by the West Bengal government to collect tax and non-tax receipts on its behalf.

The mandate will enable the bank to collect revenues through the Government Receipt Portal System (GRIPS).

By virtue of this mandate, people will be able to pay various taxes like property tax, motor vehicle tax and professional tax using this portal.

GRIPS is an online internet-based platform for making various tax and non-tax payments to the West Bengal government.

**About Bandhan Bank**

- **Founded** - 2001
- **Founder** - Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- **Headquarters** - Kolkata
- **MD & CEO** - Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- **Chairperson** - Anup Kumar Sinha

**221. Which country tested the new surface-to-sea missile "Padsuri-6"?**

**किस देश ने सतह से समुद्र तक मार करने वाली नई मिसाइल "पदसूरी-6" का परीक्षण किया?**

- (a) South Korea / दक्षिण कोरिया
- (b) North Korea / उत्तर कोरिया
- (c) Japan / जापान
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) China / चीन

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** North Korea launched new surface-to-sea missiles

North Korea test-launched the new surface-to-sea missiles, "Padasuri-6".

The missile hit a target after launch over waters in the East Sea for around 1400 seconds, or 23 minutes and 20 seconds.

The missile seems to be designed to counter the naval capabilities of South Korea and the United States, such as U.S. aircraft carriers.

**About North Korea**

- **Capital** - Pyongyang
- **Currency** - won
- **President** - Kim Jong-un

**222. Who has been appointed as the Joint Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank?**

**कोटक महिंद्रा बैंक के संयुक्त प्रबंध निदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Paul Parambi / पॉल परम्बी
- (b) Milind Nagnur / मिलिंद नागनूर
- (c) Devang Gheewalla / देवांग घीवाला
- (d) KVS Manian / केवीएस मणियन
- (e) Shanti Ekambaram / शांति एकंबरम

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** KVS Manian appointed as JMD of Kotak Mahindra Bank

KVS Manian has been appointed as the Joint Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank, with effect from 1 March.

Manian was serving as the whole-time Director and key managerial personnel of the bank.

Shanti Ekambaram, who is currently a whole-time Director, has been appointed as the Deputy MD with effect from March 1, 2024.

The current Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Devang Gheewalla has been appointed as the President and Group Chief Financial Officer with effect from April 1, 2024.

The bank has appointed Milind Nagnur as the Chief Operating Officer of the Bank, with effect from April 1, 2024. He is currently the Chief Technology Officer of the Bank.

Another member, Paul Parambi, currently the Chief Risk Officer of the Bank, has been promoted to the position of Group Chief Risk Officer with effect from March 1, 2024.

**Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- **Non-Executive Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank** - Pradeep Kumar Sinha (replace G. C. Chaturvedi; effect from 30 June 2024)
- **Additional Director of Axis Bank** - Pranam Wahi
- **MD & CEO of SBI Capital Markets** - Virendra Bansal (replace Rajay Kumar Sinha)
- **President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** - Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal (72nd)
- **Vice President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** - Charanjot Singh Nanda



**223. The Punjab Chief Electoral Officer's office has designated which Indian cricketer as a "state icon" for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls?**

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਮੁੱਖ ਨਿਰਵਾਚਨ ਅਧਿਕਾਰੀ ਕਾਰਜਾਲਯ ਨੇ ਆਗਾਮੀ ਲੋਕਸਭਾ ਚੁਨਾਵਾਂ ਕੇ ਲਿਏ ਕਿਸ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਕ੍ਰਿਕੇਟਰ ਕੋ "ਰਾਜਯ ਆਇਕਨ" ਕੇ ਰੂਪ ਮੇਂ ਨਾਮਿਤ ਕਿਆ ਹੈ?

- (a) Virat Kohli / विराट कोहली
- (b) Rohit Sharma / रोहित शर्मा
- (c) Shubman Gill / शुबमन गिल
- (d) Rishabh Pant / ऋषभ पंत
- (e) Suryakumar Yadav / सूर्यकुमार यादव

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Shubman Gill designated as Punjab 'state icon' for Lok Sabha polls

The Punjab Chief Electoral Officer's office has designated Indian cricketer Shubman Gill as a "state icon" for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

Gill will engage in various campaigns aimed at voter awareness to ensure a voting percentage of 70 per cent.

The poll panel has set the target of "Is Vaar 70 Paar".

Punjab had recorded a voter turnout of 65.96 in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls for the 13 seats.

**About Punjab**

- **Capital** – Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister** – Bhagwant Mann
- **Governor** – Banwarilal Purohit

**224. With which country NASA will launch the world's first wooden satellite "LingnoSat" in 2024?**

**नासा किस देश साथ मिलकर २०२४ में दुनिया का पहला लकड़ी का उपग्रह लिंग्नोसैट लॉन्च करेगा?**

- (a) India / भारत
- (b) USA / यूएसए
- (c) Japan / जापान
- (d) Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया
- (e) Germany / जर्मनी

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** NASA, Japan to launch world's 1st wooden satellite soon

Japan and the US are planning to launch the world's first wooden satellite, the LingnoSat, into space in 2024.

This unusual spacecraft is made up of Magnolia wood which, during the experiments, was found to be particularly stable and resistant to cracking.

The wooden satellite was created by Japanese scientists and now the US has become a part of their mission as they finalized the satellite to be launched on a US rocket.

The researchers at Kyoto University in collaboration with the logging company Sumitomo Forestry built the timber satellite. They came up with the idea of using an alternative to metal, which are biodegradable material.

 **ambitious baba**  
INDIA'S NO.1 GOVERNMENT JOBS PORTAL

**225. India's women's badminton team has defeated which country to win the Badminton Asia Team Championship title in Malaysia?**

**भारत की महिला बैडमिंटन टीम ने किस देश को हराकर मलेशिया में बैडमिंटन एशिया टीम चैंपियनशिप का खिताब जीता है?**

- (a) South Korea / दक्षिण कोरिया
- (b) North Korea / उत्तर कोरिया
- (c) Japan / जापान
- (d) Thailand / थाईलैंड
- (e) UK / यूके

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** India women clinch Badminton Asia Team Championships title

India women's badminton team scripted history in Selangor Malaysia as they won the Badminton Asia Team Championships crown, beating Thailand 3-2 in a hard-fought final.

This is the first time India have won the prestigious continental team championship title in the history of the sport.

PV Sindhu, Gayatri Gopichand-Treesa Jolly and teenage sensational Anmol Kharb won their respective matches as India won the final 3-2 in Shah Alam.

**226. Which cricket player has been named as Captain of IPL's Greatest All-Time Team?**

**किस क्रिकेट खिलाड़ी को आईपीएल की सर्वकालिक महानतम टीम का कप्तान नामित किया गया है?**

- (a) Virat Kohli / विराट कोहली
- (b) Rohit Sharma / रोहित शर्मा
- (c) AB de Villiers / एबी डिविलियर्स
- (d) Mahendra Singh Dhoni / महेन्द्र सिंह धोनी
- (e) Chris Gayle / क्रिस गेल

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** MS Dhoni Named Captain of IPL's Greatest All-Time Team

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) skipper MS Dhoni was picked as the captain to lead the all-time greatest IPL side.

The 15-member squad was selected by a panel of experts, including former legends Wasim Akram, Dale Steyn, Matthew Hayden, and Tom Moody, along with 70 other journalists.

The top order consisted of Australian batter David Warner, Indian superstar Virat Kohli, and West Indian powerhouse Chris Gayle. While Kohli is the all-time leading run-scorer in IPL history with 7,263 runs, Warner is third and first among overseas batters with 6,397 runs.

The middle order batters comprised Suresh Raina, AB de Villiers, Suryakumar Yadav, and MS Dhoni. Raina and De Villiers are fifth and sixth all-time among IPL runs, with strike rates of 136.73 and 151.68, respectively.

Meanwhile, Dhoni is the seventh leading scorer with over 5,000 runs and has the most victories as captain with 133 wins, including five titles as CSK skipper.

**All-time greatest IPL squad:**

MS Dhoni (c), Virat Kohli, Chris Gayle, David Warner, Suresh Raina, AB de Villiers, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Kieron Pollard, Rashid Khan, Sunil Narine, Yuzvendra Chahal, Lasith Malinga, and Jasprit Bumrah.

**227. World Day of Social Justice is observed every year on which day?**

**विश्व सामाजिक न्याय दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 21 February / 21 फरवरी
- (b) 22 February / 22 फरवरी
- (c) 23 February / 23 फरवरी
- (d) 24 February / 24 फरवरी
- (e) 20 February / 20 फरवरी

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** 20 February - World Day of Social Justice

World Day of Social Justice is observed on February 20 every year.

Objective - To offer a platform to raise voices against injustice around the globe. It also brings various communities across the world on a common ground.

Theme 2024 - Bridging Gaps, Building Alliances

The history of the World Day of Social Justice is linked to 1995 when the Copenhagen Summit for the Cause of Social Development was conducted in Denmark.

The summit then resulted in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, which called to end the concerning issues such as poverty, unemployment, and discrimination in society.

**228. Which of the following states are not celebrated its foundation day on February 20?**

**निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा राज्य 20 फरवरी को अपना स्थापना दिवस नहीं मनाता है?**

- I. Tripura / त्रिपुरा
- II. Sikkim / सिक्किम
- III. Arunachal Pradesh / अरुणाचल प्रदेश
- IV. Mizoram / मिजोरम

- (a) only i
- (b) only ii
- (c) only i & ii
- (d) only ii & iii
- (e) only iv & iii

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 20 February - Mizoram Foundation Day

Mizoram Foundation Day is celebrated every year on February 20 to honour the northeastern state's accomplishment of statehood in 1987.

It was on this day that the Lushai Hills Autonomous District Council was raised to the status of a complete state, turning into the 23rd state of India.

February 20 denotes the Statehood Day of both Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

Settled in the remote northeast of India, Mizoram remains as the region's southernmost landlocked state. Thick forests, covering more than three-fourths of its territory, murmur stories of important timber and one of a kind biodiversity.

**229. Legendary cricketer Mike Procter passed away recently at the age of 77. He was from which country?**

**महान क्रिकेटर माइक प्रॉक्टर का हाल ही में 77 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह किस देश से थे?**

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

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** South Africa all-rounder Mike Procter dies

Legendary South Africa cricketer Mike Procter passed away at the age of 77.

Procter scored a staggering 21,936 runs including 48 centuries and took 1417 wickets at 19.53 with 70 five-wicket hauls from 401 first-class games.

After his playing days, Procter became a match referee, a position where controversy followed him. He was the referee at the Oval in 2006 when Pakistan forfeited the Test after the umpires penalised them for ball tampering.

In 2008, he was the referee at Sydney and banned Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh for three matches on charges of racism - a decision which was overturned later.

He stepped down from the post in 2008 and became South Africa's convener of selector.

**230. The 2-day INDUS-X Summit was held in which city in February 2024?**

**फरवरी 2024 में 2 दिवसीय INDUS-X शिखर सम्मेलन किस शहर में आयोजित किया गया था?**

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Chennai / चेन्नई
- (d) Washington DC / वाशिंगटन डीसी
- (e) New York/ न्यूयॉर्क

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** INDUS-X Summit held in New Delhi

The 2-day INDUS-X Summit was held in New Delhi.

The summit aims to be a pivotal event driving strategic technology partnerships and defence industrial cooperation between India and the USA.

It is being organised by Innovations for Defence Excellence, iDEX under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, and Department of Defence, US.

Since its launch in June last year during the State Visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US, the India-U.S. Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) has been at the forefront of expanding bilateral ties in defence innovation.



**231. What is the rank of India in Henley Passport Index for 2024?**

**2024 के लिए हेनले पासपोर्ट सूचकांक में भारत का स्थान क्या है?**

- (a) 84th
- (b) 85th
- (c) 86th
- (d) 87th
- (e) 88th

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Henley Passport Index for 2024: India at 85th; topped by France

The Henley Passport Index for 2024 has been released, with France securing the top spot, while India's passport ranking has slipped one place from last year, moving from 84th to 85th position.

The Henley Passport Index ranks nations based on the strength of their passports. In 2024, France leads the list, with its passport granting visa-free access to 194 countries.

Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and Spain are also among the top-ranked countries alongside France.

Meanwhile, Pakistan maintains its position at 106th place, similar to last year, while Bangladesh has slipped from 101st to 102nd position.

India's neighbour, Maldives, continues to have a strong passport, maintaining its position at 58th place, with Maldivian passport holders enjoying visa-free travel to 96 countries.

India's drop in the rankings comes even after recent announcements from Iran, Malaysia, and Thailand offering visa-free entry for Indian tourists.

The Henley Passport Index derives its rankings from data spanning the past 19 years, based on the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) specialized data, covering 199 different passports and 227 travel destinations worldwide.

The index is updated monthly and serves as a global standard for citizens of independent countries.

**Recent index**

- **Corruption perception index 2023** - India ranked 93rd; topped by Denmark
- **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

**232. India has contributed how much million to a fund established by India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) which undertake projects aimed at alleviating poverty and hunger?**

भारत ने भारत, ब्राजील और दक्षिण अफ्रीका (आईबीएसए) द्वारा स्थापित फंड में कितने मिलियन का योगदान दिया है जो गरीबी और भूख को कम करने के उद्देश्य से परियोजनाएं चलाता है?

- (a) USD 1 million
- (b) USD 2 million
- (c) USD 3 million
- (d) USD 4 million
- (e) USD 5 million

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** India contributes \$1 mn to IBSA Fund to alleviate poverty, hunger

India has contributed \$1 million to a fund established by India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) which undertake projects aimed at alleviating poverty and hunger.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj handed over the cheque of \$1 million as a contribution towards the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation Fund (IBSA Fund) to the Director of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) Dima Al-Khatib.

India is committed to supporting the IBSA Fund as we believe that the Fund has made a positive impact on the lives of millions across the Global South and has strengthened the spirit of South-South cooperation.

The IBSA countries - India, Brazil and South Africa - each contribute one million dollars annually to the Fund in a spirit of partnership and support for Southern-led, demand-driven, transformational projects in developing countries.

India's contribution to the IBSA Fund has cumulatively exceeded \$ 18 million since the Fund was established in 2004 and became operational in 2006.

The IBSA Fund supports projects that are concrete expressions of solidarity. Their objectives range from promoting food security, and addressing HIV/AIDS, to extending access to safe drinking water all to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**233. Union Minister for Education and Skill Development Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated India's inaugural Skill India Centre (SIC) in which city?**

**केंद्रीय शिक्षा और कौशल विकास मंत्री धर्मेंद्र प्रधान ने किस शहर में भारत के उद्घाटन कौशल भारत केंद्र (एसआईसी) का उद्घाटन किया है?**

- (a) Jaisalmer, Rajasthan / जैसलमेर, राजस्थान
- (b) Sambalpur, Odisha / संबलपुर, ओडिशा
- (c) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh / विशाखापत्तनम, आंध्र प्रदेश
- (d) Chennai, Tamil Nadu / चेन्नई, तमिलनाडु
- (e) Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand / पिथोरागढ़, उत्तराखंड

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates first Skill India Centre in Odisha

Union Minister for Education and Skill Development Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated India's inaugural Skill India Centre (SIC) in Sambalpur, Odisha.

To ensure seamless implementation of the training ecosystem, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) will designate a Centre Manager to monitor the implementation of training programs, ensure adherence to quality standards, and oversee the overall functioning of the centre

The introduction of low-cost courses at the centre would empower a large number of young people, making them a part of the evolving job market.

He aimed to uplift over 1200 students through this initiative, upgrading their skill sets and aligning them with the demands of industries.

**About Odisha**

- **Capital** – Bhubaneswar
- **Chief Minister** – Naveen Patnaik
- **Governor** – Raghubar Das

**234. Malta has become the 119th country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA). What is the currency of Malta?**

**माल्टा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सौर गठबंधन (आईएसए) में शामिल होने वाला 119वां देश बन गया है। माल्टा की मुद्रा क्या है?**

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Malta becomes 119th member of International Solar Alliance. Malta has become the 119th country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA). The ISA is an alliance of more than 120 signatory countries that aims to reduce the dependence on non-renewable sources of energy like fossil fuels. ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India and France. Currently, 116 countries are signatories to ISA Framework.

#### **About ISA**

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies as a means for bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries.
- The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India and France to mobilize efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions.
- It was conceptualized on the sidelines of the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015.

#### **About Malta**

- Capital- Valletta
- Currency- Euro (€)
- Official languages- Maltese, Maltese Sign Language, English
- Continent- Europe

**235. Mitsubishi Corporation will acquire 32% stake in TVS Vehicle Mobility for Rs 300 crore. Mitsubishi is the company of which country?**

मित्सुबिशी कॉर्पोरेशन 300 करोड़ रुपये में टीवीएस व्हीकल मोबिलिटी में 32% हिस्सेदारी का अधिग्रहण करेगी। मित्सुबिशी किस देश की कंपनी है?

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

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Mitsubishi Corp to acquire 32% stake in TVS Vehicle Mobility

TVS Mobility and Japanese conglomerate Mitsubishi Corporation has announced a strategic partnership under which the latter will pick up a 32 per cent stake in a newly-formed subsidiary of the Chennai-based group for Rs 300 crore.

With this, the dealership business of TVS Mobility will transform into the newly-formed subsidiary TVS Vehicle Mobility Solution (TVS VMS) — offering a complete portfolio of services to its customers.

TVS Mobility holds dealerships of major companies like Ashok Leyland, Honda, Mahindra and Renault, among others. These are mainly in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh.

The remaining 68 per cent stake in TVS VMS will be held by TVS Mobility.

**236. Which bank has signed an MoU with Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) to spread awareness on investment and fraudulent schemes?**

किस बैंक ने निवेश और धोखाधड़ी वाली योजनाओं पर जागरूकता फैलाने के लिए निवेशक शिक्षा और संरक्षण निधि प्राधिकरण (IEPFA) के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) DBS Bank / DBS बैंक
- (b) Axis Bank / एक्सिस बैंक
- (c) IndusInd Bank / इंडसइंड बैंक
- (d) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (e) Bandhan Bank / बंधन बैंक

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** IEPFA and DBS Bank signs MoU to spread awareness on investment and fraudulent schemes

Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) and Singapore-headquartered DBS Bank have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to spread awareness on investment and fraudulent schemes.

Under the MoU, DBS Bank aims to support IEPFA's investor awareness activities by disseminating safety messages via its various digital platforms. Leveraging DBS Bank's extensive network of branches and ATMs in 19 States, as well as its digital infrastructure, will significantly increase the reach of IEPFA's investor awareness and protection messages to end users.

IEPFA was set up on September 7, 2016 under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) for administering the Investor Education and Protection Fund for making refunds of shares, unclaimed dividends, and matured deposits and debentures, among other things, to investors.

### **Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector**

- SBI partners with Flywire to modernise international education payments for students
- ESAF Small Finance Bank and Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance Partner to Offer Life Insurance
- 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

**237. In February 2024, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd has signed an MoU with which bank to Co-Finance Renewable Energy Projects?**

**फरवरी 2024 में, भारतीय नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा विकास एजेंसी लिमिटेड ने नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं के सह-वित्तपोषण 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. b**

**Sol.** IREDA and PNB join hands to Co-Finance Renewable Energy Projects

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. and Punjab National Bank have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at advancing renewable energy initiatives across the nation.

The MoU aims to provide substantial financial support to various renewable energy projects, promoting sustainability and environmental awareness.

By leveraging this agreement and existing partnerships with other financial institutions, IREDA aims to contribute towards achieving the 500 GW non-fossil-based electricity generation capacity goal by 2030.

The agreement allows both organizations to collaborate on co-lending and loan syndication for a wide range of renewable energy initiatives.

IREDA has also previously signed MoUs with the Union Bank of India (UBI) and the Bank of Baroda (BoB) to foster co-lending and loan syndication initiatives for a wide array of renewable energy projects.

**About Punjab National Bank (PNB)**

- **Founded** - 12 April 1894
- **Founder** - Dyal Singh Majithia and Lala Lajpat Rai
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi
- **MD & CEO** - Atul Kumar Goel
- **Tagline** - The Name You can Bank Upon
- Punjab National Bank Merge - (Oriental Bank of Commerce & United Bank of India)

**238. Who has assumed charge as Vice Chief of the Army Staff?**

**थल सेना के उप प्रमुख के रूप में किसने कार्यभार संभाला है?**

- (a) Anish Dayal Singh / अनीश दयाल सिंह
- (b) Upendra Dwivedi / उपेन्द्र द्विवेदी
- (c) Vineet McCarty / विनीत मैक्कार्ती
- (d) Umesh Mishra / उमेश मिश्रा
- (e) Subodh Kumar Jaiswal / सुबोध कुमार जायसवाल

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Upendra Dwivedi assumes charge as VC of Army Staff

Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi has assumed charge as Vice Chief of the Army Staff.

Prior to this appointment, he was the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Northern Command based at Udhampur from 2022 to 2024.

He replaces LG MV Suchindra Kumar who moved on to take charge of Udhampur based Northern Command.

He will be the senior-most officer in the Army when Army Chief Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande retires from service in May and is in line for the top post based on seniority.

**Recent Appointment in Defence Sector**

- **DG of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** - Daljit Singh Chaudhary
- **Chief Staff Officer at Eastern Naval Command HQ** - Shantanu Jha
- **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



**239. Which company has been honoured with the 'Innovative Technology Development Award' at the 'Building India 2047: Technology for Better Tomorrow'?**

**किस कंपनी को 'बिल्डिंग इंडिया 2047: टेक्नोलॉजी फॉर बेटर टुमॉरो' में 'इनोवेटिव टेक्नोलॉजी डेवलपमेंट अवार्ड' से सम्मानित किया गया है?**

- (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 Ltd receives 'Innovative Technology Development Award'

REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been honoured with the 'Innovative Technology Development Award' at the 'Building India 2047: Technology for Better Tomorrow', an IIT Madras Corporate Social Responsibility Summit.

The award has been conferred in recognition of REC's CSR initiative of installation of 2 MW rooftop solar plant at IIT Madras.

The solar plant generates around 3.15 million units of clean energy every year, thus helping IIT Madras reduce its carbon footprint.

#### **Recent Awards**

- **58th Jnanpith Award 2023** - Urdu poet Gulzar and Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya
- **Best Technology Bank of the Year award by IBA** - South Indian Bank (6 categories)
- **Banking Technology Awards by IBA** - City Union Bank (7 categories)
- **9th GovTech Prize for AI-Powered Government Services at World Government Summit 2024** - India
- **KPP Nambiar Award for 2024** - ISRO Chairman, S Somanath

**240. Manoj Tiwary has announced retirement from all forms of cricket. He is from which state?**

**मनोज तिवारी ने क्रिकेट के सभी प्रारूपों से संन्यास की घोषणा कर दी है. वह किस राज्य से है?**

- (a) Tripura / त्रिपुरा
- (b) West Bengal / पश्चिम बंगाल
- (c) Assam / असम
- (d) Karnataka / कर्नाटक
- (e) Chhattisgarh / छत्तीसगढ़

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Manoj Tiwary announces retirement from all forms of cricket

India and Bengal batter Manoj Tiwary has announced retirement from all forms of cricket.

Tiwary played 148 First-Class matches and gathered 10,195 runs at an average of 47.86, with a career-best 303 not out and 30 centuries. He scored 5,581 runs in List-A matches and 3,436 runs in T20s.

Tiwary played for India in 12 ODIs, scoring 287 runs, including a knock of 104 not out against West Indies in Chennai in 2011. He also featured in three T20Is.

A middle order batter and a handy leg-break bowler, Tiwary also sported the colours of Kolkata Knight Riders, Delhi Daredevils, Kings XI Punjab and Rising Pune Supergiant in the Indian Premier League.

#### **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

**241. International Mother Language Day is observed globally every year on February 21.**

**What is the theme of International Mother Language Day 2024?**

**अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मातृभाषा दिवस हर साल 21 फरवरी को विश्व स्तर पर मनाया जाता है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मातृभाषा दिवस 2024 का विषय क्या है?**

- (a) Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities
- (b) Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society
- (c) Indigenous languages matter for development, peace building and reconciliation
- (d) Languages without Borders
- (e) Multilingual education is a pillar of intergenerational learning

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** 21 February - International Mother Language Day

International Mother Language Day is observed globally every year on February 21.

Objective - To recognize and promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

Theme 2024 - Multilingual education is a pillar of intergenerational learning

According to UNESCO, the idea to celebrate this day was the initiative of Bangladesh and was approved in 1999 at UNESCO General Conference.

**242. Andreas Brehme passed away recently at the age of 63. He was related to which sport?**

**एंड़ियास ब्रेहमे का हाल ही में 63 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.** Germany's Andreas Brehme passed away

FIFA World Cup winner Andreas Brehme, whose late penalty in the 1990 final against Argentina in Italy handed Germany their third world title, has died at the age of 63.

He attacking full-back and dead-ball specialist became an instant Germany football legend when his spot kick earned them a 1-0 victory over Diego Maradona's Argentina in the World Cup final in Rome.

Brehme also played for Bayern Munich and Inter Milan among others before retiring in 1998. He won 86 caps for Germany, scoring eight goals, including the one he is best remembered for.

**243. In February 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the which edition of Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi?**

**फरवरी 2024 में, प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने नई दिल्ली में रायसीना डायलॉग के किस संस्करण का उद्घाटन किया है?**

- (a) 5th
- (b) 6th
- (c) 7th
- (d) 8th
- (e) 9th

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** PM Modi inaugurated 9th edition of Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 9th edition of Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi.

Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, joined the inaugural session as the Chief Guest, and deliver the keynote address.

The theme for this year's edition is "Chaturanga: Conflict, Contest, Cooperate, Create"

The Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics.

In the 9th edition there will be over 2500 participants from about 115 countries. They will be joining the Dialogue in-person, these proceedings can be viewed across the globe through various digital platforms.

**244. In February 2024, Japan has committed a 232.21-billion-yen (about \$1.55 billion) Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan for how many projects across various sectors in India?**

**फरवरी 2024 में, जापान ने भारत में विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में कितनी परियोजनाओं के लिए 232.21 बिलियन येन (लगभग \$1.55 बिलियन) आधिकारिक विकास सहायता (ODA) ऋण देने का वादा किया है?**

- (a) 5 projects
- (b) 6 projects
- (c) 7 projects
- (d) 8 projects
- (e) 9 projects

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Japan commits 232.2 billion Yen for Nine Development Projects in India

Japan has committed a 232.21-billion-yen (about \$1.55 billion) Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan for nine projects across various sectors in India such as road connectivity, climate change response, and horticulture.

Delineating on the projects, the road network connectivity projects aim to improve infrastructure development in India's North East region.

While the Chennai peripheral ring road project aims to alleviate traffic congestion and strengthen connections to the southern part of the state.

The project in Nagaland will help develop tertiary level medical service delivery by developing a Medical College Hospital contributing towards universal health coverage.

The project in Telangana will help discover entrepreneurial skills with focus on women and rural population and support business expansion of MSMEs.

In Haryana, the project will promote sustainable horticulture and improve farmer's income by promoting crop diversification and infrastructure development.

The forestry project in Rajasthan will enhance ecosystem services through afforestation, forest and biodiversity conservation.

In the mountainous state of Uttarakhand, the project aims to provide stable water supply to urban towns.

The fifth tranche of the Dedicated Freight Corridor project will help in construction of new dedicated freight railway system and bring about modernisation of intermodal logistics system enabling handling of increase freight traffic.

**About Japan**

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

**245. Who has presided over the 19th Foundation Day celebrations of the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) through hybrid mode in New Delhi?**

नई दिल्ली में हाइब्रिड मोड के माध्यम से सिक्क्योरिटी प्रिंटिंग एंड मिंगिंग कॉरपोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड (एसपीएमसीआईएल) के 19वें स्थापना दिवस समारोह की अध्यक्षता किसने की है?

- (a) Jagdeep Dhankhar / जगदीप धनखड़
- (b) S Jaishankar / एस जयशंकर
- (c) Nirmala Sitharaman / निर्मला सीतारमण
- (d) Droupadi Murmu / द्रौपदी मुर्मु
- (e) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Nirmala Sitharaman presides over 19th Foundation Day celebrations of SPMCIL in New Delhi

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman presided over the 19th Foundation Day celebrations of the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) through hybrid mode in New Delhi.

The programme was attended in virtual mode across various units of SPMCIL; senior officers, employees, employees/representatives of recognised unions of Apex Bipartite Forum, EPF and GPF trustees and employees/representatives from SC, ST & OBC organisations participated enthusiastically in the event.

The Union Finance Minister also launched three souvenir coins:

1. Coloured souvenir coin on Endangered Animals of India - Greater One Horned Rhino
2. Bi-metallic clad souvenir coin on Enlightenment of Buddha
3. Coloured souvenir coin of Ral Lalla and Ayodhya Ram Mandir

#### **ABOUT SPMCIL**

- Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited is a Miniratna Category-I, Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE), under the administrative control of Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

**246. In February 2024, who has virtually inaugurated and dedicated to the nation two central institutions in Telangana and five in Andhra Pradesh?**

**फरवरी 2024 में, किसने तेलंगाना में दो और आंध्र प्रदेश में पांच केंद्रीय संस्थानों का वस्तुतः उद्घाटन और राष्ट्र को समर्पित किया है?**

- (a) Jagdeep Dhankhar / जगदीप धनखड़
- (b) S Jaishankar / एस जयशंकर
- (c) Dharmendra Pradhan / धर्मेंद्र प्रधान
- (d) Droupadi Murmu / द्रौपदी मुर्मु
- (e) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** PM Modi Inaugurates IIT Hyderabad Campus

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated and dedicated to the nation two central institutions in Telangana and five in Andhra Pradesh.

The list includes the Campus Development Project of Indian Institute of Technology and Maulana Azad National Urdu University in Hyderabad.

The Indian Institute of Management in Visakhapatnam, the Indian Institute of Technology and the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (both in Tirupati), the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing in Kurnool and the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Sri City, reports Amisha Rajani.

**PM Modi in News**

- PM Modi lays foundation stone of Kalki Dham temple in UP
- PM inaugurates projects worth Rs 7300 crores in Madhya Pradesh
- PM Narendra Modi Unveils Projects Worth ₹1330 crore In Goa
- PM Modi inauguratd CLEA-CASGC 2024 Conference in New Delhi
- PM Modi Unveils Infrastructure Boost in Bulandshahr, UP



**247. Tech Mahindra has acquired how much percent stake in Orchid Cybertech Services (OCSI) through a wholly owned subsidiary for \$3.27 million?**

टेक महिंद्रा ने 3.27 मिलियन डॉलर में पूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली सहायक कंपनी के माध्यम से ऑर्किड साइबरटेक सर्विसेज (OCSI) में कितनी प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी हासिल की है?

- (a) 100 percent
- (b) 80 percent
- (c) 70 percent
- (d) 50 percent
- (e) 25 percent

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Tech Mahindra to acquire 100% stake in Orchid Cybertech for \$3.27 million

Tech Mahindra has acquired a 100 percent stake in Orchid Cybertech Services (OCSI) through a wholly owned subsidiary for \$3.27 million.

This deal strengthens the relationship with it and aids in expanding existing customer experience capabilities and business in the Philippines, said the IT major.

As part of the transaction, OCSI, along with its assets and employees, will be integrated into Tech Mahindra, which will then provide customer support and other services to TPG.

Tech Mahindra had last March acquired 100 percent equity shares in Mumbai-based Thirdware Solutions in an all-cash deal for a total consideration of up to \$42 million including earnouts.

**248. Whirlpool Corporation sold how much percent stake in its Indian unit Whirlpool of India through the open market for \$468 million?**

व्हर्लपूल कॉर्पोरेशन ने अपनी भारतीय इकाई व्हर्लपूल ऑफ इंडिया में कितनी प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी खुले बाजार के माध्यम से \$468 मिलियन में बेची?

- (a) 14%
- (b) 24%
- (c) 34%
- (d) 44%
- (e) 22%

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Whirlpool sells 24% stake in India unit for \$468 million

Whirlpool Corporation on Tuesday sold 30.4 million shares, constituting a 24% stake in its Indian unit Whirlpool of India through the open market for \$468 million.

Following the sale, the parent firm's holding has come down to 51% from 75%.

The American consumer durables maker expects to use the proceeds from the stake sale to reduce debt.

Whirlpool Corporation expects to reduce its debt by over \$1 billion in 2024 versus 2022.

Whirlpool conducted the sale through its subsidiary in Mauritius, reducing its stake in the entity from 75% to 51%.

**249. In February 2024, which company has registered its operations with the Financial Intelligence Unit of India, about six years after a protracted legal battle ensued between the two entities?**

फरवरी 2024 में, दोनों संस्थाओं के बीच लंबी कानूनी लड़ाई के लगभग छह साल बाद, किस कंपनी ने भारत की वित्तीय खुफिया इकाई के साथ अपना परिचालन पंजीकृत किया है?

- (a) PayPal
- (b) eBay
- (c) Mobi Kwik
- (d) Zaak
- (e) Capital One

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** PayPal registers with FIU of India under anti-money laundering law

American payments gateway service provider PayPal has registered its operations with the Financial Intelligence Unit of India, about six years after a protracted legal battle ensued between the two entities.

It has completed the formal procedure of being designated as a reporting entity under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) recently and submitted documents to FIU.

#### **About FIU**

- The FIU is a national agency responsible for receiving, processing, analyzing and disseminating information relating to suspect financial transactions in Indian economic channels to various enforcement agencies and foreign FIUs.
- The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 forms the core of the legal framework put in place by India to combat money laundering.
- PMLA and the Rules notified there under came into force with effect from July 1, 2005.
- Director, FIU-IND & Director (Enforcement) has been conferred with exclusive and concurrent powers under relevant sections of the Act to implement the act

**250. Recently, Merchant-led digital payments provider Mswipe Technologies has been granted a payment aggregator (PA) licence by the Reserve Bank of India. PA is provided under which section of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007?**  
हाल ही में, व्यापारी के नेतृत्व वाले डिजिटल भुगतान प्रदाता एमस्वाइप टेक्नोलॉजीज को भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा भुगतान एग्रीगेटर (पीए) लाइसेंस प्रदान किया गया है। भुगतान और निपटान प्रणाली अधिनियम 2007 की किस धारा के तहत पीए प्रदान किया जाता है?

- (a) Section 17
- (b) Section 5
- (c) Section 7
- (d) Section 12
- (e) Section 3

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** RBI grants payment aggregator licence to Mswipe Technologies

Merchant-led digital payments provider Mswipe Technologies said it has been granted a payment aggregator (PA) licence by the Reserve Bank of India.

The company had received an in-principle nod from the central bank to operate as a payment aggregator in August 2022.

PA is provided under Section 7 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

Till February 2024, 16 entities had received payment aggregator licences from the RBI. Among them are merchant payment solutions providers Juspay and Razorpay, fintech Stripe, search behemoth Google, neo-bank Open, software major Zoho and food-delivery company Zomato.

**About Mswipe**

- Founded - 2011
- Headquarters - Mumbai
- It provides payment solutions, including point-of-sale devices, unified payments interface (UPI), quick response codes and payment links to help offline merchants receive payments digitally.
- It also aids offline merchants with loans as well as store and inventory management solutions.

**251. M R Kumar has been appointed as part time non official Director as well as non-executive Chairman of which bank for 3 years?**

**एम आर कुमार को 3 साल के लिए किस बैंक का अंशकालिक गैर-आधिकारिक निदेशक और साथ ही गैर-कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) City Union Bank / सिटी यूनियन बैंक
- (b) Indian Overseas Bank / इंडियन ओवरसीज बैंक
- (c) Union Bank of India / यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
- (d) Karnataka Bank / कर्नाटक बैंक
- (e) Bank of India / बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** BOI, IOB, and UCO Bank get new chairmen

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed former LIC Chairman M R Kumar as part time non official Director as well as non-executive Chairman of Bank of India (BOI) for 3 years.

The government has also appointed Srinivasan Sridhar as the non-executive chairman as well as Executive Chairman of Indian Overseas Bank. Sridhar has been appointed for a 3 years term.

Aravamudan Krishna has been appointed non-executive chairman of Kolkata-based UCO Bank for 3 years.

Krishna will be the first chairman of UCO since the chairman and managing director's post was splitted in PSBs in 2015.

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

- **Joint MD of Kotak Mahindra Bank** - KVS Manian
- **Deputy MD of Kotak Mahindra Bank** - Shanti Ekambaram
- **President and Group Chief Financial Officer Kotak Mahindra Bank** - Devang Gheewalla
- **Chief Operating Officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank** - Milind Nagnur
- **Group Chief Risk Officer Kotak Mahindra Bank** - Paul Parambi

**252. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) SBM Bank India for a period of 3 years?**

**3 साल की अवधि के लिए एसबीएम बैंक इंडिया के प्रबंध निदेशक और मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (एमडी और सीईओ) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Rajnish Kumar / रजनीश कुमार
- (b) Joshit Ranjan Sikidar / जोशित रंजन सिकिदार
- (c) Ashish Vijayakar / आशीष विजयकर
- (d) Tablesh Pandey / तबलेश पांडे
- (e) Siddhartha Mohanty / सिद्धार्थ मोहंती

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** SBM Bank India appoints Ashish Vijayakar as MD & CEO

SBM Bank India has appointed Ashish Vijayakar as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the Bank for a period of 3 years.

Ashish Vijayakar is a veteran banker with a proven track record spanning around three decades, in the banking and financial services sector.

With a strong background in building and growing global businesses, he has held key leadership positions across various geographies in Standard Chartered Bank.

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

- **Non-Executive Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank** - Pradeep Kumar Sinha (replace G. C. Chaturvedi; effect from 30 June 2024)
- **Additional Director of Axis Bank** - Pranam Wahi
- **MD & CEO of SBI Capital Markets** - Virendra Bansal (replace Rajay Kumar Sinha)
- **President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** - Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal (72nd)
- **Vice President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** - Charanjot Singh Nanda

**253. Shashi Tharoor was conferred which country highest civilian honour 'Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur' in February 2024?**

**फरवरी 2024 में शशि थरूर को किस देश के सर्वोच्च नागरिक सम्मान 'शेवेलियर डे ला लीजन डी'होनूर' से सम्मानित किया गया?**

- (a) France / फ्रांस
- (b) Russia / रूस
- (c) UK / यूके
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) Canada / कनाडा

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Shashi Tharoor conferred France's highest civilian honour

Shashi Tharoor, a prolific author and a diplomat-turned-politician, was conferred France's highest civilian honour 'Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur'.

Author of several books and the Congress MP from Thiruvananthapuram, Tharoor was conferred the prestigious award at the French Embassy by French Senate President Gerard Larcher.

The French government had announced the award for Tharoor, a former Union minister, in August 2022 but was conferred on him on February 2024.

The highest French civilian award came in recognition of Dr Tharoor's tireless efforts to deepen Indo-French ties, commitment to international peace and cooperation, and as a long-standing friend of France.

Instituted in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, the Legion d'honneur is the highest civilian award given by the French Republic for outstanding service to France, regardless of the nationality of the recipients.

**254. Eight-year-old Ashwath Kaushik has become the youngest player to defeat a Grandmaster by defeating \_\_\_\_\_ during the Bergdorfer Stadthaus Open in Switzerland.**

**आठ वर्षीय अश्वथ कौशिक स्विट्जरलैंड में बर्गडॉर्फर स्टैडथॉस ओपन के दौरान \_\_\_\_\_ को हराकर ग्रैंडमास्टर को हराने वाले सबसे कम उम्र के खिलाड़ी बन गए हैं।**

- (a) Hikaru Nakamura / हिकारू नाकामुरा
- (b) Arjun Erigaisi / अर्जुन एरिगैसी
- (c) Jan-Krzysztof Duda / जान-क्रिज़िस्तोफ़ डूडा
- (d) Jacek Stopa / जेसेक स्टॉपा
- (e) Magnus Carlsen / मैग्नुस कार्लसन

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** 8-year-old Ashwath becomes youngest chess player to beat grandmaster

Eight-year-old Ashwath Kaushik has become the youngest player to defeat a grandmaster after trouncing Jacek Stopa during the Burgdorfer Stadthaus Open in Switzerland.

The Indian-born Singapore resident learnt to play the game at the age of four and became a World Under-Eight Rapid Champion in 2022.

That same year, he had made waves after emerging as a triple champion in the chess variations — classic, rapid and blitz — at the Under-8 Eastern Asia Youth Championship.

#### **Recent Awards**

- **Innovative Technology Development Award** - REC Ltd
- **58th Jnanpith Award 2023** - Urdu poet Gulzar and Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya
- **Best Technology Bank of the Year award by IBA** - South Indian Bank (6 categories)
- **Banking Technology Awards by IBA** - City Union Bank (7 categories)
- **9th GovTech Prize for AI-Powered Government Services at World Government Summit 2024** - India



**255. Eminent Fali S Nariman passed away recently at the age of 95. Who was he?**

**प्रख्यात फली एस नरीमन का हाल ही में 95 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह कौन थे?**

- (a) Writer / लेखक
- (b) Politician / राजनेता
- (c) Actor / अभिनेता
- (d) Lawyer / वकील
- (e) Film Director / फिल्म निर्देशक

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Supreme Court Lawyer Fali Nariman passed away

Eminent jurist and Senior Supreme Court Lawyer Fali S Nariman passes away at the age of 95. He served as the additional solicitor general between 1972 and 1975 and resigned from the post during emergency.

Nariman was appointed a Senior Advocate by the Supreme Court of India in 1971. He was also a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha from 1999-2005.

He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1991 and Padma Vibhushan in 2007.

**256. The Centre has approved an amendment in the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI policy) allowing how much percent foreign investment in the space sector?**

केंद्र ने अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्र में कितने प्रतिशत विदेशी निवेश की अनुमति देते हुए प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (FDI नीति) में संशोधन को मंजूरी दे दी है?

- (a) 40%
- (b) 50%
- (c) 51%
- (d) 76%
- (e) 100%

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Govt allows 100% FDI in space sector to realize the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat

The Centre has approved an amendment in the Foreign Direct Investment, FDI policy, allowing 100% foreign investment in the space sector.

The liberalized entry routes under the amended policy are aimed to attract potential investors to invest in Indian companies in space.

FDI up to 100% under the Automatic route will be allowed for the manufacturing of components and systems or sub-systems for satellites, ground segments, and user segments.

**257. Union Government has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the continuation of the implementation of the Umbrella Scheme on 'Safety of Women' at a total cost of around 1,180 crore rupees during the period from 2021-22 to which year?**

केंद्र सरकार ने 2021-22 से किस वर्ष की अवधि के दौरान लगभग 1,180 करोड़ रुपये की कुल लागत पर 'महिलाओं की सुरक्षा' पर अंब्रेला योजना के कार्यान्वयन को जारी रखने के गृह मंत्रालय के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दे दी है?

- (a) 2024-25
- (b) 2025-26
- (c) 2026-27
- (d) 2027-28
- (e) 2028-29

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Centre decides to continue Women's safety scheme till 2025-26

Union Government has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the continuation of the implementation of the Umbrella Scheme on 'Safety of Women' at a total cost of around 1,180 crore rupees during the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Besides, every year 5000 police personnel will be imparted training for effective investigation and prosecution to curb crime.

Under it, 24-hour emergency helpline service 112 will be scaled up. He also informed that for scientific and timely investigation, six cyber forensic science laboratories are being set up at Pune, Chandigarh, Kolkata, Delhi, Kamrup, and Bhopal.

Women's help desks and 827 antihuman trafficking units have been set up at 13,557 police stations across the country so far and women's help desks will also be established in the remaining 3,329 police stations.

Besides, every year 5000 police personnel will be imparted training for effective investigation and prosecution to curb the crime against women and children.

**258. NTPC Limited will set up India's largest green hydrogen production facility in which state?**

**एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड भारत की सबसे बड़ी हरित हाइड्रोजन उत्पादन सुविधा किस राज्य में स्थापित करेगी?**

- (a) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (d) Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश
- (e) Kerala / केरल

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** NTPC to set up India's largest green hydrogen production facility in Andhra Pradesh

Power sector PSU and India's largest integrated power company NTPC Limited has signed a Land Lease Agreement in order to realize its green energy and green hydrogen objectives.

The agreement between NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) and Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC), is for the development of an "Integrated Green Hydrogen Hub".

The hub will come up on 1,200 acres of land near Pudimadaka village of Atchutapuram Mandal in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

The Pudimadaka Green Hydrogen Hub aims to create a world-class ecosystem for technologies in the new energy paradigm, such as electrolyser and fuel cell manufacturing, related ancillary industries, and start-up, incubation, testing facilities, production and export of green hydrogen and its derivatives such as green ammonia and green methanol.

The project includes construction of India's largest green hydrogen production facility (1,200 tons per day), which will enable further conversion of green hydrogen to derivatives such as green ammonia and green methanol, primarily catering to various export markets.

**259. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan along with Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Vishnu Deo Sai have inaugurated how many PM SHRI schools in Raipur, Chhattisgarh?**

शिक्षा मंत्री धर्मेंद्र प्रधान ने छत्तीसगढ़ के मुख्यमंत्री विष्णु देव साय के साथ रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़ में कितने PM SHRI स्कूलों का उद्घाटन किया है?

- (a) 122
- (b) 211
- (c) 111
- (d) 121
- (e) 221

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates 211 PM SHRI Schools In Chhattisgarh

Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan, along with Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Vishnu Deo Sai have inaugurated 211 PM SHRI schools in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Pradhan also inaugurated a Digital Library for Kendriya Vidyalaya and Virtual Reality labs for Navodaya Vidyalaya of the State.

The dignitaries also visited an exhibition set up by the school students. Three short films on the PM SHRI Yojana, Kendriya Vidyalaya and Navodaya Vidyalaya were also shown during the event.

**260. At which place have scientists discovered world's largest snake in February 2024?**

**फरवरी 2024 में वैज्ञानिकों ने किस स्थान पर दुनिया के सबसे बड़े सांप की खोज की है?**

- (a) Amazon rainforest
- (b) Atlantic Forest
- (c) The Black Forest
- (d) Sinharaja Forest
- (e) Daintree Rainforest

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Scientists discover world's largest snake in Amazon rainforest

Scientists have unveiled the existence of a colossal serpent lurking within the heart of the Amazon rainforest. This is the world's largest snake discovered to date.

Measuring a staggering 26 feet in length and weighing a hefty 440 pounds, this mammoth anaconda possesses a head comparable in size to that of a human.

Its magnitude has earned it the title of the largest and heaviest snake species on the planet.

**261. Morgan Stanley projects India's GDP growth for FY25 to how much percent?**

मॉर्गन स्टैनली ने वित्त वर्ष 2025 के लिए भारत की सकल घरेलू उत्पाद वृद्धि का अनुमान कितने प्रतिशत तक लगाया है?

- (a) 6.3%
- (b) 6.5%
- (c) 6.7%
- (d) 6.9%
- (e) 5.5%

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Morgan Stanley projects India's GDP growth for FY25 to 6.5%

Morgan Stanley Research projects India's GDP growth for FY25 to moderate to 6.5%, down from the 6.9% projected for FY24.

Despite this moderation, the report maintains a constructive outlook on the Indian economy, citing improvements in domestic demand and macro stability.

ICRA, meanwhile, has projected the year-on-year (Y-o-Y) GDP growth to moderate sequentially to 6 per cent in Q3 FY24 from 7.6 per cent, led by agriculture and industry sectors.

**Updated GDP List**

- Morgan Stanley - 6.9%(FY24), 6.5% (FY25)
- IMF – 6.7% (FY24), 6.5% (FY25), 6.5% (FY26)
- World Bank – 6.3% (FY24), 6.4% (FY25), 6.5% (FY26)
- 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)

**262. Which state has recently partnered with World Bank to set up a Blended Finance Facility?**

**हाल ही में किस राज्य ने मिश्रित वित्त सुविधा स्थापित करने के लिए विश्व बैंक के साथ साझेदारी की है?**

- (a) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Goa / गोवा
- (d) Himachal Pradesh / हिमाचल प्रदेश
- (e) Punjab / पंजाब

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Goa Collaborated with World Bank for Blended Finance Facility

The Goa government will set up a blended finance facility in partnership with the World Bank that will enable the coastal state to access and mobilise concessional finance to implement low-carbon and climate-resilient investments.

This will be the first of its kind, climate-focused, multi-regional facility at the subnational level. This will help Goa to access and mobilize concessional finance to implement low-carbon and climate-resilient investments.

Blended finance – encompassing public, private, international and domestic climate finance – has the potential to help Goa and other coastal states in India build greater resilience to rapidly increasing climate impacts.

**About Goa**

- **Formation** – 30 May 1987
- **Capital** – Panaji
- **Chief Minister** – Pramod Sawant
- **Governor** – P.S. Sreedharan Pillai



**263. Which cricketer has become the fastest batter to notch 10,000 runs in T20 cricket?**

**कौन सा क्रिकेटर टी20 क्रिकेट में सबसे तेज 10,000 रन बनाने वाला बल्लेबाज बन गया है?**

- (a) Virat Kohli / विराट कोहली
- (b) Rohit Sharma / रोहित शर्मा
- (c) Glenn Maxwell / ग्लेन मैक्सवेल
- (d) Babar Azam / बाबर आजम
- (e) Suryakumar Yadav / सूर्यकुमार यादव

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Pakistan's Babar Azam becomes quickest to 10,000 runs in T20s

Pakistan's Babar Azam has become the fastest batter to notch 10,000 runs in T20 cricket.

Babar achieved this feat during a Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2024 match between Peshawar Zalmi and Karachi Kings played at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

Babar scored 72 runs off 51 deliveries to reach the milestone in 271 innings.

The star Pakistan batter surpassed the previous record held by West Indies' Chris Gayle (285 innings). Virat Kohli claims the third spot on this elite list of batters having breached the 10,000 run-mark in 299 T20 innings.

**264. Which of the following has signed an MoU with the Indian Air Force (IAF) for integration of futuristic Weapons and Sensors for LCA Tejas aircraft?**

निम्नलिखित में से किसने LCA तेजस विमान के लिए भविष्य के हथियारों और सेंसर के एकीकरण के लिए भारतीय वायु सेना (IAF) के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited / ब्रह्मोस एयरोस्पेस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड
- (b) Larsen & Toubro (L&T) / लार्सन एंड टुब्रो (एल एंड टी)
- (c) Aeronautical Development Agency / वैमानिकी विकास एजेंसी
- (d) Tata Advanced Systems / टाटा एडवांस्ड सिस्टम्स
- (e) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) / भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स लिमिटेड (बीईएल)

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Aeronautical Development Agency Signs MoU with Indian Air Force

Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has signed an MoU with the Indian Air Force (IAF) for integration of futuristic Weapons and Sensors for LCA Tejas aircraft.

This will facilitate the IAF to independently carry out sensors, weapon integration and flight testing to enhance the operational capability of Tejas-LCA fighter.

Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) is a premier organization under the aegis of the Department of Defence R&D with mandate to Design and Develop Tejas-LCA and its Variants.

ADA has successfully developed and type certified Tejas LCA with a credit of more than 10000 sorties of incident free flying.

IAF has already formed two squadrons of this fighter aircraft and twin seater aircraft are also being inducted.

**265. World Scout Day is observed every year on which day?**

**विश्व स्काउट दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 21 February / 21 फरवरी
- (b) 22 February / 22 फरवरी
- (c) 23 February / 23 फरवरी
- (d) 24 February / 24 फरवरी
- (e) 20 February / 20 फरवरी

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 22 February - World Scout Day

World Scout Day, which is observed on 22 February every year, is significant as it commemorates the birth anniversary of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts Movement.

The day is also known as Scouts Founder's Day.

Theme 2024 - Scouts for a Better World

This day is dedicated to the community service and is observed by the Boy Scouts organizations across the world. It is celebrated with various activities such as fundraising, food drives, and other community service projects.

**266. World Thinking Day is observed every year on which day?**

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

- (a) 21 February / 21 फरवरी
- (b) 22 February / 22 फरवरी
- (c) 23 February / 23 फरवरी
- (d) 24 February / 24 फरवरी
- (e) 20 February / 20 फरवरी

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 22 February - World Thinking Day

World Thinking Day is also known as Thinking Day and is observed on 22 February annually by Girl Scouts and Girl Guides across 150 countries.

The day also raises funds for the development of 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts across the globe.

Theme 2024 - Our World, Our Thriving Future

The history of World Thinking Day dates back to 1926 when delegates from around the world met at Camp Edith Macy in New York for the fourth World Conference of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

**267. Ameen Sayani passed away recently at the age of 91. Who was he?**

**अमीन सयानी का हाल ही में 91 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह कौन थे?**

- (a) Writer / लेखक
- (b) Politician / राजनेता
- (c) Theatre artist / थिएटर कलाकार
- (d) Radio personality / रेडियो व्यक्तित्व
- (e) Historian / इतिहासकार

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Ameen Sayani passed away at 91

Mumbai-based radio personality Ameen Sayani, 91, who hosted that iconic hit parade of film songs from Dec 1952 to April 1994, passed away.

Sayani's journey began in a Gujarati household, far from the world of Hindi radio. However, destiny intervened, leading him to his first Hindi commercial in 1951.

Ameen Sayani was a renowned radio host. His iconic opening line, "Namaskar bhaiyon aur behno, main aapka dost Ameen Sayani bol raha hoon," continues to echo in the ears of those who have been listening to radio since the 1950s.

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268. Consider the following points with respect to India's First Gati Shakti Research Chair:

- (i) India's First Gati Shakti Research Chair to be established at IIM Shillong.
- (ii) This Research Chair to be established with the help of Ministry of MSME.
- (iii) This initiative aims to discuss the multimodal logistics development strategy focused on connecting the Eastern Region (ER).

Which of the point(s) given above is/are CORRECT?

- (a) only i
- (b) only ii
- (c) only iii
- (d) only ii & iii
- (e) All are correct

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** India's First Gati Shakti Research Chair to be established at IIM Shillong

The country's first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair' will be established at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong.

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has collaborated with IIM-Shillong to set up India's first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair'.

This initiative aims to discuss the multimodal logistics development strategy focused on connecting the North Eastern Region (NER) with wider national and international regions to fortify the local economy.

Through an MoA, IIM Shillong aims to contribute significantly to comprehensive research efforts, envisioning a significant impact not only within the Northeast region but also on a national scale.

269. In February 2024, Which company has begun the successful commercial operation of its 50 MW Gujrai Solar Power Station in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh?

फरवरी 2024 में, किस कंपनी ने उत्तर प्रदेश के कानपुर में अपने 50 मेगावाट के गुजराई सौर ऊर्जा स्टेशन का सफल वाणिज्यिक संचालन शुरू किया है?

- (a) ReNew Power / रिन्यू पावर
- (b) Adani Enterprises / अडानी एंटरप्राइजेज
- (c) JSW Energy / जेएसडब्ल्यू एनर्जी
- (d) NTPC Limited / एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड
- (e) SJVN Limited / एसजेवीएन लिमिटेड

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** SJVN commissions 50 MW Gujrai Solar Power Station in Uttar Pradesh

SJVN Limited, a Mini Ratna, Category-I and Schedule 'A' Central public sector enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of Power, Government of India, has begun the successful commercial operation of its 50 MW Gujrai Solar Power Station in Kanpur Dehat, Uttar Pradesh.

With this milestone, the total installed power capacity of SJVN stands at 2,277 MW.

The 50 MW Gujrai Solar Power Station has been executed by SJVN through its renewable arm, SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL) at a cost of Rs 281 crores. The annual revenue from energy generated is expected to be approximately Rs 32 crores.

The project will generate 107 million units in the first year and the cumulative energy generation over a period of 25 years is estimated to be 2,477 million units.

270. Kalyani Steel Ltd has signed an MoU with which state government to set up a manufacturing facility with an investment of Rs 11,750 crore?

कल्याणी स्टील लिमिटेड ने 11,750 करोड़ रुपये के निवेश के साथ विनिर्माण सुविधा स्थापित करने के लिए किस राज्य सरकार के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

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

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Kalyani Steels signs MoU with Odisha govt to set up manufacturing unit

Kalyani Steel Ltd has signed an MoU with the Odisha government to set up a manufacturing facility with an investment of Rs 11,750 crore.

The project for manufacturing titanium metal, aerospace and automotive components and advanced speciality steel at Gajamara in Dhenkanal district will create 10,000 job opportunities.

The project would catalyze the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), spurring the development of a vibrant ecosystem of ancillary industries and OEM (original equipment manufacturer) suppliers, providing many more employment opportunities.



271. Which state government has launched 'Savera' program aimed at early detection and prevention of breast cancer?

किस राज्य सरकार ने स्तन कैंसर की शीघ्र पहचान और रोकथाम के उद्देश्य से 'सवेरा' कार्यक्रम शुरू किया है?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh / उत्तर प्रदेश
- (b) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (c) Rajasthan / राजस्थान
- (d) Punjab / पंजाब
- (e) Haryana / हरियाणा

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Haryana govt launched 'Savera' programme

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has inaugurated the Savera programme — aimed at early detection and prevention of breast cancer.

It was initiated by the Medanta Foundation in collaboration with the Health Department in Gurgaon.

Under the scheme, visually impaired people will conduct screening for breast cancer.

The importance of this ability has been understood, tested, and used by people associated with the medical world.

Breast cancer is one of the cancer types that mainly occurs in women residing in cities. He said that about 90,000 women across the country lose their lives due to breast cancer, on a daily basis.

#### **About Haryana**

- **Capital** – Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister** – Manohar Lal Khattar
- **Governor** – Bandaru Dattatreya

#### **Recent Schemes launched by state governments**

- Van Mitra (Haryana) – To encourage community participation in tree planting activities in non-forest areas.
- Swayam Scheme (Odisha) - To provide interest-free loans up to Rs 1 lakh to youth of the state
- CM Vayoshree Yojana (Maharashtra) – For senior citizens who suffer from some physical or mental disability
- Mahtari Vandan Yojana (Chhattisgarh) – To provide Rs 1,000 financial assistance for married women.
- Yuva Nidhi Scheme (Karnataka) - To provide aid for Jobless Youth
- Yogyasree Scheme (West Bengal) - To provide free training modules for SC & ST Student

272. In February 2024, which among the following companies has become the first government firm to collaborate with SACE, an Italian export agency, to boost the corporation between the two countries?

फरवरी 2024 में, निम्नलिखित में से कौन सी कंपनी दोनों देशों के बीच निगम को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक इतालवी निर्यात एजेंसी SACE के साथ सहयोग करने वाली पहली सरकारी फर्म बन गई है?

- (a) National Mineral Development Corporation / राष्ट्रीय खनिज विकास निगम
- (b) TP renewable Microgrid / टीपी रिन्यूएबल माइक्रोग्रिड
- (c) Power Finance Corporation / पावर फाइनेंस कॉर्पोरेशन
- (d) NTPC Limited / एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड
- (e) Torrent Power / टोरेंट पावर

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** PFC ties with Italian export credit agency SACE to boost India-Italy cooperation

State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has become the first government firm to collaborate with SACE, an Italian export credit agency, to boost the cooperation between the two countries.

PFC is partnering with SACE, the export credit agency of Italy, for an innovative ECA-backed financing facility under its 'Push Strategy' initiative.

This proposed partnership will position PFC as the first government-owned entity in India to partner with SACE under this initiative.

Through this structure, PFC will benefit from an 80 per cent guarantee from SACE, with HSBC acting as a coordinating bank, lead arranger and facility agent for the financing of up to 200 million euros.

**273 Who has inaugurated the Sudarshan Setu, India's longest cable-stayed bridge, connecting Okha mainland and Beyt Dwarka?  
ओखा मुख्य भूमि और बेट द्वारका को जोड़ने वाले भारत के सबसे लंबे केबल-आधारित पुल, सुदर्शन सेतु का उद्घाटन किसने किया है?**

- (a) Jagdeep Dhankhar / जगदीप धनखड़
- (b) S Jaishankar / एस जयशंकर
- (c) Nitin Gadkari / नितिन गडकरी
- (d) Droupadi Murmu / द्रौपदी मुर्मु
- (e) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** PM Modi inaugurates India's longest cable-stayed bridge Sudarshan Setu

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Sudarshan Setu, India's longest cable-stayed bridge, connecting Okha mainland and Beyt Dwarka. The unique design of the bridge includes a footpath with verses from the Bhagavad Gita and images of Lord Krishna.

The bridge, equipped with solar panels, generates one megawatt of electricity.

The construction of the 2.32 km bridge, costing Rs 979 crore, is significant for local residents and pilgrims visiting the Dwarkadhish Temple. The bridge has a width of 27.20 metres with 2.50-metre-wide footpaths on both sides.

Beyt Dwarka, an island near Okha port, is approximately 30 km from Dwarka town, the location of the famous Dwarkadhish temple of Lord Krishna. The bridge, earlier known as the 'Signature Bridge', has been renamed as 'Sudarshan Setu'.

The bridge was initiated by the Centre in 2017 to ease the commute for devotees between Okha and Bet Dwarka. Prior to its construction, pilgrims had to rely on boat transport to reach the Dwarkadhish Temple.

Modi also inaugurated five All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) campuses in Rajkot (Gujarat), Bathinda (Punjab), Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh), Kalyani (West Bengal) and Mangalagiri (Andhra Pradesh).

#### **PM Modi in News**

- PM Modi inaugurated and dedicated to the nation two central institutions in Telangana and five in Andhra Pradesh.
- PM Modi lays foundation stone of Kalki Dham temple in UP
- PM inaugurates projects worth Rs 7300 crores in Madhya Pradesh
- PM Narendra Modi Unveils Projects Worth ₹1330 crore In Goa
- PM Modi inaugurated CLEA-CASGC 2024 Conference in New Delhi
- PM Modi Unveils Infrastructure Boost in Bulandshahr, UP

274. In February 2024, which bank has projected India's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow by about 6.75 to 6.8 percent in FY 2025 and 6.8 percent for the current fiscal year?

फरवरी 2024 में, किस बैंक ने भारत का सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (जीडीपी) वित्त वर्ष 2025 में लगभग 6.75 से 6.8 प्रतिशत और चालू वित्त वर्ष के लिए 6.8 प्रतिशत बढ़ने का अनुमान लगाया है?

- (a) State Bank of India / भारतीय स्टेट बैंक
- (b) Punjab National Bank / पंजाब नेशनल बैंक
- (c) Bank of Baroda / बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
- (d) Indian Bank / इंडियन बैंक
- (e) Canara Bank / केनरा बैंक

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India's GDP to grow at around 6.75-6.8% in FY25: BoB

The Bank of Baroda (BoB) has projected India's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at around 6.75 to 6.8 per cent in FY25 and 6.8 per cent for the current financial year.

The IMF has projected the Indian economy to grow at 6.7 per cent for the current fiscal, upgrading the estimates by 40 basis points from its previous forecast in Oct 2023.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected the Indian economy to grow at 6.7 per cent for the current fiscal, upgrading the estimates by 40 basis points from its previous forecast in October 2023.

The World Bank expects the Indian economy to clock a growth of 6.3 per cent in FY24 and 6.4 per cent in FY25, led by strong domestic demand, growing infrastructure spending, along with robust private sector credit growth.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has pegged the country's growth at 7 per cent in FY24.

275. Zurich Insurance will acquire how much percent stake in Kotak General for Rs 5,560 crore in a single tranche?

ज्यूरिख इंश्योरेंस एक ही किश्त में 5,560 करोड़ रुपये में कोटक जनरल में कितनी प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी का अधिग्रहण करेगी?

- (a) 30%
- (b) 40%
- (c) 50%
- (d) 60%
- (e) 70%

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Zurich Insurance to acquire 70% stake in Kotak General

Private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank has informed the exchanges that Zurich Insurance will acquire a 70 per cent stake in the bank's general insurance arm, Kotak Mahindra General Insurance, for Rs 5,560 crore, in a single tranche.

In November 2023, the bank had announced the sale of a 51 per cent stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance to Zurich Insurance for Rs 4,051 crore through a combination of fresh capital infusion and share purchase, followed by a 19 per cent stake sale within a period of three years.

The proposed 70 per cent acquisition is subject to regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

**276. Who has been appointed as Director in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship?**  
**कौशल विकास और उद्यमिता मंत्रालय में निदेशक 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) Tatung Padi / तातुंग पाडी
- (e) Raghu Srinivasan / रघु श्रीनिवासन

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Tatung Padi (IRS) appointed as Director in Skill Development Ministry

Tatung Padi has been appointed as Director in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Padi has been appointed to the post under the Central Staffing Scheme for a period of five years from the date of taking over charge of the post until further orders.

Padi is an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of 2009-batch. He was recommended for the Central deputation by the Department of Revenue.

### **Recent Appointment**

- **Punjab 'state icon' for Lok Sabha polls** - Shubman Gill (Campaign - Is Vaar 70 Paar)
- **Speaker of Bihar Legislative Assembly** - Nand Kishore Yadav
- **MD of Boeing Defence India** - Nikhil Joshi
- **CMD of IRCTC** - Sanjay Kumar Jain
- **President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** - Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal (72nd)

277. Who has been appointed as the Director of Citizen Registration (DCR) of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh?

जम्मू-कश्मीर और लद्दाख के नागरिक पंजीकरण (DCR) के निदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Ganesan Kannabiran / गणेशन कन्नाबीरन
- (b) Neeraj Akhoury / नीरज अखौरी
- (c) Pramod Sharma / प्रमोद शर्मा
- (d) Bhupinder Kumar / भूपिंदर कुमार
- (e) Vivek Srivastava / विवेक श्रीवास्तव

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Bhupinder Kumar (IAS) appointed as DCR of J&K and Ladakh

The Central Government has approved the appointment of Bhupinder Kumar (IAS) for the post of Director of Census Operations (DCO)/Director of Citizen Registration (DCR) (Deputy Secretary level) of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Kumar has been appointed to the post under the Central Staffing Scheme on additional charge basis with effect from the date of taking over charge of the post and for a period up to December 31, 2025 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Kumar is a 2011-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of AGMUT cadre.

278. Who has been named as the new Director of the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the World Bank's Global Environment Facility (GEF)?

विश्व बैंक की वैश्विक पर्यावरण सुविधा (जीईएफ) के स्वतंत्र मूल्यांकन कार्यालय (आईईओ) के नए निदेशक के रूप में किसे नामित किया गया है?

- (a) Geeta Batra / गीता बत्रा
- (b) Sapna Singh / सपना सिंह
- (c) Arundhati Bhattacharya / अरुंधति भट्टाचार्य
- (d) Anshula Kant / अंशुला कांत
- (e) Gita Gopinath / गीता गोपीनाथ

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Geeta Batra is 1st Woman Director of World Bank Body

Geeta Batra, an India-born economist, has been named as the new Director of the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the World Bank's Global Environment Facility (GEF).

This appointment marks a significant milestone, as Batra becomes the first woman from a developing country to assume this prestigious role.

Batra, 57, is currently the chief evaluator and deputy director for evaluation at the GEF IEO, affiliated to the World Bank.

Batra's name was unanimously recommended for the coveted position at the 66th GEF council meeting held in Washington.

Born in New Delhi, Batra studied at the Villa Theresa High School (1984) in Mumbai, then completed her Economics from the Stella Maris College, Chennai (1984-1987), followed by an MBA in Finance from the NMIMS, Vile Parle (1990) in Mumbai.

#### Recent Appointment in Foreign

- **Country Director for India in ADB** - Mio Oka (replace Takeo Konishi)
- **US Representative on WHO Board** - Vivek Murthy
- **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



279. Who is the author of book titled "The Great Flap of 1942: How the Raj Panicked over a Japanese Non-invasion"?

"द ग्रेट फ्लैप ऑफ़ 1942: हाउ द राज पिक्ड ओवर ए जापानीज़ नॉन-इन्वेज़न" नामक पुस्तक के लेखक कौन हैं?

- (a) Amitav Ghosh / अमिताव घोष
- (b) Mukund Padmanabhan / मुकुंद पद्मनाभन
- (c) Salman Rushdie / सलमान रुश्दी
- (d) Shashi Tharoor / शशि थरूर
- (e) Chetan Bhagat / चेतन भगत

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** The Great Flap of 1942 authored by M Padmanabhan

The book titled "The Great Flap of 1942: How the Raj Panicked over a Japanese Non-invasion" was authored by Mukund Padmanabhan. It is published by Vintage Books.

**Recent Books**

- **50 Memories from Fifty of Service** - Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum (PM of UAE)
- **AI and National Security** - CDS Anil Chauhan
- **9 Incredible Years of Haryana Government: Emergence of a New and Vibrant Haryana** - Released by VP Jagdeep Dhankhar
- **Ek Samandar, Mere Andar** - Sanjeev Joshi
- **Pranab My father** – Sharmistha Mukherjee
- **The Cooking Books** – Ramchandra Guha
- **Conversations with Aurangzeb** - Charu Nivedita (translated by Nandini Krishnan)
- **Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan** - Arup Kumar Dutta (launched by Amit Shah)

280. Which edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self Defence Force commenced at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan?

भारतीय सेना और जापान ग्राउंड सेल्फ डिफेंस फोर्स के बीच संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास 'धर्म गार्जियन' का कौन सा संस्करण राजस्थान के महाजन फील्ड फायरिंग रेंज में शुरू हुआ?

- (a) 4th
- (b) 5th
- (c) 6th
- (d) 7th
- (e) 8th

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India - Japan Joint Exercise "DHARMA GUARDIAN" begins in Rajasthan

The 5th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self Defence Force commenced at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.

The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 25th February to 9th March 2024.

Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' is an annual exercise and conducted alternatively in India and Japan. The contingent of both sides comprises of 40 personnel each.

The Japanese contingent is represented by troops from the 34th Infantry Regiment and the Indian Army contingent is represented by a Battalion from the Rajputana Rifles.

#### Recent Exercise

- 12th edition of **MILAN Naval Exercise** – Visakhapatnam
- Indian Air Force Conduct **Exercise Vayu Shakti-2024** - Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- 1st edition of **Military Exercise - SADA TANSEEQ** between India & Saudi Arabia - Rajasthan
- **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

281. World Understanding and Peace Day is observed every year on which day?

विश्व समझ और शांति दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 21 February / 21 फरवरी
- (b) 22 February / 22 फरवरी
- (c) 23 February / 23 फरवरी
- (d) 24 February / 24 फरवरी
- (e) 20 February / 20 फरवरी

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 23 February - World Understanding and Peace Day

World Understanding and Peace Day is every year on 23 February.

This day is celebrated to promote peace, empathy and cooperation between people of various origins and cultures.

In 1905, Paul P. Harris assembled a meeting with three of his friends in Chicago. This was the first meeting for the development of Rotary International.

In 1910, the first Rotary Clubs in America were founded, mainly in Seattle, San Francisco, Oakland, and in Los Angeles.

The club soon spread to the world and became one of the significant associations. Subsequently, the name of the association was changed to Rotating International. Rotary International's objective is worldwide peacebuilding and positive goals.

282. Central Excise Day is observed every year on which day?

केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 21 February / 21 फरवरी
- (b) 22 February / 22 फरवरी
- (c) 23 February / 23 फरवरी
- (d) 24 February / 24 फरवरी
- (e) 25 February / 25 फरवरी

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** 24 February - Central Excise Day

Central Excise Day is observed every year on 24 February.

The day commemorates the establishment of the Central Excise and Salt Act, which came into effect in 1944.

On this day, we also honour the contributions of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to the Indian economy.

CBIC is the administrative authority for its subordinate organizations, which include Central Excise and Central GST Commissionerates, Central Revenues Control Laboratory, and Custom Houses.

283. NITI Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam has said that the latest consumer expenditure survey indicates that poverty has come down to how much per cent in the country and people are becoming prosperous both in rural and urban areas?

नीति आयोग के सीईओ बी वी आर सुब्रमण्यम ने कहा है कि नवीनतम उपभोक्ता व्यय सर्वेक्षण से पता चलता है कि देश में गरीबी कितने प्रतिशत तक कम हो गई है और ग्रामीण और शहरी दोनों क्षेत्रों में लोग समृद्ध हो रहे हैं?

- (a) 2%
- (b) 5%
- (c) 6%
- (d) 7%
- (e) 9%

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India's poverty level down to 5% of population: NITI Aayog

NITI Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam has said that the latest consumer expenditure survey indicates that poverty has come down to five per cent in the country and people are becoming prosperous both in rural and urban areas.

Citing the survey data, the increase in consumption both in rural and urban areas is about 2.5 times

The National Sample Survey Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, released data on household consumption expenditure in 2022-23 which shows per capita monthly household expenditure more than doubled in 2022-23 as compared to 2011-12.

**NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)**

- **Founded** - 1st January 2015
- **Preceding** - Planning Commission (15th March 1950)
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi
- **Chairperson** - Narendra Modi
- **Vice Chairperson** - Suman K Bery
- **CEO** - BVR Subrahmanyam
- NITI Aayog comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

284. In February 2024, the Global anti-money laundering watchdog the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) removed the United Arab Emirates from its "grey list" of countries subject to increased monitoring. Where is the headquarters of FATF?

फरवरी 2024 में, वैश्विक एंटी-मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग वॉचडॉग फाइनेंशियल एक्शन टास्क फोर्स (एफएटीएफ) ने संयुक्त अरब अमीरात को बड़ी हुई निगरानी के अधीन देशों की "ग्रे सूची" से हटा दिया। FATF का मुख्यालय कहाँ है?

- (a) Nyon, Switzerland / न्योन, स्विट्जरलैंड
- (b) Berlin, Germany / बर्लिन, जर्मनी
- (c) Paris, France / पेरिस, फ्रांस
- (d) Sofia, Bulgaria / सोफिया, बुल्गारिया
- (e) Vienna, Austria / वियना, ऑस्ट्रिया

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** UAE removed from money laundering 'grey list'

Global anti-money laundering watchdog the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) had removed the United Arab Emirates from its "grey list" of countries subject to increased monitoring.

While Kenya and Namibia were added.

A total of 21 nations are on the grey list.

In addition to the UAE, Barbados, Gibraltar and Uganda were removed from the grey list.

They've all taken substantial steps to improve the AML-CFT safety systems and address all items on their actions plans.

**About Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**

- **Founded** - 1989
- **Headquarters** - Paris, France
- **Membership** - 39
- **President** - T Raja Kumar (Singapore)

285. In February 2024, Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur announced the setting up a regional facilitation office of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in which city?

फरवरी 2024 में, केंद्रीय मंत्री अनुराग सिंह ठाकुर ने किस शहर में केंद्रीय फिल्म प्रमाणन बोर्ड (CBFC) का एक क्षेत्रीय सुविधा कार्यालय स्थापित करने की घोषणा की?

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

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Anurag Thakur announced setting up Film Certification Facilitation Office in Chandigarh

Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur has announced the setting up of a regional facilitation office of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in Chandigarh.

This move aims to support filmmakers in the region by making the process of obtaining film certification more convenient.

**About Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)**

- The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) operates as a statutory body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.
- Its mandate involves overseeing the public screening of films in accordance with the Cinematograph Act 1952, which sets forth rigorous certification procedures for commercial films shown in public spaces.
- Films distributed in cinemas and on television must undergo board certification before public exhibition in India, often requiring editing to comply with regulatory standards.

286. Which edition of the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) commenced in Abu Dhabi, UAE?

विश्व व्यापार संगठन (डब्ल्यूटीओ) के मंत्रिस्तरीय सम्मेलन का कौन सा संस्करण अबू धाबी, संयुक्त अरब अमीरात में शुरू हुआ?

- (a) 11th
- (b) 12th
- (c) 13th
- (d) 14th
- (e) 15th

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 13th WTO Ministerial Conference held in Abu Dhabi

The 13th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) commenced in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Ambassador Athaliah Lesiba, Chairperson of the WTO General Council, delivered a report highlighting progress on implementing commitments from the previous conference, including strengthening trade reviews and advancing negotiations on fisheries subsidies and e-commerce.

Director-General Okonjo-Iweala emphasized open trade and collaborative efforts to navigate global uncertainties, highlighting UAE's role in supporting developing nations.



287. According to Global investment advisory firm Jefferies, India is to be the third largest economy by which year?

वैश्विक निवेश सलाहकार फर्म जेफ़रीज़ के अनुसार, भारत किस वर्ष तक तीसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था बन जाएगा?

- (a) 2026
- (b) 2027
- (c) 2028
- (d) 2029
- (e) 2030

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India to be the third largest economy by 2027: Jefferies

Global investment advisory firm Jefferies has projected an optimistic outlook for the Indian economy and its equity markets.

The New York-headquartered firm said that in the last ten years, India has seen fundamental structural reforms that have created the framework for the country to realise its full potential.

India's GDP will likely touch five trillion US dollars making it the third largest economy by 2027, overtaking Japan and Germany, maintaining the status of fastest-growing large economy.

The Global Firm in its report has observed that India's market capitalization at 4.3 trillion US dollars ranks 5th in the world behind USA, China, Japan and Hong Kong.

288. The Bihar Startup Fund Trust (BSFT) has signed an MoU with which organization to boost the startup ecosystem in the eastern state?

बिहार स्टार्टअप फंड ट्रस्ट (बीएसएफटी) ने पूर्वी राज्य में स्टार्टअप पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किस संगठन के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Bihar, SIDBI to collaborate on enhancing startup ecosystem

The Bihar Startup Fund Trust (BSFT) has signed an MoU with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to boost the startup ecosystem in the eastern state.

The initiative is aimed at creating a conducive environment for startups and transforming Bihar into a startup hub.

The BSFT is the nodal agency constituted by the Industries Department for implementation of the Bihar Startup Policy.

Under the policy, the state government has set up the BSFT with an initial corpus of Rs 500 crore. Out of this, BSSFF has been established with an initial corpus of Rs 50 crore for scale-up funding support to startups.

**About Bihar**

- **Capital** – Patna
- **Chief Minister** – Nitish Kumar (9<sup>th</sup> time)
- **Deputy CM** - Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha
- **Governor** – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

289. Who has been appointed as Director in the Department of School Education & Literacy under the Ministry of Education?

शिक्षा मंत्रालय के तहत स्कूल शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग में निदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Sunil Sharma / सुनील शर्मा
- (b) Neeraj Akhoury / नीरज अखौरी
- (c) Pramod Sharma / प्रमोद शर्मा
- (d) Parminder Chopra / परमिंदर चोपड़ा
- (e) Vivek Srivastava / विवेक श्रीवास्तव

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Sunil Sharma appointed as Director in Department of School Education & Literacy

Sunil Sharma (IRS) has been selected for the appointment as Director in the Department of School Education & Literacy under the Ministry of Education.

Sharma has been selected for the appointment under the Central Staffing Scheme (CSS) for a period of five years.

Sharma is an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of 2010 batch. He was recommended for the Central deputation by the Department of Revenue.

#### **Recent Appointment**

- **CMD of IRCTC** - Sanjay Kumar Jain
- **President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** - Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal (72nd)
- **Vice President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** - Charanjot Singh Nanda
- **First Transwoman TTE of Southern Railway** - Sindhu Ganapathy's
- **Department of Health & Family Welfare Secretary** - Apurva Chandra

290. Who has been selected for the appointment as Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Steel?

इस्पात मंत्रालय में उप सचिव के पद पर नियुक्ति के लिए किसे चुना गया है?

- (a) Smita Sarangi / स्मिता सारंगी
- (b) Nitin Jain / नितिन जैन
- (c) Indra Mani Pandey / इंद्र मणि पांडे
- (d) Tanu Singh / तनु सिंह
- (e) Senthil Pandian C / सेंथिल पांडियन सी

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Nitin Jain appointed as Deputy Secretary in Ministry of Steel

Indian Revenue Service (IRS) Nitin Jain has been selected for the appointment as Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Steel.

He has been selected for the appointment under the Central Staffing Scheme for a period up to March 15, 2025.

Jain is an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) 2011 batch.

**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

291. Who has been appointed as Director in the Ministry of Heavy Industries?

भारी उद्योग मंत्रालय में निदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Anshika Singh / अंशिका सिंह
- (b) Dinesh Dasa / दिनेश दासा
- (c) Sureshwar Bonal / सुरेश्वर सिंह बोनाल
- (d) Manoj Soni / मनोज सोनी
- (e) Lokesh M / लोकेश एम

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Sureshwar Bonal appointed as Director in Heavy Industries Ministry

Sureshwar Singh Bonal (CWES) has been selected for the appointment as Director in the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

Bonal has been selected for appointment under the Central Staffing Scheme for five years.

Bonal is a Central Water Engineering Service (CWES) officer of 2004 batch.

He was recommended for the Central deputation by the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.

**Recent Appointment**

- **Secretary in Ministry of Steel** - Nitin Jain
- **Director in Department of School Education & Literacy** - Sunil Sharma
- **Director of Citizen Registration (DCR) of J&K and Ladakh** - Bhupinder Kumar
- **Director in Skill Development Ministry** - Tatung Padi
- **Punjab 'state icon' for Lok Sabha polls** - Shubman Gill (Campaign - Is Vaar 70 Paar)

**292. Senior PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz has become the first-ever woman Chief Minister of which province in Pakistan?**

**वरिष्ठ पीएमएल-एन नेता मरियम नवाज़ पाकिस्तान के किस प्रांत की पहली महिला मुख्यमंत्री बन गई हैं?**

- (a) Punjab / पंजाब
- (b) Karachi / कराची
- (c) Balochistan / बलूचिस्तान
- (d) Khyber / खैबर
- (e) Pakhtunkhwa / पख्तूनख्वा

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Maryam Nawaz becomes first Woman CM of Punjab province

Senior PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz, the daughter of three-time former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, became the first-ever woman Chief Minister of a Punjab province in Pakistan.

Maryam, the 50-year-old senior vice president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, won the chief ministerial elections amidst a walkout by lawmakers of former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party-backed Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

In the recently concluded elections, PML-N won 137 seats in the Punjab Assembly while independents backed by former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) won 113 seats.

**293. Who has won the Goodfellow Classic PSA Challenger Tour Title in Toronto, Canada?**

**टोरंटो, कनाडा में गुडफेलो क्लासिक पीएसए चैलेंजर टूर खिताब किसने जीता है?**

- (a) Abhay Singh / अभय सिंह
- (b) Aravindh Chithambaram / अरविंद चितंबरम
- (c) Alexandr Predke / एलेक्ज़ेंडर प्रेडके
- (d) Anahat Singh / अनाहत सिंह
- (e) Jaykumar Sammed / जयकुमार सम्मेद

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Indian Squash player Abhay Singh wins Goodfellow Classic squash  
Indian Squash player Abhay Singh clinched the Goodfellow Classic PSA Challenger Tour Title in Toronto, Canada.

In the finals, he defeated Elliott Morris Devred of Wales by 3-0.

With this win, the Asian Games Gold medalist has won his eighth PSA World Tour title.

294. India finished the Archery Asia Cup 2024 with 14 medals, including \_\_\_\_\_ medal in Baghdad, Iraq.

भारत ने बगदाद, इराक में तीरंदाजी एशिया कप 2024 को 14 पदकों के साथ समाप्त किया, जिसमें \_\_\_\_\_ पदक शामिल है।

- (a) 5 Gold, 4 silver and 5 bronze
- (b) 8 Gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze
- (c) 9 Gold, 4 silver and 1 bronze
- (d) 6 Gold, 4 silver and 4 bronze
- (e) 1 Gold, 9 silver and 4 bronze

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India bags nine gold medals at Archery Asia Cup 2024 in Baghdad

India finished the Archery Asia Cup 2024 with 14 medals, including nine gold, four silver and one bronze medal in Baghdad, Iraq.

In the women's individual recurve category, three-time Olympian Deepika Kumari won the gold medal by defeating compatriot Simranjeet Kaur 6-2. Meanwhile, in an all-Indian final, Dhiraj Bommadevara beat Tarundeep Rai 7-3 to win the men's recurve archery title.

India swept the top podiums in all the individual events, clinching top positions in both the men's and women's compound events.

Parneet Kaur defeated Iran's Fatemeh Hemmati 138-135 for the women's gold medal match while Prathamesh Jawkar beat teammate Kushal Dalal 146-144 for the men's title.

Indian women's recurve team comprising Simranjeet Kaur, Deepika Kumari and Bhajan Kaur defeated Uzbekistan 5-4 via shootout in a closely-fought final to clinch the gold.



295. World NGO Day is celebrated every year on which day?

विश्व एनजीओ दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 26 February / 26 फरवरी
- (b) 27 February / 27 फरवरी
- (c) 23 February / 23 फरवरी
- (d) 24 February / 24 फरवरी
- (e) 25 February / 25 फरवरी

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 27 February - World NGO Day

World NGO Day is celebrated every year on 27 February.

The NGOs play a crucial role in addressing global challenges, advocating for human rights and fostering sustainable development.

It was officially proposed and recognised on April 17, 2010, by 12 countries of the Baltic Sea NGO Forum in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Theme 2024 - Building a Sustainable Future: The Role of NGOs in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The member countries of the Baltic Sea NGO Forum were Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Norway and Sweden.

The first global inaugural event of World NGO day was hosted by the Ministry for Foreign affairs of Finland on 27 February 2014 in Helsinki, Finland.

296. Kumar Shahani passed away recently at the age of 83. Who was he?

कुमार शाहनी का हाल ही में 83 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह कौन थे?

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Filmmaker Kumar Shahani passes away

Kumar Shahani, the pole star of the parallel cinema movement in India, passed away in Kolkata at 83.

Always a critic's choice, the influential filmmaker strived to capture the truth in every frame and his distinct portrayal of the changing human condition in Maya Darpan (1972), Tarang (1984) and Kasba (1990) has withstood the test of time.

297. Pankaj Udhas passed away recently at the age of 72. Who was he?

पंकज उधास का हाल ही में 72 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह कौन थे?

- (a) Writer / लेखक
- (b) Politician / राजनेता
- (c) Singer / गायक
- (d) Journalist / पत्रकार
- (e) Composer / संगीतकार

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Legendary Ghazal Singer Pankaj Udhas passes away

Veteran singer Pankaj Udhas passed away at the age of 72.

A singer with a euphonious voice, Pankaj made his entry into the film industry with the song “Munne Ki Amma Yeh To Bata” in Bhappi Sonie’s Tum Haseen Main Jawaan (1970), alongside Kishore Kumar.

His debut ghazal album Aahat, released in 1980, garnered significant attention, paving the way for numerous successful albums in the years to come.

The track “Chithi Aayi Hai” from Mahesh Bhatt’s Naam (1986), composed by Laxmikant-Pyarelal, brought Pankaj Udhas widespread acclaim, solidifying his position as a Bollywood mainstay.

In 2006, the Indian government conferred the Padma Shri on Udhas.

298. National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Limited (NICDC) has signed an MoU with which IIT to enhance the development of greenfield smart cities?

राष्ट्रीय औद्योगिक गलियारा विकास निगम लिमिटेड (एनआईसीडीसी) ने ग्रीनफील्ड स्मार्ट शहरों के विकास को बढ़ाने के लिए किस आईआईटी के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

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

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** NICDC joined hands with IIT Delhi to enhance development of greenfield smart cities

National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Limited (NICDC) under the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, GoI and the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (FITT-IITD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.

The aim of the MoU is to evaluate optimality of locations for development of greenfield industrial smart cities in India leveraging the principles and framework of PM GatiShakti.

Under the MOU, FITT-IITD will leverage its technological prowess and research capabilities to analyse various factors influencing location optimality, including ease of business, living costs, logistic costs, multi-modal connectivity, ease of living index, living costs, potential of particular industry(s), raw-material availability and sustainability.

The comprehensive report produced as a result of this collaboration will serve as a guiding framework for future urban planning decisions, facilitating the development of greenfield cities tailored to meet the evolving needs of industry and society.

#### **IITs in News**

- AFMS signed MoU with IIT Roorkee to foster research in improving combat medical support & patient care of serving personnel
- IREDA and IIT Bhubaneswar sign MoU for Clean Energy Innovation
- IIT Kanpur develops India's first hypervelocity expansion tunnel test facility
- IIT Madras to open new campus at Kandy in Sri Lanka
- ArcelorMittal partners with IIT Madras to create Hyperloop facility in Tamil Nadu

299. Union Minister of State, Rajeev Chandrasekhar has launched the 'Investor Information and Analytics Platform'. It is developed by which IITs?

केंद्रीय राज्य मंत्री राजीव चंद्रशेखर ने 'निवेशक सूचना और विश्लेषण मंच' लॉन्च किया है। यह किस आईआईटी द्वारा विकसित किया गया 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. c**

**Sol.** Rajeev Chandrasekhar launches 'Investor Information and Analytics Platform'

Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Jal Shakti, Rajeev Chandrasekhar has launched the 'Investor Information and Analytics Platform' developed by IIT Madras.

This platform will act as a one-stop shop for startups to seamlessly access Venture Capitalists (VCs) and investor networks, Govt schemes and several other components of the startup landscape for all stakeholders.

This platform has been developed by the Researchers at the Centre for Research on Start-ups and Risk Financing (CREST) of IIT Madras.

An important feature of this unique platform is "StartupGPT" which is an AI-based conversational platform.

300. In February 2024, PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for Sikkim's first railway station at which city?

फरवरी 2024 में, पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी ने किस शहर में सिक्किम के पहले रेलवे स्टेशन की आधारशिला रखी है?

- (a) Singtam /सिंगटम
- (b) Rangpo / रंगपो
- (c) Jorethang / जौरेथांग
- (d) Mangan / मंगन
- (e) Gyalshing / ग्यालशिग

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** PM Modi laid foundation stone of Sikkim's First Railway Station

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for Sikkim's first railway station at Rangpo.

The design of the Rangpo railway station will draw inspiration from the rich culture, heritage and architecture of Sikkim.

The station will be a part of the under-construction 45-km rail line from Sevoke near Siliguri in West Bengal to Rangpo in Sikkim. It will have 14 tunnels and 22 bridges.

The track on the Sevoke-Rangpo section of the Northeast Frontier Railway will have the capacity to handle 25 ton and trains can run at a maximum speed of 110 kmph.

There will be three stations between Sevoke and Rangpo — Riyang, Teesta and Melli, all in West Bengal.

The project was awarded to IRCON International in May 2010 at a cost of ₹4,084.69 crore and the original deadline was May 2015. The revised date is now December 2024 with a revised cost of ₹12,474.07 crore.

#### **About Sikkim**

- **Capital** - Gangtok
- **Chief Minister** - Prem Singh Tamang
- **Governor** - Lakshman Prasad Acharya

#### **PM Modi in News**

- PM Modi inaugurates India's longest cable-stayed bridge Sudarshan Setu
- PM Modi inaugurated and dedicated to the nation two central institutions in Telangana and five in Andhra Pradesh.
- PM Modi lays foundation stone of Kalki Dham temple in UP
- PM inaugurates projects worth Rs 7300 crores in Madhya Pradesh
- PM Narendra Modi Unveils Projects Worth ₹1330 crore In Goa
- PM Modi inaugurated CLEA-CASGC 2024 Conference in New Delhi

301. In which country has the world's third-largest mosque and Africa's largest mosque been inaugurated in February 2024?  
फरवरी 2024 में दुनिया की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी मस्जिद और अफ्रीका की सबसे बड़ी मस्जिद का उद्घाटन किस देश में किया गया है?

- (a) Iran / ईरान
- (b) Algeria / अल्जीरिया
- (c) UAE / यूएई
- (d) Syria / सीरिया
- (e) Saudi Arabia / सऊदी अरब

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Algeria Inaugurates World's Third-Largest Mosque

Algeria has inaugurated the world's third-largest and Africa's largest mosque.

Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has inaugurated the Grand Mosque of Algiers on the North African nation's Mediterranean coastline.

Known locally as the Djamaa El-Djazair, it features the world's tallest minaret at 265 metres (869 feet), can accommodate 120,000 people, and is the world's largest mosque only after Islam's holiest sites in Saudi Arabia's Mecca and Medina.

It was built over seven years in the form of a modernist structure extending across 27.75 hectares (almost 70 acres), decorated in wood and marble and containing Arab and North African flourishes.

It reportedly has a helicopter landing pad and a library capable of housing up to one million books.

**About Algeria**

- Capital- Algiers
- Currency- Algerian Dinar
- Continent - Africa
- Official languages- Arabic, Tamazight
- President- Abdelmadjid Tebboune
- Prime minister- Nadir Larbaoui

302. In February 2024, which of the following companies received a payment aggregator licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?  
फरवरी 2024 में, निम्नलिखित में से किस कंपनी को भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) से भुगतान एग्रीगेटर लाइसेंस प्राप्त हुआ?

- (a) Mobi Kwik
- (b) Google Pay
- (c) Kia Fashion
- (d) mCent
- (e) Amazon Pay

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Amazon Pay gets final approval from RBI to operate as payment aggregator

Amazon Pay, the fintech arm of e-commerce major Amazon India, has received a payment aggregator licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the company.

The fintech firm joins a list of companies that the central bank has granted authorization to operate as payment aggregators (PA) recently.

This month, two fintech startups, Decentro and Juspay, and enterprise software-as-a-service (SaaS) firm Zoho have received final authorisation from the RBI for payment aggregator (PA) licences.

Food delivery major Zomato, and fintech firms Stripe and Tata Pay were among the companies to have bagged the licence in January.

They joined the likes of Razorpay, Cashfree Payments, and EnKash, who got approval last year.



303. Which entity has organized its monthly district outreach programme "Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0" in over 670 districts of the country?  
किस इकाई ने देश के 670 से अधिक जिलों में अपना मासिक जिला आउटरीच कार्यक्रम "निधि आपके निकट 2.0" आयोजित किया है?

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

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** EPFO organizing its monthly district outreach programme Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0

Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) is organizing its monthly district outreach programme Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 in over 670 districts of the country.

For the ease of EPS'95 pensioners, a special dedicated Pension Helpdesk will be set up wherein various pensioners-centric services like submission of Digital Life Certificates, Enquiries, and Pension Payment Order (PPO) handover on the day of retirement will be provided. Besides, a service kiosk will also be set up with a special focus on on-the-spot grievance redressal for employees, employers and pensioners and to share information with stakeholders.

The locations of camps can be accessed from the EPFO website under the What's New section.

Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 is a monthly District Outreach Programme of EPFO commenced in January last year Under the program, District Camps are organised on the 27th of every month or the next working day in case the 27th is a holiday.

Since January 2023, more than 8 thousand 500 District Camps have been organized.

304. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated 'Bharat Tex 2024' in which city?

प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने किस शहर में 'भारत टेक्स 2024' का उद्घाटन किया है?

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

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** PM Modi inaugurates 'Bharat Tex 2024' in New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated 'Bharat Tex 2024' at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

The event is one of the largest global textile events ever held in the country.

The event is being organized at Bharat Mandapam and Yasho Bhoomi, two of the largest exhibition centers in India.

The event was attended by over 3000 exhibitors and traders from approximately 100 countries and approximately 40,000 visitors.

Bharat Tex 2024 is built on the twin pillars of trade and investment, with a strong focus on sustainability.

305. Who has been appointed as the Director (Operations) of NTPC?

एनटीपीसी के निदेशक (संचालन) 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) Ravindra Kumar / रविन्द्र कुमार

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Ravindra Kumar assumes charge as Director (Operations) of NTPC

Ravindra Kumar has been appointed as the Director (Operations) of NTPC.

He has been appointed to the post till the date of his superannuation i.e. October 31, 2027, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Prior to joining as Director (Operations) of NTPC Limited, he was Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to Director (Operations) of NTPC Limited.

**Recent Appointment**

- **Director in Heavy Industries Ministry** - Sureshwar Bonal
- **Secretary in Ministry of Steel** - Nitin Jain
- **Director in Department of School Education & Literacy** - Sunil Sharma
- **Director of Citizen Registration (DCR) of J&K and Ladakh** - Bhupinder Kumar
- **Director in Skill Development Ministry** - Tatung Padi

306. Under which programme has PM Narendra Modi launched the world's largest cooperative grain storage scheme across the country in February 2024?

फरवरी 2024 में पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी ने किस कार्यक्रम के तहत देशभर में दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी सहकारी अनाज भंडारण योजना शुरू की है?

- (a) Food and Nutrition Security Programme
- (b) Mid-Day Meal Programme
- (c) Antyodaya Anna Yojana
- (d) Vikshit Bharat @ 2047
- (e) Sahakar Se Samridhi Programme

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** PM Modi launches World's Largest Grain Storage Scheme

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the world's largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector, entailing an investment of over Rs 1.25 lakh crore, with the inauguration of 11 godowns in primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) in as many states.

Under the programme, 700 lakh tons of storage capacity will be created over the next five years in the cooperative sector by constructing thousands of godowns and warehouses.

He also laid the foundation for creating godowns and other agri infrastructure in 500 more PACS.

Under this, thousands of warehouses and godowns will be constructed across the country.

This scheme has been launched under the 'Sahakar Se Samridhi Programme'.

Under the 'Sahakar Se Samridhi Programme', grain storages have been built across the country. It is being operated in 11 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in 11 states.

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307. PM Narendra Modi has revealed the name of four astronauts who have been selected for the Gaganyaan Mission. Who among the following astronauts is NOT the part of Gaganyaan Mission?

पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी ने उन चार अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों के नाम का खुलासा किया है जिन्हें गगनयान मिशन के लिए चुना गया है। निम्नलिखित अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों में से कौन गगनयान मिशन का हिस्सा नहीं है?

- (a) Angad Pratap / अंगद प्रताप
- (b) Prashanth Balakrishnan / प्रशांत बालकृष्णन
- (c) Ajith Krishnan / अजित कृष्णन
- (d) Prashant Krishna / प्रशांत कृष्ण
- (e) Shubhanshu Shukla / शुभांशु शुक्ला

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** PM Modi announces 4 astronauts for Gaganyaan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has revealed the name of four astronauts who have been selected for the Gaganyaan Mission.

The four Indian Air Force Officers will be the first Indians to go to space from Indian soil on an indigenous space vehicle.

The four astronauts are Group Captain Prashanth Balakrishnan, Group Captain Ajith Krishnan, Group Captain Angad Pratap, Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla.

The four astronauts have undergone extensive training at Russia and the program is now underway in India at Isro training facility.

The Gaganyaan spacecraft, designed to accommodate the astronauts, is being developed with advanced technology to ensure the safety and success of the mission. The spacecraft will be equipped with life support systems, communication systems, and other essential features to sustain human life in space.

ISRO's Gaganyaan mission will be launched next year by 2025. However, its initial phases can be completed this year i.e. by 2024.

#### **About Gaganyaan Mission**

- Under this mission, 4 crew members are to be delivered to an orbit of 400 kilometers.
- These 4 crew will remain on the mission for three days after which they have to be brought back safely to Earth.
- ISRO had tested this mission last year. Recently ISRO tested its cryogenic engine. Human Space Flight Center (HSFC) has a special contribution in this mission.
- After the success of Chandrayaan 3 and Aditya L-1, this Gaganyaan mission will take ISRO to greater heights. When PM Modi announced India's first manned space mission, Gaganyaan, in 2018

**308. Who has been recently appointed as Lokpal by President Droupadi Murmu?**

**हाल ही में राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने किसे लोकपाल नियुक्त किया है?**

- (a) Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde / जस्टिस शरद अरविंद बोबडे
- (b) Justice AM Khanwilkar / जस्टिस एएम खानविलकर
- (c) Justice Uday Lalit / जस्टिस उदय ललित
- (d) Justice N. V. Ramana / जस्टिस एन वी रमना
- (e) Justice Ranjan Gogoi / जस्टिस रंजन गोगोई

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Justice AM Khanwilkar to be new Lokpal of country

President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Former Supreme Court Judge Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar as the new chairperson of Lokpal along with six members. Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy, Justice Sanjay Yadav and Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi will be the Judicial Members of the Lokpal.

The others members of Lokpal are Sushil Chandra, Pankaj Kumar and Ajay Tirkey.

Justice Khanwilkar will be the second Lokpal in India, succeeding Pinaki Chandra Ghose who retired in May 2022 after serving a two-year tenure.

Currently, the acting chairperson and judicial member of Lokpal is Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty, former Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court.

The appointment of the new Lokpal of India was announced nearly three weeks after a selection committee composed of the Chief Justice of India, Prime Minister, Speaker of Lok Sabha, and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha.

**About Lokpal**

- The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill 2011 was passed by the Parliament on December 17, 2013. The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 received the Hon'ble President's assent and was notified on January 1, 2014.
- The act became effective on January 16, 2014, and was amended once in 2016 since its notification.
- The Lokpal is responsible for investigating allegations of corruption against public functionaries who fall within the scope and ambit of the Act.
- The Lokpal is composed of a chairperson and eight members, of which 50% are judicial members.
- The Lokpal has the authority to investigate allegations of corruption against individuals who hold certain positions in the government, including the prime minister, ministers in the Union government, members of Parliament, and officials of the Union government under Groups A, B, C, and D.
- The term for members is five years, or until they turn 70 whichever is earlier.

**Recent Appointment**

- **Director (Operations) of NTPC** - Ravindra Kumar
- **Director in Heavy Industries Ministry** - Sureshwar Bonal
- **Secretary in Ministry of Steel** - Nitin Jain
- **Director in Department of School Education & Literacy** - Sunil Sharma
- **Director of Citizen Registration (DCR) of J&K and Ladakh** - Bhupinder Kumar
- **Director in Skill Development Ministry** - Tatung Padi

309. Which ministry has signed a MoU with Research and Information System (RIS) to serve the continuation of academic cooperation and collaboration?

शैक्षणिक सहयोग और सहभागिता को जारी रखने के लिए किस मंत्रालय ने अनुसंधान और सूचना प्रणाली (आरआईएस) के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Ministry of Corporate Affairs / कॉर्पोरेट मामलों के मंत्रालय
- (b) Ministry of Ayush / आयुष मंत्रालय
- (c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs / आवास और शहरी मामलों के मंत्रालय
- (d) Ministry of Finance / वित्त मंत्रालय
- (e) Ministry of Home Affairs / गृह मंत्रालय

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Ministry of Ayush signed MoU with RIS

The Ministry of Ayush has signed an MoU with the Research and Information System (RIS) in New Delhi.

The MoU will bring forth the overview of Ayush Service sector and will serve the continuation of academic cooperation and collaboration with RIS, which is a Policy Research autonomous institute of the Ministry of External Affairs.

The Knowledge Partnership, through this MoU, will not only serve to strengthen academic cooperation and collaboration but will also bring out Ayush Service Sector overview in a time-bound frame.

310. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is promoting financial literacy among young adults through their annual Financial Literacy Week (FLW) campaign, held from 26 February to 1 March 2024. What is the theme of Financial Literacy Week 2024?

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) 26 फरवरी से 1 मार्च 2024 तक आयोजित अपने वार्षिक वित्तीय साक्षरता सप्ताह (FLW) अभियान के माध्यम से युवा वयस्कों के बीच वित्तीय साक्षरता को बढ़ावा दे रहा है। वित्तीय साक्षरता सप्ताह 2024 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Go Digital - Go Secure
- (b) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
- (c) Make a Right Start – Become Financially Smart
- (d) Credit Discipline and Credit from Formal Institutions
- (e) Farmers

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 26 February to 1 March - Financial Literacy Week

Starting in 2016, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has consistently allocated each year to the observance of Financial Literacy Week (FLW).

The designated theme for the Financial Literacy Week scheduled from February 26 to March 01, 2024, is "Make a Right Start – Become Financially Smart".

The theme for this year, is targeted towards young adults, mainly students.

The objective is to increase awareness on the advantages of inculcating financial discipline from an early age with inputs on saving, budgeting, power of compounding, banking essentials and cyber hygiene.



311. National Science Day is celebrated every year on 28 February in India to commemorate the discovery of 'Raman Effect' by Indian physicist Sir Chandrashekhar Venkata Raman. In which year was CV Raman awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics?

भारतीय भौतिक विज्ञानी सर चन्द्रशेखर वेंकट रमन द्वारा 'रमन प्रभाव' की खोज की स्मृति में भारत में प्रतिवर्ष 28 फरवरी को राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान दिवस मनाया जाता है। सीवी रमन को किस वर्ष भौतिकी के लिए नोबेल पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया था?

- (a) 1930
- (b) 1928
- (c) 1986
- (d) 1969
- (e) 1944

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 28 February - National Science Day

National Science Day is celebrated every year on February 28 to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect'.

Objective - To raise awareness about the importance of science and its role in improving the lives of people.

Theme 2024 - Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat

The National Science Day was first observed on the day when Indian Physicist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (C V Raman) announced the discovery of the "Raman Effect" in 1928, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1930.

He was the first Indian to receive this prestigious award in the field of science.

The Raman Effect is the phenomenon when light traverses a transparent material, and some of the light that is deflected changes in wavelength.

The history of National Science Day can be traced back to 1986 when the Indian government accepted the proposal of the National Council for Science and Technology Communication and designated February 28 as National Science Day to commemorate the discovery of the "Raman Effect".

312. India's Oldest MP, Shafiqur Rahman Barq passed away recently at the age of 94. He was related to which political party?  
भारत के सबसे बुजुर्ग सांसद शफीकुर रहमान बर्क का हाल ही में 94 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह किस राजनीतिक दल से संबंधित थे?

- (a) Indian National Congress
- (b) Samajwadi Party
- (c) Bharatiya Janata Party
- (d) Aam Aadmi Party
- (e) Bahujan Samaj Party

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India's Oldest MP, Shafiqur Rahman Barq dies at 94

Senior Samajwadi Party leader, and MP from Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal, Shafiqur Rahman Barq passed away at the age of 94.

Shafiqur is the India's oldest MP in Parliament.

Born on July 11, 1930, Shafiqur Rehman Barq began his political career with former prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh.

He also worked closely with Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav at the time of the party's formation.

Barq, who has been a four-time MLA, was elected MP from Sambhal for the fifth time in 2019. Barq won the Muradabad Lok Sabha seat three times (1996, 1998, and 2004) and the Sambhal Lok Sabha seat twice (2009 and 2019) from SP.

313. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for the Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) second spaceport in which state?

प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने किस राज्य में भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO) के दूसरे स्पेसपोर्ट की आधारशिला रखी 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 ISRO's Second Spaceport in Tamil Nadu

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) second spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.

The first spaceport, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, is located in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota.

The new spaceport will cover an area of 2,000 acres and will boost the growth and development of the region in Thoothukudi district, she added.

Currently, rockets launched from Sriharikota must head east before turning south, necessitating a diversion due to the airspace of neighbouring Sri Lanka.

With the new spaceport, this diversion will no longer be necessary, and the location is closer to the Equator than Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, the Telangana Governor said.

Additionally, Isro's propulsion complex is situated in Mahendragiri, which is closer to Kulasekaranpattinam (88 km) than Sriharikota (780km). This proximity will facilitate the transportation of rocket components, reducing both time and cost.

314. Which state government has launched the Chief Minister's Universal Life Insurance Scheme to mitigate financial hardship caused by untimely demise?

किस राज्य सरकार ने असामयिक निधन के कारण होने वाली वित्तीय कठिनाई को कम करने के लिए मुख्यमंत्री सार्वभौमिक जीवन बीमा योजना शुरू की है?

- (a) Tripura / त्रिपुरा
- (b) West Bengal / पश्चिम बंगाल
- (c) Nagaland / नागालैंड
- (d) Bihar / बिहार
- (e) Chhattisgarh / छत्तीसगढ़

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Nagaland govt launched universal life insurance scheme

Nagaland government has launched a fully-funded universal life insurance scheme to mitigate financial hardship caused by untimely demise.

The scheme ensures financial security and protection, providing coverage for breadwinners and family members, complementing the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme.

The Chief Minister's Universal Life Insurance Scheme will be fully funded by the state government.

Under this, a life insurance coverage of Rs 2 lakh will be given and additionally, accidental insurance coverage of Rs 2 lakh each will also be provided for the breadwinner and three other family members.

#### **About Nagaland**

- Formation - 1 December 1963
- Capital- Kohima
- Chief Minister- Neiphiu Rio
- Governor- La. Ganesan

#### **Recent Schemes launched by state governments**

- **Savera programme (Haryana)** - For early detection and prevention of breast cancer.
- **Van Mitra (Haryana)** - To encourage community participation in tree planting activities in non-forest areas.
- **Swayam Scheme (Odisha)** - To provide interest-free loans up to Rs 1 lakh to youth of the state
- **CM Vayoshree Yojana (Maharashtra)** - For senior citizens who suffer from some physical or mental disability
- **Mahtari Vandan Yojana (Chhattisgarh)** - To provide Rs 1,000 financial assistance for married women.
- **Yuva Nidhi Scheme (Karnataka)** - To provide aid for Jobless Youth

315. What is the name of the animal rescue, conservation, and rehabilitation initiative announced by Reliance Foundation in Jamnagar, Gujarat?

जामनगर, गुजरात में रिलायंस फाउंडेशन द्वारा घोषित पशु बचाव, संरक्षण और पुनर्वास पहल का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Van Yatra
- (b) Green Van
- (c) Vantara
- (d) Rakshak
- (e) Green Belt

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Reliance foundation unveils animal welfare initiative 'Vantara'

Reliance Industries and Reliance Foundation have launched 'Vantara' (Star of the Forest) programme. The programme will focus on rescue, treatment, care and rehabilitation of injured, abused and threatened animals, both in India and abroad.

The Vantara initiative has been conceptualized under the leadership of Anant Ambani, a Director on the boards of RIL and Reliance Foundation.

Vantara aims to partner with the Zoo Authority of India and other relevant government organizations. It will help improve all the 150-plus zoos in India in terms of training, capacity building and animal care infrastructure.

Under the Vantara project, a space of 3000 acres within the Green Belt of Reliance's Jamnagar Refinery Complex in Gujarat has been converted into a jungle-like environment that mimics the natural, enriching, lush and verdant habitat for the rescued species to thrive in.

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316. Which country will scrap world's first law banning tobacco sale?

कौन सा देश तंबाकू की बिक्री पर प्रतिबंध लगाने वाला दुनिया का पहला कानून खत्म करेगा?

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

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** New Zealand set to scrap world's first law banning tobacco sale

New Zealand will repeal a world-first law banning tobacco sales for future generations.

Set to take effect from July, the toughest anti-tobacco rules in the world would have banned sales to those born after January 1, 2009, cut nicotine content in smoked tobacco products and reduced the number of tobacco retailers by more than 90 per cent.

Repeal flies in the face of robust research evidence, ignores measures strongly supported by Maori leaders and will preserve health inequities.

**About New Zealand**

- **Capital** – Wellington
- **Currency** – Dollar
- **Prime Minister** - Christopher Luxon
- **Deputy Prime Minister** - Carmel Sepuloni

317. Which fintech company has launched a new feature on its platform, 'Pocket UPI' to facilitate payments without linking bank account?

किस फिनटेक कंपनी ने बैंक खाते को लिंक किए बिना भुगतान की सुविधा के लिए अपने प्लेटफॉर्म पर एक नई सुविधा 'पॉकेट यूपीआई' लॉन्च की है?

- (a) Mobikwik
- (b) Amazon Pay
- (c) PhonePe
- (d) Instamojo
- (e) Razorpay

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** MobiKwik introduces Pocket UPI to facilitate payments without linking bank account

MobiKwik has launched a new feature on its platform, 'Pocket UPI'.

Pocket UPI allows users to make UPI payments through MobiKwik Wallet without linking their bank account, thus giving more power in the hands of the users with an additional choice while they make UPI payments.

Pocket UPI safeguards users from compromised transactions and financial fraud by transferring funds from the MobiKwik Wallet rather than their bank account, thus limiting exposure when making financial transactions.

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

- Bandhan Bank authorised by the West Bengal govt to collect tax and non-tax receipts through the Government Receipt Portal System (GRIPS)
- SBI launches **digital enrolment for PMJJBY and PMSBY** Schemes
- LIC launches “**Amritbaal**” insurance plan for children
- Karnataka Bank launched its centenary campaign ‘**Bharat Ka Karnataka Bank**’
- LIC launched new plan policy "**Index Plus**"

318. Mahanagar Gas has acquired how much per cent shareholding in 3EV Industries Private Limited?

महानगर गैस ने 3EV इंडस्ट्रीज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड में कितनी प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी हासिल कर ली है?

- (a) 13.97%
- (b) 20.97%
- (c) 23.97%
- (d) 30.97%
- (e) 33.97%

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Mahanagar Gas acquires 30.97% share in 3EV Industries

Mahanagar Gas has entered into a shareholders' agreement with 3EV Industries Private Limited to acquire 30.97 per cent shareholding in the company that manufactures and operates three-wheeler electric vehicles (EVs).

The shareholding will give MGL the right to appoint one Director on the board of 3ev and one board observer.

Mahanagar Gas is in the business of City Gas Distribution (CGD), presently supplying Natural Gas.



319. Which Small Finance Bank has partnered with Dvara Money for digital banking services?

किस लघु वित्त बैंक ने डिजिटल बैंकिंग सेवाओं के लिए द्वार मनी के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) AU Small Finance Bank Limited / एयू स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड
- (b) Capital Small Finance Bank Limited / कैपिटल स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड
- (c) Jana Small Finance Bank / जना स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक
- (d) Shivalik Small Finance Bank / शिवालिक स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक
- (e) Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited / इक्विटास स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Jana SFB partnered with Dvara Money for digital banking

Jana Small Finance Bank Limited has partnered with Dvara Money for digital banking services.

Under this, DM's Spark Money platform has been integrated with the technical capabilities of Jana SFB.

The integration of third-party application provider (TPAP) capabilities will enable the Spark Money platform to incorporate a full-stack UPI solution.

This will allow customers to connect their savings accounts for digital payments and enable UPI functionalities such as Aadhaar OTP-based onboarding and credit on UPI.

#### **About Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

- **Established** - 2018
- **Headquarters** - Bengaluru
- **CEO** - Ajay Kanwal

#### **Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector**

- IREDA and PNB join hands to Co-Finance Renewable Energy Projects
- IEPFA and DBS Bank signs MoU to spread awareness on investment and fraudulent schemes
- PayU, NPCI join hands to roll out Credit Lines on UPI' feature
- SBI partners with Flywire to modernise international education payments for students
- ESAF Small Finance Bank and Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance Partner to Offer Life Insurance

**320. Who has been appointed as the CEO of the World Gold Council for India?**  
**भारत के लिए वर्ल्ड गोल्ड काउंसिल के सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Sachin Jain / सचिन जैन
- (b) Neeraj Akhoury / नीरज अखौरी
- (c) Pramod Sharma / प्रमोद शर्मा
- (d) Parminder Chopra / परमिंदर चोपड़ा
- (e) Vivek Srivastava / विवेक श्रीवास्तव

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Sachin Jain appointed as CEO of WGC India

The World Gold Council has named Sachin Jain as its new CEO for India.

Jain's extensive experience, particularly in the jewellery market and strategic leadership, positions him well for this crucial role.

He joins from De Beers where he has held several senior roles over the past 13 years. As managing director of DeBeers India, he has led the De Beers Forevermark business in India and the Middle East.

**About World Gold Council**

- Founded- 1987
- Headquarters- London, United Kingdom
- CEO- David Tait
- President- Kelvin Dushnisky

321. Who has been appointed as the Director of Ministry of Women & Child Development?

महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय के निदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Smita Sarangi / स्मिता सारंगी
- (b) Arkaja Das / अरकजा दास
- (c) Indra Mani Pandey / इंद्र मणि पांडे
- (d) Tanu Singh / तनु सिंह
- (e) Vivek Murthy / विवेक मूर्ति

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Arkaja Das appointed as Director in Women & Child Development Ministry

The Central Government has approved the appointment of Arkaja Das (IPoS) as Director in the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

Das has been appointed under the Central Staffing Scheme with effect from 1 March 2024 and for a period up to 26 October 2027.

Das is an Indian Postal Service (IPoS) officer of 2010-batch. Presently, she is posted as Deputy Secretary in the same Ministry.

**Recent Appointment**

- **New Lokpal of country** - Justice AM Khanwilkar
- **Director (Operations) of NTPC** - Ravindra Kumar
- **Director in Heavy Industries Ministry** - Sureshwar Bonal
- **Secretary in Ministry of Steel** - Nitin Jain
- **Director in Department of School Education & Literacy** - Sunil Sharma

322. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off India's first indigenously built hydrogen fuel cell ferry boat in virtual mode. The vessel has been built at which company?

प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने वर्चुअल मोड में भारत की पहली स्वदेश निर्मित हाइड्रोजन ईंधन सेल फेरी नाव को हरी झंडी दिखाई है। जहाज किस कंपनी में बनाया गया है?

- (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. e**

**Sol.** PM Modi unveils India's first hydrogen fuel cell ferry

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off India's first indigenously built hydrogen fuel cell ferry boat in virtual mode.

The vessel has been built at the Cochin Shipyard.

The pilot vessel is a 24-metre catamaran which can carry 50 passengers with fully air-conditioned passenger space. It will make urban mobility smooth and easy.

The hydrogen fuel vessel has fully home-grown technology and it can be replicated in other parts of the country for urban mobility application, according to CSL.

**PM Modi in News**

- PM Modi inaugurated 'Bharat Tex 2024' in New Delhi
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone for Sikkim's first railway station at Rangpo.
- PM Modi inaugurates India's longest cable-stayed bridge Sudarshan Setu
- PM Modi inaugurated and dedicated to the nation two central institutions in Telangana and five in Andhra Pradesh.
- PM Modi lays foundation stone of Kalki Dham temple in UP

323. By which year will India establish its own space station in space?

भारत किस वर्ष तक अपना खुद का स्पेस स्टेशन अंतरिक्ष में स्थापित करेगा ?

- (a) 2030
- (b) 2032
- (c) 2035
- (d) 2040
- (e) 2047

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** PM Modi announced India's own Space Station by 2035

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared India's plan to establish its own space station by 2035. This initiative aims to facilitate advanced exploration of the universe.

Among other feats, India now aims for setting up 'Bharatiya Antariksha Station' by 2035 and sending the first Indian to the Moon by 2040.

Indian is about to go to space after a gap of 40 years, in an apparent reference to Rakesh Sharma's 1984 space flight aboard USSR's Soyuz T-11.

324. Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton scripted history by scoring the fastest century in T20 International (T20I) history during a bilateral match against Nepal. He is from which country?

जान निकोल लोफ्टी-ईटन ने नेपाल के खिलाफ एक द्विपक्षीय मैच के दौरान टी20 अंतर्राष्ट्रीय (टी20ई) इतिहास में सबसे तेज शतक बनाकर इतिहास रचा। वह किस देश से है?

- (a) Zimbabwe / जिम्बाब्वे
- (b) New Zealand / न्यूजीलैंड
- (c) Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया
- (d) Namibia / नामीबिया
- (e) Ireland / आयरलैंड

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Namibia's Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton smashes fastest T20I Hundred

Namibia's Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton scripted history by scoring the fastest century in T20 International (T20I) history during a bilateral match against Nepal.

Achieving this monumental feat off just 33 balls, Loftie-Eaton shattered the previous record held by Nepal's Kushal Malla, who had set the benchmark at 34 balls against Mongolia during the Asian Games in 2023.

**Fastest T20I centuries**

- Malla is ranked second on the list with a 34-ball T20I hundred. South Africa's David Miller, Indian skipper Rohit Sharma, and Czech Republic's Sudesh Wickramasekara have dropped to joint third in the list. All three have scored T20I hundreds in 35 balls.
- Miller hit 101\* from 36 balls against Bangladesh in Potchefstroom in October 2017.
- Rohit scored 118 from 43 balls against Sri Lanka in Indore in December 2017, including 12 fours and 10 sixes.
- Wickramasekara scored 104\* off 36 versus Turkey in the Continental Cup in Ilfov County in August 2019.

325. Neil Wagner has announced his retirement from international cricket. He is from which country?

नील वैगनर ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय 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. b**

**Sol.** New Zealand's Neil Wagner retires from international cricket

New Zealand fast bowler Neil Wagner has decided to bring the curtain down on his illustrious 64-Test career for the Blackcaps, formally announcing his retirement from international cricket.

Wagner, a left-arm pacer, leaves the Test arena as the fifth-highest wicket-taker in New Zealand's history.

Wagner was an integral part of the New Zealand team that clinched the inaugural World Test Championship in 2021.

#### **Recently Retired Players**

- Manoj Tiwary (West Bengal) - All forms of cricket
- Heinrich Klaasen (South Africa) - Test cricket
- David Warner (Australia) – International ODI & Test
- Dean Elgar (South Africa) – International cricket
- Asad Shafiq (Pakistan) – All forms of cricket

326. Reliance Industries Limited and which company have officially signed a binding agreement to merge their media businesses in India?

रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड और किस कंपनी ने भारत में अपने मीडिया व्यवसायों के विलय के लिए आधिकारिक तौर पर एक बाध्यकारी समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Netflix
- (b) Pixar
- (c) Star Sport
- (d) Disney
- (e) Espn

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Reliance-Disney merger will drive consolidation

Reliance Industries Limited and Walt Disney Company have officially signed a binding agreement to merge their media businesses in India.

This sets the stage for the establishment of an \$8.5 billion (Rs 70,352 crore) media and entertainment powerhouse, surpassing any other entity in the industry.

As part of the pact, the media undertaking of Viacom18 will be merged into Star India Private Limited (“SIPL”) through a court-approved scheme of arrangement.

The JV will also become the biggest player in sports, holding rights to marquee cricket properties like the Indian Premier League (IPL), International Cricket Council (ICC) rights for men and women global events, and BCCI’s India bilateral matches across TV and digital platforms.

It will also own other sports assets such as Pro Kabaddi League, Indian Super League, English Premier League, NBA, and the Olympics,” said Axis Capital.



327. Rare Disease Day is observed every year on last day of February. What is the theme of Rare Disease Day 2024?

दुर्लभ रोग दिवस हर साल फरवरी के आखिरी दिन मनाया जाता है। दुर्लभ रोग दिवस 2024 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Express the feelings
- (b) Share Your Colours
- (c) Share your ideas
- (d) Nothing
- (e) none of above

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 29 February - Rare Disease Day

Rare Disease Day is observed on 29 February.

Objective - To create awareness on the rare diseases that exist and how they can affect the daily lives of the patients.

The theme for 2024, "Share Your Colours," emphasizes collaboration and support.

Rare Disease Day was first observed in 2008 by EURORDIS and the Council of National Alliances to raise awareness about rare diseases.

It falls on the last day of February, but in leap years like 2024, it is observed on February 29th.

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