



Best 300+ MCQs

August 2024

Current Affairs PDF

1. Indian Army has launched the E-SeHAT module for Veterans. What is the meaning of 'S' in "E-SeHAT"?

भारतीय सेना ने दिग्गजों के लिए E-SeHAT मॉड्यूल लॉन्च किया है। "E-SeHAT" में 'S' का क्या अर्थ है?

- (a) Secure
- (b) Service
- (c) Scheme
- (d) Safety
- (e) Severe

Ans. b

Sol. Indian Army launches E-SeHAT Tele-Consultancy for Veterans

The Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) has launched the Electronic Services e-Health Assistance and Tele-consultation (E-SeHAT) module.

The E-SeHAT Tele-consultancy would enable ECHS beneficiaries in obtaining online Tele-consultation for medical treatment from their homes without visiting the ECHS Polyclinic.

The module aims to provide health care services through safe and structured video based clinical consultations.

The pilot project has been launched today at 12 ECHS Polyclinics including remote locations of Baramulla, Imphal, Churachandpur, Dimapur and Aizawal. The 12 ECHS Polyclinics tele-consulted remotely located ECHS beneficiary ex-servicemen before its pan India Roll Out planned in November 2024.

The E-SeHAT initiative aligns with the Digital India vision of the Government of India aimed at promoting digital inclusivity and efficiency in public services. This pioneering effort will transform healthcare delivery for veterans, ensuring timely and quality medical attention from the comfort of their homes.

2. Who has launched the National Apprenticeship and Training Scheme (NATS) 2.0 Portal in New Delhi?

नई दिल्ली में राष्ट्रीय प्रशिक्षता और प्रशिक्षण योजना (NATS) 2.0 पोर्टल किसने लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Amit Shah
- (b) Dharmendra Pradhan
- (c) Kiran Rijju
- (d) Jitendra Singh
- (e) Shivraj Singh Chauhan

Ans. b

Sol. Education Minister launches NATS 2.0 and Disburses Rs. 100 Crore Stipends

Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the National Apprenticeship and Training Scheme (NATS) 2.0 Portal in New Delhi.

As part of this initiative, Rs 100 crore in stipends has been disbursed to young graduates and diploma holders through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

These apprentices are receiving on-the-job training across various sectors, including IT/ITes, manufacturing, and automobile industries.

The launch of the NATS 2.0 portal represents a significant step toward democratising apprenticeship opportunities, bridging skill gaps, and fulfilling the aspirations of youth, ultimately preparing them for future careers.

The portal aims to facilitate a large number of beneficiaries to register and apply for apprenticeships while allowing establishments and industries to manage vacancies and contracts efficiently.

3. Which city of India will host the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists?

भारत का कौन सा शहर कृषि अर्थशास्त्रियों के 32वें अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन की मेजबानी करेगा?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Surat
- (d) Gurugram
- (e) Jaipur

Ans. b

Sol. 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists in New Delhi

India will host the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists at the Pusa Institute New Delhi from 2 to 7 August 2024.

After a gap of 66 years, India will be hosting this prestigious Conference again, which it hosted in 1958.

Theme 2024 - Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems

The International Conference on Agricultural Economics is held every three years. The 2021 conference was held in a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists is being organized by the International Association of Agricultural Economists in collaboration with the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, the International Food Policy Research Institute, the Agricultural Economics Research Association (India), the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research.

Around 1,000 people, mainly agricultural economists from the world's leading universities and agricultural institutions from 75 countries, are expected to attend the conference. Around 45 per cent of the delegates are women.

About International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE)

- The credit for setting up the ICAE is given to Leonard Elmhirst of England, who organised the first International Conference of Agricultural Economists in Devon, England, in 1929.
- ICAE brings together the leading Agricultural economists and scholars to discuss issues related to world agriculture.
- India hosted the 10th International Conference of Agricultural Economists held in Mysore in India in 1958.

4. India has been elected as the Vice-Chair of which supply chain body of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)?

भारत को इंडो-पैसिफिक इकोनॉमिक फ्रेमवर्क फॉर प्रॉस्पेरिटी (IPEF) के किस आपूर्ति श्रृंखला निकाय का उपाध्यक्ष चुना गया है?

- (a) Crisis Response Network
- (b) Supply Chain Council
- (c) Labor Rights Advisory Board
- (d) Both a and b
- (e) Both b and c

Ans. b

Sol. India elected as Vice-Chair of the Supply Chain Council of IPEF

India has been elected as the Vice-Chair of one of the three supply chain bodies set up under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Agreement relating to Supply Chain Resilience.

India and 13 other IPEF partners have established three bodies under the IPEF's agreement on supply chain resilience. The pact came into force in February 2024.

The inaugural virtual meetings of the Supply Chain Council [SCC], Crisis Response Network [CRN], and Labor Rights Advisory Board [LRAB] marked a step forward for cooperation among partner countries for strengthening supply chain resilience in the region.

India Vice Chair of Supply Chain Council -

- The 14 member countries of the IPEF elected a Chair and Vice Chair of these three supply chain bodies. The Chair and Vice Chair will serve a two-year term.
- Supply Chain Council: **Chair**-USA, **Vice-Chair** - India.
- Crisis Response Network: **Chair**- South Korea, **Vice-Chair** - Japan.
- Labor Rights Advisory Board: **Chair**- USA, **Vice-Chair** - Fiji.

About Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)

- IPEF is a USA led initiative which was launched by the American President Joe Biden on 23 May 2022 in Tokyo, Japan.
- The IPEF aims to promote economic interaction and cooperation among partner countries, advancing growth, economic stability, and regional prosperity.
- The 14 Member countries of IPEF are India, Japan, Australia, Brunei, Fiji, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and the USA.

5. 11 public sector banks—excluding State Bank of India (SBI) — have charged Rs 2,331 crore from account holders for their failure to maintain minimum balance in savings banks in FY2024. Which bank has collected the maximum amount of Rs 633.4 crore from their customers?

भारतीय स्टेट बैंक (एसबीआई) को छोड़कर 11 सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों ने वित्त वर्ष 2024 में बचत बैंकों में न्यूनतम बैलेंस न रखने पर खाताधारकों से 2,331 करोड़ रुपये वसूले हैं। किस बैंक ने अपने ग्राहकों से सबसे ज्यादा 633.4 करोड़ रुपये वसूले हैं?

- (a) Union Bank of India
- (b) Canara Bank
- (c) Bank of Baroda
- (d) Indian Bank
- (e) Punjab National Bank

Ans. e

Sol. 11 PSU banks charge Rs 2,331 crore from account holders for not maintaining minimum balance in FY24

11 public sector banks—excluding State Bank of India (SBI) — have charged Rs 2,331 crore from account holders for their failure to maintain minimum balance in savings banks in FY2024, a rise of 25.63 per cent from Rs 1,855.43 crore in FY2023.

These banks collected Rs 5,614 crore from account holders for not maintaining the minimum balance in the last three years, according to Ministry of Finance figures.

SBI stopped charging penalty for not maintaining minimum balance since FY2020.

Punjab National Bank (PNB) collected the maximum amount of Rs 633.4 crore from their customers, followed by Bank of Baroda Rs 386.51 crore and Indian Bank Rs 369.16 crore.

The minimum balance penalty will be higher if charges levied by private sector banks are taken into account. All the private banks are charging hefty amounts from account holders if they fail to keep the minimum balance in their accounts.

As per guidelines, some basic minimum facilities are being provided to account holders under Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA), free of charge, without any requirement of minimum balance. These include deposit of cash at bank branch as well as ATMs/CDMs and receipt/ credit of money through any electronic channel or by means of deposit /collection of cheques drawn by Central/State Government agencies and departments. There is no limit on number and value of deposits that can be made in a month.

Under BSBDA, minimum of four withdrawals in a month, including ATM withdrawal are allowed. For all other type of bank accounts, banks are competent to provide any value-added service, free of cost, as per their board approved policy.

RBI vide its circulars issued in 2014 and 2015 has laid down guidelines regarding levy of penal charges on non-maintenance of minimum balances in savings bank accounts and regarding customer service in banks.

Banks were permitted to fix penal charges regarding non-maintenance of minimum balance in savings account, as per their board approved policy, while ensuring that penal charges should be a fixed percentage levied on the amount of difference between the actual balance maintained and the minimum balance as agreed upon at the time of opening the account.

6. Who has been appointed as next High Commissioner of India to Republic of Rwanda?

रवांडा गणराज्य में भारत के अगले उच्चायुक्त के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Soumendu Bagchi
- (b) Sita Ram Meena
- (c) Vinay Mohan Kwatra
- (d) Vijay Khanduja
- (e) Mridu Pawan Das

Ans. e

Sol. Mridu Pawan Das appointed as next High Commissioner of India to Rwanda. The government of India has appointed Mridu Pawan Das as the next High Commissioner of India to Republic of Rwanda. He presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

About Rwanda

- Capital - Kigali
- Currency- Rwandan Franc
- Official languages- Kinyarwanda, French, English, Swahili
- Prime minister- Édouard Ngirente

Recent Appointment in Foreign

- Mridu Pawan Das appointed as next High Commissioner of India to Rwanda
- Vinay Mohan Kwatra appointed as next Indian ambassador to US
- Vijay Khanduja appointed as India's next High Commissioner to Cameroon
- Bramha Kumar appointed as India's Ambassador to Zimbabwe
- Sita Ram Meena appointed as India's Ambassador to Niger
- Abhay Thakur appointed as India's Envoy to Myanmar
- Soumendu Bagchi appointed as India's Ambassador to Iraq

7. Which of the following has received the 'Global Water Tech Award 2024' in the 'organization' category for its initiatives in environmental conservation?

निम्न में से किसने पर्यावरण संरक्षण में अपनी पहल के लिए 'संगठन' श्रेणी में 'ग्लोबल वाटर टेक अवार्ड 2024' प्राप्त किया है?

- (a) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
- (b) Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation
- (c) Jaipur Metro Rail Corporation
- (d) Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation
- (e) Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation

Ans. a

Sol. DMRC wins Global Water Tech Award for environmental initiatives

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has received the 'Global Water Tech Award 2024' in the 'organisation' category for its initiatives in environmental conservation.

Global Energy and Environment Foundation (GEEF) presented the honour, recognising DMRC's efforts in water conservation and efficient utilisation of water resources across Delhi.

Its key initiatives include rainwater harvesting pits, sewage treatment plants, and the use of treated effluent for construction, horticulture, and dust suppression at various sites.

During its first phase of construction, DMRC rejuvenated the dry Sarpakar Lake in the ridge area using "dewatered water" obtained from one of its construction site near Delhi University.

8. Former Union Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar was sworn in as the _____ Governor of Jharkhand.

पूर्व केंद्रीय मंत्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार ने झारखंड के _____ राज्यपाल के रूप में शपथ ली।

(a) 10th

(b) 11th

(c) 12th

(d) 13th

(e) 15th

Ans. c

Sol. Santosh Kumar Gangwar sworn in as Jharkhand Governor

Former Union Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar was sworn in as the 12th Governor of Jharkhand.

Gangwar succeeded C.P. Radhakrishnan, who was appointed as the Governor of Maharashtra.

Acting Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court Sujit Narayan Prasad administered the oath of office to Mr. Gangwar.

About Jharkhand

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

9. Sanjay Shukla has been recently appointed Managing Director (MD) of which financial institution?

संजय शुक्ला को हाल ही में किस वित्तीय संस्थान का प्रबंध निदेशक (एमडी) नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) SIDBI
- (b) SEBI
- (c) Exim Bank
- (d) NABARD
- (e) NHB

Ans. e

Sol. Sanjay Shukla appointed as MD of National Housing Bank

Sanjay Shukla has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of National Housing Bank (NHB).

Before joining NHB, Shukla was the founding managing director and chief executive officer (CEO) of Centrum Housing Finance Limited (CHFL) from October 2016.

A seasoned chartered accountant with over three decades of experience in housing and retail asset finance, Shukla has a distinguished history of leading and transforming financial institutions.

He began his career in 1991 as an officer at LIC Housing Finance Limited, the National Housing Bank (NHB).

About National Housing Bank (NHB)

- NHB is the apex regulatory body for overall regulation and licensing of housing finance companies in India.
- Founded - 9 July 1988
- Headquarters - New Delhi
- Jurisdiction - Ministry of Finance
- MD - Sanjay Shukla

10. The Union government appointed two new members Ramesh Narain Parbat and Prabodh Seth to the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the administrative body for the Income Tax Department in August 2024. Who is the current chairman of CBDT?

केंद्र सरकार ने अगस्त 2024 में आयकर विभाग के प्रशासनिक निकाय, केंद्रीय प्रत्यक्ष कर बोर्ड (CBDT) में दो नए सदस्यों रमेश नारायण पर्वत और प्रबोध सेठ को नियुक्त किया। CBDT के वर्तमान अध्यक्ष कौन हैं?

- (a) Ravi Agrawal
- (b) Pragya Sahay Saksena
- (c) P K Mishra
- (d) Pravin Kumar
- (e) Sanjay Kumar

Ans. a

Sol. Government appoints 2 new members in CBDT

The Union government has appointed two new members in the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the administrative body for the Income Tax Department.

Ramesh Narain Parbat and Prabodh Seth belong to the 1989 batch of the Indian Revenue Service (IRS).

Parbat is posted as the director general of I-T investigations in Lucknow, While Seth is posted as the chief commissioner of I-T (international taxation) in Delhi.

The CBDT is headed by a chairperson and can have six members who are in the rank of special secretary.

Apart from CBDT Chairman Ravi Agrawal, the other serving members in the Board are Pragya Sahay Saksena, H B S Gill, Pravin Kumar and Sanjay Kumar.

11. Who has won the 2024 Formula One Belgian Grand Prix?**2024 फॉर्मूला वन बेल्जियम ग्रैंड प्रिक्स किसने जीता है?**

- (a) Sebastian Vettel
- (b) Lewis Hamilton
- (c) Max Verstappen
- (d) Oscar Piastri
- (e) Sergio Pérez

Ans. b

Sol. Hamilton wins thrilling Belgian Grand Prix Lewis Hamilton has won the Belgian Grand Prix after teammate George Russell, who had originally come home in first, was disqualified following the race for an underweight car.

With McLaren's Oscar Piastri finishing third. Red Bull's Sergio Perez ended the day down in P7, having been overtaken by Sainz in the latter stages amid continuing pressure around the Mexican's place in the team.

Fernando Alonso took eighth for Aston Martin with Alpine's Esteban Ocon and RB's Daniel Ricciardo rounding out the top-10.

Recent 2024 F1 Grand Prix Winner

- Hungarian Grand Prix – McLaren's Oscar Piastri (Australia)
- British Grand Prix – Mercedes's Lewis Hamilton (UK)
- Austrian Grand Prix - Mercedes's George Russell (UK)
- Spanish Grand Prix – Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)
- Canadian Grand Prix - Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)
- Monaco Grand Prix - Ferrari's Charles Leclerc (Monacco)
- Emilia Romagna Grand Prix - Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)
- Miami Grand Prix - McLaren's Lando Norris (British)
- Chinese Grand Prix - Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)
- Japanese Grand Prix - Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)
- Australian Grand Prix - Ferrari's Carlos Sainz (Spain)
- Saudi Arabian Grand Prix - Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)
- Bahrain Grand Prix - Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)

12. The Basketball Federation of India (BFI) has set up the National basketball academy in collaboration with Corvuss American Academy in which city?

बास्केटबॉल फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (बीएफआई) ने कॉर्वस अमेरिकन अकादमी के सहयोग से किस शहर में राष्ट्रीय बास्केटबॉल अकादमी की स्थापना की है?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Gandhinagar
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) Chennai
- (e) Noida

Ans. c

Sol. BFI sets up National Basketball Academy In Collaboration with CAA

The Basketball Federation of India (BFI) has set up the National basketball academy in collaboration with Corvuss American Academy in Mumbai.

For a start, the Academy will run with 30 boys and 30 girls from the school. There will be a nationwide hunt for talent to select 30 boys and 30 girls for the academy.

These players will be under the guidance of a competent foreign coach. The partner institution will provide a comprehensive academic program, nutritional support, sports counselling, training and access to world class facilities for the trainees.

The players in the academy will be free to represent their States in the State and national championships.

13. Swapnil Kusale clinched his first Olympic bronze in the _____ rifle 3 positions event in the Summer Olympics games being held in Paris?

स्वप्निल कुसाले ने पेरिस में आयोजित ग्रीष्मकालीन ओलंपिक खेलों में _____ राइफल 3 पोजीशन स्पर्धा में अपना पहला ओलंपिक कांस्य पदक जीता?

- (a) 10m
- (b) 20m
- (c) 30m
- (d) 50m
- (e) 40m

Ans. d

Sol. Swapnil Kusale earns third bronze medal for India in shooting

Swapnil Kusale clinched his first Olympic bronze and third medal for India in the 50m rifle 3 positions event in the Summer Olympics games being held in Paris.

Liu Yukun from China bagged the gold with 463.6 points, while Serhiy Kulish of Ukraine won the silver medal scoring 461.3.

Kusale scored an aggregate of 451.4 in six rounds. He had finished seventh in the qualification.

The last time a 50m rifle shooter made it to the Olympic finals was in 2012 London when Joydeep Karmakar finished fourth in 50m rifle prone event, a discipline which has been discontinued at the Olympics.

14. World Wide Web (WWW) Day is observed every year on 1 August. Tim Berners-Lee invented the WWW in which year?

वर्ल्ड वाइड वेब (WWW) दिवस हर साल 1 अगस्त को मनाया जाता है। टिम बर्नर्स-ली ने WWW का आविष्कार किस वर्ष किया था?

- (a) 1979
- (b) 1989
- (c) 1999
- (d) 1992
- (e) 1987

Ans. b

Sol. 1 August - World Wide Web Day

World Wide Web Day is observed every year on 1 August.

It aims to commemorate the creation of the World Wide Web (WWW) and how it changed the landscape of connectivity among humans. This day honours the groundbreaking invention by Tim Berners-Lee, an English scientist who invented WWW in 1989 while working at European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN).

Tim Berners-Lee invented the WWW in 1989 while working at CERN. His vision was to combine computers, data networks and hypertext into a global information system that was powerful yet easy to use.

Berners-Lee wrote the first proposal for the WWW in March 1989, followed by a second proposal a year later. Collaborating with Belgian systems engineer Robert Cailliau, who finalized the proposal in November 1990.

By the end of the year, the scientist developed the first Web server and browser at CERN. The world's first website, info.cern.ch, went live on August 6, 1991. It was a simple page explaining the WWW project and provided instructions on how to use it.

15. World Lung Cancer Day is observed every year on which day?

विश्व फेफड़े के कैंसर दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 1 August
- (b) 2 August
- (c) 3 August
- (d) 31 July
- (e) 30 July

Ans. a

Sol. 1 August - World Lung Cancer Day

World Lung Cancer Day is observed every year on August 1.

Objective - To raise awareness about the disease and the unhealthy lifestyle habits that we must change to stay safe.

Theme 2024 - Close the care gap: Everyone deserves access to cancer care

In 2012, the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) and the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) decided that every year, August 1 will be observed as World Lung Cancer Day.

16. Who is Ismail Haniyeh, who was assassinated in Iran recently?

इस्माइल हनीयाह कौन हैं, जिनकी हाल ही में ईरान में हत्या कर दी गई थी?

- (a) Iran's president
- (b) Iran's defence minister
- (c) Hamas political head
- (d) Palestine's terrorist
- (e) Gaza militant leader

Ans. c

Sol. Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh killed in Iran The militant Palestinian group HAMAS political head Ismail Haniyeh was killed in the Iranian capital of Tehran.

Ismail Haniyeh was killed in an air strike by Israel at his residence in Tehran after he and other Lebanon-based hardline Islamic group Hezbollah leaders attended the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected Iranian President, Dr Masoud Pezeshkian.

Recently, Israel carried out an air attack on the Iranian consulate in Damascus, Syria, on 1 April 2024. in which 13 people were killed, including seven top officers of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard.

About HAMAS

- HAMAS stands for Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya (Islamic Resistance Movement).
- It is the largest and most militant group in the Palestinian territories. It is one of the two major political groups of the Palestinians.
- The other political group is a coalition of moderate Palestinian political parties called the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).
- The moderate PLO is widely recognised as a representative of the Palestinian people.

17. Ride-hailing startup Rapido has raised a funding of \$120 million Capital in its latest Series E funding round led by its existing investor WestBridge, thus making it the latest company to join the coveted unicorn club. Rapido is the _____ Indian startup to become a unicorn this year.

राइड-हेलिंग स्टार्टअप रैपिडो ने अपने मौजूदा निवेशक वेस्टब्रिज के नेतृत्व में अपने नवीनतम सीरीज ई फंडिंग राउंड में \$120 मिलियन की पूंजी जुटाई है, इस प्रकार यह प्रतिष्ठित यूनिर्कोर्न क्लब में शामिल होने वाली नवीनतम कंपनी बन गई है। रैपिडो फिनटेक इस साल यूनिर्कोर्न बनने वाला _____ भारतीय स्टार्टअप है।

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

Ans. b

Sol. Rapido becomes unicorn with fresh \$120 million funding

Ride-hailing startup Rapido has raised a funding of \$120 million Capital in its latest Series E funding round led by its existing investor WestBridge, thus making it the latest company to join the coveted unicorn club.

The investor poured in the fresh capital through three of its related entities – Setu AIF Trust, Konark Trust, and MMPL Trust, as per regulatory filings.

Rapido is the third Indian startup to become a unicorn this year after fintech Perfios and AI upstart Krutrim.

The firm's operating revenue surged 3X to ₹443 crore during FY23. The steep growth in scale also caused a 54 per cent spike in losses which stood at ₹675 crore in FY23.

18. Which among the following educational institution has been granted the distinguished Special Consultative Status by the UN Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) for its substantial contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals?

निम्नलिखित में से किस शैक्षणिक संस्थान को सतत विकास लक्ष्यों में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान के लिए संयुक्त राष्ट्र आर्थिक और सामाजिक परिषद (यूएन ईसीओएसओसी) द्वारा प्रतिष्ठित विशेष परामर्शदात्री दर्जा प्रदान किया गया है?

- (a) IIT Delhi
- (b) KIIT
- (c) IISc Bengaluru
- (d) JNU
- (e) Amity University

Ans. b

Sol. KIIT DU Awarded Prestigious UN ECOSOC Special Consultative Status

KIIT (Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology) Deemed to be University has been granted the distinguished Special Consultative Status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC), recognizing the University's substantial contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). From a pool of 476 applications around the World, only 19 organizations, including KIIT DU, were selected for this prestigious honour.

The status was conferred during the UN ECOSOC management segment meeting held on July 23, 2024, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

This recognition underscores KIIT's unwavering commitment to the United Nations' Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.

Attaining Special Consultative Status marks a significant milestone, positioning KIIT among a select group of universities globally that have earned this esteemed distinction.

19. What is India's rank among 119 countries in the World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024 report?

विश्व आर्थिक मंच द्वारा प्रकाशित यात्रा एवं पर्यटन विकास सूचकांक 2024 रिपोर्ट में 119 देशों में भारत का स्थान क्या है?

- (a) 15th
- (b) 19th
- (c) 29th
- (d) 31st
- (e) 39th

Ans. e

Sol. India Ranks 39th in Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024

India is ranked 39th among 119 countries, according to the Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024 report published by the World Economic Forum.

As per the UNWTO barometer for May 2024, there were 975 million international tourist arrivals around the world in 2022, wherein India recorded 14.3 million international tourist arrivals that represented 1.47 per cent of the international inbound tourism market share.

The share of India's international tourist arrivals in Asia and the Pacific will be 15.66 per cent in 2022. India's scores have improved in three areas: prioritisation of travel and tourism, safety and security, and health and hygiene.

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

जुलाई 2024 में कितने लाख करोड़ रुपये का जीएसटी संग्रह हुआ?

- (a) 1.62 lakh crore
- (b) 1.72 lakh crore
- (c) 1.82 lakh crore
- (d) 1.92 lakh crore
- (e) 1.52 lakh crore

Ans. c

Sol. July GST mop-up at 3-month high, rises 10.3% to ₹1.82 lakh crore

Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections in July saw a significant increase, totaling Rs 182,075 crore, which marks a 10.3% rise compared to Rs 165,105 crore collected in July 2023.

This growth was observed across all categories: Central GST (CGST), State GST (SGST), Integrated GST (IGST), and cess.

Year-to-date figures for 2024 show a 10.2% increase in GST collections, amounting to Rs 7.38 lakh crore, compared to Rs 6.70 lakh crore in the same period of 2023.

Notably, April 2024 saw a record high collection of Rs 2.10 lakh crore, followed by Rs 1.73 lakh crore in May and Rs 1.74 lakh crore in June.

GST Collection of Previous Months

- January 2024 – 1.72 lakh crore
- February 2024 – 1.60 lakh crore
- March 2024 – 1.78 lakh crore
- April 2024 – 2.1 lakh crore
- May 2024 – 1.73 lakh crore
- June 2024 – 1.74 lakh crore
- July 2024 – 1.82 lakh crore

21. _____ and the Government of India recently signed a \$ 200 million (about Rs 1,700 crore) loan to improve solid waste management and sanitation in 100 cities across eight states in the country.

_____ और भारत सरकार ने हाल ही में देश के आठ राज्यों के 100 शहरों में ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन और स्वच्छता में सुधार के लिए 200 मिलियन डॉलर (लगभग 1,700 करोड़ रुपये) के ऋण पर हस्ताक्षर किए।

- (a) World bank
- (b) ADB
- (c) AIIB
- (d) IMF
- (e) European Bank

Ans. b

Sol. ADB to give \$200 mn loan to India for solid waste management in 100 cities

Asian Development Bank and the Government of India recently signed a \$ 200 million (about Rs 1,700 crore) loan to improve solid waste management and sanitation in 100 cities across eight states in the country.

The signatories to the loan agreement for the Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 -Comprehensive Municipal Waste Management in Indian Cities Program were Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary, Finance Ministry, and Mio Oka, Country Director for Asian Development Bank (ADB) - India Resident Mission.

The objectives of the government's Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission - Urban 2.0 by enhancing sanitation and solid waste management infrastructure, including waste segregation, collection and disposal.

22. Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd (TPSSL) has partnered with which bank to facilitate easy financing for rooftop solar installations and the establishment of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations?

टाटा पावर सोलर सिस्टम्स लिमिटेड (टीपीएसएसएल) ने रूफटॉप सोलर इंस्टॉलेशन और इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (ईवी) चार्जिंग स्टेशनों की स्थापना के लिए आसान वित्तपोषण की सुविधा के लिए किस बैंक के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Punjab National Bank
- (b) Indian Bank
- (c) Bank of Baroda
- (d) Canara Bank
- (e) Bank of India

Ans. e

Sol. Tata Power Solar Systems partners with Bank of India for solar

Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd (TPSSL) has partnered with Bank of India (BOI) to facilitate easy financing for rooftop solar installations and establishment of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. The partnership is a significant milestone with Tata Power Solar becoming the first solar company to collaborate with BOI for both solar and EV Charging Station financing and strengthening its leadership as a green energy solutions provider.

This collaboration supports the government's initiatives to promote rooftop solar installations, targeting a wide spectrum of customers, including residential users under the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, housing societies, and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Under the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, residential customers seeking to install solar systems up to 3 KW can avail loans up to Rs 2 lakh with only a 5 per cent margin money requirement.

Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- UGRO Capital, SIDBI ink co-lending partnership
- Karnataka Bank partners with ICICI Lombard General Insurance
- IndusInd Bank collaborates with Inspire Institute of Sport to launch 'Wrestle for Glory'
- Paytm partners with Axis Bank to provide payment technology solutions
- Arka Fincap signs co-lending partnership with Central Bank of India for MSME loans

23. Which ministry has organised the State Conclave on Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum in August 2024?

किस मंत्रालय ने अगस्त 2024 में युग युगीन भारत संग्रहालय पर राज्य सम्मेलन का आयोजन किया है?

- (a) Ministry of Culture
- (b) Ministry of Education
- (c) Ministry of MSME
- (d) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (e) Ministry of Sport

Ans. a

Sol. State Conclave on Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum inaugurated in New Delhi

Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has inaugurated a three-day 'State Museum Conclave on the upcoming Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum', organized by the Ministry of Culture at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

This three-day gathering aims to foster collaboration among State Museums and the Central Government in realizing the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's vision for the 'Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum' that aims to exemplify global best practices.

About Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum

- The Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum is set to come up at North and South Block as part of the Central Vista Redevelopment project that seeks to revamp India's central administrative area located near Raisina Hill, New Delhi.
- The museum will be spread over 1,54,000 sqm, making it the largest museum in the world.
- The Museum will be developed through Adaptive Reuse, in collaboration with France owing to their expertise in similar projects such as the Louvre, which too housed the French Ministry of Finance.

24. Who has been conferred the V Venkayya Epigraphy Award for 2024?

2024 के लिए वी वेंकय्या एपिग्राफी पुरस्कार किसे प्रदान किया गया है?

- (a) Deepak Shenoy
- (b) Neeli Bendapudi
- (c) V. Vedachalam
- (d) Shanti Lakra
- (e) Deepika Misra

Ans. c

Sol. V. Vedachalam wins V Venkayya Epigraphy Award 2024. An eminent Tamil epigrapher and historian, V. Vedachalam has been conferred the V Venkayya Epigraphy Award for 2024. Dr. Vedachalam, who has written and co-written more than 25 books on subjects such as epigraphy, numismatics, temple art, religion, and society. The annual award, instituted by Sunitha Madhavan, the great-granddaughter of Mr. Venkayya, in association with the Tamil Heritage Trust, commemorates the pioneering epigrapher and celebrates exceptional contributions to epigraphy in any Indian language, including discovering new inscriptions, offering fresh interpretations, sharing knowledge through various media, and preserving epigraphic resources.

Recent Award

- **Global Water Tech Award for environmental initiatives** - Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
- **Customised Gold Coins by Paris' Grevin Museum** - Shah Rukh Khan
- **Olympic Order by IOC** - Abhinav Bindra
- **International Excellence Award** - CA Arpit Jagdish Kabra (for his significant contributions to forensic auditing)
- **Global CSR ESG Award 2024** - Sri Kurumba Educational and Charitable Trust

25. Who is the first woman to be appointed as the Director General of Medical Services (Army)?

चिकित्सा सेवा महानिदेशक (सेना) के रूप में नियुक्त होने वाली पहली महिला कौन हैं?

- (a) Anshika Singh
- (b) Sadhna Saxena Nair
- (c) Vasudha Gupta
- (d) Ipsita Dasgupta
- (e) Rajni Srinivasan

Ans. b

Sol. Lt Gen Sadhna Saxena Nair becomes first woman DG Medical Services (Army) Lt Gen Sadhna Saxena Nair assumed the office of Director General Medical Services (Army), becoming the first woman to be appointed to this prestigious position. Prior to this, she was the first woman to hold the post of DG Hospital Services (Armed Forces) on promotion to the rank of Air Marshal. Lt Gen Nair graduated from the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune with a distinguished academic record and was commissioned into the Army Medical Corps in December 1985. For her meritorious service, she has been awarded the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Air Command and Chief of the Air Staff Commendations as well as Vishisht Seva Medal by the President of India.

Recent Appointment

- **2 New Members in CBDT** - Ramesh Narain Parbat and Prabodh Seth
- **Chairman of UPSC** - Preeti Sudan (replace Manoj Soni)
- **CMD of BECIL** - D.K. Murali
- **Festival director for International Film Festival of India** - Shekhar Kapur
- **President of Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA)** - Ajinkya Naik
- **International Olympic Committee Member from India** - Nita Ambani

26. Rohan Bopanna has announced his retirement from Tennis. He is from which state?

रोहन बोपन्ना ने टेनिस से संन्यास की घोषणा की है। वह किस राज्य से हैं?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Karnataka
- (e) Maharashtra

Ans. d

Sol. Rohan Bopanna announces retirement from Tennis Rohan Bopanna, from Karnataka, one of India's most accomplished tennis players, has announced his retirement from representing India in international competitions following his exit from the Paris 2024 Olympics. This marks the end of an era for Indian tennis, as Bopanna has been a stalwart for the country for over two decades. Bopanna's Olympic journey came to an end in the men's doubles first round, where he partnered with N. Sriram Balaji. The Indian duo faced a formidable French pair, Gael Monfils and Edouard Roger-Vasselin, ultimately succumbing to a 7-5, 6-2 defeat.

Recently Retired Players

- Thomas Muller (Germany) - International Football
- Ravindra Jadeja (India) – T20 International cricket
- Rohit Sharma (India) – T20 International cricket
- Virat Kohli (India) – T20 International cricket
- Trent Boult (New Zealand) - International cricket
- David Wiese (Namibia) – International cricket
- Kedar Jadhav (India) - International cricket

27. Who has created history by becoming India's youngest Olympic referee in boxing at Paris Olympics 2024?

पेरिस ओलंपिक 2024 में मुक्केबाजी में भारत के सबसे कम उम्र के ओलंपिक रेफरी बनकर किसने इतिहास रच दिया है?

- (a) Pranjal Banerjee
- (b) Rahul Dsa
- (c) Venkatesh Ramachandran
- (d) Tejas Nagvenkar
- (e) Kabilan Sai Ashok

Ans. e

Sol. Lt Col Kabilan Sai Ashok, India's youngest boxing referee at Olympics

A distinguished officer of the Indian Army, Lieutenant Colonel Kabilan Sai Ashok has made history by becoming India's youngest Olympic referee in boxing at the Paris Olympics 2024.

This extraordinary accomplishment highlights his dedication, professionalism, and integrity, embodying the high standards of the Indian Army.

Serving as the Joint Secretary at the Services Sports Control Board, Lt Col Ashok's participation as an Olympic referee showcases his strong commitment to fair play and sportsmanship.

His role is crucial in ensuring that matches are conducted with fairness and respect for the rules, upholding the Olympic spirit.

28. India will host which edition of the multinational air exercise, 'Tarang Shakti 2024' from 6th -14th August?

भारत 6 से 14 अगस्त तक बहुराष्ट्रीय वायु अभ्यास 'तरंग शक्ति 2024' के किस संस्करण की मेज़बानी करेगा?

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

Ans. a

Sol. India is set to host its first multinational air exercise, 'Tarang Shakti 2024', in two phases starting on August 6th in Sular, Tamil Nadu.

Around 30 countries will participate, with ten countries bringing their fighter aircraft.

The exercise aims to showcase India's defence capabilities and enhance cooperation among the participating militaries.

The first phase will be held from August 6th to 14th in Sular, Tamil Nadu, and the second phase from August 29th to September 14th in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The ten countries bringing their aircraft include Australia, Bangladesh, France, Germany, Greece, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the USA, and Singapore. Eighteen other countries will attend as observers.

India will display its indigenous fighter aircraft and equipment, including the Tejas, Rafale, Mirage 2000, Jaguar, and MIG 29.

29. Anshuman Gaekwad, who died recently, belongs to which field?

अंशुमान गायकवाड़, जिनका हाल ही में निधन हो गया, किस क्षेत्र से संबंधित थे?

- (a) Cricket
- (b) Football
- (c) Tennis
- (d) Kabaddi
- (e) Badminton

Ans. a

Sol. Former Indian Cricketer and Coach Anshuman Gaekwad passes away

Former Indian cricket player and coach of the Indian men's cricket team Anshuman Gaekwad died at the age of 71.

Anshuman Gaekwad made his debut for India against the West Indies in a 1974 Test match played at Eden Garden, Kolkata. He played his last Test match against England at Eden Garden, Kolkata, in 1984-85.

Overall, he played 40 Tests and 15 One-Day Internationals (ODIs) for India in a career that spanned from 1975 to 1987.

He made his debut for India in the ODIs against England in the first World Cup in 1975.

He scored 1985 runs in the Tests, with his highest score of 201 against Pakistan at Jalandhar in the 1982-83 series. The double-hundred he scored in 671 minutes was the slowest ever in test cricket at that time.

He was known for his slow and defensive batting, and he scored 269 runs in ODIs.

30. National Mountain Climbing Day is observed every year on which day?

राष्ट्रीय पर्वतारोहण दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 3 August
- (b) 2 August
- (c) 31 July
- (d) 30 July
- (e) 1 August

Ans. e

Sol. 1 August - World Wide Web Day

National Mountain Climbing Day is observed on August 1.

It was initiated to honour Bobby Matthews and his companion Josh Madigan for successfully scaling all 46 peaks of the Adirondack Mountains, located in Northeastern New York.

National Mountain Climbing Day was founded in 2015 to celebrate Bobby Matthews and Josh Madigan, who successfully climbed all 46 Adirondack peaks. On August 1, 2015, the duo summited the final peak, Whiteface Mountain.

31. World Breastfeeding Week is a global healthcare event celebrated annually from August 1st to 7th. What is the theme of World Breastfeeding Week 2024?

विश्व स्तनपान सप्ताह एक वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य सेवा कार्यक्रम है जो 1 से 7 अगस्त तक प्रतिवर्ष मनाया जाता है। विश्व स्तनपान सप्ताह 2024 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Let's make breastfeeding and work
- (b) Step up for Breastfeeding - Educate and Support
- (c) Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility
- (d) Support breastfeeding for a healthier planet!
- (e) Closing the gap: Breastfeeding support for all

Ans. e

Sol. 1 - 7 August - World Breastfeeding Week

World Breastfeeding Week is a global healthcare event celebrated annually from August 1st to 7th.

World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is a global campaign to raise awareness and galvanise action on themes related to breastfeeding.

Theme 2024 - Closing the gap: Breastfeeding support for all

WBW is celebrated every 1-7 August in commemoration of the 1990 Innocenti Declaration.

WBW started in 1992, with annual themes including healthcare systems, women and work, the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, community support, ecology, economy, science, education, and human rights.

32. India and which country have signed nine agreements to deepen comprehensive strategic partnership and enhance cooperation in the fields of customs, agriculture, legal, radio and television broadcast, culture and tourism?

भारत और किस देश ने व्यापक रणनीतिक साझेदारी को गहरा करने और सीमा शुल्क, कृषि, कानूनी, रेडियो और टेलीविजन प्रसारण, संस्कृति और पर्यटन के क्षेत्र में सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए नौ समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Vietnam
- (b) Laos
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Nepal
- (e) Bhutan

Ans. a

Sol. India and Vietnam sign 9 agreements to deepen strategic partnership & enhance cooperation

India and Vietnam signed nine agreements to deepen comprehensive strategic partnership and enhance cooperation in the fields of customs, agriculture, legal, radio and television broadcast, culture and tourism. Mazumdar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with his Vietnamese counterpart Pham Minh Chinh in New Delhi. He said both the leaders agreed to further deepen the India-Vietnam relationship by increasing economic, strategic, and cultural ties. They further agreed to further enhance defence cooperation based on mutual interest and priorities of the two countries which will also contribute to greater stability in the wider Indo-Pacific region.

Recently India signed MoUs with others countries

- India, US Sign Cultural Property Agreement To Repatriate Stolen Indian Artifacts
- MSDE partners with Australian Government to energise Agriculture Sector of India with emerging skills
- India and Oman to jointly undertake research on sharks and rays in Arabian Sea
- India to train Bangladeshi's civil servants for the next 5 years
- India signs MoU with Bulgaria to enhance collaboration, exchange auditing expertise

33. Which bank has become the first private sector bank to merge both Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) features in RuPay credit cards?

कौन सा बैंक RuPay क्रेडिट कार्ड में यूनिफाइड पेमेंट्स इंटरफेस (UPI) और नेशनल कॉमन मोबिलिटी कार्ड (NCMC) दोनों सुविधाओं को विलय करने वाला पहला निजी क्षेत्र का बैंक बन गया है?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) RBL Bank
- (c) ICICI Bank
- (d) Axis Bank
- (e) Yes Bank

Ans. b

Sol. RBL Bank becomes first private sector lender to merge UPI and NCMC in RuPay credit cards. RBL Bank has introduced a new RuPay Credit Card, integrating both Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) features. This innovation makes RBL Bank the first private sector bank in India to offer these combined payment capabilities in a single card. The integration allows cardholders to make payments via UPI and get hassle-free travel with the NCMC feature. The extensive acceptance of the RuPay network ensures these cards are widely usable across various platforms and services.

About RBL BANK

- **Founded** - 1943
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai
- **MD & CEO** - R Subramaniakumar
- **Tagline** - Apno ka Bank

34. Which food aggregator company has launched a new app, District, to expand its services beyond its core food delivery and quick commerce business?

किस फूड एग्रीगेटर कंपनी ने अपने मुख्य फूड डिलीवरी और क्विक कॉमर्स व्यवसाय से परे अपनी सेवाओं का विस्तार करने के लिए एक नया ऐप, डिस्ट्रिक्ट लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Swiggy
- (b) Food Panda
- (c) Zomato
- (d) Dominos
- (e) Food24

Ans. c

Sol. Zomato launched new app 'District' to capture its 'going-out' market

Food aggregator Zomato has launched a new app, District, to expand its services beyond its core food delivery and quick commerce business.

The new platform aims to consolidate various 'going-out' services such as dining, movies, sports ticketing, live performances, shopping, and staycations, creating a one-stop destination for customers.

Zomato and Blinkit are currently serving customers' needs at home, but there is a large opportunity to expand into the going-out market.

35. India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) upped India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal to what percent from 7.1 percent projected earlier on an expectation of improved consumption demand?

इंडिया रेटिंग्स एंड रिसर्च (इंड-रा) ने उपभोग मांग में सुधार की उम्मीद के आधार पर चालू वित्त वर्ष के लिए भारत की जीडीपी वृद्धि दर का अनुमान 7.1 प्रतिशत से बढ़ाकर कितने प्रतिशत कर दिया है?

- (a) 7.2%
- (b) 7.3%
- (c) 7.4%
- (d) 7.5%
- (e) 7.6%

Ans. d

Sol. Ind-Ra ups FY25 GDP growth forecast to 7.5% on expectation of high demand India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) upped India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.5 percent from 7.1 percent projected earlier on an expectation of improved consumption demand. The ongoing growth momentum led by government capex, deleveraged balance sheets of corporates/banks, and incipient private corporate capex cycle has now found support from Union Budget. Ind-Ra's growth projection is higher than that of RBI which projected FY25 growth at 7.2 percent and Finance Ministry's Economic Survey which estimated GDP expansion between 6.5-7 percent. Ind-Ra expects Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) to grow to a 3-year high of 7.4 percent in FY25, from 4 percent in FY24.

Updated GDP List

- FICCI – 7% (FY25)
- ADB – 7% (FY25), 7.2%(FY26)
- IMF – 7% (FY25), 6.5% (FY26)
- NCAER – 7.5% (FY25)
- S&P – 6.8% (FY25), 6.9% (FY26), 7% (FY27)
- Fitch Rating – 7.2% (FY25)
- CII – 8% (FY25)
- World Bank – 6.6% (FY25), 6.7% (FY26), 6.8% (FY27)
- RBI – 7.2% (FY25)
- Goldman Sachs – 6.8% (FY25), 6.9% (CY24)

36. In August 2024, The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) imposed a penalty totalling _____ on HDFC Life for violating various IRDAI regulations.

अगस्त 2024 में, भारतीय बीमा विनियामक और विकास प्राधिकरण (IRDAI) ने विभिन्न IRDAI नियमों का उल्लंघन करने के लिए HDFC लाइफ पर कुल _____ का जुर्माना लगाया।

- (a) 1 crore
- (b) 2 crore
- (c) 3 crore
- (d) 50 lakh
- (e) 70 lakh

Ans. b

Sol. IRDAI imposes penalty of Rs 2 Cr on HDFC Life for violating regulations

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has imposed a penalty totaling Rs 2 crore on HDFC Life for violating various IRDAI regulations.

The penalty was levied after an onsite inspection conducted by IRDAI in September 2020, covering the financial years 2017-18, 18-19, and 19-20.

The penalty of Rs 1 crore was levied for issues related to the protection of policyholders' interests. Additionally, a penalty of Rs 1 crore was imposed for irregularities concerning the outsourcing of services by the company.

37. Where was the 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 held?

चौथा राष्ट्रीय हिंदी विज्ञान सम्मेलन 2024 कहाँ आयोजित किया गया?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Gururam
- (c) Patna
- (d) Noida
- (e) Bhopal

Ans. e

Sol. 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 held in Bhopal

The 4th edition of the Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 was held in the Madhya Pradesh capital, Bhopal.

The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr Mohan Yadav, inaugurated the 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024.

Theme 2024 - Upgradation of National Scientific Consciousness in Amrit Kaal

The conference's primary aim was to offer a platform for researchers to present and discuss their work in Hindi, fostering the popularisation of science and technology through this language.

The conference featured six sessions on diverse topics of Science, Technology, Ayurveda, Engineering, and Science Communication.

The 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 was organised by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (CSIR-AMPRI), Bhopal.

38. Who has been appointed as the Director of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)?

ICAR-केंद्रीय समुद्री मत्स्य अनुसंधान संस्थान (CMFRI) के निदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Gaurav Banerjee
- (b) Grinson George
- (c) Pradeep Singh Kharola
- (d) Sumant Sinha
- (e) Inder Pal Singh Bindra

Ans. b

Sol. Grinson George takes over as new CMFRI Director

Grinson George has been appointed as the Director of the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

He was Head of the Marine Biodiversity and Environment Management Division at CMFRI. A seasoned fishery researcher with over two decades of experience, he has held the position of Senior Programme Specialist at the SAARC in Dhaka.

Recent Appointment

- **First woman DG of Medical Services (Army)** - Lt Gen Sadhna Saxena Nair
- **2 New Members in CBDT** - Ramesh Narain Parbat and Prabodh Seth
- **Chairman of UPSC** - Preeti Sudan (replace Manoj Soni)
- **CMD of BECIL** - D.K. Murali
- **Festival director for International Film Festival of India** -Shekhar Kapur

39. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Inderjit Camotra's reappointment as MD & CEO of which small finance bank for two years?

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने इंद्रजीत कैमोत्रा को दो साल के लिए किस लघु वित्त बैंक के MD और CEO के रूप में पुनः नियुक्त किया है?

- (a) AU Small Finance Bank Limited
- (b) Capital Small Finance Bank Limited
- (c) Unity Small Finance Bank
- (d) Shivalik Small Finance Bank
- (e) Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited

Ans. c

Sol. Inderjit Camotra appoints as MD & CEO of Unity Small Finance Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Inderjit Camotra's reappointment as MD & CEO of Unity Small Finance Bank Limited (Unity Bank) for two years.

Camotra brings over 28 years of experience in leadership roles at major banks including Standard Chartered, ANZ, and Citibank.

During his tenure, Unity Bank has expanded significantly, accumulating a deposit base exceeding Rs 8,000 crore, a loan book surpassing Rs 8,500 crore, and establishing around 400 banking outlets across 21 states and union territories in India.

Unity Bank is a Scheduled Commercial Bank promoted by Centrum Financial Services Limited (a subsidiary of BSE and NSE-listed Centrum Capital Limited), with Resilient Innovations Private Limited as a co-investor.

Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **MD of National Housing Bank** - Sanjay Shukla
- **CMD of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** - Manoj Mittal (replace S Ramann)
- **MD & CEO of Federal Bank** - KVS Manian (replace MD Shyam Srinivasan) effect from 23 Sep 24
- **Whole-time Director (ED) of South Indian Bank** - Dolphy Jose
- **MD & CEO of Paytm Payments Bank** - Arun Kumar Bansal

40. Nitin Agarwal, who was recently removed from the post of Director General by the Central Government, was the Director General of which Defence Force?

नितिन अग्रवाल, जिन्हें हाल ही में केंद्र सरकार द्वारा महानिदेशक के पद से हटा दिया गया, किस रक्षा बल के महानिदेशक थे?

- (a) CISF
- (b) BSF
- (c) CRPF
- (d) ITBP
- (e) SPG

Ans. b

Sol. BSF Director General, Deputy removed 'with immediate effect

The Centre removed BSF Director General (DG) Nitin Agrawal and his deputy Special DG (West) Y B Khurania, sending them back to their respective state cadres with immediate effect. Agrawal is a 1989-batch Kerala cadre officer, while Khurania belongs to the 1990-batch of the Odisha cadre.

Agrawal had taken charge as the Border Security Force chief in June last year. Khurania, as the special DG (West), was heading the formation of the force along the Pakistan border.

The about 2.65-lakh personnel strong BSF guards Indian borders with Pakistan on the west and Bangladesh on the east.

About Border Security Force (BSF)

- **Founded-** 1 December 1965
- **Founder-** Khusro Faramurz Rustamji
- **Constituting instrument** - Border Security Force Act 1968
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi
- **Director General-** IPS Nitin Agarwal

41. Indian astronauts Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair have been shortlisted for the upcoming Axiom-4 mission. Axiom-4 mission is related to _____.

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष यात्री ग्रुप कैप्टन शुभांशु शुक्ला और ग्रुप कैप्टन प्रशांत बालकृष्णन नायर को आगामी एक्सिओम-4 मिशन के लिए चुना गया है। एक्सिओम-4 मिशन _____ से संबंधित है।

- (a) Artemis 4 Mission
- (b) Chandrayaan 4 Mission
- (c) Gaganyaan Mission
- (d) Mangalyaan Mission
- (e) International Space Station

Ans. e

Sol. India selects 2 crew members for Axiom-4 mission to International Space Station

India has shortlisted two astronaut-designates for the upcoming Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

Indian astronauts Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair have been shortlisted to go to the U.S. to train for the upcoming Axiom-4 mission to ISS.

A National Mission Assignment Board has recommended two Gaganyatris (astronauts) as prime and backup Mission Pilot for this mission. Group Captain Shukla will be the prime mission pilot and Group Captain Nair will be the back up.

The Axiom-4 mission is the fourth private astronaut mission to the International Space Station.

42. Lakshya Sen made history by becoming the first male Indian shuttler to qualify for the semi-finals of an Olympics. He achieved this milestone by defeating _____ with a score of 19-21, 21-15, 21-12 in the quarter-finals of the 2024 Paris Olympics.

लक्ष्य सेन ने ओलंपिक के सेमीफाइनल के लिए क्वालीफाई करने वाले पहले पुरुष भारतीय शटलर बनकर इतिहास रच दिया। उन्होंने 2024 पेरिस ओलंपिक के क्वार्टर फाइनल में _____ को 19-21, 21-15, 21-12 के स्कोर से हराकर यह उपलब्धि हासिल की।

- (a) An Se-young
- (b) Leong Jun Hao
- (c) Kim Da-bin
- (d) Kento Momota
- (e) Chou Tien-chen

Ans. e

Sol. Lakshya Sen claims historic win to become first Indian male shuttler to enter Olympic semis

Lakshya Sen made history by becoming the first male Indian shuttler to qualify for the semi-finals of an Olympics.

He achieved this milestone by defeating Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien-chen with a score of 19-21, 21-15, 21-12 in the quarter-finals of the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Previously, the best performances by Indian male shuttlers in the Olympic men's singles badminton tournament were by Parupalli Kashyap (London 2012) and Kidambi Srikanth (Rio 2016), both of whom reached the quarter-finals.

Sen will compete in the semi-final against either Denmark's Viktor Axelsen or Loh Kean Yew of Singapore.

43. K K Pant passed away recently at the age of 64. He was the former director of which of the following?

के के पंत का हाल ही में 64 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह निम्नलिखित में से किसके पूर्व निदेशक थे?

- (a) Central Bureau of Communication
- (b) Planning Commission
- (c) ANI News
- (d) PIB
- (e) The Hindu

Ans. a

Sol. Former Director of CBC K K Pant passes away

Former Director of Central Bureau of Communication, K K Pant passed away.

He also served as Editor in Akashwani News.

The 64-year-old former senior officer of the Indian Information Service had served in different wings of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in various capacities.

44. National Friendship Day is celebrated every year in India on the _____ of August.

भारत में हर साल अगस्त के _____ को राष्ट्रीय मित्रता दिवस मनाया जाता है।

- (a) first Sunday
- (b) first Saturday
- (c) first Monday
- (d) first Friday
- (e) first Thursday

Ans. a

Sol. 4 August 2024 - National Friendship Day

Friendship Day 2024 is celebrated every year in India on the first Sunday of August. This year celebrated on 4 August.

The primary aim of Friendship Day is to promote dialogue and build bridges between communities, cultures, and nations. It serves as a reminder of the power of friendship in overcoming differences and fostering peace.

The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures, and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.

45. Indian Organ Donation Day is observed every year on which day?

भारतीय अंगदान दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 1 August
- (b) 2 August
- (c) 3 August
- (d) 4 August
- (e) 5 August

Ans. c

Sol. 3 August - Indian Organ Donation Day

Indian Organ Donation Day is observed every year on 3 August. This year observed 14th Indian Organ Donation Day.

The Indian Organ Donation Day is observed to increase awareness about organ donation amongst the people. It also commemorates the contributions made to society by deceased donors and their families.

The Indian Organ Donation Day has been observed since 2010 in the country. Earlier, the Indian Organ Donation Day used to be observed every year on 27 November.

In 2022, the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation decided to observe the Indian Organ Donation Day on 3 August every year.

46. According to the World Trade Organisation, what is the position of India in the list of exporters of agricultural products?

विश्व व्यापार संगठन के अनुसार, कृषि उत्पादों के निर्यातकों की सूची में भारत का स्थान क्या है?

- (a) 2nd
- (b) 4th
- (c) 6th
- (d) 8th
- (e) 10th

Ans. d

Sol. India retains eighth position in global agriculture exports in 2023: WTO Despite a drop in its agriculture exports in 2023 to \$51 billion from \$55 billion in 2022, India maintained its position as world's eighth largest exporter of agriculture products in the year as seven of the top ten exporting nations witnessed a decline, per figures collated by the WTO. Among the leading exporters of agricultural products, Brazil, the European Union and Thailand increased their exports by 6 per cent, 5 per cent and 0.2 per cent respectively in 2023. The other seven economies in the top 10 saw a decrease in their exports of agricultural products.

The EU maintained its top position in 2023 by exporting agriculture produce valued at \$836 billion compared to \$799 billion in 2022. The US, too, continued at the second spot despite a drop in agriculture exports in 2023 to \$198 billion as opposed to \$222 billion in the previous year.

Brazil's agriculture exports increased to \$157 billion in 2023 from \$148 billion in 2022 while it retained the third spot.

China was the fourth largest agriculture exporter in 2023 with shipments valued at \$95 billion which was marginally below exports worth \$96 billion in 2022.

Other countries among top ten agriculture exporters include Canada, Mexico, Indonesia and Australia.

47. The 5th meeting of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) joint committee was held in which city?

आसियान-भारत वस्तु व्यापार समझौता (एआईटीआईजीए) संयुक्त समिति की 5वीं बैठक किस शहर में आयोजित की गई?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Colombo
- (c) Dhaka
- (d) Jakarta
- (e) Thimpu

Ans. d

Sol. Jakarta hosts 5th AITIGA joint committee meeting progresses ASEAN-India trade relations

The 5th meeting of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) joint committee was held at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia.

AITIGA Joint Committee had initiated discussions for review of AITIGA in May 2023 and after finalising its Terms of Reference and Negotiating Structure, AITIGA JC and its Sub-Committees started negotiations in February 2024.

The first 2 rounds of negotiations were held in February 2024 in New Delhi and in May 2024 in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

During the third round of negotiations in Jakarta, Indonesia, all eight Sub-Committees focused on 'National Treatment and Market Access', 'Rules of Origin', 'Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures', 'Sanitary and Phytosanitary', 'Legal and Institutional Issues', 'Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation', 'Trade Remedies', and 'Economic and Technical Cooperation' convened alongside the 5th AITIGA JC and engaged in substantive discussions, making significant progress.

48. The Ministry of Ayush (GoI) and the World Health Organization signed a donor agreement during a signing ceremony organized at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva. This agreement outlines the financial terms for implementing the activities of the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC). GTMC is located in which city?

आयुष मंत्रालय (भारत सरकार) और विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन ने जिनेवा में डब्ल्यूएचओ मुख्यालय में आयोजित एक हस्ताक्षर समारोह के दौरान एक दाता समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए। यह समझौता डब्ल्यूएचओ ग्लोबल ट्रेडिशनल मेडिसिन सेंटर (GTMC) की गतिविधियों को लागू करने के लिए वित्तीय शर्तों को रेखांकित करता है। GTMC किस शहर में स्थित है?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Bhavnagar
- (c) Jamnagar
- (d) Indore
- (e) Bengaluru

Ans. c

Sol. Ayush Ministry and WHO signed Donor AgreementThe Ministry of Ayush, GoI, and the World Health Organization signed a donor agreement during a signing ceremony organized at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva. This agreement outlines the financial terms for implementing the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC) activities in Jamnagar, Gujarat. Through this collaboration, the GoI will donate US\$ 85 million over a period of 10 years (2022-2032) to support the operations of the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC) in Jamnagar, Gujarat. The Donor agreement recognizes the establishment of the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre as a key knowledge hub for evidence-based Traditional Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM) aiming to advance the health and well-being of people and the planet.

About World Health Organization (WHO)

- Formation** - 7 April 1948
- Headquarters** - Geneva, Switzerland
- First President** - Andrija Štampar
- Director General** - Tedros Adhanom (Ethiopia)
- Deputy Director General** - Soumya Swaminathan (Indian)
- Member Countries** - 194

49. Robert "Kelly" Ortberg has been appointed as the CEO of which of the following company?

रॉबर्ट "केली" ऑर्टबर्ग को निम्नलिखित में से किस कंपनी का सीईओ नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Spirit AeroSystems
- (b) Boeing
- (c) Airbus SE
- (d) Tesla
- (e) McDonnell Douglas

Ans. b

Sol. Kelly Ortberg appoints as new CEO of Boeing

Longtime aerospace executive Robert "Kelly" Ortberg has been selected as the CEO of Boeing.

She will replace Dave Calhoun. Ortberg, 64, started his career at Texas Instruments before joining Rockwell Collins, an aviation tech company, in 1987.

He joined Rockwell as a program manager and worked his way up to become its CEO in 2013. Rockwell was named one of the best large employers in the country by Forbes under Ortberg's leadership.

He oversaw the acquisition of Rockwell by United Technologies Corporation in 2018 and retired in 2021.

Recent Appointment in Foreign

- **Head of the EU assembly** - Roberta Metsola; 2nd time (Malta)
- **UK's First woman Finance Minister** - Rachel Reeves
- **President of FATF** - Elisa de Anda Madrazo (replace T. Raja Kumar)
- **First woman brigadier in Pakistan Army from minority community** - Helen Mary
- **Defence minister of Russia** - Andrei Belousov (replace Sergei Shoigu)
- **UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia** - Gita Sabharwal (India)
- **MD of International Monetary Fund** - Kristalina Georgieva (2nd time)

50. IIT Madras has partnered with which bank to launch a cybersecurity Lab to develop and deploy security solutions in crucial sectors such as healthcare, fintech and aerospace?

आईआईटी मद्रास ने स्वास्थ्य सेवा, फिनटेक और एयरोस्पेस जैसे महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों में सुरक्षा समाधान विकसित करने और तैनात करने के लिए साइबर सुरक्षा लैब शुरू करने के लिए किस बैंक के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) ICICI Bank
- (c) Axis Bank
- (d) IDBI Bank
- (e) Yes Bank

Ans. d

Sol. IIT Madras Partners with IDBI Bank to Launch Cybersecurity Lab

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has partnered with IDBI Bank to launch a cybersecurity Lab to develop and deploy security solutions in crucial sectors such as healthcare, fintech and aerospace, among others.

The lab will focus on creating market-ready IPs in cybersecurity, productisation and commercialisation of research work, especially for mobile technologies.

The lab will focus on cybersecurity in systems deployed in industries such as banking, automotive, power and telecommunications, among others, and undertake experimental evaluation and assessment exercises.

The researchers would also develop test cases for testing, carry out vulnerability research, and help devise hardening guidelines. It would help Enterprise Systems in managing cybersecurity risks in real-time.

51. Who has been given the additional charge of Director General of Border Security Force?

सीमा सुरक्षा बल के महानिदेशक का अतिरिक्त प्रभार किसे दिया गया है?

- (a) Anish Dayal Singh
- (b) Sujoy Lal Thaosen
- (c) Vineet McCarty
- (d) Daljit Singh Chawdhary
- (e) Subodh Kumar Jaiswal

Ans. d

Sol. Daljit Singh Chawdhary takes over additional charge of Director General, BSF

Daljit Chawdhary has been appointed to helm the BSF a day after incumbent director general Nitin Agarwal was repatriated prematurely to his parent Kerala cadre. Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Daljit Singh Chawdhary has taken over the additional charge of Director General, Border Security Force.

Chawdhary is a senior IPS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre. He assumed the charge of DG SSB in January this year. Daljit Singh Chawdhary, a 1990 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, took charge as the director general of Border Security Force (BSF) on Saturday. Chawdhary is currently director general of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

Chawdhary has been appointed to helm the BSF a day after incumbent director general Nitin Agarwal was repatriated prematurely to his parent Kerala cadre.

The Centre also sent back 1990 IPS officer Yogesh Khurania back to his parent Odisha cadre, wherein he has been appointed as director general of police (DGP).

52. Who will be India's flagbearer in the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics?

पेरिस ओलंपिक के समापन समारोह में भारत का ध्वजवाहक कौन होगा?

- (a) Manu Bhaker
- (b) PV Sindhu
- (c) Rhythm Sangwan
- (d) Ramita Jindal
- (e) Palak Gulia

Ans. a

Sol. Manu Bhaker named flag bearer at Paris Olympics Closing Ceremony

India's two-time Olympic bronze medallist Manu Bhaker is set to be India's flagbearer in the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics. India's men's flagbearer for the ceremony is yet to be confirmed.

The closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics will take place on August 11.

Bhaker brought her A-game in Paris and broke numerous accolades to claim two bronze medals in the Summer Games.

Bhaker is the first athlete from the Indian contingent after independence to get two medals in a single edition of the Paris Olympics.

Earlier in the 1900 Olympics, Norman Pritchard won two medals while representing India, both silver in the 200m and 200m hurdles.

Bhaker also joined an elite group of athletes to have multiple individual medals at the Olympics: PV Sindhu (badminton silver at Rio 2016 and bronze medal at Tokyo 2020) and Sushil Kumar (wrestling bronze at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and silver medal at the 2012 London Olympics).

53. Which country will help in the development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat?

कौन सा देश गुजरात के लोथल में राष्ट्रीय समुद्री विरासत परिसर (एनएमएचसी) के विकास में मदद करेगा?

- (a) Bhutan
- (b) Singapore
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Nepal
- (e) Vietnam

Ans. e

Sol. India and Vietnam team up to Preserve Maritime History with NMHC in Lothal India has signed an MoU with and Vietnam to develop the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) in Lothal, Gujarat. This partnership, rooted in centuries-old maritime connections, highlights the enduring bond between the two countries and their commitment to preserving and celebrating their shared heritage. This MoU marks a significant step forward in the collaborative efforts to bring the NMHC to life, further strengthening the strategic partnership between the two nations. The collaboration on the NMHC will involve various aspects aimed at showcasing the maritime heritage of both nations. The complex will emphasize the historical and cultural ties between India and Vietnam, highlighting the closeness and longevity of their shared maritime history. The project, which commenced in March 2022, is being developed at a cost of around Rs. 4500 crores and will include several innovative and unique features. These include a Lothal mini recreation to replicate Harappan architecture and lifestyle, four theme parks (Memorial theme park, Maritime and Navy theme park, Climate theme park, and Adventure and Amusement theme park), and fourteen galleries highlighting India's maritime heritage from the Harappan times to the present day.

Additionally, there will be a Coastal States pavilion displaying the diverse maritime heritage of India's states and Union Territories.

About Vietnam

- Capital- Hanoi
- Currency- Vietnamese dong
- Prime Minister - Pham Minh Chinh
- President - Vo Van Thuong

54. Veteran Yamini Krishnamurthy passed away recently at the age of 83. She is related to which dance?

वयोवृद्ध यामिनी कृष्णमूर्ति का हाल ही में 83 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह किस नृत्य से संबंधित थीं?

- (a) Kathak
- (b) Odissi
- (c) Manipuri
- (d) Mohiniyattam
- (e) Bharatnatyam

Ans. e

Sol. Veteran Bharatanatyam dancer Yamini Krishnamurthy dies

Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi veteran Yamini Krishnamurthy died at the age of 83.

Born on December 20, 1940 in Madanapalli in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district to Sanskrit scholar M. Krishnamurti, she took to dance at the tender age of five at the Kalakshetra School of Dance in Chennai under the tutelage of legendary Bharatanatyam dancer Rukmini Devi Arundale.

Ms. Krishnamurthy received the Padma Shri at the young age of 28 in 1968, Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Padma Vibhushan in 2016.

She was also conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1977.

55. Graham Thorpe passed away recently. He is related to which sport?

ग्राहम थोर्प का हाल ही में निधन हो गया। वह किस खेल से संबंधित थे?

- (a) Cricket
- (b) Badminton
- (c) Football
- (d) Volleyball
- (e) Tennis

Ans. a

Sol. Former England batter Graham Thorpe passes away

Former England batter and coach Graham Thorpe passed away.

Shortly before that, he had accepted the job as head coach of Afghanistan.

Thorpe played 100 Tests for England, scoring 16 centuries, before retiring in 2005.

He started his coaching career in Australia before joining the England and Wales Cricket Board as a batting coach.

He was an assistant coach for the men's team under Trevor Bayliss and Chris Silverwood.

56. Tata Group unveils ₹27,000 crore semiconductor facility in which state?

टाटा समूह ने किस राज्य में ₹27,000 करोड़ की सेमीकंडक्टर सुविधा का अनावरण किया?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Andhra Pradesh
- (e) Assam

Ans. e

Sol. Tata Group unveils ₹27,000 crore semiconductor facility in Assam. At the Tata Group's ₹27,000-crore greenfield semiconductor assembly and test facility in Assam, which is expected to be operationalised by next year, around 15 billion chips will be packaged annually for customers globally. The chips, which will be packaged at the Jagiroad facility in Assam, will power electric vehicles, healthcare devices, mobile phones, laptops, and other key products of leading global companies around the world. This assembly and test facility will be able to directly ship semiconductor chips to end-users and OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) in India and the world. The facility is expected to generate over 27,000 direct and indirect jobs in the region. The project is envisioned under the Government of India's Semiconductor policy, which is driven by the India Semiconductor Mission and the Government of Assam's Electronics policy.

About Assam

- **Formation - 26 January 1950**
- **Capital – Dispur**
- **Chief Minister – Himanta Biswa Sarma**
- **Governor – Gulab Chand Kataria**
- **State Fruit - Kaji Nemu**
- **Rajya Sabha Seat – 7**
- **Lok Sabha Seat - 14**

57. Veteran Gandhian and social worker Shobhana Ranade passed away recently at the age of 100. In which year she was awarded the Padma Bhushan for her social work?

वयोवृद्ध गांधीवादी और सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता शोभना रानाडे का हाल ही में 100 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। उन्हें किस वर्ष उनके सामाजिक कार्यों के लिए पद्म भूषण से सम्मानित किया गया था?

- (a) 2002
- (b) 2003
- (c) 2004
- (d) 2006
- (e) 2001

Ans. e

Sol. Veteran Gandhian Shobhana Ranade passes away

Veteran Gandhian and social worker Shobhana Ranade passed away at the age of 100.

She was honoured with the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award, for her social work in 2001.

Ranade's work for destitute women and children is remarkable. She helped set up the Gandhi National Memorial Society at Aga Khan Palace, Pune, and a training institute for women.

She established a children's village called 'Baal Gram' and gave a home to hundreds of orphan children. She was an active member of the Save Ganga Movement, a movement established to prevent pollution of the Ganga River through the Gandhi National Memorial Society.

58. Who has launched the e-Sakshya, Nyaya Setu, Nyaya Shruti and e-Summon apps for the three new criminal laws in Chandigarh?

चंडीगढ़ में तीन नए आपराधिक कानूनों के लिए ई-सक्ष्य, न्याय सेतु, न्याय श्रुति और ई-समन ऐप किसने लॉन्च किए हैं?

- (a) JP Naddaa
- (b) Amit Shah
- (c) Rajnath Singh
- (d) Ashwini Vishnaw
- (e) Narendra Modi

Ans. b

Sol. Amit Shah launches e-Sakshya, Nyaya Setu, Nyaya Shruti and e-Summon App Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah has launched the e-Sakshya, Nyaya Setu, Nyaya Shruti and e-Summon apps for the three new criminal laws in Chandigarh. At the Chandigarh Secretariat, the minister was given a live demonstration of the various pillars of the Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) functioning under the new criminal laws and their integration. **With e-Sakshya**, investigating officers can record videos and take photographs of crime scenes as needed. The application also allows officers to gather information from witnesses and record their statements. Once the recording is complete, all information is securely transmitted to an evidence locker and linked to the chargesheet, which is then made available to the court electronically. These recordings and photographs can also be downloaded for use by prosecutors and defence. The **second tool, Nyaya Shruti**, facilitates court hearings through electronic medium. This automated system is connected with the police, prisons, prosecution, forensics, and designated access points. Whenever the court issues a summons or warrant, an alert is sent to the domain application, and a video conferencing link for judicial hearings is provided to all relevant officer. On the designated date and time, the officer or individual can join the video conference to present their statement before the court, with arrangements made for adding witnesses as needed. Attendance can be recorded, and sessions can be recorded and webcast as required. The **third application, eSummons**, handles the electronic compliance of legal orders. Through this facility, legal orders such as summons and warrants issued by the court are electronically transmitted to the police. These orders are then distributed to the relevant officers via their mobile devices. The officers deliver the orders to the specified addresses and obtain the recipient's signature upon delivery. He further announced that Chandigarh will be the first administrative unit in the country to achieve 100% implementation of all three new criminal laws within the next two months.

59. In August 2024, The Textile Ministry is organising a fortnight-long exhibition called _____ to celebrate the 10th National Handloom Day, which commenced at Handloom Haat in Janpath.

अगस्त 2024 में, कपड़ा मंत्रालय 10वें राष्ट्रीय हथकरघा दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में _____ नामक एक पखवाड़े भर की प्रदर्शनी का आयोजन कर रहा है, जिसकी शुरुआत जनपथ स्थित हथकरघा हाट में हुई।

- (a) COTTON DYES
- (b) HAAT
- (c) KASTURI
- (d) AMANAT
- (e) VIRAASAT

Ans. e

Sol. Textile Ministry kick starts 'VIRAASAT' exhibition to celebrate 10th National Handloom Day

The Textile Ministry is organising a fortnight-long exhibition called "VIRAASAT," to celebrate the 10th National Handloom Day, which commenced at Handloom Haat in Janpath.

The National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd (NHDC), an arm of the Textiles Ministry is organising this handloom expo.

Handloom products drawn from some of the exotic locations of India were on display and sale at the exhibition.

During the event, several activities will be organised at the Handloom Haat like 75 stalls for handloom weavers and artisans to directly retail the products, a Curated theme display of exquisite handloom of India, Workshops on natural dyes, Kasturi cotton, Design and exports, Live loom demonstration, Folk dances of India, Delicious regional cuisines, etc.

The first National Handloom Day was held on 7th August 2015 by PM Modi in Chennai.

60. The Government of India and _____ have signed an agreement for the construction of the Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP) in an aggregate length of 781 km for the states of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

भारत सरकार और _____ ने हिमाचल प्रदेश, राजस्थान, उत्तर प्रदेश और आंध्र प्रदेश राज्यों के लिए 781 किलोमीटर की कुल लंबाई में हरित राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग गलियारा परियोजना (जीएनएचसीपी) के निर्माण के लिए एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं।

- (a) ADB
- (b) World Bank
- (c) IMF
- (d) AIIB
- (e) European Bank

Ans. b

Sol. India & World Bank sign \$500 million agreement for Green National Highway Corridor project

The Government of India and the World Bank have signed an agreement for the construction of Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP) in an aggregate length of 781 km for the states of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

The total project cost is estimated at \$1.29 billion (Rs. 7,662.47 crore).

Scheduled for completion by May 2026, the GNHCP includes several innovative approaches to reduce carbon emissions and conserve natural resources throughout its lifecycle.

The GNHCP will provide smooth, all-weather motorable roads, enhancing connectivity and socio-economic development in the region.

61. HDFC Securities has partnered with which of the following to Offer Access to Global Investing for Indians and NRIs?

एचडीएफसी सिक्योरिटीज ने भारतीयों और एनआरआई के लिए वैश्विक निवेश तक पहुंच प्रदान करने के लिए निम्नलिखित में से किसके साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Muthoot Finance
- (b) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited
- (c) Vested Finance
- (d) LIC Housing Finance
- (e) PNB Housing Finance Limited

Ans. c

Sol. HDFC securities partners with Vested Finance to Offer Access to Global Investing for Indians and NRIs. HDFC securities, the leading stock broking company, and a wholly owned subsidiary of HDFC Bank, announced a strategic tie-up with Vested Finance, a US-based investment platform for democratising global investing for Indians and NRIs. Global Investing 2.0 will provide a leap to all investors wanting augmented protection, innovative features, and deep portfolio diversification. As part of this broadening combination of services, HDFC securities seeks to provide its clients with greater investment opportunities and features—enhanced through the platform of Vested—that will, in turn, enrich their overall investment experience. A new Vested account with HDFC securities account can easily be opened and funded within minutes.

Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- IIT Madras Partners with IDBI Bank to Launch Cybersecurity Lab
- Tata Power Solar Systems partners with Bank of India for solar
- UGRO Capital, SIDBI ink co-lending partnership
- Karnataka Bank partners with ICICI Lombard General Insurance
- IndusInd Bank collaborates with Inspire Institute of Sport to launch 'Wrestle for Glory'

62. Which sports have been depicted in the commemorative stamp issued by the Department of Post on the 33rd Paris Olympics?

33वें पेरिस ओलंपिक पर डाक विभाग द्वारा जारी स्मारक टिकट में किन खेलों को दर्शाया गया है?

(i) Javelin Throw

(ii) Table Tennis

(iii) Sailing

(iv) Shooting

(v) Archery

(vi) Field Hockey

(vii) Sailing

(a) i, ii, iii, vii

(b) ii, iii, iv, v

(c) iii, iv, vi, vii

(d) i, iii, v, vi

(e) i, ii, iii, vi

Ans. e

Sol. Government releases commemorative stamps for the 33rd Paris Olympics

Minister of Communications, Jyotiraditya Scindia and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya have released a set of four commemorative postage stamps to celebrate the 33rd Olympics Games currently going on in Paris. 10 meter air pistol mixed team medalist, Sarabjot Singh, Steeplechase Athlete, Sudha Singh and Former Cricketer Akash Chopra also attended the event.

These stamps represent sports such as Javelin Throw, Field Hockey, Sailing and Table Tennis.



63. Who has been elected as the president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences?

एकेडमी ऑफ मोशन पिक्चर आर्ट्स एंड साइंसेज के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे चुना गया है?

- (a) Jesse Beaton
- (b) Michael Hausman
- (c) Kathryn Bigelow
- (d) Diana Pokorny
- (e) Janet Yang

Ans. e

Sol. Film Academy re-elects Janet Yang as president

Film producer Janet Yang has been re-elected as the president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for a third time.

Apart from her, several other people have been elected for board officer positions, including Lesley Barber, Vice President (chair, Membership Committee), DeVon Franklin, Vice President (chair, Equity and Inclusion Committee), Donna Gigliotti, Vice President/Treasurer (chair, Finance Committee), Lynette Howell Taylor, Vice President (chair, Awards Committee) and Howard A Rodman, Vice President/Secretary (chair, Governance Committee).

Yang has been a member of the Producer's Branch since 2002, and her credits include South Central, The Joy Luck Club, The People vs. Larry Flynt, Zero Effect, Saviour, The Weight of Water, High Crimes, and Over the Moon, which was nominated for an Oscar.

64. Who has won the gold medal in the men's singles Tennis title at the 2024 Paris Olympics?

2024 पेरिस ओलंपिक में पुरुष एकल टेनिस खिताब में स्वर्ण पदक किसने जीता है?

- (a) Novak Djokovic
- (b) Rafael Nadal
- (c) Roger Federer
- (d) Alexander Zverev
- (e) Daniil Medvedev

Ans. a

Sol. Novak Djokovic 5th player to achieve Golden Slam

Serbian Tennis legend Novak Djokovic became the fifth tennis player in history to claim the Golden Slam.

Novak Djokovic won the men's singles gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics by defeating Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in straight sets, 7-6(3), 7-6(2), in the final.

He won the elusive Olympic gold medal at the 33rd Summer Olympics in Paris, France, to complement his Grand Slam singles titles at the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open.

He joined the list of Rafael Nadal of France, Serena Williams and Andre Agassi of the United States, and Steffi Graf of Germany, winning the singles title of the four Grand Slam and an Olympic Gold Medal.

In the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Djokovic won a bronze in the men's singles. He failed to win a medal in the 2012 London Olympics, 2016 Rio de Janeiro and again in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

65. Who has been conferred with Fiji's highest honour, the Companion of the Order of Fiji, in August 2024?

अगस्त 2024 में फिजी के सर्वोच्च सम्मान, कम्पेनियन ऑफ द ऑर्डर ऑफ फिजी से किसे सम्मानित किया गया है?

- (a) Droupadi Murmu
- (b) Jagdeep Dhankhar
- (c) S Jaishankar
- (d) Narendra Modi
- (e) Manmohan Singh

Ans. a

Sol. President Droupadi Murmu Conferred "Companion of the Order of Fiji" in Capital Suva. President Droupadi Murmu was conferred the Companion of the Order of Fiji, the highest honour of Fiji by the President of Fiji. President Murmu addressed the Fijian Parliament where she recalled the 75 years diplomatic association between the countries. President Droupadi Murmu was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour by the Fiji Military Force upon her arrival in Suva.

About Fiji

- Capital- Suva
- Currency- Fijian dollar
- President - Wiliame Katonivere
- Prime Minister- Sitiveni Rabuka

Recent Award

- **V Venkayya Epigraphy Award 2024** - V. Vedachalam
- **Global Water Tech Award for environmental initiatives** - Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
- **Customised Gold Coins by Paris' Grevin Museum** - Shah Rukh Khan
- **Olympic Order by IOC** - Abhinav Bindra
- **International Excellence Award** - CA Arpit Jagdish Kabra (for his significant contributions to forensic auditing)

66. Who has been appointed the league ambassador of the SA20 League?

SA20 लीग का लीग एम्बेसडर किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) MS Dhoni
- (b) Sourav Ganguly
- (c) Sachin Tendulkar
- (d) Dinesh Kartik
- (e) Rohit Sharma

Ans. d

Sol. Dinesh Karthik appointed SA20 league ambassador

Former India wicketkeeper Batter Dinesh Karthik was appointed the league ambassador of the SA20 League.

Karthik, who is the first Indian player to be associated with the South African tournament, retired from all forms of cricket earlier this year.

Karthik will be working very closely with fellow SA20 ambassador AB de Villiers and the management team to help strengthen the league's global fan base and reinforce brand awareness across key strategic markets in India and the United Kingdom.

The SA20 comprises six franchises -- MI Cape Town, Joburg Super Kings, Durban Super Giants, Paarl Royals, Pretoria Capitals, Sunrisers Eastern Cape, all of which are owned by the owners of IPL teams.

Recent Brand Ambassador

- Shikhar Dhwan - MotoGP India
- Aditya Roy Kapur - Bisleri Limonata
- PV Sindhu – Greenday's Better Nutrition
- PV Sindhu – Tobacco Control
- Shah Rukh Khan - Muthoot Pappachan Group
- Kareena Kapoor Khan - UNICEF India National Ambassador

67. India will host the first Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Business Summit in which city?

भारत किस शहर में प्रथम बहु-क्षेत्रीय तकनीकी एवं आर्थिक सहयोग हेतु बंगाल की खाड़ी पहल (बिस्स्टेक) व्यापार शिखर सम्मेलन की मेजबानी करेगा?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Surat
- (d) Jaipur
- (e) Gurugram

Ans. a

Sol. India to host first BIMSTEC Business Summit in New Delhi India will host the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation – BIMSTEC Business Summit in New Delhi. External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar will inaugurate the three-day Business Summit along with key note addresses from Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal and other leaders. The event will also feature several ministers of the BIMSTEC Member States along with high-ranking Government officials, policy makers, entrepreneurs and industry associations. BIMSTEC Business Summit will bring together more than 300 key stake holders from across the Bay of Bengal region to facilitate economic collaboration and explore ways ahead in focus areas such as trade facilitation, regional connectivity,

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

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

68. Who is the author of the book titled "Breaking Rocks and Barriers"?

"ब्रेकिंग रॉक्स एंड बैरियर्स" नामक पुस्तक के लेखक कौन हैं?

- (a) Amartya Sen
- (b) Arvind Subramanian
- (c) Shashi Tharoor
- (d) Sudipta Sengupta
- (e) Pulapre Balakrishnan

Ans. d

Sol. Memoir of geologist, mountaineer Sudipta Sengupta to release

A new book chronicling the work and adventures of Sudipta Sengupta, a pioneering geologist-mountaineer and one of the first Indian women to set foot in Antarctica in 1983.

"Breaking Rocks and Barriers", published by HarperCollins India, narrates Sengupta's adventures as a geologist studying and doing fieldwork in remote areas across the world - from encounters with snakes in the mines of Bihar and trekking across a 'black glacier' in Norway to being engulfed by a thundercloud in Sweden and being greeted by a flock of penguins in Antarctica.

Sengupta was part of the Third Indian Expedition to Antarctica that ran from December 3, 1983, to March 25, 1984.

Recent Book

- **Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi'** - Dr R Balasubramaniam
- **I have the Streets** - R Ashwin & Sidharth Monga
- **Gateways to the Sea** - launched by Governor of Maharashtra Ramesh Bais
- **The Adventures of Ed-a-Mamma: Ed Finds A Home** – launched by Alia Bhatt
- **India's Trade Policy; The 1990's and beyond** – Arvind Panagariya

69. Bharat Forge has been recently granted a defence license to manufacture various defence products specially designed for military application at its Jejuri unit. Bharat Forge is the wholly-owned subsidiary of _____.

भारत फोर्ज को हाल ही में अपनी जेजुरी इकाई में सैन्य उपयोग के लिए विशेष रूप से डिजाइन किए गए विभिन्न रक्षा उत्पादों के निर्माण के लिए रक्षा लाइसेंस प्रदान किया गया है। भारत फोर्ज _____ की पूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली सहायक कंपनी है।

- (a) Adani Group
- (b) TATA Group
- (c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- (d) Kalyani Strategic Systems
- (e) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

Ans. d

Sol. Bharat Forge arm gets license to make defence products

Bharat Forge, wholly-owned subsidiary of Kalyani Strategic Systems (KSSL), has been granted defence license for manufacture of various defence products specially designed for military application at its Jejuri unit.

The license has been granted by the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade under The Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

This will allow company to participate in potential defence programs in future by KSSL.

Bharat Forge manufactures an extensive array of critical and safety components for several sectors including automobiles (across commercial & passenger vehicle), oil & gas, aerospace, locomotives, marine, energy (across renewable and non-renewable sources), construction, mining and general engineering.

70. Which state government has signed an MoU with SBI General Insurance for Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solution (DRTPS)?

किस राज्य सरकार ने आपदा जोखिम हस्तांतरण पैरामीट्रिक बीमा समाधान (डीआरटीपीएस) के लिए एसबीआई जनरल इंश्योरेंस के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Tripura
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Sikkim
- (e) Nagaland

Ans. e

Sol. Nagaland govt, SBI General Insurance ink MoU on disaster risk management solution

Nagaland government and SBI General Insurance inked an MoU for Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solution (DRTPS).

Nagaland is the first state in the country to implement a disaster risk management insurance solution.

It aims to establish an effective and efficient disaster risk management system in all districts of Nagaland and to facilitate community-based disaster risk management.

DRTPS will aid in protecting the state's critical infrastructure and reduce economic losses due to a disaster.

The insurance covers the entire Nagaland. The government will pay the insurance premium and if a disaster happens, the insurer will come to the rescue for three years from 2024-2027.

71. Hiroshima Day is observed every year on which day?

हिरोशिमा दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) August 4
- (b) August 5
- (c) August 6
- (d) August 7
- (e) August 8

Ans. c

Sol. 6 August - Hiroshima Day

Hiroshima Day is observed on 6 August every year. This is the day when the atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

On this day in 1945, the detonation of an atomic weapon caused the immediate loss of thousands of lives, making Hiroshima the first city to endure such a devastating nuclear attack. Today, we mark the 76th anniversary of this tragic event.

The historical context of 1945 reveals that the United States dropped two atomic bombs, known as 'Little Boy' and 'Fat Man,' on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, respectively.

The bombing of Hiroshima on August 6 led to the devastating loss of approximately 39 percent of the city's civilian population.

The immediate and profound impact of this attack marked one of the most tragic events in history, resulting in extensive casualties and widespread destruction.

72. Which ministry has launched the e-Sankhyiki portal, marking a significant advancement in data management and dissemination in India?

किस मंत्रालय ने भारत में डेटा प्रबंधन और प्रसार में महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति को चिह्नित करते हुए ई-सांख्यिकी पोर्टल लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- (b) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- (c) Ministry of Finance
- (d) Ministry of Education
- (e) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Ans. e

Sol. MoSPI launches e-Sankhyiki Portal to Revolutionize Data Management

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has launched the e-Sankhyiki portal, marking a significant advancement in data management and dissemination in India.

This initiative aims to streamline the sharing of official statistics through a comprehensive system designed to enhance ease of access and analysis.

The e-Sankhyiki portal is designed with two key modules- the Data Catalogue and Macro Indicators. The Data Catalogue Module offers a detailed listing of the major data assets of the Ministry, providing users with the ability to search and download data effortlessly.

Meanwhile, the Macro Indicators module provides time series data of macroeconomic indicators of four key products of the Ministry. This module is equipped with features for filtering and visualizing data, along with metadata to aid in comprehensive data analysis.

73. Which bank has launched a 'Golden Circle' exclusive banking program for senior citizens?

किस बैंक ने वरिष्ठ नागरिकों के लिए 'गोल्डन सर्कल' विशेष बैंकिंग कार्यक्रम शुरू किया है?

- (a) ICICI Bank
- (b) Axis Bank
- (c) HDFC Bank
- (d) DBS Bank
- (e) Yes Bank

Ans. d

Sol. DBS Bank India launches exclusive banking program for senior citizens

DBS Bank India has launched "DBS Golden Circle," a priority banking program for senior citizens. The program, designed for resident Indian citizens aged 60 and above, offers exclusive benefits and services, including attractive interest rates on savings accounts and fixed deposits, enhanced security features, and personalised financial services to address income insecurity, which is a significant concern for the elderly, as highlighted in the India Ageing Report 2023 by the United Nations Population Fund. Senior citizens enrolled in the DBS Golden Circle can earn up to 7% interest per annum on savings account balances above Rs 4 Lakhs and up to Rs 5 Lakhs.

Moreover, they can benefit from an enhanced interest rate of 0.50% per annum on fixed deposits with tenures ranging from 376 days to 540 days.

To enhance security, the DBS Golden Circle program offers cyber insurance coverage up to Rs 1,00,000.

About Development Bank of Singapore (DBS) Bank

- Founded** - 1968
- Headquarters** - Singapore
- Chairman** - Peter Seah
- CEO** - Piyush Gupta
- DBS Bank India' CEO**- Surojit Shome

74. Which Indian company has been included in the 2024 Fortune Global 500 list for the first time?

किस भारतीय कंपनी को पहली बार 2024 फॉर्च्यून ग्लोबल 500 सूची में शामिल किया गया है?

- (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
- (b) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
- (c) Axis Bank
- (d) HDFC Bank
- (e) Rajesh Export

Ans. d

Sol. RIL top-ranked Indian Company on the 2024 Fortune Global 500 List

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) maintained its status as the top-ranked Indian company in the 2024 Fortune Global 500 list.

Nine Indian companies were included in the 2024 list, with RIL improving its rank from 86 to 88.

Only eight Indian companies were included in the list in 2023, and HDFC Bank was included for the first time this year.

Companies are ranked on the Fortune Global 500 by total revenues for their respective fiscal years ending on or before March 31, 2024.

American company Walmart retained its top position on the list for the 11th consecutive year.

Saudi Arabian company Aramco remained the most profitable global company.

Indian Companies on the 2024 Fortune Global 500 List

- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) - 86th
- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) - 95th
- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) - 116th
- State Bank of India (SBI) - 178th
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) - 180th
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) - 258th

- Tata Motors - 271st
- HDFC Bank - 306th
- Rajesh Export - 473th

Top 10 Fortune Global 500 List

Rank	Company	Country
1	Walmart	United States
2	Amazon	United States
3	State Grid	China
4	Saudi Aramco	Saudi Arabia
5	Sinopec	China
6	China National Petroleum	China
7	Apple	United States
8	UnitedHealth Group	United States
9	Berkshire Hathaway	United States
10	CVS Health	United States

75. Five major payment companies have applied to join the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) pilot program for India's central bank digital currency (CBDC) eRupee. What are the names of these five companies?

पांच प्रमुख भुगतान कंपनियों ने भारत की केंद्रीय बैंक डिजिटल मुद्रा (CBDC) eRupee के लिए भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) के पायलट कार्यक्रम में शामिल होने के लिए आवेदन किया है। इन पाँच कंपनियों के नाम क्या हैं?

- (a) Google Pay, Paytm, Amazon Pay, Cred, MobiKwik
- (b) Google Pay, PhonePe, Amazon Pay, Cred, Rozarpay
- (c) Google Pay, PhonePe, Amazon Pay, Cred, BHIM
- (d) Google Pay, PhonePe, Paypal, Cred, MobiKwik
- (e) Google Pay, PhonePe, Amazon Pay, Cred, MobiKwik

Ans. e

Sol. Google Pay, PhonePe, Amazon Pay, Cred, MobiKwik seek entry into RBI's eRupee pilot program

Five prominent payment companies, including Google Pay, Walmart-backed PhonePe, and Amazon Pay, have applied to join the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) pilot program for the eRupee, India's central bank digital currency (CBDC). Fintech firms Cred and Mobikwik have also submitted applications. The RBI launched the eRupee pilot in December 2022, but transaction volumes have declined significantly since an initial surge, reflecting the challenges central banks worldwide face in popularising digital currencies. Initially, the RBI restricted eRupee transactions to banks' mobile applications. However, in April, the central bank opened the door for payment companies to participate in the pilot, pending approval.

The five payment firms are now working closely with the RBI and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to integrate eRupee functionality into their platforms. They are expected to roll out access over the next three to four months.

Allowing these popular payment apps to offer eRupee transactions is seen as a strategic move to boost adoption and expand the user base.

76. According to the Deloitte report released in August 2024, what is the likely growth rate of the Indian economy in FY25?

अगस्त 2024 में जारी डेलॉइट रिपोर्ट के अनुसार वित्त वर्ष 25 में भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था की संभावित वृद्धि दर क्या है?

- (a) 7-7.2%
- (b) 6.6 - 6.8%
- (c) 7.2-7.4%
- (d) 6.7-6.9%
- (e) 6.5-6.8%

Ans. a

Sol. Deloitte India predicts economic growth between 7% and 7.2% in FY25. Deloitte's India Economic Outlook for August 2024 predicts strong economic growth between 7.0% and 7.2% in FY25, driven by robust economic fundamentals, surpassing the Economic Survey's prediction, but aligning with the Reserve Bank of India's outlook. According to the outlook, despite modest private consumption due to various factors, there is a noticeable shift towards non-food and discretionary spending. Rural spending preferences offer significant growth opportunities for businesses. According to Deloitte research, India is witnessing distinct and broad-based shifts in the consumption patterns.

Updated GDP List

- India Ratings – 7.5% (FY25)
- FICCI – 7% (FY25)
- ADB – 7% (FY25), 7.2%(FY26),
- IMF – 7% (FY25), 6.5% (FY26)
- NCAER – 7.5% (FY25)
- S&P – 6.8% (FY25), 6.9% (FY26), 7% (FY27)
- Fitch Rating – 7.2% (FY25)
- CII – 8% (FY25)

77. Who has been appointed as senior vice-president and chief operating officer of quick commerce vertical Swiggy Instamart?

क्विक कॉमर्स वर्टिकल स्विगी इंस्टामार्ट के वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष और मुख्य परिचालन अधिकारी के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Gaurav Banerjee
- (b) Sairam Krishnamurthy
- (c) Pradeep Singh Kharola
- (d) Sumant Sinha
- (e) Inder Pal Singh Bindra

Ans. b

Sol. IPO-bound Swiggy appoints Sairam Krishnamurthy as COO of Instamart

IPO-bound Swiggy has appointed Sairam Krishnamurthy as senior vice-president and chief operating officer of its quick commerce vertical Swiggy Instamart.

In this new role, he will oversee Swiggy Instamart's operating units, which include dark store operations, infrastructure operations, city growth and expansion.

With over 18 years of experience in leadership roles in the retail and FMCG sectors, he joins Swiggy Instamart as its first COO.

Prior to joining Swiggy, Krishnamurthy spent over three-and-a-half years at More Retail, an Amazon company (through a joint venture with Samara Capital) that runs a chain of offline retail stores.

Recent Appointment

- **President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences** - Janet Yang
- **Director of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)** - Grinson George
- **First woman DG Medical Services (Army)** - Lt Gen Sadhna Saxena Nair
- **2 New Members in CBDT** - Ramesh Narain Parbat and Prabodh Seth
- **Chairman of UPSC** - Preeti Sudan (replace Manoj Soni)
- **CMD of BECIL** - D.K. Murali

78. Who has been appointed as the 22nd Director General of the Assam Rifles?

असम राइफल्स के 22वें महानिदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Anish Dayal Singh
- (b) Sujoy Lal Thaosen
- (c) Vineet McCarty
- (d) Umesh Mishra
- (e) Vikas Lakhera

Ans. e

Sol. Lieutenant General Vikas Lakhera takes over as 22nd DG of Assam Rifles. Lieutenant General Vikas Lakhera took over as the 22nd Director General of the Assam Rifles known by the sobriquet of "Sentinels of the North-East". He has varied and rich professional experience of Assam Rifles and the North East region, having served extensively in North East including being Inspector General in Assam Rifles at Nagaland. The General Officer was commissioned from Indian Military Academy into 4 SIKH LI 1990, the Unit which he subsequently commanded in lower Assam under the Red Horn Division.

Recent Appointment in Defence Sector

- **Director General of BSF** - Daljit Singh Chawdhary (additional charge)
- **Additional National Security Adviser** - Rajinder Khanna
- **Deputy National Security Adviser** - TV Ravichandran, Pavan Kapoor & Pankaj Kumar
- **Vice Chief of Army Staff** - NS Raja Subramani
- **Chief of Intelligence Bureau** - Tapan Kumar Deka (reappointment for 1 year)
- **Chief of the Army Staff** - Upendra Dwivedi (replace Manoj C Pande)

79. Which Small Finance Bank Limited has partnered with Edelweiss Life Insurance to access Edelweiss Life Insurance's life insurance products suite, thereby meeting their need for financial security?

किस स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड ने एडलवाइस लाइफ इंश्योरेंस के जीवन बीमा उत्पादों तक पहुंच बनाने के लिए एडलवाइस लाइफ इंश्योरेंस के साथ साझेदारी की है, जिससे उनकी वित्तीय सुरक्षा की जरूरत पूरी हो सके?

- (a) AU Small Finance Bank Limited
- (b) Capital Small Finance Bank Limited
- (c) Suryoday Small Finance Bank
- (d) Shivalik Small Finance Bank
- (e) Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited

Ans. b

Sol. Capital SFB and Edelweiss Life Insurance enter into bancassurance tie-up. Capital Small Finance Bank Limited (CSFB), and Edelweiss Life Insurance have entered into a bancassurance tie-up. This strategic partnership will enable CSFB's customer base to access Edelweiss Life Insurance's life insurance products suite, thereby meeting their need for financial security. The arrangement aims to enhance the CSFB's life insurance offerings by providing its customers with access to Edelweiss Life's digital platform and service touchpoints. CSFB has 177 branches and with this tie-up, all products of Edelweiss Life will be available to bank's customers at these branches.

Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- Nagaland govt, SBI General Insurance ink MoU on disaster risk management solution
- HDFC securities partners with Vested Finance to Offer Access to Global Investing for Indians and NRI
- IIT Madras Partners with IDBI Bank to Launch Cybersecurity Lab
- Tata Power Solar Systems partners with Bank of India for solar
- UGRO Capital, SIDBI ink co-lending partnership

80. Noah Lyles edged past Jamaican Kishane Thompson to win his first Olympic gold medal in a lifetime-best 9.784 seconds. He is from which country?

नोहा लाइल्स ने जमैका के किशन थॉम्पसन को पछाड़कर 9.784 सेकंड में अपना पहला ओलंपिक स्वर्ण पदक जीता। वह किस देश से हैं?

- (a) USA
- (b) India
- (c) Poland
- (d) France
- (e) Australia

Ans. a

Sol. Noah Lyles wins Men's 100-Meter Gold in Paris

USA's Noah Lyles edged past Jamaican Kishane Thompson to win his first Olympic gold medal in a lifetime-best 9.784 seconds.

Lyles crossed the finish line just five-thousandths of a second ahead of Thompson, who posted a time of 9.789.

The result wasn't clear until nearly 30 seconds after the end of the race, as the competitors waited nervously for the details of their photo finish.

Noah Lyles was a gold medalist. Thompson took silver, and American Fred Kerley claimed bronze, Kerley's second career Olympic medal in the 100m.

81. Avinash Sable became the first Indian man to qualify for the _____ steeplechase final after finishing fifth in his heat.

अविनाश साबले अपनी हीट में पांचवें स्थान पर रहने के बाद _____ स्टीपलचेज फाइनल के लिए क्वालीफाई करने वाले पहले भारतीय पुरुष बन गए।

- (a) 1000m
- (b) 2000m
- (c) 3000m
- (d) 4000m
- (e) 5000m

Ans. c

Sol. Sable becomes 1st Indian man to qualify for 3000m steeplechase final

Avinash Sable became the first Indian man to qualify for the 3000m steeplechase final after finishing fifth in his heat.

But quartermiler Kiran Pahal failed to book an automatic semi-final berth in women's 400m following a seventh place finish in her heat at the Paris Olympics. Sable, easily the most decorated track and field athlete after Neeraj Chopra in the current contingent, timed 8:15.43 minutes to finish fifth in the second heat to make it to the final round.

However, Sable's heat timing was well below his best effort of 8:09.91 minutes, which he had clocked at the Paris Diamond League last month.

Sable's heat was won by Morocco's Mohamed Tindouft with a timing of 8:10.62 minutes, while Samuel Firewu of Ethiopia with 8:11.61 minutes came second.

Abraham Kibiwot of Kenya (8:12.02 minutes) was third, while Ryuji Miura of Japan came fourth. He clocked 8:12.41 minutes.

82. Vinesh Phogat was disqualified from the women's _____ wrestling final in the Paris Olympics. She was found ineligible to compete as she was found 100 gram overweight during the weigh-in in the final.

विनेश फोगट को पेरिस ओलंपिक में महिलाओं की _____ कुश्ती के फाइनल से अयोग्य घोषित कर दिया गया। फाइनल में वजन के दौरान उनका वजन 100 ग्राम अधिक पाया गया, जिसके कारण उन्हें प्रतिस्पर्धा के लिए अयोग्य पाया गया।

- (a) 48kg
- (b) 50kg
- (c) 52kg
- (d) 55kg
- (e) 60kg

Ans. b

Sol. Indian Wrestler Vinesh Phogat disqualified from Paris Olympics

Vinesh Phogat was disqualified from the women's 50kg wrestling final at the Paris Olympics.

The 29-year-old was found ineligible to compete on the second day as she was found 100 gram overweight during the weigh-in on the day of the final.

Unfortunately, Vinesh Phogat will not win any medal at the Paris Olympics, if the disqualification stays.

Vinesh Phogat was in the 50kg permissible limit. She stunned World No. 1 Yui Susaki, Japan, in the opening round before working her way through in the quarter-final and the semi-final to become the first-ever Indian woman to reach the Olympic wrestling final.

83. Which insurance company has launched new term life insurance plans - Yuva Term, Digi Term, Yuva Credit Life, Digi Credit Life - for providing term insurance and safety net against loan repayments?

किस बीमा कंपनी ने ऋण चुकौती के खिलाफ टर्म बीमा और सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए नई टर्म लाइफ इंश्योरेंस योजनाएं - युवा टर्म, डिजी टर्म, युवा क्रेडिट लाइफ, डिजी क्रेडिट लाइफ - शुरू की हैं?

- (a) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- (b) Bharti AXA General Insurance
- (c) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
- (d) Life Insurance Corporation of India
- (e) Universal Sampo General Insurance

Ans. d

Sol. LIC launches 4 new term life insurance plans Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched new term life insurance plans for providing term insurance and safety net against loan repayments – LIC's Yuva Term, LIC's Digi Term, LIC's Yuva Credit Life, LIC's Digi Credit Life. The plans are available online and offline. LIC's Yuva Term is available offline through our intermediaries and LIC's Digi Term is available online only through our website. The purpose of these products is to cater to youngsters who wish to take Term insurance in initial stages of life and give them a wider choice to buy offline or online. LIC's Yuva Credit Life/ Digi Credit Life is a non-par, non-linked, Life, individual, pure risk plan. It is a pure decreasing term assurance plan wherein the death benefit will reduce over the term of the policy.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- SEBI launched **SEBI's Virtual Assistant (SEVA) chatbot** to help investors of the securities market.
- BoB launches **Generative AI-powered virtual relationship manager and credit line on UPI**
- SBI launches **Amrit Vrishti 444-Days Term Deposit** With 7.25% Interest Rate
- Bajaj Finserv AMC launched **Savings+** product for retail investors
- SBI introduces **online loan facility against MF units** via internet banking and YONO App
- PNB launches **'Safety Ring'** to enhance security for internet, mobile banking

84. National Javelin Day is observed every year on which day?

राष्ट्रीय भाला दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

(a) August 5

(b) August 6

(c) August 7

(d) August 8

(e) August 9

Ans. c

Sol. 7 August - National Javelin Day

National Javelin Day is observed every year on 7 August.

The Athletics Federation of India, the governing body for athletics in the country, designated this date to honour Neeraj Chopra's historic gold medal win in the javelin throw at the Tokyo Olympics.

This celebration recognises his achievement and promotes the sport of javelin throwing across the nation.

On August 7, 2021, Neeraj Chopra made history by throwing the javelin 87.58 meters in the men's Javelin Throw final at the Tokyo Olympics, securing the gold medal.

This victory marked India's first-ever gold medal in track and field events at the Olympics.

With this achievement, Chopra also became the second individual gold medallist from India, following Abhinav Bindra's gold medal in shooting at the 2008 Beijing Games.

85. Purandar Highlands Farmers Producer Company Ltd has achieved a significant milestone by exporting India's first GI-tagged fig juice to which country?

पुरंदर हाइलैंड्स फार्मर्स प्रोड्यूसर कंपनी लिमिटेड ने किस देश को भारत का पहला जीआई-टैग वाला अंजीर का रस निर्यात करके एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि हासिल की है?

- (a) Netherlands
- (b) USA
- (c) Finland
- (d) Norway
- (e) Poland

Ans. e

Sol. Purandar Highlands exports India's first GI-tagged fig juice to Poland. Purandar Highlands Farmers Producer Company Ltd has achieved a significant milestone by exporting India's first GI-tagged fig juice to Poland. This follows the successful export of India's first commercial consignment of GI-tagged Purandar figs to Hong Kong in February 2023. Purandar Highlands has become the first company to export Indian fig juice to the European market and the first to export commercial quantities of Purandar figs to Hong Kong. The successful export to Poland and Hong Kong has generated interest in these products, indicating a promising global market for Indian figs and fig-based products.

About Poland

- Capital - Warsaw
- Currency - Zloty
- Official language – Polish
- Prime Minister - Donald Tusk

86. Which institute in collaboration with Airbus has started its first executive training program for the aviation sector in New Delhi?

किस संस्थान ने एयरबस के सहयोग से नई दिल्ली में विमानन क्षेत्र के लिए अपना पहला कार्यकारी प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम शुरू किया है?

- (a) Delhi University
- (b) IIT Roorkee
- (c) IISc Bengaluru
- (d) IIT Delhi
- (e) Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya

Ans. e

Sol. Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya in collaboration with Airbus begins its first executive training program for aviation sector

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya in collaboration with Airbus has started its first executive training program for the aviation sector in New Delhi.

This three-day program, will be focused on Safety Management Systems for working professionals. The program attracts participants from leading airlines as well as representatives from Airbus and the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

This course is also being attended by international professionals, including four participants from Nepal and four from Bhutan. The instructors for the program are leading experts from the industry.

87. Challa Sreenivasulu Setty has been appointed as Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI) for how many years?

चल्ला श्रीनिवासुलु शेटी को कितने वर्षों के लिए भारतीय स्टेट बैंक (एसबीआई) का अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) one year
- (b) two years
- (c) three years
- (d) four years
- (e) five years

Ans. c

Sol. Challa Sreenivasulu Setty appointed Chairman of SBI

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved a proposal to appoint Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest commercial bank, for a three-year term.

Setty will be succeeding current chairman Dinesh Khara, whose term ends on August 28 as he will be turning 63, the upper age limit for the SBI's chairman position.

Before this elevation as Chairman, Setty was the SBI Managing Director heading Global Markets & Technology.

In June this year, the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommended the name of Challa Sreenivasulu Setty for being appointed SBI Chairman.

About State Bank of India (SBI)

•**Founded** - 1 July 1955

•**Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra

•**Chairman** - Challa Sreenivasulu Setty; 27th (replace 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

88. Who has been appointed additional secretary in the PMO?

प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय में अतिरिक्त सचिव के पद पर किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Vatsalya Saxena
- (b) Mugdha Sinha
- (c) Ajay Bhadoo
- (d) Manisha Saxena
- (e) Amit Singh Negi

Ans. a

Sol. Amit Singh Negi appointed Additional Secretary in PM's Office

Senior IAS officer Amit Singh Negi has been appointed additional secretary in the PMO as part of a major top-level reshuffle effected by the Centre.

A 1999-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Uttarakhand cadre, Mr Negi is currently joint secretary in the Department of Expenditure under the Union Ministry of Finance.

Samir Ashwin Vakil, a 1998-batch Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) officer, has been appointed director in the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) under the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs for a tenure of five years.

Maneesh Garg, Sanjay Kumar and Ajeet Kumar have been appointed deputy election commissioners in the Election Commission of India.

Other Appointments

- **Additional secretary in PMO - Amit Singh Negi**
- Director in Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) under Ministry of Corporate Affairs - Samir Ashwin Vakil
- **Deputy Election Commissioners in ECI - Maneesh Garg, Sanjay Kumar and Ajeet Kumar**
- Additional Secretary in Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) - Manisha Saxena
- Director General in Tourism - Mugdha Sinha
- Additional Secretary in Home Ministry - Ashutosh Agnihotri
- Joint Secretary in the home ministry - Niraj Kumar Bansod
- Additional secretary in Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry - Ajay Bhadoo
- Additional Secretary in Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change - Amandeep Garg
- **Director general of Employees' State Insurance Corporation - Ashok Kumar Singh**
- CEO of Khadi and Village Industries Commission under Ministry of MSMEs - Vatsalya Saxena
- Additional secretary in NITI Aayog - Nidhi Chhibber

- Additional secretary in Department of Rural Development under Ministry of Rural Development - TK Anil Kumar
- MD of Small Farmers' AgriBusiness Consortium under Dept. of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare - Dheeraj Sahu
- Additional secretary in the Department of Rural Development - Caralyn Khongwar Deshmukh
- Additional secretary in Ministry of Cooperation - Rabindra Kumar Agarwal
- Additional secretary and financial advisor in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways - Puneet Agarwal
- Additional secretary in Dept. of Telecommunications - N Gulzar
- MD of the Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India under the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs - Ashish Chatterjee
- Additional secretary in Dept. of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances under the Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions- Puneet Yadav
- Joint secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat - Nila Mohanan
- Joint secretary in the Department of Defence - Pawan Kumar Sharma
- Joint secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs - Alok Tiwari
- Joint secretary in the Department of Military Affairs - Kumar Ravi Kant Singh
- CEO of the National eGovernance Division (NeGD) under the Union Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology - Nand Kumarum
- Joint secretaries in the Department of Health & Family Welfare - Latha Ganapathy and Nikhil Gajraj
- Joint secretary in the National Health Authority under the Department of Health & Family Welfare - V Kiran Gopal
- Secretary in the Capacity Building Commission - V Lalithalakshmi
- Additional registrar general in the office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner - Sunil Kumar
- Director of Census Operations in Andhra Pradesh - P Bala Kiran
- Director of Census Operations in Arunachal Pradesh & Meghalaya - Pooja Pandey
- Director (Census Operations) in Uttar Pradesh - Sheetal Verma
- Joint secretary in the DoPT - J Ashok Kumar and Chhavi Bhardwaj
- Joint secretary in the Department of Petroleum & Natural Gas - Vinod Seshan
- Joint secretary in the Department of Revenue - Naval Kishore Ram

89. Who has been appointed as the head of Bangladesh's interim government after the resignation of Sheikh Hasina?

शेख हसीना के इस्तीफे के बाद बांग्लादेश की अंतरिम सरकार का प्रमुख किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Iqbal Quadir
- (b) Waqar-uz-Zaman
- (c) Muhammad Yunus
- (d) Sajeeb Wazed
- (e) Sophia Rehana Wazed

Ans. c

Sol. Muhammad Yunus appointed head of Bangladesh's interim government. Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has been appointed as the head of Bangladesh's interim government. Bangladesh President's Press Secretary Joynal Abedin made the announcement.

The decision to appoint Bangladesh's interim government head was made during a meeting between President Shahabuddin and the coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement.

A day after Sheikh Hasina resigned as Prime Minister of Bangladesh and left the country, President Mohammed Shahabuddin announced the dissolution of the country's parliament to make way for the formation of an interim administration.

About Bangladesh

- **Capital**- Dhaka
- **Currency** – Taka
- **President** – Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu
- **Head of Interim Government** - Muhammad Yunus

90. Who has been appointed as the Member in Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)?

केंद्रीय विद्युत विनियामक आयोग (सीईआरसी) में सदस्य के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Gaurav Banerjee
- (b) Jetha Ahir
- (c) Pradeep Singh Kharola
- (d) Harish Dudani
- (e) Inder Pal Singh Bindra

Ans. d

Sol. Government appoints Harish Dudani as Member in Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

Harish Dudani has been administered Oath of Office and Secrecy by the Hon'ble Minister for Power as Member, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).

CERC was established by the Government of India under the provisions of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, of 1998. CERC is the Central Commission for the Electricity Act, 2003.

Which has repealed the ERC Act, of 1998. Harish Dudani held the post of Principal Judge, Family Court, in the High Court of Delhi. Before this, he held the charge of District Judge (Commercial Court), Additional Session Judge, and Special Judge (PC Act) CBI in the High Court of Delhi.

Recent Appointment

- **COO of Instamart** - Sairam Krishnamurthy
- **President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences** - Janet Yang
- **Director of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)** - Grinson George
- **First woman DG Medical Services (Army)** - Lt Gen Sadhna Saxena Nair
- **2 New Members in CBDT** - Ramesh Narain Parbat and Prabodh Seth
- **Chairman of UPSC** - Preeti Sudan (replace Manoj Soni)

91. In August 2024, which bank approved a proposal for raising funds of up to Rs 25,000 crore via the issue of Tier 1 and Tier 2 bonds?

अगस्त 2024 में, किस बैंक ने टियर 1 और टियर 2 बॉन्ड जारी करके 25,000 करोड़ रुपये तक की धनराशि जुटाने के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दी?

- (a) Punjab national Bank
- (b) Axis Bank
- (c) Bank of Baroda
- (d) State Bank of India
- (e) Exim Bank

Ans. d

Sol. SBI approves Rs 25,000 crore fundraising plan via issue of Tier 1 and Tier 2 bonds.

The board of India's largest public sector lender State Bank of India approved a proposal for raising funds of up to Rs 25,000 crore via the issue of Tier 1 and Tier 2 bonds.

The bonds will be Basel-III compliant and SBI plans to raise the amount in INR/USD.

The fundraising plan was announced by SBI along with its April-June quarter earnings where the lender reported a standalone net profit of Rs 17,035 crore, up by 0.9% over Rs 16,884.29 crore reported in the year-ago period. It was higher than the Street's estimates of Rs 16,786 crore.

The interest earned during the reported quarter stood at Rs 1,11,526 crore, which was higher by 16% versus Rs 95,975 crore reported in the corresponding quarter of the last financial year.

Interest expended by the bank in the April-June quarter stood at Rs 70,401 crore versus 57,041 crore a year ago. This translates into a 23% YoY uptick.

92. Piyush Gupta, the Indian-origin Chief Executive of Singapore's largest bank DBS Group, will step down in March 2025. In which year DBS bank was founded?

सिंगापुर के सबसे बड़े बैंक डीबीएस ग्रुप के भारतीय मूल के मुख्य कार्यकारी पीयूष गुप्ता मार्च 2025 में पद छोड़ देंगे। डीबीएस बैंक की स्थापना किस वर्ष हुई थी?

- (a) 1978
- (b) 1968
- (c) 1997
- (d) 1988
- (e) 2002

Ans. b

Sol. DBS Bank CEO Piyush Gupta to step down in Mar 2025; Tan Su Shan to take over Piyush Gupta, the Indian origin Chief Executive of Singapore's largest bank DBS Group, will step down in March 2025. He will be succeeded by Tan Su Shan, who was appointed as deputy CEO, in addition to her current role as the group head of institutional banking. Gupta, who took the top position in DBS in 2009 after spending 27 years at Citigroup, was awarded the Public Service Star by Singapore's President in 2020. During his tenure, DBS was recognised for its use of technology and named the "World's Best Bank" by publications such as Euromoney and Global Finance.

About Development Bank of Singapore (DBS) Bank

- **Founded** - 1968
- **Headquarters** - Singapore
- **Chairman** - Peter Seah
- **CEO** - Piyush Gupta
- **DBS Bank India' CEO**- Surojit Shome

93. India will host the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024 from October 15 to 24 in which city?

भारत 15 से 24 अक्टूबर तक किस शहर में विश्व दूरसंचार मानकीकरण सभा (WTSA) 2024 की मेजबानी करेगा?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Noida
- (d) Bengaluru
- (e) Ahmedabad

Ans. a

Sol. India to host World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2024 in New Delhi India will host the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024 from October 15 to 24 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The event will be preceded by the Global Standards Symposium (GSS) on October 14, as announced by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). The theme for GSS-24 is "Charting the Next Digital Wave: Emerging Technologies, Innovation, and International Standards." Organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), WTSA occurs every four years to "define the work program, working methods, and structure of study groups" for ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T). The assembly is expected to bring together 1,800 to 2,000 delegates from 193 member countries, global standardization bodies, and the telecom/ICT industry.

About World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly

- Founded in 1865, the ITU is a specialized agency of the United Nations for Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). It includes 193 member countries and over 900 private-sector entities and academic institutions.
- The ITU promotes international cooperation between governments and the private sector to address issues shaping the future of the ICT industry.
- India, a member of the ITU since 1869 and a member of the ITU Governing Council since 1952, was originally set to host WTSA-20.

94. Global investors International Finance Corporation, the Asian Development Bank, and Deutsche Investitions (DEG) have invested _____ in Hyderabad-based renewable energy solutions platform Fourth Partner Energy Ltd.

वैश्विक निवेशकों इंटरनेशनल फाइनेंस कॉर्पोरेशन, एशियाई विकास बैंक और ड्यूश इन्वेस्टमेंट्स (डीईजी) ने हैदराबाद स्थित अक्षय ऊर्जा समाधान प्लेटफॉर्म फोर्थ पार्टनर एनर्जी लिमिटेड में _____ का निवेश किया है।

- (a) \$175 million
- (b) \$275 million
- (c) \$375 million
- (d) \$475 million
- (e) \$575 million

Ans. b

Sol. IFC, ADB, DEG consortium to invest \$275 mn in Fourth Partner EnergyGlobal investors International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Deutsche Investitions (DEG) have invested \$275 million in Hyderabad-based renewable energy solutions platform Fourth Partner Energy Ltd (FPEL).The consortium's investment will infuse capital to fund FPEL's business expansion plans which include a target portfolio of 3.5 GW of renewable energy assets by 2026.

FPEL has an installed base of 1.5 GW of green assets and is set to commission the first phase of its maiden 575 MW wind solar hybrid project under the ISTS (Inter State Transmission System) route, in Karnataka, later this quarter.

World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) is leading the consortium with an investment of \$ 125 million, while Asian Development Bank (ADB) is infusing \$ 100 million and Germany's Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG) is at \$ 50 million to complete this round of fundraising.

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)

95. Which company has partnered with Mahindra Finance Company to provide motor and other non-life insurance solutions to over 10 million Mahindra Finance customers?

किस कंपनी ने 10 मिलियन से अधिक महिंद्रा फाइनेंस ग्राहकों को मोटर और अन्य गैर-जीवन बीमा समाधान प्रदान करने के लिए महिंद्रा फाइनेंस कंपनी के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- (b) Bharti AXA General Insurance
- (c) Cholamandalam MS General Insurance
- (d) Go Digit General Insurance
- (e) Edelweiss General Insurance

Ans. c

Sol. Chola MS General Insurance forges strategic partnership with Mahindra Finance

Chola MS General Insurance Company, a joint venture between the Murugappa Group and Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company Limited of Japan, has partnered with Mahindra Finance, one of India's leading Non-Banking Finance Companies.

This collaboration will provide motor and other non-life insurance solutions to over 10 million customers of Mahindra Finance.

Leveraging Mahindra Finance's extensive distribution network across India, Chola MS plans to enrich its general insurance offerings with customized digital solutions.

These customer-centric solutions are designed to provide long-term financial protection to customers and their families. Both organizations are committed to delivering excellence through innovation and consistency catering to the diverse needs of the customers.

Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- Capital SFB and Edelweiss Life Insurance enter into bancassurance tie-up
- Nagaland govt, SBI General Insurance ink MoU on disaster risk management solution
- HDFC securities partners with Vested Finance to Offer Access to Global Investing for Indians and NRI
- IIT Madras Partners with IDBI Bank to Launch Cybersecurity Lab
- Tata Power Solar Systems partners with Bank of India for solar
- UGRO Capital, SIDBI ink co-lending partnership

96. Which company has emerged as India's most 'attractive employer brand,' according to the findings of Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2024?

रैंडस्टैड एम्प्लॉयर ब्रांड रिसर्च (आरईबीआर) 2024 के निष्कर्षों के अनुसार, कौन सी कंपनी भारत की सबसे 'आकर्षक नियोक्ता ब्रांड' के रूप में उभरी है?

- (a) TCS
- (b) Reliance
- (c) Wipro
- (d) HCL
- (e) Microsoft

Ans. e

Sol. Microsoft regains top spot as best employer to work for in India: Randstad

Microsoft has emerged as India's most 'attractive employer brand,' according to the findings of Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2024.

Tata Consultancy Services climbed the rankings this year to emerge as the runner-up, followed by Amazon, which occupied the third spot.

Drawing insights from 3,507 respondents in the country, the report reveals that work-life balance, equity, and attractive salary & benefits, are the three most important drivers for the Indian workforce when choosing an employer.

Tata Power Company, which was the top brand last year, slipped to fourth rank this year. Another Tata brand, Tata Motors stood fifth. All the top five most attractive companies to work for received high ratings for their financial health and good reputation.

97. Who took the oath as the 25th Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry?

पुडुचेरी के 25वें उपराज्यपाल के रूप में किसने शपथ ली?

- (a) C. P. Radhakrishnan
- (b) Gulab Chand Kataria
- (c) Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde
- (d) Ramen Deka
- (e) K. Kailashnathan

Ans. e

Sol. K. Kailashnathan Sworn in as 25th Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry. K. Kailashnathan took the oath as the 25th Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry. The oath was administered by the Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, D. Krishnakumar. Kailashnathan, a retired Gujarat cadre IAS officer, is the first full-time Lt. Governor of Puducherry since Kiran Bedi left in 2021.

About Puducherry

- Formation- July 1, 1963
- Capital- Pondicherry
- Chief Minister- N. Rangasamy

Recent Appointment

- Governor of Jharkhand - Santosh Kumar Gangwar
- Governor of Chhattisgarh - Ramen Deka
- Governor of Rajasthan - Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde
- Governor of Telangana - Jishnu Dev Varma
- Governor of Punjab - Gulab Chand Kataria
- Governor of Maharashtra - CP Radhakrishnan
- Governor of Sikkim - OP Mathur
- Governor of Meghalaya - C H Vijayshankar
- Governor of Assam - Lakshman Prasad Acharya (also additional charge of Manipur)

98. National Handloom Day is celebrated every year on 7 August to honour the nation's handloom weavers and to shed spotlight on India's handloom industry. Which year was the first Handloom Day celebrated?

राष्ट्रीय हथकरघा दिवस हर साल 7 अगस्त को देश के हथकरघा बुनकरों के सम्मान और भारत के हथकरघा उद्योग पर प्रकाश डालने के लिए मनाया जाता है। पहला हथकरघा दिवस किस वर्ष मनाया गया था?

- (a) 2014
- (b) 2015
- (c) 2016
- (d) 2017
- (e) 2019

Ans. b

Sol. 7 August - National Handloom Day

National Handloom Day is celebrated every year on 7 August to honour the nation's handloom weavers and to shed spotlight on India's handloom industry.

Notably, this is the 10th Handloom Day in India. The first Handloom Day was celebrated in 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Chennai. Now, it is celebrated across the country with a variety of events and activities.

The origin of National Handloom Day has its roots back in the Swadeshi Movement of 1905.

The objective of the movement was to boycott British goods in favour of Indian-made products. Notably, handloom textiles were one of the essential products that were widely promoted during this time. all States/UTs.

99. Small Industry Day is observed every year on which day?

लघु उद्योग दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 27 August
- (b) 28 August
- (c) 29 August
- (d) 30 August
- (e) 31 August

Ans. d

Sol. 30 August - Small Industry Day

Small Industry Day is observed on 30 August every year.

This day recognises the contributions of small businesses and industries to the economy. It also highlights the crucial role that small enterprises play in fostering innovation, creating jobs, and driving economic growth.

Theme 2024 - Leveraging Power and Resilience of Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) to Accelerate Sustainable Development and Eradicate Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises

The origins of Small Industry Day can be traced back to the year 2000 when the Indian government introduced a comprehensive policy package for small-scale industries (SSI). To mark this significant development, the Ministry of Small-Scale Industries declared August 30 as Small Industries Day.

The first celebration took place on August 30, 2001, when the Ministry organised a convention for small entrepreneurs in the national capital. Over time, both government institutions and the public have recognised the importance of these enterprises.

The terms Small Scale Industry (SSI) registration and micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) registration are often used interchangeably. The MSME Development Act of 2006 was created to help the growth, expansion, and competitiveness of MSMEs or SSIs.

On May 9, 2007, the former Ministry of Small-Scale Industries and the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries were merged to create the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

100. Who has been elected as the new chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC)?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट परिषद (ICC) के नए चेयरमैन के रूप में किसे चुना गया है?

- (a) Sourav Ganguly
- (b) Roger Binny
- (c) Anil Kumble
- (d) Mohammad Azharuddin
- (e) Jay Shah

Ans. e

Sol. Jay Shah elected unopposed as new ICC chairman

Jay Shah has been elected as the new chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC). He will succeed Greg Barclay and will assume charge on December 1.

The secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) was elected unopposed as no nomination was filed against him. At 36, Shah will be the youngest head of the ICC. He will hold a term of three years with an option to continue for three more years. Shah will now have to relinquish his BCCI post, which he has held since 2019.

About International Cricket Council (ICC)

- The International Cricket Council is the global governing body of cricket.
- It was founded as the Imperial Cricket Conference in 1909 by representatives from Australia, England and South Africa.
- It was renamed as the International Cricket Conference in 1965, and took up its current name in 1987.
- **Formation** - 15 June 1909
- **Headquarters** - Dubai, UAE
- **Chairman** – Jay Shah (replace Greg Barclay) *effect from 1 Dec 2024*
- **Deputy Chairman** - Imran Khwaja (Singapore)
- **CEO** - Geoff Allardice (Australia)
- **General Manager** – Wasim Khan
- **Membership** - 108 members

101. Central Government has declared Adichunchanagiri in _____ and Choolannuar in _____ as Peacock Sanctuary.

केंद्र सरकार ने _____ में आदिचुंचनगिरी और _____ में चूलन्नूआर को मयूर अभयारण्य घोषित किया है।

- (a) Karnataka; Kerala
- (b) Kerala; Karnataka
- (c) Madhya Pradesh; Karnataka
- (d) Karnataka; Maharashtra
- (e) Tamil Nadu; Kerala

Ans. a

Sol. Government declares Adichunchanagiri in Karnataka and Choolannuar in Kerala as Peacock Sanctuary

Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Mr. Bhupender Yadav, announced the creation of two new Peacock Sanctuaries in India: Adichunchanagiri in Karnataka and Choolannuar in Kerala.

This decision shows the government's ongoing effort to protect wildlife and the national bird, the peacock.

About peacock conservation

- Peacock conservation involves protecting both the Indian blue peacock and the green peafowl. These birds face threats from habitat loss and hunting, so efforts include restoring their habitats and preventing poaching.
- Peafowl play key roles in ecosystems, such as spreading seeds. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists the green peafowl as Near Threatened.
- Local communities are engaged in these conservation efforts, emphasizing the importance of cultural awareness in protecting these birds, which symbolize beauty and grace across cultures.

102. The National Commission for Women has inaugurated the Digital Shakti Center to combat cyber crimes against women in which city?

राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग ने किस शहर में महिलाओं के खिलाफ साइबर अपराधों से निपटने के लिए डिजिटल शक्ति केंद्र का उद्घाटन किया है?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Gurugram
- (d) Chennai
- (e) Ahmedabad

Ans. a

Sol. National Commission for Women Inaugurates Digital Shakti Center in New Delhi

The National Commission for Women has inaugurated the Digital Shakti Center to combat cyber crimes against women in New Delhi.

The centre is a dedicated facility that aims at raising awareness about cyber crimes. It will provide essential technical support for registering and addressing complaints.

The commission emphasised that with the alarming rise in cyber crimes such as identity theft, cyberstalking, and sexual exploitation, this initiative is crucial in empowering women to navigate and protect themselves in the digital world.

The Digital Shakti Center was inaugurated by the National Commission for Women (NCW) Chairperson Rekha Sharma in collaboration with the Cyber Peace Foundation. Addressing the gathering Ms Sharma noted that there has been a surge in cyber crime cases in India, rising from 52,974 in 2021 to 65,893 in 2022.

103. India and which country have signed a customs cooperation arrangement to ease trade between the two countries?

भारत और किस देश ने दोनों देशों के बीच व्यापार को आसान बनाने के लिए सीमा शुल्क सहयोग व्यवस्था पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Australia
- (b) Finland
- (c) Norway
- (d) New Zealand
- (e) South Africa

Ans. d

Sol. India and New Zealand sign customs co-operation arrangement to ease trade between the two countries

President Droupadi Murmu held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters at Government House in Wellington.

Discussions were held on wide range issues including customs co-operation, traditional medicine and renewable energy.

India and New Zealand inked the bilateral customs cooperation arrangement which is expected to ease trade between the two countries. New Zealand also ratified the International Solar Alliance paving way for enhanced opportunities for joint research and development in this field. Both the countries also agreed to exchange the best practices in the field of traditional medicine through the Global Centre for traditional medicine in Jamnagar.

India and New Zealand acknowledged the progress in bilateral relations and deliberated upon ways of exchanging cooperation in several areas

Recently India signed MoUs with others countries

- India and Vietnam team up to Preserve Maritime History with NMHC in Lothal
- India and Vietnam sign 9 agreements to deepen strategic partnership & enhance cooperation
- India, US Sign Cultural Property Agreement To Repatriate Stolen Indian Artifacts
- MSDE partners with Australian Government to energise Agriculture Sector of India with emerging skills
- India's Exim Bank to provide \$2.5 million LoC for Guyana
- India and Oman to jointly undertake research on sharks and rays in Arabian Sea

104. In August 2024, Kamel Madouri has been appointed as the PM of which country?

अगस्त 2024 में कामेल मादुरी को किस देश का प्रधानमंत्री नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Poland
- (b) Azerbaijan
- (c) Armenia
- (d) Tunisia
- (e) Angola

Ans. d

Sol. Kamel Madouri appointed as the PM of Tunisia

Tunisian President Kais Saied sacked his Prime Minister Ahmed Hachani without explanation and replaced him with Social Affairs Minister Kamel Madouri. Mr. Hachani had taken office on August 1 last year, replacing Najla Bouden, who was also dismissed without an official reason by Mr. Saied. The President was democratically elected in 2019 but orchestrated a sweeping power grab in 2021 and is now seeking another term in office in elections on October 6.

About Tunisia

- Capital- Tunis
- Currency- Tunisian dinar (TND)
- President- Kais Saied
- Prime Minister - Kamel Madouri
- Official language- Arabic

Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President

- Head of Bangladesh's interim government - Muhammad Yunus
- President of Iran - Masoud Pezeshkian
- President of Venezuela - Nicolas Maduro (3rd time)
- PM of Estonia - Kristen Michal
- President of Rwanda - Paul Kagame (4th time)

105. The Reserve Bank of India has decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent for the _____ in a row in August 2024.

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने अगस्त 2024 में लगातार _____ के लिए नीति रेपो दर को 6.50 प्रतिशत पर अपरिवर्तित रखने का निर्णय लिया है।

- (a) 7th time
- (b) 8th time
- (c) 9th time
- (d) 10th time
- (e) 11th time

Ans. c

Sol. RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for 9th time in a row. The Reserve Bank of India has decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent for the ninth time in a row. Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains at 6.25 percent and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75 per cent. The Monetary Policy Committee, MPC, also decided by a majority of 4 out of 6 members to remain focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation progressively aligns with the target, while supporting growth.

These decisions are in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4 per cent within a band of plus or minus 2 percent, while supporting growth.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 7 to 9, 2024.

RBI has not changed its forecast for the Indian economic growth rate for the financial year 2024-25 and expects the Indian GDP to grow by 7.2%.

The growth rate of the Indian economy in 2023-24 was 8.2 per cent.

RBI Current Policy Rate are as under

- 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%

GDP growth forecast for 2024-25

- Q1(April - June 2024) - 7.1 %
- Q2(July to November 2024) - 7.2%
- Q3 (October -December 2024) - 7.3%
- Q4 (January 2025- March 2025) - 7.2 %

106. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the upper limit for tax payments through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) from Rs 1 lakh to _____ per transaction.

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (आरबीआई) ने यूनिफाइड पेमेंट्स इंटरफेस (यूपीआई) के माध्यम से कर भुगतान की ऊपरी सीमा 1 लाख रुपये से बढ़ाकर _____ प्रति लेनदेन कर दी है।

- (a) ₹2 lakh
- (b) ₹3 lakh
- (c) ₹5 lakh
- (d) ₹7 lakh
- (e) ₹10 lakh

Ans. c

Sol. Limit for tax payments via UPI to increase from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh: RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed raising the upper limit for tax payments through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per transaction.

Currently, the transaction limit for UPI is Rs 1 lakh except for certain categories of payments which have higher transaction limits. It has now been decided to enhance the limit for tax payments through UPI from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per transaction. This will further ease tax payments by consumers through UPI.

The decision was made during the 50th meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held on 8 August.

The increased limit is expected to offer greater convenience to taxpayers, particularly for high-value transactions, potentially encouraging more taxpayers to use UPI for their tax liabilities.

In December 2023, RBI had increased the limit to Rs 5 lakh from certain payments, such as hospital and educational institutions.

107. Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat announced her retirement from wrestling a day after she was disqualified from the 50kg category Paris Olympics finals. She is from which state?

भारतीय पहलवान विनेश फोगट ने पेरिस ओलंपिक के 50 किग्रा वर्ग के फाइनल में अयोग्य घोषित होने के एक दिन बाद कुश्ती से संन्यास की घोषणा की। वह किस राज्य से हैं?

- (a) Punjab
- (b) Haryana
- (c) Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Maharashtra
- (e) Mizoram

Ans. b

Sol. Vinesh Phogat announces retirement from wrestling

Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat from Haryana has announced her retirement from wrestling a day after she was disqualified from the 50kg category Paris Olympics finals.

The seasoned wrestler was disqualified after weighing 100 grams more than the permissible limit in the morning weigh-in ahead of the final.

Recently Retired Players

- Rohan Bopanna (Karnataka, India) – International Tennis
- Thomas Muller (Germany) - International Football
- Ravindra Jadeja (India) – T20 International cricket
- Rohit Sharma (India) – T20 International cricket
- Virat Kohli (India) – T20 International cricket
- Trent Boult (New Zealand) - International cricket

108. ISRO will launch its Earth Observation Satellite-08 (EOS-08) through which rocket on 15 August 2024, its 55th foundation day?

इसरो अपने 55वें स्थापना दिवस 15 अगस्त 2024 को किस रॉकेट के जरिए अपना अर्थ ऑब्जर्वेशन सैटेलाइट-08 (EOS-08) लॉन्च करेगा?

- (a) Ariane-5
- (b) SSLV - D3
- (c) PSLV-C48
- (d) GSLV-Mk III
- (e) LVM3 M4

Ans. b

Sol. ISRO to launch Remote Sensing EOS 8 Satellite on 55th Foundation Day

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch its Earth Observation Satellite-08 (EOS-08) on 15 August 2024, its 55th foundation day.

The EOS-08 satellite will be launched by ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3. Here, D stands for Developmental. The satellite will be launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

About the Earth Observation Satellite-08 (EOS-08)

- The EOS-08 is a remote-sensing microsatellite with a mass of around 175.5 kg. It will be placed in a Circular Low-Earth Orbit (LEO) at an altitude of 475 km.
- The life of the satellite is around 1 year.
- The satellite will help with ocean surface wind analysis, soil moisture assessment, cryosphere studies over the Himalayan region, flood detection, and inland waterbody detection.

109. Which exercise did the Indian Army recently conduct in Ladakh?

हाल ही में भारतीय सेना ने लद्दाख में कौन सा अभ्यास किया?

- (a) Snow Parvat
- (b) Tiger Triumph
- (c) Operation Parvat
- (d) Zoravar
- (e) Parvat Prahaar

Ans. e

Sol. Army conducts 'Parvat Prahaar' exercise in Ladakh

The Indian Army has conducted a strategic military exercise, 'Parvat Prahaar', in Ladakh, focusing on high-altitude warfare and operations.

The 'Parvat Prahaar' (Mountain Strike) exercise emphasises mountainous and rugged terrains, such as those found in regions like Eastern Ladakh. It is crucial for maintaining the readiness and effectiveness of the Army in the region, which is close to the India-China border.

The exercise, which continues for over a fortnight, involves simulating real-world combat scenarios to train soldiers in the unique challenges posed by such terrains. Various arms of the Army, including infantry, armored, artillery, and support units, are participating in this drill.

Different kinds of tanks, artillery guns including K-9 Vajra, air-defense systems, UAVs, and other aviation assets of the Army are showcasing their operability and war preparedness.

The Mountain Strike Corps of the Northern Command, which is responsible for operations in this sensitive region along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), is involved in the exercise.

110. Neeraj Chopra won the Silver Medal in the men's javelin throw event with a best throw of 89.45 meters at the Paris Olympics and Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem won gold with a throw of _____.

नीरज चोपड़ा ने पेरिस ओलंपिक में पुरुषों की भाला फेंक स्पर्धा में 89.45 मीटर के सर्वश्रेष्ठ थ्रो के साथ रजत पदक जीता और पाकिस्तान के अरशद नदीम ने _____ के थ्रो के साथ स्वर्ण पदक जीता।

- (a) 92.67 meters
- (b) 92.77 meters
- (c) 92.87 meters
- (d) 92.97 meters
- (e) 92.57 meters

Ans. d

Sol. Neeraj Chopra won Silver at Paris Olympics 2024

Neeraj Chopra has won the Silver Medal in the men's javelin throw event with a best throw of 89.45 meters at the Paris Olympics. Following his performance, Chopra became the second male athlete post-independence to win two Olympic medals in an individual event.

Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem won gold with a throw of 92.97 meters, setting a new Olympic record and surpassing Denmark's Andreas Thorkildsen's mark from Beijing 2008.

Grenada's Anderson Peters secured bronze with a throw of 88.54 meters.

111. The Indian men's hockey team won the bronze medal in the 2024 Paris Olympics by defeating which team?

भारतीय पुरुष हॉकी टीम ने 2024 पेरिस ओलंपिक में किस टीम को हराकर कांस्य पदक जीता?

- (a) France
- (b) Pakistan
- (c) Germany
- (d) Spain
- (e) Japan

Ans. d

Sol. India defeats Spain to clinch bronze medal at Paris Olympics

The Indian men's hockey team led by Harmanpreet Singh won the bronze medal in the 2024 Paris Olympics, beating Spain 2-1.

The match to decide the bronze medal was held at the Yves-du-Manoir Stadium in Paris, France. Earlier in the semi-final, India lost to Germany 3-2.

This is the second back-to-back bronze medal for the Indian men's hockey team after their bronze medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The match against Spain was also the last international match for the veteran Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who had an outstanding Olympics.

Indian captain Harmanpreet Singh scored both goals in the match, and Miralles scored the only goal for Spain.

The Indian captain finished the Paris Olympics as the highest goal scorer in the Paris 2024 men's hockey tournament with ten goals.

The bronze medal at the Paris Olympics was the 13th medal won by the Indian men's hockey team in the Summer Olympics.

It was the first time since the 1972 Munich Olympics that India had won back-to-back medals in the Olympics. Indian men's hockey team has won 8 gold, 1 silver and 4 bronze in the Olympics.

112. Which state government has joined hands with UNICEF to promote father's involvement in encouraging new mothers to breastfeed their infants till the age of six months?

किस राज्य सरकार ने नई माताओं को छह महीने की उम्र तक अपने शिशुओं को स्तनपान कराने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने में पिता की भागीदारी को बढ़ावा देने के लिए यूनिसेफ के साथ हाथ मिलाया है?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Haryana
- (e) West Bengal

Ans. e

Sol. UNICEF, West Bengal govt join hands to promote fathers' role in encouraging breastfeeding

The West Bengal government and UNICEF have joined hands for promoting the involvement of fathers in encouraging new mothers to breastfeed their babies till six months of age.

As part of the initiative, workers at Anganwadis have begun to discuss the benefits of breastfeeding with fathers of the newborn and other family members.

According to the state Women, Child Development and Social Welfare Department is actively promoting breastfeeding in the backdrop of the findings that 53 percent of mothers still need to exclusively breastfeed their children for the first six months.

113. The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed annually on which day?

विश्व के स्वदेशी लोगों का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 7 August
- (b) 8 August
- (c) 9 August
- (d) 10 August
- (e) 11 August

Ans. c

Sol. 9 August - International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed annually on August 9.

The day is intended to raise awareness about the needs of indigenous peoples.

The day also gives Indigenous peoples the opportunity to communicate their thoughts and issues on a worldwide scale.

Theme 2024 - Protecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared this special day in 1994, with resolution 49/214.

The UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations met for the first time on this date in 1982. The UNGA's primary goal is to strengthen international cooperation so that Indigenous peoples' problems can be solved.

114. Former Chief Minister of _____ Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee passed away at the age of 80.
_____ के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री बुद्धदेव भट्टाचार्य का 80 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया।

- (a) Odisha
- (b) West Bengal
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Kerala
- (e) Uttar Pradesh

Ans. b

Sol. Former West Bengal CM and CPIM veteran Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee passed away

Former chief minister of West Bengal and veteran CPIM leader Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee passed away at the age of 80.

Bhattacharjee was a veteran CPI(M) leader, who served as the West Bengal CM from 2002 to 2011, succeeding Jyoti Basu.

In 2011, Bhattacharjee lost the assembly election to Mamata Banerjee, ending the CPI(M)-led Left Front's 34-year-long rule in the state.

115. Quit India Movement Day is celebrated every year on August 9. In which year Mahatma Gandhi started the Quit India Movement Day?

भारत छोड़ो आंदोलन दिवस हर साल 9 अगस्त को मनाया जाता है। महात्मा गांधी ने किस वर्ष भारत छोड़ो आंदोलन दिवस शुरू किया था?

- (a) 1932
- (b) 1939
- (c) 1942
- (d) 1945
- (e) 1947

Ans. c

Sol. 9 August – Quit India Movement Day

Every year, on August 9th, India commemorates the Quit India Movement, a pivotal moment in the country's struggle for independence from the British rule.

Launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1942, the movement called for the British to leave India, marking the beginning of the final phase of the freedom struggle. The Quit India Movement, was marked by widespread non-violent protests advocating for an "orderly British withdrawal" from India. Gandhi's speeches inspired the masses with his call for Indians to be their own guides in the struggle for freedom. On August 9, 1942, Gandhi issued the famous "Do or Die" exhortation, urging all Indians to expel the British. The movement originated from Gawalia Tank in Mumbai. This day is annually commemorated as August Kranti Day

116. Which state government and the World Bank have decided to develop a roadmap enabling partnership between the State government and the World Bank for making a positive, ambitious and highly impactful outcome relating to lives of around four crore people of the State?

किस राज्य सरकार और विश्व बैंक ने राज्य के लगभग चार करोड़ लोगों के जीवन से संबंधित सकारात्मक, महत्वाकांक्षी और अत्यधिक प्रभावशाली परिणाम बनाने के लिए राज्य सरकार और विश्व बैंक के बीच साझेदारी को सक्षम करने के लिए एक रोडमैप विकसित करने का निर्णय लिया है?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Telangana
- (d) Andhra Pradesh
- (e) Tamil Nadu

Ans. c

Sol. Telangana Govt, World Bank to prepare roadmap for an impactful outcome for people of State

The Telangana State government and the World Bank have decided to develop a roadmap enabling partnership between the State government and the World Bank for making a positive, ambitious and highly impactful outcome relating to lives of around four crore people of the State. The focus of the partnership will be on initiatives for skill development, urban rejuvenation and re-imagination, net zero developments, healthcare, diagnostics and electronic records among others.

World Bank backing is expected to give a massive fillip to several projects including the Musi River rejuvenation project, Skill University, Future City, Citizen Healthcare and development of Hyderabad 4.0.

About Telangana

- **Established** – 2 June 2014
- **Capital** – Hyderabad
- **Chief Minister** – Revanth Reddy (replace K. Chandrashekar Rao)
- **Deputy CM** - Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka
- **Governor** – C. P. Radhakrishnan
- **Speaker of Telangana Assembly** – Gaddam Prasad Kumar
- **Legislative Assembly Seats** - 119

117. Which edition of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, aimed at fostering patriotism and national pride by encouraging citizens to display the national flag at their homes, will run from August 9 to August 15?

नागरिकों को अपने घरों पर राष्ट्रीय ध्वज प्रदर्शित करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करके देशभक्ति और राष्ट्रीय गौरव को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से 'हर घर तिरंगा' अभियान का कौन सा संस्करण 9 अगस्त से 15 अगस्त तक चलेगा?

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

Ans. b

Sol. Third edition of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign set for August 9-15

The third edition of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, aimed at fostering patriotism and national pride by encouraging citizens to display the national flag at their homes, will run from August 9 to August 15.

This initiative has seen significant public participation in the past two years, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging citizens to continue the tradition.

All about "Har Ghar Tiranga" initiative

- The campaign was launched in 2022 under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' program.
- This initiative was a huge hit among the citizens of India. The participants represented diverse communities all over India.
- In its launching year, more than 23 crores have taken part and around 6 crore selfies along with the flag were uploaded. Next year around 10 crore selfies were uploaded for the campaign.
- The initiative was successful by including participation from all the states and Union territories.

118. Based on data compiled by the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute (SWFI), What is the rank of India's Reserve Bank of India around the world?

सॉवरेन वेल्थ फंड इंस्टीट्यूट (एसडब्ल्यूएफआई) द्वारा संकलित आंकड़ों के आधार पर, दुनिया भर में भारत के रिजर्व बैंक का रैंक क्या है?

- (a) 5th
- (b) 7th
- (c) 10th
- (d) 12th
- (e) 15th

Ans. d

Sol. India's Reserve Bank of India ranks 12th around the world

Central banks play a crucial role in maintaining economic stability and growth by implementing stable monetary policy and ensuring financial stability.

Globally, they have specialised departments dedicated to regulation and supervision, staffed with experts who monitor compliance with established financial laws and regulations.

The total wealth of central banks reflects the economic outlook of their respective countries, which is mainly assessed through the central bank's assets, with the balance sheet acting as a crucial indicator of the nation's economic health.

India's Reserve Bank of India ranks 12th around the world. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) balance sheet grew by 11.08% year on year to Rs 70.47 trillion as of March 31, 2024, owing to its liquidity and foreign currency (forex) activities.

Rank	Name of the Central Bank	Total Assets (USD Dollars)	Country	Region
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Based on compiled by Sovereign Institute are the top central banks by total

1	Federal Reserve System	\$7,835,559,000	USA	North America
2	People's Bank of China	\$6,004,919,369,845	China	Asia
3	Bank of Japan	\$5,543,058,448,125	Japan	Asia
4	Deutsche Bundesbank	\$2,776,759,343,640	Germany	Europe
5	Bank of France	\$2,011,001,711,400	France	Europe
6	Norges Bank	\$1,632,986,563,336	Norway	Europe
7	Bank of Italy	\$1,383,293,987,542	Italy	Europe
8	Bank of England	\$1,288,250,668,160	United Kingdom	Europe
9	Bank of Spain	\$1,049,435,626,385	Spain	Europe
10	Swiss National Bank	\$944,013,351,477	Switzerland	Europe

data the Wealth Fund (SWFI), here 10 wealthiest in the world assets:

119. Pine Labs-owned Setu, an application programming interface (API) infrastructure provider, introduced a Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-focused payments platform for businesses and developers in partnership with which bank?

पाइन लैब्स के स्वामित्व वाली सेतु, एक एप्लिकेशन प्रोग्रामिंग इंटरफ़ेस (एपीआई) इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर प्रदाता, ने किस बैंक के साथ साझेदारी में व्यवसायों और डेवलपर्स के लिए यूनिकाइड पेमेंट्स इंटरफ़ेस (यूपीआई)-केंद्रित भुगतान प्लेटफ़ॉर्म पेश किया?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) Axis Bank
- (c) ICICI Bank
- (d) Canara Bank
- (e) Yes Bank

Ans. b

Sol. Pine Labs-owned Setu partners Axis Bank for UPI-focused payments platform

Pine Labs-owned Setu, an application programming interface (API) infrastructure provider, introduced a Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-focused payments platform for businesses and developers in partnership with Axis Bank.

The platform, named UPISetu, supports a wide range of UPI products, from basic QR code payments, UPI Autopay, equated monthly instalments (EMIs), and third-party validation service.

It also features functionalities like brand and bank offers, advanced dispute resolution, instant cashback and refunds, all provided via APIs.

Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- Chola MS General Insurance forges strategic partnership with Mahindra Finance
- Capital SFB and Edelweiss Life Insurance enter into bancassurance tie-up
- Nagaland govt, SBI General Insurance ink MoU on disaster risk management solution
- HDFC securities partners with Vested Finance to Offer Access to Global Investing for Indians and NRI
- IIT Madras Partners with IDBI Bank to Launch Cybersecurity Lab

120. According to the 2024 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses List report, the wealth of Ambani, Bajaj and Birla is equivalent to the gross domestic product of which country?

2024 बार्कलेज प्राइवेट क्लाइंट्स हुरुन इंडिया मोस्ट वैल्यूएबल फैमिली बिजनेस लिस्ट रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, अंबानी, बजाज और बिड़ला की संपत्ति किस देश के सकल घरेलू उत्पाद के बराबर है?

- (a) Vietnam
- (b) Japan
- (c) Singapore
- (d) Taiwan
- (e) South Korea

Ans. c

Sol. Ambani family's wealth 10% of India GDP: Barclays-Hurun India report

According to report released' 2024 by Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses List' the Ambani family's combined wealth valuation of Rs 25.75 trillion was equivalent to around 10 per cent of the Indian gross domestic product (GDP).

The Ambani family remains the richest business family in India, followed by the Bajaj and Birla families. According to the report, the top three business families -Ambani, Bajaj, and Birlas- are valued at \$460 billion, which is equivalent to Singapore's GDP. The Ambani family is followed by the Bajaj family in the second position with a valuation of Rs 7.13 trillion. The Pune-based automobile business is headed by Niraj Bajaj, a third-generation leader, as per the report. The Birla family ranks third at Rs 5.39 trillion, led by fourth-generation Kumar Mangalam Birla. The business primarily focuses on metals, mining, cement, and financial services.

The list further features the Sajjan Jindal-led family, valued at Rs 4.71 trillion in fourth place, and the Nadar family with a value of Rs 4.30 trillion in fifth place. The Nadar family's Roshni Nadar Malhotra is the only woman in the list of top 10 family businesses.

The 2024 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses list does not include first-generation families.

However, the Adani family, set up by current chairman Gautam Adani, has emerged as the most valued first-generation family business with a value of Rs 15.44 trillion.

The list further includes the Poonawalla family, the owners of Serum Institute of India, valued at Rs 2.37 trillion in the second position. Third on the list is the Divi family, another pharma major, with a valuation of Rs 91,200 crore.

121. In August 2024, which company has received the official certificate of registration as a non-banking financial company (investment and debt company) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

अगस्त 2024 में, किस कंपनी को भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) से गैर-बैंकिंग वित्तीय कंपनी (निवेश और ऋण कंपनी) के रूप में पंजीकरण का आधिकारिक प्रमाण पत्र प्राप्त हुआ है?

- (a) Muthoot Finance
- (b) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited
- (c) L&T Finance Ltd
- (d) LIC Housing Finance
- (e) PNB Housing Finance Limited

Ans. c

Sol. L& T Finance Achieves NBFC-ICC Status from RBI

L&T Finance Ltd. has officially received its certificate of registration as a Non-Banking Financial Company (Investment and Credit Company) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

This transition marks a shift from its previous registration as an NBFC-Core Investment Company (NBFC-CIC), following the merger with its wholly owned subsidiaries, L&T Finance, L&T Infra Credit Ltd., and L&T Mutual Fund Trustee Ltd.

The company further stated that this change would not impact its compliance with NBFC-ICC guidelines. L&T Finance Ltd.'s transition to an NBFC-ICC status is a move following its successful merger and consolidation of subsidiaries.

122. HCLSoftware, the software business division of Indian IT services giant HCLTech, will acquire Zeenea, a _____ - based firm providing data catalog and governance solutions, for Euro 24 million (around Rs 218 crore).

भारतीय आईटी सेवा दिग्गज एचसीएलटेक का सॉफ्टवेयर व्यवसाय प्रभाग, एचसीएलसॉफ्टवेयर, डेटा कैटलॉग और गवर्नेंस समाधान प्रदान करने वाली _____ आधारित फर्म जीनिया का 24 मिलियन यूरो (लगभग 218 करोड़ रुपये) में अधिग्रहण करेगा।

- (a) Bengaluru
- (b) Paris
- (c) New York
- (d) Seoul
- (e) Italy

Ans. b

Sol. HCLTech unit to acquire French software firm Zeenea for 24 mn euros

HCLSoftware, the software business division of Indian IT services giant HCLTech, will acquire Zeenea, a Paris-based firm providing data catalog and governance solutions, for Euro 24 million (around Rs 218 crore).

The acquisition is expected to close in September 2024.

The acquisition will strengthen its data and analytics business called Actian.

Actian has seen strong growth in hybrid data management and integration in the last few years. Adding metadata management, data catalog and governance capabilities will help Actian customers.

123. Who has been appointed as the MD & CEO of MCX, the country's largest commodity exchange?

देश के सबसे बड़े कमोडिटी एक्सचेंज एमसीएक्स के एमडी और सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Gaurav Banerjee
- (b) Jetha Ahir
- (c) Pradeep Singh Kharola
- (d) Harish Dudani
- (e) Praveena Rai

Ans. e

Sol. SEBI approves Praveena Rai as new MD & CEO of MCX

Capital market regulator SEBI approved Praveena Rai's appointment as the Managing Director and CEO of MCX, the country's largest commodity exchange.

Rai was the COO of NPCI (National Payment Corporation of India) and was in charge of formulating and deploying the marketing, business development, product management, and operations strategy.

She was driving product penetration, reach and visibility of NPCI's offerings through suitable partnerships.

With over 20 years of extensive experience, Rai has built expertise in various facets of payments, cards, retail, transaction, wholesale and commercial banking.

The former chief of the exchange, PS Reddy, stepped down on May 9 after completing his five-year term. Though eligible, he did not offer himself for the second term.

Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **MD & CEO of MCX** - Praveena Rai's
- **Chairman of SBI** - Challa Sreenivasulu Setty (replace Dinesh Khara for 3 years)
- **MD & CEO of Unity Small Finance Bank** - Inderjit Camotra's
- **MD of National Housing Bank** - Sanjay Shukla
- **CMD of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** - Manoj Mittal (replace S Ramann)

124. Goritsa Gruncharova-Kozhareva has been appointed as the new PM of which country?

गोरित्सा ग्रुन्चारोवा-कोझारेवा को किस देश का नया प्रधानमंत्री नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Bahrain
- (b) Barbados
- (c) Belgium
- (d) Bulgaria
- (e) Bermuda

Ans. d

Sol. Goritsa Gruncharova-Kozhareva appoints new caretaker PM of Bulgaria

Goritsa Gruncharova-Kozhareva has been sworn in as Bulgaria's caretaker prime minister, leaving her to oversee an interim government that has held power in the country since the resignation of former prime minister Nikolai Denkov in March. She replaces Dimitar Glavchev, who was appointed on 9 April.

Kozhareva was appointed by Bulgaria's head of state Roumen Radev, who added that he saw 20 October as a suitable date for holding another parliamentary election.

Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President

- PM of Tunisia - Kamel Madouri
- Head of Bangladesh's interim government - Muhammad Yunus
- President of Iran - Masoud Pezeshkian
- President of Venezuela - Nicolas Maduro (3rd time)
- PM of Estonia - Kristen Michal
- President of Rwanda - Paul Kagame (4th time)

125. Aman Sehrawat became the youngest Indian to win an Olympic medal after he won a bronze medal in the men's freestyle _____ wrestling event at the Paris Olympics.

पेरिस ओलंपिक में पुरुषों की फ्रीस्टाइल _____ कुश्ती स्पर्धा में कांस्य पदक जीतने के बाद अमन सेहरावत ओलंपिक पदक जीतने वाले सबसे कम उम्र के भारतीय बन गए।

- (a) 50kg
- (b) 53kg
- (c) 57kg
- (d) 60kg
- (e) 62kg

Ans. c

Sol. Aman Sehrawat breaks Sindhu record to be Youngest Medallist at Olympics

Aman Sehrawat became the youngest Indian to win an Olympic medal after he won a bronze medal in the men's freestyle 57 kg wrestling event at the Paris Olympics.

Aman Sehrawat broke the record of PV Sindhu, who won a silver medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics at the age of 21 years, 1 month, and 14 days.

The youngest Indian to win an Olympic Medal is wrestler Aman Sehrawat. He won the medal at the age of 21 years and 24 days.

Oldest Indian Medal Winner at Summer Olympics

- The Oldest Indian to win a medal at the Summer Olympics is Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore. He won a silver medal in the double trap shooting event at the 2004 Athens Olympics at the age of 34 years, 6 months, and 19 days.
- The Oldest Indian woman to win a medal at the Summer Olympics is boxer Mary Kom. Kom won a bronze medal in the 2012 London Olympics at the age of 29 years, 8 months, and 15 days.

Flag bearer at the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics

- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has also announced that PR Sreejesh, along with Manu Bhaker, will be the flag bearer of the Indian contingent at the closing ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- Sharath Kamal and PV Sindhu were the Indian flag bearers at the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics.

126. The Odisha government introduced India's first 'Rice ATM' to revolutionise the public distribution system (PDS) for ration cardholders. What is the name of this Rice ATM?

ओडिशा सरकार ने राशन कार्डधारकों के लिए सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (पीडीएस) में क्रांतिकारी बदलाव लाने के लिए भारत का पहला 'राइस एटीएम' पेश किया। इस राइस एटीएम का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Mera Ration Grain ATM
- (b) Anna Grain ATM
- (c) Annarice Grain ATM
- (d) Annadevta Grain ATM
- (e) Annapurthi Grain ATM

Ans. e

Sol. Odisha launches India's first 'Rice ATM'

The Odisha government has introduced India's first round-the-clock grain ATM, also known as the 'rice ATM,' to revolutionise the Public Distribution System (PDS) for ration cardholders.

This machine, installed at a warehouse in Mancheswar, was launched by Odisha Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra.

The machine, developed in partnership with the World Food Programme, operates around the clock, providing beneficiaries with consistent access to their entitled food grains.

The Annapurthi Grain ATM, as it is officially known, is capable of dispensing up to 50 kg grain in just five minutes, with an error rate of only 0.01%.

Initially launched in Bhubaneswar, the rice ATM will be introduced in all 30 districts of Odisha. It will potentially be expanded to other states under the One Nation One Ration Card scheme.

How to use the rice ATM

- Enter your ration card number on the touchscreen display.
- Complete biometric verification (fingerprint or iris scan).
- The ATM will dispense the rice (up to 25 kg) after successful verification.

About Odisha

- **Capital** – Bhubaneswar
- **Chief Minister** – Mohan Charan Majhi (replace Naveen Patnaik)
- **Deputy CM** - KV Singhdeo and Pravati Parida
- **Governor** – Raghubar Das
- **Legislative Assembly Seat** - 147

127. The Government of India has constituted a committee to monitor the current situation on the Indo-Bangladesh Border (IBB). Who will chair this committee?

भारत सरकार ने भारत-बांग्लादेश सीमा (आईबीबी) पर मौजूदा स्थिति की निगरानी के लिए एक समिति गठित की है। इस समिति की अध्यक्षता कौन करेगा?

- (a) National Security Advisor
- (b) ADF of ITBP
- (c) ADG of BSF
- (d) Home Minister
- (e) Foreign Minister

Ans. c

Sol. Gol constitutes a committee to monitor the current situation on Indo-Bangladesh Border

The Government of India has constituted a committee to monitor the current situation on the Indo-Bangladesh Border (IBB).

The committee will maintain communication channels with their counterpart authorities in Bangladesh to ensure the safety of Indian citizens and people belonging to minority communities in Bangladesh.

The Committee will be headed by ADG, Border Security Force (BSF), Eastern Command and will have IG, BSF Frontier HQ South Bengal, IG, BSF Frontier HQ Tripura, Member (Planning & Development), Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), and, Secretary, LPAI, as its members.

Recent Committees

- Committee on Appointment of VC in Bengal; chaired by - UU Lalit
- To review and suggest reform in the examination process (restructuring NTA) - Chaired by Dr. Radhakrishnan
- RBI set up a committee to Mitigate Payment Fraud; chaired by AP Hota
- SEBI sets up committee to review ownership, economic structure of clearing corporations; chaired by Usha Thorat
- Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee - Justice Hima Kohli

128. World Lion Day is celebrated annually on which day?

विश्व शेर दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 8 August
- (b) 9 August
- (c) 10 August
- (d) 11 August
- (e) 12 August

Ans. c

Sol. 10 August - World Lion Day

World Lion Day is celebrated annually on August 10th.

Objective - To raise awareness about these conservation issues and promote efforts to protect lions. The day provides an opportunity to educate people about the challenges lions face and to celebrate their vital role in ecosystems and cultural heritage worldwide.

World Lion Day was first established in 2013 by Big Cat Rescue, the world's largest accredited sanctuary dedicated to lions, and was co-founded by Dereck and Beverly Joubert.

129. Nagasaki Day is observed every year on 9 August. This year marked the _____ Anniversary of Nagasaki Day.

नागासाकी दिवस हर साल 9 अगस्त को मनाया जाता है। इस साल नागासाकी दिवस की _____ वर्षगांठ मनाई गई।

(a) 76th

(b) 77th

(c) 79th

(d) 80th

(e) 81st

Ans. c

Sol. 9 August - Nagasaki Day

Nagasaki Day is observed every year on 9 August. This year marked the 79th Anniversary of Nagasaki Day.

On August 9, 1945, a U.S. B-29 bomber named Bockscar dropped an atomic bomb codenamed "Fat Man" on the city of Nagasaki.

This event occurred just three days after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, making it the second and, to date, the last use of nuclear weapons in warfare.

The atomic bomb "Fat Man" dropped by a US B-29 bomber on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945, killed as many as 70,000 people, three days after the bombing of Hiroshima killed more than 140,000.

Thousands of people were killed in the next two to four months due to the radiation effects of the bombing.

Although the exact number of casualties is unknown, the atomic bombs dropped by the US are estimated to have killed more than 200,000 people.

130. World Biofuel Day is celebrated annually on which day?

विश्व जैव ईंधन दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 8 August
- (b) 9 August
- (c) 10 August
- (d) 11 August
- (e) 12 August

Ans. c

Sol. 10 July - World Biofuel Day

World Biofuel Day is observed on August 10 annually.

Objective - To create awareness about the importance of biofuels that are made from biological materials like agricultural waste, animal waste, algae, trees, crops, or even grass.

Theme 2024 - Sustainable Biofuels: Reducing Waste, Feeding Energy.

August 10 was designated as World Biofuel Day because it was on this date in 1893 that German Inventor Sir Rudolf Diesel successfully operated his diesel engine with peanut oil.

Later, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG) and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in India started celebrating World Biofuel Day from 2015 onwards. In India, biofuels like biodiesel, bioethanol, and bio-CNG are increasingly being used.

131. In August 2024, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved _____ projects of the Ministry of Railways with a total estimated cost of around Rs.24,657 crore.

अगस्त 2024 में, प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में आर्थिक मामलों की मंत्रिमंडलीय समिति ने लगभग 24,657 करोड़ रुपये की कुल अनुमानित लागत के साथ रेल मंत्रालय की _____ परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी।

- (a) 5
- (b) 6
- (c) 7
- (d) 8
- (e) 9

Ans. d

Sol. Government approves 8 New Railway Line Projects

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved eight projects of the ministry of railways with a total estimated cost of around Rs.24,657 crore.

The projects will cover 14 districts in seven states, including Odisha, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Telangana, and West Bengal.

The eight major new railway line route projects approved by the union cabinet include Gunupur-Therubali (New Line), Junagarh-Nabarangpur, Badampahar-Kandujhargarh, Bangriposi-Gorumahisani, Malkangiri-Pandurangapuram (via Bhadrachalam), Buramara-Chakulia, Jalna-Jalgaon, and Bikramshila-Katareah.

With these projects, 64 new stations will be constructed, providing enhanced connectivity to six aspirational districts—East Singhbhum, Bhadadri Kothagudem, Malkangiri, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, and Rayagada—approximately 510 villages and about four million population.

132. India's defence exports soared by how much percent in the first quarter of 2024-25 as compared to the same period last fiscal year?

पिछले वित्त वर्ष की इसी अवधि की तुलना में 2024-25 की पहली तिमाही में भारत का रक्षा निर्यात कितने प्रतिशत बढ़ गया?

- (a) 50%
- (b) 60%
- (c) 75%
- (d) 78%
- (e) 82%

Ans. d

Sol. India's defence exports soar by 78 percent in first quarter of 2024-25

India's defence exports soared by 78 percent in the first quarter of 2024-25 as compared to the same period last fiscal year.

According to the Defence Ministry, defence exports increased to rupees 6,915 crores in the first quarter of 2024-25, compared to ₹3,865 crore in the same quarter of the previous year.

133. According to the 2024 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses report, who is the India's most influential woman leader?

2024 बार्कलेज प्राइवेट क्लाइंट्स हुरुन इंडिया मोस्ट वैल्यूएबल फैमिली बिजनेस रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत की सबसे प्रभावशाली महिला नेता कौन है?

- (a) Nita Ambani
- (b) Nirmla Sitharaman
- (c) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw
- (d) Soma Mondal
- (e) Roshini Nadar

Ans. e

Sol. Roshni Nadar Malhotra is India's most influential woman leader

Roshni Nadar Malhotra, chairperson of HCL Technologies is India's most influential woman leading a family-owned business, according to the 2024 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses report.

As the chairperson, she has been instrumental in the company's growth and success. The Nadar family's business is valued at a staggering Rs 430,600 crore.

Other notable women leaders include Manju D. Gupta of Lupin, Sushila Devi Singhania of JK Cement, Meher Pudumjee of Thermax, Amita Birla of Birlasoft, Leena Gandhi Tewari of USV, Mahima Datla of Biological E, Bina Modi of Godfrey Phillips India, and Jyothy Ramachandran of Jyothy Laboratories.

134. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann unveiled a pioneering initiative for the Punjabi diaspora with the inauguration of the 'Punjab Help Centre' at Terminal 3 of which airport?

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਮੁਖ਼ਯਮੰਤਰੀ ਭਗਵੰਤ ਮਾਨ ਨੇ ਕਿਸ ਹਵਾਈ ਅਡ੍ਹੇ ਦੇ ਟਰਮਿਨਲ 3 ਪਰ 'ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਹਾਯਤਾ ਕੇਂਦਰ' ਦੇ ਉਦਘਾਟਨ ਦੇ ਸਾਥ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਸੀ ਦੇ ਲਿਏ ਏਕ ਅਗ੍ਰਣੀ ਪਹਲ ਕਾ ਅਨਾਵਰਣ ਕੀਯਾ?

- (a) Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi
- (b) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
- (c) Cochin International Airport, Kochi
- (d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad
- (e) Mangaluru International Airport, Mangaluru

Ans. a

Sol. Mann dedicates Punjab Help Centre for NRIs at IGI Airport

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann unveiled a pioneering initiative for the Punjabi diaspora with the inauguration of the 'Punjab Help Centre' at Terminal 3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi.

This makes Punjab the first state in India to establish such a dedicated NRI Facilitation Centre, showcasing a robust commitment to supporting its overseas community.

'Punjab Help Centre will operate 24X7, offering a range of services to assist NRIs and other passengers.

The centre will provide help with arrival and connecting flights, taxi services, lost luggage, and other airport-related needs. It is equipped with two Innova cars for local transportation to Punjab Bhawan and nearby locations.

For emergency situations, rooms at Punjab Bhawan will be available based on availability. A dedicated helpline, 011-61232182, has also been set up for immediate assistance.

135. How much government assistance will be provided to the eligible beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 scheme?

प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना-शहरी (पीएमएवाई-यू) 2.0 योजना के तहत पात्र लाभार्थियों को कितनी सरकारी सहायता प्रदान की जाएगी?

- (a) 2 lakh
- (b) 2.5 lakh
- (c) 3.5 lakh
- (d) 4 lakh
- (e) 5 lakh

Ans. b

Sol. PMAY- U 2.0 approved by Union Cabinet with 10 lakh crore investment

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0, which envisages an investment of Rs 10 lakh crores.

The PMAY-U 2.0 will replace the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), which was launched on 25 June 2015 and ended on 31 December 2024.

The duration of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 is five years (2028-29). It aims to facilitate the construction of one crore houses in urban areas for the urban poor and middle-class families.

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs will be the nodal body for implementing the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 scheme.

The total investment required under the PMAY-U 2.0 scheme to build one core house is Rs 10 lakh crore over five years.

The central government/state government/Union Territories will provide Rs 2.30 lakh crore assistance under the scheme.

The government will provide Rs 2.50 lakh of assistance per house constructed in the BLC and AHP component of the scheme.

136. Union Finance Secretary T V Somanathan has been appointed Cabinet Secretary for two years. He will be taking over from _____.

केंद्रीय वित्त सचिव टी वी सोमनाथन को दो साल के लिए कैबिनेट सचिव नियुक्त किया गया है। वह _____ का स्थान लेंगे।

- (a) Manoj Govil
- (b) Sanjay Malhotra
- (c) Rajiv Gauba
- (d) Pramod Kumar Mishra
- (e) Ajay Kumar Bhallaas

Ans. c

Sol. Finance Secretary T V Somanathan named Cabinet Secretary for 2 years

Union Finance Secretary T V Somanathan has been appointed Cabinet Secretary for two years starting August 30.

He will be taking over from Rajiv Gauba.

A 1987-batch Tamil Nadu cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, Somanathan was designated Finance Secretary in April 2021.

He was appointed Secretary, the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, back in December 2019. Somanathan, who served as a joint secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA) from 2015 to 2017, was also involved in overseeing the implementation of economic policies in the Prime Minister's Office during that period.

Other Important Secretaries

- **Foreign Secretary** - Vikram Misri
- **Revenue Secretary** - Sanjay Malhotra
- **Defence Secretary** - Giridhar Aramane
- **Economic Affairs Secretary** - Ajay Seth
- **Expenditure Secretary** - T. V. Somanathan
- **Home Secretary** - Ajay Kumar Bhalla
- **MoSPI Secretary** - Dr. G. P. Samanta

137. All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) New Delhi has signed an MoU with which institute to collaborate on education, research, and technology?

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्वेद संस्थान (AIIA) नई दिल्ली ने शिक्षा, अनुसंधान और प्रौद्योगिकी पर सहयोग करने के लिए किस संस्थान के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Delhi University
- (b) Amity University
- (c) Lovely Professional University
- (d) Manav Rachna International University
- (e) Jawahar Lal University

Ans. b

Sol. All India Institute of Ayurveda signed MoU with Amity University to promote Ayurveda Research and Education

All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) New Delhi has signed an MoU with Amity University Noida to collaborate on education, research, and technology.

This MoU extends the ongoing five-year agreement with Amity University. The MoU was signed under the leadership of Amity University Chancellor, Dr. Atul Chauhan, and under the aegis of the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India.

The objective of the MoU is to promote collaborative education programs, publications, capacity-building, and joint capacity-building projects. This includes fostering academic excellence, technological advancement, and state-of-the-art programs through capacity building and lifelong learning.

138. Which Indian leader has been recently conferred with Timor Leste's highest civilian award the Grand Collar of Order of Timor Leste?

किस भारतीय नेता को हाल ही में तिमोर लेस्ते के सर्वोच्च नागरिक पुरस्कार ग्रैंड कॉलर ऑफ़ ऑर्डर ऑफ़ तिमोर लेस्ते से सम्मानित किया गया है?

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Droupadi Murmu
- (c) S Jaishankar
- (d) Nitin Gadkari
- (e) Jagdeep Dhankar

Ans. b

Sol. President Murmu receives the Highest Civilian Award of Timor Leste

President Droupadi Murmu was honoured with the highest civilian award of Timor Leste - Grand Collar of Order of Timor Leste, by Timor Leste President Jose Ramos Horta.

The award was conferred to President Murmu at a function in the Timor-Leste capital, Dili.

India and Timor Leste at present have no diplomatic missions in each other countries.

About Timor Leste

- It gained its formal independence in 2002.
- Capital- Dili
- Currency- US Dollar
- President- Jose Ramos Horta
- Prime Minister - Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão

139. Consider the following points about the 2024 Paris Olympics-

- (i) USA led the medal tally at the Paris Olympics with 124 medals.
- (ii) India was 69th with 6 medals.
- (iii) It is the third time Paris is hosting the Summer Olympics.
- (iv) Manu Bhaker and Neeraj Chopra were the Indian flag bearers at the closing ceremony.
- (v) PV Sindhu and Sharath Kamal were the Indian flag bearers at the opening ceremony.

How many of the given point(s) is/are CORRECT?

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

Ans. b

Sol. Paris Olympics: India finishes 71st in medal tally

USA and China both won 40 gold medals each at Paris Olympics 2024 but the United States of America topped the medals table finishing above the Asian giant only under their 44 silvers.

China, the last nation apart from the U.S. to top the standings when they did it on home soil at the 2008 Beijing Games, managed only 27 silvers.

India finished 71st at the Paris Olympics with one silver and five bronze.

Overall, Medal Tally at the 2024 Paris Olympics

Rank	Country	Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Total Medal
1	USA	40	44	42	126
2	China	40	27	24	91
3	Japan	20	12	13	45
4	Australia	18	19	16	53
5	France	16	26	22	64
6	Netherlands	15	7	12	34
7	Great Britain	14	22	29	65
8	Republic of Korea	13	9	10	32
9	Italy	12	13	15	40
10	Germany	12	13	8	33
70	Lithuania	0	2	2	4
71	India	0	1	5	6
72	Republic of Moldova	0	1	3	4
84 (Last)	Zambia	0	0	1	1

Indian Medal Winner at the Paris Olympics

S.No	Players	Event	Medal
------	---------	-------	-------

1	Manu Bhaker	Women's 10m air pistol	Bronze
2	Manu Bhaker & Sarabjot Singh	10m air pistol Mixed Team Shooting	Bronze
3	Swapnil Kusale	Men's 50m rifle 3 Positions	Bronze
4	Men's Hockey Team	Men's Hockey	Bronze
5	Neeraj Chopra	Javelin	Silver
6	Aman Sehrawat	Wrestling 57 kg freestyle	Bronze
Total			6 medals

All About 2024 Paris Olympics

- Edition - 33rd Summer Olympics
- Duration - 26 July to 11 August 2024
- It is the third time Paris is hosting the Summer Olympics, having hosted in 1900, 1924 and now in 2024.
- The Olympic flag was handed over to the city of Los Angeles, USA, which will host the next 34th Summer Olympics in 2028.
- Total number of sports 32 and 48 disciplines, 329 medal events
- For the first time in the Summer Olympics' history, the traditional opening ceremony was not held in a stadium but the parade was held on boats floating on the River Seine, along which Paris city lies.
- At the 2024 Paris Olympics, athletes from the territories of 206 National Olympic Committees and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team participated.
- Breaking, Surfing, sports climbing, and Skateboarding are the four new sports to be included in the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics.
- The United States, with 640 athletes, has the maximum number of athletes competing in the Paris Olympics, followed by host France, which has 608 athletes.

Mascot and Motto of the 2024 Paris Olympics

- The 2024 Paris Olympics Mascot is Olympic Phryge. It is designed on the traditional French Phrygian hat that represents the symbols of freedom and the French Republic.
- It is coloured in blue, white and red, representing the flag of France with the golden Paris 2024 logo emblazoned across its chest.
- Alone we go faster, but together we go further," is the motto of the Paris Olympics and the Paralympic Games.

About Indian Contingent in the Paris Olympics

- India has sent 117 athletes to the Paris Games, the second-largest contingent ever after the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, which saw the participation of 121 athletes.
- In the Paris Olympics, 70 male and 47 female Indian athletes are participating in the Paris Olympics.
- Manu Bhaker and PR Sreejesh were the Indian flag bearers at the closing ceremony.
- PV Sindhu and Sharath Kamal were the Indian flag bearers at the opening ceremony.

India to participate in 16 events

- Out of the 32 sporting disciplines in the Paris Olympics, India will participate in 16: Men's Hockey, archery, badminton, boxing, wrestling, equestrian, golf, athletics, tennis, judo, rowing, sailing, shooting, swimming, table tennis, and weightlifting.

Youngest and Oldest Indian Athlete

- Veteran Tennis player Rohan Boppana is the oldest Indian athlete at the age of 44 years.
- While the 14-year-old swimmer Dhinidhi Desinghu is the youngest member of the Indian contingent

First-time medal winner country in the Summer Olympics

- Albania - Chermen Valiev bronze medal in men's 74kg freestyle wrestling
- Cape Verde - David de Pina, bronze in men's 51 kg boxing
- Dominica - Thea LaFond, gold in women's triple jump
- Saint Lucia - Julien Alfred, gold in women's 100m meter
- Refugee Olympic Team - Cindy Ngamba, bronze medal in women's 75kg boxing. She is a refugee from Cameroon

First-time country has won a Gold Medal in the Summer Olympics

- Botswana: Letsile Tebogo in 200 meters
- Dominica: Thea LaFond in women's triple jump
- Guatemala: Adriana Ruano Oliva in shooting
- Saint Lucia: Julien Alfred in women's 100 meters race.

140. Exercise Udara Shakti 2024 is a bilateral Air Force exercise between Air Force of which countries?

अभ्यास उदार शक्ति 2024 किन देशों की वायु सेनाओं के बीच द्विपक्षीय वायु सेना अभ्यास है?

- (a) India and Magnolia
- (b) India and Malaysia
- (c) India and Japan
- (d) India and UAE
- (e) India and USA

Ans. b

Sol. IAF Su-30 MKI return after participating in Exercise Udara Shakti 2024

The Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent returned to India after successfully participating in Exercise Udara Shakti 2024 in Malaysia's Kuantan

The joint air exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Royal Malaysian Air Force from the 5th to the 9th of August.

During the exercise, the Indian Air Force's Su-30MKI fighter jets engaged in air combat missions alongside the Royal Malaysian Air Force's Su-30MKM fighters.

The primary focus of the exercise was to bolster operational efficiency and enhance the technical expertise of both air forces.

Recent Exercise

- Ex Pitch Black 2024 between India and Australia - Darwin, Australia
- 28th edition of **Malabar Exercise** between India, USA, Japan, Australia - Bay of Bengal (October 2024)
- 16th edition of Joint Military **Exercise Nomadic Elephant** between India and Mongolia - Umroi, Meghalaya
- 13th edition of Joint military **Exercise MAITREE** between India and Thailand - Fort Vachiraprakan in Tak Province of Thailand.
- 29th edition of **RIMPAC Naval Exercise** – Hawaii, Pearl Harbour USA (INS Shivalik Participated)

141. The Ministry of External Affairs and ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) signed an agreement to grant assistance for launching the Munal satellite. Munal is the satellite of which country?

विदेश मंत्रालय और इसरो की वाणिज्यिक शाखा न्यूस्पेस इंडिया लिमिटेड (NSIL) ने मुनल उपग्रह को लॉन्च करने के लिए एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए। मुनल किस देश का उपग्रह है?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Bhutan
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Vietnam
- (e) Iran

Ans. a

Sol. MEA, NSIL sign MoU to assist launch of Nepalese Munal satellite

The Ministry of External Affairs and ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) signed an agreement to grant assistance for launching the Nepal-built Munal satellite.

Munal is an indigenous satellite developed in Nepal under the aegis of the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST).

Antarikhya Pratishan Nepal (APN), a Nepalese space startup, has assisted Nepalese students in the design and fabrication of this satellite. It aims to build a vegetation density database of the earth's surface.

About Nepal

- **Capital-** Kathmandu
- **Currency-** Nepalese rupee
- **President-** Ram Chandra Paudel
- **Prime minister-** - K.P. Sharma Oli

142. India's first individual Olympic gold medalist, Abhinav Bindra was awarded the prestigious Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) at the 142nd IOC Session in Paris. Bindra won India's first individual Olympic gold in the Men's 10-meter Air Rifle event at which Olympics?

भारत के पहले व्यक्तिगत ओलंपिक स्वर्ण पदक विजेता अभिनव बिंद्रा को पेरिस में 142वें IOC सत्र में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ओलंपिक समिति (IOC) द्वारा प्रतिष्ठित ओलंपिक ऑर्डर से सम्मानित किया गया। बिंद्रा ने किस ओलंपिक में पुरुषों की 10 मीटर एयर राइफल स्पर्धा में भारत का पहला व्यक्तिगत ओलंपिक स्वर्ण जीता था ?

- (a) 2006 Winter Olympics Torino
- (b) 2010 Winter Olympics Vancouver
- (c) 2012 Summer Olympics London
- (d) 2004 Summer Olympics Athens
- (e) 2008 Summer Olympics Beijing

Ans. e

Sol. Abhinav Bindra receives the Olympic Order Award by International Olympic Committee in Paris

India's first individual Olympic gold medalist, Abhinav Bindra was awarded the prestigious Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) at the 142nd IOC Session in Paris.

The Olympic Order is the highest honour bestowed by the IOC, recognizing exceptional contributions to the Olympic Movement.

Bindra won India's first individual Olympic gold in the Men's 10-meter Air Rifle event at the 2008 Beijing Games.

With a distinguished career that includes over 150 individual medals, Bindra has become a prominent figure in Indian sports.

143. International Youth Day is celebrated every year on August 12. What is the theme of International Youth Day?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय युवा दिवस हर साल 12 अगस्त को मनाया जाता है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय युवा दिवस का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Intergenerational solidarity
- (b) Green Skills for Youth
- (c) Transforming Food Systems
- (d) Youth Engagement for Global Action
- (e) From Clicks to Progress

Ans. e

Sol. 12 July - International Youth Day

International Youth Day is celebrated every year on August 12.

This special occasion celebrates the potential, accomplishments, and contributions of young people around the world.

Theme 2024 - From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development.

In 1999, the United Nations (UN) declared August 12 to be International Youth Day. The suggestion was recommended to the UN General Assembly by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in Lisbon on December 17, 1999.

The day was first celebrated on August 12, 2000, and from that point forward, the day has been utilized to teach the overall population.

ambitious baba.com

144. World Elephant Day is observed every year on which day?

विश्व हाथी दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) August 10
- (b) August 11
- (c) August 12
- (d) August 13
- (e) August 14

Ans. c

Sol. 12 August - World Elephant Day

World Elephant Day is an annual international event held on August 12 to promote the conservation and protection of elephants worldwide.

Thee 2024 - Personifying prehistoric beauty, theological relevance, and environmental importance

The origins of World Elephant Day trace back to 2012, when Canadian filmmakers Patricia Sims and Michael Clark, along with the support of various conservation organisations, launched this global initiative.

They aimed to address the severe threats faced by elephants due to poaching, habitat destruction, and human-wildlife conflict.

145. Vijay Kadam passed away recently at the age of 67. Who was he?

विजय कदम का हाल ही में 67 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह कौन थे?

- (a) Actor
- (b) Writer
- (c) Politician
- (d) Historian
- (e) Journalist

Ans. a

Sol. Veteran actor Vijay Kadam passes away in Mumbai

Veteran actor Vijay Kadam passed away at the age of 67.

Kadam acted in several Marathi plays, TV serials, and films. He made his theater debut with the children's play Raja Bhikari Majhi Topi Chorli.

Kadam's performances in notable plays such as Rathachakra, Gharte Amuche Chant, Vasudev Banthi, and Turtoor were highly appreciated.

He also acted in several Marathi serials, including Gotaya, Damini, Partner, Songadaya Bajya, Indradhanushya, and Ghadlayam Bhadlayam, among others.

146. In August 2024, India and which country have renewed their MoU to bolster the training of 1000 civil servants?

अगस्त 2024 में, भारत और किस देश ने 1000 सिविल सेवकों के प्रशिक्षण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अपने समझौता ज्ञापन को नवीनीकृत किया है?

- (a) Malaysia
- (b) Maldives
- (c) Myanmar
- (d) Sri Lanka
- (e) Nepal

Ans. b

Sol. India and Maldives renew MoU to enhance civil service training

India and Maldives have renewed their MoU to bolster the training of Maldivian civil servants.

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Maldivian Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer finalized the renewed agreement in Malé.

The renewed MoU, spanning from 2024 to 2029, will facilitate the training of an additional 1,000 civil service officers from the Maldives.

This initiative builds on a previous agreement established on June 8, 2019, under which the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) of India trained 1,000 Maldivian civil servants, including high-level officials, across 32 capacity-building programs.

The NCGG, guided by India's Ministry of External Affairs, has a track record of successful capacity-building initiatives in various countries, including Bangladesh, Tanzania, and Sri Lanka, as well as regional programs for Latin American and FIPIC/IOR countries.

Recently India signed MoUs with others countries

- India and New Zealand sign customs co-operation arrangement to ease trade between the two countries
- India and Vietnam team up to Preserve Maritime History with NMHC in Lothal
- India and Vietnam sign 9 agreements to deepen strategic partnership & enhance cooperation
- India, US Sign Cultural Property Agreement To Repatriate Stolen Indian Artifacts
- MSDE partners with Australian Government to energise Agriculture Sector of India with emerging skills
- India's Exim Bank to provide \$2.5 million LoC for Guyana

147. Who has launched the 'Amrit Gyan Kosh' Portal and 'Faculty Development portal' at the Civil Service Training Institutions Convention at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi?

विज्ञान भवन, नई दिल्ली में सिविल सेवा प्रशिक्षण संस्थान सम्मेलन में 'अमृत ज्ञान कोष' पोर्टल और 'संकाय विकास पोर्टल' किसने लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Amit Shah
- (b) Narendra Modi
- (c) JP Nadda
- (d) Jitendra Singh
- (e) Shivraj Singh Chauhan

Ans. d

Sol. Jitendra Singh launches 'Amrit Gyan Kosh' and 'Faculty Development' Portals under Mission Karmayogi

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched the 'Amrit Gyan Kosh' Portal and 'Faculty Development portal' at the Civil Service Training Institutions Convention at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

It marks a paradigm shift in how we approach civil service training and it also envisions a future-ready civil service rooted in Indian ethos, with a global perspective.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also launched 13 Quality Improvement Plans (QIP), a roadmap for continuous enhancement of our training institutions. He also granted accreditation to 20 ministries.

Dr. Singh highlighted that the core of the mission is continuous learning and competency-driven capacity building.

148. In August 2024, Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) signed an MoU with which of the following to Promote Indian Sign Language?

अगस्त 2024 में, भारतीय सांकेतिक भाषा अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण केंद्र (ISLRTC) ने भारतीय सांकेतिक भाषा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए निम्नलिखित में से किसके साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Army Welfare Association
- (b) Indian Space Research Organization
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) Ministry of Education
- (e) Ministry of Culture

Ans. a

Sol. SLRTC and Army Welfare Association sign MoU to Promote Indian Sign Language

The Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) signed an MoU with the Army Welfare Association Society (AWES), in New Delhi.

This collaboration is expected to bring benefits to the educational ecosystem, empowering educators and fostering an inclusive environment for students.

By enhancing the capabilities of Army Public School faculty in Indian Sign Language, the partnership aims to create a more accessible and supportive learning environment for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Recent MoU

- BIS signs MoU with Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru to promote Standardisation
- IGNCA signed MoU with Sansad TV to make Indian art and culture more accessible to the people.
- Cisco and Tata Communications partner to launch Webex Calling in India
- AIIMS New Delhi signed MoU with University of Bolton Institute of Medicine
- Mahindra & Mahindra sign MoU with MSDE for 'Drone Didi' Pilot Project

149. Which state government has launched the 'Nijut Moina Scheme', an initiative aimed at eradicating child marriages by empowering female students and promoting education over early marriage?

किस राज्य सरकार ने 'निजुत मोइना योजना' शुरू की है, जिसका उद्देश्य महिला छात्राओं को सशक्त बनाकर बाल विवाह को खत्म करना और कम उम्र में विवाह की जगह शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देना है?

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Chhattisgarh
- (d) Telangana
- (e) Assam

Ans. e

Sol. Assam launches 'Nijut Moina Scheme' to boost girls' education and combat child marriage

Assam Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched the 'Nijut Moina Scheme', an initiative aimed at eradicating child marriages by empowering female students and promoting education over early marriage.

The scheme is designed to provide monthly financial assistance to female students from higher secondary to post-graduate levels.

The initiative comes a year after Assam Police arrested over 4,000 people in crackdowns against child marriage. The 'Nijut Moina' scheme is universal, allowing students to voluntarily opt out if they do not want to avail of it.

The Rs.1500 crore scheme will benefit 10 lakh girls in four years.

Monthly assistance under the 'Nijut Moina' scheme

- Higher secondary students: Rs 1,000/month.
- Graduate level students: Rs 1,250/month.
- Post-graduate level students: Rs 2,500/month

About Assam

- **Formation** - 26 January 1950
- **Capital** – Dispur
- **Chief Minister** –Himanta Biswa Sarma
- **Governor** – Gulab Chand Kataria
- **State Fruit** - Kaji Nemu
- **Rajya Sabha Seat** – 7
- **Lok Sabha Seat** - 14

150. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman & Managing Director of NHPC Limited?

एनएचपीसी लिमिटेड के नए अध्यक्ष और प्रबंध निदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Gaurav Banerjee
- (b) Jetha Ahir
- (c) Raj Kumar Chaudhary
- (d) Harish Dudani
- (e) Praveena Rai

Ans. c

Sol. Raj Kumar Chaudhary appointed as CMD of NHPC Ltd

Raj Kumar Chaudhary has been appointed as the new Chairman & Managing Director of NHPC Limited.

Prior to his current appointment, Chaudhary held the critical position of Director (Technical) at NHPC.

At 59 years old, Shri Chaudhary brings a wealth of expertise to the role, having joined NHPC in 1989 as a Probationary Executive (Civil) at the Koel Karo Hydro-Electric Project in Jharkhand.

About NHPC Limited

- Founded- 7 November 1975
- Headquarters- Faridabad
- Chairman & Managing Director - Raj Kumar Chaudhary
- Owner- Government of India (70.95%)

Recent Appointment

- **Additional secretary in PMO - Amit Singh Negi**
- **Director in Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) under Ministry of Corporate Affairs - Samir Ashwin Vakil**
- **Deputy Election Commissioners in ECI - Maneesh Garg, Sanjay Kumar and Ajeet Kumar**
- **Director general of Employees' State Insurance Corporation - Ashok Kumar Singh**
- **CEO of Khadi and Village Industries Commission under Ministry of MSMEs - Vatsalya Saxena**

151. Rwanda's President Paul Kagame was sworn in for his fourth term after securing over 99 per cent of the vote. What is the currency of Rwanda?

रवांडा के राष्ट्रपति पॉल कागमे ने 99 प्रतिशत से अधिक वोट हासिल करने के बाद अपने चौथे कार्यकाल के लिए शपथ ली। रवांडा की मुद्रा क्या है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Paul Kagame became Rwanda's President consecutively for the fourth term

Rwanda's President Paul Kagame was sworn in for his fourth term after securing over 99 per cent of the vote.

The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice Faustin Ntezilyayo, during which Kagame pledged to uphold peace, national sovereignty, and national unity. Only two out of eight candidates were allowed to run in the presidential race, and those who criticised Kagame were barred from participating.

About Rwanda

- Capital - Kigali
- Currency- Rwandan Franc
- Official languages- Kinyarwanda, French, English, Swahili
- Prime minister- Édouard Ngirente

Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President

- PM of Bulgaria - Goritsa Gruncharova-Kozhareva
- PM of Tunisia - Kamel Madouri
- Head of Bangladesh's interim government - Muhammad Yunus
- President of Iran - Masoud Pezeshkian
- President of Venezuela - Nicolas Maduro (3rd time)

152. The Javelin Throw gold medallist in the Paris Olympics 2024, Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem is set to be honoured with Hilal-e-Imtiaz by the country's government. Hilal-e-Imtiaz is the _____ highest civilian award given by the Government of Pakistan.

पेरिस ओलंपिक 2024 में भाला फेंक में स्वर्ण पदक जीतने वाले पाकिस्तान के अरशद नदीम को देश की सरकार हिलाल-ए-इम्तियाज से सम्मानित करेगी। हिलाल-ए-इम्तियाज पाकिस्तान सरकार द्वारा दिया जाने वाला _____ सर्वोच्च नागरिक पुरस्कार है।

- (a) First
- (b) Second
- (c) Third
- (d) Fourth
- (e) Fifth

Ans. b

Sol. Pakistan athlete Arshad Nadeem to be honoured with Hilal-e-Imtiaz AwardThe Javelin Throw gold medallist in the Paris Olympics 2024, Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem is set to be honoured with Hilal-e-Imtiaz by the country's government. Hilal-e-Imtiaz is the second-highest civilian award given by the Government of Pakistan and Nadeem will get this award following his brilliant performance in the final of the competition. Pakistan's athlete won gold with a throw of 92.97 meters, setting a new Olympic record and surpassing Denmark's Andreas Thorkildsen's mark from Beijing 2008. Grenada's Anderson Peters secured bronze with a throw of 88.54 meters.India's Neeraj Chopra fell short of retaining his gold medal, finishing with a best throw of 89.45 meters. Chopra became the second male athlete from post-independence India to win two Olympic medals in an individual event.

Recent Award

- **Grand Collar of Order of Timor Leste (Highest Civilian Award of Timor Leste)** - President Droupadi Murmu
- **Companion of the Order of Fiji (highest honour of Fiji)** – President Droupadi Murmu
- **V Venkayya Epigraphy Award 2024** - V. Vedachalam
- **Global Water Tech Award for environmental initiatives** - Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
- **Customised Gold Coins by Paris' Grevin Museum** - Shah Rukh Khan
- **Olympic Order by IOC** - Abhinav Bindra

153. Consider the following points about the recently released NIRF Ranking 2024:

- (i) NITI Aayog has released the NIRF Rankings 2024.**
- (ii) This is the 8th consecutive edition of India Rankings of HEIs in India.**
- (iii) IIT Madras retains its 1st position in Overall Category for the sixth consecutive year.**
- (iv) IISc Bengaluru stood first in Research Institutions Category for the fourth consecutive year.**
- (v) Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi tops the ranking in Pharmacy this year.**

How many of the point(s) is/are INCORRECT?

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

Ans. b

Sol. NIRF Ranking 2024: IIT Madras tops in overall category

Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan has released the India Rankings 2024, which implements the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) drafted for this purpose by the Ministry of Education in 2015.

This is the 9th consecutive edition of India Rankings of HEIs in India. Four distinct additions to 2024 edition of India Rankings are as follows:

- i) Introduction of three new categories namely State Public Universities, Open Universities, and Skill Universities; and
- ii) Integration of "Innovation" ranking into the India Rankings using NIRF framework.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras retains its 1st position in Overall Category for the sixth consecutive year, i.e. 2019 to 2024 and in Engineering for 9th consecutive year, i.e. from 2016 to 2024.

Top 100 in Overall category consists of 23 state public universities, 22 private deemed universities, 16 IITs, 9 NITs, 7 each central universities 7 private universities, 4 each AIIMS, IISERs and Govt. deemed universities, 3 Other CFTIs and 1 college.

Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru tops the Universities Category for ninth consecutive year. It stood first in Research Institutions Category for the fourth consecutive year. IIM Ahmedabad tops in Management subject retaining its first position for fifth consecutive year. All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi occupies the top slot in Medical for the seventh consecutive year. Moreover, AIIMS is ranked at 7th position in Overall category.

Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi tops the ranking in Pharmacy this year.

Hindu College secured the 1st position amongst colleges for the first-time replacing Miranda House which retained its 1st position for seven consecutive year. IIT Roorkee retained its 1st position in Architecture and Planning for the fourth consecutive year.

National Law School of India University, Bengaluru retains its first position in Law for the seventh consecutive year.

The Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Chennai takes the top slot in Dental subject for the third consecutive year.

Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi takes the top slot in Agriculture and Allied Sectors for the second consecutive year.

Anna University, Chennai tops the State Public Universities Category introduced for the first time in 2024.

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi tops the Open Universities Category introduced for the first time in 2024. Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur tops in the Innovation category.

Symbiosis Skill and Professional University (SSPU), Pune tops the Skill Universities category ranked this year for the first time.

154. Om Prakash Mathur was sworn in as the 18th Governor of which state?

ओम प्रकाश माथुर ने किस राज्य के 18वें राज्यपाल के रूप में शपथ ली?

- (a) Sikkim
- (b) Chhattisgarh
- (c) Rajasthan
- (d) Telangana
- (e) Jharkhand

Ans. a

Sol. Om Prakash Mathur Sworn in as 18th Governor of Sikkim Om Prakash Mathur was sworn in as the 18th Governor of Sikkim at Raj Bhavan, Gangtok. Chief Justice of the Sikkim High Court, Justice Biswanath Somadder, administered the oath of office and secrecy. The Governor and Chief Minister also participated in a plantation drive at the Raj Bhavan premises under the campaign "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam."

About Sikkim

- **Capital** - Gangtok
- **Chief Minister** - Prem Singh Tamang (2nd time)
- **Governor** – Om Prakash Mathur (replace Lakshman Prasad Acharya)

Recent Appointment

- Governor of Jharkhand - Santosh Kumar Gangwar (12th)
- Governor of Chhattisgarh - Ramen Deka
- Governor of Rajasthan - Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde
- Governor of Telangana - Jishnu Dev Varma
- Governor of Punjab - Gulab Chand Kataria
- Governor of Maharashtra - CP Radhakrishnan
- Governor of Meghalaya - C H Vijayshankar
- Governor of Assam - Lakshman Prasad Acharya (also additional charge of Manipur)
- Governor of Puducherry - K. Kailashnathan (25th)

155. In August 2024, which country has won the CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League?

अगस्त 2024 में, किस देश ने CAVA महिला वॉलीबॉल राष्ट्र लीग जीती है?

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

Ans. a

Sol. India wins CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League for the second time

Indians beat the host Nepal 23-25, 25-14, 22-25, 25-21, 15-5 in the CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League final.

Nepal lost to India 3-2 in the finals at the Dashrath Stadium in Kathmandu.

This was the second time Nepal was facing off India in the title match at home and first since the 13th South Asian Games.

India clinched Gold, Nepal secured the silver medal and Iran settled with bronze in the tournament.

156. Which edition of India- Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise MITRA SHAKTI commenced at Army Training School, Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka?

भारत-श्रीलंका संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास मित्र शक्ति का कौन सा संस्करण आर्मी ट्रेनिंग स्कूल, मदुरु ओया, श्रीलंका में शुरू हुआ?

- (a) 8th
- (b) 9th
- (c) 10th
- (d) 11th
- (e) 12th

Ans. c

Sol. India and Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise MITRA SHAKTI Commences in Sri Lanka

The 10th edition of India- Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise MITRA SHAKTI commenced at Army Training School, Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka.

The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 12th to 25th August 2024.

Indian contingent comprising of 106 personnel is being represented by a Battalion of Rajputana Rifles along with personnel from other arms and services. The Sri Lankan contingent is being represented by personnel from the Gajaba Regiment of the Sri Lankan Army.

Joint Exercise MITRA SHAKTI is an annual training event conducted alternatively in India and Sri Lanka. The last edition was conducted in Pune in Nov 2023.

The exercise will focus on operations in the semi-urban environment. It will facilitate development of inter-operability, bonhomie and camaraderie between the two armies.

157. What percent has SBI projected India's real GDP growth rate to be in FY 2025?

एसबीआई ने वित्त वर्ष 2025 में भारत की वास्तविक जीडीपी वृद्धि दर कितने प्रतिशत रहने का अनुमान लगाया है?

- (a) 7.0%
- (b) 7.2%
- (c) 7.4%
- (d) 7.6%
- (e) 7.8%

Ans. b

Sol. SBI projects GDP growth of 7 pc in FY25

The State Bank of India in a report project that India's real GDP will grow by 7.0 per cent year-on-year in FY25, which is slightly lower than the RBI's forecast of 7.2 per cent.

The report noted that the slight downgrade by 20 basis points is based on the global headwinds that are beginning to materialize.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India maintained its overall growth projection at 7.2 per cent for FY25.

However, the MPC has revised its Q1FY25 growth estimate downward to 7.1 per cent, a 20-basis points reduction from its previous forecast.

Updated GDP List

- Deloitte – 7 - 7.2% (FY25)
- India Ratings – 7.5% (FY25)
- FICCI – 7% (FY25)
- ADB – 7% (FY25), 7.2%(FY26),
- IMF – 7% (FY25), 6.5% (FY26)
- NCAER – 7.5% (FY25)
- S&P – 6.8% (FY25), 6.9% (FY26), 7% (FY27)
- Fitch Rating –7.2% (FY25)
- CII – 8% (FY25)
- World Bank – 6.6% (FY25), 6.7% (FY26), 6.8% (FY27)

158. World Organ Donation Day is observed every year on which day?

विश्व अंग दान दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) August 11
- (b) August 12
- (c) August 13
- (d) August 14
- (e) August 15

Ans. c

Sol. 13 August - World Organ Donation Day

World Organ Donation Day is observed every year on August 13.

Objective - To raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and encourage people to register as organ donors.

The history of organ transplantation dates back to the early 20th century, with significant milestones marking its evolution.

The first successful kidney transplant occurred in 1954, when Ronald Lee Herrick donated a kidney to his identical twin brother, a groundbreaking procedure performed by Dr. Joseph Murray.

This landmark event paved the way for advancements in organ transplantation, leading to the successful transplantation of hearts, livers, lungs, and other organs.

159. K Natwar Singh passed away recently at the age of 93. Who was he?

के. नटवर सिंह का हाल ही में 93 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह कौन थे?

- (a) Former CM of Rajasthan
- (b) Former Home Minister
- (c) Former Finance Minister
- (d) Former External Affairs Minister
- (e) Former Defense Minister

Ans. d

Sol. Former External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh Dies

Former External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh passed away at the age of 93.

A former Congress MP, K Natwar Singh was India's External Affairs Minister for the period 2004-05 during the UPA-I government led by the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. He also served as ambassador to Pakistan and was attached to the office of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi from 1966 to 1971.

160. Former _____ CEO Susan Wojcicki passed away recently at the age of 56.

पूर्व _____ सीईओ सुसान वोज्स्की का हाल ही में 56 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया।

- (a) Toshiba
- (b) Facebook
- (c) Twitter
- (d) YouTube
- (e) Microsoft

Ans. d

Sol. Former YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki dies

Susan Wojcicki, the former YouTube CEO and one of Google's earliest employees, has passed away at the age of 56.

Wojcicki, one of the most prominent women in tech, stepped down from her role at YouTube in 2023, a position she held for nine years.

She was previously a senior vice-president for ad products at Google and became CEO of YouTube in 2014.

Before Google, Wojcicki worked at Intel and Bain & Company.

161. As on 31 July 2024, how many of total beneficiaries (account-holders) are there under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)?

31 जुलाई 2024 तक, प्रधानमंत्री जन धन योजना (पीएमजेडीवाई) के तहत कुल कितने लाभार्थी (खाताधारक) हैं?

- (a) 42.99 crore
- (b) 52.99 crore
- (c) 62.99 crore
- (d) 72.99 crore
- (e) 82.99 crore

Ans. b

Sol. PMJDY reaches 53 crore beneficiaries and ₹2.28 lakh crore in deposits

The flagship financial inclusion scheme of the Centre, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), which will be completing a decade on August 15, has 52.99 crore total beneficiaries (account-holders) across the States with total balance in PMJDY accounts at ₹2,28,362 crore, as on 31 July 2024.

The scheme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2014, now has become the largest financial inclusion scheme in the world.

It has largely been women-centric with 29.48 crore women beneficiaries while 35.27 crore of total accounts are from rural and semi-urban branches, as per the latest data. Nearly 36 crore RuPay Debit cards have been issued.

PMJDY has accelerated account ownership in the country and its contribution in onboarding the financially excluded to the mainstream in creating an egalitarian society has been enormous as more than 56 per cent of the PMJDY account holders are women and 67 per cent of the total account holders are from rural and semi urban areas.

162. In August 2024, which among the following company partners with Gentari to increase their EV delivery fleet to 10,000 by 2025, aiming to enhance last-mile delivery services and scale up electric vehicle adoption across over 400 cities in India?

अगस्त 2024 में, निम्नलिखित में से कौन सी कंपनी 2025 तक अपने EV डिलीवरी बेड़े को 10,000 तक बढ़ाने के लिए Gentari के साथ साझेदारी कर रही है, जिसका लक्ष्य भारत में 400 से अधिक शहरों में अंतिम-मील डिलीवरी सेवाओं को बढ़ाना और इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन अपनाना है?

- (a) Amazon India
- (b) Meesho
- (c) Flipkart
- (d) Tata Neu
- (e) Snapdeal

Ans. a

Sol. Amazon India partners with Gentari to increase EV delivery fleet to 10,000 by 2025

Gentari Green Mobility India (Gentari) has partnered with Amazon India to boost the e-commerce major's electric vehicle (EV) fleet for last mile deliveries as the US-headquartered company targets to increase its fleet strength to 10,000 units by 2025.

The partnership comes at a time when the e-commerce firm aims to scale up its EV adoption across more than 400 cities in India.

Amazon India has already deployed over 7,200 EVs last year and targets to have 10,000 EVs in its India delivery fleet by 2025.

Gentari Green Mobility India offers electric mobility solutions including vehicle leasing and charging points (CPs).

CEO of Gentari Green Mobility India - Nikhil Thomas

163. In August 2024, The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) have collaborated to launch _____ initiative to enhance the travel experience for passengers on Indian Railways and Namo Bharat Trains.

अगस्त 2024 में, भारतीय रेलवे खानपान और पर्यटन निगम (आईआरसीटीसी) और राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र परिवहन निगम (एनसीआरटीसी) ने भारतीय रेलवे और नमो भारत ट्रेनों में यात्रियों के यात्रा अनुभव को बढ़ाने के लिए _____ पहल शुरू करने के लिए सहयोग किया है।

- (a) One India – One Rail
- (b) One India – One Ticket
- (c) One India – One Namo
- (d) One India – One Coach
- (e) One India – One Window

Ans. b

Sol. 'One India-One Ticket' initiative: Indian Railways, NCRTC collaborate to simplify ticket booking Indian Railways and the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) have joined forces to advance the 'One India – One Ticket' initiative, aimed at enhancing the passenger experience for those traveling on mainline railways and Namo Bharat trains. This partnership seeks to streamline travel by allowing passengers to book and travel seamlessly using both Indian Railways and RRTS services.

How does One India-One Ticket initiative work?

- After purchasing an IRCTC train e-ticket, users can now also book Namo Bharat train tickets for up to eight travellers in a single transaction.
- The option to book RRTS tickets will be available on the PNR confirmation page and through the user's booking history.

How to book One India-One Ticket?

- Tickets can be booked up to 120 days in advance, in line with the current railway reservation window. After successfully booking Namo Bharat tickets, users will receive confirmation via SMS and email, with QR code details sent to their registered contact points.
- The fare for Namo Bharat tickets will be collected alongside the IRCTC convenience fee (Rs 5 + taxes) via online payment methods on the IRCTC platform.

164. Which bank has recently launched the ANTAH DRISHTI Braille Debit Card for visually impaired customers?

हाल ही में किस बैंक ने दृष्टिबाधित ग्राहकों के लिए अंतः दृष्टि ब्रेल डेबिट कार्ड लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) State Bank of India
- (b) Punjab National Bank
- (c) ICICI Bank
- (d) Bank of Baroda
- (e) HDFC Bank

Ans. b

Sol. PNB launches PNB ANTAH DRISHTI Braille Debit Card for visually impaired customers

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched the PNB ANTAH DRISHTI Braille Debit Card, a new debit card specifically designed for visually impaired customers.

This contactless NCMC (National Common Mobility Card) Debit Card is available on the RuPay network. Visually impaired individuals with savings or current accounts in PNB are eligible to obtain this debit card from PNB branch.

The ATM limit (cash withdrawal) per day is Rs 25,000, and the PoS and eCom limits (combined) per day are Rs 60,000. Contactless transactions are accessible for individual transactions up to Rs. 5000/- without a PIN at NFC capable POS Terminals, with a daily overall limit of Rs. 5000.

This initiative also aims to enhance financial independence and convenience for visually impaired individuals, empowering them to manage their finances with greater ease and confidence.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- DBS Bank India launched "**DBS Golden Circle**," a priority banking program for senior citizens.
- LIC launched **LIC's Yuva Term, LIC's Digi Term, LIC's Yuva Credit Life, LIC's Digi Credit Life** term life insurance plans for providing term insurance and safety net against loan repayments
- SEBI launched **SEBI's Virtual Assistant (SEVA) chatbot** to help investors of the securities market.
- BoB launches **Generative AI-powered virtual relationship manager and credit line on UPI**

165. What was the retail inflation rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in July 2024?

जुलाई 2024 में उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (CPI) पर आधारित खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति दर क्या थी?

- (a) 1.54%
- (b) 2.54%
- (c) 3.54%
- (d) 3.44%
- (e) 3.24%

Ans. c

Sol. Consumer price inflation eases to five-year low of 3.54% in July

Retail inflation fell to the lowest in nearly five years in July, according to data released by the All-India Consumer Price Index (CPI).

This was the first time in nearly five years that overall retail inflation fell below the Reserve Bank of India's 4% inflation target.

Urban inflation declined to 2.98% in July 2024, compared to 7.20% in July 2023.

Rural inflation declined to 4.10%, compared to 7.63% in July 2023.

Food inflation in July 2024 was the lowest since June 2023.

The combined Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), which shows food inflation also saw a sharp decline. It was 5.42% in July 2024, compared to 11.51% in July 2023.

Previous Months CPI-based Retail inflation

- **January 2024** – 5.10%
- **February 2024** – 5.09%
- **March 2024** – 4.85%
- **April 2024** – 4.83%
- **May 2024** – 4.75%
- **June 2024** – 5.08%
- **July 2024** – 3.54%

166. Jakson Engineering Limited has signed an MoU with which bank to set up solar projects to a wide range of consumers across commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors in August 2024?

जैक्सन इंजीनियरिंग लिमिटेड ने अगस्त 2024 में वाणिज्यिक, औद्योगिक और संस्थागत क्षेत्रों में उपभोक्ताओं की एक विस्तृत श्रृंखला के लिए सौर परियोजनाएं स्थापित करने के लिए किस बैंक के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) State Bank of India
- (b) Punjab National Bank
- (c) ICICI Bank
- (d) Bank of Baroda
- (e) HDFC Bank

Ans. a

Sol. Jakson Engineers Limited signs MoU with SBI to promote solar projects

Jakson Engineering Limited has signed an MoU with the State Bank of India (SBI) to set up solar projects to a wide range of consumers across commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors.

This partnership comes under the Surya Shakti Solar Finance initiative. It will combine SBI's banking experience and Jakson's solar technology expertise.

This initiative will promote energy sustainability and lower power costs.

The Surya Shakti Solar Finance initiative aims to provide financial assistance to consumers and help them adopt solar energy. SBI is offering loans worth Rs 100 million to commercial and industrial users for the same.

Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- Pine Labs-owned Setu partners Axis Bank for UPI-focused payments platform
- Chola MS General Insurance forges strategic partnership with Mahindra Finance
- Capital SFB and Edelweiss Life Insurance enter into bancassurance tie-up
- Nagaland govt, SBI General Insurance ink MoU on disaster risk management solution
- HDFC securities partners with Vested Finance to Offer Access to Global Investing for Indians and NRI
- IIT Madras Partners with IDBI Bank to Launch Cybersecurity Lab

167. In August 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties on five financial institutions—CSB Bank, Union Bank of India, Muthoot Housing Finance, Nido Home Finance and Ashoka Viniyoga—for various regulatory non-compliances. CSB Bank Limited was fined _____ for violations, including paying commissions to employees for Non-Performing Assets' recovery, failure to inform the Indian Banks' Association (IBA)?

अगस्त 2024 में, भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) ने विभिन्न विनियामक गैर-अनुपालनों के लिए पाँच वित्तीय संस्थानों- CSB बैंक, यूनियन बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया, मुथूट हाउसिंग फ़ाइनेंस, नीडो होम फ़ाइनेंस और अशोका विनियोग पर मौद्रिक दंड लगाया है। CSB बैंक लिमिटेड पर उल्लंघनों के लिए _____ जुर्माना लगाया गया था, जिसमें गैर-निष्पादित परिसंपत्तियों की वसूली के लिए कर्मचारियों को कमीशन का भुगतान करना, भारतीय बैंक संघ (IBA) को सूचित करने में विफलता शामिल है?

- (a) ₹1.06 crore
- (b) ₹1.86 crore
- (c) ₹3 lakh
- (d) ₹5 lakh
- (e) ₹5.4 crore

Ans. b

Sol. RBI penalises CSB Bank, Union Bank of India, and Muthoot Housing Finance for non-compliance

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties on five financial institutions—CSB Bank, Union Bank of India, Muthoot Housing Finance, Nido Home Finance and Ashoka Viniyoga—for various regulatory non-compliances.

Private sector lender CSB Bank Limited was fined ₹1.86 crore for violations, including paying commissions to employees for Non-Performing Assets' recovery, failure to inform the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) about terminated service providers, and improper payment structures for business correspondents.

Union Bank of India received a penalty of ₹1.06 crore due to non-compliance with RBI guidelines on creating a central repository for large exposures and Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.

Muthoot Housing Finance Company Limited was fined ₹5 lakh for governance-related violations, specifically failing to secure RBI's prior approval before changing more than 30% of its directors. Nido Home Finance Limited, formerly Edelweiss Housing Finance Limited, also faced a ₹5 lakh penalty for not ensuring that loan agreements under co-lending arrangements with banks clearly outlined the roles and responsibilities, nor were they disclosed to customers with explicit consent.

New Delhi-based NBFC Ashoka Viniyoga Limited was penalised ₹3.1 lakh for governance issues, specifically for making changes to its management without prior RBI approval, resulting in a significant change in its board of directors.

Recent Penalties imposed on Banks by RBI

- Muthoot Finance Limited (1.9 lakh) - for non-compliance with certain provision of KYC Directions, 2016
- Punjab National Bank (1.31 crore) - for non-compliance with certain directions related to KYC and 'loans and advances
- FIU imposes over Rs 1.66 crore fine on Axis Bank for failing to detect fraud NSG account
- SBM Bank India (88.70 lakh) - for non-compliance with certain regulatory norms
- HSBC (36.38 lakh) - for violating Fema regulations
- ICICI Bank (1 crore) - For non-compliance with certain directions on 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions'

168. Which is the first state to provide cash to adolescent girls to buy sanitary napkins?

किशोरियों को सैनिटरी नैपकिन खरीदने के लिए नकद राशि प्रदान करने वाला पहला राज्य कौन सा है?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Rajasthan
- (d) Punjab
- (e) Tamil Nadu

Ans. b

Sol. Madhya Pradesh govt gives cash to girl students to buy sanitary napkins

Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to give money to girl students to buy sanitary napkins.

In some states like Karnataka, Rajasthan and Delhi, free sanitary napkins are given to students but cash is being given only in Madhya Pradesh.

Under the Sanitation and Hygiene Scheme, an amount of three hundred rupees has been transferred in each girl student's account for one year.

This amount has been given to around 19 lakh students from class seventh to twelfth.

About Madhya Pradesh

- **Capital** – Bhopal
- **Chief Minister** – Dr Mohan Yadav (replace Shivraj Singh Chauhan)
- **Deputy CM** - Jagdish Devda & Rajendra Shukla
- **Speaker of Madhya Pradesh Assembly** - Narendra Singh Tomar
- **Governor** – Mangubhai C. Patel
- **Lok Shaba Seats** – 29
- **Rajya Sabha Seats** – 11
- **Legislative Assembly Seats** - 230

169. In August 2024, which among the following Indian company has joined forces with Singaporean semiconductor maker Zero-Error Systems to enhance satellite onboard computer (OBC) subsystems, using advanced technology to protect commercial-off-the-shelf electronics from radiation-induced errors?

अगस्त 2024 में, निम्नलिखित में से किस भारतीय कंपनी ने वाणिज्यिक-ऑफ-द-शेल्फ इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स को विकिरण-प्रेरित त्रुटियों से बचाने के लिए उन्नत तकनीक का उपयोग करके सैटेलाइट ऑनबोर्ड कंप्यूटर (ओबीसी) सबसिस्टम को बढ़ाने के लिए सिंगापुर की सेमीकंडक्टर निर्माता जीरो-एरर सिस्टम्स के साथ हाथ मिलाया?

- (a) DRDO
- (b) Hindustan Aerospace Limited
- (c) Dhruva Space
- (d) Boeing
- (e) ISRO

Ans. c

Sol. Dhruva Space join hands with Zero-Error Systems to enhance satellite OBC subsystems

An Indian space engineering solutions provider, Dhruva Space has collaborated with Singaporean space semiconductor maker Zero-Error Systems (ZES) to improve its onboard computer (OBC) subsystem.

The collaboration will deploy ZES' highly efficient LDAP-IC-ZES100 in Dhruva Space's OBC for future flights to safeguard commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) electronics from radiation, induced micro-SEL/SEL.

This strategic partnership entails the incorporation of semiconductor technology advancement into the OBC subsystem of Dhruva Space that oversees the running of satellites as well as controls the payload.

170. In August 2024, which among the following institutes has been awarded the "UTKRISHT" Accreditation Certification for its work in promoting and developing MSMEs, on the successful completion of the National Standards for Civil Services Training Institutions (NSCSTI) process in recognition of excellent services in the field of promotion and development of MSMEs?

अगस्त 2024 में, निम्नलिखित में से किस संस्थान को एमएसएमई के संवर्धन और विकास के क्षेत्र में उत्कृष्ट सेवाओं के सम्मान में सिविल सेवा प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों के लिए राष्ट्रीय मानकों (एनएससीएसटीआई) की प्रक्रिया के सफल समापन पर एमएसएमई को बढ़ावा देने और विकसित करने में अपने काम के लिए "उत्कृष्ट" प्रत्यायन प्रमाणन से सम्मानित किया गया है?

- (a) Central Institute of Tool Design
- (b) National Institute for MSME
- (c) Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises
- (d) Central Manufacturing Technology Institute
- (e) National Research Development Corporation

Ans. b

Sol. National Institute for MSME (NI-MSME), Hyderabad awarded Accreditation Certification as "UTKRISHT"

The National Institute for MSME (NI-MSME), an Organisation of the Ministry of MSME GoI, has been awarded with Accreditation Certificate on the successful completion of the National Standards for Civil Services Training Institutions (NSCSTI) process in recognition of excellent services in the field of promotion and development of MSMEs.

The assessment was made based on the inspection of all Standard Operating Procedures and Methodologies followed by the Institute at different levels.

The team from Capacity Building Commission (CBC) & ICARE conducted On-site assessment and awarded the Certificate of Accreditation with the grading of UTKRISHT, a 3 Star Rating.

For providing a pro-business environment to foster the progress of MSMEs towards success and prosperity. The Institute is associated with prestigious world bodies such as UNIDO, UNDP, DCAC, UNESCO, ILO, CFTC, UNICEF, AARDO, and GIZ.

NRCD has intervened in the development of more than 150 clusters. The institute has recently established two new Centers of Excellence namely FinRISE (Financial Research & Innovation for Sustainable Enterprises) and Biochar Unit.

171. Recently, which state government mandated registration of temples, mutts and trusts?

हाल ही में किस राज्य सरकार ने मंदिरों, मठों और ट्रस्टों का पंजीकरण अनिवार्य कर दिया है?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Bihar
- (e) Uttarakhand

Ans. d

Sol. Bihar government mandates Registration of Temples, Mutts, And Trusts

The Bihar government mandated registration of temples, mutts and trusts, and directed all District Magistrates in the State to ensure that the bodies are registered and details of their immovable assets are submitted to the Bihar State Board of Religious Trusts (BSBRT) soon.

The BSBRT operates under the State's Law Department and its records say there are about 2,512 unregistered temples and mutts across the State owning 4,321.64 acres of land.

According to the Bihar Hindu Religious Trusts Act, 1950 all public temples, mutts, Dharmashalas and trusts must be registered with the BSBRT".

According to BSBRT records, Bihar has 2,512 unregistered temples and mutts owning 4,321.64 acres of land and 2,499 registered temples with 18,456 acres of land.

About Bihar

- **Capital** – Patna
- **Chief Minister** – Nitish Kumar (9th time)
- **Deputy CM** - Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha
- **Governor** – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- **Rajya Sabha** - 16 seats
- **Lok Sabha** - 40 seats

172. India's Tokyo 2020 Paralympic gold medal winner Pramod Bhagat has been suspended for a period of 18 months for breaching the anti-doping regulations. He is related to which sport?

भारत के टोक्यो 2020 पैरालंपिक स्वर्ण पदक विजेता प्रमोद भगत को डोपिंग रोधी नियमों के उल्लंघन के कारण 18 महीने के लिए निलंबित कर दिया गया है। वह किस खेल से संबंधित हैं?

- (a) Tennis
- (b) Badminton
- (c) Squash
- (d) Javelin
- (e) Hockey

Ans. b

Sol. India's Pramod Bhagat suspended from Paris Paralympics Over Breach of Anti-Doping Regulations
India's Tokyo 2020 Paralympic gold medal winner Pramod Bhagat, Badminton, has been suspended for a period of 18 months for breaching the anti-doping regulations.

As a result of the suspension, Pramod will miss the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

On 1 March 2024, the Court of Arbitration of Sport (CAS) Anti-Doping Division found Bhagat in breach of the BWF anti-doping regulations for committing three whereabouts failures within 12 months.

173. The Government of India has declared August 23rd as "National Space Day" to celebrate the remarkable success of which mission?

भारत सरकार ने किस मिशन की उल्लेखनीय सफलता का जश्न मनाने के लिए 23 अगस्त को "राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष दिवस" घोषित किया है?

- (a) Aditya-L1
- (b) Gaganyaan
- (c) Venus Orbiter Mission
- (d) Parker Solar Probe
- (e) Chandrayaan-3

Ans. e

Sol. GoI declared August 23rd as National Space Day

The Government of India has declared August 23rd as "National Space Day" to celebrate the remarkable success of the Chandrayaan-3 Mission, which accomplished safe and soft landing of the Vikram Lander and deployed the Pragyaan rover on the lunar surface near the South Pole.

This historic achievement places India among an elite group of space faring nations, making India the fourth country to land on the Moon and the first to do so near the south pole of the Moon.

This achievement is being celebrated across the country during July and August 2024, with the goal of engaging and inspiring the younger generation in the field of Space Science and Technology.

To commemorate the remarkable success of the Chandrayaan-3 Mission, the Department of Fisheries is organizing a series of seminars and demonstrations on, "Application of Space Technologies in Fisheries Sector" in coastal States and UTs under the guidance of Dr. Abhilaskh Likhi.

These seminars and demonstrations are being organized across 18 locations, covering topics such as Space Technology in Fisheries – An overview, the Communication & Navigation System for the marine domain, space-based observation.

174. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has hived off the UPI-based payment application Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) as a separate subsidiary to address the growing demand for digital transactions in the country and to promote financial inclusion. Who has been appointed as the CEO of the new subsidiary named NPCI Bhim Services Ltd (NBSL)?

नेशनल पेमेंट्स कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (NPCI) ने देश में डिजिटल लेनदेन की बढ़ती मांग को पूरा करने और वित्तीय समावेशन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए UPI-आधारित भुगतान एप्लिकेशन भारत इंटरफेस फॉर मनी (BHIM) को एक अलग सहायक कंपनी के रूप में अलग कर दिया है। NPCI भीम सर्विसेज लिमिटेड (NBSL) नामक नई सहायक कंपनी के सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Rajnish Kumar
- (b) Arun Bansal
- (c) Rajeev Agarwal
- (d) Dinesh Kumar Khara
- (e) Lalitha Nataraj

Ans. e

Sol. NPCI hives off Bhim as separate arm; Lalitha Nataraj to be CEO

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has hived off the UPI-based payment application Bharat Interface for Money (Bhim) as a separate subsidiary to address the growing demand for digital transactions in the country and to promote financial inclusion. Lalitha Nataraj, a former senior executive at IDFC First Bank, has been appointed as the chief executive officer of the new subsidiary named NPCI Bhim Services Ltd (NBSL).

The spin-off of Bhim is an interesting development, given the UPI ecosystem is dominated by Google Pay and Walmart-backed PhonePe. Paytm, the third-largest UPI app, has seen its market share drop after the Reserve Bank of India's crackdown on its payments bank early this year.

Industry insiders expect NPCI to attempt to grab a significant chunk of the UPI payments market with a focused push through the Bhim arm. It could also look to build new UPI-based payments and credit-based use cases for consumers via the app.

175. Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh has been appointed as the Managing Director of which bank?

राणा आशुतोष कुमार सिंह को किस बैंक का प्रबंध निदेशक नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Axis Bank
- (b) State Bank of India
- (c) ICICI Bank
- (d) Canara Bank
- (e) Indian Bank

Ans. b

Sol. Rana Ashutosh appointed as MD of SBI

Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh has taken over as Managing Director in charge of State Bank of India's (SBI) risk compliance and stressed assets resolution group (SARG) departments.

Gajendra Singh Rana, former chief general manager of the Mumbai circle has taken over from Singh as the deputy managing director (DMD) retail and real estate for the nation's largest lender.

For now he has taken over the departments which were handled by former MD Alok Choudhary.

Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **MD & CEO of MCX** - Praveena Rai's
- **Chairman of SBI** - Challa Sreenivasulu Setty (replace Dinesh Khara for 3 years)
- **MD & CEO of Unity Small Finance Bank** - Inderjit Camotra's
- **MD of National Housing Bank** - Sanjay Shukla
- **CMD of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** - Manoj Mittal (replace S Ramann)

176. India and which country signed an MoU to enable Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) from both countries to participate more effectively in global markets and foster trade?

भारत और किस देश ने दोनों देशों के सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यमों (एमएसएमई) को वैश्विक बाजारों में अधिक प्रभावी ढंग से भाग लेने और व्यापार को बढ़ावा देने में सक्षम बनाने के लिए एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Netherlands
- (b) Fiji
- (c) Norway
- (d) Maldives
- (e) USA

Ans. e

Sol. India-USA join hands to promote cooperation in MSMEs

India and the USA signed an MoU to enable Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) from both countries to participate more effectively in global markets and foster trade.

The MoU provides a framework for both sides to discuss issues concerning micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and explore possibilities for cooperation.

The MoU also provides for the joint conduct of programmes for women entrepreneurs to empower them and facilitate trade partnerships between women-owned small businesses in the two countries.

Recently India signed MoUs with others countries

- India and Maldives have renewed their MoU to bolster the training of Maldivian civil servants.
- India and New Zealand sign customs co-operation arrangement to ease trade between the two countries
- India and Vietnam team up to Preserve Maritime History with NMHC in Lothal
- India and Vietnam sign 9 agreements to deepen strategic partnership & enhance cooperation
- India, US Sign Cultural Property Agreement To Repatriate Stolen Indian Artifacts

177. National Health Authority (NHA) has signed an MoU with which institute to offer its Digital Health Foundation Course to NHA and co-develop additional Digital Health programs to support the roll-out of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission?

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य प्राधिकरण (एनएचए) ने एनएचए को अपना डिजिटल हेल्थ फाउंडेशन कोर्स प्रदान करने और आयुष्मान भारत डिजिटल मिशन के रोल-आउट का समर्थन करने के लिए अतिरिक्त डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रमों का सह-विकास करने के लिए किस संस्थान के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) N.K.P. Salve Institute of Medical Sciences
- (b) IIT Madras
- (c) AIIMS Delhi
- (d) Maharashtra University of Health Sciences
- (e) Institute of Medical Sciences - Banaras Hindu University

Ans. d

Sol. NHA & MUHS Sign MoU to Offer Digital Health Education & Support Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

National Health Authority (NHA) and Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS) have signed an MoU to offer its Digital Health Foundation Course to NHA and co-develop additional Digital Health programs to support the roll-out of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

The Digital Health Foundation Course provides a comprehensive understanding of Digital Health fundamentals to doctors and healthcare providers.

The partnership between NHA and MUHS marks a significant milestone in integrating digital health education into the medical curriculum.

The MoU laid the foundation for a more connected and effective healthcare ecosystem. This partnership will not only enhance the skills of medical students and professionals but also drive the broader implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, ultimately benefiting millions of people with better access to quality care.

178. State-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has secured a _____ project from Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC). The coal-based unit will be set up in the Koderma district of Jharkhand on an EPC (Engineering, Procurement, and Construction) basis.

सरकारी स्वामित्व वाली भारत हेवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स लिमिटेड (BHEL) ने दामोदर घाटी निगम (DVC) से _____ परियोजना प्राप्त की है। कोयला आधारित इकाई झारखंड के कोडरमा जिले में EPC (इंजीनियरिंग, खरीद और निर्माण) के आधार पर स्थापित की जाएगी।

- (a) 500 MW
- (b) 600 MW
- (c) 1000 MW
- (d) 1500 MW
- (e) 1600 MW

Ans. e

Sol. BHEL gets 1,600 MW thermal power project from Damodar Valley Corporation

State-owned BHEL has secured a 1,600 MW project from Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC).

The coal-based unit will be set up in the Koderma district of Jharkhand on an EPC (Engineering, Procurement, and Construction) basis. The 2x800 MW Koderma Supercritical Thermal Power Project (STPP) has been awarded through International Competitive Bidding (ICB). This is the first such project in terms of capacity for DVC and will be set up adjacent to its existing 2x500 MW units set up by BHEL earlier. It has a long-standing partnership with DVC and has installed over 80 percent of the coal-based power stations of the utility in Jharkhand and West Bengal. The new project from DVC includes supply, erection and commissioning, along with civil works. The key equipment for the project will be supplied by BHEL's manufacturing units.

About Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)

- Establishment - 1956
- Headquarters - New Delhi
- BHEL works as a part of the Government of India and comes under the purview of the Ministry of Heavy Industry.
- It has the distinction of being the largest manufacturer of power generation equipment under government ownership.

179. Recently, which of the following flowering plants has been included on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) official Red List of Threatened Species?

हाल ही में, निम्नलिखित में से किस फूल वाले पौधे को IUCN (अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रकृति संरक्षण संघ) की संकटग्रस्त प्रजातियों की आधिकारिक लाल सूची में शामिल किया गया है?

- (a) Bougainvillea
- (b) Tiobouchina
- (c) Neelakurinji
- (d) Pleroma raddianum
- (e) Hibiscus Rosa Sinensis

Ans. c

Sol. Neelakurinji becomes a 'threatened species' officially

Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*), the purplish flowering shrub, that blooms once in 12 years, has been included on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) official Red List of Threatened Species.

This is the first-ever Global Red List assessment for this flagship species of the montane grasslands of southwest India.

The latest global assessment confirms its threatened status in the Vulnerable (Criteria A2c) category of the IUCN. The mass blooming of the flower is a huge tourist attraction.

180. Which bank has launched the 'Primus' credit card in partnership with Visa?

किस बैंक ने वीज़ा के साथ साझेदारी में 'प्राइमस' क्रेडिट कार्ड लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Axis Bank
- (b) Canara Bank
- (c) ICICI Bank
- (d) HDFC Bank
- (e) Yes Bank

Ans. a

Sol. Axis Bank launches PRIMUS super-premium credit card

Axis Bank, one of India's largest private sector banks, has partnered with Visa to launch the 'Primus' credit card. This is a super-premium card, available by invitation only.

This credit card targets select ultra-high net worth individuals (UHNWIs) in India.

Primus is the first in India to provide access to globally acclaimed bespoke privileges under the Visa Infinite Privilege offering.

The card offers exclusive benefits, including access to private jets, custom-made travel itineraries, and invitations to exclusive events such as private art exhibitions and product launches.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- PNB launches **PNB ANTAH DRISHTI Braille Debit Card** for visually impaired customers
- DBS Bank India launched "**DBS Golden Circle**," a priority banking program for senior citizens.
- LIC launched **LIC's Yuva Term, LIC's Digi Term, LIC's Yuva Credit Life, LIC's Digi Credit Life** term life insurance plans for providing term insurance and safety net against loan repayments
- RBL Bank becomes first private sector lender to merge UPI and NCMC in RuPay credit cards

181. In August 2024, who among the following has been appointed as the new India junior men's hockey team head coach?

अगस्त 2024 में, निम्नलिखित में से किसे भारत की जूनियर पुरुष टीम का नया मुख्य कोच नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Harmanpreet Singh
- (b) Krishan Pathak
- (c) Dhanraj Pillay
- (d) Ashwini Ponnappa
- (e) PR Sreejesh

Ans. e

Sol. PR Sreejesh appoints India junior men's team head coach

Goalkeeper PR Sreejesh has been appointed as the new head coach of the junior men's hockey team.

The Indian goalkeeper delivered a stellar performance as India bagged the bronze medal for the second consecutive time, edging out Spain 2-1. His crucial saves were instrumental in the win as he capped off a brilliant campaign with the medal.

Notably, India won consecutive bronze hockey medals for the first time in 52 years since the 1972 Munich Games.

182. In August 2024, Sandeep Poundrik has assumed charge as Secretary of the _____.

अगस्त 2024 में, संदीप पौड़िक ने _____ के सचिव के रूप में पदभार ग्रहण किया है।

- (a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (b) Ministry of Defence
- (c) Ministry of Steel
- (d) Ministry of Ayush
- (e) Ministry of MSMEs

Ans. c

Sol. Sandeep Poundrik takes charge as Secretary of Ministry of Steel

Sandeep Poundrik has assumed charge as Secretary of the Ministry of Steel.

He is a 1993-batch IAS officer from the Bihar cadre. Poundrik was in charge of the Additional Chief Secretary position in the Industries Department and also held additional charge for several other positions in the Government of Bihar.

He had previously served as Advisor in the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the Ministry of Home Affairs and as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Recent Appointment

- **CMD of NHPC Ltd** - Raj Kumar Chaudhary
- **Additional secretary in PMO** - Amit Singh Negi
- **Director in Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) under Ministry of Corporate Affairs** - Samir Ashwin Vakil
- **Deputy Election Commissioners in ECI** - Maneesh Garg, Sanjay Kumar and Ajeet Kumar
- **Director general of Employees' State Insurance Corporation** - Ashok Kumar Singh

183. Which company has got the Indian Navy's approval to build six submarines with a project worth Rs 60,000 crore in partnership with Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems?

किस कंपनी को जर्मनी की थिसेनक्रुप मरीन सिस्टम्स के साथ साझेदारी में 60,000 करोड़ रुपये की परियोजना के साथ छह पनडुब्बियां बनाने के लिए भारतीय नौसेना की मंजूरी मिल गई है?

- (a) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- (b) Hindustan Shipyard
- (c) ABG Shipyard
- (d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers and
- (e) Cochin Shipyard Limited

Ans. a

Sol. Indian Navy approves Mazagon Dock to build 6 submarines with German collaboration

Government-owned Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) has got the Indian Navy's approval to build six submarines with the project worth Rs 60,000 crore.

The MDL in partnership with Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems will build the submarines that are being developed under 'Project 75 India'.

MDL and ThyssenKrupp were competing against Larsen & Toubro and Navantia. The approval came after the MDL was informed by a Commodore-rank officer of the Indian Navy (Brigadier equivalent in the Army) that they had qualified for the trial requirements.

The deal is crucial for India to counter the increasing influence of China and Pakistan in the Indian Ocean Region.

Project 75 India aims to acquire diesel-electric attack submarines with AIP technology, making them larger and more advanced than current models.

184. In August 2024, The Big Cricket League (BCL), a franchise-based T20 event that will offer aspiring local players a chance to play alongside their cricketing heroes, has joined hands with the national broadcaster Prasar Bharati in a landmark long-term deal.

Which city will the inaugural edition of BCL be held in September 2024?

अगस्त 2024 में, द बिग क्रिकेट लीग (BCL), एक फ्रैंचाइज़ी-आधारित T20 इवेंट जो महत्वाकांक्षी स्थानीय खिलाड़ियों को अपने क्रिकेट नायकों के साथ खेलने का मौका देगा, ने राष्ट्रीय प्रसारक प्रसार भारती के साथ एक ऐतिहासिक दीर्घकालिक सौदे में हाथ मिलाया है। सितंबर 2024 में BCL का उद्घाटन संस्करण किस शहर में आयोजित किया जाएगा?

- (a) Lucknow
- (b) Noida
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) New Delhi
- (e) Kolkata

Ans. a

Sol. PB-BCL sign landmark deal to promote cricket

The Big Cricket League (BCL), a franchise-based T20 event that will offer aspiring local players a chance to play alongside their cricketing heroes, has joined hands with the national broadcaster Prasar Bharati in a landmark long-term deal.

The inaugural edition of BCL will be held in September this year in Lucknow.

BCL will be broadcast live on DD Sports across the country, and Prasar Bharati will also be promoting the league across its network. The Big Cricket League's first season will be televised internationally in more than 30 countries. It will feature six teams, namely Awadh Lions, Northern Challengers, Rajasthan Kings, Mumbai Marines, Southern Spartans, and Bengal Rhinos.

A council of eminent former cricketers, led by the League Commissioner and former India captain Dilip Vengsarkar, will oversee the league. Former Indian pacer Rudra Pratap Singh is President and legendary West Indian fast bowler Courtney Walsh is Vice-President of BCL.

185. What is the current rate of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation as of July 2024?

जुलाई 2024 तक थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (WPI) मुद्रास्फीति की वर्तमान दर क्या है?

- (a) 2.54%
- (b) 2.94%
- (c) 3.04%
- (d) 2.04%
- (e) 4.04%

Ans. d

Sol. WPI inflation cools to 3-month low of 2.04% in July as food prices decline

India's wholesale price index (WPI) inflation cooled to a three-month low of 2.04 per cent in July from a 16-month high of 3.36 per cent in June, primarily on the back of a sharp reduction in food prices.

The food price inflation stood at 3.45 per cent during the month as compared to 10.87 per cent in the preceding month.

The data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed that the inflation of other major sub-indices like manufactured products and fuel and power witnessed a slightly higher year-on-year (Y-o-Y) print in July.

The moderation in WPI inflation was primarily driven by a decline in the inflation of primary articles, even as inflation for manufactured products and fuel and power increased.

Recent WPI-based Wholesale inflation in India

- **January 2024** – 0.27%
- **February 2024** – 0.20%
- **March 2024** – 0.53%
- **April 2024** – 1.26%
- **May 2024** – 2.61%
- **June 2024** – 3.36%
- **July 2024** – 2.04%

186. What is GAURAV, which was recently seen in the news?

GAURAV, जो हाल ही में खबरों में देखा गया था, क्या है?

- (a) Long Range Air Gun
- (b) Ballistic Missile
- (c) Light Weight Nuclear Bomb
- (d) High Altitude Drone System
- (e) Long-Range Glide Bomb

Ans. e

Sol. DRDO successfully tested its first Long-Range Glide Bomb GAURAV

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested its Long-Range Glide Bomb, GAURAV, off the coast of Odisha.

The smart bomb was dropped from the Indian Air Force's Su-30 MK-I fighter plane.

The successful testing of the smart bomb is likely to enhance the Indian Air Force's combat capability.

After being dropped from the fighter plane, the bomb pops out its wings and is guided to its target by an onboard satellite navigation system. These bombs are very useful for the Air Force as they can be fired from a safe distance from the enemy air defence system.

About GAURAV Bomb

- The Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad laboratory of the DRDO, is developing long-range glide bombs named GAURAV for the Indian Air Force.
- GAURAV is a winged long-range glide bomb which weighs 1000 kg and has a glide range of 100 km.
- The Gaurav bomb has a hybrid navigation system, which combines the Inertial Navigation System (INS) and the Global Positioning System (GPS).

187. Chhattisgarh government decided to declare a new tiger reserve covering areas of Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla wildlife sanctuary in the state. This will be the _____ tiger reserve in the state.

छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार ने राज्य में गुरु घासीदास राष्ट्रीय उद्यान और तमोर पिंगला वन्यजीव अभयारण्य के क्षेत्रों को कवर करते हुए एक नया बाघ अभयारण्य घोषित करने का फैसला किया है। यह राज्य का _____ बाघ अभयारण्य होगा।

- (a) third
- (b) fourth
- (c) fifth
- (d) sixth
- (e) seventh

Ans. b

Sol. Chhattisgarh govt. to develop fourth tiger reserve in State

Chhattisgarh government decided to declare a new tiger reserve covering areas of Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla wildlife sanctuary in the state. This will be the fourth tiger reserve in the state.

Creation of the tiger reserve will lead to the development of eco-tourism and also generate employment opportunities for villagers living in the core and buffer areas.

As per the recommendation of State Wildlife Board and the consent of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Union Ministry of Forest and Climate Change, the cabinet has decided to notify Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve in an area of 2,829.387 sq km.

Currently, the state has three tiger reserves - Indravati (in Bijapur district), Udanti-Sitanadi (Gariaband) and Achanakmar (Mungeli).

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

188. Which IIT has signed an MoU with IG Drones to establish an Advanced Drone Excellence Centre at the IIT's Research and Entrepreneurship Park?

किस आईआईटी ने आईआईटी के अनुसंधान और उद्यमिता पार्क में एक उन्नत ड्रोन उत्कृष्टता केंद्र स्थापित करने के लिए आईजी ड्रॉन्स के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) IIT Guwahati
- (b) IIT Delhi
- (c) IIT Madras
- (d) IIT Bhubaneswar
- (e) IIT Roorkee

Ans. d

Sol. IIT Bhubaneswar inks pact with IG Drones on disaster management R&D

IIT Bhubaneswar has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IG Drones, a drone-tech and AI company, to establish an Advanced Drone Excellence Centre at the IIT Bhubaneswar Research and Entrepreneurship Park. The centre will focus on disaster management research and development.

This collaboration marks a significant milestone in advancing drone technology research and development in the field of disaster management, especially as India is a disaster-prone country

IG Drones has been active in disaster management since 2019, with experience from its work in Uttarakhand's avalanche-affected regions, Sikkim's landslides, and Odisha's cyclone-prone areas.

The partnership with IIT Bhubaneswar Research and Entrepreneurship Park aims to further advance the development of drone technologies that can be deployed effectively during emergencies, providing critical support in disaster response and recovery efforts.

IITs in News

- IIT Madras Partners with IDBI Bank to Launch Cybersecurity Lab
- C-DOT partners with IIT Roorkee and Mandi to boost 6G standardization, connectivity
- IIT Kanpur launched UDAAN programme to boost drone startups
- IIT Dharwad Unveils Innovative Fire Rescue Drone
- Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) signed MoU with the Indian IIT Hyderabad to collaborate on research and training.

189. Which bank has secured a loan of 25.5 billion Japanese yen (around Rs 147 crore) from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for a wind energy project?

किस बैंक ने पवन ऊर्जा परियोजना के लिए जापान बैंक फॉर इंटरनेशनल कोऑपरेशन (जेबीआईसी) से 25.5 बिलियन जापानी येन (लगभग 147 करोड़ रुपये) का ऋण प्राप्त किया है?

- (a) Muthoot Finance
- (b) Power Finance Corporation
- (c) Shriram Transport Finance Corporation Ltd.
- (d) LIC Housing Finance
- (e) PNB Housing Finance Limited

Ans. b

Sol. PFC secures JPY 25.5 billion loan from JBIC to finance wind project

State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has secured a loan of 25.5 billion Japanese yen (around Rs 147 crore) from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for a wind energy project.

This loan is part of JBIC's Global Action for Reconciling Economic Growth and Environmental Preservation (GREEN) initiative.

In addition to JBIC's contribution, the loan is co-financed by Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation and other Japanese banks.

JBIC will also provide a guarantee for the portion of the loan co-financed by these private financial institutions.

The loan proceeds will be used to finance 300.3 MW Wind Energy Project of Ostro Kannada Power Private Ltd (OKPPL) in Karnataka, India.

190. India celebrates its Independence Day annually on August 15. This year, the nation marks its 78th Independence Day or Swatantrata Diwas. What is the theme of the 78th Independence Day?

भारत हर साल 15 अगस्त को अपना स्वतंत्रता दिवस मनाता है। इस साल, राष्ट्र अपना 78वाँ स्वतंत्रता दिवस मना रहा है। 78वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Nation @2047
- (b) One Nation
- (c) Nation First, Always First
- (d) India @2047
- (e) Viksit Bharat

Ans. e

Sol. India celebrated 78th Independence Day this year

India celebrates its Independence Day annually on August 15. This year, the nation marks its 78th Independence Day or Swatantrata Diwas.

The government of India has announced the theme for this year is Viksit Bharat or Developed India. It symbolises the vision of a developed nation by 2047 and reflects the government's commitment to transform India.

The year 2047 will be the 100th year of India's freedom from colonial rule.

Independence Day commemorates India's freedom from British colonial rule for more than 200 years on August 15, 1947. The country began its struggle for Independence with the Revolt of 1857.

Later, around 1920, the freedom struggle gained momentum under Mahatma Gandhi's leadership. Finally, on July 4, 1947, the British House of Commons introduced the Indian Independence Bill. On August 15, India became an independent nation.

On the eve of India's Independence, Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of Independent India, hailed this historic achievement as a 'Tryst with Destiny'.

On August 15, Nehru hoisted the Indian national flag above the Lahori Gate of Red Fort in Delhi. It is a tradition that every Prime Minister has since followed with an address to the country.

This year's speech will mark the 11th consecutive Independence Day speech by PM Modi and the first during his third term.

191. India has observed the 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' every year on which date to pay tribute to those who lost their lives and were displaced during the country's partition in 1947?

भारत में हर साल किस दिन 'विभाजन विभीषिका स्मृति दिवस' मनाया जाता है, ताकि 1947 में देश के विभाजन के दौरान अपनी जान गंवाने वाले और विस्थापित हुए लोगों को श्रद्धांजलि दी जा सके?

- (a) 12 August
- (b) 13 August
- (c) 14 August
- (d) 15 August
- (e) 16 August

Ans. c

Sol. 14 August - Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

India has observed the 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' every year on August 14 to pay tribute to those who lost their lives and were displaced during the country's partition in 1947.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in 2021 that August 14 would be observed annually as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day'.

The observance aims to commemorate the sacrifices made by those who suffered during the Partition and to keep their memories alive.

India gained independence from British rule on August 15, 1947. While Independence Day is a joyous and proud occasion, the trauma of the partition that accompanied the birth of the newly independent nation left permanent scars on millions of Indians.

The partition resulted in one of the largest migrations in human history, affecting around 20 million people. Countless families were forced to leave their ancestral homes and start anew as refugees.

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day serves as a solemn reminder of the suffering endured and the resilience shown by those who lived through one of the most turbulent periods in India's history.

192. In August 2024, GST taxpayers who do not furnish bank account details to GST authorities will be barred from filing outward supply return GSTR-1 from 1 September, GST Network (GSTN). Which of the following point(s) is/are INCORRECT regarding this?

- (i) Taxpayers must furnish valid bank account details within 15 days of receiving GST registration or before filing GSTR-1/IFF, whichever is earlier.**
- (ii) Taxpayers without valid bank account details will be allowed to file GSTR-1 but will face additional scrutiny.**
- (iii) The amendment to GST Rule 10A was approved by the GST Council to combat fake and fraudulent registrations.**
- (a) i and ii**
- (b) ii and iii**
- (c) i and iii**
- (d) all are correct**
- (e) all are incorrect**

Ans. a

Sol. GST taxpayers without valid bank account to be barred from filing GSTR-1 from Sep 1

GST taxpayers who do not furnish bank account details to GST authorities will be barred from filing outward supply return GSTR-1 from September 1, GST Network (GSTN) has said in an advisory.

As per GST Rule 10A, a taxpayer is required to furnish details of a valid bank account within 30 days from the date of grant of registration, or before furnishing the details of outward supplies of goods or services or both in Form GSTR-1 or using Invoice Furnishing Facility (IFF), whichever is earlier. The GST Council in its meeting in July last year, had approved an amendment to Rule 10A to strengthen the registration process and to effectively deal with the menace of fake and fraudulent registrations in GST.

As per the amendment, a registered taxpayer was required to furnish the details of their bank account having his name and PAN within 30 days of the grant of registration or before filing a statement of outwards supply in Form GSTR-1/IFF (invoice furnishing facility), whichever is earlier.

In the advisory, the GSTN asked all the taxpayers who have not yet furnished the details of a valid bank accounts to add their bank account information in their registration details by visiting the GST portal.

193. Which of the following state governments announced the development of the 'Shri Krishna Gaman Path' religious circuit connecting Krishna's birthplace, and both governments will work jointly for the development of this circle while identifying the places where he (Krishna) left his footprints while travelling from Mathura to Ujjain?

निम्नलिखित में से किस राज्य सरकार ने कृष्ण के जन्मस्थान को जोड़ने वाले 'श्री कृष्ण गमन पथ' धार्मिक सर्किट के विकास की घोषणा की है और दोनों सरकारें इस सर्किट के विकास के लिए संयुक्त रूप से काम करेंगी, साथ ही उन स्थानों की पहचान करेंगी जहां उन्होंने (कृष्ण ने) मथुरा से उज्जैन की यात्रा करते समय अपने पदचिह्न छोड़े थे?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan
- (b) Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand
- (e) Uttarakhand and Rajasthan

Ans. b

Sol. Rajasthan & MP govts to develop 'Shri Krishna Gaman Path' connecting Mathura to Ujjain

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma announced a new religious circuit called 'Shri Krishna Gaman Path' which will connect Krishna's birthplace Mathura with Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh.

This new circuit will be built connecting the places where Krishna left his footprints while travelling to Ujjain from his birthplace in Mathura.

Both governments will work jointly for the development of this circle while identifying the places where he (Krishna) left his footprints while travelling from Mathura to Ujjain.

The development of the Shri Krishna Gaman Path will be a joint effort between the states of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, demonstrating inter-state cooperation in the realm of cultural and religious tourism.

194. Which Small Finance Bank has launched the Inori RuPay Platinum Credit Card in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to offer cardholders exclusive benefits and privileges?

किस लघु वित्त बैंक ने कार्डधारकों को विशेष लाभ और विशेषाधिकार प्रदान करने के लिए भारतीय राष्ट्रीय भुगतान निगम (एनपीसीआई) के सहयोग से इनोरी रुपये प्लैटिनम क्रेडिट कार्ड लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) AU Small Finance Bank Limited
- (b) Capital Small Finance Bank Limited
- (c) Suryoday Small Finance Bank
- (d) ESAF Small Finance Bank
- (e) Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited

Ans. d

Sol. ESAF Small Finance Bank launches Inori RuPay Platinum Credit Card

ESAF Small Finance Bank has launched the Inori RuPay Platinum Credit Card, a premium financial product designed in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to offer cardholders exclusive benefits and privileges.

The card's name "Inori" is derived from the Japanese word for "wish," symbolising our aspiration to fulfil the desires and expectations of customers. Cardholders can enjoy a range of rewards, including exciting cashback offers on monthly transactions and comprehensive insurance coverage of up to ₹2 lakh.

Additionally, the card provides access to exclusive merchant offers and global acceptance. The RuPay Platinum Credit Card also includes personalized concierge services, offering assistance with travel, dining, and lifestyle needs.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- Tata AIA Life launches '**Sampoorna Raksha Promise**' product with ₹3 lakh instant payout feature
- Bandhan Bank launches **Avni Saving Account** for Women Customer
- Karnataka Bank unveils **credit line on UPI in partnership with Navi Technologies**
- RBL Bank launched **Vijay Fixed Deposits** to honor 78th Independence Day
- Axis Bank launches **PRIMUS super-premium credit card** with VISA
- PNB launches **PNB ANTAH DRISHTI Braille Debit Card** for visually impaired customers

195. In August 2024, which Small Finance Bank was honoured with the titles of Best Small Finance Bank, India, Best Performance on Profitability (Runners-up), Best Performance on Asset Quality, and Best Performance on Risk Management at the 2nd ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards?

अगस्त 2024 में, किस लघु वित्त बैंक को द्वितीय ICC इमर्जिंग एशिया बैंकिंग कॉन्क्लेव और अवार्ड्स में सर्वश्रेष्ठ लघु वित्त बैंक, भारत, लाभप्रदता पर सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन (उपविजेता), परिसंपत्ति गुणवत्ता पर सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन और जोखिम प्रबंधन पर सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन के खिताब से सम्मानित किया गया?

- (a) AU Small Finance Bank Limited
- (b) Capital Small Finance Bank Limited
- (c) Jana Small Finance Bank
- (d) ESAF Small Finance Bank
- (e) Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited

Ans. c

Sol. Jana SFB Sweeps 4 Awards at ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave.

Jana Small Finance Bank has once again cemented its status as a frontrunner in the Indian banking industry.

The bank's commitment to excellence and innovation was recognized at the prestigious 2nd ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards, where it clinched four coveted awards.

Jana Small Finance Bank was honoured with the titles of Best Small Finance Bank, India, Best Performance on Profitability (Runners-up), Best Performance on Asset Quality, and Best Performance on Risk Management.

This quadruple win underscores the bank's exceptional performance across key metrics and its dedication to providing innovative financial solutions.

About Jana Small Finance Bank

- Jana Small Finance Bank, a scheduled commercial bank, is the 4th largest Small Finance Bank in India with an experience of over 16 years in lending and serving more than 12 million customers.
- The Bank was launched in March 2018, is a solid combination of a digital institution and national presence across 22 states and 2 union territories, spread across 808 branches.
- The Bank has created a fast-growing retail deposit franchise with a strong brand presence and high standards of customer service. The bank's management team has an average experience of 24 years with a reputed and well-rounded Board.

196. The Reserve Bank of India will launch ULI to facilitate the seamless and consent-based flow of digital information, like PAN and Aadhaar records, previous lending history, income and credit records of individuals, as well as land records of various states, from multiple data service providers to lenders. What is the full form of ULI?

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक, पैन और आधार रिकॉर्ड, पिछले ऋण इतिहास, व्यक्तियों की आय और ऋण रिकॉर्ड, साथ ही विभिन्न राज्यों के भूमि रिकॉर्ड जैसी डिजिटल जानकारी के निर्बाध और सहमति-आधारित प्रवाह को सुविधाजनक बनाने के लिए ULI लॉन्च करेगा, जो कई डेटा सेवा प्रदाताओं से ऋणदाताओं तक पहुँचेगा। ULI का पूरा नाम क्या है?

- (a) Unified Land Interface
- (b) Unified Loan Interface
- (c) Unified Leverage Interface
- (d) Unified Lock Interface
- (e) Unified Lending Interface

Ans. e

Sol. RBI to launch ULI for frictionless flow of credit to small, rural borrowers

The Reserve Bank of India will launch a Unified Lending Interface (ULI) that will transform the lending ecosystem in the country like the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has done for the payments system.

The ULI will facilitate seamless and consent-based flow of digital information, like PAN and Aadhaar records, previous lending history, income and credit records of individuals, as well as land records of various states, from multiple data service providers to lenders.

This will reduce the time taken for credit appraisal, especially for smaller and rural borrowers.

The ULI architecture will have common and standardised APIs (Application Programming Interface), designed for a 'plug and play' approach to ensure digital access to information from diverse sources.

The 'new trinity' of JAM-UPI-ULI will be a revolutionary step forward in India's digital infrastructure journey.

JAM refers to Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile. Like UPI, the Unified Lending Interface is also expected to be user-friendly and reduce the complexity of multiple technical integrations. It is expected to enable borrowers to get the benefit of seamless delivery of credit, and quicker turnaround time without requiring extensive documentation.

197. Which state has become the first state to adopt Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)?

कौन सा राज्य एकीकृत पेंशन योजना (यूपीएस) अपनाने वाला पहला राज्य बन गया है?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Goa
- (e) Kerala

Ans. a

Sol. Maharashtra becomes first state to adopt Unified Pension Scheme

The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved the central government's Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), becoming the first state to do so. The move by the Maharashtra government comes hours after employee unions demanded states to implement the newly approved scheme by the Modi government, which will take effect from April 1, 2025.

The cabinet also cleared the proposal to expand the uninterrupted power supply scheme to more farmers in the state. They would get supply during the day. It cleared the ₹7,000 crore Nar-Par-Girna River linking scheme that would primarily benefit north Maharashtra districts like Nashik and Jalgaon.

The project involves lifting 9.19 TMC of water from the Nar, Par, and Auranga rivers, carrying it through a 14.56-kilometre tunnel, and releasing it in the Girna river basin near the Chankapur dam.

About Maharashtra

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

198. In August 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chaired the _____ edition of PRAGATI, the ICT-based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, involving Centre and State governments.

अगस्त 2024 में, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों को शामिल करते हुए, प्रो-एक्टिव गवर्नेंस और समय पर कार्यान्वयन के लिए आईसीटी-आधारित मल्टी-मॉडल प्लेटफॉर्म, प्रगति के _____ संस्करण की बैठक की अध्यक्षता की है।

- (a) 42nd
- (b) 41st
- (c) 44th
- (d) 45th
- (e) 50th

Ans. c

Sol. PM Modi chairs 44th PRAGATI Interaction

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chaired the meeting of the 44th edition of PRAGATI, the ICT-based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, involving Centre and State governments.

It was the first meeting of PRAGATI in the third term of the Narendra Modi Government.

In the meeting, seven significant projects were reviewed including two projects relating to road connectivity, two rail projects and one project each of the Coal, Power and Water Resources sectors.

The cost of these projects totalled more than 76 thousand 500 crore rupees. The projects relate to Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Odisha, Goa, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Delhi.

During the interaction, the Prime Minister also reviewed AMRUT 2.0 and public grievances related to the Jal Jeevan Mission. These projects together inter-alia address water issues in urban and rural areas.

Up to the 44th edition of PRAGATI meetings, 355 projects having a total cost of over 18 lakh crore rupees have been reviewed.

199. Women and Child Development Minister, _____ has launched the She-Box portal to make workplaces safer for women.

महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्री, _____ ने महिलाओं के लिए कार्यस्थलों को सुरक्षित बनाने के लिए शी-बॉक्स पोर्टल लॉन्च किया है।

- (a) Smriti Irani
- (b) Shobha Karandlaje
- (c) Anupriya Patel
- (d) Savitri Thakur
- (e) Annpurna Devi

Ans. e

Sol. Government launches She-Box portal to make workplaces safer for women

The government has launched the She-Box portal to make workplaces safer for women.

Women and Child Development Minister Annpurna Devi launched the portal in New Delhi.

She-Box portal is a centralized platform for registering and monitoring complaints of sexual harassment of women at the workplace.

This platform provides facility to file complaints, track its status and ensure a time-bound processing of complaints by Internal Committees.

This initiative is a critical step forward in providing a more efficient and secure platform for addressing workplace-related sexual harassment complaints.

She said, the government is committed to creating a safer and more inclusive working environment for women in the country. She expressed confidence that with the help of portal complaints can be safely registered without personal information being publicly accessible.

The She-Box portal and the new website of the ministry can be accessed at shebox.wcd.gov.in and wcd.gov.in.

200. Moody's Ratings has raised its real GDP growth projections for India, forecasting a robust ____ percent growth for the fiscal year 2024, up from a previous estimate of 6.8 percent.

मूडीज रेटिंग्स ने भारत के लिए अपने वास्तविक जीडीपी वृद्धि अनुमानों को बढ़ा दिया है, जिसमें वित्त वर्ष 2024 के लिए ____ प्रतिशत की मजबूत वृद्धि का अनुमान लगाया गया है, जो पिछले अनुमान 6.8 प्रतिशत से अधिक है।

- (a) 7.0%
- (b) 7.1%
- (c) 7.2%
- (d) 7.3%
- (e) 7.4%

Ans. c

Sol. Moody's Ratings raises India's GDP growth forecast to 7.2 percent for 2024

Moody's Ratings has raised its real GDP growth projections for India, forecasting a robust 7.2 percent growth for the fiscal year 2024, up from a previous estimate of 6.8 percent.

The New York-based global rating agency has also raised its growth projections to 6.6 percent for 2025, up from 6.4 percent.

The report attributes these revised projections to strong, broad-based growth, driven by resilient private consumption and improved business conditions.

Moody's noted that the Indian economy grew 7.8 percent year-over-year in the first quarter of 2024, despite tight monetary policy and efforts toward fiscal consolidation.

Additionally, the report emphasized the expected strengthening of the capital expenditure (capex) cycle, supported by rising capacity utilization and continued government infrastructure spending.

Updated GDP List

- Goldman Sachs – 6.7% (CY24), 6.4% (CY24)
- Deloitte – 7 - 7.2% (FY25)
- India Ratings – 7.5% (FY25)
- FICCI – 7% (FY25)
- ADB – 7% (FY25), 7.2%(FY26)
- IMF – 7% (FY25), 6.5% (FY26)
- NCAER – 7.5% (FY25)
- S&P – 6.8% (FY25), 6.9% (FY26), 7% (FY27)

201. Three more Indian sites have been added to the list of wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, taking the total number of such highly-recognised waterlogged ecosystems in the country to 85. Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary and the Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary in _____ and the Tawa Reservoir in _____ are the three wetlands which have got the Ramsar site tag.

रामसर कन्वेंशन के तहत अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महत्व की आर्द्रभूमि की सूची में तीन और भारतीय स्थलों को शामिल किया गया है, जिससे देश में ऐसे अत्यधिक मान्यता प्राप्त जल-जमाव वाले पारिस्थितिकी तंत्रों की कुल संख्या 85 हो गई है। _____ में नंजरायण पक्षी अभयारण्य और काझुवेली पक्षी अभयारण्य तथा _____ में तवा जलाशय तीन आर्द्रभूमि हैं जिन्हें रामसर स्थल का टैग मिला है।

- (a) Tamil Nadu; Kerala
- (b) Kerala; Karnataka
- (c) Karnataka; Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Madhya Pradesh; Tamil Nadu
- (e) Tamil Nadu; Madhya Pradesh

Ans. e

Sol. Three more Ramsar wetland sites now in India, taking total to 85

Three more Indian sites have been added to the list of wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, taking the total number of such highly-recognised waterlogged ecosystems in the country to 85.

The Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary and the Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, and the Tawa Reservoir in Madhya Pradesh are the three wetlands which have got the Ramsar site tag.

The 85 Indian wetlands on the Ramsar list span over 1.35 million hectares. Tamil Nadu has the maximum number of Ramsar sites (18) followed by Uttar Pradesh (10).

The number of Ramsar sites has increased from 26 to 85 in the last 10 years, of which 41 have been added in the last three years alone.

This takes our tally to 85 Ramsar sites, covering an area of 13,58,068 ha in India.

The aim of the Ramsar list is to "develop and maintain an international network of wetlands, which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life, through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes, and benefits".

The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. It is named after the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the Caspian Sea, where the treaty was signed on February 2, 1971.

202. In August 2024, which of the following has received regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India for the acquisition of a majority stake in NBFC Kushal Finnovation Capital?

अगस्त 2024 में, निम्नलिखित में से किसने एनबीएफसी कुशल फिनोवेशन कैपिटल में बहुमत हिस्सेदारी के अधिग्रहण के लिए भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक से विनियामक अनुमोदन प्राप्त किया है?

- (a) Kisanmojo
- (b) Instamojo
- (c) Rozar Pay
- (d) Rosaria
- (e) Jai Kisan

Ans. e

Sol. Rural fintech startup Jai Kisan gets RBI nod for NBFC acquisition

Rural fintech startup Jai Kisan has received regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India for the acquisition of a majority stake in NBFC Kushal Finnovation Capital.

With the NBFC subsidiary, Jai Kisan will be able create and deliver customized, innovative, and relevant products directly to its farmer and rural business customers in a more accessible and seamless manner making its products cheaper, faster, and more impactful.

203. Patongtarn Shinawatra has recently become the youngest Prime Minister of which country?

पैतोंगटार्न शिनावत्रा हाल ही किस देश की सबसे युवा प्रधानमंत्री बनीं हैं?

- (a) Norway
- (b) Thailand
- (c) Spain
- (d) Iceland
- (e) Denmark

Ans. b

Sol. Paetongtarn Shinawatra becomes new PM of Thailand

The Thai Parliament voted to make Paetongtarn Shinawatra the next as well as the youngest-ever prime minister of Thailand. Paetongtarn succeeds Srettha Thavisin, who was removed from his post by a constitutional court ruling. The parliament confirmed the nomination of Paetongtarn, 37, by the ruling coalition of her Pheu Thai party. Thai and its partners hold 314 seats in parliament, and Paetongtarn needed the approval of more than half of the current 493 lawmakers to become prime minister.

About Thailand

- Capital- Bangkok
- Currency- Thai Baht
- Official language- Thai
- King- Maha Vajiralongkorn
- Prime Minister - Paetongtarn Shinawatra

Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President

- President of Rwanda - Paul Kagame (4th time)
- PM of Bulgaria - Goritsa Gruncharova-Kozhareva
- PM of Tunisia - Kamel Madouri
- Head of Bangladesh's interim government - Muhammad Yunus
- President of Iran - Masoud Pezeshkian

204. The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has increased the Ceiling Amount Payable out of Investor Protection Fund (IPF) Trust from Rs 25 lakh to _____.

नेशनल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज (एनएसई) ने निवेशक सुरक्षा निधि (आईपीएफ) ट्रस्ट से देय अधिकतम राशि 25 लाख रुपये से बढ़ाकर _____ कर दी है।

- (a) 30 lakh
- (b) 35 lakh
- (c) 40 lakh
- (d) 50 lakh
- (e) 1 crore

Ans. b

Sol. NSE Hikes Ceiling Amount Payable Out Of Investor Protection Fund Trust

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has increased the maximum amount payable from its Investor Protection Fund (IPF) Trust from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 35 lakh.

This limit will be applicable for claims received against the trading members, who have been declared defaulter or have been expelled.

NSE established an Investor Protection Fund with the objective of compensating investors in the event of defaulters' assets not being sufficient to meet the admitted claims of investors, promoting investor education, awareness and research.

205. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will step down in September, ending a three-year term marred by political scandals. What is the currency of Japan?

जापानी प्रधानमंत्री फूमियो किशिदा सितंबर में पद छोड़ देंगे, जिससे राजनीतिक घोटालों से प्रभावित उनका तीन साल का कार्यकाल समाप्त हो जाएगा। जापान की मुद्रा क्या है?

- (a) Euro
- (b) Franc
- (c) Dollar
- (d) Yen
- (e) Rubel

Ans. d

Sol. Japan's PM Fumio Kishida to resign in September

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will step down in September, ending a three-year term marred by political scandals. Kishida's decision to quit triggers a contest to replace him as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and by extension as the leader of the world's fourth-biggest economy.

About Japan

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

206. In August 2024, who has been appointed as India's Permanent Representative to United Nations (UN)?

अगस्त 2024 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र (यूएन) में भारत का स्थायी प्रतिनिधि किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Gaurav Banerjee
- (b) Parvathaneni Harish
- (c) Raj Kumar Chaudhary
- (d) Harish Dudani
- (e) Praveena Rai

Ans. b

Sol. P Harish appointed as India's Permanent Representative to United Nations

The Ministry of External Affairs has appointed seasoned diplomat Parvathaneni Harish as India's next Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York.

Harish, a 1990-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is presently serving as India's ambassador to Germany.

The position of India's ambassador or permanent representative to the UN has been lying vacant after Ruchira Kamboj retired in June

About United Nations (UN)

- **Founded** - 24 October 1945
- **Headquarters** - New York, US
- **Official languages** - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian & Spanish
- **Membership** - 193 members (193rd - South Sudan)
- **1st Secretary General** - Trygve Halvdan Lie (Norway)
- **9th Secretary-General** - António Guterres (Portugal)
- **Deputy Secretary-General** - Amina J. Mohammed (Nigeria)
- India's Permanent Representative to UN - Parvathaneni Harish (replace Ruchira Kamboj)
- United Nations Day is celebrated on October 24 every year

207. In August 2024, who has been appointed as new Home Secretary?

अगस्त 2024 में नए गृह सचिव के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Manoj Govil
- (b) Sanjay Malhotra
- (c) Rajiv Gauba
- (d) Pramod Kumar Mishra
- (e) Govind Mohan

Ans. e

Sol. Govind Mohan appointed as new Home Secretary

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed 1989-Sikkim cadre IAS officer Govind Mohan as the next Home Secretary.

Mohan will replace Ajay Kumar Bhalla upon completion of his tenure on August 22. Mohan is currently posted as Secretary in the Ministry of Culture.

Bhalla, a 1984-batch IAS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, was appointed as Home Secretary in August 2019.

Mohan, who holds an electrical engineering degree from BHU-IIT Varanasi, has served as Union Culture Secretary since October 2021 and had two stints in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the past.

Other Important Secretaries

- **Foreign Secretary** - Vikram Misri
- **Revenue Secretary** - Sanjay Malhotra
- **Defence Secretary** - Giridhar Aramane
- **Economic Affairs Secretary** - Ajay Seth
- **Finance Secretary** - T. V. Somanathan
- **Expenditure Secretary** - T. V. Somanathan
- **MoSPI Secretary** - Dr. G. P. Samanta
- **Cabinet Secretary** – T V Somanathan

208. In August 2024, Acting Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Rahul Navin has been appointed full-time director of the anti-money laundering agency for how many years?

अगस्त 2024 में, कार्यवाहक प्रवर्तन निदेशालय (ईडी) प्रमुख राहुल नवीन को कितने वर्ष के लिए धन शोधन रोधी एजेंसी का पूर्णकालिक निदेशक नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) one year
- (b) two years
- (c) three years
- (d) 6 months
- (e) 18 months

Ans. b

Sol. Acting ED Chief Rahul Navin appointed Full-Time Head Acting Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Rahul Navin has been appointed full-time director of the anti-money laundering agency. The appointment of Mr Navin, a 1993-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the Income Tax cadre, has been made "for a period of two years." The ED director is an Additional Secretary (AS) rank post in the Union government and Mr Navin was empanelled as an AS in December last year. Mr Navin, 57, joined the ED in November, 2019 as a Special Director (OSD) to spearhead the agency's work on India's mutual evaluation by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global body that leads action against money laundering. The ED investigates financial crimes under two criminal laws -- the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA) apart from the civil provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

About Enforcement Directorate (ED)

- Established- 1 May 1956
- Headquarters- New Delhi, India
- Director – Rahul Navin
- Focus Area- Investigation and prosecution of financial crimes, money laundering, foreign exchange violations, and economic crimes.
- Administrative Control- Works under the administrative control of the Revenue Department.
- Ministry Affiliation- Part of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Recent Appointment in Defence Sector

- **Director General of Assam Rifles** -Vikas Lakhera (22nd)
- **Director General of BSF** - Daljit Singh Chawdhary (additional charge)
- **Additional National Security Adviser** - Rajinder Khanna
- **Deputy National Security Adviser** - TV Ravichandran, Pavan Kapoor & Pankaj Kumar
- **Vice Chief of Army Staff** - NS Raja Subramani
- **Chief of Intelligence Bureau** - Tapan Kumar Deka (reappointment for 1 year)

209. President Droupadi Murmu has approved how many Gallantry awards to Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel on the occasion of Independence Day?

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने स्वतंत्रता दिवस की पूर्व संध्या पर सशस्त्र बलों और केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बलों के कर्मियों के लिए कितने वीरता पुरस्कारों को मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) 99
- (b) 103
- (c) 108
- (d) 105
- (e) 110

Ans. b

Sol. President Droupadi Murmu approves 103 Gallantry Awards for Armed Forces and CAPFs

President Droupadi Murmu has approved 103 Gallantry awards to Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel on the eve of Independence Day.

These are four Kirti Chakras including three posthumous, 18 Shaurya Chakras including four posthumous and one Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry).

Among the Gallantry awards are 63 Sena Medals (Gallantry) including two posthumous, 11 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and six Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).

The President has also approved 39 Mention-in-Despatches, including posthumously to Army Dog Kent, for their significant contributions to different military operations.

She has approved one President's Tatrakshak Medal (Distinguished Service), one Tatrakshak Medal (Gallantry) and two Tatrakshak Medals (Meritorious Service) to the Indian Coast Guard personnel.

She also approved the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Services and the Police Medal for Meritorious Service.

210. Gus Atkinson has been awarded the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for July 2024? He plays cricket for which team?

गस एटकिंसन को जुलाई 2024 के लिए ICC मेन्स प्लेयर ऑफ द मंथ अवार्ड से सम्मानित किया गया है। वह किस टीम के लिए क्रिकेट खेलते हैं?

- (a) Australia
- (b) England
- (c) New Zealand
- (d) South Africa
- (e) USA

Ans. b

Sol. Gus Atkinson and Chamari Athapaththu crowned as Player of the month award for July 2024

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has revealed the recipients of the ICC Players of the Month awards for July 2024.

England's Gus Atkinson and Sri Lanka's Chamari Athapaththu have been crowned as the standout performers in men's and women's cricket, respectively, for their exceptional contributions to the sport during the month.

Gus Atkinson made an unforgettable entrance into Test cricket during England's ICC World Test Championship series against the West Indies. His remarkable performance played a pivotal role in England's comprehensive 3-0 series victory on home soil.

Chamari Athapaththu, the influential captain of the Sri Lankan women's cricket team, continued to demonstrate her exceptional leadership and batting prowess in July. Her performances were instrumental in Sri Lanka's historic triumph in the Women's Asia Cup.

ICC Men's Player of the Month

- January 2024 - Shamar Joseph (West Indies)
- February 2024 -- Yashasvi Jaiswal (India)
- March 2024 - Kamindu Mendis (Sri Lanka)
- April 2024 - Muhammad Waseem (UAE)
- May 2024 - Gudakesh Motie (West Indies)
- June 2024 - Jasprit Bumrah (India)

ICC Women's Player of the Month

- January 2024 - Amy Hunter (Ireland)
- February 2024 - Annabel Sutherland (Australia)
- March 2024 - Maia Bouchier (England)
- April 2024 - Hayley Matthews (West Indies)
- Maay 2024 - Chamari Athapaththu (Sri Lanka)
- June 2024 - Smriti Mandhana (India)

211. In August 2024, Fintech firm Navi has partnered with which bank to roll out a credit line on UPI product for customers on the platform?

अगस्त 2024 में, फिनटेक फर्म नवी ने प्लेटफॉर्म पर ग्राहकों के लिए UPI उत्पाद पर क्रेडिट लाइन शुरू करने के लिए किस बैंक के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) ICICI Bank
- (c) Karnataka Bank
- (d) Yes Bank
- (e) Axis Bank

Ans. c

Sol. Fintech co Navi collabs with Karnataka Bank to introduce credit line on UPI

Fintech firm Navi has partnered with Karnataka Bank to roll out a credit line on UPI product for customers on the platform.

At present, the Sachin Bansal-founded fintech company has introduced the offering to a closed group of select users. It plans to launch it to a wider user base based on feedback.

Navi's expertise in digital lending and innovative financial solutions complements our goal of delivering innovative banking services. Currently, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Indian Bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB), and State Bank of India (SBI) are some of the lenders live with this facility.

Among the apps, BHIM, Google Pay, Paytm, PayZapp, Navi, and Tata Neu are live on this product offering.

Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- Pine Labs-owned Setu partners Axis Bank for UPI-focused payments platform
- Chola MS General Insurance forges strategic partnership with Mahindra Finance
- Capital SFB and Edelweiss Life Insurance enter into bancassurance tie-up
- Nagaland govt, SBI General Insurance ink MoU on disaster risk management solution
- HDFC securities partners with Vested Finance to Offer Access to Global Investing for Indians and NRI

212. Which state will bring five Royal Bengal Tigers from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh by September?

कौन सा राज्य सितंबर तक महाराष्ट्र और मध्य प्रदेश से पांच रॉयल बंगाल टाइगर लाएगा?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Andhra Pradesh
- (e) Telangana

Ans. a

Sol. Odisha to bring five Royal Bengal tigers from Maharashtra, MP by September

To bolster big cat population in Odisha, forest officials have begun the process of relocating five Royal Bengal Tigers from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, with the transfer scheduled to be completed in September.

According to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF)-Wildlife, Susanta Nanda, three of these tigers will be released into the Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Sambalpur, while the remaining two will be introduced into the Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj.

In its latest tiger estimation conducted for the first time during 2023-24 in 47 forest divisions of Odisha, 30 tigers and eight cubs were found. Out of the 30 Royal Bengal Tigers, 27 were found in the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR), while Keonjhar territorial and Keonjhar wildlife, Paralakhemundi territorial, and Hirakud wildlife had one tiger each.

The PCCF also said that the Nandankanan Zoological Park is all set to welcome two giraffes by the end of this month.

About Odisha

- **Capital** – Bhubaneswar
- **Chief Minister** – Mohan Charan Majhi (replace Naveen Patnaik)
- **Deputy CM** - KV Singhdeo and Pravati Parida
- **Governor** – Raghubar Das
- **Legislative Assembly Seat** - 147

213. Renowned Indian scientist Dr Ram Narain Agarwal, a pivotal figure in the development of India's missile system, died at the age of 84. He known as the Father of _____.

भारत की मिसाइल प्रणाली के विकास में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाने वाले प्रसिद्ध भारतीय वैज्ञानिक डॉ. राम नारायण अग्रवाल का 84 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। उन्हें _____ के जनक के रूप में जाना जाता है।

- (a) Prithvi
- (b) Prahaar
- (c) Agni
- (d) BrahMos
- (e) Pralay

Ans. c

Sol. Renowned DRDO scientist Ram Narain Agarwal dies at 83

Renowned Indian scientist Dr Ram Narain Agarwal, a pivotal figure in the development of India's missile system, died at the age of 84.

Known as the 'Father of Agni Missiles', Dr Agarwal played a key role in defence research and in the development of India's long-range ballistic missile program, particularly the Agni series of missiles.

The Agni missile was the most ambitious of the five missiles sought to be developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme launched in 1983 by the Government of India. The others were Prithvi, Akash, Nag, and Trishul.

Dr Agarwal led India's Agni missile programme from its inception in 1983 until his retirement in 2005.

He was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004 by the Prime Minister of India for his contributions to aerospace and the Agni missile. He also received the DRDO Technology Leadership Award and Chandrasekhara Saraswati National Eminence Award. He was honored with the Padma Shri in 1990 and Padma Bhushan in 2000 by the President of India.

214. Which airport has become the first Indian airport to achieve the status of 'Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport' (Level 5 certification) under the Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) programme of Airport Council International (ACI)?

कौन सा एयरपोर्ट एयरपोर्ट काउंसिल इंटरनेशनल (ACI) के एयरपोर्ट कार्बन एक्कीडिटेशन (ACA) कार्यक्रम के तहत 'नेट जीरो कार्बन एमिशन एयरपोर्ट' (लेवल 5 सर्टिफिकेशन) का दर्जा पाने वाला पहला भारतीय एयरपोर्ट बन गया है?

- (a) Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi
- (b) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
- (c) Cochin International Airport, Kochi
- (d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad
- (e) Mangaluru International Airport, Mangaluru

Ans. a

Sol. Delhi Airport 1st In Country To Get 'Net Zero Carbon Emission' Status

Delhi's IGI Airport has become the first Indian airport to achieve the status of 'Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport' (Level 5 certification) under the Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) programme of Airport Council International (ACI).

Initially the airport had set a target of achieving a net zero carbon emission by 2030. But through various measures including use of renewable energy, promotion of electric vehicles and development of infrastructure for a green airport, DIAL achieved its target ahead of schedule.

Achieving carbon-neutral status in 2016 and level 4+ transition accreditation in 2020 were only the beginning. Achieving the level five net-zero emission accreditation in 2024, we have once again demonstrated our commitment to continuous improvement and green initiatives.'

215. The Union Government has launched the AI-based NPSS Platform that will help farmers to connect with agriculture scientists and experts on controlling pests using their phones. What is the meaning of "P" in NPSS Platform?

केंद्र सरकार ने AI-आधारित NPSS प्लेटफॉर्म लॉन्च किया है जो किसानों को अपने फ़ोन का उपयोग करके कीटों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए कृषि वैज्ञानिकों और विशेषज्ञों से जुड़ने में मदद करेगा। "NPSS" प्लेटफॉर्म में "P" का क्या अर्थ है?

- (a) Proper
- (b) Procurement
- (c) Procedure
- (d) Pest
- (e) Privilege

Ans. d

Sol. New AI platform will connect farmers and scientists over phone, aid in pest control

The Union Government has launched the AI-based National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) that will help farmers to connect with agriculture scientists and experts on controlling pests using their phones.

NPSS aims to reduce the dependence of farmers on pesticide retailers, and inculcate a scientific approach among them towards pest management.

NPSS will analyse the latest data on pests using AI tools to help farmers and experts in pest control and management. NPSS will help about 14 crore farmers in the country. The Centre envisages connecting scientists with the fields using the platform.

Farmers can take photos of the infested crops or the insect using the NPSS platform and these will reach scientists and experts. This system cures the diseases at the proper time using technology. It will help in accurate diagnosis and accurate treatment. This will build confidence among farmers and production will also increase. It will save the soil too.

216. Union Minister for Jal Shakti unveiled the 'FloodWatch India' 2.0 mobile application, aimed at providing a more comprehensive and detailed overview of flood conditions across the country. What is the name of Union Minister for Jal Shakti?

केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री ने 'फ्लडवॉच इंडिया' 2.0 मोबाइल एप्लिकेशन का अनावरण किया, जिसका उद्देश्य देश भर में बाढ़ की स्थिति का अधिक व्यापक और विस्तृत अवलोकन प्रदान करना है। केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Sarbananda Sonowal
- (b) Jitan Ram Manjhi
- (c) Shivraj Singh Chauhan
- (d) Manohar Lal Khattar
- (e) C R Paatil

Ans. e

Sol. Jal Shakti Minister launched version 2.0 of 'FloodWatch India' app to enhance flood monitoring

Union Minister for Jal Shakti C R Paatil unveiled version 2.0 of the 'FloodWatch India' mobile application, aimed at providing a more comprehensive and detailed overview of flood conditions across the country.

The upgraded app, developed by the Central Water Commission (CWC), builds on its first version launched last year. The initial version offered flood forecasts from 200 monitoring stations.

Version 2.0 significantly expands this scope, integrating real-time data from 592 flood monitoring stations across the country. This expansion aims to provide users with a more extensive and detailed flood condition overview.

Additionally, Version 2.0 introduces real-time information on the storage positions of 150 major reservoirs, offering insights into potential flood scenarios in downstream areas. Users can check flood conditions at the nearest monitoring station directly from the home page.

217. Which state government has launched the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan Yojana on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day?

किस राज्य सरकार ने 78वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस के अवसर पर मुख्यमंत्री युवा उद्यम विकास अभियान योजना शुरू की है?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Bihar
- (e) Punjab

Ans. c

Sol. UP govt launched Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Yojana

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched the 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan Yojana' to boost employment opportunities for the state's youth.

The yojana was announced on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day celebration in the state capital, Lucknow.

About Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan Yojana

- Under the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan Yojana, the state government will provide financial support to the state's young entrepreneurs.
- Under the Yojana, the state government has set a target of establishing 10 lakh new MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) in the state.
- The government hopes to create 50 lakh employment opportunities directly and indirectly through the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan Yojana.

About Uttar Pradesh

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

218. In August 2024, who has inaugurated the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit?

अगस्त 2024 में, तीसरे वॉयस ऑफ ग्लोबल साउथ समिट का उद्घाटन किसने किया है?

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Nitin Gadkari
- (c) S Jaishankar
- (d) Ajit Doval
- (e) Amit Shah

Ans. a

Sol. PM Modi inaugurates 3rd Voice of Global South Summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit.

The Summit is being held in a virtual format, and many leaders of the Global South are participating in the meeting.

Theme 2024 - An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future

The Voice of Global South is an Indian concept rooted in the ancient Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. It provides a platform for the countries of the Global South to raise issues that are vital to them.

About Voice of Global South Summit

- India hosted the first Voice of Global South Summit in a virtual format from 2 to 13 January 2023. Following the summit's success, India organised the second Voice of Global South Summit on 17 November 2023.
- Over 100 countries of the Global South participated in the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit.

PM Modi in News

- PM Modi unveils 1,500 crore Multiple Development Projects in J&K
- PM inaugurates 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav on occasion of Mahaveer Jayanti
- PM Modi has inaugurated 15 airport projects, including the revamped Terminal 1 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi, worth over Rs.9,800 crore.
- PM Narendra Modi has launched the Mahtari Vandan Yojana in Chhattisgarh.
- PM Modi unveiled a 125-foot bronze statue of 'Ahom general' Lachit Borphukan (Statue of Valour) in Assam's Jorhat

219. Which bank has launched a special "Vijay Fixed Deposits" plan to commemorate India's 78th year of independence?

किस बैंक ने भारत की स्वतंत्रता के 78वें वर्ष के उपलक्ष्य में विशेष "विजय फिक्स्ड डिपॉजिट" योजना शुरू की है?

- (a) ICICI Bank
- (b) SBI
- (c) Axis Bank
- (d) RBL Bank
- (e) Kotak Mahindra Bank

Ans. d

Sol. RBL Bank launched Vijay Fixed Deposits to honor 78th Independence Day

RBL Bank has launched a special "Vijay Fixed Deposits" edition to commemorate India's 78th year of independence.

For deposits below Rs 3 crore, the "Vijay Fixed Deposits" feature a special 500-day tenor.

This limited-period offer pays tribute to the courage and sacrifices of our brave soldiers while providing exceptional financial benefits.

The special fixed deposit plan offers competitive interest rates with 8.85% p.a. for super senior citizens, 8.60% p.a. for senior citizens, and 8.1% p.a. for regular customers, all tailored to guarantee your money grows safely.

With just two simple steps, you may book the Vijay Fixed Deposit and secure a deposit from the comfort of your home using the RBL Bank MoBank app, Or you can visit the nearest RBL Bank branch for personalised guidance.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- Axis Bank launches **PRIMUS super-premium credit card** with VISA
- PNB launches **PNB ANTAH DRISHTI Braille Debit Card** for visually impaired customers
- DBS Bank India launched "**DBS Golden Circle**," a priority banking program for senior citizens.
- LIC launched **LIC's Yuva Term, LIC's Digi Term, LIC's Yuva Credit Life, LIC's Digi Credit Life** term life insurance plans for providing term insurance and safety net against loan repayments
- RBL Bank becomes first private sector lender to merge UPI and NCMC in RuPay credit cards

220. In August 2024, Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of how much rupees on Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) for violating its directions, including on Know Your Customer (KYC)?

अगस्त 2024 में, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने अपने ग्राहक को जानो (KYC) सहित अपने निर्देशों का उल्लंघन करने के लिए बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र (BoM) पर कितने रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया है?

- (a) 1.27 crore
- (b) 2.27 crore
- (c) 3.27 crore
- (d) 4.27 crore
- (e) 5.27 crore

Ans. a

Sol. RBI imposes monetary penalties on Bank of Maharashtra

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1,27,20,000/- on Bank of Maharashtra for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Loan System for Delivery of Bank Credit', 'Cyber Security Framework in Banks' and 'Know Your Customer'.

The RBI has also imposed a monetary penalty of ₹4.90 lakh on Hinduja Leyland Finance Limited (the company) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016.

This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred on RBI under the provisions of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 58G read with clause (aa) of sub-section (5) of section 58B of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

RBI has also imposed a monetary penalty of ₹10.00 lakh On Poonawalla Fincorp Limited, Pune, Maharashtra (the company) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the 'Non-Banking Financial Company - Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking Company and Deposit taking Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016' issued by RBI, relating to 'Fair Practices Code for NBFCs'.

This penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers conferred on RBI under the provisions of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 58 G read with clause (aa) of sub-section (5) of section 58 B of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

Recent Penalties imposed on Banks by RBI

- Muthoot Finance Limited (1.9 lakh) - for non-compliance with certain provision of KYC Directions, 2016' issued by RBI.
- CSB Bank Limited (₹1.86 crore) - For violations, including paying commissions to employees for Non-Performing Assets' recovery
- Union Bank of India (₹1.06 crore)- For non-compliance with RBI guidelines on creating a central repository for large exposures and KYC norms.
- Muthoot Housing Finance Company Limited (₹5 lakh) - For governance-related violations
- Nido Home Finance Limited (₹5 lakh) - For not ensuring that loan agreements under co-lending arrangements with banks

221. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB)?

तमिलनाडु मर्केटाइल बैंक (TMB) के प्रबंध निदेशक और मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Rajnish Kumar
- (b) Arun Bansal
- (c) Sukumaran Nair
- (d) Tablesh Pandey
- (e) Siddhartha Mohanty

Ans. c

Sol. RBI appoints Sukumaran Nair as MD & CEO of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Salee Sukumaran Nair as the managing director and chief executive officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB), for a period of three years.

His last assignment was as deputy managing director and chief credit officer of State Bank of India, until May 2024, where he was responsible for managing the credit portfolio.

Nair, a postgraduate in applied electronics, started his banking career in 1987. He joined India's largest public sector bank, State Bank of India, as a probationary officer.

In a career spanning more than 35 years, he has handled various assignments, mostly in the Corporate Accounts Group, managing large corporates.

Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **MD of SBI** - Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh
- **CEO of NPCI Bhim Services Ltd (NBSL)** - Lalitha Nataraj
- **MD & CEO of MCX** - Praveena Rai's
- **Chairman of SBI** - Challa Sreenivasulu Setty (replace Dinesh Khara)
- **MD & CEO of Unity Small Finance Bank** - Inderjit Camotra
- **MD of National Housing Bank** - Sanjay Shukla

222. Deutsche Bank has appointed _____ as its head of global corporate coverage for India and Sri Lanka.

ड्यूश बैंक ने _____ को भारत और श्रीलंका के लिए वैश्विक कॉर्पोरेट कवरेज के प्रमुख के रूप में नियुक्त किया है।

- (a) Rajnish Kumar
- (b) Arun Bansal
- (c) Sukumaran Nair
- (d) Sunil Grover
- (e) Manik Chhabra

Ans. e

Sol. Deutsche Bank appoints Manik Chhabra as head of global corp coverage for India, Sri Lanka

Deutsche Bank has appointed Manik Chhabra as its head of global corporate coverage for India and Sri Lanka.

Chhabra is moving to the German bank from US-based lender Citibank where he held many senior corporate banking roles over the last 22 years.

Within the role Chhabra will report to Chintan Shah, head of corporate coverage, and head of cash management sales APAC as well as Kaushik Shaparia, CEO of emerging Asia and chief country officer of India.

Chhabra will also become a member of the Deutsche Bank India Branch Management Board.

223. Which state government has launched the 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana' on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan?

किस राज्य सरकार ने रक्षा बंधन के अवसर पर 'मुख्यमंत्री माझी लड़की बहिन योजना' शुरू की है?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Bihar
- (e) Madhya Pradesh

Ans. c

Sol. Maharashtra launched 'Ladki Bahin Yojana' on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. The Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government is set to officially launch the 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana' on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. This initiative aims to provide ₹1500 every month to more than one crore women across the state. The Maharashtra Chief minister will roll out the 'Ladki Bahin' scheme modelled on the lines of Madhya Pradesh's 'Ladli Behna Yojana'.

About Maharashtra

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

224. Who has won the Best Male Actor award in the feature film category of the 70th National Film Awards 2022?

70वें राष्ट्रीय फिल्म पुरस्कार 2022 की फीचर फिल्म श्रेणी में सर्वश्रेष्ठ पुरुष अभिनेता का पुरस्कार किसने जीता है?

- (a) Rishab Shetty
- (b) Manoj Bajpayee
- (c) Arijit Singh
- (d) Bombay Jayashri
- (e) Pavan Malhotra

Ans. a

Sol. 70th National Film Awards winners announced

The winners of the 70th National Film Awards were declared August 16.

Honouring the best films and cinematic achievements of the year 2022, the awards were announced by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) at a presser in New Delhi.

Rahul Rawail was the Chairperson of the Feature Film Jury, Nila Madhab Panda was the Chairperson of the Non-Feature Film Jury and Gangadhar Mudalair was the Chairperson of the Best Writing on Cinema Jury.

Actor Rishab Shetty won the Best Actor award in a Feature Film for his scintillating performance in the Kannada folk action thriller, Kantara. The film, which was also directed by Rishab, was also named Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment.

The Best Actress in a Feature Film award was a tie between Nithya Menen, for her performance in the Tamil comedy-drama Thiruchitrabalam, and Manasi Parekh for her Gujarati drama film, Kutch Express.

Feature Film Awards

Award	Film	Awardee(s)	Language
Best Direction	Uunchai	Sooraj R. Barjatya	Hindi
Best Actor	Kantara	Rishab Shetty	Kannada
Best Actress	Thiruchitrabalam / Kutch Express	Nithya Menen / Manasi Parekh	Tamil / Gujarati
Best Supporting Actor	Fouja	Pavan Malhotra	Haryanvi
Best Supporting Actress	Uunchai	Neena Gupta	Hindi
Best Feature Film	Aattam	Production: Joy Movie Productions LLP Director: Anand Ekarshi	Malayalam
Best Debut Film	Fouja	Director: Pramod Kumar	Haryanvi

Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	Kantara	Production: Hombale Films Director: Rishab Shetty	Kannada
Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social, and Environmental Values	Kutch Express	Production: Soul Sutra LLP Direction: Viral Shah	Gujarati
Special Mentions		Manoj Bajpayee in Gulmohar, Sanjoy Salil Chowdhury for Kalikhan	
Best Action Direction	KGF: Chapter 2		
Best Choreography	Tiruchitrabalam		
Best Lyrics	Fouja		
Best Music Director		Pritam (Songs), AR Rahman (Background Score)	
Best Makeup	Aparajito		
Best Costumes	Kutch Express		
Best Production Design	Aparajito		
Best Editing	Aattam		
Best Sound Design	Ponniyin Selvan – Part 1		
Best Screenplay	Aattam		
Best Dialogues	Gulmohar		

Best Cinematography	Ponniyin Selvan – Part 1		
Best Female Playback	Saudi Velakka	Bombay Jayashri	
Best Male Playback	Brahmastra	Arijit Singh	
Best Child Artist	Mallikappuram	Sreepath	

Language-Specific Feature Film Awards

Award	Film
Best Telugu Film	Karthikeya 2
Best Tamil Film	Ponniyin Selvan – Part 1
Best Punjabi Film	Baaghi Di Dhee
Best Odia Film	Daman
Best Malayalam Film	Saudi Velakka
Best Marathi Film	Vaalvi
Best Kannada Film	KGF: Chapter 2
Best Hindi Film	Gulmohar

Best Tiwa Film	Sikaisal
Best Bengali Film	Kaberi Antardhan
Best Assamese Film	Emuthi Puthi

Non-Feature Film Awards

Award	Film	Awardee(s)
Best Non-Feature Film Promoting Social and Environmental Values	Kutch Express	
Best Critic	Deepak Dua	
Best Book on Cinema	Kishore Kumar: The Ultimate Biography	
Best Non-Feature Film	Ayena	
Best Debut Film	Madhyantara	
Best Biographical/Historical/Compilation Film	Aanakhi Ek Mohenjo Daro	
Best Arts/Culture Film	Ranga Vibhoga / Varsa	
Best Script	Mono No Aware	
Best Narrator	Murmurs of the Jungle	

Best Music Direction	Fursat	
Best Editing	Madhyantara	
Best Sound Design	Yaan	
Best Cinematography	Mono No Aware	
Best Direction (Non-Feature Film)	From the Shadow	Miriam Chandy Menacherry
Best Short Film	Xunyota	
Best Animated Film	The Coconut Tree	
Best Non-Feature Film Promoting Social and Environmental Values	On the Brink Season 2 – Gharial	
Best Documentary	Murmurs of the Jungle	

225. In August 2024, Indian has joined hands with country for the establishment of a new water technology center at IIT-Madras, which is expected to serve as a "key contributor" to India's efforts to achieve sustainable water supply for all?

अगस्त 2024 में, भारत ने आईआईटी-मद्रास में एक नए जल प्रौद्योगिकी केंद्र की स्थापना के लिए किस देश के साथ हाथ मिलाया है, जिससे सभी के लिए स्थायी जल आपूर्ति प्राप्त करने के भारत के प्रयासों में "प्रमुख योगदानकर्ता" के रूप में काम करने की उम्मीद है?

- (a) Japan
- (b) Isarel
- (c) USA
- (d) Kazakhstan
- (e) Bhutan

Ans. b

Sol. India & Israel join hands for new water technology centre at IIT Madras

India and Israel have joined hands for the establishment of a new water technology centre at IIT-Madras, which is expected to serve as a "key contributor" to India's efforts to achieve sustainable water supply for all.

This tripartite agreement, signed by the Embassy of Israel, IIT Madras, and the AMRUT mission of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, reflects a shared commitment to address the critical challenges of water management in India.

The Center of Water Technology aims to become a hub for innovation, research, and capacity-building in water technologies, particularly focusing on sustainable solutions for urban water supply.

Recently India signed MoUs with others countries

- India and Maldives have renewed their MoU to bolster the training of Maldivian civil servants.
- India and New Zealand sign customs co-operation arrangement to ease trade between the two countries
- India and Vietnam team up to Preserve Maritime History with NMHC in Lothal
- India and Vietnam sign 9 agreements to deepen strategic partnership & enhance cooperation
- India, US Sign Cultural Property Agreement To Repatriate Stolen Indian Artifacts

226. The Indian student team has bagged multiple prestigious medals at the 17th edition of the International Earth Sciences Olympiad (IESO). The 17th IESO was organized in which city?

भारतीय छात्र टीम ने अंतर्राष्ट्रीय पृथ्वी विज्ञान ओलंपियाड (IESO) के 17वें संस्करण में कई प्रतिष्ठित पदक जीते हैं। 17वां IESO किस शहर में आयोजित किया गया था?

- (a) Tokyo
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) New York
- (d) Paris
- (e) Beijing

Ans. e

Sol. India shines at the 17th International Earth Sciences Olympiad

The Indian student team has bagged multiple prestigious medals at the 17th edition of the International Earth Sciences Olympiad (IESO) held in Beijing, China.

The four-member Indian team, comprising students from Gujarat, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan, achieved remarkable success by winning three gold medals, three bronze medals, and two silver medals across three competition categories: Theory and Practical, Earth System Project, and International Team Field Investigation.

This year's 17th IESO saw participation from 35 countries, with 32 advancing to the finals. The competitions were held across four categories: Theory and Practical, Earth Science Project, International Team Field Investigation, and Data Mining.

About International Earth Science Olympiad

- The International Earth Science Olympiad stands out as one of the most successful student-centric initiatives under the REACHOUT (Research, Education, Training, and Outreach) scheme of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- Established in 2003 during the International Geoscience Education Organization Council Meeting in Calgary, Canada, the IESO is an annual competition for secondary school students worldwide. It aims to foster awareness of earth sciences through teamwork, collaboration, the exchange of ideas, and competition.
- India has been participating in the IESO since 2007 and had the honor of hosting the 10th edition in Mysore.

227. World Photography Day is observed annually on which day?

विश्व फोटोग्राफी दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 17 July
- (b) 18 July
- (c) 19 July
- (d) 20 July
- (e) 21 July

Ans. c

Sol. 19 July - World Photography Day

World Photography Day is observed every year on 19 August to raise awareness about the importance of photography.

Photography is an art form that allows us to freeze and keep moments forever. A single image can evoke a variety of emotions and feelings, which can be relived with a quick gaze.

The history of photography dates back to 1837 in France when two men named Joseph Nicephore Niepce and Louis Daguerre developed the first-ever photographic process or daguerreotype.

Following this, the invention was officially announced by the French Academy of Sciences on January 19, 1837. It is believed that the French government purchased the patent for the invention 10 days after the announcement was made. The government did not copyright the patent and gave it to the world as a gift.

228. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated a new Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) of the Coast Guard. In which city has it been inaugurated?

रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने तटरक्षक बल के नए समुद्री बचाव समन्वय केंद्र (MRCC) का उद्घाटन किया है। इसका उद्घाटन किस शहर में किया गया है?

- (a) Kochi
- (b) Chennai
- (c) Bengaluru
- (d) Hyderabad
- (e) Kolkata

Ans. b

Sol. Rajnath Singh inaugurates new maritime rescue coordination centre in Chennai

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated a new Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) of the Coast Guard in Chennai.

At the event, he also inaugurated two new Coast Guard units – the Regional Marine Pollution Response Centre (RMPRC) in Chennai and a Coast Guard Air Enclave in Puducherry – through video-conferencing.

The new MRCC would facilitate enhanced coordination for the rescue of mariners and fishermen in distress at sea. It has been installed with the latest equipment for distress monitoring through terrestrial and satellite systems and has advanced.

The Coast Guard Air Enclave in Puducherry would be equipped with Chetak and Advanced Light Helicopter Squadrons. Both these helicopters are indigenously built and can carry out maritime patrol, search and rescue and other such missions from the land and Coast Guard ships patrolling at sea.

229. Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das has been rated “_____” for the second consecutive year in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2024.

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के गवर्नर शक्तिकान्त दास को ग्लोबल फाइनेंस सेंट्रल बैंकर रिपोर्ट कार्ड्स 2024 में लगातार दूसरे वर्ष “_____” रेटिंग दी गई है।

- (a) A
- (b) A+
- (c) A++
- (d) B
- (e) B+

Ans. b

Sol. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das ranked top central banker globally for the second consecutive year

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das has been rated “A+” for the second consecutive year in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2024.

The Central Banker Report Cards, published annually by Global Finance since 1994, grade the central bank governors of nearly 100 key countries, territories, and districts, as well as the European Union, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, the Bank of Central African States and the Central Bank of West African States.

Grades are based on an “A+” to “F” scale for success in areas such as inflation control, economic growth goals, currency stability and interest rate management.

“A” represents an excellent performance, down through “F” for outright failure.

The Central Bankers earning an A+ grade in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2024, along with Shaktikanta Das, are Denmark's Christian Kettel Thomsen and Switzerland's Thomas Jordan.

Recent Award

- **Hilal-e-Imtiaz Award (Pakistan 2nd highest civilian award)** - Arshad Nadeem
- **Grand Collar of Order of Timor Leste (Highest Civilian Award of Timor Leste)** - President Droupadi Murmu
- **Companion of the Order of Fiji (highest honour of Fiji)** – President Droupadi Murmu
- **V Venkayya Epigraphy Award 2024** - V. Vedachalam
- **Global Water Tech Award for environmental initiatives** - Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
- **Customised Gold Coins by Paris' Grevin Museum** - Shah Rukh Khan

230. Who has been appointed as the chef de mission of the Indian contingent at the upcoming Paris Paralympics?

आगामी पेरिस पैरालिम्पिक्स में भारतीय दल का प्रमुख किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Gagan Narang
- (b) Abhinav Bindra
- (c) Satya Prakash Sangwan
- (d) Annu Raj Singh
- (e) Karnam Malleswari

Ans. c

Sol. Satya Prakash Sangwan named chef de mission for Paris Paralympics

Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) vice president Satya Prakash Sangwan has been appointed as the chef de mission of the Indian contingent at the upcoming Paris Paralympics.

As the CDM, he will lead India's largest-ever contingent of 84 para-athletes competing across 12 sports disciplines.

Satya Prakash Sangwan has been an integral part of the Paralympic Committee of India for over a decade. His dedication and leadership have always been an inspiration to our athletes.

 **ambitious baba** .com

231. In August 2024, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) sold how much per cent stake in state-owned Hindustan Copper for Rs 447 crore through an open market transaction?

अगस्त 2024 में, भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम (LIC) ने खुले बाजार लेनदेन के माध्यम से राज्य के स्वामित्व वाली हिंदुस्तान कॉपर में कितनी प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी 447 करोड़ रुपये में बेची?

- (a) 1.09 per cent
- (b) 2.09 per cent
- (c) 3.09 per cent
- (d) 4.09 per cent
- (e) 5.09 per cent

Ans. b

Sol. LIC sells stake in Hindustan Copper for Rs 447 crore

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has sold a 2.09 per cent stake in state-owned Hindustan Copper for Rs 447 crore through an open market transaction.

The insurance behemoth has sold a total of 2,01,62,682 shares, or 2.085 per cent stake, in Hindustan Copper, according to a regulatory filing.

With this, LIC's stake in the state-owned company has reduced to 6.09 per cent from 8.17 per cent.

Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Mines. It is the only company in the country engaged in mining of copper ore and owns all the operating mining lease of Copper ore and also the only integrated producer of refined copper (vertically integrated company).

232. In August 2024, Consumer payments and lending company Slice received approval from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for its merger with which small finance bank?

अगस्त 2024 में, उपभोक्ता भुगतान और ऋण देने वाली कंपनी स्लाइस को किस लघु वित्त बैंक के साथ विलय के लिए राष्ट्रीय कंपनी कानून न्यायाधिकरण (एनसीएलटी) से मंजूरी मिल गई?

- (a) AU Small Finance Bank Limited
- (b) Capital Small Finance Bank Limited
- (c) Suryoday Small Finance Bank
- (d) Shivalik Small Finance Bank
- (e) North East Small Finance Bank

Ans. e

Sol. NCLT approves Slice merger with North East Small Finance Bank

Consumer payments and lending company Slice has received approval from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for its merger with North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB).

The NCLT Guwahati bench has sanctioned the scheme of arrangement and amalgamation involving Garagepreneurs Internet Pvt Ltd, Quadrillion Finance Pvt Ltd, Intergalactory Foundry Pvt Ltd, RGVN (North East) Microfinance Ltd, and North East Small Finance Bank.

The approval paves way for the official merger, combining slice's digital prowess with NESFB's grassroots banking expertise to deliver a superior financial experience to Indian consumers.

The merger will enable the combined entity to leverage advanced technology and deep community understanding, fostering financial inclusion across the nation.

233. In August 2024, which bank received approval from the Reserve Bank of India to set up a unit to undertake the asset management business of mutual funds?

अगस्त 2024 में, किस बैंक को म्यूचुअल फंड के परिसंपत्ति प्रबंधन व्यवसाय को शुरू करने के लिए एक इकाई स्थापित करने के लिए भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक से मंजूरी मिली?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) ICICI Bank
- (c) Yes Bank
- (d) IndusInd Bank
- (e) Axis Bank

Ans. d

Sol. IndusInd Bank gets RBI nod to set up mutual fund asset management business

IndusInd Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) nod to set up a mutual fund asset management business. It will be a wholly-owned subsidiary, the bank said in its filing to the exchanges.

RBI has also allowed the private sector lender to infuse equity capital in the asset management subsidiary.

Following the accord from the RBI, the wholly owned subsidiary of the IndusInd Bank would soon move the capital market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) with an application to launch the mutual funds business.

IndusInd Bank

- **Founded** - 1994
- **Founder** - S.P. Hinduja
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- **MD & CEO** - Sumant Kathpalia
- **Tagline** - We Make You Feel Richer

234. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of Airports Authority of India (AAI)?

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Samir Ashwin
- (b) M Suresh
- (c) Ramesh Goyal
- (d) Raj Kumar Chauhan
- (e) Amit Singh Negi

Ans. b

Sol. M Suresh becomes interim AAI Chairman

M Suresh, Member, Air Navigation Services, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been entrusted with additional charge as Chairman of AAI.

This is subsequent to relieving Sanjeev Kumar of his duties as AAI Chairman, says a Government Order.

Hailing from Tenkasi district in Tamil Nadu, Suresh will hold the post for three months or until a regular incumbent joins or until further orders.

Recent Appointment

- **Head coach of junior men's hockey team** -PR Sreejesh
- **Secretary of Ministry of Steel** - Sandeep Poundrik
- **CMD of NHPC Ltd** - Raj Kumar Chaudhary
- **Additional secretary in PMO** - Amit Singh Negi
- **Director in Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) under Ministry of Corporate Affairs** - Samir Ashwin Vakil

235. The ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 venue has been shifted to which country from Bangladesh due to the political unrest in the country?

बांग्लादेश में राजनीतिक अशांति के कारण ICC महिला T20 विश्व कप 2024 का आयोजन स्थल किस देश में स्थानांतरित कर दिया गया है?

- (a) India
- (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) Nepal
- (d) UAE
- (e) Qatar

Ans. d

Sol. ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 moved to UAE from Bangladesh

The ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 venue has been shifted to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from Bangladesh.

The tournament will take place across the two venues in the UAE - Dubai and Sharjah - from October 3 to October 20 with no changes in dates of the scheduled matches.

The ninth edition of the cricket tournament was supposed to be hosted by Bangladesh but was moved out due to the political unrest in the country.

The BCB, however, will retain the hosting rights and stage the Women's T20 World Cup 2024 alongside the Emirates Cricket Board. Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe had also placed offers to take over as hosts.

The Australian women's cricket team will enter the competition as three-time defending champions. Australia have won the title six times in the last seven editions.

England, champions of the inaugural edition in 2009, and West Indies, champions in 2016, are the only other teams to have won the Women's T20 World Cup titles.

Upcoming ICC Events

- **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026** – India and Sri Lanka
- **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2028** – Australia and New Zealand
- **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2030** – England, Ireland and Scotland
- **ICC Men's World Cup 2027** – South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia
- **ICC Men's World Cup 2031**– India and Bangladesh
- **ICC Champions Trophy 2025** – Pakistan
- **ICC Champions Trophy 2029** – India

236. As per the latest Food & Drink 2024 report, which Indian brand has been ranked as the “strongest food brand in the world”?

नवीनतम खाद्य और पेय 2024 रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, किस भारतीय ब्रांड को "दुनिया में सबसे मजबूत खाद्य ब्रांड" का दर्जा दिया गया है?

- (a) Mother Dairy
- (b) Amul
- (c) Dabur
- (d) Patanjali
- (e) Britannia

Ans. d

Sol. Amul ranked as world’s strongest food brand

Indian brand “Amul” has been ranked as the “strongest food brand in the world” as per the latest Food & Drink 2024 report.

Amul has already been ranked number one dairy brand in the world. However, being ranked as the number one strongest food brand is a big recognition. Last year, Amul held the second position in this category.

The annual report on the most valuable and strongest food, dairy & non-alcoholic drinks brands has been published by Brand Finance, world’s leading brand consultancy.

As per the report, the brand value of Amul rose 11 percent to \$3.3 billion, with a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 91.0 out of 100 and an AAA+ rating. Amul’s brand strength is attributed to its strong performance in familiarity, consideration, and recommendation metric.

As per the report, Amul retains its status as the strongest dairy brand ranked, with an improved Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 91 out of 100.

237. Ilkay Gundogan announced his retirement from international football. He is from which country?

इल्के गुंडोगन ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय फुटबॉल से संन्यास की घोषणा की। वह किस देश से हैं?

- (a) Germany
- (b) Belgium
- (c) France
- (d) Spain
- (e) Japan

Ans. a

Sol. Germany Captain Ilkay Gundogan announces International Retirement from Football

Germany captain Ilkay Gundogan announced his retirement from international football after leading his country at Euro 2024.

Gundogan, who turns 34 in October, was in the Germany team that reached the Euro 2024 quarter-finals before losing to eventual champions Spain after extra time

Gundogan made his debut for Germany against Belgium in October 2011 but missed their 2014 World Cup triumph with a back injury. He was also ruled out of Euro 2016 due to a dislocated kneecap.

Recently Retired Players

- Andy Murray (UK) – International Tennis
- PR Sreejesh (India) – International Hockey
- James Anderson (England) – International Test Cricket
- Dinesh Karthik (India, RCB) - IPL
- Toni Kroos (Germany) - International Football ⚽
- Sunil Chhetri (India) – International Football ⚽
- Colin Munro (New Zealand) - International Cricket

238. In August 2024, The Ulchi Freedom Shield Exercise was conducted between which of the following two countries?

अगस्त 2024 में, उल्ची फ्रीडम शील्ड अभ्यास निम्नलिखित में से किन दो देशों के बीच आयोजित किया गया था?

- (a) South Korea and India
- (b) India and USA
- (c) USA and Japan
- (d) Japan and South Korea
- (e) South Korea and USA

Ans. e

Sol. South Korea, US kick off annual drills over North's military, cyber threats

South Korea and the United States kicked off annual summertime military exercises on Monday, seeking to boost their joint readiness to fend off North Korea's weapons and cyber threats.

The Ulchi Freedom Shield exercises, set to end on August 29, come as North Korea races to advance its nuclear and missile programmes and tries to launch reconnaissance satellites.

The drills will reflect "realistic threats" across all domains, including the North's missile threats but also GPS jamming, cyberattacks and other lessons learned from recent incidents.

About 19,000 South Korean troops will take part, similar to last year, with 48 rounds of combined field training, including field manoeuvre, live fire and amphibious exercises to be held.

Recent Exercise

- **Exercise Udara Shakti 2024** between Indian Air Force and Malaysia Air Force - Kuantan, Malaysia
- Ex Pitch Black 2024 between India and Australia - Darwin, Australia
- 28th edition of **Malabar Exercise** between India, USA, Japan, Australia - Bay of Bengal (October 2024)
- 16th edition of Joint Military **Exercise Nomadic Elephant** between India and Mongolia - Umroi, Meghalaya
- 13th edition of Joint military **Exercise MAITREE** between India and Thailand - Fort Vachirapakan in Tak Province of Thailand.
- 29th edition of **RIMPAC Naval Exercise** – Hawaii, Pearl Harbour USA (INS Shivalik Participated)

239. The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed every year on which day?

आतंकवाद के पीड़ितों की स्मृति और श्रद्धांजलि का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 20 August
- (b) 21 August
- (c) 22 August
- (d) 19 August
- (e) 18 August

Ans. b

Sol. 21 August - International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed every year on 21 August.

Objective - To honour and support the victims and survivors of terrorist acts while promoting the protection of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The International Day was established through UN General Assembly Resolution 72/165 in 2017.

This resolution set August 21st as the annual date for commemoration.

In April 2020, UN Secretary-General António Guterres published a report titled "Progress of the UN system to support Member States in assisting victims of terrorism" (A/74/790). This report emphasized the need for enhanced international cooperation in assisting terrorism victims.

240. S. Padmanabhan passed away recently at the age of 89. Who was he?

एस. पद्मनाभन का हाल ही में 89 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह कौन थे?

- (a) Former Navy Chief General
- (b) Former Army Chief General
- (c) Former Air Force Chief General
- (d) Former Coast Guard Chief General
- (e) Former BRO Chief

Ans. b

Sol. Former Army Chief General S. Padmanabhan passes away
Former Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General S. Padmanabhan passed away at the age of 89.
Born at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala on December 5, 1940, General Padmanabhan was
commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery after graduating from the Indian Military Academy on
December 13, 1959.
He commanded an Independent Light Battery from August 1975 to July 1976 and later on
commanded the Gazala Mountain Regiment from September 1977 to March 1980.

241. Former Director-General of the _____ Girish Sahni passed away at the age of 68.

के पूर्व महानिदेशक गिरीश साहनी का हाल ही में 68 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया।

- (a) Employees State Insurance Corporation
- (b) Union Public Service Commission
- (c) University Grants Commission
- (d) Institute of Banking Personnel Selection
- (e) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

Ans. e

Sol. Former CSIR Chief Girish Sahni passes away

Former Director-General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Girish Sahni passed away at the age of 68.

Born on March 2, 1956, Sahni was an alumnus of Panjab University (PU) where he completed his graduation and post-graduation in microbiology (1973-78) and went on to pursue his PhD at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

His post-PhD career included notable positions at the University of California, Santa Barbara; Rockefeller University, New York, and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York.

Under his leadership, his team developed technology for India's first indigenous clot buster drug, natural streptokinase. The worth of this technology was over \$160 million. Furthermore, they were responsible for the groundbreaking development of fourth-generation "anti-thrombotic" clot busters, the first of their kind in the world.

242. Which country has recently conducted the successful training launch of its surface-to-surface ballistic missile Shaheen-II?

हाल ही में किस देश ने अपनी सतह से सतह पर मार करने वाली बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल शाहीन-II का सफल प्रशिक्षण प्रक्षेपण किया है?

- (a) Afghanistan
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Pakistan
- (d) Iran
- (e) Iraq

Ans. c

Sol. Pakistan conducts successful training launch of Shaheen-II Ballistic Missile

The Pakistani military has conducted the successful training launch of its surface-to-surface ballistic missile Shaheen-II.

The training launch was aimed at training of troops, validating various technical parameters and performance evaluation of different sub-systems incorporated for improved accuracy and enhanced survivability.

In May, Pakistan conducted a successful training launch of the Fateh-II Guided Rocket System having a range of 400 kilometres.



243. World Humanitarian Day is observed every year on which day?

विश्व मानवतावादी दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 18 August
- (b) 19 August
- (c) 20 August
- (d) 21 August
- (e) 22 August

Ans. b

Sol. 19 August - World Humanitarian Day

World Humanitarian Day is observed every year on August 19 to honour humanitarian workers who risk their lives to provide aid and assistance to people in need.

The day also aims to encourage global action to support those affected by crises, such as natural disasters, conflicts and other emergencies.

Theme 2024 - Act For Humanity

World Humanitarian Day traces its origins to a tragic event. On August 19, 2003, a bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, resulted in the deaths of 22 humanitarian aid workers.

Among the victims was Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Ira

244. India's Designated Authority for Cross-Border Trade has approved an additional 251 MW of power exports from 12 hydropower projects in which country?

भारत के सीमा पार व्यापार के लिए नामित प्राधिकरण ने किस देश में 12 जलविद्युत परियोजनाओं से अतिरिक्त 251 मेगावाट बिजली निर्यात को मंजूरी दी है?

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

Ans. b

Sol. India Approves Additional 251 MW Power Exports from Nepal

India's Designated Authority for Cross-Border Trade has approved an additional 251 MW of power exports from 12 hydropower projects in Nepal.

For the first time, Nepal would be exporting power to Bihar through a medium-term power sales agreement. This takes the total allowed quantum from 690 MW from 16 projects to 941 MW from 28 projects.

Even before this 251 MW approval, Nepal had already become a net exporter of electricity and net revenue generator in the last fiscal year selling NPR 16.93 billion worth of electricity.

In October 2021, India approved 39 MW of power exports from Nepal to India for the first time. In less than 3 years, this figure has grown by more than 24 times.

Nepal first began its power exports by selling in the Day Ahead Market of the Indian Energy Exchange. Since then, India has also granted access to the Real-Time Market.

The Agreement for Long-Term Power between India and Nepal envisages the sale of up to 10,000 MW of power from Nepal to India in the next 10 years. This is the first year of the Agreement and around 1000 MW exports have already been reached.

About Nepal

- **Capital-** Kathmandu
- **Currency-** Nepalese rupee
- **President-** Ram Chandra Paudel
- **Prime minister-** K.P. Sharma Oli (replace Pushpa Kamal Dahal)

245. Which foundation has signed an MoU with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to provide improved weather information and support to climate-affected communities?

किस फाउंडेशन ने जलवायु प्रभावित समुदायों को बेहतर मौसम संबंधी जानकारी और सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (IMD) के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Smile Foundation
- (b) M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation
- (c) Paani Foundation
- (d) Foundation for Ecological Security
- (e) Reliance Foundation

Ans. e

Sol. Reliance Foundation signs MoU with IMD to strengthen weather information

Reliance Foundation has signed an MoU with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to provide improved weather information and support to climate-affected communities.

The main objective of this partnership is to prepare communities to face climate change and weather-related challenges.

Under this, research will be done to strengthen weather forecasting and early warning services and discussions will be held with various experts.

This effort will increase people's tolerance towards weather changes.

Recent MoU

- Indian Navy approves Mazagaon Dock to build 6 submarines with German collaboration
- SLRTC and Army Welfare Association sign MoU to Promote Indian Sign Language
- BIS signs MoU with Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru to promote Standardisation
- IGNCA signed MoU with Sansad TV to make Indian art and culture more accessible to the people.
- Cisco and Tata Communications partner to launch Webex Calling in India
- AIIMS New Delhi signed MoU with University of Bolton Institute of Medicine

246. Who has been appointed as the President of National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)?

नेशनल एसोसिएशन ऑफ सॉफ्टवेयर एंड सर्विस कंपनीज (NASSCOM) का अध्यक्ष किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Gaurav Banerjee
- (b) Jetha Ahir
- (c) Raj Kumar Chaudhary
- (d) Rajesh Nambiar
- (e) Rajesh Kumar Singh

Ans. d

Sol. Rajesh Nambiar quits as Cognizant's India head to become Nasscom president

Rajesh Nambiar has stepped down as Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp's India Chairman and Managing Director to become president of information technology (IT) industry body National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM).

Cognizant named Rajesh Varrier as his successor. He will take over as global head of operations from 2 September and as chairman and managing director of the Nasdaq-listed from 1 October.

Nambiar, now president-designate at Nasscom, will replace Debjani Ghosh, who has been the industry body's president since 2018. Ghosh will serve in her position till her tenure ends in November this year.

About National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)

- **Founded** - 1988
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi
- **President** - Rajesh Nambiar (replace Debjani Ghosh)

247. The latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India showed, Net foreign direct investment (FDI) during the April-June period of the current financial year was _____, compared to \$4.7 billion in the year-ago period.

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा जारी नवीनतम आंकड़ों से पता चला है कि, चालू वित्त वर्ष की अप्रैल-जून अवधि के दौरान शुद्ध विदेशी प्रत्यक्ष निवेश (एफडीआई) _____ था, जबकि एक वर्ष पहले इसी अवधि में यह 4.7 बिलियन डॉलर था।

- (a) \$6.2 billion
- (b) \$6.5 billion
- (c) \$6.7 billion
- (d) \$6.9 billion
- (e) \$5.9 billion

Ans. d

Sol. Net foreign direct investment rises to \$6.9 billion in Q1: RBI

Net foreign direct investment (FDI) during the April-June period of the current financial year was \$6.9 billion, compared to \$4.7 billion in the year-ago period, the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India showed.

The increase was due to an improvement in gross inward FDI, which grew by 26.4 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to \$22.5 billion during Q1 of 2024-25.

Manufacturing, financial services, communication services, computer services, electricity and other energy sectors accounted for about 80 per cent of the gross FDI inflows.

With around 75 per cent of the flows, the major source countries were Singapore, Mauritius, the Netherlands, the US, and Belgium," according to RBI's State of the Economy report.

Net FDI flow dropped sharply to \$9.8 billion in FY24, from \$28 billion in the previous year. In FY22, net FDI flows into the country were \$38.6 billion.

248. Which payments bank has launched the AI-powered Face Match, a new security feature designed to protect customer accounts from fraudulent activities?

किस भुगतान बैंक ने AI-संचालित फेस मैच नामक एक नई सुरक्षा सुविधा लॉन्च की है, जो ग्राहक खातों को धोखाधड़ी गतिविधियों से बचाने के लिए डिज़ाइन की गई है?

- (a) Airtel Payments Bank
- (b) India Post Payments Bank
- (c) FINO Payments Bank
- (d) Paytm Payments Bank
- (e) Jio Payments Bank

Ans. a

Sol. Airtel Payments Bank introduces AI-powered Face Match

Airtel Payments Bank has launched the Face Match, a new security feature designed to protect customer accounts from fraudulent activities.

The feature uses advanced machine learning algorithms to assess potential threats and activate facial recognition verification when necessary.

How does it work?

- The Face Match feature works by analysing various factors, including user behaviour, transactions patterns, location data, and device location to verify the user. In case the user activity is inconsistent with their past behaviour and information, the user is asked to verify their identity through a selfie.
- Upon activation, users receive a notification prompting them to complete a quick verification through the Airtel Thanks app.
- The selfie is then compared to the photo taken during the account onboarding process using facial recognition technology and liveness checks. A successful match allows the transaction to proceed.

249. In August 2024, which of the following company has received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to acquire a 60% majority stake in Invesco Asset Management (India) Private Limited and Invesco Trustee Private Limited?

अगस्त 2024 में, निम्नलिखित में से किस कंपनी को इन्वेस्को एसेट मैनेजमेंट (इंडिया) प्राइवेट लिमिटेड और इन्वेस्को ट्रस्टी प्राइवेट लिमिटेड में 60% बहुमत हिस्सेदारी हासिल करने के लिए भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (CCI) से मंजूरी मिली है?

- (a) Reliance Industries
- (b) Adani Group
- (c) HDFC Limited
- (d) IndusInd International Holdings Limited
- (e) Aditya Birla Group

Ans. d

Sol. IndusInd Holdings gets nod to acquire majority stake in 2 Invesco entities

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of shareholding in each of Invesco Asset Management (India) Private Limited and Invesco Trustee Private Limited by IndusInd International Holdings Limited.

The proposed combination pertains to the acquisition of 60% shareholding in each of Invesco Asset Management (India) Private Limited (Invesco AMC) and Invesco Trustee Private Limited (Invesco Trustee) by IndusInd International Holdings Limited (IIHL).

IIHL will be holding the investment through its wholly owned and controlled subsidiary, IIHL AMC Holdings Limited (IIHL AMC), which has been incorporated specifically for the Proposed Combination.

IIHL is a Global Business License (Category 1) licensee company incorporated in the Republic of Mauritius.

250. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador for GRM Basmati Rice?

जीआरएम बासमती चावल का ब्रांड एंबेसडर किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Sharukh Khan
- (b) Salman Khan
- (c) Amitabh Bachchan
- (d) MS Dhoni
- (e) Priyanka Chopra

Ans. b

Sol. Salman Khan named brand ambassador for GRM Basmati Rice

GRM Overseas Limited, an exporter of basmati rice and an FMCG player, has signed Bollywood actor Salman Khan as the brand ambassador for its basmati rice and wheat flour products.

The partnership aims to leverage Khan's iconic status to strengthen GRM's brand presence and connect with consumers globally, the company said.

Founded in 1974, GRM Overseas exports premium basmati rice to over 42 countries and has expanded from a rice manufacturing and trading house to a consumer staples organization.

Recent Brand Ambassador

- Dinesh Karthik - SA20 league
- Shikhar Dhwan - MotoGP India
- Aditya Roy Kapur - Bisleri Limonata
- PV Sindhu – Greenday's Better Nutrition
- PV Sindhu – Tobacco Control
- Shah Rukh Khan - Muthoot Pappachan Group
- Kareena Kapoor Khan - UNICEF India National Ambassador

251. In August 2024, who has assumed the charge of Secretary of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)?

अगस्त 2024 में, उद्योग और आंतरिक व्यापार संवर्धन विभाग (DPIIT) के सचिव का पदभार किसने ग्रहण किया है?

- (a) Gaurav Banerjee
- (b) Jetha Ahir
- (c) Raj Kumar Chaudhary
- (d) Amardeep Singh Bhatia
- (e) Rajesh Kumar Singh

Ans. d

Sol. Amardeep Singh Bhatia takes charge as Secretary of DPIIT

IAS Amardeep Singh Bhatia has assumed the charge of Secretary of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

Bhatia is an Indian Administrative Service Officer of the 1993 Batch from the Nagaland cadre.

In Central Government, he has held many important positions in the Ministries of Corporate Affairs and Health & Family Welfare. Ministry of Commerce and Industry vice Rajesh Kumar Singh, IAS consequent upon his appointment as Officer on Special Duty, Department of Defence.

Other Important Secretaries

- **Foreign Secretary** - Vikram Misri (replace Vinay Mohan Kwatra)
- **Cabinet Secretary** – T V Somanathan (replace Rajiv Gauba)
- **Home Secretary** - Govind Mohan (replace Ajay Kumar Bhalla)
- **Revenue Secretary** - Sanjay Malhotra
- **Defence Secretary** - Giridhar Aramane
- **Economic Affairs Secretary** - Ajay Seth
- **Finance Secretary** - T. V. Somanathan
- **Expenditure Secretary** - T. V. Somanathan

252. Consider the following points about the National Geoscience Awards 2023 recently presented by President Murmu-

(i) The awardees were honoured in four categories.

(ii) This year, a total of 12 awards to 21 Geoscientists.

(iii) Prof Aarti Shukla received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his pioneering work on phosphorites, isotope geology, and organic geochemistry.

(iv) Dr Ashutosh Pandey was awarded the National Young Geoscientist Award for his groundbreaking research on the geodynamic evolution of the Eastern Dharwar Craton.

How many of the given point(s) is/are CORRECT?

(a) only one

(b) only two

(c) only three

(d) all are correct

(e) all are incorrect

Ans. b

Sol. President Murmu presents National Geoscience awards 2023

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu conferred the prestigious National Geoscience Awards (NGA) for the year 2023 at a grand ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre New Delhi.

This year, a total of 12 awards to 21 Geoscientists, including academicians and professionals from across the country, were honoured under three categories: National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement (01 award), National Geoscience Award (10 awards) and National Young Geoscientist Award (01 award) in various specialized fields of geosciences.

Prof Dhiraj Mohan Banerjee received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his pioneering work on phosphorites, isotope geology, and organic geochemistry. Dr Ashutosh Pandey was awarded the National Young Geoscientist Award for his groundbreaking research on the geodynamic evolution of the Eastern Dharwar Craton. The National Geoscience Awards continue to symbolize recognition and appreciation for outstanding achievements in geosciences, mineral exploration, and natural hazard investigations driving forward the pursuit of excellence and sustainable development.

253. In August 2024, which airport has won the title of Best Airport at the India Travel Awards?

अगस्त 2024 में, किस हवाई अड्डे ने इंडिया ट्रेवल अवार्ड्स में सर्वश्रेष्ठ हवाई अड्डे का खिताब जीता है?

- (a) Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi
- (b) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
- (c) Cochin International Airport, Kochi
- (d) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad
- (e) Mangaluru International Airport, Mangaluru

Ans. d

Sol. RGIA Hyderabad wins best airport award for third consecutive year

Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) has once again clinched the prestigious title of Best Airport at the India Travel Awards, marking its third consecutive win.

Last year, RGIA was also honored with Skytrax's 'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024' award in Frankfurt, Germany.

The airport received recognition at the Passenger Terminal EXPO 2024 in Frankfurt, Germany for emerging on top among all other airports across South Asia and India.

The RGIA team is dedicated to building upon this success and maintaining its position as the Best Airport. Ongoing efforts to improve infrastructure, upgrade facilities, and introduce innovative services will be crucial in sustaining this level of excellence.

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254. In August 2024, The Indian Navy signs an MoU with which among the following 'Schedule A' company under the Ministry of Defence, aiming to indigenize the design, development, manufacture, and support of critical Marine Engineering equipment and systems, in alignment with the GoI's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative?

अगस्त 2024 में, भारतीय नौसेना ने रक्षा मंत्रालय के तहत निम्नलिखित में से किस 'शेड्यूल A' कंपनी के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिसका उद्देश्य भारत सरकार की आत्मनिर्भर भारत पहल के अनुरूप महत्वपूर्ण समुद्री इंजीनियरिंग उपकरणों और प्रणालियों के डिजाइन, विकास, निर्माण और समर्थन को स्वदेशी बनाना है?

- (a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- (b) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- (c) Bharat Earth Movers Limited
- (d) Tata Advanced Systems
- (e) Bharat Electronics Limited

Ans. e

Sol. BEML signs MoU with Indian Navy to develop advanced marine applications for Defence

Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), which is into defence and heavy engineering manufacturing, has signed an MoU with the Directorate of Marine Engineering, Indian Navy, for indigenous design, development, manufacture, testing, and product support of critical marine equipment and systems.

Aligned with the Government of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, the partnership aims to strengthen self-reliance in defence production and minimise reliance on foreign imports.

This initiative is a pivotal step in enhancing bilateral cooperation for indigenous design, development, manufacture, testing and product support of critical Marine Engineering equipment and systems.

255. Who is the author of the book 'Modi's Governance Triumph: Reshaping India's Path to Prosperity'?

मोदीज गवर्नेस ट्रायम्फ: रीशेपिंग इंडियाज पाथ टू प्रॉस्पेरिटी' नामक पुस्तक के लेखक कौन हैं?

- (a) Tarun Chugh
- (b) Amit Shah
- (c) J. P. Nadda
- (d) Manohar Lal Khattar
- (e) Shivraj Singh Chauhan

Ans. a

Sol. Amit Shah releases Tarun Chugh's book 'Modi's Governance Triumph: Reshaping India's Path to Prosperity'

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has released a book written by BJP leader Tarun Chugh which, captures the "transformative" changes brought by the Modi government in a host of sectors and regions, including in the poll-bound Jammu and Kashmir.

The book 'Modi's Governance Triumph: Reshaping India's Path to Prosperity' was "inspired" by the prime minister's decades-long public life which was always "dedicated" to the country.

It examines the broad spectrum of Narendra Modi's policies, including the 'Make in India' campaign designed to boost domestic manufacturing and attract foreign investment. This initiative is analysed alongside the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Recent Book

- **Breaking Rocks and Barriers** - Sudipta Sengupta
- **Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi'** - Dr R Balasubramaniam
- **I have the Streets** - R Ashwin & Sidharth Monga
- **Gateways to the Sea** - launched by Governor of Maharashtra Ramesh Bais
- **The Adventures of Ed-a-Mamma: Ed Finds A Home** – launched by Alia Bhatt

256. In August 2024, India signed a loan package of USD 500 million with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve access to quality and affordable tertiary health care and medical education in which state?

अगस्त 2024 में, भारत ने किस राज्य में गुणवत्तापूर्ण और सस्ती तृतीयक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल और चिकित्सा शिक्षा तक पहुंच में सुधार के लिए एशियाई विकास बैंक (ADB) के साथ 500 मिलियन अमरीकी डालर के ऋण पैकेज पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Manipur
- (e) Mizoram

Ans. c

Sol. ADB commits USD 500 mn loan for improving healthcare in Maharashtra

India has signed a loan package of USD 500 million with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve access to quality and affordable tertiary health care and medical education in Maharashtra.

The loan will help establish four medical colleges attached to tertiary care teaching hospitals incorporating climate- and disaster-resilient, gender-responsive, and socially inclusive features in under-served districts.

It will increase bed capacity in government tertiary care hospitals and hire at least 500 new doctors for four new governmental medical colleges.

It also aims to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure through better availability of quality drugs; support efficient management of assets and their sustainability through a first-of-its-kind policy in the Indian health sector on climate-resilient asset planning, management, and sustainability; and develop healthy competition among medical colleges through the performance management system.

Recent Loan approved by ADB

- India and ADB sign \$200 million **to improve solid waste management and sanitation in 100 cities across eight states in the country**
- India and ADB sign \$200 million **to expand metro rail corridors and improve transport connectivity in Nagpur**
- India and ADB sign \$240.5 million **to rooftop solar system** in India
- India and ADB sign \$170 million **to strengthen pandemic preparedness and response**
- India and ADB sign \$181 million **to improve livability, mobility in Ahmedabad**
- India and ADB sign \$200 million loan **to tackle flood and erosion risk along Brahmaputra River**

257. World Mosquito Day is observed annually on which day?

विश्व मच्छर दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) August 20
- (b) August 19
- (c) August 21
- (d) August 22
- (e) August 23

Ans. a

Sol. 20 August - World Mosquito Day

World Mosquito Day is observed annually on 20 August.

Objective - To raise awareness about the persistent threat posed by mosquitoes, which are responsible for spreading some of the deadliest diseases known to humanity.

Theme 2024 - Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world

On August 20, 1897, Sir Ronald Ross made a groundbreaking discovery when he found the malaria parasite in the stomach of a female Anopheles mosquito. This discovery revolutionised medical science by providing the first evidence that mosquitoes transmit malaria to humans.

 **ambitious baba**
INDIA'S NO.1 GOVERNMENT JOBS PORTAL

258. International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed annually on which day?

आतंकवाद के पीड़ितों की स्मृति और श्रद्धांजलि का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) August 20
- (b) August 19
- (c) August 21
- (d) August 22
- (e) August 23

Ans. a

Sol. 20 August - International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed annually on 20 August.

The commemoration of this day is of particular importance for the countries of the African continent located along the Sahara-Sahelian Belt, which are on the front line in the global fight against terrorism.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a significant resolution, 72/165, on December 20, 2017, establishing the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. The resounding consensus that endorsed this resolution underscores the global commitment to confronting terrorism and standing by its victims.

The selection of August 21 as the designated date holds special meaning. This day honors the memory of the tragic 2003 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq. The attack claimed 22 lives, including Sergio Vieira de Mello, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

259. Who has inaugurated the 19th CII India Africa Business Conclave?

19वें CII भारत अफ्रीका बिजनेस कॉन्क्लेव का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

- (a) Jagdeep Dhankhar
- (b) S Jaishankar
- (c) Ajit Doval
- (d) Droupadi Murmu
- (e) Narendra Modi

Ans. a

Sol. VP Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurates 19th CII India-Africa Business Conclave

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has inaugurated the 19th CII India Africa Business Conclave in New Delhi.

The theme of the 19th CII India Africa Business Conclave is - Creating One Future.

The Conclave will explore the role of the India-Africa partnership in regional and global value chain integration.

The 19th Conclave will focus on some of the key areas of the India-Africa partnership and emerging opportunities in Agriculture, Food Processing, Defence, Healthcare Pharmaceuticals, Digital Partnership, Power and Energy, Financial Partnership, Infrastructure, Quality Ecosystem, Skill Capacity Development, and others.

The first edition of the CII India Africa Business Conclave was held in 2005.

Jagdeep Dhankhar in News

- VP Jagdeep Dhankhar has inaugurated the Prerna Sthal in Parliament Complex
- VP Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurates World Sustainable Development Summit in Delhi
- VP Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated a year-long pan-India campaign 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman'.
- VP Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the 12th General Assembly of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace in New Delhi

260. In August 2024, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Posts, which is part of the Communications Ministry under the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). What is the aim of this MoU?

अगस्त 2024 में खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग (KVIC) ने प्रधानमंत्री रोजगार सृजन कार्यक्रम (PMEGP) के तहत संचार मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत आने वाले डाक विभाग के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। इस समझौता ज्ञापन का उद्देश्य क्या है?

- (a) To improve postal services
- (b) To promote digital transactions
- (c) To physical verification of new units being set up across the Country
- (d) To enhance training for MSMEs
- (e) To verify PMEGP units and support entrepreneurship

Ans. c

Sol. KVIC partners with Department of Posts to accelerate PMEGP unit verification

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Posts, which is part of the Communications Ministry.

Under this MoU, the postal department employees will physically verify new units being set up across the country under the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

KVIC will also train the postal department employees for physical verification.

Through this, KVIC will benefit from the services of 1,65,000 post offices spread across the country, out of which 1,39,067 are working in rural areas.

Through this, along with physical verification of PMEGP units, margin money subsidy will also be settled at a faster pace.

Since the inception of the scheme, PMEGP has supported the setting up of more than 9.69 lakh new projects and generated employment for more than 84.64 lakh entrepreneurs.

So far, a margin money subsidy of ₹25,563.44 crore has been distributed through this scheme against a loan of ₹ 69021.29 crore. In the last financial year 2023-24 itself, PMEGP has generated employment for more than 9.80 lakh entrepreneurs and distributed margin money subsidy of more than ₹3,093 crore.

261. In August 2024, which of the following introduced a new feature called 'UPI Circle' on its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform allowing primary account holders to securely delegate payment responsibilities to trusted secondary users in which UPI user acts as a primary link with their trusted secondary users on their UPI App for either partial or full delegation?

अगस्त 2024 में, निम्न में से किसने अपने यूनिफाइड पेमेंट्स इंटरफेस (UPI) प्लेटफॉर्म पर 'UPI सर्किल' नामक एक नई सुविधा शुरू की, जिससे प्राथमिक खाताधारकों को विश्वसनीय द्वितीयक उपयोगकर्ताओं को भुगतान जिम्मेदारियों को सुरक्षित रूप से सौंपने की अनुमति मिलती है, जिसमें UPI उपयोगकर्ता आंशिक या पूर्ण प्रतिनिधिमंडल के लिए अपने UPI ऐप पर अपने विश्वसनीय द्वितीयक उपयोगकर्ताओं के साथ प्राथमिक लिंक के रूप में कार्य करता है?

- (a) National Stock Exchange
- (b) Ministry of Finance
- (c) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- (d) Reserve Bank of India
- (e) National Payments Corporation of India

Ans. e

Sol. NPCI launches 'UPI Circle' for Secure Payments Among Trusted Users

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has introduced a new feature called 'UPI Circle' on its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform. This feature allows primary UPI account holders to securely delegate payment responsibilities to trusted secondary users.

What is UPI Circle?

UPI Circle-Delegate Payments is a feature where a UPI user acts as a primary link with their trusted secondary users on their UPI App for either partial or full delegation.

How UPI Circle-Delegate Payments Work?

- Primary User: The account holder who initiates and controls the delegation.
- Secondary User: A trusted individual granted either partial or full access to the account for making payments.

Types of Delegation

- Full Delegation: The secondary user is authorised to complete transactions within set limits without further approval.
- Partial Delegation: The secondary user initiates transactions, but the primary user must authenticate and finalise them using their UPI PIN.

Benefits and Considerations

- UPI Circle enhances convenience by allowing payments on behalf of dependents while maintaining security through controlled access. It is particularly useful for managing payments for children or elderly dependents, reducing fraud risk, and ensuring budget adherence.
- The feature also opens up possibilities for micro-communities within gig economies, enabling easy real-time payments. However, primary users must carefully manage and restrict delegation to trusted individuals.

262. Which country's government has recently announced visa-free access to citizens from 35 countries, including India, the U.K. and the U.S. to the island nation for six months from Oct 31?

किस देश की सरकार ने हाल ही में भारत, ब्रिटेन और अमेरिका सहित 35 देशों के नागरिकों को 31 अक्टूबर से छह महीने के लिए द्वीप राष्ट्र में वीजा-मुक्त पहुंच की घोषणा की है?

- (a) Sri Lanka
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Mauritius
- (d) Maldives
- (e) Singapore

Ans. a

Sol. Sri Lanka announces visa-free access to Indians, nationals from 34 other countries from Oct 31

The Sri Lankan government has announced visa-free access to citizens from 35 countries, including India, the U.K. and the U.S. to the island nation for six months.

Countries on the list include India, the U.K., China, the U.S., Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Australia, Denmark, Poland, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Nepal, Indonesia, Russia, and Thailand.

Other countries include Malaysia, Japan, France, Canada, the Czech Republic, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Israel, Belarus, Iran, Sweden, South Korea, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and New Zealand.

Visitors from India, China, Russia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia received tourist visas free of charge to Sri Lanka.

About Sri Lanka

- **Legislative capital** - Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- **Executive and Judicial capital** - Colombo
- **Currency** - Sri Lankan rupee
- **President** - Ranil Wickremesinghe
- **Prime Minister** - Dinesh Gunawardena

263. Which bank and financial services company Navi Technologies have launched the credit line on UPI, an offering by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)?

किस बैंक और वित्तीय सेवा कंपनी नवी टेक्नोलॉजीज ने भारतीय राष्ट्रीय भुगतान निगम (एनपीसीआई) की पेशकश यूपीआई पर क्रेडिट लाइन शुरू की है?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) ICICI Bank
- (c) Axis Bank
- (d) Karnataka Bank
- (e) Yes Bank

Ans. d

Sol. Karnataka Bank unveils credit line on UPI in partnership with Navi Technologies

Karnataka Bank and financial services company Navi Technologies have launched the credit line on UPI, an offering by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

The private sector lender will be offering credit lines through a strategic partnership with Navi, marking Karnataka Bank as one of the early adopters of this next-gen credit product.

This is currently offered to a closed group of select users who are pre-qualified for the product, and it will be launched to more users based on customer feedback.

The product provides freedom to credit access and is expected to revolutionise how people pay without cards through UPI.

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

264. Consider the following points about 3 online platforms to promote efficiency and transparency of the power sector recently launched by the union Power minister and find the INCORRECT point.

केंद्रीय विद्युत मंत्री द्वारा हाल ही में लॉन्च किए गए विद्युत क्षेत्र की दक्षता और पारदर्शिता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए 3 ऑनलाइन प्लेटफॉर्म के बारे में निम्नलिखित बिंदुओं पर विचार करें और गलत बिंदु का पता लगाएं।

- (a) Manohar Lal Khattar launched three online platforms to enhance the power sector's efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness
- (b) The portals are named PROMPT, DRIPS and JAL VIDYUT DPR.
- (c) The portals have been developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency under the Union Ministry of Power.
- (d) NTPC helped the Central Electricity Authority in developing the PROMPT platform.
- (e) All are correct

Ans. c

Sol. Manohar Lal Khattar launches 3 Online Platforms to Boost Power Sector Efficiency & Transparency

Union Minister of Power Manohar Lal Khattar has launched three online platforms to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness of power sector in New Delhi.

The portals are named as Portal for Online Monitoring of Projects – Thermal (PROMPT), Disaster Resilient Infrastructure for Power Sector (DRIPS) and JAL VIDYUT DPR.

All these online portals have been developed by the Central Electricity Authority under the Union Ministry of Power. NTPC helped the Central Electricity Authority in developing the PROMPT platform.

About PROMPT Portal

- The PROMPT (Portal for Online Monitoring of Projects—Thermal) will facilitate real-time analysis and tracking of thermal power projects under construction in India online.
- This is expected to quickly identify and resolve the issue that leads to delays in the construction of thermal power plants.

About DRIPS portal

- The Disaster Resource Inventory for Power Sector (DRIPS) online portal has been built to quickly identify power disruptions in the country due to natural disasters like cyclones, earthquakes, flooding etc.
- It will link the designated nodal officers of all the departments of the power sector and other agencies in the affected districts and states so that necessary steps are taken to quickly restore power in the affected areas.

About JAL VIDYUT DPR Platform

- The JAL VIDYUT DPR (Monitoring Survey and Investigation Activities of Hydroelectric Projects and Pumped Storage Projects) will provide the real-time status of Hydroelectric pumped storage projects under construction in various parts of the country.
- This will ensure better management and coordination for the construction of the pumped hydroelectric plants.

265. In August 2024, which organization partnered with the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) to scale up indigenous Zinc-ion battery technologies and develop new variants of zinc materials?

अगस्त 2024 में, किस संगठन ने स्वदेशी जिंक-आयन बैटरी प्रौद्योगिकियों को बढ़ाने और जिंक सामग्री के नए प्रकार विकसित करने के लिए जवाहरलाल नेहरू सेंटर फॉर एडवांस्ड साइंटिफिक रिसर्च (JNCASR) के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Vedanta Limited
- (b) Bharat Aluminum Company
- (c) Tata Steel Ltd
- (d) Sterlite Copper
- (e) Hindustan Zinc Ltd.,

Ans. e

Sol. JNCASR partners with HZL to scale up indigenous Zn-ion battery technologies

Vedanta-owned Hindustan Zinc Ltd., India's largest integrated zinc producer, has signed an MoU with the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) to collaborate and develop new variants of zinc materials to propel the commercialisation of zinc-based batteries.

At present, lithium-ion batteries dominate the market but lithium availability, geographic concentration of mineral processing, and safety concerns around combustion issues pose some key challenges to the advancement of sustainable energy solutions.

The indigenous development of zinc-based batteries will also help the exchequer save due to the element's abundance within the country. Some of the widely recognized zinc-based battery chemistries include zinc-manganese, zinc-carbon, nickel-zinc, and zinc-air.

The collaboration will focus on the research and development of zinc alloys as anodes for zinc ion and zinc air batteries, developing electrolytes for high-performance zinc alloy anodes, and designing and developing chemical processes for recycling zinc metal-based batteries.

266. Ola Electric's S1 X 3 kWh and S1 X 4 kWh scooters have received certification for compliance with the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for the automobile and auto components sector. In which year PLI Scheme was launched?

ओला इलेक्ट्रिक के S1 X 3 kWh और S1 X 4 kWh स्कूटरों को ऑटोमोबाइल और ऑटो कंपोनेंट सेक्टर के लिए प्रोडक्शन लिंकड इंसेंटिव (PLI) योजना के अनुपालन के लिए प्रमाणन प्राप्त हुआ है। PLI योजना किस वर्ष शुरू की गई थी?

- (a) 2019
- (b) 2020
- (c) 2021
- (d) 2023
- (e) 2024

Ans. c

Sol. Ola becomes only EV maker to secure PLI certification for four electric scooters

Ola Electric's S1 X 3 kWh and S1 X 4 kWh scooters have received certification for compliance with the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for the automobile and auto components sector.

This certification, awarded by the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), comes after Ola Electric successfully met the minimum localisation criteria of 50% as mandated by the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

The company stands to receive incentives ranging from 13% to 18% of the determined sales value of compliant products for up to five consecutive financial years starting from Fiscal 2024.

With this Ola Electric has become the only EV maker to get PLI compliance certification for four products: S1 Air, S1 Pro, and S1 X models in both 3 kWh and 4 kWh versions. The S1 Air received PLI certification earlier at the Auto PLI Conclave held in January 2024.

About PLI Scheme

- The PLI scheme, unveiled by the government in 2021 with a budgetary outlay of INR 25,938 crore, aims to boost domestic manufacturing of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products and attract investments in the automotive manufacturing value chain.
- The scheme focuses on Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs), such as Battery Electric and Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicles, by providing financial incentives to automobile OEMs and component makers.

267. Consider the following point about Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2024 recently presented by President Draupadi Murmu-

(i) It is the first edition of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar.

(ii) 33 awards were presented to distinguished scientists in five categories - Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva, Vigyan Bhushan and Vigyan Team.

(iii) The Vigyan Team Award was given to the team of Aditya L1.

(iv) The Vigyan Ratna Award was given to Prof. Govindarajan Padmanabhan.

How many of the given point(s) is/are INCORRECT?

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

Ans. b

Sol. President Murmu presents Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2024

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu presented the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar-2024 at an award ceremony held at Gantantra Mandap, Rashtrapati Bhavan.

In the first edition of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar, 33 awards were presented to distinguished scientists in four categories - Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva, and Vigyan Team.

The Vigyan Ratna Award, given to the scientists who have made lifetime contributions in any field of Science and Technology, was presented to Prof. Govindarajan Padmanabhan, a pioneer of molecular biology and biotechnology research in India.

The Vigyan Shri Awards, given to the scientists who have made distinguished contributions to Science and Technology, were presented to 13 scientists for their path-breaking research in their respective domains.

The Vigyan Yuva-SSB award, given to recognize scientists who have exceptionally contributed to any field of science and technology, was given to 18 scientists for their significant contribution in the areas spanning from the study on the warming of the Indian Ocean, and its consequences, to the development of indigenous 5G base stations and communication and precision tests of quantum mechanics.

The Vigyan Team Award, given to a team of 3 or more scientists for making ground-breaking research contributions in any field of science and technology, was given to the team of Chandrayaan-3 for the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 lander.

268. Which country's Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology participated with its BRICS counterparts at the launch of the Industrial Capability Centre in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to support the development of industrial skills and capabilities?

किस देश के उद्योग और उन्नत प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय ने औद्योगिक कौशल और क्षमताओं के विकास का समर्थन करने के लिए संयुक्त राष्ट्र औद्योगिक विकास संगठन (यूएनआईडीओ) के सहयोग से औद्योगिक क्षमता केंद्र के शुभारंभ पर अपने ब्रिक्स समकक्षों के साथ भाग लिया?

- (a) Russia
- (b) China
- (c) South Africa
- (d) India
- (e) UAE

Ans. e

Sol. UAE joins BRICS partners for launch of Centre for Industrial Competences

The UAE Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology joined its BRICS counterparts on the launch of a Centre for Industrial Competences in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) to support the development of Industrial skills and capabilities.

The declaration was made at the 8th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting, bringing industry, trade and technology ministries together from the UAE, Russia, Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iran, and South Africa.

The meeting, chaired by Russia, takes place under the theme of "strengthening multilateralism for equitable global development and security".

The centre will promote partnerships within the framework of the New Industrial Revolution (NIR) to identify interests, challenges, and opportunities in the rapidly evolving industrial landscape. In addition, the centre aims to enable industry and the develop industrial skills of its members.

The declaration includes discussions to create several working groups, including the chemical industry, metals, SMEs, smart manufacturing, clean technology, and medical equipment.

The declaration recognises the role of the PartNIR (Partnership on New Industrial Revolution) Innovation Centre, which focuses on policy coordination, personnel training, and project development.

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

269. Which among the following institutions has announced the establishment of India's first Constitution Museum, "The Constitution Academy and The Rights & Freedoms Museum," to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution?

निम्नलिखित में से किस संस्थान ने संविधान को अपनाने की 75वीं वर्षगांठ मनाने के लिए भारत के पहले संविधान संग्रहालय, "संविधान अकादमी और अधिकार एवं स्वतंत्रता संग्रहालय" की स्थापना की घोषणा की है?

- (a) Delhi University
- (b) IIT Delhi
- (c) National Law School of India University
- (d) Lovely Professional University
- (e) Jindal Global University

Ans. e

Sol. JGU to establish India's First Constitution Museum for 75th Anniversary of Constitution

O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) is set to launch India's first Constitution Museum, marking the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India.

The museum, named "The Constitution Academy and The Rights & Freedoms Museum," will be inaugurated on November 26, 2024, at the JGU campus.

The museum aims to "demystify the Constitution and make it accessible to wider audiences." The museum will feature a Children's Corner with interactive installations and educational materials designed to introduce young visitors to the Constitution in an engaging manner.

The Constitution Academy will feature sections dedicated to different parts of the Constitution and their significance. It will include profiles of Constituent Assembly members, debates, and deliberations that shaped the Constitution. The museum will use various formats, including textual, audio-visual, and experiential, to engage visitors.

270. In August 2024, who has assumed charge as Secretary to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)?

अगस्त 2024 में, कॉर्पोरेट मामलों के मंत्रालय (MCA) के सचिव के रूप में किसने पदभार ग्रहण किया है?

- (a) Jaideep Singh
- (b) Amardeep Singh Bhatia
- (c) T V Somanathan
- (d) Vikram Misri
- (e) Giridhar Aramane

Ans. b

Sol. Amardeep Singh Bhatia assumes charge as MCA Secretary

Deepti Gaur Mukherjee, a 1993 batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, has assumed charge as Secretary to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).

She has succeeded Manoj Govil, who has assumed charge as the Expenditure Secretary.

Prior to this appointment, Mukherjee was the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Health Authority.

She takes over as the top official of MCA at a time when the Ministry is working on a slew of legislations and reforms that may be introduced in the next few months.

Other Important Secretaries

- **Foreign Secretary** - Vikram Misri (replace Vinay Mohan Kwatra)
- **Home Secretary** - Govind Mohan (replace Ajay Kumar Bhalla)
- **Cabinet Secretary** – T V Somanathan (replace Rajiv Gauba)
- **Secretary of DPIIT** - Amardeep Singh Bhatia
- **Revenue Secretary** - Sanjay Malhotra
- **Defence Secretary** - Giridhar Aramane
- **Economic Affairs Secretary** - Ajay Seth
- **Finance Secretary** - T. V. Somanathan
- **MoSPI Secretary** - Dr. G. P. Samanta

271. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed annually on which day?

दास व्यापार और उसके उन्मूलन की स्मृति हेतु अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) August 20
- (b) August 21
- (c) August 22
- (d) August 23
- (e) August 24

Ans. d

Sol. 23 August - International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed annually on August 23.

This day raises awareness about the horrifying nature of the slave trade and reminds people about the transatlantic slave trade and its implications.

The transatlantic trading patterns were established in the mid-17 century. It involved trading ships from Europe, sailing from Europe with manufactured goods to the west coast of Africa, where the goods would be exchanged for people captured by African traders. More than 480,000 people were enslaved in the British Colonies by the 1790s. Enslaved people were forced to toil on plantations in the Caribbean and the Americas. These plantations produced products such as sugar or tobacco meant for consumption in Europe.

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272. World Senior Citizens Day is observed every year on which day?

विश्व वरिष्ठ नागरिक दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) August 20
- (b) August 21
- (c) August 22
- (d) August 23
- (e) August 24

Ans. b

Sol. 21 August - World Senior Citizens Day

World Senior Citizens Day is observed every year on 21 August.

This day aims to raise awareness of the issues being faced by older adults like health deterioration and elder abuse.

It is also celebrated to acknowledge their contributions towards society.

273. Former _____ Chief Minister Salseng C Marak passed away at the age of 82.

पूर्व _____ मुख्यमंत्री साल्सेंग सी मारक का 82 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया।

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Mizoram
- (c) Manipur
- (d) Meghalaya
- (e) Nagaland

Ans. d

Sol. Former Meghalaya CM Salseng Marak passes away

Former Meghalaya Chief Minister Salseng C Marak passed away at the age of 82.

Marak became the first chief minister of the state to complete a five-year term in 1993.

He also held the office of the CM for the shortest time - 12 days - in 1998 when the Congress-led coalition collapsed.

He also served as the state Congress chief in 2003

274. The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) is organizing the next World Water Week on 25-29 August 2024.

What is the theme of this water week?

स्टॉकहोम इंटरनेशनल वाटर इंस्टीट्यूट (SIWI) 25-29 अगस्त 2024 को अगला विश्व जल सप्ताह आयोजित कर रहा है। इस जल सप्ताह का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Save Water, Save Life
- (b) Save future
- (c) Bridging the Gap
- (d) Save Water Save Earth
- (e) Bridging Borders

Ans. e

Sol. 25-29 August - World Water Week

The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) is organising the next World Water Week on 25-29 August 2024.

World Water Week is the leading conference on global water issues, held every year since 1991, and the theme for this year's conference is "Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future".

This powerful theme encapsulates the urgent need for global cooperation in addressing water-related challenges that transcend national boundaries.

The role of governance is critical when it comes to defusing tensions and preventing conflicts from escalating. It is important to learn from experiences from different contexts and analyze how governance structures can be more dynamic, flexible, and participatory."

275. National Sports Day is celebrated every year on which day?

राष्ट्रीय खेल दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 26 August
- (b) 27 August
- (c) 28 August
- (d) 29 August
- (e) 30 August

Ans. d

Sol. 29 August - National Sports Day

National Sports Day is celebrated every year on 29 August.

The day commemorates the birth anniversary of greatest field hockey player Major Dhyan Chand.

Theme 2024 - Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society.

The Indian government officials announced to celebrate National Sports Day in 2012 marking August 29 as a day to recognise sports excellence. The date was selected to pay tribute to Major Dhyan Chand, also known as the 'Wizard of Hockey'.

Major Dhyan Chand was born on August 29, 1905, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. His career spanned from 1926 to 1948, when he played 185 matches for India scoring over 400 goals.

His excellent performance brought the golden period for Indian hockey as he led India to win three gold medals in 1928, 1932 and 1936.

To honour him, the Indian government renamed Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award to Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2021, presented by the president of India.

The President of India annually recognised the achievement and contributions of Major Chand in hockey. Last year, In 2023, badminton players Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy were awarded this prestigious honour.

276. In August 2024, In a significant collaboration to enhance cooperative management in the fisheries sector, ICAR-CIFE signed an MoU with which among the following institutes to explore opportunities in fishery cooperatives, education, and research?

अगस्त 2024 में, मत्स्य पालन क्षेत्र में सहकारी प्रबंधन को बढ़ाने के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण सहयोग में, ICAR-CIFE ने मत्स्य सहकारी समितियों, शिक्षा और अनुसंधान में अवसरों का पता लगाने के लिए निम्नलिखित में से किस संस्थान के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Balaji Institute of Modern Management
- (b) Symbiosis Institute of Business Management
- (c) S. P. Jain Institute of Management and Research
- (d) Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management
- (e) Sydenham Institute of Management Studies, Research and Entrepreneurship Education

Ans. d

Sol. ICAR-CIFE and VAMNICOM Sign MoU to Enhance Cooperative Management in Fisheries

In a significant stride towards fostering collaboration in the field of cooperative management within the fisheries sector, the Central Institute of Fisheries Education (ICAR-CIFE) and the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

This is an important step forward in realization of the vision of establishment of 2 lakh PACS, Dairy, and Fishery Cooperatives in every Panchayat.

Fisheries in India provides livelihood to 14.46 million people and this strategic partnership aims to enhance integration and reach of advanced technology as well as promotion of value addition in fishery cooperatives.

VAMNICOM and ICAR-CIFE will together explore new opportunities in the area of Fish, Fish cooperative and Fisheries ecosystem from the perspective of education, research, capacity building and consultancy.

277. In August 2024, which organization signed an MoU with the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, RINL for the supply of hydraulic and lubricating oils & greases for a period of 5 years from 2024 to 2029?

अगस्त 2024 में, किस संगठन ने 2024 से 2029 तक 5 वर्षों की अवधि के लिए हाइड्रोलिक और चिकनाई तेल और ग्रीस की आपूर्ति के लिए विशाखापत्तनम स्टील प्लांट की कॉर्पोरेट इकाई, RINL के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) ONGC
- (b) IOCL
- (c) NTPC
- (d) HPCL
- (e) BPCL

Ans. b

Sol. RINL & IOCL ink MoU towards the supply of hydraulic and lubricating oils & greases to RINL

The corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, RINL has signed an MoU with M/s. IOCL for the supply of hydraulic and lubricating oils & greases for a period of 5 years from 2024 to 2029.

This MoU between RINL & IOCL will stand as a benchmark to show how a progressive collaborative work can be taken by different industries towards Nation building.

It may be noted that the 1st MoU was signed in the year 1994-95 between RINL & IOCL.

This MOU will benefit VSP by ensuring an uninterrupted and continuous supply of lubricants from IOCL to meet the RINL's requirements. IOCL will provide technical support to RINL, Visakhapatnam steel plant in the field of lubrication, condition monitoring of critical and large hydraulic and lube systems, total bulk oil handling, and used oil management.

278. In August 2024, which ministry approved 4 Start-Ups in the field of Technical Textiles, each receiving a grant of approximately INR 50 Lakhs under the 'Grant for Research & Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT)' scheme?

अगस्त 2024 में, किस मंत्रालय ने तकनीकी वस्त्र के क्षेत्र में 4 स्टार्ट-अप को मंजूरी दी, जिनमें से प्रत्येक को तकनीकी वस्त्रों में आकांक्षी नवप्रवर्तकों के लिए अनुसंधान और उद्यमिता के लिए अनुदान (GREAT) योजना के तहत लगभग 50 लाख रुपये का अनुदान प्राप्त होगा?

- (a) Ministry of MSMEs
- (b) Ministry of Textiles
- (c) Ministry of Commerce
- (d) Ministry of Finance
- (e) Ministry of Ayush

Ans. b

Sol. Government approves 4 Start-Ups in the field of Technical Textiles

Secretary, Ministry of Textiles chaired the 8th Empowered Programme Committee (EPC) meeting under the National Technical Textiles Mission, at Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.

The committee has approved 4 Start-Ups with a grant of approx. INR 50 Lakhs, each, under the 'Grant for Research & Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT)' scheme.

The committee has also approved a grant of approx. INR 20 Cr. to 5 Education Institutes to introduce courses in Technical Textiles under the 'General Guidelines for Enabling of Academic Institutes in Technical Textiles'.

The approved Start-Up projects are focused on key strategic areas of Composites, Sustainable Textiles, and Smart Textiles.

The approved Education Institutes have proposed to introduce a new B.Tech courses in different fields and applications of technical textiles including Geotextiles, Geosynthetics, Composites, Civil Structures, etc.

279. In August 2024, which telecom company has partnered with Apple to bring exclusive offers for Apple Music and Apple TV+ to customers in India with premium wifi and postpaid plans?

अगस्त 2024 में, किस दूरसंचार कंपनी ने प्रीमियम वाईफाई और पोस्टपेड योजनाओं के साथ भारत में ग्राहकों के लिए Apple Music और Apple TV+ के लिए विशेष ऑफ़र लाने के लिए Apple के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Reliance Jio
- (b) Bharti Airtel
- (c) Vodafone Idea
- (d) BSNL
- (e) MTNL

Ans. b

Sol. India's Bharti Airtel announces content partnership with Apple

Bharti Airtel has partnered with Apple to bring exclusive offers for Apple Music and Apple TV+ to customers in India later this year.

Apple TV+ will be included on Airtel's video-streaming service Xstream with premium wifi and postpaid plans, and users of the company's music-streaming service, Wynk Premium, will have access to offers on Apple Music.

This comes as Disney and Reliance try to secure India antitrust approval for their \$8.5 billion merger, aiming to create India's biggest entertainment player.

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280. Consider the following points about the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)-

(i) The PMJDY has observed its 10th anniversary on 28 August 2024.

(ii) A significant boost in the bank account ownership of women in a decade, has gone up from just 26 per cent in 2011 to 78 per cent in 2021.

(iii) The gender gap in accessing financial services was 20 per cent in 2011, and it has been reduced to 6 per cent in 2017 which was less than the Global gap of 9 per cent.

(iv) The scheme launched in 2014, has proven to be the foundation stone in bringing over 80 per cent of Indian women under the ambit of financial inclusion.

How many of the given point(s) is/are CORRECT?

(a) only one

(b) only two

(c) only three

(d) all are correct

(e) all are incorrect

Ans. d

Sol. PMJDY completes a decade of successful implementation

The world's largest financial inclusion programme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) completed 10 years on 28 August 2024.

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched by the government of India on 28 August 2014 with the aim of bringing the unbanked population within the formal banking system.

The scheme launched in 2014, has proven to be the foundation stone in bringing over 80 percent of Indian women under the ambit of financial inclusion.

A significant boost in the bank account ownership of women in a decade, it has gone up from just 26 percent in 2011 to 78 percent in 2021.

Out of the total 53.13 crore Jan Dhan accounts over 30 crore are women's accounts. Over 35 crore of the Jan Dhan account hail from rural or semi-urban areas.

PM Jan Dhan Yojana has diminished the rural-urban divide in terms of bank accounts. The percentage of households that have a bank account or a post office account is now almost the same in urban and rural areas, 95 percent vs 96 percent respectively.

PM Jan Dhan Yojana has also bridged the gender gap in access to financial services. The gender gap in accessing financial services was 20 percent in 2011, and it has been reduced to 6 percent in 2017 which was less than the Global gap of 9 percent.

PMJDY has other benefits as well in terms of financial inclusion. As of August 2024, over 36.13 crores of RuPay debit cards are issued without any cost to Jan Dhan account holders.

The RuPay debit card is free of cost, gives an insurance benefit of ₹ 2 lakh along with an overdraft facility of up to Rs 10,000 to every cardholder.

PMJDY has been the foundation stone for many more people-centric economic initiatives. Whether it is direct benefit transfers, COVID-19 financial assistance, PM-KISAN, increased wages under MGNREGA, or life and health insurance.

India has surpassed China in financial inclusion metrics says the SBI report of 2021. Mobile and Internet banking transactions soared to 13,615 per 1,000 adults in 2020 up from 183 in 2015, while the number of bank branches per 100,000 adults rose to 14.7, exceeding those in Germany, China, and South Africa.

India's account ownership more than doubled from 35 percent in 2011 to 78 percent in 2021. All these are because of the government's various initiatives for financial inclusion.

281. Which ministry has launched the second cycle of its Capacity Building Program on Specific Learning Disability (SLD) under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme (MMTTP)?

किस मंत्रालय ने मालवीय मिशन शिक्षक प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम (एमएमटीटीपी) के तहत विशिष्ट शिक्षण विकलांगता (एसएलडी) पर अपने क्षमता निर्माण कार्यक्रम का दूसरा चक्र शुरू किया है?

- (a) Ministry of MSMEs
- (b) Ministry of Culture
- (c) Ministry of Ayush
- (d) Ministry of Family Welfare
- (e) Ministry of Education

Ans. e

Sol. Ministry of Education launches second cycle of Capacity Building Program on Specific Learning Disability

The Ministry of Education has launched the second cycle of its Capacity Building Program on Specific Learning Disability (SLD) under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme (MMTTP).

Building on the success of the first cycle, this programme is designed to empower Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) with the skills and knowledge necessary, to support students with specific learning disabilities.

The first round of the 'Capacity Building Program on Specific Learning Disabilities' was conducted from January to July 2024 partnered with Changeinkk Foundation. In the first round, a cohort of 27 HEIs participated in the programme including Central Universities, IITs, IIITs, IIMs, IISERs, SPAs, and NITs.

As part of the programme, different sessions were conducted, viz., Orientation Session, Sensitization Session, Masterclasses, In-Person Zone-wise Workshop, and Monitoring of Implementation. More than 400 faculty members from different departments of these institutions benefited.

The second cycle of the programme that started today will run till December 2024, with sessions to be held both online and in-person with a new set of identified HEIs. It will focus on strategies and tools for identifying and assessing the students with SLD and addressing their needs. The focus of this programme will be on sensitizing the heads of the Institutions; the Heads of five departments along with the two nominees each from respective department.

282. Which Tamil actor has recently launched his party Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam?

हाल ही में किस तमिल अभिनेता ने अपनी पार्टी तमिलगा वेत्री कझगम लॉन्च की है?

- (a) Vijay
- (b) Vikram
- (c) R Madhvan
- (d) Surya
- (e) Dhanush

Ans. a

Sol. Actor Vijay launches his political party Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam's flag

Tamil cinema's leading actor and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam president Vijay launched his party's flag and flag song at the party headquarters at Panaiyur in Chennai.

Vijay introduced the two-coloured flag with red on top and bottom; yellow in the middle; and a flower resembling Vaagai surrounded by 28 stars at the centre with two trumpeting tuskers facing each other on either side.

Warriors of ancient Tamil kingdoms wore Vaagai flower garlands to symbolise victory. Mr. Vijay also hoisted the flag at the party's headquarters and launched the party's flag song Thamizhan Kodi Parakuthu.

Mr. Vijay had in February, this year announced the formation of his political party Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam and declared that his party would enter the electoral fray in the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.

283. Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman has recently inaugurated the GST Bhawan, an Official complex of CGST, in which city?

केंद्रीय वित्त और कॉर्पोरेट मामलों की मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने हाल ही में किस शहर में CGST के आधिकारिक परिसर, GST भवन का उद्घाटन किया है?

- (a) Udhampur
- (b) Udaipur
- (c) Uri
- (d) Ujjain
- (e) Unnao

Ans. b

Sol. Union FM Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates GST Bhawan at Udaipur

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the GST Bhawan, an Official complex of CGST, Udaipur Commissionerate under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), at Udaipur, Rajasthan.

The Union Finance Minister also launched ICETAB 2.0, a handheld device for customs operations, and expressed hope that it will help in uploading real-time examination reports and in quicker clearance of cargoes.

The complex is located at one of the most preferred locations in Udaipur.

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284. Which state government has launched the Subhadra scheme under which ₹50,000 will be provided over five years to one crore women between the ages of 21 and 60?

किस राज्य सरकार ने सुभद्रा योजना शुरू की है जिसके तहत 21 से 60 वर्ष की आयु की एक करोड़ महिलाओं को पांच वर्षों में ₹50,000 प्रदान किए जाएंगे?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Haryana
- (d) Madhya Pradesh
- (e) Uttar Pradesh

Ans. a

Sol. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi launched Subhadra scheme

The Bharatiya Janata Party Government led by Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, announced the implementation of the Subhadra scheme under which ₹50,000 will be provided over five years to one crore women between the ages of 21 and 60.

The Subhadra scheme is one of the key poll promises made by the BJP which came to power toppling 24 years rule of former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

The Scheme has been approved for implementation from the financial year 2024-25 to financial year 2028-29. An outlay of ₹55,825 crore has been made for this initiative.

Subhadra will transform the lives of more than one crore women of the State. It will cover all eligible women aged 21 years or above and less than 60 years.

A total of ₹10,000 per annum will be paid in two installments of ₹5000 each on Rakhi Purnima Day and International Women's Day (March 8).

About Odisha

- **Capital** – Bhubaneswar
- **Chief Minister** – Mohan Charan Majhi (replace Naveen Patnaik)
- **Deputy CM** - KV Singhdeo and Pravati Parida
- **Governor** – Raghubar Das
- **Legislative Assembly Seat** - 147

285. _____ has developed 'Prabodh' chatbox for easier access to railway rules.

ने रेलवे के नियमों तक आसान पहुंच के लिए 'प्रबोध' चैटबॉक्स विकसित किया है।

- (a) Eastern Railway
- (b) Western Railway
- (c) Southern Railway
- (d) Northern Railway
- (e) Central Railway

Ans. a

Sol. Eastern Railway develops 'Prabodh' chatbox for easier access to railway rules

The 161-year-old Kanchrapara Workshop of Eastern Railway (ER) in West Bengal -- one of the oldest such establishments in the country -- has come up with an Artificial Intelligence-based chatbox named 'Prabodh' to help ER employees remain abreast with the latest rules and regulations.

Prabodh is being touted as a human resource management wizard that will help employees give their best while keeping them informed about their responsibilities and rights.

Prabodh is not merely a chatbot; it is a groundbreaking innovation designed to streamline the complex world of Railway Establishment Rules. Developed by the personnel department at the Kanchrapara Workshop, Prabodh leverages the cutting-edge capabilities of the OpenAI platform to provide an intelligent, responsive, and user-centric experience.

286. Which bank has launched an Avni Saving Account for women customers?

किस बैंक ने महिला ग्राहकों के लिए अवनी बचत खाता शुरू किया है?

- (a) Axis Bank
- (b) Bandhan Bank
- (c) Citi Bank
- (d) ICICI Bank
- (e) HDFC Bank

Ans. b

Sol. Bandhan Bank launches Avni Saving Account for Women Customer Kolkata-based Indian Private sector bank Bandhan Bank has launched an exclusive savings account, Avni, for women customers.

The bank launched the product on its 9th foundation day, which is on 23 August.

The bank also launched a customer loyalty programme called Bandhan Banks Delight. The bank is women-focused, and of its 3.4 customers, 73% are women. With the Avni account, customers receive an exclusive debit card that provides benefits like free airport lounge access, personal accident insurance coverage of ₹10 lakh, lost card liability coverage of ₹3.5 lakh, and special milestone-based offers from premium brands. Avni also offers discounts on annual locker rentals, gold loan processing fees, and beauty and wellness products. Bandhan Bank Delights, the bank's enterprise-wide loyalty program, allows customers to earn Delight Points through various activities, including account opening, card transactions, and fund transfers. These points can be redeemed for a range of rewards, such as travel, merchandise, and entertainment, and can even be converted to air miles.

About Bandhan Bank

- **Founded** - 2001
- **Founder** - Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- **Headquarters** - Kolkata
- **MD & CEO** - Ratan Kumar Kesh (interim)
- **Chairperson** - Anup Kumar Sinha
- **Tagline** - Aapka Bhalai. Sabki Bhalai

287. Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Nestle?

नेस्ले के नए सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Paul Bulcke
- (b) Peter Brabeck-Letmathe
- (c) Rex Tillerson
- (d) Urs Rohner
- (e) Laurent Freixe

Ans. e

Sol. Nestlé CEO Mark Schneider steps down after 8 years; Laurent Freixe to take over Nestle chief executive Mark Schneider quit from the Swiss food group after eight years in charge. He will be replaced by Latin America boss Laurent Freixe.

Laurent Freixe joined Nestle in France in 1986 and has "successfully managed" the company's European zone during the 2008 financial crisis and until 2014.

After this he was named CEO of the Americas region before taking over at the newly created Latin America zone in 2022, "where he has been successfully leading through challenging conditions".

Recent Appointment in Foreign

- **India's Permanent Representative to UN** - Parvathaneni Harish (replace Ruchira Kamboj)
- **CEO of Boeing** - Robert "Kelly" Ortberg (replace Dave Calhoun)
- **Head of the EU assembly** - Roberta Metsola; 2nd time (Malta)
- **UK's First woman Finance Minister** - Rachel Reeves
- **President of FATF** - Elisa de Anda Madrazo (replace T. Raja Kumar)

288. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has presented four BHISHM Cubes to the Ukrainian government during his visit to the war-torn country where he met President Volodymyr Zelenskyy under the shadow of the raging war with Russia. What is the meaning of 'M' in "BHISHM"?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने युद्धग्रस्त देश की अपनी यात्रा के दौरान यूक्रेनी सरकार को चार BHISHM क्यूब्स भेंट किए हैं, जहां उन्होंने रूस के साथ चल रहे युद्ध की छाया में राष्ट्रपति वोलोडिमिर ज़ेलेन्स्की से मुलाकात की। "BHISHM" में 'M' का क्या अर्थ है?

- (a) Medical
- (b) Madad
- (c) Maitri
- (d) Mini
- (e) Maple

Ans. c

Sol. PM Modi presents BHISHM Cubes to Ukraine during first visit to Kyiv

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has presented four BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri) Cubes to the Ukrainian government during his visit to the war-torn country where he met President Volodymyr Zelenskyy under the shadow of the raging war with Russia.

Each BHISHM Cube consists of medicines and equipment for the first line of care for all kinds of injuries and medical situations. It also includes surgical equipment for a basic operation room that can manage 10-15 basic surgeries per day.

The Cube can handle about 200 cases of diverse nature in emergencies such as trauma, bleeding, burns, fractures, etc.

It can also generate power and oxygen in limited amounts. A team of experts from India has been deployed to provide initial training to the Ukrainian side to operate the cube.

About Ukraine

- **Capital-** Kyiv
- **Currency** - Hryvnia
- **President** - Volodymyr Zelenskyy
- **Prime Minister** - Denys Shmyhal

289. In August 2024, who among the following athletes won the Lausanne Diamond League javelin event 2024, surpassing Neeraj Chopra's impressive season-best throw of 89.49m, with a remarkable second-round throw of 90.61m?

अगस्त 2024 में, निम्नलिखित में से किसने 90.61 मीटर के उल्लेखनीय दूसरे दौर के थ्रो के साथ, नीरज चोपड़ा के 89.49 मीटर के प्रभावशाली सीजन-सर्वश्रेष्ठ थ्रो को पीछे छोड़ते हुए, लॉज़ेन डायमंड लीग भाला फेंक स्पर्धा 2024 जीती?

- (a) Arshad Nadeem
- (b) Oliver Helander
- (c) Julius Yego
- (d) Julian Weber
- (e) Anderson Peters

Ans. e

Sol. Neeraj Chopra won silver in Lausanne Diamond League

Star Indian javelin throw athlete Neeraj Chopra registered a season-best throw of 89.49m at the Lausanne Diamond League 2024, in his first competitive appearance since he bagged silver for the nation at the Paris Olympics 2024.

The 26-year-old was edged out by Grenada's Anderson Peters, who claimed the top spot in Switzerland with a mammoth throw of 90.81m. Julian Weber of Germany came in third on the day with a best throw of 87.08m.

The top six javelin throwers in the season's standings qualify for the final in Belgium slated to be held on the 14th of September.

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290. Consider the following pairs about the 26th CEAT Cricket Awards:

- (i) Men's International Cricketer of the Year- Virat Kohli**
- (ii) Most matches as captain in women's T20I history- Harmanpreet Kaur**
- (iii) ODI Batter of the Year- Rohit Sharma**
- (iv) T20 Leadership Award- Shreyas Iyer (KKR)**
- (v) Lifetime Achievement- Rahul Dravid**
- (vi) Fastest double-century in women's Test- Smriti Mandhana**

How many of the pairs are CORRECTLY matched?

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

Ans. b

Sol. Rohit Sharma & Virat Kohli honoured at the 26th CEAT Cricket Awards

The Indian men's cricket team captain Rohit Sharma was awarded the 26th CEAT International Cricketer of the Year Award at a ceremony held in Mumbai.

Sharma was honoured for his exceptional performance in the 2023-24 season. Under his captaincy, India reached the final of the 13th ICC Men's ODI Cricket World Cup but lost to Australia.

During this period, Rohit scored around 1800 international runs, including 597 runs during the 13th ODI World Cup.

Virat Kohli, who had a terrific year in the One Day Internationals (ODI), was honoured with the Best ODI Batter of the Year award.

In the 2023-24 season, Kohli scored 1377 runs, which included six centuries and eight fifties. Kohli was the leading scorer of the 2023 ODI World Cup with 765 runs at an average of 95.62.

During the World Cup, Kohli equalled Sachin Tendulkar's record of most centuries -49 in ODI. With 50 ODI centuries, Virat Kohli has surpassed Tendulkar's record.

Former Indian cricket captain and coach of the Indian men's cricket team was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Rahul Dravid, also known as the Wall, was the coach of the Indian team that won the 9th ICC Men's T 20 World Cup in Barbados, defeating South Africa in the final.

About CEAT Cricket Awards

- The CEAT Cricket Awards is one of the most prestigious awards in cricket. It honours the exceptional performance of cricketers worldwide.
- The CEAT Cricket Awards started in 1995-96, is sponsored by RP Goenka Group company CEAT Tyres. The latest 26th CEAT Award takes into account the players' performance during the 2023-24 cricketing session

Complete List of the Winners of the 2023-24 CEAT Cricket Award

- Men's International Cricketer of the Year- Rohit Sharma
- Test Batter of the Year- Yashasvi Jaiswal
- Test Bowler of the Year- R Ashwin
- ODI Batter of the Year- Virat Kohli
- ODI Bowler of the Year- Mohammed Shami
- T20I Batter of the Year- Phil Salt
- T20I Bowler of the Year- Tim Southee
- T20 Leadership award- Shreyas Iyer (KKR)
- Lifetime Achievement- Rahul Dravid
- Award for excellent in sports administration- Jay Shah
- Most matches as captain in women's T20I history- Harmanpreet Kaur
- Women's Indian bowler of the year- Deepti Sharma
- Fastest double-century in women's Test- Shafali Verma

291. Indian wrestler Ronak Dahiya has won the bronze medal in Men's Greco-Roman _____ kilograms event at Under-17 World Wrestling Championship in Jordan.

भारतीय पहलवान रौनक दहिया ने जॉर्डन में अंडर-17 विश्व कुश्ती चैंपियनशिप में पुरुषों की ग्रीको-रोमन _____ किलोग्राम स्पर्धा में कांस्य पदक जीता है।

- (a) 50
- (b) 60
- (c) 80
- (d) 100
- (e) 110

Ans. e

Sol. Ronak Dahiya wins Bronze in U-17 Wrestling Championship

Indian wrestler Ronak Dahiya won Bronze medal in Men's Greco-Roman 110 kilograms event at Under-17 World Wrestling Championship in Jordan.

Dahiya defeated Turkish wrestler Emrullah Capkan 6-1 in the crucial medal match.

With this, India has finished their campaign in Men's Greco-Roman category with two Bronze medals in the championship as Sainath Pardhi also secured Bronze in GR 51 kilograms category.

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292. Diana Pundole, who was in the news recently, is associated with which sport?

हाल ही में चर्चा में रही डायना पुंडोले किस खेल से जुड़ी है?

- (a) Racing
- (b) Squash
- (c) Kho Kho
- (d) Squash
- (e) Wushu

Ans. a

Sol. Diana Pundole: First Indian Woman Racer to Win National Championship

Diana Pundole, a mother of two and a teacher from Pune, has shattered the glass ceiling by claiming the national championship title in the saloon category at the MRF Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024, held in Chennai.

She holds the distinction of being the first and only woman participant in the prestigious Indian Touring Cars mixed category, a fiercely competitive racing championship where most participants boast a minimum of 10 to 20 years of experience.

Her impressive racing resume includes competing at world-renowned venues such as the Dubai Autodrome, the Hockenheimring, and the F1 Circuit de Spa in Belgium.

She has also participated in high-profile races, including the Porsche 911 GT3 Cup, Ferrari 488 Challenge, BMW M2 Competition, and Renault Clio Cup.

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293. Civil aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has slapped a fine of ₹90 lakh on which airline for operating a flight on July 9 from Mumbai to Riyadh with an unqualified crew?

नागरिक विमानन नियामक नागरिक विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने 9 जुलाई को मुंबई से रियाद के लिए अयोग्य चालक दल के साथ उड़ान संचालित करने के लिए किस एयरलाइन पर 90 लाख रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया है?

- (a) Air India
- (b) Indigo
- (c) AirAsia
- (d) Vistara
- (e) Qatar Airways

Ans. a

Sol. DGCA fines Air India Rs 90 lakh for operating flight with unqualified crew

Civil aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has slapped a fine of ₹90 lakh on Air India for operating a flight on July 9 from Mumbai to Riyadh with an unqualified crew.

Besides, the watchdog has slapped fines of Rs 6 lakh and Rs 3 lakh on Air India's Director of Operations and Director of Training, respectively, for the lapse.

Air India Ltd operated a flight commanded by a non-trainer line captain paired with a non-line-released first officer which has been viewed by the regulator as a serious scheduling incident having significant safety ramifications.

294. What is the theme of the first National Space Day celebrated on 23 August 2024?

23 अगस्त 2024 को मनाए गए पहले राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष दिवस का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat
- (b) Global Science for Global Wellbeing
- (c) Future of STI: Impacts on Education, Skills, and Work
- (d) Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future
- (e) Touching Lives while Touching the Moon

Ans. e

Sol. India observed first National Space Day on 23 August 2024

India is commemorating its first-ever National Space Day on August 23, 2024, marking a historic achievement with the successful landing of ISRO's Vikram Lander from Chandrayaan-3 on August 23, 2023.

This landmark event signifies India's growing prowess in space exploration, celebrating the importance of space science and technology. The day is also remembered for Pragyan Rover's successful deployment and the naming of the landing site as 'Shiv Shakti' point.

On August 23, 2023, ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 mission achieved a safe and soft landing of Vikram Lander on the moon's surface, making India the fourth country to land on the moon and the first to land near its southern polar region. Following this, the Pragyan Rover was successfully deployed. The landing site was named 'Shiv Shakti' point, and this date was officially declared as National Space Day.

The theme for this year's National Space Day is "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga."

295. Shikhar Dhawan has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. Shikhar Dhawan made his debut for India in an ODI Match against Australia in Visakhapatnam in which year?

शिखर धवन ने क्रिकेट के सभी प्रारूपों से संन्यास की घोषणा कर दी है। शिखर धवन ने किस वर्ष विशाखापत्तनम में ऑस्ट्रेलिया के खिलाफ एकदिवसीय मैच में भारत के लिए पदार्पण किया था?

- (a) 2009
- (b) 2012
- (c) 2010
- (d) 2015
- (e) 2006

Ans. c

Sol. Shikhar Dhawan retires from all forms of Cricket

One of the finest One Day Internationals (ODI) batsmen in the world, Shikhar Dhawan has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

His last competitive match was for Punjab Kings in the Indian Premier League (IPL) in April 2024.

Shikhar Dhawan played 269 international matches in his cricketing career and scored 24 hundreds-17 in ODIs and 7 in test matches.

His last game for India was an ODI against Bangladesh in December 2022.

Shikhar Dhawan, nicknamed 'Gabbar' by his teammate, is a left-handed batsman who made his debut for India in an ODI Match against Australia in Visakhapatnam in 2010.

He created a world record by scoring the fastest century by a debutant in a Test match, an 85-ball hundred against Australia in Mohali in the 2013 Test match.

He scored 6793 runs in the 167 ODIs at an average of 44.11 and a strike rate of 91.35. Records Shikhar Dhawan played 34 Tests and scored 2315 runs at an average of 40.61. In the T20 Internationals, he scored 1759 runs at the strike rate of 126.36 in 68 matches

Recently Retired Players

- Ilkay Gundogan (Germany) - International Football ⚽
- Andy Murray (UK) – International Tennis
- PR Sreejesh (India) – International Hockey
- James Anderson (England) – International Test Cricket
- Dinesh Karthik (India, RCB) - IPL
- Toni Kroos (Germany) - International Football ⚽
- Sunil Chhetri (India) – International Football ⚽
- Colin Munro (New Zealand) - International Cricket

296. Recently, the government of India launched a portal where construction workers can register themselves to avail benefits of various schemes. The portal will function as the centralised data management system for compilation and analysis of the data obtained from BoCW welfare boards of the states. What is the name of this portal?

हाल ही में, भारत सरकार ने एक पोर्टल लॉन्च किया है, जहाँ निर्माण श्रमिक विभिन्न योजनाओं का लाभ उठाने के लिए खुद को पंजीकृत कर सकते हैं। यह पोर्टल राज्यों के BoCW कल्याण बोर्डों से प्राप्त आंकड़ों के संकलन और विश्लेषण के लिए केंद्रीकृत डेटा प्रबंधन प्रणाली के रूप में कार्य करेगा। इस पोर्टल का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Samadhan Portal
- (b) Unified Shram Suvidha Portal
- (c) National Shram Portal of India
- (d) Construction Samadhan Portal
- (e) Building and other Construction Workers

Ans. e

Sol. Labour ministry launches centralised portal for construction workers

The government launched a portal where construction workers can register themselves to avail benefits of various schemes

The portal, named Building and other Construction Workers (BoCW) Management Information System (MIS).

The portal will function as the centralised data management system for compilation and analysis of the data obtained from BoCW welfare boards of the states.

The states and UTs were also requested to expedite the integration of BoC workers' data with the E-Shram portal of the Ministry to enable access to various schemes as a one-stop-solution for unorganized sector workers.

297. Recently, which scholarship scheme has the Department of Post launched to encourage Philately amongst the school children?

हाल ही में, स्कूली बच्चों के बीच फिलैटली को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए डाक विभाग ने कौन सी छात्रवृत्ति योजना शुरू की है?

- (a) Bandu Nath Sparsh Yojana
- (b) Atal Bihari Sparsh Yojana
- (c) Shyam Prasad Sparsh Yojana
- (d) Mahatma Gandhi Sparsh Yojana
- (e) Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana

Ans. e

Sol. Postal Dept launches Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to encourage Philately

The Department of Post under the Union Ministry of Communication has launched the Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to promote research and scholarship in stamps amongst the country's students.

This scholarship aims to inculcate the hobby of Philately among the children from a young age.

This scholarship will be provided at all India level and each Postal circle will provide maximum 40 scholarships to 10 students of class 6, 7, 8, and 9 each. The amount of scholarship will be ₹ 6000/- per annum at the rate of ₹ 500/- per month, which will be payable on quarterly basis.

While making selection for the scholarship, it should be kept in mind that the candidate must have secured at least 60 percent marks or equivalent grade/grade points in the last final examination. There will be a relaxation of 5% for SC/ST candidates.

Union Minister for Communication: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia

298. What was the theme of the inaugural edition of the e-magazine Sapno ki Udaan?

ई-पत्रिका सपनों की उड़ान के उद्घाटन संस्करण का विषय क्या था?

- (a) Space
- (b) Science
- (c) Soft dream
- (d) Stories
- (e) Sapno ki Sarkar

Ans. a

Sol. NCERT and Education Ministry launches e-magazine 'Sapno ki Udaan'

The Union Ministry of Education released the inaugural edition of the e-magazine 'Sapno ki Udaan'.

The e-magazine was launched on the occasion of the first National Space Day, which was observed across the country on 23 August to commemorate the soft landing of the Vikram lander of the Chandrayaan -3 mission on the south pole of the Moon on 23 August 2023.

As an e-magazine, Sapno ki Udaan's inaugural and forthcoming editions will be available online for all readers on the NCERT portal. The theme of the inaugural Sapno ki Udaan e-magazine was 'Space'.

All the articles, poems, etc., published in the inaugural edition are related to Space and the Chandrayaan Missions of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

About the E-Magazine Sapno ki Udaan'

- The e-magazine is an effort of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Govt.
- The Magazine is published quarterly, but according to Sanjay Kumar, the Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy, it will soon become a monthly magazine.
- The magazine includes contributions from students, teachers, and parents from across India. The e-magazine includes poetry, essays, stories, anecdotes, and riddles in English and Hindi.

299. India and which country have entered into a bilateral non-binding Security of Supply Arrangements (SOSA) to ensure the mutual supply of defence goods and services and address unanticipated supply?

भारत और किस देश ने रक्षा वस्तुओं और सेवाओं की पारस्परिक आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करने और अप्रत्याशित आपूर्ति से निपटने के लिए द्विपक्षीय गैर-बाध्यकारी आपूर्ति सुरक्षा व्यवस्था (एसओएसए) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Ukraine
- (b) Russia
- (c) Poland
- (d) USA
- (e) Japan

Ans. d

Sol. India-US ink pact for mutual supply of defence goods & services

India and the United States have entered into a bilateral non-binding Security of Supply Arrangements (SOSA) to ensure the mutual supply of defence goods and services and address unanticipated supply chain disruptions to meet respective national security needs. Negotiations for the Reciprocal Defence Procurement Agreement (RDP), are still ongoing between the two countries. Through the RDP, Indian companies will be able to service US Department of Defence (DoD) contracts and vice versa, American businesses will have to honour Indian Ministry of Defence (MoD) deals. The two sides also signed the Memorandum of Agreement regarding the Assignment of Liaison Officers as a follow-up to the earlier mutually agreed decision to enhance information sharing between India and US. Through the SOSA, the United States and India agree to provide reciprocal priority support for goods and services that enhance national defense, said the US Department of Defence in a statement to the media.

Recently India signed MoUs with others countries

- India-USA join hands to promote cooperation in MSMEs
- India & Israel join hands for new water technology centre at IIT Madras
- India and Maldives have renewed their MoU to bolster the training of Maldivian civil servants.
- India and New Zealand sign customs co-operation arrangement to ease trade between the two countries
- India and Vietnam team up to Preserve Maritime History with NMHC in Lothal

300. In August 2024, _____ has entered into an MoU with LTL Holdings of Sri Lanka, for the supply of LNG to LTL's dual-fuelled power plants in Kerawalapitiya, Colombo.

अगस्त 2024 में, _____ ने कोलंबो के केरावलपिटिया में एलटीएल के दोहरे ईंधन वाले बिजली संयंत्रों को एलएनजी की आपूर्ति के लिए श्रीलंका की एलटीएल होल्डिंग्स के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं।

- (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
- (b) Indraprastha Gas
- (c) GAIL
- (d) Hindustan Petroleum
- (e) Petronet LNG

Ans. e

Sol. Petronet LNG inks MoU with Sri Lanka's LTL Holdings

Petronet LNG (PLL) has entered into an MoU with LTL Holdings of Sri Lanka, for supply of LNG to LTL's dual fuelled power plants in Kerawalapitiya, Colombo.

Both parties, through this MoU, have agreed for development of LNG supply chain from PLLs LNG terminal, Kochi to LTLs power plant in Kerawalapitiya, Colombo.

The proposed supply of LNG from PLL's Kochi LNG Terminal would be through LNG ISO tank containers involving multi-modal transport system.

The initial term of LNG supply would be 5 years, which is extendable subject to mutual agreement.

Recent MoU

- JNCASR partners with HZL to scale up indigenous Zn-ion battery technologies
- Reliance Foundation signs MoU with IMD to strengthen weather information
- Indian Navy approves Mazagon Dock to build 6 submarines with German collaboration
- SLRTC and Army Welfare Association sign MoU to Promote Indian Sign Language
- BIS signs MoU with Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru to promote Standardisation
- IGNCA signed MoU with Sansad TV to make Indian art and culture more accessible to the people.

301. In August 2024, which company has partnered with OTO Capital to enable two-wheeler loans. Additionally, the company has also partnered with Volt Money to facilitate loans against Mutual Funds to its merchant partners?

अगस्त 2024 में, किस कंपनी ने दोपहिया वाहन ऋण सक्षम करने के लिए OTO कैपिटल के साथ भागीदारी की है। इसके अतिरिक्त, कंपनी ने अपने मर्चेन्ट पार्टनर्स को म्यूचुअल फंड के विरुद्ध ऋण की सुविधा प्रदान करने के लिए वोल्ट मनी के साथ भी भागीदारी की है?

- (a) BharatPe
- (b) PhonePe
- (c) Google Pay
- (d) Paytm
- (e) BHIM

Ans. a

Sol. BharatPe, OTO Capital and Volt Money bring secured loans to its merchant partners

BharatPe has partnered with OTO Capital, a digital commerce and lending platform, to enable two-wheeler loans.

Additionally, the company has partnered with Volt Money to facilitate loans against Mutual Funds to its merchant partners. In the next phase, the company plans to expand this to a multi-product and multi-lender offering

BharatPe's merchants can now avail two-wheeler loans of up to Rs. 2.5 lacs, at competitive interest rates, for their next two-wheeler purchase from OTO Capital.

The loan application process is 100% digital and merchants have the option to choose the repayment period between 12- 48 months.

302. India and which country have inked four agreements and resolved to enhance their cooperation in a range of key areas including defence, trade, pharmaceuticals, green energy and education?

भारत और किस देश ने चार समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं और रक्षा, व्यापार, फार्मास्यूटिकल्स, हरित ऊर्जा और शिक्षा सहित कई प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में अपने सहयोग को बढ़ाने का संकल्प लिया है?

- (a) Ukraine
- (b) Russia
- (c) Poland
- (d) USA
- (e) Japan

Ans. a

Sol. India and Ukraine sign agreements in agriculture, medicine, and cultural cooperation

India and Ukraine have inked four agreements and resolved to enhance their cooperation in a range of key areas including defence, trade, pharmaceuticals, green energy and education.

In the field of medical products regulation, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation of India and the State Service of Ukraine on Medicines and Drugs Control signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This MoU outlines plans for collaboration on improving the safety and quality of medical products through information exchange, capacity building, workshops, training, and mutual visits.

Another MoU establishes the framework for Indian humanitarian grant assistance to support high-impact community development projects in Ukraine. These projects will be carried out in partnership with the Ukrainian government, aimed at benefiting the local population.

Additionally, a Programme of Cultural Cooperation was signed, covering the years 2024-2028. This program is designed to deepen cultural ties between India and Ukraine, encouraging exchanges in theatre, music, fine arts, literature, and other cultural fields. It also includes efforts to protect and promote both tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

About Ukraine

- **Capital**- Kyiv
- **Currency** - Hryvnia
- **President** - Volodymyr Zelenskyy
- **Prime Minister** - Denys Shmyhal

303. Which company has recently developed India's first reusable hybrid rocket, RHUMI-1?

हाल ही में किस कंपनी ने भारत का पहला पुनः प्रयोज्य हाइब्रिड रॉकेट, RHUMI-1 विकसित किया है?

- (a) AeroIn SpaceTech Private
- (b) Aero2Astro
- (c) DREAM Aerospace
- (d) Brahmastra Aerospace
- (e) Space Zone India

Ans. e

Sol. India launches world's first mobile-launched hybrid rocket, RHUMI-1

The world's first mobile hybrid rocket, RHUMI-1, was successfully launched. The successful launch of the RHUMI-1 rocket also marks the launch of the first reusable hybrid rocket in India.

The rocket was developed by Chennai-based startup Space Zone India in collaboration with Martin Group.

The success of RHUMI-1 is expected to improve the efficiency and reduce the operational cost of rocket launches, making space exploration more accessible. The RHUMI-1 rocket is launched from a mobile launcher like a special truck, and the rocket can be used again; hence, it is called a reusable rocket. The RHUMI-1 reusable hybrid rocket was launched from a mobile launcher in Thiruvudandhai, a coastal village in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The RHUMI-1 reusable hybrid rocket launched three CubeSats and 50 PICO satellites into a suborbital trajectory. The satellites will collect data for research on Global warming and Climate Change. RHUMI-1, a sounding rocket, flew at an altitude of about 35 km and returned to Earth after conducting several experiments within seconds.

What is a Hybrid Rocket?

- A hybrid rocket engine combines the features of both solid-fueled and liquid-fueled engines.
- Hybrid rocket engines use solid fuel as the propellant and a liquid or gaseous oxidiser to sustain combustion.
- The RHUMI Rocket is equipped with a generic-fuel-based hybrid motor and electrically triggered parachute deployer, RHUMI is 100% pyrotechnic-free and 0% TNT.

304. In India, Mumbai ranked 2nd and New Delhi 3rd in the Global Property Price Index have recorded an annual increase in their real estate prices at 13% and 10.6% respectively, while Bengaluru has witnessed a modest 3.7% rise. Globally, which city has topped Knight Frank's Prime Global Cities Index with an increase of 26%?

भारत में, वैश्विक संपत्ति मूल्य सूचकांक में मुंबई दूसरे और नई दिल्ली तीसरे स्थान पर है, जहाँ रियल एस्टेट की कीमतों में क्रमशः 13% और 10.6% की वार्षिक वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है, जबकि बेंगलुरु में मामूली 3.7% की वृद्धि देखी गई है। वैश्विक स्तर पर, कौन सा शहर 26% की वृद्धि के साथ नाइट फ्रैंक के प्राइम ग्लोबल सिटीज़ इंडेक्स में शीर्ष पर है?

- (a) Tokyo
- (b) Berlin
- (c) Germany
- (d) Manila
- (e) New York

Ans. d

Sol. Mumbai ranks 2nd, New Delhi 3rd in Global Property Price Index; Manila tops the list

Mumbai and New Delhi have recorded an annual increase in their real estate prices at 13% and 10.6% respectively, while Bengaluru has witnessed a modest 3.7% rise.

Globally, Manila has topped the Knight Frank's Prime Global Cities Index with an increase of 26%.

The Prime Global Cities Index is a valuation-based index tracking the movement of prime residential prices across 44 cities worldwide. The index tracks nominal prices in local currency.

Across the 44 cities world-wide surveyed for this report, annual price growth slowed from 4.1% in Q1 to 2.6% in Q2 2024, remaining below the long-term average of 5.3%.

Manila topped the charts with a 26% annual rise in Q2 2024. Dubai, after a 124% increase since 2020, saw slight moderation declining by 0.3% YoY, while Miami, up 77% since 2020, climbed 8% in the last year.

Europe has also gained momentum, with six of the ten fastest-improving markets, led by Stockholm. Meanwhile, markets like Madrid, Dubai, and New Zealand (Christchurch, Wellington, and Auckland) are experiencing a slowdown in growth, the report showed.

305. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the registration of _____ -headquartered Margdarshak Financial Services Ltd over high net NPAs and defaults on repayment to lenders.

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (आरबीआई) ने उच्च शुद्ध एनपीए और उधारदाताओं को पुनर्भुगतान में चूक के कारण _____ मुख्यालय वाली मार्गदर्शक फाइनेंशियल सर्विसेज लिमिटेड का पंजीकरण रद्द कर दिया है।

- (a) Kolkata
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Lucknow
- (d) Indore
- (e) Bengaluru

Ans. c

Sol. RBI cancels registration of Margdarshak Financial Services over high NPAs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the registration of Lucknow-headquartered Margdarshak Financial Services Ltd over high net NPAs and defaults on repayment to lenders.

As on March 31, 2021, the company failed to maintain the minimum regulatory net owned fund of Rs 5 crore and minimum capital adequacy ratio of 15 per cent stipulated for NBFC-MFI.

As per the statutory audit, as on March 31, 2021, the NBFC was facing cash flow issues and defaulted on repayment of Rs 49.27 crore to its lenders.

Meanwhile, the RBI imposed penalties on NDX P2P Pvt Ltd and Innofin Solutions Pvt Ltd for non-compliance with certain provisions of 'peer-to-peer lending platform' and guidelines on digital lending.

A penalty of Rs 1.99 crore has been imposed on Innofin Solutions Pvt Ltd (also referred to as "LenDen Club").

In another statement, it said a penalty of Rs 1.92 crore has been imposed on NDX P2P Pvt Ltd (also referred to as 'LiquiLoans').

306. Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd (TPSSL) has signed an agreement with which bank to provide financing for solar units to residential and corporate customers?

टाटा पावर सोलर सिस्टम्स लिमिटेड (टीपीएसएसएल) ने आवासीय और कॉर्पोरेट ग्राहकों को सौर इकाइयों के लिए वित्तपोषण प्रदान करने के लिए किस बैंक के साथ एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Axis Bank
- (b) ICICI Bank
- (c) HDFC Bank
- (d) UCO Bank
- (e) Yes Bank

Ans. b

Sol. Tata Power Solar Systems, ICICI Bank partner to finance solar units

Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd (TPSSL) has signed an agreement with ICICI Bank to provide financing for solar units to residential and corporate customers.

As part of the agreement, the customers can avail themselves of loans up to Rs 90 lakh with collateral-free options and tenure extending up to 5 years.

They can also get higher loans with collaterals with tenures of up to 20 years, said TPSSL, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL).

The customers can avail themselves of flexible down-payment option at 20-25 per cent of the loan amount, making it easier for them to invest in solar energy.

Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- Jakson Engineers Limited signs MoU with SBI to promote solar projects
- Fintech co Navi collabs with Karnataka Bank to introduce credit line on UPI
- Pine Labs-owned Setu partners Axis Bank for UPI-focused payments platform
- Chola MS General Insurance forges strategic partnership with Mahindra Finance
- Capital SFB and Edelweiss Life Insurance enter into bancassurance tie-up

307. The IAF dispatched its _____ Display Team to participate in the inaugural edition of the Egypt International Airshow.

भारतीय वायुसेना ने मिस्र अंतर्राष्ट्रीय एयरशो के उद्घाटन संस्करण में भाग लेने के लिए अपनी _____ प्रदर्शन टीम भेजी।

- (a) Garud Commando
- (b) Ghatak Platoon
- (c) Special Protection Group
- (d) Sayeret Matkal
- (e) Sarang Helicopter

Ans. e

Sol. IAF's Sarang Team Showcases India's Aviation Prowess at Egypt Airshow

The IAF dispatched its Sarang Helicopter Display Team to participate in the inaugural edition of the Egypt International Airshow. The event is scheduled to take place from September 3 to 5, 2024, at the strategically located Al-Alamein International Airport in Egypt's El Dabaa.

The airport, situated along the Mediterranean, serves as a major hub for global air, commercial, and logistical transport, making it an apt location for an event of this magnitude.

The Sarang team, renowned for their precision and impressive aerial displays, will be showcasing the indigenous 'Dhruv' Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH Mk-I). These helicopters, built by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), are multi-role and multi-mission, featuring a hinge-less composite main rotor, and are designed for both military and civilian applications. The contingent will be carrying five Sarang helicopters, which are being airlifted by C-17 Globemaster aircraft for the event.

The Egypt International Airshow is spearheaded by the Egyptian Ministry of Defence, Egyptian Air Force, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Egyptian Space Agency, and EgyptAir.

The event aims to promote industrialisation, digitalisation, and globalisation within the defence, space, and commercial aviation sectors across Africa and the Middle East. It provides a platform for nations and businesses to shape the future of aerospace in the region.

308. Who has won the Dutch Grand Prix 2024?**डच ग्रैंड प्रिक्स 2024 किसने जीता है?**

- (a) Sebastian Vettel
- (b) Lewis Hamilton
- (c) Max Verstappen
- (d) Lando Norris
- (e) Sergio Pérez

Ans. d**Sol.** Lando Norris won Dutch Grand Prix

Lando Norris has won the Dutch Grand Prix to beat Max Verstappen in Zandvoort.

McLaren's Norris continued his run of poor starts as he failed to keep the lead on a sixth successive occasion from the front of the Formula 1 grid, but passed Red Bull's Verstappen at the start of lap 18 before romping home to win by 22 seconds.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc drove a brilliant race from sixth on the grid to hold off Norris' McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri for the final podium spot.

Recent 2024 F1 Grand Prix Winner

- Hungarian Grand Prix F2 - Kush Maini (India)
- Belgian Grand Prix - Mercedes's Lewis Hamilton (UK)
- Hungarian Grand Prix – McLaren's Oscar Piastri (Australia)
- British Grand Prix – Mercedes's Lewis Hamilton (UK)
- Austrian Grand Prix - Mercedes's George Russell (UK)
- Spanish Grand Prix – Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)
- Canadian Grand Prix - Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)
- Monaco Grand Prix - Ferrari's Charles Leclerc (Monaco)
- Emilia Romagna Grand Prix - Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)
- Miami Grand Prix - McLaren's Lando Norris (British)
- Chinese Grand Prix - Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)
- Japanese Grand Prix - Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)
- Australian Grand Prix - Ferrari's Carlos Sainz (Spain)
- Saudi Arabian Grand Prix - Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)
- Bahrain Grand Prix - Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)

309. International Dog Day is observed every year on which day?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कुत्ता दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 23 August
- (b) 24 August
- (c) 25 August
- (d) 26 August
- (e) 27 August

Ans. d

Sol. 26 August - International Dog Day

International Dog Day is observed every year on 26 August.

This day is all about recognising the importance of dogs in our lives, showing appreciation for them, and promoting their welfare.

Theme 2024 - Every dog deserves a spa day

International Dog Day was first celebrated in 2004 by animal welfare activist and pet lifestyle expert Colleen Paige. Ms Paige chose the date of August 26 in particular as it was on this date that the activist's family adopted their first dog "Sheltie" from the local animal shelter. Ms Colleen was 10 when the family welcomed Sheltie into their fold.

310. Consider the following points about the Unified Pension Scheme that the Union Cabinet recently approved:

- (i) 1 April 2025 is the Unified Pension Scheme proposed to be implemented by the central government.**
- (ii) 10 years is the minimum duration of central government employment under the UPS to benefit from Pension.**
- (iii) Rs 10,000 per month is the minimum pension guaranteed under the Unified Pension Scheme.**
- (iv) Under UPS, if you work for 25 years or more, you will receive 50% of your average pay for the preceding 12 months as a pension.**

How many of the given point(s) is/are INCORRECT?

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

Ans. d

Sol. Unified Pension Scheme to replace National Pension System in India

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the Unified Pension System (UPS) for its employees. The new scheme will replace the existing National Pension System (NPS).

The National Pension System was mandatory for central government employees except for the armed forces, which joined the service on 1 January 2004.

Later, many state governments implemented the NPS for their employees.

According to the government of India the Unified Pension Scheme is proposed to be implemented from 1 April 2025.

What is the Unified Pension Scheme?

- The Modi government approved a new pension scheme called the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS). The UPS includes provisions for a fixed pension amount, ensuring retirees receive a guaranteed and predetermined sum regularly after retirement.
- Under UPS, if you work for 25 years or more, you will receive 50% of your average pay for the preceding 12 months as a pension, adjusted for inflation through dearness allowance.
- Employee contributions will remain the same under the UPS. However, the government will increase its contribution from 14% to 18.5%.
- At retirement under UPS, you will receive a lump sum payment at superannuation along with gratuity. This will be 1/10th of your monthly emoluments (pay + DA) on the date of superannuation for every six months of completed service. This payment will not reduce the assured pension amount.
- Retirees under UPS will receive 50% of their average basic pay over the last 12 months before retirement for a minimum of 25 years of qualifying service. For shorter service periods, pensions will be proportionate, with a minimum of 10 years of service. A pension of Rs 10,000 per month will be given after a minimum of 10 years of service.

311. Where was the review meeting of the Left-Wing Extremism affected states held in August 2024?

अगस्त 2024 में वामपंथी उग्रवाद प्रभावित राज्यों की समीक्षा बैठक कहाँ आयोजित की गई थी?

- (a) Raipur
- (b) Nagpur
- (c) Kochi
- (d) Puri
- (e) Hyderabad

Ans. a

Sol. Amit Shah chairs seven LWE affected state's meeting in Raipur

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah chaired a review meeting on Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) and an inter-state coordination meeting in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

The central government is committed to eradicating Left-Wing Extremism (Naxalism) from the country before March 2026.

The meeting was attended by seven states- Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Telangana.

About Naxals or Left-Wing Extremism

- Left-wing extremism refers to those groups or persons who are inspired by the ideology of the founder of modern communist China, Mao Zedong.
- The leftwing extremism in India wants to replace the constitutional system in India through an armed revolution and establish a communist government like China.
- The Left-wing extremists are also called the Naxals. In 1967, there was an armed revolt by the peasants in Naxalbari, West Bengal, inspired by the ideology of Mao. Since then, they are also called naxals.

312. Consider the following points about the Unified Vigyan Dhara scheme which the union government recently approved:

- (i) Science and Technology (S&T) Institutional and Human Capacity Building, Research and Development and Innovation, Technology Development and Deployment have been merged under the Vigyan Dhara Scheme of the Department of Science and Technology.**
- (ii) Five years from 2023-24 to 2028-29 is the duration of the newly approved Vigyan Dhara Scheme.**
- (iii) Rs.10,579.84 crore from 2023-24 to 2028-29 is the total outlay for the newly approved Vigyan Dhara Scheme.**

Find the INCORRECT points.

- (a) only i & ii**
- (b) only ii & iii**
- (c) only i & iii**
- (d) all are correct**
- (e) all are incorrect**

Ans. b

Sol. Centre approves Unified Vigyan Dhara scheme to boost science and technology ecosystem

The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of three umbrella schemes under a new unified central sector scheme named 'Vigyan Dhara' within the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

The scheme, which will span from 2021-22 to 2025-26, has been allocated an outlay of Rs 10,579.84 crore.

The 'Vigyan Dhara' scheme consolidates the following three broad components:

1. Science and Technology (S&T) Institutional and Human Capacity Building
2. Research and Development (R&D),
3. Innovation, Technology Development, and Deployment

The primary goal of the 'Vigyan Dhara' initiative is to enhance the country's Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) ecosystem.

The 'Vigyan Dhara' scheme aims to advance research in several key areas, namely, basic research, to facilitate access to international mega facilities, translational research, to focus on sustainable energy, water, and other critical areas, and collaborative research, to foster international bilateral and multilateral partnerships.

The scheme will also work towards strengthening the science and technology sector by expanding the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) researcher count, implementing targeted measures to improve the participation of women in Science and Technology (S&T), and achieve gender equality in STI.

313. Who has been appointed as Additional Director General (ADG) of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)?

भारत-तिब्बत सीमा पुलिस (आईटीबीपी) के अतिरिक्त महानिदेशक (एडीजी) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Anish Dayal Singh
- (b) Sujoy Lal Thakur
- (c) Vineet McCarty
- (d) Umesh Mishra
- (e) Sanjeev Raina

Ans. e

Sol. Sanjeev Raina appointed as Additional DG of ITBP

A senior officer from the 1987 batch of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sanjeev Raina has been appointed as the Additional Director General (ADG) of the ITBP.

He will be specifically responsible for overseeing the forces along the India-China Line of Actual Control (LAC).

This is a significant event because he is only the second officer who is not from the Indian Police Service (IPS) to reach this high rank in the history of the ITBP.

Sanjeev Raina has been with the ITBP for more than 30 years, starting his service in November 1987. Throughout his career, he has played key roles in some of India's most sensitive and difficult areas, such as Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Recent Appointment in Defence Sector

- **Chief of Enforcement Directorate (ED)** - Rahul Navin
- **Director General of Assam Rifles** -Vikas Lakhera (22nd)
- **Director General of BSF** - Daljit Singh Chawdhary (additional charge)
- **Additional National Security Adviser** - Rajinder Khanna
- **Deputy National Security Adviser** - TV Ravichandran, Pavan Kapoor & Pankaj Kumar

314. Who has been appointed as the chairperson of the industry body NASSCOM?

उद्योग निकाय नैसकॉम का अध्यक्ष किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Gaurav Banerjee
- (b) Jetha Ahir
- (c) Sindhu Gangadharan
- (d) Harish Dudani
- (e) Praveena Rai

Ans. c

Sol. SAP Labs India MD Sindhu Gangadharan appointed as NASSCOM chairperson

MD of SAP Labs India, Sindhu Gangadharan has been appointed as the chairperson of the industry body Nasscom.

She will succeed President-designate Rajesh Nambiar once his tenure ends.

In 2023, Sindhu was appointed as the chair of Nasscom GCC Council. She serves on the boards of Siemens India and Titan Company Ltd and is a member of the Steering Committee of the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce, fostering bilateral trade between India and Germany.

Recent Appointment

- **Chairman of Texas Economic Development Corporation** - Arun Agarwal
- **CEO of Nestlé** - Laurent Freixe (replace Mark Schneider)
- **Chairman of Cognizant India** - Rajesh Varrier (replace Rajesh Nambiar)
- **President of NASSCOM** - Rajesh Nambiar (replace Debjani Ghosh) effect from Oct 2024
- **Chairman of Airports Authority of India** - M Suresh (replace Sanjeev Kumar)

315. Which country has recently unveiled a new type of "suicide drone"?

किस देश ने हाल ही में एक नए प्रकार के "आत्मघाती ड्रोन" का अनावरण किया है?

- (a) Japan
- (b) China
- (c) India
- (d) North Korea
- (e) USA

Ans. d

Sol. North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un Unveils New 'Suicide Drones'

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un recently unveiled a new type of "suicide drone".

These drones, designed to carry explosives and crash into enemy targets like guided missiles.

The test was successful, with all drones accurately identifying and destroying their designated targets after flying along preset routes.

Experts suggest that the technology behind these drones may have Russian origins.

Suicide drones are explosive-carrying unmanned drones designed to be deliberately crashed into enemy targets, effectively acting as guided missiles.

About North Korea

- **Capital** - Pyongyang
- **Currency** - won
- **President** - Kim Jong-un

316. Who has been appointed as Chairman of Texas Economic Development Corporation (TEDC) board?

टेक्सास आर्थिक विकास निगम (TEDC) बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Amit kumat
- (b) Anuj Pandit
- (c) Arun Agarwal
- (d) Anshika Sharn
- (e) Ashima Goel

Ans. c

Sol. Arun Agarwal appoints as Chairman of Texas Economic Development Corporation

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has appointed Dallas-based Indian-American entrepreneur Arun Agarwal as the chairman of the Texas Economic Development Corporation's (TEDC) board of directors.

A key public-private partnership with the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Tourism, TEDC is responsible for marketing Texas as the top US state for business, both domestically and globally.

This appointment underscores Texas's commitment to diversity and highlights the growing influence of Indian American leaders in major economic roles.

Agarwal's extensive experience in business, philanthropy, and international relations is expected to further elevate Texas's standing as a global economic powerhouse.

Recent Appointment

- **CEO of Nestlé** - Laurent Freixe (replace Mark Schneider)
- **Chairman of Cognizant India** - Rajesh Varrier (replace Rajesh Nambiar)
- **President of NASSCOM** - Rajesh Nambiar (replace Debjani Ghosh) effect from Oct 2024
- **Chairman of Airports Authority of India** - M Suresh (replace Sanjeev Kumar)
- **Chef de mission for Paris Paralympics** - Satya Prakash Sangwan

317. Goldman Sachs Group Inc. has lowered India's growth forecast to _____ for 2024-25?

गोल्डमैन सैक्स ग्रुप इंक ने 2024-25 के लिए भारत के विकास पूर्वानुमान को घटाकर _____ कर दिया है?

- (a) 6.7%
- (b) 6.8%
- (c) 6.9%
- (d) 7.0%
- (e) 7.2%

Ans. a

Sol. Goldman Sachs Group cuts India's 2024 and 2025 GDP growth forecasts

Goldman Sachs Group Inc. has lowered India's growth forecast by 20 basis points each for this year and the next, citing a contraction in central government expenditure.

The bank now expects the nation's economy to expand at 6.7% in calendar 2024, and 6.4% in 2025.

The current year's downgrade factors a 35% year-on-year contraction in government expenditure during the April-June quarter that coincided with the weeks-long general election.

Updated GDP List

- Deloitte – 7 - 7.2% (FY25)
- India Ratings – 7.5% (FY25)
- FICCI – 7% (FY25)
- ADB – 7% (FY25), 7.2%(FY26),
- IMF – 7% (FY25), 6.5% (FY26)
- NCAER – 7.5% (FY25)
- S&P – 6.8% (FY25), 6.9% (FY26), 7% (FY27)

318. Samanatham Tank is to be converted into bird sanctuary. It is located in which state?

समनाथम टैंक को पक्षी अभयारण्य में परिवर्तित किया जाएगा। यह किस राज्य में स्थित है?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Odisha
- (e) Madhya Pradesh

Ans. b

Sol. Samanatham Tank in Madurai to be converted into bird sanctuary

Following Madurai Nature Cultural Foundation recommendations, the Tamil Nadu Forest Department will convert the Samanatham Tank in the Madurai district will be converted into a bird sanctuary.

Samanatham Tank, documented 300 rare species of birds including Anhinga Melanogaster, Mycteria Leucocephala, Threskiornis Melanocephalus, Pelecanus Philippensis, Limosa Lapponica, Sterna Aurantia, and Pandion Haliaetus.

There are 17 bird sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu, 15 wildlife sanctuaries, and four Tiger reserves.

About Tamil Nadu

- **Formation** – 26 January 1950
- **Capital** – Chennai
- **Chief Minister** – M K Stalin
- **Governor** – R N Ravi

319. The Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to create five new districts in the union territory of Ladakh. After the creation of the new districts, Ladakh will have _____ districts in total.

गृह मंत्रालय ने केंद्र शासित प्रदेश लद्दाख में पाँच नए जिले बनाने का फैसला किया है। नए जिलों के निर्माण के बाद, लद्दाख में कुल _____ जिले होंगे।

- (a) six
- (b) seven
- (c) eight
- (d) nine
- (e) ten

Ans. b

Sol. Centre to create 5 new districts in Ladakh

The Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to create five new districts in the union territory of Ladakh.

The creation of new districts will take the benefits meant for the people to their doorsteps by bolstering governance in every nook and cranny.

These districts are – Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra and Changthang.

Ladakh currently has only two districts – Leh and Kargil. Both districts have their autonomous district councils which govern them.

After the creation of the new districts, Ladakh will have seven districts in total.

Until 2019, Ladakh was a part of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. However, the BJP-led Central government that year revoked the special status accorded to the state. The government also divided the state into two union territories – Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

320. 14-year-old Tanvi Patri won the women's singles title at the Asian U-15 Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2024 by defeating Vietnamese Nguyen Thi Thu Huyen in the final. She is from which state?

14 वर्षीय तन्वी पत्री ने फाइनल में वियतनामी गुयेन थी थू हुएन को हराकर एशियाई अंडर-15 बैडमिंटन एशिया जूनियर चैंपियनशिप 2024 में महिला एकल का खिताब जीता। वह किस राज्य से है?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Uttar Pradesh
- (e) Maharashtra

Ans. b

Sol. Odisha's Tanvi Patri won 2024 Asian Women Singles U-15 Badminton Championship

14-year-old Tanvi Patri of Odisha won the women's singles title of the Asian U-15 Junior Championships 2024 by defeating Vietnamese Nguyen Thi Thu Huyen in the final.

The Badminton Asia U-17 & U-15 Junior Championships 2024 was held in Chengdu, People's Republic of China.

Tanvi Patri became the third Indian to win the women's singles titles of the Asian U-15 Badminton championships.

Samiaya Imad Farooqui in 2017 and Tasnim Mir in 2019 won the singles title in the Asian U-15 championship.

In the final, top seed Tanvi Patri defeated second seed Vietnamese Nguyen 22-20, 21-11 in 34 minutes.

321. Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited (Piramal Finance), a subsidiary of Piramal Enterprises Limited, has partnered with which bank to expand their co-lending operations?

पिरामल एंटरप्राइजेज लिमिटेड की सहायक कंपनी पिरामल कैपिटल एंड हाउसिंग फाइनेंस लिमिटेड (पिरामल फाइनेंस) ने अपने सह-ऋण परिचालन का विस्तार करने के लिए किस बैंक के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) State Bank of India
- (b) Axis Bank
- (c) Central Bank of India
- (d) ICICI Bank
- (e) HDFC Bank

Ans. c

Sol. Piramal Finance and Central Bank of India partner to reach underserved markets

Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited (Piramal Finance), a subsidiary of Piramal Enterprises Limited, has partnered with Central Bank of India to expand their co-lending operations.

The alliance is focused on providing loans to middle and low-income borrowers, particularly in rural and semi-urban regions.

The collaboration combines Central Bank of India's extensive branch network with Piramal Finance's technological approach to lending, which emphasizes both digital efficiency and personalized service.

Through Piramal Finance's 500+ branch network across 600 districts and 26 states, the partnership aims to offer competitive interest rates and tailored credit solutions to borrowers who are new to credit or underserved by traditional financial institutions.

Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- Tata Power Solar Systems, ICICI Bank partner to finance solar units
- Jakson Engineers Limited signs MoU with SBI to promote solar projects
- Fintech co Navi collabs with Karnataka Bank to introduce credit line on UPI
- Pine Labs-owned Setu partners Axis Bank for UPI-focused payments platform
- Chola MS General Insurance forges strategic partnership with Mahindra Finance

322. India won the silver medal in the Maruhaba Cup at Thulusdhoo, Maldives. Maruhaba Cup is related to which sport?

भारत ने मालदीव के थुलुसधू में मरुहाबा कप में रजत पदक जीता। मरुहाबा कप किस खेल से संबंधित है?

- (a) Surfing
- (b) Wushu
- (c) Swimming
- (d) Archery
- (e) Golf

Ans. a

Sol. India clinch silver medal at Asian Surfing Championships 2024

India won a silver medal at the Maruhaba Cup, a team event, at the Asian Surfing Championships 2024 at Thulusdhoo, Maldives. In the final, Japan won the gold medal by a substantial margin, with a score of 58.40 ahead of India, who recorded a score of 24.13. Taipei (23.93) and China (22.10) placed third and fourth, respectively.

Earlier, the Indian team, consisting of Kamali P, Ajeesh Ali, Srikanth D and Sanjay Selvamani, secured first place in the Heat 2 semi-final with a total score of 32.16.

Taipei followed in second place with a team score of 29.70 while the Republic of Korea finished third with a score of 27.74 in the same semi-final.

India won the medal a day after securing their first-ever quota in surfing for the Asian Games.

323. Consider the following points about BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) policy recently approved by the Cabinet-

- (i) The BioE3 Policy aims to establish Biomanufacturing & Bio-AI hubs and Biofoundries.**
- (ii) The policy prioritizes regenerative bioeconomy models and supports the Government's 'Net Zero' carbon economy initiative.**
- (iii) India on the path of accelerated 'Green Growth' by promoting a 'Square Bioeconomy'.**

Which among the following statement(s) are/is correct?

- (a) i and ii**
- (b) ii and iii**
- (c) iii and i**
- (d) i and iii**
- (e) all are correct**

Ans. b

Sol. Cabinet approves BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the proposal 'BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy for Fostering High Performance Biomanufacturing' of the Department of Biotechnology.

The salient features of BioE3 policy include innovation-driven support to R&D and entrepreneurship across thematic sectors.

This will accelerate technology development and commercialization by establishing Biomanufacturing & Bio-AI hubs and Biofoundry. Along with prioritizing regenerative bioeconomy models of green growth, this policy will facilitate the expansion of India's skilled workforce and provide a surge in job creation. Overall, this Policy will further strengthen the Government's initiatives such as 'Net Zero' carbon economy & 'Lifestyle for Environment' and will steer India on the path of accelerated 'Green Growth' by promoting a 'Circular Bioeconomy'. The BioE3 Policy will foster and advance a future that is more sustainable, innovative, and, responsive to global challenges and lays down the Bio-vision for Viksit Bharat.

It is important to build a resilient biomanufacturing ecosystem in our nation to accelerate cutting-edge innovations for developing bio-based products.

324. Former _____ Prime Minister Salim al-Hoss has died at the age of 94.

पूर्व _____ प्रधानमंत्री सलीम अल-होस का 94 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया।

- (a) Poland
- (b) Oman
- (c) Iran
- (d) Iraq
- (e) Lebanon

Ans. e

Sol. Former Lebanese PM Salim al-Hoss dies at 94

Former Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Hoss has died at the age of 94 after a long battle with illness.

Al-Hoss served as Prime minister of Lebanon four times.

About Lebanon

- **Capital-** Beirut
- **Currency-** Lebanese pound
- **President-** Michel Aoun
- **Prime Minister-** Najib Mikati

325. Vasant Rao Chavan passes away recently at the age of 70. Who was he?

वसंतराव चव्हाण का हाल ही में 70 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह कौन थे?

- (a) Politician**
- (b) Writer**
- (c) Actor**
- (d) Journalist**
- (e) Sculpture**

Ans. a

Sol. Veteran Congress leader Vasant Rao Chavan passes away

Veteran Congress leader and recently elected Nanded MP, Vasant Rao Chavan passed away at 70.

He served as an MLA from Naigaon from 2009 to 2014 and was also the chairman of the Nanded District Central Cooperative Bank from 2021 to 2023.

326. Who has inaugurated the Model Indigenous Electric Vehicle Charging Station at C-DAC Thiruvananthapuram, Technopark Campus?

सी-डैक तिरुवनंतपुरम, टेक्नोपार्क परिसर में मॉडल स्वदेशी इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन चार्जिंग स्टेशन का उद्घाटन किसने किया है?

- (a) Ajit Doval
- (b) Jitendra Singh
- (c) Amit Shah
- (d) S Krishnan
- (e) Nitin Gadkari

Ans. d

Sol. C-DAC Inaugurates Model EV Charging Station and Hardware Emulation Facility

The Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), S. Krishnan has inaugurated the Model Indigenous Electric Vehicle Charging Station at C-DAC Thiruvananthapuram, Technopark Campus.

This center will have various AC and DC fast chargers for vehicles ranging from 2W to Heavy vehicles and, Play a crucial role in catalyzing an ecosystem for the promotion of the charging infrastructure with indigenous EV chargers research, development, commercialization, and manufacturing through industries.

Apart from this the Secretary also inaugurated the Hardware Emulation Facility at C-DAC, Thiruvananthapuram for the Start-ups under the C2S program and DLI Scheme of MeitY.

This center will have development, testing, and validation of hardware designs, for VLSI and SoC technologies. This facility provides resources for emulating hardware designs on reconfigurable platforms like FPGAs.

327. The Spices Board, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has launched a new scheme to boost exports and enhance cardamom productivity. What is the name of this scheme?

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय के अधीन मसाला बोर्ड ने निर्यात को बढ़ावा देने और इलायची की उत्पादकता बढ़ाने के लिए एक नई योजना शुरू की है। इस योजना का नाम क्या है?

- (a) SPICY
- (b) SPICED
- (c) SPICED UP
- (d) SPICE GROW
- (e) SAFE SPICES

Ans. b

Sol. Spices board unveils comprehensive scheme to boost exports and enhance cardamom productivity

The Spices Board, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has launched a new scheme titled 'Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development (SPICED).'

Scheduled to roll out in the fiscal year 2025-26, the scheme has been approved with a budget of ₹422.30 crore.

Its primary objective is to enhance value addition, drive innovation, and promote sustainability in the spice sector.

The SPICED scheme introduces several key components, including Mission Value Addition, Mission Clean and Safe Spices, the promotion of Geographical Indication (GI) spices, and support for entrepreneurship through Spice Incubation Centres.

These initiatives are designed to empower farmer groups, such as Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), and Self-Help Groups (SHGs), particularly in major spice-growing regions. The focus will be on improving post-harvest practices, ensuring an exportable surplus of spices that meet global food safety and quality standards.

Post-harvest quality improvement is a significant aspect of the scheme, with programs like Mission Clean and Safe Spices promoting sustainable production, certification systems, and extension advisory services.

328. Which e-commerce company has launched its artificial intelligence (AI)-powered shopping assistant 'Rufus' in India?

किस ई-कॉमर्स कंपनी ने भारत में अपना आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (AI) संचालित शॉपिंग असिस्टेंट 'रूफस' लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Flipkart
- (b) Amazon India
- (c) Snapdeal
- (d) Ajio
- (e) Tata Neu

Ans. b

Sol. Amazon launches AI assistant chatbot 'Rufus' in India

Ecommerce major Amazon India has launched its artificial intelligence (AI)-powered shopping assistant 'Rufus' in India.

Rufus is currently available in beta mode in India, and available only to some customers.

The assistant can help shoppers get product recommendations, access shopping list advice, compare product categories and see what other customers have said in response to their specific questions.

The chatbot was first announced in the US in February this year, after which it was rolled out widely to all customers in the US in July.

329. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Railway Board?

रेलवे बोर्ड के नए अध्यक्ष और मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (सीईओ) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Pallavi Singh
- (b) Abhinav Pandey
- (c) Shreya Mishra
- (d) Javed Khan
- (e) Satish Kumar

Ans. e

Sol. Satish Kumar named new Chairman and CEO of Railway Board

Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS) officer Satish Kumar has been appointed as the chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Railway Board.

His appointment marks a historic moment as he becomes the first individual from the Scheduled Caste or Dalit community to be selected for this position.

Kumar's tenure is slated to commence on September 1, when he will replace the incumbent chairperson and CEO of the board, Jaya Varma Sinha, who will be retiring on August 31.

Kumar, a notable officer from the 1986 batch of the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSME), has made remarkable contributions to Indian Railways over a distinguished career spanning more than 34 years, as acknowledged by the Railway Board.

Recent Appointment

- **Chairman of International Cricket Council (ICC)** - Jay Shah (replace Greg Barclay)
- **Chairperson of NASSCOM** - Sindhu Gangadharan
- **Chairman of Texas Economic Development Corporation** - Arun Agarwal
- **CEO of Nestlé** - Laurent Freixe (replace Mark Schneider)
- **Chairman of Cognizant India** - Rajesh Varrier (replace Rajesh Nambiar)
- **President of NASSCOM** - Rajesh Nambiar (replace Debjani Ghosh) effect from Oct 2024

330. Senior IPS officer B Srinivasan has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of _____.

वरिष्ठ आईपीएस अधिकारी बी श्रीनिवासन को _____ का महानिदेशक (डीजी) नियुक्त किया गया है।

- (a) Special Protection Group
- (b) Border Security Force
- (c) Central Industrial Security Force
- (d) Indo-Tibetan Border Police
- (e) National Security Guard

Ans. e

Sol. Senior IPS officer B Srinivasan appointed as DG of NSG

Senior IPS officer B Srinivasan has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of the National Security Guard (NSG).

Srinivasan is a 1992 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Bihar cadre.

He will take over as NSG director general after Nalin Prabhat's departure to being deputed as Jammu and Kashmir's Special Director General of Police.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Srinivasan as Director General, NSG, from the date of joining the post and up to August 31, 2027.

Recent Appointment in Defence Sector

- **Additional DG of ITBP** - Sanjeev Raina
- **Chief of Enforcement Directorate (ED)** - Rahul Navin
- **Director General of Assam Rifles** -Vikas Lakhera (22nd)
- **Director General of BSF** - Daljit Singh Chawdhary (additional charge)
- **Additional National Security Adviser** - Rajinder Khanna
- **Deputy National Security Adviser** - TV Ravichandran, Pavan Kapoor & Pankaj Kumar

331. In August 2024, which insurance company launched the 'Sampoorna Raksha Promise' term insurance product, featuring an instant ₹3 lakh payout on death claim intimation, and offers coverage up to the age of 100 with options like Life Promise and Life Promise Plus?

अगस्त 2024 में, किस बीमा कंपनी ने 'सम्पूर्ण रक्षा वादा' टर्म बीमा उत्पाद लॉन्च किया, जिसमें मृत्यु दावा सूचना पर तत्काल ₹3 लाख का भुगतान शामिल है, और लाइफ प्रॉमिस और लाइफ प्रॉमिस प्लस जैसे विकल्पों के साथ 100 वर्ष की आयु तक कवरेज प्रदान करता है?

- (a) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- (b) Tata AIA Life Insurance
- (c) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
- (d) Life Insurance Corporation of India
- (e) Universal Sampo General Insurance

Ans. b

Sol. Tata AIA Life launches 'Sampoorna Raksha Promise' product with ₹3 lakh instant payout feature

Tata AIA Life Insurance has unveiled its latest term insurance product, Sampoorna Raksha Promise. This product is designed to enhance financial security. Keeping in mind that the family may have to incur urgent expenses on the demise of the key member, it offers an instant payout of Rs. 3 lakhs on death claim intimation.

Sampoorna Raksha Promise allows the policyholder to defer the premium by 12 months in such circumstances. When diagnosed with a terminal illness e.g. cancer, the consumer is paid 50% of the sum assured, even as the future premiums are waived and policy benefits continue to accrue.

Sampoorna Raksha Promise provides coverage up to the age of 100 with two plan options:

Life Promise – Consumers can select a particular sum assured at the time of purchase, which is payable upon the policyholder's death.

Life Promise Plus – Offers a similar death benefit to the Life Promise Option. Further, when the policyholder survives till maturity, 100% of the total premium (excluding modal premiums and discounts) is paid back.

Payor Accelerator Benefit is offered in both options, where a lump sum of 50% of the base sum assured is paid in the event of a Terminal Illness claim. Further, all future premiums are waived after the claim payment is made. The policy remains in force along with the benefits.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- Bandhan Bank launches **Avni Saving Account** for Women Customer
- Karnataka Bank unveils **credit line on UPI in partnership with Navi Technologies**
- RBL Bank launched **Vijay Fixed Deposits** to honor 78th Independence Day
- Axis Bank launches **PRIMUS super-premium credit card** with VISA
- PNB launches **PNB ANTAH DRISHTI Braille Debit Card** for visually impaired customers
- DBS Bank India launched **"DBS Golden Circle,"** a priority banking program for senior citizens.

332. The 24th International Mother Teresa Awards Ceremony, commemorating the 114th birth anniversary of Mother Teresa, was held outside India for only the second time, this prestigious event, organized by the All-India Minority and Weaker Sections Council, Which among the following city hosted this event?

मदर टेरेसा की 114वीं जयंती के उपलक्ष्य में 24वां अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मदर टेरेसा पुरस्कार समारोह भारत के बाहर दूसरी बार आयोजित किया गया। अखिल भारतीय अल्पसंख्यक एवं कमजोर वर्ग परिषद द्वारा आयोजित यह प्रतिष्ठित कार्यक्रम निम्नलिखित में से किस शहर में आयोजित किया गया?

- (a) Paris
- (b) New York
- (c) Singapore
- (d) Dubai
- (e) Berlin

Ans. d

Sol. Mother Teresa International Awards Celebrated in Dubai

The 24th International Mother Teresa Awards Ceremony took place at the Millennium Plaza Dubai, commemorating the 114th birth anniversary of the revered humanitarian.

This prestigious event, organized by the All-India Minority and Weaker Sections Council, was held outside India for only the second time, with both international ceremonies having taken place in Dubai.

The awards, established after Mother Teresa's passing in 1997, recognized exceptional individuals who have made significant contributions in various fields including education, science, culture, sports, social work, medicine, industry, and politics in India.

This year's ceremony featured a diverse group of awardees from different countries and sectors. Notable recipients included the late João Bernardo Vieira II, from Guinea-Bissau, Sidharth Srivastava and Namit Bajoria from the industry sector, and Mohammed Mahtabur Rahman, Chairman of NRB Bank Limited.

The arts were represented by Irka Bochenko, while education saw MP Rozario honored, among others.

Social work awards went to Murli Panjabi and Sureandar Singh Khandari from the UAE. The ceremony also recognized young talent, with Ahmed al Hashemi receiving an award as a promising musician and child prodigy.

333. In August 2024, which bank has entered into a co-lending partnership with Newtap Finance Private Limited to provide personalised financing solutions for creditworthy individuals on payments platform CRED?

अगस्त 2024 में, किस बैंक ने भुगतान प्लेटफॉर्म CRED पर क्रेडिट योग्य व्यक्तियों के लिए व्यक्तिगत वित्तपोषण समाधान प्रदान करने के लिए न्यूटैप फाइनेंस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के साथ सह-ऋण साझेदारी में प्रवेश किया है?

- (a) Axis Bank
- (b) ICICI Bank
- (c) HDFC Bank
- (d) Yes Bank
- (e) Kotak Mahindra Bank

Ans. d

Sol. YES Bank inks pact with Newtap Finance to offer financing solutions

YES Bank has entered into a co-lending partnership with Newtap Finance Private Limited to provide personalised financing solutions for creditworthy individuals on payments platform CRED.

Dreamplug Technologies Private Limited (DTPL), which operates CRED, will serve as the Lending Service Provider (LSP) for YES BANK and Newtap Finance in this partnership.

The collaboration aligns YES BANK's financing expertise with CRED's affluent member base, where in recognition of their demonstrated financial responsibility, CRED members will benefit from competitive rates and a superior, digital-first experience, designed to be intuitive and frictionless.

Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- Piramal Finance and Central Bank of India partner to reach underserved markets
- Tata Power Solar Systems, ICICI Bank partner to finance solar units
- Jakson Engineers Limited signs MoU with SBI to promote solar projects
- Fintech co Navi collabs with Karnataka Bank to introduce credit line on UPI
- Pine Labs-owned Setu partners Axis Bank for UPI-focused payments platform

334. Which state government has launched “Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana?”

किस राज्य सरकार ने "मुख्यमंत्री सुख शिक्षा योजना" शुरू की है?

- (a) Uttarakhand
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Andhra Pradesh
- (e) Arunachal Pradesh

Ans. c

Sol. Himachal Govt. launched Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana

The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet, in a meeting at Shimla chaired by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, has approved a new scheme, “Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana”.

The scheme aims to provide financial support to identified socially and economically vulnerable women and parents of disabled children so as to enable the education and well-being of their children.

The state cabinet has approved Rs 53.21 crore for the Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana for the financial year 2024-25.

Parents of children under 18 years will receive monthly financial assistance of Rs 1000 per month from the state government to cover the child's educational, nutritional, and health expenses.

About Himachal Pradesh

- **Capital** – Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)
- **Chief Minister** – Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Mukesh Agnihotri
- **Governor** – Shiv Pratap Shukla

335. Who has been appointed as MD & CEO of Shriram Capital Pvt Ltd, the holding company of the Shriram Group?

श्रीराम ग्रुप की होल्डिंग कंपनी श्रीराम कैपिटल प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के एमडी और सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Amit Singh
- (b) Devendra Kumar
- (c) Parul Goel
- (d) Anshika Verma
- (e) Subhasri

Ans. e

Sol. Subhasri appointed MD & CEO of Shriram Capital

Shriram Capital Pvt Ltd, the holding company of the Shriram Group, has appointed Subhasri as the company's Managing Director and CEO.

Subhasri who has been serving as the joint managing director, will take over the new role with a vision to drive the company towards greater heights of success.

Her journey with Shriram Group began in 1991 as an officer in the NBFC business and over the years Subhasri has played a pivotal role in the company's growth and expansion.

Shriram Capital is the holding company of the Shriram Group, which is amongst the largest non-bank financiers in the country.

Subhasri is a fellow member of Institute of Company Secretaries of India and Institute of Cost & Works Accountants of India.

Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **Deutsche Bank Head of global corp coverage for India, Sri Lanka** - Manik Chhabra
- **MD & CEO of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank** - Salee Sukumaran Nair
- **MD of SBI** - Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh
- **CEO of NPCI Bhim Services Ltd (NBSL)** - Lalitha Nataraj
- **MD & CEO of MCX** - Praveena Rai's

336. Fatemeh Mohajerani has been appointed as the first female government spokesperson of which country?

फ़ातेमेह मोहजेरानी किस देश की पहली महिला सरकारी प्रवक्ता के रूप में नियुक्त किया है?

- (a) Iraq
- (b) Afghanistan
- (c) UAE
- (d) Iran
- (e) Qatar

Ans. d

Sol. Iran appoints Fatemeh Mohajerani as First Female Government Spokesperson

In Iran, for the first time, a woman will be the government spokesperson.

At the suggestion of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, Fatemeh Mohajerani was appointed as the first female government spokesperson.

Mohajerani, 54, is a Doctor of Business Administration from Edinburgh and has earlier served as the head of the Technical and Vocational Training University of Shariati (for women).

This is the latest appointment of a woman to a senior position. Besides her, three women hold high positions in the government including Shina Ansari who was appointed last week as head of the Department of Environment.

Recent Appointment in Foreign

- **CEO of Nestlé** - Laurent Freixe (replace Mark Schneider)
- **India's Permanent Representative to UN** - Parvathaneni Harish (replace Ruchira Kamboj)
- **CEO of Boeing** - Robert "Kelly" Ortberg (replace Dave Calhoun)
- **Head of the EU assembly** - Roberta Metsola; 2nd time (Malta)
- **UK's First woman Finance Minister** - Rachel Reeves
- **President of FATF** - Elisa de Anda Madrazo (replace T. Raja Kumar)

About Iran

- **Capital** – Tehran
- **Currency** – Rial
- **President** – Masoud Pezeshkian
- **Supreme Leader** - Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei

337. Joseph Francis A. Pereira, a Christian from Pakistan, has become the first person in which state to receive Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)?

पाकिस्तान के एक ईसाई जोसेफ फ्रांसिस ए. परेरा नागरिकता संशोधन अधिनियम (सीएए) के तहत भारतीय नागरिकता प्राप्त करने वाले किस राज्य के पहले व्यक्ति बन गए हैं?

- (a) Goa
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Bihar
- (e) Uttarakhand

Ans. a

Sol. Pakistani Christian becomes first in Goa to get citizenship under CAA

Joseph Francis A. Pereira, a Christian from Pakistan, has become the first person in Goa to receive Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant presented Pereira with his citizenship certificate during a ceremony in Panaji, the state capital.

Pereira, who now resides in Cansaulim, South Goa, expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for introducing the CAA.

Pereira, 78, retired in 2013 after working for 37 years in Bahrain. He settled in Goa with his wife, Martha Pereira, who was already an Indian citizen.

The Citizenship Amendment Act allows Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Christians, Parsis, and Buddhists from neighboring countries—Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan—who entered India before December 31, 2014, to apply for citizenship after verification.

3358. _____ healthcare firm Siemens Healthineers AG received the Indian drug regulator's approval to manufacture mpox detection kits in the country, a significant step to help screen and prevent the spread of the viral infection.

_____ हेल्थकेयर फर्म सीमेंस हेल्थिनेयर्स एजी को देश में एमपॉक्स डिटेक्शन किट बनाने के लिए भारतीय दवा नियामक की मंजूरी मिली, जो वायरल संक्रमण की जांच और रोकथाम में मदद करने के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।

- (a) USA
- (b) German
- (c) France
- (d) Russia
- (e) Australia

Ans. b

Sol. Siemens Healthineers gets India nod for Mpox test kit

German healthcare firm Siemens Healthineers AG received the Indian drug regulator's approval to manufacture mpox detection kits in the country, a significant step to help screen and prevent the spread of the viral infection.

The kits will be manufactured by the company's molecular diagnostics manufacturing unit in Vadodara, which has a production capacity of one million tests per annum.

With the RT-PCR kits, the test results will be available in 40 minutes, which is significantly faster than traditional methods that take one to two hours. This will help reduce the turnaround time for reporting, leading to quicker responses.

The IMDX Monkeypox Detection RT-PCR Assay is a molecular diagnostic test that targets two distinct regions in the viral genome, spanning both clade I and clade II variants of the virus. This ensures thorough detection across various viral strains, providing comprehensive results.

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