

# **GUPTA**

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# **CLASSES**

## **Current Affairs**

**Decemeber-2023**

**English**

**Part-4**



**GUPTA**

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**CLASSES**

**30. In December 2023, China's Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center launched three experimental satellites of the Shiyan 24C series onboard of \_\_\_\_\_ (rocket) from the waters of the coast of Yangjiang in Guangdong province, China.**

- 1) Long March 2D
- 2) Long March 2A
- 3) Long March 2F
- 4) Long March 3B
- 5) Long March 11

Answer- **5) Long March 11**

**Explanation:**

On 26th December 2023, **China's** Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center successfully launched a **Long March 11**, carrying three experimental satellites of the **Shiyan 24C series**, from the waters of the coast of Yangjiang in Guangdong province, China. The rocket has successfully placed the satellites into the preset orbit.

**Note:**

- This was the 8th sea-based launch of Chinese rockets and the 2nd launch from the South China Sea.
  - It was the 503rd mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.
- i.** Shiyan-24C satellites were developed by the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology (SAST), a Chinese space agency and subordinate of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC).
- ii.** On 26th December 2023, **China** also launched the **Long March-3B rocket** carrying the **57th and 58th satellites** of the BeiDou Satellite Navigation System (**BDS**) from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in the southwestern Sichuan province, China.
- This marks the 1st mission of sending two MEO (Medium Earth orbit) satellites in one go to the BDS-3 since the system was completed in 2020.

**31. Name the Stealth Guided Missile Destroyer that was recently (in Dec '23) commissioned by the Indian Navy (IN) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.**

- 1) INS Imphal
- 2) INS Arihant
- 3) INS Kolkata
- 4) INS Rajput
- 5) INS Talwar

Answer- **1) INS Imphal**

**Explanation:**

On 26th December 2023, the Indian Navy (**IN**) commissioned the **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Imphal** (Yard 12706), a **Stealth Guided Missile Destroyer**, at Naval Dockyard, **Mumbai, Maharashtra** in the presence of Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD).

- It is the third of four Project 15B '**Visakhapatnam**' class destroyers designed by the IN's Warship Design Bureau (**WDB**) and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (**MDL**), **Mumbai**.
- i.** The ship is 163 meters long, 17m in breadth, has a displacement of 7,400 tons, and is capable of attaining speed in excess of 30 knots (56 km/hour).



**ii.** It is propelled by four powerful Gas Turbines, in a Combined Gas turbine and Gas turbine (COGAG) propulsion, and is capable of speeds in excess of 30 knots.

- This ship emphasizes 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' with 75% indigenization, and also a conglomeration of different Entities in India like Brahmos missile by Brahmos Aerospace; Torpedo tube launchers by Larsen & Toubro (L&T); Rapid Gun Mount by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL); Medium Range missiles by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- It also involves participation from numerous start-ups and MSMEs (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises).

**32. Which country's Military has recently (in Dec '23) conducted a successful flight test of the indigenously developed guided Multi-Launch Rocket System (MLRS) 'Fatah-II'?**

- 1) Iran
- 2) Israel
- 3) Japan
- 4) China
- 5) Pakistan

Answer- **5) Pakistan**

**Explanation:**

**Pakistan Military** conducted a successful flight test of the indigenously developed guided Multi-Launch Rocket System (**MLRS**) '**Fatah-II**', which is equipped with state-of-the-art avionics, a sophisticated navigation system, and a unique flight trajectory. It has been developed as a potential challenger to the regional missile defense systems.

- The weapon system is capable of engaging targets with high precision up to a range of 400 kilometers, marking a substantial advancement in long-range artillery.
- The range is significantly more than its predecessor, Fatah-I, which has a range of 140 kilometers.

**i.** Fatah-II is featured with cutting-edge flight control technology and an advanced pathfinding mechanism and is an enhanced version of the Fatah rocket series.

**ii.** The Fatah-II is distinguished by its advanced precision-targeting technology, utilising a blend of satellite and inertial navigation systems.

**33. Which organisation has recently (in Dec '23) launched OSIRIS-APEX (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, and Security – Apophis Explorer) to study the asteroid Apophis and take advantage of the asteroid's 2029 flyby of Earth?**

- 1) China National Space Administration
- 2) European Space Agency
- 3) National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- 4) SpaceX
- 5) Canadian Space Agency

Answer- **3) National Aeronautics and Space Administration**

**Explanation:**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) launched **OSIRIS-APEX** (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, and Security – Apophis Explorer) to study the asteroid Apophis and take advantage of the asteroid's **2029 flyby of Earth**.



- i. Asteroid 99942 Apophis is named for the demon serpent “**Apophis**” of the ancient Egyptian mythology, which personifies evil and chaos. It is also known as “God of Chaos”.
- ii. Apophis is expected to pass close, within 19,794 miles (31,860 kilometers), to Earth surface on 13th April 2029.

**34. Russia’s Roscosmos and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) have recently (in Dec ‘23) agreed to extend their partnership in space exploration by continuing cross-flights, to the International Space Station (ISS) until \_\_\_\_\_(year).**

- 1) 2029
- 2) 2028
- 3) 2025
- 4) 2026
- 5) 2027

Answer- **3) 2025**

**Explanation:**

**Russia’s Roscosmos** and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) have agreed to extend their **partnership** in **space exploration** by continuing cross-flights, involving crews of various nationalities to travel on a single spacecraft to the International Space Station (**ISS**) until **2025**.

- The mutual commitment is aimed at ensuring the overall reliability and operational continuity of ISS and will be carried out on Russian and United States of America (**U.S.**) spacecraft.
  - The cross-flights involve sending 1 American astronaut to the ISS as part of the crew of a Russian spacecraft and 1 Russian cosmonaut as part of an American crew.
- i. The ISS was launched in 1998 at a time of increased US-Russia cooperation following the Cold War “Space Race.”
  - ii. The current ISS partners, including the United States, Russia, Europe, Canada, and Japan, have officially committed to operate the space station until 2024.
    - The 5 space agencies are NASA (U.S.), Roscosmos (Russia), the European Space Agency (ESA), the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).

**35. Name the seventh 250 Men Ferry Craft that was recently (in Dec ‘23) delivered by the Shalimar Works (1980) Limited to the Indian Navy (IN).**

- 1) Prema (Yard 723)
- 2) Sujeet (Yard 793)
- 3) Sumitra (Yard 782)
- 4) Raziya (Yard 702)
- 5) Manjula (Yard 786)

Answer- **5) Manjula (Yard 786)**

**Explanation:**

On 29th December 2023, Kolkata (West Bengal) based **The Shalimar Works (1980) Limited** delivered the **seventh 250 Men Ferry Craft ‘Manjula’ (Yard 786)** to the Indian Navy (**IN**).

- It was delivered in the presence of Rear Admiral Deepak Kumar Goswami, Admiral Superintendent, Naval Dockyard (ASD), Mumbai(Mbi), Maharashtra.
- i. The delivery of the ship concludes the contract for construction of seven 250 Men Ferry Craft with Shalimar Works Limited.
  - ii. The contract is in line with the ‘AatmaNirbhar Bharat’ initiatives of the Government of India (GoI).



### iii. **About Manjula (Yard 786):**

- Manjula(Yard 786) Ferry Craft was built under the 'Make in India' initiative of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) with all major and auxiliary equipment or systems sourced from indigenous manufacturers.
- The ferry craft was built with a life span of 25 years and provided impetus to operational and logistics requirements of the IN.

## SPORTS

### 1. Name the personality from India who has recently (in Nov '23) won the bronze medal in the Men's 25m rapid fire pistol event at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Final Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun 2023.

- 1) Gagan Narang
- 2) Saurabh Chaudhary
- 3) Anish Bhanwala
- 4) Vijay Kumar
- 5) Rituraj Singh

Answer- **3) Anish Bhanwala**

#### Explanation:

Indian shooter **Anish Bhanwala** won the **bronze medal** in the **Men's 25m rapid fire pistol event** at the International Shooting Sport Federation (**ISSF) World Cup Final Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun 2023** held in Lusail Shooting Range in Doha, Qatar held from 18th to 26th November 2023.

- This was India's 1st medal in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol event in the ISSF World Cup Final history.
- Anish Bhanwala's Bronze was the first and last medal of India at ISSF World Cup Final 2023.

**i.** India ranks 13th, along with Czechia; Great Britain, Latvia & the United States of America(USA), in the medal tally with 1 bronze.

**ii.** The ISSF World Cup Final 2023 Medal tally is topped by China with 8(2 gold, 4 Silver and 2 Bronze) followed by Germany (4 - 2 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze) and Italy (6 - 1 gold, 3 silver, 2 bronze).

### 2. Who has recently (in Dec '23) become India's 84th Grandmaster(GM) by crossing the 2500 Elo live ratings in the 4th edition of the Llobregat Open Chess Tournament (Llobregat Open 2023)?

- 1) Vaishali Rameshbabu
- 2) Sayantan Das
- 3) Vignesh N. R.
- 4) Pranesh M
- 5) Koustav Chatterjee

Answer- **1) Vaishali Rameshbabu**

#### Explanation:

Indian Chess player **Vaishali Rameshbabu**(22 years old), has become **India's 84th Grandmaster(GM)** by crossing the 2500 Elo live ratings during the ongoing **4th edition** of the Llobregat Open Chess Tournament (**Llobregat Open 2023**) from 30th November 2023 to 8th December 2023 in Barcelona, Spain.

- She is the third Indian female, after Koneru Humpy (2002) and Harika Dronavalli (2011), to get the GM title.
- Vaishali and her brother Praggnanandhaa became the world's first sister-brother pair to be GrandMasters.

i. Vaishali Rameshbabu secured her Woman Grandmaster (WGM) title in 2018 (elo rating 2300) and International Master (IM) title in 2021(elo rating 2400).

- At present, she is ranked world no. 11 in the women's ranking with a live rating of 2501.5.

**3. Name the Indian tennis player who has recently (in Dec '23) won the men's singles title of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Kalaburagi Open 2023 finals held at Kalaburagi, Karnataka.**

- 1) Saketh Myneni
- 2) Ramesh Krishnan
- 3) Prajnesh Gunneswaran
- 4) Ramkumar Ramanathan
- 5) Yuki Bhambri

Answer- **4) Ramkumar Ramanathan**

**Explanation:**

**Indian tennis player Ramkumar Ramanathan** won the **men's singles title** of the International Tennis Federation (**ITF Kalaburagi Open 2023**) by defeating David Pichler (Austria) in the finals held at the Chandrashekhar Patil Stadium, Kalaburagi, Karnataka.

i. This marks his 3rd ITF title of 2023. He has recently won the men's singles title in the ITF Dharwad Open (Oct' 2023) in Dharwad (Karnataka) and the ITF Men's Tennis Championship (Dec' 23) in Mumbai (Maharashtra).

ii. Kalaburagi Open 2023 Doubles title: Japanese pair Ryuki Matsuda and Ryotaro Taguchi clinched the men's doubles title by defeating David Pichler (Austria) and Nitin Kumar Sinha (India) in the finals.

**4. In December 2023, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the retirement of the former Indian cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni's (MS Dhoni) iconic jersey number \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) 18
- 2) 7
- 3) 5
- 4) 6
- 5) 10

Answer- **2) 7**

**Explanation:**

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (**BCCI**) has announced the **retirement** of the former Indian cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni's (**MS Dhoni**) iconic jersey number "**7**" to honour his achievements in Indian cricket.

i. MS Dhoni becomes the second Indian to be given this honour after Sachin Tendulkar, whose jersey number "10" retired in 2017.

- Since both the two jersey numbers "7" and "10" were retired, they will not be designated for any other Indian cricket players.



- ii. According to International Cricket Council(ICC) rules, the numbers 1-100 were allotted to cricket players as jersey numbers when they debuted for the national team.
- iii. MS Dhoni is the only captain in the history of cricket to win three ICC trophies: the World T20 in 2007 (held in South Africa), the ODI World Cup in 2011 (held in India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh), and the ICC Champions Trophy in 2013 (held in England and Wales).
- He was the recipient of Padma Shri (2009) and Padma Bhushan (2018) for sports.
- iv. He is the 2nd cricketer to be awarded Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna (now Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna) in 2007 after Sachin Tendulkar in 1997–1998.

**5. Name the personality from India who has recently (in Dec '23) named as the United World Wrestling's (UWW) Rising Stars of the Year 2023 in Women's Wrestling Category.**

- 1) Antim Panghal
- 2) Vinesh Phogat
- 3) Savita Dalal
- 4) Sonam Malik
- 5) Sarita Mor

Answer- **1) Antim Panghal**

**Explanation:**

India's **Antim Panghal**, **Georgios Kougioumtsidis** (Greece), and **Hasrat Jafarov**(Azerbaijan) have been named as United World Wrestling's (**UWW**) **Rising Stars of the Year 2023** in **Women's Wrestling**, Freestyle, and Greco-Roman respectively.

i. Iszmail Muszukajev (Hungary), Bose Tosun (Türkiye), and Gabriel Rosillo (Cuba) have been named UWW's Breakout Performances of the Year 2023 in Freestyle, Women's Wrestling, and Greco-Roman respectively.

**6. Which team won the Vijay Hazare Trophy Final 2023-24 by defeating the Rajasthan men's cricket team in December 2023?**

- 1) Haryana
- 2) Saurashtra
- 3) Karnataka
- 4) Mumbai
- 5) Gujarat

Answer- **1) Haryana**

**Explanation:**

The **Haryana men's cricket team** captained by Ashok Menaria won the **Vijay Hazare Trophy 2023-24** by defeating the **Rajasthan men's cricket team** led by Deepak Hooda in the finals held in the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot (Gujarat).

- The 21st edition of the Vijay Hazare Trophy was held from 23rd November to 16th December 2023, with 38 teams competing in a total of 135 matches.
  - This marks the first-ever Vijay Hazare Trophy win for the Haryana team, which beat Rajasthan by 30 runs in the finals.
- i. Haryana's Sumit Kumar was awarded Player of the Tournament and Player of the Match in the finals.
- He was awarded for his best performance by scoring 183 runs and taking 18 wickets.



**7. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the 1st edition of the Khelo India Para Games 2023 held at New Delhi, Delhi in December 2023?**

**A) Uttar Pradesh topped the medal tally with 105 medals (40 gold, 39 silver, and 26 bronze) in the inaugural edition of the Khelo India Para Games 2023 held in New Delhi, Delhi.**

**B) Sheetal Devi (Jammu & Kashmir) won a gold medal in the open category of compound archery event.**

**C) Bhavina Patel (Gujarat) won a gold medal in the Women’s Singles – Class 4 Table Tennis event.**

1) Only A

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) All A, B & C

Answer- **3) Only B & C**

**Explanation:**

**Haryana** topped the **medal tally** with **105 medals** (40 gold, 39 silver, and 26 bronze) in the **inaugural edition** of the **Khelo India Para Games 2023** held in New Delhi, Delhi from 10th – 17th December 2023.

- Uttar Pradesh finished second in the medals table with 62 medals (25 gold, 23 silver, and 14 bronze) while Tamil Nadu finished third with 42 medals (20 gold, 8 silver, and 14 bronze).

**i. Mascot: ‘Ujjwala’,** a sparrow, reminds us strength comes in many forms and the human spirit is unbreakable.

**ii. Sheetal Devi** (Jammu & Kashmir) won a **gold medal** in the open category of compound archery event.

- She is the only current female international archer to shoot with her feet.

**iii. The 2021 Arjuna Awardee Bhavina Patel** (Gujarat) won a **gold medal** in the **Women’s Singles – Class 4 Table Tennis** event.

**iv. Pranav Soorma(Haryana)** broke the **Asian record** in the club throw event with 33.54 metres which surpassed Indian player Dharambir’s previous record throw of 31.09m.

- He won the gold medal in the men’s F51 category club throw event.

**8. Which of the following personalities from India have recently (in Dec ‘23) won the International Hockey Federation’s (FIH) men’s Player of the Year and the FIH Women’s Goalkeeper of the Year award respectively at the 2023 FIH annual Hockey Star Awards?**

1) Harmanpreet Singh and Gurjit Kaur

2) Hardik Singh and Savita Punia

3) Harmanpreet Singh and Rani Rampal

4) Hardik Singh and Gurjit Kaur

5) Rupinder Pal Singh and Savita Punia

Answer- **2) Hardik Singh and Savita Punia**

**Explanation:**

**Indian men’s hockey team** midfielder **Hardik Singh** and **Indian women’s hockey team** captain **Savita Punia** won the **FIH men’s Player of the Year** and the **FIH Women’s Goalkeeper of the Year** award respectively at the 2023 International Hockey Federation’s (FIH) annual Hockey Star Awards.



- Xan de Waard (the Netherlands) won the FIH Women's Player of the Year and Pirmin Blaak (the Netherlands) won the FIH Men's Goalkeeper of the Year award.
- The awardees were determined through a voting process involving a panel of experts, national associations represented by their team captains and coaches, fans, and media. [List of Winners of FIH Hockey Star Awards 2023.](#)

**9. In December 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the most expensive player in the history of Indian Premier League (IPL) and joined Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) for Rs 24.75 crore to play in the 2024 IPL season.**

- 1) Daryl Mitchell (New Zealand)
- 2) Mitchell Aaron Starc (Australia)
- 3) Pat Cummins (Australia)
- 4) Alzarri Joseph (West Indies)
- 5) Harshal Patel (India)

**Answer- 2) Mitchell Aaron Starc (Australia)**

**Explanation:**

Australian cricket player **Mitchell Aaron Starc** becomes the **most expensive player** in the history of Indian Premier League (IPL) as he was bought by **Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)** for **Rs 24.75 crore** to play in the 2024 IPL season.

**i.** Mitchell Starc breaks Pat Cummins's (Australia) record buy of Rs 20.50 crore by the Sunrisers Hyderabad.

**ii.** Mallika Sagar, an art collector and consultant, became the IPL's first female auctioneer since 2008.

**iii.** The 2024 IPL auction was held for the first time outside India at the Coca-Cola Arena in Dubai, United Arab Emirates(UAE) on 19th December 2023.

**10. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Asian Youth Chess Championships 2023 held at Al Ain City of Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in December 2023?**

**A) India won 7 medals in the 2023 Asian Youth Chess Championships (standard) with 2 gold medals won by Indian chess players Kiyana Parihar (Under -8 Girls) and Harsh Suresh (U-16 Open).**

**B) In the Asian Youth Rapid Chess Championships, India secured 9 medals (4 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze) and finished 1st in Medal tally.**

**C) In the Asian Blitz Chess Championships, India finished 2nd with three gold medals, which were won by V.C. Nivedita (U-12 girls), Pratitee Bordoloi (U-10 girls), and A.S. Sharvaanica in their respective categories.**

- 1) Only A
- 2) Only A & B
- 3) Only B & C
- 4) Only A & C
- 5) All A, B & C

**Answer- 5) All A, B & C**



**Explanation:**

Indian chess players **Kiyana Parihar** (Under -8 Girls) and **Harsh Suresh** (U-16 Open) **won gold medals (Standard – category)** in the Asian Youth Chess Championships 2023 held at Al Ain City of Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from December 12 to 22, 2023.

- The 25th edition of the Asian Youth Chess Championships 2023 featured three events, including Standard, Rapid, and Blitz Championships.

**i. India won 7 medals** (2 gold, 3 silver, and 2 bronze) in the **2023 Asian Youth Chess Championships (standard).**

- AS Sharvaanica (U-8 Girls), Aarit Kapil (U-8 Open), and G Tejaswini (U-18 Girls) won the silver medals in their respective matches, while Aadya Ranganath (U-10 Girls) and Kheerthi Ganta (U-16 Girls) won a bronze medal.

**ii. In the Asian Youth Rapid Chess Championships**, India secured **9 medals** (4 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze) and finished 1st in Medal tally.

- Indian gold medalists are Bhagyashree Patil (U-18 girls), Saparya Ghosh (U-14 girls), A. S. Sharvaanica (U-8 girls), and Muhammad Shayan Noushad Ibrahim (U-8 Open).

**iii. In the Asian Blitz Chess Championships**, India finished 2nd with three gold medals, which were won by V.C. Nivedita (U-12 girls), Pratitee Bordoloi (U-10 girls), and A.S. Sharvaanica in their respective categories.

- Grandmaster (GM) Gukesh Dommaraju (India) won the inaugural Chennai Grand Masters 2023 title, which was held at Chennai (Tamil Nadu) from 15th to 21st December 2023.

**11. In December 2023, Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports(MoYAS) unveiled the official logo, jersey, and theme song of the 6th Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG 2024) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.**

**What is the mascot of 6th KIYG?**

- 1) Appu
- 2) Bomman
- 3) Veera Mangai
- 4) Veeran
- 5) Thambi

**Answer-3) Veera Mangai**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister **Anurag Singh Thakur**, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports(MoYAS) unveiled the official logo, jersey, and theme song of the 6th Khelo India Youth Games (**KIYG 2024**) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- The mascot of 6th KIYG named “**Veera Mangai**” and the ceremonial torch named “Thamizh” were also unveiled during the event.
- The mascot “Veera Mangai” is the replica of the legendary freedom fighter Tamil queen ‘Velu Nachiyar’.

**i. Over 5,000 athletes** from all over the country will participate in the Olympic, non-Olympic as well as indigenous games at KIYG 2024.

**ii. Silambam**, a form of Indian martial arts, has been included as a demo sport in the KIYG 2024.

**Note:** The 6th KIYG is scheduled to be held from January 19 to 31, 2024 in 4 cities of Tamil Nadu namely Chennai, Trichy, Madurai, and Coimbatore.



**12. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to Forbes' annual list 'World's Highest-Paid Female Athletes 2023', released in December 2023?**

**A) Polish Tennis Player Iga Świątek topped the list with a total earning of USD 23.9 million (on-field USD 9.9 million; off-field USD 14 million) in 2023.**

**B) Indian Badminton player PV Sindhu is in 16th position with a total earning of USD 7.1 million (on-field USD 0.1 million; off-field USD 7 million).**

**C) At the age of 43, American tennis player Venus Williams is the oldest player on the list; and 19-year-old Coco Gauff is the youngest player on the list.**

1) All A, B & C

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) Only C

Answer- **1) All A, B & C**

**Explanation:**

Player **Iga Świątek** (22 years old) has topped the Forbes' annual list World's Highest-Paid Female Athletes 2023, with a total earning of USD 23.9 million (on-field USD 9.9 million; off-field USD 14 million) in 2023.

**i.** Indian Badminton player Pusarla Venkata Sindhu (**PV Sindhu**) is tied with American Gymnast Simone Biles in 16th position with a total earning of USD 7.1 million (on-field USD 0.1 million; off-field USD 7 million).

**ii.** Following Iga Świątek, Chinese freestyle skier **Eileen Gu** (20 years) is ranked 2nd with USD 22.1 million (on-field USD 0.1 million; off-field USD 22 million), and American tennis player **Coco Gauff** (19 years) is ranked 3rd with USD 21.7 million (on-field USD 6.7 million and off-field USD 15 million).

**iii.** **Naomi Osaka** secured No. 5 on the list but had 0 earnings on the on-field but earned a total of USD 15 million only on the off-field.

**13. which football club has recently (in Dec' 23) won the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Club World Cup 2023 held in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia)?**

1) Manchester City

2) Arsenal

3) Barcelona

4) AC Milan

5) Liverpool

Answer- **1) Manchester City**

**Explanation:**

United Kingdom's **Manchester City Football Club** (F.C.) won their maiden Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Club World Cup 2023 by defeating Fluminense F.C. (Brazil) in the finals held at King Abdullah Sports City in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia).

**i.** The **20th edition** of the FIFA Club World Cup witnessed the participation of seven teams and was held from 12th -22nd December 2023.

**ii.** This victory marks Manchester City's **fifth title** of 2023 season, including the Premier League, the FA Cup, the Champions League, the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Super Cup, and the FIFA Club World Cup.



iii. Manchester City also became the **first English team** to win the FIFA Club World Cup at their first attempt.

**14. Which company has recently (in Dec '23) partnered with Khelo India Para Games and Divyang Kala Mela, to provide specialised and accessible accommodation for differently abled players across India?**

- 1) ITC hotels Limited
- 2) Oberoi Hotels & Resorts
- 3) The Leela Limited
- 4) OYO Hotels and Homes Private Limited
- 5) Taj Hotels Limited

Answer- **4) OYO Hotels and Homes Private Limited**

**Explanation:**

Gurugram (Haryana) based **OYO Hotels and Homes Private Limited** (OYO) has partnered with **Khelo India Para Games and Divyang Kala Mela**, to provide specialised and accessible accommodation for differently abled players across India.

- OYO has also partnered with Wheeling Happiness Foundation and other organizations to reach out to a larger group of differently-abled sportspersons
- Under this, OYO will provide accessible accommodations for differently-abled players and urge its partner hotels to ensure wheelchair-friendly amenities.

**Note:**

- Wheeling Happiness was founded by Padma Shri(2017 sports) and Arjuna Award(Athletics(Paralympics) Winner Deepa Malik.
- She was the 1st Indian female para-athlete to win a medal at the Paralympics. She won the silver in shot put at 2016 Paralympics held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

## **BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

**1. Which Indian Non-Government Company, along with Modi Story has recently edited and compiled the book, “Resilient India: How Modi Transformed India’s Disaster Management Paradigm”, released by Pushkar Singh Dhami , Chief Minister (CM) of Uttarakhand in November 2023?**

- 1) Bluekraft Digital Foundation
- 2) World Vision India
- 3) Save the Children India
- 4) Pratham
- 5) Akanksha Foundation

Answer- **1) Bluekraft Digital Foundation**

**Explanation:**

**Pushkar Singh Dhami** , Chief Minister (CM) of **Uttarakhand**, released a new book titled “**Resilient India: How Modi Transformed India’s Disaster Management Paradigm**” at the 6th World Congress on Disaster Management in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

i. The book is edited and compiled by **Bluekraft Digital Foundation** and Modi Story. It is published by Rupa Publications India.



ii. The book highlights Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts in transforming India's disaster management approach.

**2. Who authored the book, "India's Moment: Changing Power Equations around the World" that was released by Vikram K. Doraiswami, High Commissioner(HC) of India?**

- 1) Ravi Kumar Jain
- 2) Sandeep Singh
- 3) Vinod K. Jacob
- 4) Girish Chandra Pujari
- 5) Mohan Kumar

Answer- **5) Mohan Kumar**

**Explanation:**

**Vikram K. Doraiswami**, High Commissioner(HC) of India in London, United Kingdom(UK), released a new book titled "**India's Moment: Changing Power Equations around the World**" authored by Ambassador (Dr.) **Mohan Kumar**, one of India's leading experts on foreign trade.

i. The book is published by HarperCollins Publisher India

ii. The book highlights the fundamental factors and traces how India's positions in international negotiations have evolved over time.

iii. He has also served as India's ambassador to Bahrain and France.

**3. Who authored the book, Naye Bharat ka Samveda that was launched by the Former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind in December 2023?**

- 1) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar (Union Minister of External Affairs)
- 2) Narendra Modi (Prime Minister of India)
- 3) Nirmala Sitharaman (Union Minister of Finance)
- 4) Amit Shah (Union Minister of Home Affairs)
- 5) Dharmendra Pradhan (Union Minister of Education)

Answer- **2) Narendra Modi (Prime Minister of India)**

**Explanation:**

Former(14th) President of India **Ram Nath Kovind** launched a book titled "**Naye Bharat ka Samveda**" in an event held in Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts(IGNCA), New Delhi, Delhi.

**About the book:**

i. The book was authored by Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi.

ii. The book is a compilation of speeches of Narendra Modi on the Indian Constitution.

iii. The book is published by Prabhat Prakashan Private Limited.

**4. In December 2023, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, launched the 1st series of 11 volumes of "Collected Works of \_\_\_\_\_" (Leader), in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi.**

- 1) Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya
- 2) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- 3) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- 4) C. Rajagopalachari
- 5) Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Answer- **1) Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya**



**Explanation:**

**On 25th December 2023**, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, launched the 1st series of 11 volumes of “Collected Works of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya”, at the event held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi.

- The event was organised on the occasion of the **162nd birth** anniversary of Mahamana **Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya**, the founder of Banaras Hindu University(BHU).
- The bilingual (English and Hindi) work in 11 volumes spanning over 4,000 pages is a collection of writings and speeches of Malaviya from various corners of India.
- These volumes comprise his unpublished letters, articles, and speeches, including memorandums; articles, pamphlets, and booklets written by him from time to time.

**i.** The books were published by the Publications Division under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).

**5. Which of the following personalities have authored the book, “Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India’s Economic Future”?**

- 1) Urjit Patel & Amartya Sen
- 2) Raghuram Rajan & Rohit Lamba
- 3) Urjit Patel & Abhijit Banerjee
- 4) Raghuram Rajan & Amartya Sen
- 5) Bimal Jalan & Rohit Lamba

**Answer- 2) Raghuram Rajan & Rohit Lamba**

**Explanation:**

Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Raghuram Rajan** in collaboration with Economist **Rohit Lamba** authored a new book, titled “**Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India’s Economic Future**,” that explores strategies for accelerating India’s economic development.

- The book was published by Penguin Random House India.

**i.** Raghuram Rajan is currently the Katherine Dusak Miller Distinguished Service Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business in the United States of America (USA).

- He served as the 23rd Governor of the RBI from 2013 to 2016, and the Vice Chairman of the Board of the Bank for International Settlements, from 2015 to 2016.
- He was the Chief Economist and Director of Research at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from 2003 to 2006.

**ii.** Rohit Lamba is an assistant professor of Economics at Pennsylvania State University, USA, and a visiting assistant professor of economics at New York University Abu Dhabi.

**6. Which organisation/Institute has recently (in Dec ‘23) launched “Introduction to Finite Element Analysis – A Textbook for Engineering Students”?**

- 1) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi
- 2) Indian Space Research Organisation
- 3) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras
- 4) Institution of Engineers of India
- 5) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay

**Answer- 2) Indian Space Research Organisation**



**Explanation:**

The book titled “**Introduction to Finite Element Analysis – A Textbook for Engineering Students**” released by the Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**)’s Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) offers insights into the fundamentals of Finite Element Analysis (FEA) method and how FEAST (Finite Element Analysis of Structures) software can be used for solving real-world problems.

**i.** The book was edited by S Somanath, Chairman of ISRO, and Dr. Unnikrishnan Nair S, Director of VSSC- Thiruvananthapuram(Kerala), and written by finite element analysis experts of VSSC.

**ii.** The book was launched by Professor TG Sitharam, Chairman of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) at the ISRO’s Headquarters in Bengaluru(Karnataka).

- It was published by Springer Publications.

## **OBITUARY**

**1. In November 2023, Henry Alfred Kissinger, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and former American Diplomat, passed away.**

**In which year did he receive the Nobel Peace Prize along with Le Duc Tho(Vietnam)?**

- 1) 1981
- 2) 1986
- 3) 1971
- 4) 1973
- 5) 1990

Answer- **4) 1973**

**Explanation:**

**Henry Alfred Kissinger**, the **Nobel Peace Prize winner** and former American Diplomat, passed away at the age of 100 in Connecticut, the United States of America(USA).

- Henry Kissinger was born as Heinz Alfred Kissinger in Furth, Germany, on 27th May 1923. His family moved to the USA in 1938.

**i.** He served as the 56th Secretary of State of the United States from 1973 to 1977. In addition, he held the post of National Security Adviser from 1969 to 1975.

**ii.** He received the **Nobel Peace Prize** in **1973**, jointly with **Le Duc Tho(Vietnam)**, for jointly negotiating a ceasefire in Vietnam in 1973.

- He was honoured with the USA's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977.

**2. In December 2023, the Ruling Emir of \_\_\_\_\_ (country), Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah passed away.**

- 1) Saudi Arabia
- 2) United Arab Emirates
- 3) Jordan
- 4) Yemen
- 5) Kuwait

Answer- **5) Kuwait**

**Explanation:**

The Ruling Emir of **Kuwait**, **Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah** passed away at the age of 86. He ruled Kuwait for 3 years, after taking over from his half-brother, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah in September 2020. He was born on 25 June 1937.

- i. Kuwait's crown prince and his half-brother (Heir), 83-year-old **Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah**, was named the **new Emir** succeeding Sheikh Nawaf .
- ii. Sheikh Meshal has been the de facto ruler since 2021 when Sheikh Nawaf handed over most of his duties.

**3. Padma Bhushan awardee Dr. V. Mohini Giri, an Indian women's rights activist and the former Chair of the National Commission for Women (NCW) passed away in December 2023.**

**In which year she received the Padma Bhushan award in the field of Social Work?**

- 1) 2009
- 2) 2015
- 3) 2010
- 4) 2012
- 5) 2007

Answer- **5) 2007**

**Explanation:**

Padma Bhushan awardee **Dr. V. Mohini Giri**, an Indian women's rights activist and the **former Chair** of the National Commission for Women (**NCW**) passed away at the age of 86.

- She received the Rosalie Wolf Memorial Award from the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) in 2014, for a lifetime of demonstrated dedication in the service of "elder abuse."
- She was honoured with the **Padma Bhushan** in **2007** for **Social Work**.
- She was also awarded with Lifetime Achievement Award for building a society for all ages by a nongovernmental organisation (NGO) Committee on Ageing, United Nations in 2011.

**i. Her noteworthy publications include:** Emancipation and Empowerment of Women (1998); Kanya: Exploitation of Little Angels (1999); Living Death: Trauma of Widowhood in India (2002); Deprived Devis: Women's Unequal Status In Society (2006).

**4. In December 2023, American Economist \_\_\_\_\_, who won the 1987 Nobel Prize in economics passed away.**

- 1) Alan Greenspan
- 2) Arthur Laffer
- 3) Paul Samuelson
- 4) Irving Fisher
- 5) Robert Merton Solow

Answer- **5) Robert Merton Solow**

**Explanation:**

American Economist **Robert Merton Solow**, who won the **1987 Nobel Prize** in **economics** has passed away at the age of 99. He was born on 23 August 1924 in Brooklyn, New York, USA.

- Robert M Solow joined the Department of Economics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology(MIT) Cambridge, Massachusetts, the United States of America (USA) in 1949.
- From 1961 to 1962, Solow served on the Council of Economic Advisors in the administration led by then President of USA John F. Kennedy.



- He has served as member and chairman of the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston from 1975 to 1980.

i. In 1987, he won the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for his contributions to the theory of economic growth.

**5. In December 2023, French Politician \_\_\_\_\_, who served as the President of the European Commission(EC) from 1985 to 1995, passed away.**

- 1) Jacques Delors
- 2) Ursula von der Leyen
- 3) Jean-Claude Juncker
- 4) Romano Prodi
- 5) Gaston Thorn

Answer- **1) Jacques Delors**

**Explanation:**

French Politician **Jacques Delors**, who served as the **President** of the European Commission(**EC**) from 1985 to 1995, passed away at the age of 98 in Paris, France. He was born on 20th July 1925 in Paris, France.

**Note:** EC is the politically independent executive body of the European Union (EU).

- He served as the 8th President of the European Commission from 1985 to 1995 for three terms, longer than any other holder of the office.
- He also headed the Committee for the Study of Economic and Monetary Union, widely known as the Delors Committee(1988-1989), which proposed to create “Euro”, a new currency, to replace individual national currencies.
- From 1992 to 1996, he chaired United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)’s International Commission on Education for the 21st century.
- During his 2nd term as President of the EC, he played a major role in bringing out the 1992 Maastricht Treaty which established the modern European Union(EU) and paved the way for “Euro” and EU citizenship.
- In 2015, he became the 3rd person to be bestowed with the “Honorary Citizen of Europe” Award. The other two were Jean Monnet (1976), and Helmut Kohl (1998).

**6. In December 2023, Tamil actor & the founder of Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK), Vijayakanth, passed away.**

**In which year, he received the ‘Best Indian Citizen Award by the Government of India’ for promoting patriotism?**

- 1) 2003
- 2) 2005
- 3) 2002
- 4) 2004
- 5) 2001

Answer- **5) 2001**

**Explanation:**

Tamil actor and the founder of Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK), **Vijayakanth**, passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN). DMDK is a regional political party in TN.

- He started his career as an actor in Tamil cinema in 1979 and acted in more than 150 films. He was the President of the South Indian Artistes Association (SIAA) from 2001 to 2006.
- As a politician, Vijayakanth started his political career in 2005 by forming DMDK and contested in 2006 TN Legislative Assembly Election.
- He served as a Leader of the Opposition in TN Legislative Assembly from 2011 to 2016.
- While the national and regional political parties were dominating TN (both ruling and opposition) (over 40 years), DMDK emerged as the first regional party to host an opposition leader in the TN Assembly.

#### **i. Honours:**

- In **2001**, the Government of India (**GoI**) honoured him with the '**Best Indian Citizen Award by the Government of India**' for promoting patriotism.
- The Government of TN honoured him with 'Kalaimamani Award' in 2001.
- Vijayakanth won the Filmfare Awards South for Best Actor in 1987 for the movie 'Amman Koil Kizhakkaalae.'

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **1. When was the United Nations (UN) Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare 2023 observed across the globe?**

- 1) 28th November 2023
- 2) 30th November 2023
- 3) 27th November 2023
- 4) 29th November 2023
- 5) 26th November 2023

Answer- **2) 30th November 2023**

#### **Explanation:**

The United Nations (**UN**) **Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare 2023** was observed across the globe on **30th November 2023** to pay tribute to the victims, who lost their lives or suffered from chemical warfare.

- The Day also reaffirms the commitment of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (**OPCW**) to eliminate the chemical weapons threat and promote the goals of peace, security, and multilateralism.

**i. The first Day** of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare was observed on 30 November **2016**.

**ii.** On November 30, 2023, a homage to the memory of the victims and to uphold the dignity of survivors was held by the UNGA's first committee to commemorate the Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare 2023.

- On November 29, 2023, the OPCW member states marked the 26th anniversary of the entry into force of the CWC.

### **2. What was the theme of United Nations (UN) World Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Day 2023, observed across the globe on 1st December 2023?**

- 1) Let Communities Lead
- 2) Equalize



- 3) Global solidarity, resilient HIV services
- 4) End inequalities. End AIDS. End pandemics
- 5) Communities Make the Difference

Answer- **1) Let Communities Lead**

**Explanation:**

The United Nations (UN)'s **World Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Day** is annually observed across the globe on 1 December to raise awareness about AIDS and to unite people across the globe to show support for people living with AIDS and affected by Human Immunodeficiency Viruses (HIV).

**i. 1st December 2023**, marks the 35th anniversary of World AIDS Day with the theme of "**Let Communities Lead.**"

**ii.** UNAIDS, the UN program on HIV/AIDS, took the lead in campaigning for World AIDS Day since its creation in 2004.

- The red ribbon has become an internationally recognized symbol of solidarity and support for people living with HIV and for AIDS awareness.

**iii.** UNAIDS released the World AIDS Day Report 2023, titled "Let Communities Lead", and reveals that the world can end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, but only if communities are fully included and are sufficiently funded to lead the way.

**3. The \_\_\_\_\_ Raising Day of the Border Security Force (BSF) observed across India on 1st December 2023.**

- 1) 56th
- 2) 58th
- 3) 60th
- 4) 59th
- 5) 57th

Answer- **4) 59th**

**Explanation:**

The Border Security Force (**BSF**) of India annually celebrates the BSF Raising Day on 1 December to mark the establishment of BSF, a primary border-guarding organisation of India that came into existence on 1st December 1965.

- **1st December 2023** marks the observance of the **59th Raising Day of BSF.**

**i.** BSF, also known as the First Line of Defence of Indian Territories, is a paramilitary force charged with guarding India's land borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh during peacetime and preventing transnational crime.

- BSF is one of the 7 Central Armed Police Forces (CSPFs) of the Union of India under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The BSF celebrated its 59th Foundation Day in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh district on 1 December 2023.
- The Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) attended the event as the chief guest and paid tribute to the BSF personnel, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

**4. When was the United Nations (UN) International Day for the Abolition of Slavery 2023 observed across the globe?**

- 1) 28th November 2023
- 2) 29th November 2023
- 3) 30th November 2023
- 4) 2nd December 2023
- 5) 1st December 2023

Answer- **4) 2nd December 2023**

**Explanation:**

The United Nations **(UN) International Day for the Abolition of Slavery 2023** was observed across the globe on **2nd December 2023** to combat and eradicate contemporary forms of slavery, such as human trafficking, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.

- i.** The 50 for Freedom Campaign is led by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and its partners, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the International Organization of Employers (IOE).
- ii.** The 50 for Freedom campaign is the ILO's Protocol on Forced Labour that helps millions of children, women, and men reclaim their freedom and dignity.
- iii.** According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Children worldwide participate in paid and unpaid forms of work.
  - In the least developed countries, over 25% of children (ages 5 to 17) engage in labour detrimental to their health and growth.

**5. When was the National Pollution Control Day 2023 observed across India?**

- 1) 2nd December 2023
- 2) 30th November 2023
- 3) 29th November 2023
- 4) 1st December 2023
- 5) 28th November 2023

Answer- **1) 2nd December 2023**

**Explanation:**

**National Pollution Control Day** or National Pollution Prevention Day is annually observed across India on 2 December in the memory of those who lost their lives in the disastrous 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

- **2nd December 2023** marks the **39th** Anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.
- i.** Bhopal Gas Tragedy was India's first major industrial disaster that took place on the intervening night of December 2 and 3, 1984, in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh (MP).
- ii.** Almost 45 tonnes of the hazardous gas – Methyl Isocyanate (MIC) as well as several other poisonous gases leaked from a pesticide plant, Union Carbide (India) Ltd. (UCIL).

**6. The \_\_\_\_\_ World Computer Literacy Day observed across the globe on 2nd December 2023.**

- 1) 21st
- 2) 23rd
- 3) 20th



4) 25th

5) 22nd

Answer- **2) 23rd**

**Explanation:**

The **23rd World Computer Literacy Day 2023** was observed across the globe on **2nd December 2023** to raise public knowledge of computers and encourage the development of technological skills, particularly among children and women in India.

**i.** World Computer Literacy Day was established in **2001** by an Indian company National Institute of Information Technology (**NIIT**) to commemorate its 20th anniversary.

**ii.** The **first** World Computer Literacy Day was observed on 2nd December **2001**.

**7. When was the United Nations (UN) International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) 2023 observed across the globe?**

1) 3rd December 2023

2) 30th November 2023

3) 2nd December 2023

4) 4th December 2023

5) 1st December 2023

Answer- **1) 3rd December 2023**

**Explanation:**

The United Nations (**UN**) International Day of Persons with Disabilities (**IDPD**) **2023** was observed across the globe on **3rd December 2023** with the **theme** of “United in action to rescue and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**) for, with, and by persons with disabilities”.

**i.** On the occasion of the IDPwD 2023(3rd December 2023), The President of India, Droupadi Murmu presented the National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) 2023 during the event organised at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi, Delhi.

- A total of 30 awards (21 individuals and 9 institutions) were given to individuals, institutions, organizations, states, and districts for their outstanding achievements and work towards the empowerment of Divyangjan.
- The award is annually presented by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DoEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment(MoSJE) since 1969.

**8. The United Nations (UN) International Day of Banks 2023 was observed across the globe on \_\_\_\_\_.**

1) 30th November 2023

2) 1st December 2023

3) 2nd December 2023

4) 3rd December 2023

5) 4th December 2023

Answer- **5) 4th December 2023**

**Explanation:**

The United Nations (**UN**) **International Day of Banks 2023** was observed across the globe on **4th December 2023** to recognise the vital role of banking systems in the Member States in contributing to the improvement of the standard of living. 4th December 2023 marks the observance of the 4th International Day of Banks.



- i. The first ever International Day of Banks was observed on 4th December 2020.
- ii. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) is a global framework for financing sustainable development.
  - It outlines a set of commitments and actions to be taken by all stakeholders to mobilize and effectively utilise financial resources for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
  - It was adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2015.

**9. When was Indian Navy Day 2023 observed across India?**

- 1) 2nd December 2023
- 2) 4th December 2023
- 3) 1st December 2023
- 4) 3rd December 2023
- 5) 30th November 2023

Answer- **2) 4th December 2023**

**Explanation:**

**Indian Navy Day 2023** was observed across India on **4th December 2023** to recognise the role and achievements of the Indian Navy in ensuring the safety of the nation.

- The day also commemorates Operation Trident, Indian Navy's offensive operation conducted during the Indo-Pakistan war in 1971.
- i. On December 4, 2023, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi attended the celebration of Indian Navy Day at Sindhudurg in Maharashtra. He also unveiled the 43-foot Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue at Rajkot Fort, in Maharashtra. This was the Indian Navy's first mega show being hosted away from any major naval station.
- Indian Navy Week 2023 is being observed across India from December 1 to 7 2023.

**Note:** The Indian Navy is a well-balanced 3-dimensional force, capable of operating above, on, and under the surface of the oceans and safeguarding our national interests.

**10. When was the International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development 2023 observed across the globe?**

- 1) 2nd December 2023
- 2) 4th December 2023
- 3) 3rd December 2023
- 4) 1st December 2023
- 5) 5th December 2023

Answer- **5) 5th December 2023**

**Explanation:**

The United Nations (UN) International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development commonly known as **International Volunteer Day (IVD) 2023** was observed across the globe on **5th December 2023** to raise awareness about volunteer service, encouraging individuals, who dedicate their time and skills to contribute their services as volunteers locally and internationally.

- i. The 2023 **theme** of IVD centres on "The power of everyone – collective action – if everyone did".
- ii. IVD activities spanned across the globe, with 7 high-level events hosted by Governments in Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Iraq, Ireland, Tanzania, Thailand, and Togo.



**11. What was the theme of United Nations(UN) World Soil Day (WSD) 2023, observed across the globe on 5th December 2023?**

- 1) Halt soil salinization, enhance soil production
- 2) Soils: Where food begins
- 3) Soil and water, a source of life
- 4) Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity
- 5) Stop Soil Erosion, Save our Future

Answer- **3) Soil and water, a source of life**

**Explanation:**

The **10th United Nations(UN) World Soil Day (WSD) 2023** was observed across the globe on **5th December 2023** with the theme of “**Soil and water, a source of life**”.

**i.** The first ever WSD was observed on 5th December 2014.

**ii.** On the occasion of WSD 2023, the report on the Global Assessment of salt-affected soils was launched by FAO.

**iii.** On the occasion of WSD 2023, FAO announced the winners of King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award 2023 and Glinka World Soil Prize 2023.

- The 6th Global Soil Partnership (GSP) Plenary Assembly approved the creation of the annual King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award (WSDA).
  - The award honours individuals and/or institutions that have successfully organised events to commemorate World Soil Day the previous year. The Award is sponsored by the Kingdom of Thailand.
- Glinka World Soil Prize is an annual award addressed to Global Soil Partnership members, individuals or organisations committed to solving acute national, regional or local problems of soil degradation.
  - The Glinka World Soil Prize aims to keep up the momentum generated by the International Year of Soils 2015.

**12. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) eWeek 2023 is being observed from \_\_\_\_\_ with the theme of “Shaping the future of the digital economy.”**

- 1) 7th to 11th December 2023
- 2) 6th to 10th December 2023
- 3) 5th to 9th December 2023
- 4) 4th to 8th December 2023
- 5) 3rd to 7th December 2023

Answer- **4) 4th to 8th December 2023**

**Explanation:**

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**) **eWeek**, previously known as UNCTAD eCommerce Week 2023 is being observed from **4th to 8th December 2023** at the International Conference Center of Geneva(CICG) in Geneva, Switzerland.

**i.** The **theme** of UNCTAD eWeek 2023 is “**Shaping the future of the digital economy.**”

**ii.** UNCTAD eWeek 2023 is organised by UNCTAD in collaboration with ‘eTrade for all’ partners with the support of the Swiss government.

**iii.** eWeek 2023 is set to host a diverse array of events, spanning over 150 sessions, held in person, online, and in a hybrid format.

- The event combines high-level policy discussions with learning and experience-sharing sessions.

**13. When was the United Nations (UN) International Civil Aviation Day 2023 observed across the globe with the theme of “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development”?**

- 1) 7th December 2023
- 2) 4th December 2023
- 3) 6th December 2023
- 4) 3rd December 2023
- 5) 5th December 2023

Answer- **1) 7th December 2023**

**Explanation:**

The United Nations (UN) International Civil Aviation Day 2023 was observed across the globe on **7th December 2023** with the theme of “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development”.

i. The day also highlights the role of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), a UN agency, in helping countries to cooperate and realise a truly global rapid transit network at the service of all mankind.

**14. When was Armed Forces Flag Day (AFFD) 2023 observed across India?**

- 1) 5th December 2023
- 2) 3rd December 2023
- 3) 6th December 2023
- 4) 4th December 2023
- 5) 7th December 2023

Answer- **5) 7th December 2023**

**Explanation:**

Armed Forces Flag Day (AFFD) 2023 was observed across India on **7th December 2023** to honour the martyrs, men, and women in the armed forces who bravely fought and continue to fight on the borders to safeguard the country’s honour.

- Flag Day emphasises the dedication to looking after the war-disabled soldiers, Veer Naris, and the families of Martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the country.
- The **1st Armed Forces Flag Day** was observed on **7 December 1949**.

i. Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB), an apex body of the Indian Government, operates welfare and rehabilitation schemes for Ex-Servicemen (ESM) of the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force, and their dependents.

- KSB manages funds through Rajya Sainik Boards (RSBs) and Zila Sainik Boards (ZSBs) co-located in the State Capitals and District HQs respectively across the nation.

ii. Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF) was instituted in 1993 and is administratively controlled by KSB.

- It was instituted by amalgamating the following funds into one fund named as “Armed Forces Flag Day Fund”.



**15. \_\_\_\_\_ South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Charter Day was observed on 8th December 2023 to mark the adoption of the SAARC Charter.**

- 1) 39th
- 2) 37th
- 3) 40th
- 4) 38th
- 5) 41st

**Answer- 1) 39th**

**Explanation:**

39th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (**SAARC**) Charter Day was observed on **8th December 2023** to mark the adoption of the SAARC Charter on 8th December 1985 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

i. SAARC Charter Day was observed by the member states, SAARC Secretariat, SAARC Regional Centres and SAARC Specialized Bodies by organizing various dedicated programmes to promote awareness about SAARC and to enhance South Asian identity and solidarity within the region.

ii. The SAARC Charter has 10 articles that deal with the Objectives, Principles, Organisation, Meetings, Secretariat, and Financial Arrangements of SAARC.

**16. On which date, the United Nations (UN) International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime is observed across the globe in 2023?**

- 1) 12th December 2023
- 2) 9th December 2023
- 3) 11th December 2023
- 4) 8th December 2023
- 5) 10th December 2023

**Answer- 2) 9th December 2023**

**Explanation:**

The United Nations (UN) **International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime** which was observed across the globe on **9 December 2023** with the theme "A Living Force in World Society: The Legacy of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide"

i. 9 December 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of adopting the Genocide Convention, the 1st human rights treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

ii. The day was first observed on 9th December 2015.

**17. In Which theme, the United Nations (UN)'s Human Rights Day 2023 (also known as International or World Human Rights Day) was observed across the globe on 10 December 2023?**

- 1) Recover Better – Stand Up for Human Rights
- 2) Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All
- 3) Freedom, Equality and Justice for All
- 4) EQUALITY - Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights
- 5) Youth Standing Up for Human Rights

**Answer- 3) Freedom, Equality and Justice for All**

**Explanation:**

The United Nations (UN)'s **Human Rights Day 2023** (also known as International or World Human Rights Day) was observed across the globe on **10 December 2023** with the theme of "**Freedom, Equality and Justice for All**".

- i. The day aims to create awareness and mobilise political will to promote respect for rights and freedoms.
- ii. The day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948.

**18. When was the United Nations (UN) International Mountain Day 2023 observed across the globe with the theme of 'Restoring Mountain Ecosystems'?**

- 1) 9th December 2023
- 2) 11th December 2023
- 3) 8th December 2023
- 4) 10th December 2023
- 5) 12th December 2023

Answer- **2) 11th December 2023**

**Explanation:**

The United Nations (UN) **International Mountain Day 2023** was observed across the globe on **11th December 2023** with the **theme** of "**Restoring Mountain Ecosystems**".

- The **first-ever** International Mountain Day was observed on 11 December **2003**.
- FAO and the Mountain Partnership Secretariat organised a high-level side event, on 11 December 2023 to celebrate International Mountain Day 2023.
- The event was held in the Food and Agriculture Pavilion at the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- Every year, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention pays tribute to the literary and cultural heritage in the Alps with the "Reading Mountains Festival." In 2023, the festival enters its 9th edition.
- Taking place every year in the run-up to or on International Mountain Day on December 11, the festival offers an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the literary and cultural diversity of the Alps.

**19. When was the International Day of Neutrality 2023 observed across the globe by the United Nations (UN)?**

- 1) 10th December 2023
- 2) 12th December 2023
- 3) 9th December 2023
- 4) 11th December 2023
- 5) 8th December 2023

Answer- **2) 12th December 2023**

**Explanation:**

The United Nations (UN)'s **International Day of Neutrality 2023** was observed across the globe on **12th December 2023** to raise public awareness of the importance of neutrality in intergovernmental relations.



i. The Day also aims to develop peaceful, friendly, and mutually beneficial relations and encourages cooperation between different countries globally.

ii. The 1st International Day of Neutrality was observed on 12 December 2017.

**Note:** Article 2 of the UN Charter compels member states to settle international disputes peacefully and avoid using force.

## **20. What was the theme of United Nations (UN) International Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day 2023 observed on 12th December 2023?**

- 1) Now is the Time for Collective Action
- 2) Keep the Promise
- 3) Build the World We Want: A Healthy Future for All
- 4) Unite for Universal Health Coverage
- 5) Health For All: Time for Action

Answer- **5) Health For All: Time for Action**

### **Explanation:**

The United Nations (UN)'s International Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day 2023 was observed across the globe on **12th December 2023** with the theme of "**Health For All: Time for Action.**"

- The first-ever official UN-designated International UHC Day was observed on 12 December 2018.

i. The 2023 UHC Global Monitoring Report (GMR) estimated that approximately 2 billion faced financial hardships due to health expenses in 2019. While 4.5 billion lacked basic health services in 2021.

ii. The World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that treatment gaps for severe mental illnesses are, ranging from 35–50% in developed nations to 76–90% in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

iii. On 12 December 2023, WHO hosted a webinar to share findings from the new report, Progress Towards Universal Health Coverage: Improving financial protection in the Western Pacific Region.

## **21. Indian Navy observed \_\_\_\_\_ Submarine Day on 8th December 2023 to commemorate the induction of the Indian Navy's 1st submarine, the erstwhile Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kalvari.**

- 1) 54th
- 2) 53rd
- 3) 56th
- 4) 52nd
- 5) 50th

Answer- **3) 56th**

### **Explanation:**

Indian Navy annually observes **Submarine Day** on **8 December** to commemorate the induction of the Indian Navy's 1st submarine, the erstwhile Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kalvari (a Soviet Foxtrot Class submarine) on 08 December 1967.

- **8 December 2023** marks the observance of the **56th Submarine Day.**

i. The Indian Navy submarine arm was born on 8 December 1967, with the commissioning of INS Kalvari, the 1st Scorpene class submarine in India under the command of Commander K.S. Subramanian at Riga in Latvia, the erstwhile Union Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in 1967.

- Since then this day has been celebrated as "Submarine Day" by the Indian Navy.



ii. The **56th 'Submarine Day'** was commemorated at Visakhapatnam on **8th December 2023**.

iii. Flag Officer Submarines Rear Admiral K Venkatraman laid a wreath at the Submarine Cenotaph INS Virbahu, paying homage to submariners on 'Eternal Patrol' who sacrificed in the line of duty.

**22. When was National Energy Conservation Day 2023 observed across India?**

- 1) 12th December 2023
- 2) 10th December 2023
- 3) 13th December 2023
- 4) 11th December 2023
- 5) 14th December 2023

Answer- **5) 14th December 2023**

**Explanation:**

**National Energy Conservation Day 2023** was observed across India on **14th December 2023** to raise awareness about the importance of conserving energy and to promote sustainable energy practices. The National Energy Conservation Day is annually organised by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (**BEE**), under the Ministry of Power, Government of India (GoI).

- BEE under the guidance of MoP will observe National Energy Conservation Week from 14 to 20 December 2023 throughout India.

i. President Droupadi Murmu graced the **National Energy Conservation Day 2023** event held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi (Delhi) on December 14, 2023. She also felicitated the winners of the:

- 33rd National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2023;
- 3rd National Energy Efficiency Innovation Awards (NEEIA) 2023; and
- National Painting Competition on Energy Conservation 2023.

ii. **Haryana** has been selected for **NECA 2023** for its outstanding performance in the State Energy Efficiency Index.

- Haryana was awarded the 2nd prize in the State Energy Efficiency Performance Award.

iii. South Western Railway (**SWR**), headquartered in Hubballi (Karnataka), has been selected for the NECA 2023 in the "**Transport**" category for achieving Energy Efficiency in the non-traction and traction segment.

**23. The \_\_\_\_\_ Vijay Diwas was observed across India and Bangladesh on 16 December 2023.**

- 1) 54th
- 2) 50th
- 3) 53rd
- 4) 55th
- 5) 51st

Answer- **3) 53rd**

**Explanation:**

**Vijay Diwas**, or Victory Day (Bijoy Dibos), is annually observed across **India and Bangladesh** on 16 December to celebrate the historic victory of Indian armed forces against Pakistan in the 1971 Indo-Pak war (India - Pakistan War of 1971).

- The Day also pays tributes to the martyrs of both India and Bangladesh, who lost their lives on the line during the war.

i. **16th December 2023** marks the celebration of the **53rd Vijay Diwas**.



ii. Bijoy Dibos, celebrated on December 16, is a national holiday in Bangladesh and the Day commemorates the formal surrender of the Pakistani Armed Forces to the joint Indian and Mukti Bahini (Bangladeshi liberation forces) in Dhaka (now Bangladesh) during the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971.

iii. As a part of 53rd Vijay Diwas, the Southern Command of the Indian Army organised a 53-hour Ultra Marathon at Pune's (Maharashtra) Race Course.

iv. 24 participants have embarked on a 53-hour Ultra Marathon, which commenced on 14 December 2023 and concluded on 16 December 2023.

**24. When was the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers 2023 observed across the globe?**

- 1) 14th December 2023
- 2) 16th December 2023
- 3) 17th December 2023
- 4) 15th December 2023
- 5) 18th December 2023

Answer- **3) 17th December 2023**

**Explanation:**

The **International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers 2023** was observed across the globe on **17th December 2023** to focus attention on hate crimes committed against sex workers worldwide, as well as the need to remove the social stigma and discrimination that have contributed to violence against sex workers.

- The Day has empowered sex workers from cities around the world to come together and organise against discrimination and remember victims of violence.
- The global observance of the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers is led by the NSWP- Global Network of Sex Work Projects.

i. The 1st International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers was observed on 17 December 2003 as a memorial and vigil for the victims of Gary Ridgway, also known as the "Green River Killer" in Seattle, Washington (USA).

**25. What was the theme of United Nations (UN) International Migrants Day 2023 that was observed across the globe on 18th December 2023?**

- 1) Act Today
- 2) Integrating migrants into primary health care
- 3) Harnessing the potential of human mobility
- 4) Reimagining Human Mobility
- 5) We live together

Answer- **1) Act Today**

**Explanation:**

The United Nations (UN)'s **International Migrants Day** is annually observed across the globe on 18th December to create awareness about the important contribution of migrants while highlighting the challenges they face.

i. 18th December 2023 marks the observance of **23rd International Migrants Day** with the theme of 'Act Today'.

ii. The first ever International Migrants Day was observed on 18th December 2000.



**iii.** International Migration Outlook 2023 was published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in October 2023.

- According to the report for the 2nd consecutive year, India has retained its position as the top country of origin for new migrants to the member countries of the OECD in 2021.

**26. When was the United Nations (UN) Arabic Language Day 2023 observed across the globe with the theme of “Arabic – the Language of Poetry and Arts”?**

- 1) 14th December 2023
- 2) 17th December 2023
- 3) 15th December 2023
- 4) 18th December 2023
- 5) 16th December 2023

**Answer- 4) 18th December 2023**

**Explanation:**

The United Nations (UN)'s **Arabic Language Day 2023** observed across the globe on **18th December 2023** with the **theme** of “Arabic – the Language of Poetry and Arts.”

- The 2023 commemoration coincides with the **50th anniversary** of the proclamation of Arabic as one of the **6 UN official languages**.
- The 1st Arabic Language Day was observed on December 18, 2012.
- On 18 December 2023, UNESCO organized a series of events at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. The events include round table discussions, cultural performances, and announcement of the winners of the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture.
- An exhibition showcasing the achievements in advancing the Arabic language under ‘Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Programme for the Arabic Language at UNESCO’ has been organised from 18th to 22nd December 2023.

**27. What is the theme of National Minority Rights Day 2023 observed across India on 18th December 2023?**

- 1) Lead The Communities”
- 2) Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion
- 3) Conflict Prevention and the Protection of the Human Rights of Minorities
- 4) All in 4 Minority Rights
- 5) Promoting equality

**Answer- 2) Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion**

**Explanation:**

**National Minority Rights Day**, also known as Minorities Day, 2023 was observed across India on **18th December 2023** with the **theme** of ‘**Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion**’.

- 18th December 2023 marks the observance of the 11th Minority Rights Day.

**Note:** The first-ever Minorities Rights Day in India was observed on 18th December 2013.

**28. When was the United Nations (UN) International Human Solidarity Day 2023 observed across the globe?**

- 1) 16th December 2023
- 2) 18th December 2023
- 3) 20th December 2023



4) 17th December 2023

5) 19th December 2023

Answer- **3) 20th December 2023**

**Explanation:**

The United Nations (UN)'s **International Human Solidarity Day 2023** was observed across the globe on **20th December 2023** to raise public awareness of the importance of solidarity in addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and injustice.

- The Day also aims to remind governments of all countries to respect their commitments to international agreements.
- i. The first-ever International Human Solidarity Day was observed on 20 December 2006.
  - ii. The World Solidarity Fund was set up in February 2003 as a trust fund of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
    - Objective: To eradicate poverty and foster human and social development, particularly among the most vulnerable populations in developing countries.

**29. The first-ever United Nations (UN) World Basketball Day was observed across the globe on \_\_\_\_\_ 2023.**

1) 19th December

2) 17th December

3) 21st December

4) 18th December

5) 20th December

Answer- **3) 21st December**

**Explanation:**

The first-ever **United Nations (UN) [World Basketball Day](#)** was observed across the globe on **21st December 2023** to recognise the pivotal role of sports (including sports for disabled persons), especially basketball, in fostering human rights, peace, development, gender equality, and the empowerment of women and girls.

- i. Basketball has become the 1st team sport to be honoured with an UN-recognised international day.
- ii. On 21st December 1891, Basketball was played for the first time at the International YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) Training School in Springfield, Massachusetts, the United States of America(USA).
- iii. Basketball was developed by Dr. James Naismith, a Canadian physical education instructor.

**30. When was the National Mathematics Day (NMD) 2023 observed across India to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan?**

1) 18th December 2023

2) 21st December 2023

3) 19th December 2023

4) 22nd December 2023

5) 20th December 2023

Answer- **4) 22nd December 2023**

**Explanation:**

National Mathematics Day (**NMD**) is annually celebrated across India on 22 December to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, who was born on 22 December 1887 in Erode, Madras Presidency, British India (now Tamil Nadu, India)

- **22nd December 2023** marks the 136th birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- i. The first-ever NMD was observed on 22 December 2012, the 125th birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- ii. The SASTRA Ramanujan Prize for 2023 was awarded to Ruixiang Zhang, Assistant Professor, University of California, Berkeley, United States of America (USA).
  - The Award was instituted by the Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA) in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu in 2005.

**31. When was National Farmer's Day/Kisan Diwas 2023 observed across India to commemorate the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, 5th Prime Minister(PM) of India?**

- 1) 21st December 2023
- 2) 23rd December 2023
- 3) 20th December 2023
- 4) 22nd December 2023
- 5) 19th December 2023

Answer- **2) 23rd December 2023**

**Explanation:**

**National Farmer's Day**, also known as Kisan Diwas, is annually observed across India on **23rd December** to highlight the significance of farmers' contribution to the overall social and economic development of India.

- The day also marks the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, a champion of the Indian farmers' community, who served as the 5th Prime Minister(PM) of India from 1979 to 1980.
- **23rd December 2023** marks the 121st birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh.
- The 1st Kisan Diwas (National Farmers Day) was observed on 23 December 2001.

**32. When was National Consumer Rights Day 2023 observed across India?**

- 1) 23rd December 2023
- 2) 25th December 2023
- 3) 22nd December 2023
- 4) 24th December 2023
- 5) 21st December 2023

Answer- **4) 24th December 2023**

**Explanation:**

National Consumer Rights Day, also known as **Bharatiya Grahak Diwas** or **National Consumer Day**, is annually observed across India on **24 December** to raise awareness of consumer rights and responsibilities.

- i. The day aims to educate people about their rights as consumers to avoid exploitation like freedom of choice, access to information, and protection against dangerous products.
- ii. The day commemorates the enactment of the **Consumer Protection Act (CPA)** of 1986, which received the assent of the President of India on 24 December 1986.



iii. The 1st National Consumer Rights Day was observed on **24 December 1986**.

iv. Inauguration of the e-JAGRITI portal for consumer commissions

**33. Good Governance Day 2023 was observed across India on 25th December to mark the birth anniversary of which of the following Prime Ministers of India?**

- 1) Rajiv Gandhi
- 2) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- 3) Manmohan Singh
- 4) Indra Gandhi
- 5) Jawahar Lal Nehru

Answer- **2) Atal Bihari Vajpayee**

**Explanation:**

Good Governance Day, also known as **Sushasan Diwas** in Hindi, is annually observed across India on 25th December to mark the birth anniversary of the former (10th) Prime Minister (PM) Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

i. The day also aims to create awareness of accountability and administration of government among the people.

ii. 25th December 2023 marks the **10th Good Governance Day** and the 99th birth anniversary of **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.

iii. Jitendra Singh launched three new features on the integrated government online training (iGOT) Karmayogi platform.

**34. When was the Veer Bal Diwas 2023 observed across India?**

- 1) 26th December 2023
- 2) 24th December 2023
- 3) 27th December 2023
- 4) 23rd December 2023
- 5) 25th December 2023

Answer- **1) 26th December 2023**

**Explanation:**

**Veer Bal Diwas** is annually observed across India on 26 December to pay honour and tribute to the sacrifices of Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh, the 3rd and 4th son (Chhote Sahibzadas) of Guru Gobind Singh, 10th and last Sikh Guru.

- **26th December 2023** marks the **2nd** observance of **Veer Bal Diwas**.

i. On 9 January 2022, on the occasion of the Prakash Purab (birth anniversary) of Guru Gobind Singh, PM Narendra Modi declared that December 26 would be observed as 'Veer Bal Diwas' to mark the martyrdom of the Chhote Sahibzadas.

- The first Veer Bal Diwas was observed on 26th December 2022.

ii. PM Narendra Modi participated in the program marking the 2nd observance of 'Veer Bal Diwas' on 26th December 2023 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi.

iii. The Sikh Diaspora from the United States of America (USA), United Kingdom (UK), New Zealand, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Greece converged in a significant gathering to observe the 1st international Veer Bal Diwas.

iv. The programs were organised by the Indian Minorities Foundation (IMF) across the 5 nations along with the Sikh Diaspora of the respective countries.

**35. When was the United Nations (UN) International Day of Epidemic Preparedness 2023 observed across the globe?**

- 1) 25th December 2023
- 2) 27th December 2023
- 3) 24th December 2023
- 4) 26th December 2023
- 5) 23rd December 2023

Answer- **2) 27th December 2023**

**Explanation:**

The United Nations (UN)'s **International Day of Epidemic Preparedness** is annually observed across the globe on 27th December to highlight the significance of the prevention of, preparedness for, and partnership against epidemics.

- **27th December 2023** marks the observance of the **4th International Day of Epidemic Preparedness**.
  - The **first** International Day of Epidemic Preparedness was observed on 27 December 2020.
- i.** On December 18, 2023, **SARS-CoV-2 sub-variant JN.1** was classified as a separate Variant of Interest (VOI) from its parent lineage BA.2.86 Omicron variant due to its rapid prevalence increase in recent weeks.
- Previously, it was classified as VOI as a part of BA.2.86 sublineages.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

**1. In December 2023, a new species of marine amphipod 'Demaorchestia alanensis' was discovered in the \_\_\_\_\_ (lake).**

- 1) Chilika Lake
- 2) Loktak Lake
- 3) Wular Lake
- 4) Kolleru Lake
- 5) Vembanad Lake

Answer- **1) Chilika Lake**

**Explanation:**

Researchers from Berhampur University, **Odisha** have discovered a new species of marine amphipod in the **Odisha's Chilika lake** on east coast of India.

- i.** The new species is given the scientific nomenclature '**Demaorchestia alanensis**' after Professor Alan Myers who made a significant contribution to global marine amphipod studies.
- ii.** The discovery of the species was published in the online edition of the journal 'Zootaxa'.

**About Demaorchestia Alanensis:**

- The new species is added to the genus Demaorchestia.
- It belongs to the family Talitridae, subfamily Platorchestiinae and suborder Senticaudata.
- The discovery raised the global species number in the genus to six.



**2. In December 2023, the researchers from Visva-Bharati University in \_\_\_\_\_(state) discovered a new species of Bacteria named “Pantoea Tagorei”, after Rabindranath Tagore, who won the 1913 Nobel Prize in Literature.**

- 1) Madhya Pradesh
- 2) West Bengal
- 3) Odisha
- 4) Jharkhand
- 5) Maharashtra

**Answer- 2) West Bengal**

**Explanation:**

The researchers from Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan, **West Bengal**(WB) have discovered a **new species of ‘good’ bacteria** with unique properties beneficial for plant growth.

**i.** The new species is named “**Pantoea Tagorei**”, after Rabindranath Tagore, who won the 1913 Nobel Prize in Literature.

- This is the 1st time any living thing has been named after Tagore.
- The discovery has been published in the Indian Journal of Microbiology.

**ii.** Pantoea Tagorei was discovered from soil samples collected in the Jharia coal mines of Jharia in Jharkhand.

## **APP and WEB PORTAL**

**1. Name the Geographic Information System (GIS) application that has recently (in Dec ‘23) launched by Kapil Moreshwar Patil, Union Minister of Panchayati Raj to encourage technology driven spatial planning by the Gram Panchayat.**

- 1) Gram Manchitra
- 2) Gram Pustika
- 3) Gram Sanskaran
- 4) Gram Dastaavez
- 5) Gram Patrika

**Answer- 1) Gram Manchitra**

**Explanation:**

The Union Minister of State (MoS) of Panchayati Raj, Kapil Moreshwar Patil launched the Geographic Information System (GIS) application “**Gram Manchitra**” to encourage technology driven spatial planning by the **Gram Panchayat**.

**i.** It utilizes geo-spatial technology to offer a dynamic, unified platform for Gram Panchayats to visualize and plan diverse developmental projects spanning natural resource management, water harvesting, sanitation, agriculture, and more.

**ii.** Gram Manchitra will serve as a support system for the formulation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).

**iii.** This newly launched app will be aided by MoPR’s previously launched mActionSoft application, which will enhance the platform by integrating geo-tagged data from assets, providing a detailed view of Gram Panchayat projects.

**2. Which state's Pollution Control Board has recently (in Dec '23) launched "Janavani- Kalushya Nivarani," mobile application to register complaints related to environmental pollution?**

- 1) Jharkhand
- 2) Odisha
- 3) Karnataka
- 4) Andhra Pradesh
- 5) Telangana

**Answer- 5) Telangana**

**Explanation:**

The **Telangana State Pollution Control Board (TSPCB)** launched "**Janavani- Kalushya Nivarani**," a public grievance mobile application, designed for registering various complaints related to environmental pollution.

**i.** This app was unveiled by Konda Surekha, Minister of Environment and Forests & Endowments, Telangana.

**ii.** The upgraded lab is aligned with the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) Act, 1986 requirements and will be equipped to analyse environmental samples related to water, air, and soil in the Warangal zone.

## **CURRENT STATIC BANKING**

**1. Which bank has recently (in Dec '23) integrated RuPay Credit Cards with Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions?**

- 1) ICICI Bank
- 2) Axis Bank
- 3) RBL Bank
- 4) Karnataka Bank
- 5) IDBI Bank

**Answer- 1) ICICI Bank**

**Explanation:**

**ICICI Bank** announced that it has integrated its **RuPay Credit Cards** with Unified Payments Interface **(UPI) transactions**.

**i.** With this integration, ICICI Bank customers can link their RuPay Credit Cards to UPI to carry out Person-to-Merchant (P2M) transactions online- such as shopping, payment of utility bills—and offline- such as payments at a POS (point of sale) machine.

**2. Which company has recently (in Dec '23) received one of the most sought-after data security and compliance recognitions - 'System and Organisation Control 3 (SOC 3) Certification'?**

- 1) Paytm
- 2) MobiKwik
- 3) Razorpay
- 4) PhonePe
- 5) Freecharge

**Answer- 3) Razorpay**



**Explanation:**

**Razorpay**, India's Leading Omnichannel Payments and Banking Platform for Businesses has announced that it has received one of the most sought-after data security and compliance recognitions – 'System and Organisation Control 3 (**SOC 3 Certification**)'.

- i. SOC 3 Compliance applies to any organization that stores sensitive customer data while processing online transactions, such as financial information, health records, or personally identifiable information.
- ii. SOC 3 is a globally recognized and respected standard for managing and safeguarding sensitive customer data. Razorpay is the first fintech company in India to have achieved this compliance milestone.

**3. Which company has recently (in Dec '23) launched Securitised Debt Instrument (SDI) through its debut opportunity - Navratna SDI?**

- 1) Zerodha
- 2) Upstox
- 3) Grip Invest
- 4) WiseX
- 5) Paisa Invest

Answer- **4) WiseX**

**Explanation:**

**WiseX**, India's leading neo-realty alternative investment platform has launched Securitised Debt Instrument (SDI) through its debut opportunity - Navratna SDI.

- i. The SDI securities have received an 'A' rating from Acuité Ratings & Research Limited and have been listed in the BSE Stock Exchange.
- ii. The company aims to raise ₹15 crore which will be used to meet the funding requirements of a leading Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) provider, Svaryu Energy.

**4. Who is the present (as of Dec '23) Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SBI Card?**

- 1) Shrinivas Yeshwant Joshi
- 2) Abhijit Chakravorty
- 3) Tejendra Mohan Bhasin
- 4) Anuradha Shripad Nadkarni
- 5) Rajendra Kumar Saraf

Answer- **2) Abhijit Chakravorty**

**Explanation:**

**Abhijit Chakravorty** is present Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **SBI Card**. NPCI Bharat BillPay (**NBBL**), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has successfully integrated SBI Card, one of India's leading credit card issuers, into the credit card category of **Bharat BillPay**.

- **Noteworthy credit card issuers already present** in this category include Kotak Mahindra Bank, BoB Financial, Federal Bank, AU Small Finance Bank, IndusInd Bank, and Canara Bank.

- The Bharat Bill payment system is a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conceptualised system driven by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It has multiple modes of payment and provides instant confirmation of payment via an SMS or receipt.
- It offers myriad Bill collection categories like electricity, telecom, DTH, gas, water bills, etc. and also other repetitive payments like insurance premium, mutual funds, school fees, institution fees, credit cards, fastag recharge, local taxes, housing society payments, etc. at one single window.
- Bharat BillPay facilitates myriad payment modes enabling Bill payments. The payment modes options facilitated under the ecosystem are Cards (Credit, Debit and Prepaid), NEFT Internet Banking, UPI, Wallets, Aadhar based Payments and Cash.

**5. Which company has recently (in Dec '23) tied up with Visa to issue credit cards to small business owners in India?**

- 1) Paytm
- 2) IppoPay
- 3) Razorpay
- 4) PhonePe
- 5) Freecharge

Answer- **2) IppoPay**

**Explanation:**

**IppoPay**, a payment infrastructure provider has tied up with **Visa** to issue credit cards to small business owners in India.

- This alliance with Visa marks a significant milestone in our journey. With our network of over 5,00,000 merchants, this partnership will usher in a new era of financial possibilities.

**6. Name the bank that has recently (in Dec '23) appointed Harsh Kumar Bhanwala as the Additional Independent Director for 3-years.**

- 1) Axis Bank
- 2) HDFC Bank
- 3) ICICI Bank
- 4) YES Bank
- 5) IndusInd Bank

Answer- **2) HDFC Bank**

**Explanation:**

**HDFC Bank's** Board of Directors approved the nomination of **Harsh Kumar Bhanwala** as the **Additional Independent Director** of the bank for 3-years beginning January 25, 2024.

**i.** Harsh was the Executive Chairman of Capital India Finance, a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC). Prior to that, from 2013 to 2020, he also served as Chairman of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

**7. How many Payments Banks are there in India?**

- 1) 9
- 2) 8
- 3) 4
- 4) 10



5) 6

Answer- **5) 6**

**Explanation:**

According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), There are **6** Payment Banks are in India

**List of Payment Banks:**

- Airtel Payments Bank Limited
- Fino Payments Bank Limited
- India Post Payments Bank Limited
- Paytm Payments Bank Limited
- NSDL payment bank
- Jio payment bank

The main objective of the payment bank is providing small savings accounts and payments or remittance services to low income households, small businesses, other unorganized sector entities and other users.

**8. In SWIFT code, the 1st four alphabetic characters represent \_\_\_\_.**

- 1) User Name
- 2) Branch Code
- 3) Location Code
- 4) Country Name
- 5) Bank Name

Answer- **5) Bank Name**

**Explanation:**

SWIFT (**Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication**) is a 8 to 11 Alphabetic code that is a combination of various kinds of letters and are used to identify the branch codes of the banks.

- It is approved by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

**The components of SWIFT code are:**

- The first four alphabetic characters representing the bank name,
- The next two alphabetic characters represent the country name
- The next two letters or digits represent the location code, and
- The last 3 letters or digits represent the branch code.

**Example:** SWIFT Code of a branch of Punjab National Bank in Delhi is PUNBINBDRG

**9. In which year 'Airtel Payments Banks' is established?**

- 1) 2021
- 2) 2014
- 3) 2017
- 4) 2010
- 5) 2015

Answer- **3) 2017**

**Explanation:**

**About Airtel Payments Banks Limited:**

It was founded by Bharti Airtel, India's largest telecom operator, and is regarded as India's first payments bank.

**MD & CEO – Anubrata Biswas**

**Launched – 2017**

**Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi**

**10. In December 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved an 'Offline Retail Payments' product developed by \_\_\_\_\_ (Bank), in partnership with Crunchfish AB, for adoption by banks and other financial institutions.**

- 1) Axis Bank
- 2) HDFC Bank
- 3) ICICI Bank
- 4) YES Bank
- 5) IndusInd Bank

**Answer- 2) HDFC Bank**

**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved an 'Offline Retail Payments' product developed by **HDFC Bank**, in partnership with Crunchfish AB, for adoption by banks and other financial institutions.

- Under the 'On Tap' application facility for the theme 'Retail Payments' of the Regulatory Sandbox (RS), HDFC Bank (in partnership with Crunchfish AB) was selected for the Test Phase,
- An 'Offline Retail Payments' product outlined below completed the 'Test Phase' and was evaluated based on mutually agreed test scenarios and expected outcomes.
- The product 'Offline Retail Payments' provides capability for customers and merchants to be able to transact in offline mode. It is implemented as a trusted application that uses certified virtual secure elements as well as Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). The solution aims to boost adoption of digital payments in areas of no or low network by enabling transactions without the need to have a network connection.
- The product of the aforesaid entity has now exited the RS and may be considered for adoption by Regulated Entities subject to compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.

**11. Which bank has recently (in Dec '23) announced a plan to raise up to Rs 2,500 crore by issuing Basel III compliant bonds?**

- 1) Canara Bank
- 2) Federal Bank
- 3) State Bank of India
- 4) Union Bank of India
- 5) Bank of Baroda

**Answer- 5) Bank of Baroda**

**Explanation:**

Public sector lender **Bank of Baroda** announced a plan to raise up to **Rs 2,500 crore** by issuing **Basel III compliant bonds**.

- The 'Capital Raising Committee' has approved a proposal to raise tranche I of Basel III compliant Tier II bonds with a base issue size of Rs 1,000 crore with a green-shoe option to retain oversubscription of up to Rs 1,500 crore.
- Under Basel-III capital regulations, banks globally need to improve and strengthen their capital planning processes. The bank's shares were trading at Rs 219.20 apiece on BSE, down 0.36% over the previous close.



**12. Who is the present (as of Dec '23) Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Punjab National Bank (PNB)?**

- 1) A S Rajeev
- 2) Atanu Kumar Das
- 3) Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- 4) Atul Kumar Goel
- 5) Sashidhar Jagdishan

Answer- **4) Atul Kumar Goel**

**Explanation:**

**Atul Kumar Goel** is present Managing Director (**MD**) & Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of Punjab National Bank (**PNB**).

- i.** Recently, Punjab National Bank (PNB) became the **third public sector bank** to achieve the Rs. 1 lakh crore milestone on December 15 2023, even as the stock price is yet to reach its all-time high.
- While the State Bank of India (SBI) tops the list with a market valuation of Rs. 5.8 lakh crore, Bank of Baroda holds the second spot with a market capitalisation of Rs. 1.2 lakh crore.
  - Shares of PNB added another 2%, closing the session at Rs. 91.25 on NSE. In fact, the stock of PNB is trading at about 67% lower to its record high of Rs. 279.98, that it hit on November 09, 2010.

**13. As of December 2023, how many Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are in India?**

- 1) 15
- 2) 10
- 3) 8
- 4) 12
- 5) 9

Answer- **4) 12**

**Explanation:**

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are those banks where the government holds more than 50% ownership. **i.** Further, the government regulates the financial guidelines, because of government ownership, most depositors believe that their money is more secure in public sector banks. As a result, most public sector banks have a large customer base.

**ii.** At present, India has **12** Public Sector Banks (PSBs),

- State Bank of India
- Punjab National Bank
- Bank of Baroda
- Canara Bank
- Union Bank of India
- Bank of India
- Indian Bank
- Central Bank of India
- Indian Overseas Bank
- UCO Bank
- Bank of Maharashtra
- Punjab & Sindh Bank

**14. As of December 2023, how many Asset Management Companies are registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)?**

- 1) 32
- 2) 40
- 3) 39
- 4) 45
- 5) 42

Answer- **4) 45**

**Explanation:**

The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) is dedicated to developing the Indian Mutual Fund Industry on professional, healthy and ethical lines and to enhance and maintain standards in all areas with a view to protecting and promoting the interests of mutual funds and their unit holders.

- AMFI, the association of all the Asset Management Companies of SEBI registered mutual funds in India, was incorporated on August 22, 1995, as a non-profit organisation. As of now, **45 Asset Management Companies** that are registered with **SEBI**, are its members.

**15. Who is the present (as of Dec '23) Managing Director(MD) & Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of HDFC Life Insurance Company?**

- 1) Anjali Bansal
- 2) Vibha Padalkar
- 3) Sanjay V. Bhandarkar
- 4) Praveer Sinha
- 5) Kesava Menon Chandrasekhar

Answer- **2) Vibha Padalkar**

**Explanation:**

**About HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited:**

It is a joint venture between HDFC Ltd., and Standard Life Aberdeen.

**Managing Director(MD) & Chief Executive Officer(CEO) – Vibha Padalkar**

**Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra**

**Established in – 2000**

**16. What is the share of the State Government in the regional rural banks?**

- 1) 15%
- 2) 35%
- 3) 20%
- 4) 50%
- 5) 25%

Answer- **1) 15%**

**Explanation:**

National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) is an apex Development Bank by the Government of India. In **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)**, **15% share** is held by the **State Government**, 50% by the Central Government, and **35%** by the Sponsor Bank.



**17. Which of the following does not have a deadline by December 31, 2023?**

- 1) SEBI mandated the demat account holders and mutual fund investors to add nominee by December 31, 2023
- 2) RBI mandated banks to renew their agreements with safe deposit locker holders by December 31, 2023.
- 3) NPCI directed the Third-Party Application Providers (TPAPs) and Payment Service Providers including PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm to deactivate those UPI IDs and UPI-linked phone numbers by December 31, 2023.
- 4) Taxpayers who haven't filed their Income Tax Return (ITR) for FY 2022-2023 must file by December 31, 2023.
- 5) SEBI directed the compliance deadline for enhanced qualification and experience requirements for investment advisers by December 31, 2023.

**Answer- 5) SEBI directed the compliance deadline for enhanced qualification and experience requirements for investment advisers by December 31, 2023.**

**Explanation:**

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), in its circular dated September 26, 2023, once again extended the deadline for demat account holders to either furnish nominee details or opt out of nomination. The extended deadline stands at December 31, 2023.

- Similarly, mutual fund investors, who haven't declared their nominees so far, are required to provide the same before **December 31, 2023**.
- Failing this deadline — which has already been extended three times this year — will lead to their accounts being frozen for debits and investors will not be able to redeem their investments.
- At the onset of this year, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** mandated banks to renew their agreements with safe deposit locker holders by December 31, 2023.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**), in its circular dated November 7, 2023, alerted the Third-Party Application Providers (TPAPs) and Payment Service Providers (PSP), including **PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm** (combined market share of 97 per cent as of September 2023), to deactivate those UPI IDs and UPI-linked phone numbers that have been dormant for a year. NPCI has allotted time till December 31, 2023
- Individuals who have missed filing their **income tax return (ITR)** by July 31 this year, have a final chance to file a belated ITR for the financial year 2022-23 (Assessment Year 2023-24) by December 31, 2023.

**18. Who is the present (as of Dec '23) Managing Director(MD) & Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of HDFC Life Insurance Company?**

- 1) Praveer Sinha
- 2) Vibha Padalkar
- 3) Jayanth Kumar
- 4) Ajay Bansal
- 5) Atish Mathur

**Answer- 2) Vibha Padalkar**

**Explanation:**

**About HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited:**

- It is a joint venture between HDFC Ltd., and Standard Life Aberdeen.



- It is promoted by HDFC Bank Limited.

**Managing Director(MD) & Chief Executive Officer(CEO) – Vibha Padalkar**

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Established in – 2000

**19. National Financial Switch (NFS) is a flagship product of \_\_\_\_\_, which links ATMs in the country.**

- 1) National Payments Corporation of India
- 2) Indian Banks Association
- 3) Reserve Bank of India
- 4) National Securities Depository Limited
- 5) State Bank of India

**Answer-1) National Payments Corporation of India**

**Explanation:**

**National Financial Switch (NFS) of National Payments Corporation of India(NPCI)** is the largest network of shared Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) in India facilitating interoperable cash withdrawal, card to card funds transfer and interoperable cash deposit transactions among other value added services in the country.

**20. What is the full form of BHIM, an UPI application?**

- 1) Bharat Innovation for Money
- 2) Bharat Intermediary for Money
- 3) Bharat Interface for Money
- 4) Bharat Heavy Interface for Money
- 5) Bharat Interface for Many

**Answer-3) Bharat Interface for Money**

**Explanation:**

**BHIM** – Bharat Interface for Money is a UPI based payment interface that allows real time fund transfers using a single identity like your mobile number or name.

- BHIM is a payment app that lets you make simple, easy and quick transactions using Unified Payments Interface (UPI). You can make direct bank payments to anyone on UPI using their UPI ID or scanning their QR with the BHIM app. You can also request money through the app from a UPI ID.
- Pioneered and developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), BHIM has been conceived and launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi on 30th December 2016 to bring in Financial Inclusion to the nation and a digitally empowered society.

**21. Who is the current (as of Dec '23) Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Canara Bank ?**

- 1) Atanu Kumar Das
- 2) Shanti Lal Jain
- 3) K Satyanarayana Raju
- 4) Matam Venkata Rao
- 5) A. S. Rajeev

**Answer- 3) K Satyanarayana Raju**



**Explanation:**

**K Satyanarayana Raju** is the present Managing Director (**MD**) & Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of **Canara Bank**.

- State-owned **Canara Bank** has, in-principle, approved to initiate the process of listing its mutual fund subsidiary, **Canara Robeco Asset Management Company Ltd**, in the stock exchanges.
- It will be the way of Initial Public Offer (IPO), subject to following the due diligence, laid down procedures, opportune time, regulatory approvals and more. Further, the modalities of listing will be decided in due course, according to the company.
- The bank will make further announcements of all material developments with regard to the same, as and when required, as per applicable regulations.

**22. Life Insurance Corp (LIC) is the anchor investor for the Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ Infrastructure bond sale by the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) on 20th December 2023.**

- 1) 4,000 crore
- 2) 2,000 crore
- 3) 1,000 crore
- 4) 5,000 crore
- 5) 3,000 crore

Answer- **4) 5,000 crore**

**Explanation:**

Life Insurance Corp (**LIC**), the country's biggest institutional holder of marketable securities, is officially an anchor investor for an upcoming bond sale by the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (**NABARD**), marking the first such occurrence in India's corporate debt market.

- **LIC** is the anchor investor for the **Rs.5,000-crore** infrastructure bond sale by **NABARD** on 20th December 2023. Besides the base, the issuer also has a green shoe option of Rs. 5,000 crore. As anchor investor, LIC will take up 30%, or Rs. 1,500 crore, of the base size of Nabard's bond issue.
- At present, LIC holds around 22% share of the overall bond market and 4% of the total market capitalisation in Indian equities.
- Nabard's bonds are rated AAA by rating agencies ICRA and India Ratings and will mature on April 28, 2034.

**23. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Payments banks can apply for conversion into small finance banks (SFBs) after \_\_\_\_\_ years of successful operation.**

- 1) 5 years
- 2) 6 years
- 3) 4 years
- 4) 3 years
- 5) 7 years

Answer-**1) 5 years**

**Explanation:**

According to the latest guidelines of RBI, Payments banks can apply for conversion into small finance banks (SFBs) after **five years** of successful operation.

### **Salient features of Small Finance Bank(SFB)**

- No cap on deposit amount
- Focus is on Small borrowers -
- Can issue both Debit and credit cards
- Extend 75% of loans to priority sector
- Ensure that 50 % of loan portfolio constitutes advances of up to RS 25 lakh
- Can distribute financial products such as Mutual Funds , Insurance and Pension.

### **24. The Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) were regulated by \_\_\_\_\_(regulatory Body) in India.**

- 1) Reserve Bank of India
- 2) Securities Exchange Board of India
- 3) National Financial Reporting Authority
- 4) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority
- 5) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority

#### **Answer-1) Reserve Bank of India**

#### **Explanation:**

Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) is entrusted with the responsibility of regulating and supervising the Non-Banking Financial Companies by virtue of powers vested in Chapter III B of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

#### **i. The regulatory and supervisory objective, is to:**

- ensure healthy growth of the financial companies;
- ensure that these companies function as a part of the financial system within the policy framework, in such a manner that their existence and functioning do not lead to systemic aberrations; and that
- The quality of surveillance and supervision exercised by the Bank over the NBFCs is sustained by keeping pace with the developments that take place in this sector of the financial system.

### **25. Who is the current (as of Dec '23) Managing Director(MD) & Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited?**

- 1) Souvik Jash
- 2) Judhajit Das
- 3) Anup Bagchi
- 4) Manish Kumar
- 5) Amit Palta

#### **Answer- 3) Anup Bagchi**

#### **Explanation:**

#### **About ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited (I-Pru Life):**

I-Pru Life is promoted by ICICI Bank Limited and Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited.

**Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)– Mr. Anup Bagchi**

**Headquarters–** Mumbai, Maharashtra

**Incorporated in–** 2000

**Started Operations–** 2001



**26. The Tagline of State Bank of India (SBI) is \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) We understand your world
- 2) The Banker To Every Indian
- 3) Smart Way to Bank
- 4) Where service is a way of life
- 5) Good People to Grow With

**Answer- 2) The Banker To Every Indian**

**Explanation:**

**About State Bank of India (SBI):**

**Chairman-** Dinesh Kumar Khara

**Headquarters-** Mumbai, Maharashtra

**Establishment-** 1955

**Tagline-**The banker to Every Indian

**27. How Many Small Finance Banks(SFBs) are in India as on December 31,2023 ?**

- 1) 10
- 2) 12
- 3) 16
- 4) 18
- 5) 24

**Answer-2) 12**

**Explanation:**

**Currently there are 12 Small Finance Banks(SFBs) in India.**

- Small Finance Banks have emerged as a new category of banks in India that cater primarily to the financially unserved and under-served sections of the society.
- These banks have been set up with a strategic objective of promoting financial inclusion by offering basic banking services to the unbanked and under-banked population and making formal credit available to this segment.

**List of Small Finance Banks**

- AU Small Finance Bank
- Capital Small Finance Bank
- Equitas Small Finance Bank
- ESAF Small Finance Bank
- Fincare Small Finance Bank
- Jana Small Finance Bank
- Northeast Small Finance Bank
- Shivalik Small Finance Bank
- Suryoday Small Finance Bank
- Utkarsh Small Finance Bank
- Unity Small Finance Bank
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

**28. Which of the following is not operated by National Payments Corporation of India(NPCI)?**

- 1) Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
- 2) Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)

3) National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT)

4) Aadhaar enabled Payment System(AePS)

5) NETC FASTag

Answer- **3) National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT)**

**Explanation:**

**NEFT** is operated by the Reserve Bank of India(RBI).

- While **Unified** Payments Interface (UPI), Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), Aadhaar enabled Payment System(AePS), NETC FASTag are operated by National Payments Corporation of India(NPCI).
- **National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT)** is a popular electronic payment system used in India that enables individuals and businesses to transfer funds between banks in a secure and efficient manner. NEFT operates on a deferred settlement basis meaning that the transactions are processed in batches at specified times throughout the day.
- NEFT facility is available 24 x 7, 365 days,
- The minimum Value of Transaction is Rs 2,00,000.

## CA STATIC GK

**1. Where is the Headquarters of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) located?**

1) Geneva, Switzerland

2) Vienna, Austria

3) Paris, France

4) London, United Kingdom

5) Rome, Italy

Answer- **1) Geneva, Switzerland**

**Explanation:**

**About Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS):**

**Executive Director-** Winnie Byanyima

**Headquarters-** Geneva, Switzerland

**Started Operations in-** 1996

**2. What is the Tagline of Karur Vysya Bank?**

1) We understand your world

2) The Banker To Every Indian

3) Smart Way to Bank

4) Where service is a way of life

5) Good People to Grow With

Answer- **3) Smart Way to Bank**

**Explanation:**

**About Karur Vysya Bank (KVB):**

**Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)-** B Ramesh Babu

**Headquarters-** Karur, Tamil Nadu

**Tagline-** Smart Way to Bank



**Started in- 1916**

**3. Where is the Headquarters of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) located?**

- 1) Geneva, Switzerland
- 2) The Hague, Netherlands
- 3) Vienna, Austria
- 4) London, United Kingdom
- 5) Montreal, Canada

**Answer- 2) The Hague, Netherlands**

**Explanation:**

**About Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW):**

**Director-General-** Ambassador Fernando Arias

**Headquarters-** The Hague, Netherlands

**4. Who is the present (as of Nov '23) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Garuda Aerospace Private Limited?**

- 1) Ajay Gupta
- 2) Atish Mathur
- 3) Praveen Sharma
- 4) Jayanth Kumar
- 5) Agnishwar Jayaprakash

**Answer- 5) Agnishwar Jayaprakash**

**Explanation:**

**About Garuda Aerospace Private Limited:**

**Founder & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) - Agnishwar Jayaprakash**

**Established in - 2015**

**5. Which of the following groups belong to the Corps of Engineers?**

- 1) Bombay Sappers
- 2) Madras Sappers
- 3) Bengal Sappers
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) All 1, 2 & 3

**Answer- 5) All 1, 2 & 3**

**Explanation:**

Indian Army is celebrating the 243th Corps of Engineers Day on 18th November 2023, the Corps of Engineers had three groups, i.e. **Madras Sappers, Bengal Sappers and Bombay Sappers** which were amalgamated into the Corps on the 18th of November 1932.

- Since its inception, history is replete with colossal exemplary contributions of the Corps of Engineers both in war and peace.

**i.** The rat-hole miners and Madras Sappers have been called to rescue 41 workers who have been trapped for 15 days in an under-construction tunnel in Uttarkashi.

- Rat-hole mining is usually used for extracting coal from narrow and prevalent seams. A rat hole refers to several small tunnels drilled where workers can enter and extract coal. The technique is used in Meghalaya, but rat hole mining is banned in the state.
- Miners can use ropes or bamboo ladders to reach the coal seams when digging small tunnels. They are done manually using primitive tools such as pickaxes, shovels and baskets and are usually only 3-4 feet high.

**ii. Who are Madras Sappers?**

- They are among the oldest groups of the Indian Army's Corps of Engineers and were raised under the Madras Presidency. The headquarters of the regiment is in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The Madras Sappers are also called the Madras Engineer Group and are presently one of the engineering regiments of the Indian Army. The other two are the Bengal Sappers and the Bombay Sappers.

**6. Who has recently (in Nov '23) won 'Sakalp Kiron Puraskar' award presented by SuchirIndia Foundation?**

- 1) PV Sindhu
- 2) Mary Kom
- 3) Srikanth Kidambi
- 4) Prannoy HS
- 5) Lakshya Sen

**Answer- 2) Mary Kom**

**Explanation:**

Padmavibhushan **Mary Kom**, Indian olympic-style boxer, politician, and former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha won '**Sakalp Kiron Puraskar**' award presented by SuchirIndia Foundation, the CSR arm of SuchirIndia, one of the leading real estate and hospitality enterprises in South India.

**i.** The award will be presented at a glittering event to be held at Sampradaya Vedika, Shilpa ramam here in Hitech City, Hyderabad on November 28th to mark the birthday of humanitarian and visionary, Lion Dr. Y. Kiron, founder of the SuchirIndia Foundation.

**7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi got a first-hand feel of the indigenous light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas in November 2023.**

**Which of the following agencies/companies designed and developed the LCA Tejas?**

- 1) Aeronautical Development Agency
- 2) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- 3) Defence Research and Development Organisation
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 1 & 3

**Answer- 4) Both 1 & 2**

**Explanation:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi got a first-hand feel of the indigenous light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas as he took a sortie trainer version of the aircraft on November 25.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first Prime Minister to fly in fighter aircraft as he went on sortie which lasted for 30 minutes.
- Attired in a G-suit, PM Modi was aboard an aircraft flown by Group Captain Debanjan Mandal. The sortie was carried out from the Aircraft Systems Testing Establishment, Bengaluru. During



the 30-minute sortie, capabilities of fighter aircraft Tejas were demonstrated to the prime minister.

- The Tejas designed and developed by the **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has been part of the Indian Air Force (IAF) fleet for over seven years. Currently the IAF operates two squadrons of the aircraft which are No 45 Squadron, the 'Flying Daggers' and No 18 Squadron, the 'Flying Bullets'.
- IAF has already placed an order for 83 LCA Mk-1A which will have updated avionics, as well as an Active Electronically Steered Radar, updated Electronic Warfare suite and a Beyond Visual Range missile capability.

**8. In which state 'Tal Chhapar Wildlife Sanctuary' is located?**

- 1) Rajasthan
- 2) Maharashtra
- 3) Madhya Pradesh
- 4) Uttar Pradesh
- 5) Jharkhand

Answer- **1) Rajasthan**

**Explanation:**

The Tal Chhapar Sanctuary is situated on the border of the Great Indian Thar Desert, **Rajasthan**.

- Tal Chhapar is a distinctive shelter of the most graceful Antelope seen in India, "the Blackbuck".
- It was given the status of a sanctuary in 1966.
- Tal Chhapar was a hunting reserve of the erstwhile royal family of Bikaner.

**9. Name the personality who has recently (in Nov '23) won the 35th Jimmy George Foundation award for the best sportsperson of Kerala.**

- 1) Tejaswin Shankar
- 2) Avinash Sable
- 3) Murali Sreeshankar
- 4) Eldhose Paul
- 5) Neeraj Chopra

Answer- **3) Murali Sreeshankar**

**Explanation:**

**Olympian Murali Sreeshankar**, the long jump silver medallist in the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games, has won the **35th Jimmy George Foundation award** for the best sportsperson of Kerala.

**i.** The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a plaque. Jimmy George's brothers, Jose (committee head), Robert Bobby, Sebastian and Stanley along with Olympian Anju Bobby George were the members of the award committee.

**ii.** The award will be presented to Sreeshankar at the Jimmy George Sports Academy at Peravoor, Kannur, on December 22.

**10. In which state Sindhudurg Fort is located?**

- 1) Gujarat
- 2) Uttar Pradesh
- 3) Madhya Pradesh

4) Maharashtra

5) Bihar

Answer- **4) Maharashtra**

**Explanation:**

The Indian Navy is preparing to demonstrate its operational capabilities in a grand 'Operational Demonstration' on Navy Day at Sindhudurg Fort in **Maharashtra**.

**About Sindhudurg Fort**

- It is a historical fort that occupies an islet in the Arabian Sea, just off the coast of Maharashtra in western India.
- The fortress lies on Kurte Island, very near the coast of Malvan town in Sindhudurg District in the Konkan region of Maharashtra, 450 kilometres south of Mumbai.
- The fort was built by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj of the Maratha Empire.
- The construction of the fort began in 1664 and took three years to complete.

**11. Golan Heights is a rocky plateau located in \_\_\_\_\_ (country).**

1) Australia

2) Saudi Arabia

3) Iran

4) Qatar

5) Syria

Answer- **5) Syria**

**Explanation:**

India has voted in favour of a draft resolution in the UN General Assembly that expressed deep concern over Israel not withdrawing from the Golan Heights.

- **Golan Heights** is a rocky plateau in south-western **Syria**, about 60km (40 miles) south-west of the Capital, Damascus. It is bounded by the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee on the west, Mount Hermon on the north, the seasonal Wadi Al-Ruqqād River on the east, and the Yarmūk River on the south.
- The Golan extends about 44 miles (71 km) from north to south and about 27 miles (43 km) from east to west at its widest point.

**12. As of November 2023, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) provides a cover of up to Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ per family per year to poor and vulnerable people, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.**

1) 5 lakhs

2) 3 lakhs

3) 2 lakhs

4) 1 lakhs

5) 6 lakhs

Answer- **1) 5 lakhs**

**Explanation:**

**Ayushman Bharat (AB):**

- The union government in 2018 announced two major initiatives in the health sector, as part of the Ayushman Bharat programme.



- Curative care - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY): For hospitalisation at secondary- and tertiary-level private hospitals
- Primary care - Health and Wellness Centres (HWC): To strengthen primary healthcare
- PMJAY will provide a cover of up to **Rs. 5 lakhs** per family per year to poor and vulnerable people, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
- The National Health Authority (NHA) is responsible for the implementation of PMJAY.

**13. An Aadhaar card is a \_\_\_\_\_ digit Unique Identification (UID) number.**

- 1) 8
- 2) 10
- 3) 9
- 4) 12
- 5) 15

Answer- **4) 12**

**Explanation:**

- An Aadhaar card is a **12-digit** Unique Identification (UID) number. It is the biometric ID system.
- It is issued by the government of India to each citizen of the country.
- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) under the Planning Commission of India, is responsible for managing Aadhaar numbers and Aadhaar identification cards.

**14. In which state, Kulik bird sanctuary is located?**

- 1) Jharkhand
- 2) Odisha
- 3) Madhya Pradesh
- 4) West Bengal
- 5) Uttar Pradesh

Answer- **4) West Bengal**

**Explanation:**

Raiganj Wildlife sanctuary also popularly known as **Kulik bird sanctuary**. It is located near Raiganj in Uttar Dinajpur district in the state of **West Bengal**. The bird sanctuary is home to 164 species of birds and some 90,000 to 1,00,000 migratory birds visit the sanctuary every year.

**15. Who is the current (as of Dec '23) Managing Director (MD) & Chief executive officer (CEO) of IDFC FIRST Bank?**

- 1) Sanjiv Chadha
- 2) Atanu Kumar Das
- 3) Rakesh Sharma
- 4) Shanti Lal Jain
- 5) V. Vaidyanathan

Answer- **5) V. Vaidyanathan**

**Explanation:**

**About IDFC FIRST Bank Limited:**

**Managing Director(MD) & Chief Executive Officer(CEO) – V. Vaidyanathan**

**Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra**

**Established in – 2018**

**Tagline** – Always You First

**16. Where is the Headquarters of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) located?**

- 1) Paris, France
- 2) Manila, Philippines
- 3) Geneva, Switzerland
- 4) Vienna, Austria
- 5) New York, United States of America (USA)

Answer- **5) New York, United States of America (USA)**

**Explanation:**

**About United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF):**

**Executive Director**– Catherine M. Russell

**Headquarters**– New York, United States of America (USA)

**Established in**– 1946

**17. Who is the present (as of Dec ‘23) Managing Director(MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank?**

- 1) Samit Ghosh
- 2) V. Vaidyanathan
- 3) Ajay Kanwal
- 4) Ittira Davis
- 5) Sanjay Agarwal

Answer- **4) Ittira Davis**

**Explanation:**

**About Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited:**

**Managing Director(MD) & Chief Executive Officer(CEO) – Ittira Davis**

**Headquarters** – Bengaluru, Karnataka

**Established in** – 2017

**18. In November 2023, the World Bank announced a plan to increase the amount it spends annually on climate-related projects to \_\_\_\_ from 35% of its financing over 2024 to 2025.**

- 1) 60%
- 2) 50%
- 3) 40%
- 4) 45%
- 5) 55%

Answer- **4) 45%**

**Explanation:**

The **World Bank** said it will increase the amount it spends annually on climate-related projects to **45%** of its financing over 2024 to 2025, up from 35% now, as part of a policy overhaul to better respond to climate change.

**i.** The Washington-based development bank, whose new president Ajay Banga is leading reforms, said it will spend \$40 billion, \$9 billion more than was previously programmed.



**19. Which company has recently (in Nov '23) signed a joint venture agreement with Italy's Vega Composites S.r.l. to establish a manufacturing and design facility in the defence corridor in Tamil Nadu?**

- 1) Garuda Aerospace Private Limited
- 2) Merlinhawk Aerospace Private Limited
- 3) Dhaksha Unmanned Systems Private Limited
- 4) Thanos Technologies Private Limited
- 5) TechEagle Private Limited

**Answer- 2) Merlinhawk Aerospace Private Limited**

**Explanation:**

**Merlinhawk Aerospace Private Limited** signed a joint venture agreement with Italy's Vega Composites S.r.l. to establish a manufacturing and design facility in the defence corridor in Tamil Nadu for advanced composites material-based products.

- The new entity will be called Merlinhawk Composites and Engineering Private Limited. An agreement was signed in the presence of the Indian Ambassador to Italy and San Marino, Dr. Neena Malhotra.
- The strategic joint venture is aimed at tapping the growing market of India while developing design expertise and transferring manufacturing knowhow to India, according to a release.
- It will be targeting the growing demand for composites-based products in the aerospace, marine, land and railway sectors. Additionally, the company will be targeting the upcoming hydrogen storage and fuel cell markets.
- The joint venture is the first such agreement signed between an Italian and Indian company, post the signing of the defence cooperation agreement between Italy and India, Dr. Neena Malhotra pointed out.

**20. In November 2023, the Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, inaugurated \_\_\_\_\_ (city)'s second floating CNG Mobile Refueling Unit (MRU) station at Ravidas Ghat.**

- 1) Siliguri
- 2) Umroi
- 3) Varanasi
- 4) Pune
- 5) Auli

**Answer- 3) Varanasi**

**Explanation:**

The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, inaugurated **Varanasi's** second floating CNG Mobile Refueling Unit (MRU) station at Ravidas Ghat.

- Both the Namoo Ghat and Ravidas Ghat floating CNG stations were developed by GAIL (India) Limited, a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. The total cost of developing these stations amounts to approximately Rs 17.5 crore.

**21. Name the actor who has recently (in Nov '23) appointed as the Brand Ambassador of STIHL India.**

- 1) Sonu Sood
- 2) Hrithik Roshan

- 3) Arjun Kapoor
- 4) Aamir Khan
- 5) Shahid Kapoor

Answer- **1) Sonu Sood**

**Explanation:**

STIHL India renewed association with popular actor, film producer and philanthropist **Sonu Sood** as **Brand Ambassador**.

- Sonu Sood's journey of transformation from the glitz of the entertainment world to the heart of philanthropy resonates with the values of STIHL India.

**22. Which company has recently (in Nov '23) launched a video sign language Know Your Customer (KYC) service for customers with special needs?**

- 1) Paytm
- 2) Amazon Pay
- 3) Razorpay
- 4) PhonePe
- 5) Freecharge

Answer- **2) Amazon Pay**

**Explanation:**

Fintech company **Amazon Pay** launched a video sign language Know Your Customer (**KYC**) service for customers with special needs. The service provides communication in sign languages between the fintech's employees and customers who have hearing and speech impairments.

- Amazon Pay trained more than 120 employees to provide video KYC service to customers and developed interactive modules.
- The company provides 'Listen-Ins for Accessibility' where its customer service teams listen to call recordings made by anonymised customers with disabilities to learn about their issues and needs.

**23. The gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collected in the month of November, 2023 is Rs. \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) 1,34,789 crore
- 2) 2,87,989 crore
- 3) 1,89,234 crore
- 4) 1,67,929 crore
- 5) 1,50,290 crore

Answer- **4) 1,67,929 crore**

**Explanation:**

The gross Goods and Services Tax (**GST**) revenue collected in the month of **November, 2023** is **Rs.1,67,929 crore** out of which CGST is Rs.30,420 crore, SGST is Rs.38,226 crore, IGST is Rs.87,009 crore (including Rs.39,198 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs. 12,274 crore (including Rs. 1,036 crore collected on import of goods).

- The government has settled Rs. 37,878 crore to CGST and Rs. 31,557 crore to SGST from IGST. The total revenue of Centre and the States in the month of November, 2023 after regular settlement is Rs. 68,297 crore for CGST and Rs. 69,783 crore for the SGST.



**24. In which state 'Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary' is located?**

- 1) West Bengal
- 2) Telangana
- 3) Tamil Nadu
- 4) Kerala
- 5) Karnataka

**Answer- 3) Tamil Nadu**

**Explanation:**

**About Tamil Nadu (TN):**

**Wildlife Sanctuaries-** Gangaikondan Spotted Deer Sanctuary, Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary, **Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary**

**Zoological Parks-** Children's Park, Kurumbapatti Zoological Park

**25. In which state, Raimona National Park is located?**

- 1) West Bengal
- 2) Assam
- 3) Odisha
- 4) Uttar Pradesh
- 5) Maharashtra

**Answer- 2) Assam**

**Explanation:**

The **Raimona National Park (Assam)** is within the Bodoland Territorial Region. The area of the park includes the northern part of the notified Ripu Reserve Forest, which forms the western-most buffer to the Manas National Park that straddles the India-Bhutan border.

**26. In which year, the International Labour Organization (ILO) was established?**

- 1) 1950
- 2) 1969
- 3) 1919
- 4) 1947
- 5) 1925

**Answer- 3) 1919**

**Explanation:**

**About the International Labour Organization (ILO):**

**Director-General-** Gilbert Fossoun Hounbo

**Headquarters-** Geneva, Switzerland

**Establishment-** 1919

**27. Kalbeliya Dance is a folk dance of \_\_\_\_\_ (State).**

- 1) Haryana
- 2) Maharashtra
- 3) Punjab
- 4) Rajasthan
- 5) Jharkhand

**Answer- 4) Rajasthan**

**Explanation:**

Recently, during the **Rajasthan** International Folk Festival artists performed Kalbeliya dance.

**About Kalbeliya Dance:**

- It is a folk dance of Rajasthan state of India.
- It is well known by other names like 'Sapera Dance' or 'Snake Charmer Dance'. It is particularly performed by a Rajasthani tribe called 'Kalbelia'.
- The popularity of this dance is so much worldwide that Rajasthan's Kalbelia dance and songs are now in UNESCO's representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity from the year 2010.

**28. In which state, 'Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary' is located?**

- 1) Kerala
- 2) Tamil Nadu
- 3) Karnataka
- 4) Andhra Pradesh
- 5) Telangana

Answer- **1) Kerala**

**Explanation:**

**Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary** by spreading over 14 acres of land, located on the banks of the Vembanad Lake, **Kerala**.

i. The sanctuary is a favourite haunt of migratory birds like the Siberian Stork, egret, darter, heron and teal.

**29. Who is the present (as of Dec '23) Chairman of Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)?**

- 1) Sunil Kumar Ambast
- 2) Nandakumaran
- 3) Anadi Gayen
- 4) Satish Kumar
- 5) Anurag Khanna

Answer- **1) Sunil Kumar Ambast**

**Explanation:****About Central Ground Water Board (CGWB):**

**Chairman-** Dr. Sunil Kumar Ambast

**Headquarters-** Faridabad, Haryana

**Formed in** - 1970

**30. Where is the Headquarters of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) located?**

- 1) New York City, United States of America
- 2) Paris, France
- 3) London, The United Kingdom
- 4) Rome, Italy
- 5) Geneva, Switzerland

Answer- **3) London, The United Kingdom**



**Explanation:**

**About International Maritime Organisation:**

International Maritime Organisation (IMO) is one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations (UN) responsible for regulating and formulating policies for international maritime. The IMO Convention entered into force in 1958. India joined the IMO as its member state in the year 1959.

**Secretary-General**– Kitack Lim (South Korea)

**Headquarters**– London, the United Kingdom (U.K.)

**Members**– 175 member states and 3 associate members.

**31. Who is the current (as of Dec '23) President of Pharmacy Council of India (PCI)?**

- 1) Anil Mittal
- 2) B. Jayakar
- 3) Harvinder Kaur
- 4) Atul Kumar
- 5) Montu Kumar M Patel

Answer- **5) Montu Kumar M Patel**

**Explanation:**

**About Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) :**

Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) is a statutory body working under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

**President**– Dr. Montu Kumar M Patel

**Headquarters**– New Delhi, Delhi

**32. In which state Gorumara National Park is located?**

- 1) Odisha
- 2) West Bengal
- 3) Bihar
- 4) Uttar Pradesh
- 5) Karnataka

Answer- **2) West Bengal**

**Explanation:**

**About West Bengal:**

**Chief Minister**- Mamata Banerjee

**Governor** – C.V. Ananda Bose

**National Parks** – Gorumara National Park, Sundarban National Park, Jaldapara National Park

**Wildlife Sanctuaries** – Jorpokhri Wildlife Sanctuary, Senchal Wildlife Sanctuary, Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary

**33. In December 2023, National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ reviewed the preparedness of State governments and Central Ministries/ Departments for impending cyclone 'Michaung' in Bay of Bengal.**

- 1) Ajay Kumar Bhalla
- 2) Sunil Kumar Gupta
- 3) Rajiv Gauba

4) Durga Shanker Mishra

5) Ajit Kumar Seth

Answer- **3) Rajiv Gauba**

**Explanation:**

National Crisis Management Committee (**NCMC**) under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary **Rajiv Gauba** met to review preparedness of State governments and Central Ministries/ Departments for impending **cyclone 'Michaung'** in **Bay of Bengal**.

- It is likely to move west-northwestwards, intensify into a Deep Depression by 2nd and further into a Cyclonic Storm over Southwest Bay of Bengal around 3rd December. Further, it would move northwestwards and reach near south Andhra Pradesh and adjoining north Tamil Nadu coasts by 4th December forenoon.
- Thereafter, it would move nearly northwards almost parallel to south Andhra Pradesh coast and cross South Andhra Pradesh during forenoon of 5th December between Nellore and Machilipatnam as a Cyclonic Storm with a wind speed of 80-90 Kmph gusting to 100 Kmph.

**34. Who is the current (as of Dec '23) President of the International Chess Federation (Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE))?**

1) Akaki Iashvili

2) Victor Bologan

3) Konstantin Kiselev

4) Emil Sutovsky

5) Arkady Dvorkovich

Answer- **5) Arkady Dvorkovich**

**Explanation:**

**About Federation Internationale des Echecs/International Chess Federation (FIDE):**

**President – Arkady Dvorkovich**

**Headquarters – Lausanne, Switzerland**

**Established – 1924**

**35. The Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary is located in \_\_\_\_\_ (state).**

1) Arunachal Pradesh

2) Assam

3) West Bengal

4) Tripura

5) Mizoram

Answer- **2) Assam**

**Explanation:**

**About Assam:**

**Governor – Gulab Chand Kataria**

**Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma**

**National Parks – Kaziranga National Park, Dibru – Saikhowa National Park**

**Wildlife sanctuaries – Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary, Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary**