

# **GUPTA**

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# **CLASSES**

## **Current Affairs**

**Decemeber-2023**

**English**

**Part-5**



**GUPTA**

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**CLASSES**

**36. Name the personalities from India who recently (in Dec '23) became Runners-Up in the women's doubles at Syed Modi India International Badminton Championship 2023.**

- 1) Tanvi Lad and Tasnim Mir
- 2) Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa
- 3) Ameeta Singh and Rituparna Das
- 4) Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanvi Lad
- 5) Tasnim Mir and Tanisha Crasto

**Answer- 2) Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa**

**Explanation:**

India's women's doubles pair **Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa** finish as Runners-Up in the women's doubles at the Syed Modi India International Badminton Championship 2023 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

**i.** Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakanishi of Japan won the Syed Modi India International Badminton Championship Finals 2023

**ii.** Tanisha and Ashwini are the only Indian women's doubles pair in 2023 to reach two finals in the BWF World Tour as they also reached the finals and emerged victorious at the Abu Dhabi Masters 2023 in October.

**37. Naresh Kumar is the present (as of Dec '23) chief secretary of \_\_\_\_\_ (state/UT).**

- 1) Gujarat
- 2) Maharashtra
- 3) Ladakh
- 4) Delhi
- 5) Himachal Pradesh

**Answer- 4) Delhi**

**Explanation:**

The **Supreme Court** declined to interfere with the Centre's decision to give a six-month extension to incumbent chief secretary of **Delhi, Naresh Kumar**.

**i.** The move is a win for the Centre and a setback for the Union Territory's elected Aam Aadmi government, which has been in a political and legal fight with the former over control of the city-state's bureaucracy.

**38. Name the airline that has recently (in Dec '23) launched an environment-friendly automated aircraft interior washing and nearly dry cleaning system.**

- 1) IndiGo
- 2) SpiceJet
- 3) Air India
- 4) Vistara
- 5) Go First

**Answer- 3) Air India**

**Explanation:**

**Air India** has launched an **environment-friendly automated aircraft** interior washing and nearly dry cleaning system that will save around 75,000 litres of water per aircraft annually.

- i. The device, 'Aerowash' has multiple modern features like a robotic micro-fibre brush drum for cleaning and uses a nearly waterless process that considerably enhances efficiency in functioning plus making it more sustainable.
- ii. For each narrow-body aircraft, the 'Aerowash' can save upto 30,000 litres of water and upto 75,000 litres per wide-body aircraft annually

**39. Karaivetti Birds Sanctuary is located in \_\_\_\_\_.**

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

**Answer- 1) Tamil Nadu**

**Explanation:**

**About Tamil Nadu:**

**Chief Minister-** Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin

**Governor:** Dr Ravindra Narayana Ravi (R.N.Ravi)

**Bird Sanctuaries – Karaivetti Birds Sanctuary, Sakkarakottai Tank Bird Sanctuary, and Theerthangal Bird Sanctuary**

**40. What is the capital of Finland?**

- 1) Helsinki
- 2) Tallinn
- 3) Prague
- 4) Sofia
- 5) Minsk

**Answer- 1) Helsinki**

**Explanation:**

**About Finland:**

**President-** Sauli Niinisto

**Capital-** Helsinki

**Currency-** Euro

**41. Who is the present (as of Dec '23) Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India?**

- 1) Achal Kumar Jyoti
- 2) Ajay Bhanga
- 3) Rajiv Kumar
- 4) Sunil Arora
- 5) Sushil Chandra

**Answer- 3) Rajiv Kumar**

**Explanation:**

**About Election Commission of India (ECI):**

**Chief Election Commissioner of India – Rajiv Kumar**

**Established – 1950**



**Headquarters** – New Delhi, Delhi

**42. In which state 'Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary' is located?**

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

Answer- **1) Kerala**

**Explanation:**

**About Kerala:**

**Chief Minister**– Pinarayi Vijayan

**Governor**– Arif Mohammed Khan

**Wildlife Sanctuary**– **Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary**; Kurinjimala Wildlife Sanctuary

**Zoological Park**– Thiruvananthapuram Zoological Park; Thrissur Zoo & Museum

**43. Who is the present (as of Dec '23) Union Minister of Tourism ?**

- 1) G. Kishan Reddy
- 2) Kiren Rijiju
- 3) Ashwini Vaishnaw
- 4) Narayan Tatu Rane
- 5) Arjun Munda

Answer- **1) G. Kishan Reddy**

**Explanation:**

**About Ministry of Tourism:**

**G. Kishan Reddy** (Secunderabad, Telangana) is present **Union Minister of Tourism**, Culture and Development of North Eastern Region.

- The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, has announced the National Best Tourism Village Competition 2024 and the National Best Rural Homestay Competition 2024 to boost Rural Tourism and enhance sustainable development.
- Building on the success of the previous edition in 2023, where 25 villages were recognized for their excellence, these competitions aim to strengthen rural economies and foster community involvement.
- The Ministry, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, has undertaken strategic initiatives outlined in the National Strategy and Roadmap.
- To ensure effective implementation, the Ministry has established the Central Nodal Agency for Rural Tourism and Rural Homestays (CAN RT & RH).
- The competitions were officially launched on World Tourism Day, 27th September 2023. The application portal is open from 15th November to 31st December 2023, providing ample time for villages and homestays to submit their entries.

**44. In which country Mount Merapi Volcano is located?**

- 1) Chile
- 2) Ethiopia
- 3) Italy



- 4) Indonesia
- 5) Philippines

Answer- **4) Indonesia**

**Explanation:**

Indonesian rescuers discovered the bodies of 11 hikers following the **Mount Merapi volcano** eruption in West Sumatra, **Indonesia**. A search has been launched for 12 others who are missing.

- The eruption on Mount Marapi in western Indonesia on Sunday forced the evacuation of numerous hikers and locals who lived on the slope of the mountain. The volcano, which emitted a three-kilometre ash column upon eruption, is on the third-highest alert level, prompting authorities to establish an exclusion zone around its crater.

**45. Who is set to be appointed as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff with effect from January 2024?**

- 1) Dinesh K Tripathi
- 2) Sanjay Mahindru
- 3) Ajendra Bahadur Singh
- 4) Madhvendra Singh
- 5) Anil Kumar Chawla

Answer- **1) Dinesh K Tripathi**

**Explanation:**

The Government of India has approved several high-profile appointments, including the elevation of **Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi** to the position of **Vice Chief of the Naval Staff**.

**i.** Vice Admiral Tripathi, currently serving as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command, is set to take on the crucial role of Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, effective early January 2024.

**46. Nagaland celebrated its \_\_\_\_\_ Statehood Day on 1st December 2023.**

- 1) 71st
- 2) 59th
- 3) 60th
- 4) 58th
- 5) 61st

Answer- **5) 61st**

**Explanation:**

**Nagaland** celebrated its **61st** Statehood Day on **1st December 2023**. It became the 16th State of the Union of India on 1st December 1963.

- On the occasion, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio launched Nagaland School Safety Policy Digital Training Platform and Nagaland Disaster Risk Reduction Road Map.
- He also inaugurated a photo exhibition on "Nagaland at 60", organised by the Department of Information & Public Relations. The celebration marked by a special performance by 15th NAP (IR) Mahila Band, finalist of India's Got Talent 2023, besides, cultural presentation.

**47. Red Sea connected to the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean to the south through the \_\_\_\_\_ (Gulf) and the narrow strait of Bab el-Mandeb.**

- 1) Gulf of Aqaba
- 2) Gulf of Honduras
- 3) Gulf of Aden
- 4) Gulf of Bothnia
- 5) Gulf of Guinea

**Answer- 3) Gulf of Aden**

**Explanation:**

A US warship and multiple commercial vessels were recently attacked in the Red Sea, deepening maritime tension in the Middle East.

**i. Red Sea** is one of the world's warmest seas and a semi-enclosed inlet (or extension) of the Indian Ocean between the continents of Africa and Asia.

- It is connected to the **Arabian Sea** and the **Indian Ocean** to the south through the **Gulf of Aden** and the narrow strait of Bab el-Mandeb.
- The northern portion of the Red Sea is bifurcated by the Sinai Peninsula into the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez, where it is connected to the Mediterranean Sea via Suez Canal.
- Yemen and Saudi Arabia border the Red Sea to the east, Egypt to the north and west and by Sudan, Eritrea, and Djibouti to the west.

**Note-** The Gulf is a portion of the sea that is almost surrounded by land except one narrow opening.

**48. In which state, 'Buxa Tiger Reserve' is located?**

- 1) Uttar Pradesh
- 2) Assam
- 3) Madhya Pradesh
- 4) West Bengal
- 5) Bihar

**Answer- 4) West Bengal**

**Explanation:**

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has taken suo motu cognisance of a report on the mowing down of three elephants by a goods train at **Buxa Tiger Reserve**.

**i. Buxa Tiger Reserve (BTR)** lies in the Alipurduar sub-division of the Jalpaiguri district of **West Bengal**.

- Its northern boundary runs along the international border with Bhutan.

**49. Nagarjuna Sagar Dam is built across the \_\_\_\_\_ (River).**

- 1) River Yamuna
- 2) River Manas
- 3) River Mahananda
- 4) River Krishna
- 5) River Narmada

**Answer- 4) River Krishna**

**Explanation:**

Andhra Pradesh recently took control of half of the Nagarjuna Sagar dam on the Krishna River, sparking a dispute with Telangana.



- **Nagarjuna Sagar Dam** is built between the Nalgonda district of **Telangana** and the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.
- It is built across the **River Krishna**. It is the largest and highest masonry dam in the world.

**50. Which of the following banks is 'Not' a Promoter of Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL)?**

- 1) State Bank of India
- 2) Bank of India
- 3) HDFC Bank
- 4) Bank of Baroda
- 5) IDBI Bank

Answer- **2) Bank of India**

**Explanation:**

Clearing Corporation of India Limited (**CCIL**) was set up in April, 2001 to provide guaranteed clearing and settlement functions for transactions in Money, G-Secs, Foreign Exchange, and Derivative markets.

- CCIL also provides non-guaranteed settlement for Rupee interest rate derivatives and cross-currency transactions through the CLS Bank.
- **Promoters:** State Bank of India, IDBI Bank Ltd, ICICI Bank Ltd, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Bank of Baroda and HDFC Bank Ltd.
- The Company was incorporated with an authorized equity share capital of **Rs. 50 Crores**.

**51. In which state 'Jannaram Wildlife Sanctuary' is located?**

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

Answer- **2) Telangana**

**Explanation:**

**About Telangana:**

**Governor-** Tamilisai Soundararajan

**Wildlife Sanctuary-** Jannaram Wildlife Sanctuary; Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary

**Tiger Reserve-** Nagarjunsagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (shared with Andhra Pradesh); Kawal Tiger Reserve

**52. Who is the current (as of Dec '23) President of Asian Development Bank (ADB)?**

- 1) Masatsugu Asakawa
- 2) Kristalina Georgieva
- 3) Ilene Cohn
- 4) David Robert Malpass
- 5) Achim Steiner

Answer- **1) Masatsugu Asakawa**



**Explanation:**

**About Asian Development Bank (ADB):**

**President-** Masatsugu Asakawa

**Headquarters-** Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines

**Establishment** - 1966

**Members-** 68 members (49 from Asian and the Pacific and 19 outside)

**53. In which state, 'Sanjay Gandhi National Park' is located?**

- 1) Uttar Pradesh
- 2) Bihar
- 3) Maharashtra
- 4) Andhra Pradesh
- 5) Karnataka

Answer- **3) Maharashtra**

**Explanation:**

**Sanjay Gandhi National Park** is located in the state of **Maharashtra** which was formerly known as Borivali National Park. The 2400-year-old Kanheri caves are sculpted out of the rocky cliff which lies within the park.

**54. International tunnelling expert Arnold Dix from \_\_\_\_\_ (country) was roped in by the government to rescue 41 workers trapped inside Uttarkashi's Silkyara tunnel in November 2023.**

- 1) United States of America
- 2) Australia
- 3) Germany
- 4) Netherlands
- 5) England

Answer- **2) Australia**

**Explanation:**

International tunnelling expert **Arnold Dix** from **Australia** was roped in as the government pulled out all stops to rescue 41 workers trapped inside Uttarkashi's Silkyara tunnel on November 12.

- Arnold Dix is the President of the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association (Geneva, Australia), but also has many other feathers inside his cap like Geologist, Engineer and Lawyer, among other titles.

**Note-** Rat Hole Mining method has been used to evacuate 41 workers who were trapped inside Uttarakhand's Silkyari tunnel.

**55. In December 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first woman medical officer in the Indian Army to be deployed at Siachen, the world's highest battlefield.**

- 1) Captain Sheila Samanta
- 2) Captain Arti Sarin
- 3) Captain Deeksha
- 4) Captain Madhuri Kanitkar
- 5) Captain Geetika Koul

Answer- **5) Captain Geetika Koul**

**Explanation:**

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

- This achievement follows her successful completion of rigorous induction training at the esteemed Siachen Battle School, which includes high-altitude acclimatisation, survival techniques, and specialized medical procedures.
- The Fire and Fury Corps of the Indian Army announced this milestone on social media, highlighting the significance of Captain Koul's deployment in promoting gender inclusion within the military.

**56. In which state, the 13th edition of the International Sand Art Festival was inaugurated in December 2023?**

- 1) Goa
- 2) Odisha
- 3) Maharashtra
- 4) Gujarat
- 5) West Bengal

Answer- **2) Odisha**

**Explanation:**

The **13th** edition of the **International Sand Art Festival** has started at Puri's famous Chandrabhaga Beach, **Odisha**.

- The event, which originated in 2011 on Chandrabhaga Beach in Puri, is an annual affair held from December 1-5.
- The sand art showcased at the festival is a unique blend of painting and sculpture, with no adhesive used to hold the grains of sand in place.

**57. According to the data given by V. K. Singh, Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on 4th December 2023, How many airports in the country are operated under Public Private Partnership (PPP)?**

- 1) 20
- 2) 10
- 3) 12
- 4) 16
- 5) 14

Answer- **5) 14**

**Explanation:**

According to the data given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation Gen. (Dr) V. K. Singh (Retd) in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on 4th December 2023.

As of 23rd November 2023, Airports like Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru have achieved Level 4+ and higher Airports International Council (ACI) Accreditation and have become Carbon neutral. Additionally, 66 Indian Airports are operating on 100% Green Energy.

- Presently, **14 airports** in the country are operated under Public Private Partnership (PPP).
- Foreign carriers operating Scheduled **passenger air** transport services to/from India are **81** and Foreign carriers operating scheduled all **cargo air transport services** to/from India are **16**, presently.



- As per National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), **25** AAI airports namely, Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Amritsar, Trichy, Indore, Raipur, Calicut, Coimbatore, Nagpur, Patna, Madurai, Surat, Ranchi, Jodhpur, Chennai, Vijayawada, Vadodara, Bhopal, Tirupati, Hubli, Imphal, Agartala, Udaipur, Dehradun and Rajahmundry have been earmarked for leasing over the years 2022 to 2025.

**58. In December 2023, Acting Enforcement Directorate (ED) Director \_\_\_\_\_ was empanelled by the Union government to hold an additional secretary rank at the Centre.**

- 1) Praveen Kumar
- 2) Jayanth Kumar
- 3) Ajay Sharma
- 4) Manoj Agrawal
- 5) Rahul Navin

Answer- **5) Rahul Navin**

**Explanation:**

Acting Enforcement Directorate (ED) Director **Rahul Navin** has been empanelled by the Union government to hold an additional secretary rank at the Centre. Navin is a 1993-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the Income Tax cadre.

- An order issued by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) empanelled Navin in the additional secretary (AS) rank along with 15 other officers from various cadres.
- He was appointed as the in-charge director or head of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in September following the end of tenure of Sanjay Kumar Mishra.

**59. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was established in 1986 to act as a repository of information on crime and criminals, under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), NCRB was set up based on the recommendations of the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee, the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the Task Force of the Home Ministry.**

- 1) Pradip Shah
- 2) Tandon
- 3) Rajiv Mehrishi
- 4) Nanavati
- 5) Ramesh Chand

Answer- **2) Tandon**

**Explanation:**

National Crime Records Bureau (**NCRB**) was established in 1986 to act as a repository of information on crime and criminals, under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India.

Headquarters: New Delhi

- It was set up based on the recommendations of the **Tandon Committee**, the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the Task Force of the Home Ministry.
- It is responsible for collecting and analysing crime data as well as serving as a repository of such information to aid investigators in tracing crimes and criminals.
- NCRB has also been designated as the Central Nodal Agency to manage the technical and operational functions of the 'Online Cyber-Crime Reporting Portal' through which any citizen can lodge a complaint or upload a video clip as evidence of crime related to child pornography, rape/gang rape.



**60. What is the capital of Uzbekistan?**

- 1) Dushanbe
- 2) Ashgabat
- 3) Tashkent
- 4) Damascus
- 5) Brussels

Answer- **3) Tashkent**

**Explanation:**

**About Uzbekistan:**

**Prime Minister-** Abdulla Nigmatovich Aripov

**Currency-** Som

**Capital-** Tashkent

**61. In which state Palamu Tiger Reserve is located?**

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

Answer- **3) Jharkhand**

**Explanation:**

Palamau Tiger Reserve (**PTR**) is located in **Jharkhandi** which is spread over an area of about 1,230 sq km, was made a tiger reserve in 1973 and had a good number of the animal, which came down to three in the 2014 census and zero in the latest report.

**62. In which state Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary is located?**

- 1) Mizoram
- 2) Assam
- 3) Sikkim
- 4) Tripura
- 5) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer- **5) Arunachal Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

**Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary** is located nearby Anini district, **Arunachal Pradesh**. It has been named after the Dibang River, a tributary of Brahmaputra River.

**i.** It occupies part of the Eastern Himalayas, and is a massive spread of lofty mountains, snow covered peaks, deep gorges, lush forests and glistening rivers. Its altitude ranges between 1800m and 5000m.

**63. In which state Kolleru lake is located?**

- 1) Andhra Pradesh
- 2) Kerala
- 3) West Bengal
- 4) Odisha
- 5) Maharashtra

Answer- **1) Andhra Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

**Kolleru lake** is located between the deltas of the Krishna and Godavari rivers in **Andhra Pradesh**.

- i. The lake serves as a natural flood-balancing reservoir for the two rivers.
- ii. It was notified as a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1999 under India's Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.
- iii. It was declared a wetland of international importance in 2002 under Ramsar convention.

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

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

Answer- **2) Shanti Lal Jain**

**Explanation:**

**About Indian Bank:**

**Incorporated on-** March 5, 1907

**Started business on-** August 15, 1907

**Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)-** Shanti Lal Jain

**Headquarters-** Chennai, Tamil Nadu

**65. In which state/UT, 'Hokersar bird sanctuary' is located?**

- 1) Ladakh
- 2) Assam
- 3) Jammu and Kashmir
- 4) Himachal Pradesh
- 5) Uttarakhand

Answer- **3) Jammu and Kashmir**

**Explanation:**

**About Jammu and Kashmir(J&K):**

**Lieutenant Governor-** Manoj Sinha

**Bird sanctuary-** Hokersar bird sanctuary

**Festival-** Losar; Matho Nagrang

**66. Which company has recently (in Dec '23) announced a plan to manufacture its first all-electric car, a sports utility vehicle (SUV) called 'eVX' from its Hansalpur factory in Gujarat in 2024-2025?**

- 1) Maruti Suzuki
- 2) Hyundai Motor
- 3) Tata Motors
- 4) Mahindra and Mahindra
- 5) Bajaj Auto

Answer- **1) Maruti Suzuki**



**Explanation:**

India's leading car maker **Maruti Suzuki** will manufacture its first all-electric car, a sports utility vehicle (SUV) called '**eVX**' from its Hansalpur factory in Gujarat in **2024-2025**.

- i. Suzuki Motor Gujarat Private Ltd (SMG), the entity operating the car manufacturing plant in Hansalpur, is a fully-owned subsidiary of Maruti Suzuki. It began its operations in February 2017.
- ii. The eVX will come with a 60kWh battery pack promising a range of about 560 km on a full charge.

**67. Which country has recently (in Dec '23) launched an indigenous 'bio-space capsule' prototype, aiming to fly astronauts by 2030?**

- 1) China
- 2) Israel
- 3) Iran
- 4) Japan
- 5) South Korea

Answer- **3) Iran**

**Explanation:**

**Iran** successfully launched indigenous '**bio-space capsule**' prototype, aiming to fly astronauts by 2030 (end of 2029).

- The launch took place on 6th December 2023 and saw the capsule reach a height of 80 miles (130 km).
- The capsule weighed 1,100 lbs (500 kg) and was launched atop one of the nation's Salman solid-propellant rockets.

**68. When was Mahaparinirvan Diwas 2023 observed across India?**

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

Answer- **5) 6th December 2023**

**Explanation:**

The **Mahaparinirvan Diwas 2023** of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (Father of the Indian Constitution) was observed on **6th December 2023**.

- Owing to Ambedkar's status as a Buddhist leader, his death anniversary is referred to as Mahaparinirvan Diwas.
- Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was a social reformer, jurist, economist, author, polyglot (knowing or using several languages) orator, a scholar, and thinker of comparative religions.
- He was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee for the new Constitution and became Minister of Law in the first Cabinet of independent India in 1947. He led the Mahad Satyagraha in March 1927 against Hindus who were opposing the decision of the Municipal Board. He participated in all three Round Table Conferences.

**i. Famous Books:**

- Annihilation of Caste
- Buddha or Karl Marx
- The Untouchable: Who are They and Why They Have Become Untouchables



- Buddha and His Dhamma
- The Rise and Fall of Hindu Women

**69. Noted economist and Ethiru (Dissent) book author \_\_\_\_\_ passed away in December 2023.**

- 1) C.S. Chandrika
- 2) Thinakkal Padmanabhan
- 3) P. Jayachandran
- 4) M. Kunhaman
- 5) Subhash Chandran

**Answer- 4) M. Kunhaman**

**Explanation:**

Noted economist **M. Kunhaman**, 74, has passed away. The prominent Scheduled Caste (SC) thinker, teacher and writer passed away at his residence at Sreekaryam.

- Prof. Kunhaman, who taught at the University of Kerala for 27 years, has several influential and scholarly works themed on Scheduled Caste (SC) issues and their political and social dimensions, caste, and economics to his name.
- He won the **2021 Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award** for his memoir **Ethiru (Dissent)** published the previous year. **He declined the award.** The book had the tag-line 'The life struggle of the sons of Cherona and Ayyappan.'

**70. Name the personality who has recently (in Dec '23) became the first Real Madrid player to win the Golden Boy award.**

- 1) Dani Ceballos
- 2) Federico Valverde
- 3) Jude Bellingham
- 4) Daniel Carvajal
- 5) Andriy Lunin

**Answer- 3) Jude Bellingham**

**Explanation:**

England midfielder **Jude Bellingham** created history, becoming the **first Real Madrid player** to win the **Golden Boy award**.

**i.** The award is given to the best under-21 footballer playing at a European club. The 20-year-old earned a spot in the list of 25 finalists which included his Los Blancos teammate Arda Guler.

**71. According to the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Rankings released in December 2023, Novak Djokovic has earned the year-end No. 1 spot in the ATP rankings for the \_\_\_\_\_ time.**

- 1) 5th
- 2) 9th
- 3) 6th
- 4) 8th
- 5) 12th

**Answer- 4) 8th**

**Explanation:**

**Novak Djokovic** earned the year-end No. 1 spot in the **ATP rankings** for the **eighth time** on 4th December 2023.

- Djokovic won three of the four Grand Slam tournaments—the Australian Open in January, the French Open in June, and the U.S. Open in September—to raise his career total to a men’s-record 24 and was the runner-up at the other, Wimbledon.
- The 36-year-old from Serbia regained the top ranking from Carlos Alcaraz, who edged him in a five-set final at the All England Club in July.
- Iga Swiatek claimed the WTA’s year-end No. 1 ranking for the second consecutive year by winning the WTA Finals last month.
- Swiatek, who won her fourth career major championship at the French Open, overtook Aryna Sabalenka, the Australian Open champion and runner-up to Coco Gauff at the U.S. Open. Gauff finished at No. 3, followed by Elena Rybakina at No. 4 and Jessica Pegula at No. 5.

**72. Who has been recently (in Dec ‘23) appointed as the Independent Director of Hindustan Unilever (HUL) for five years?**

- 1) Tarun Bajaj
- 2) Ajay Bhushan Pandey
- 3) Sanjay Malhotra
- 4) TV Somanathan
- 5) Hasmukh Adhia

Answer- **1) Tarun Bajaj**

**Explanation:**

Hindustan Unilever (**HUL**) has appointed former revenue secretary **Tarun Bajaj** as its **independent director** for five years.

- He also chaired the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund and was the director on the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India and the Board of Sebi.
- He also served as the Governor of India for the International Fund for Agriculture Development and as Alternate Governor of India for the World Bank (for the constituency of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka), Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and New Development Bank.
- Bajaj served on the Boards of SIDBI, Bank of Maharashtra, Bank of India, General Insurance Corporation Limited, New India Assurance Company Limited, and United India Insurance Company Limited.

**73. In December 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ the first woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court, passed away.**

- 1) Sonia Sotomayor
- 2) Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- 3) Sandra Day O’Connor
- 4) Elena Kagan
- 5) Amy Coney Barrett

Answer- **3) Sandra Day O’Connor**



**Explanation:**

**Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor**, an unwavering voice of moderate conservatism and the **first woman** to serve on the nation's highest court, passed away on December 1 2023. She was 93.

- O'Connor's nomination in 1981 by President Ronald Reagan and subsequent confirmation by the Senate ended 191 years of male exclusivity on the high court.

**74. Former civil servant and founder of Adyar Times \_\_\_\_\_ passed away in December 2023.**

- 1) Vijayakarthiskeyan
- 2) Sundaravalli
- 3) S. Palanisamy
- 4) S.P. Ambrose
- 5) Suresh Kumar

Answer- **4) S.P. Ambrose**

**Explanation:**

Veteran civil servant, **S.P. Ambrose** passed away due to age-related issues in Chennai. He was 95.

- Mr. Ambrose, who was appointed in January 1959 to the Indian Administrative Service by promotion, held various positions in the government, including posts of chairman of the now-unbundled Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and Madras Port Trust.
- He had served as Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Secretary of departments of Social Welfare and Health and Family Welfare, apart from being Additional Secretary in the Union Ministry of Mines.
- At the time of retirement in April 1986, he was Principal Administrator and Government Liaison Officer in ICRISAT, Hyderabad. He **founded Adyar Times**, a neighbourhood newspaper.

**75. In which state/UT, 'tantalum' a rare metal was discovered in November 2023?**

- 1) Uttarakhand
- 2) Jammu and Kashmir
- 3) Uttar Pradesh
- 4) Kerala
- 5) Punjab

Answer- **5) Punjab**

**Explanation:**

A team led by Dr. Resmi Sebastian, assistant professor at the institute's Civil Engineering Department, has discovered **tantalum, a rare metal**, in **Punjab**.

- Tantalum, with the atomic number **73**, is a grey, heavy, and highly corrosion-resistant metal. It is known for its hardness and ductility, allowing it to be stretched into thin wires without breaking and widely used in electronics and semiconductors.
- Discovered in 1802 by **Swedish chemist Anders Gustaf Ekenberg** in minerals obtained from Ytterby, Sweden. Initially, it was thought to be a different form of niobium.
- The distinction between tantalum and niobium was confirmed by Swiss chemist Jean Charles Galissard de Marignac in 1866. Named after the Greek mythological figure Tantalus due to its insolubility in acids, drawing a parallel to Tantalus' inability to drink water or pick fruit in the underworld.



**76. In October 2023, the Sri Lankan government renewed the petroleum products license granted to \_\_\_\_\_ (company) for another 20 years.**

- 1) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
- 2) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- 3) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
- 4) Oil India Limited
- 5) Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited

**Answer- 2) Indian Oil Corporation Limited**

**Explanation:**

The Sri Lankan government has renewed the petroleum products license granted to Lanka IOC, the local subsidiary of **Indian Oil Corporation**, for another **20 years**.

**i.** The license originally issued in 2003 was to expire in January 2024.

**ii.** This will allow Lanka IOC to continue its retail operations on the debt-trapped island nation until January 22, 2044.

**77. As of November 2023, Indian Women's Hockey Team ranked \_\_\_\_\_ in the world (So far its best).**

- 1) 8th
- 2) 5th
- 3) 10th
- 4) 6th
- 5) 9th

**Answer- 4) 6th**

**Explanation:**

The **Indian women's hockey** team has reclaimed its best-ever **sixth place** ranking in the world following its stupendous show in the just-concluded Asian Champions Trophy and the Hangzhou Asian Games. India are now placed sixth ahead of England with 2368.83 rating points.

- Prior to these competitions, the Indian women were ranked eighth in the world.

**i.** India now holds the sixth position with 2368.83 rating points, surpassing England in the rankings.

- The Indian women were placed eighth before the Asian Games but the bronze medal at the continental showpiece and the title triumph at Asian Champions Trophy in Ranchi, where they remained unbeaten, has catapulted the side back to its best-ever world ranking, last achieved during the FIH Pro League in June last year.

**ii.** The **Netherlands** maintains its top spot as the world's best women's hockey team with 3422.40 points, followed by Australia in second place with 2817.73 points and Argentina in third with 2766.90 points.

**78. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) celebrated the \_\_\_\_\_ anniversary of the International Space Station (ISS) on 7th November 2023.**

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

**Answer- 1) 25th**

**Explanation:**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) celebrated the **25th anniversary** of the International Space Station (ISS) on **7th November 2023**.

**i.** The ISS involves international flight crews, various launch vehicles, global launch and flight operations, training, engineering, development facilities, communication networks, and the worldwide scientific research community.

**ii.** November 7 marks a significant moment in ISS history when the first two modules, named Zarya and Unity, were joined together during the STS-88 mission of the space shuttle Endeavour.

**79. In Which state 'Satkosia Tiger Reserve' is located?**

- 1) West Bengal
- 2) Karnataka
- 3) Andhra Pradesh
- 4) Kerala
- 5) Odisha

Answer- **5) Odisha**

**Explanation:****About Odisha:**

**Chief Minister** – Naveen Patnaik

**Governor** – Raghubar Das

**Wildlife Sanctuary** – Lakhari Valley Sanctuary, Karlapat Sanctuary

**Tiger Reserve** – Similipal Tiger Reserve, **Satkosia Tiger Reserve**

**80. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the rate of interest on Government of India Floating Rate Bond 2031 (FRB 2031) applicable for the half year (7th December 2023 to 6th June 06 2024) shall be \_\_\_\_\_ per annum.**

- 1) 5.29%
- 2) 9.20%
- 3) 8.12%
- 4) 7.30%
- 5) 6.95%

Answer- **3) 8.12%**

**Explanation:**

According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), The rate of interest on Government of India Floating Rate Bond 2031 (FRB 2031) applicable for the half year December 07, 2023 to June 06, 2024 shall be **8.12** percent per annum.

- It may be recalled that FRB 2031 carries a coupon, which has a base rate equivalent to the average of the Weighted Average Yield of last three auctions (from the rate fixing day i.e. December 07, 2023) of 182 Day T-Bills, plus a fixed spread of one percent.

**81. Who has been recently (in Dec '23) appointed as the chairman of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)?**

- 1) Samir Shah
- 2) Atish Mathur
- 3) Praveen Sharma



4) Vijay Prasad

5) Jayanth Kumar

Answer- **1) Samir Shah**

**Explanation:**

The United Kingdom (UK) government has named Indian-origin media executive Dr **Samir Shah** as its preferred candidate to take over as the new chairman of **British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)**.

- The 71-year-old was born in Aurangabad and moved to England in 1960. He was previously the head of current affairs and political programmes at the BBC.
- Dr Shah will replace Richard Sharp, who was forced to resign after his communication with former prime minister Boris Johnson came under scrutiny.
- The CEO and owner of Juniper, an independent television and radio production company, Dr Samir Shah has served as a non-executive director of the BBC between 2007 and 2010.
- He was honoured with a CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) by Queen Elizabeth II in 2019 for services to television and heritage.

**82. In December 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ \_ became the 5th conglomerate to breach Rs. 10 Lakh Crore in Mcap.**

1) Tata Group

2) Reliance Industries

3) Bajaj Group

4) Adani Group

5) HDFC Bank

Answer- **3) Bajaj Group**

**Explanation:**

The market capitalization of the **Bajaj Group** surpassed Rs 10 lakh crore, making it the fifth conglomerate to achieve this milestone after Tata Group, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, and Adani Group.

- The Bajaj Group has gained nearly 21% in overall market value since January 1. This surge can be attributed to the robust performance of three companies — Bajaj Auto, Maharashtra Scooters and Bajaj Finance.
- Bajaj Auto's shares have rallied 70% this year, while Maharashtra Scooters advanced 74%. The conglomerate's flagship entity, Bajaj Finance, has gained 14%, and Bajaj Finserv has risen 10%.
- Among the group firms, Bajaj Finance holds the highest market capitalisation at Rs 4.54 lakh crore.

**83. In Which state Vijay Sagar Bird Sanctuary is located?**

1) Odisha

2) Maharashtra

3) Gujarat

4) Jharkhand

5) Uttar Pradesh

Answer- **5) Uttar Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

**About Uttar Pradesh(UP):**

**Chief Minister**- Yogi Adityanath

**Governor**- Anandiben Patel

**Bird Sanctuary**- **Vijay Sagar Bird Sanctuary**; Hathinala, Renukut (Sonbhadra)

**Stadium**- Eklavya Sports Stadium; Late Mohan Choubey Pahalvan Sports Stadium

**84. In which state 'Bor Tiger Reserve' is located?**

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

Answer- **1) Maharashtra**

**Explanation:**

**About Maharashtra:**

**Governor** - Ramesh Bais

**Chief Minister** - Eknath Shinde

**Wildlife Sanctuaries** - Rehekuri Blackbuck Sanctuary, Painganga Wildlife Sanctuary

**Tiger Reserves** - **Bor Tiger Reserve**, Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, Nawegaon - Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR)

**85. Name the Bank that has recently (in Dec '23) recognised as "Bank of the Year (India)" by Financial Times.**

- 1) YES Bank
- 2) Federal Bank
- 3) RBL Bank
- 4) IndusInd Bank
- 5) IDFC FIRST Bank

Answer- **2) Federal Bank**

**Explanation:**

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

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

**86. How many medals was won by India in IBA Junior World Boxing Championship 2023 in December 2023?**

- 1) 10
- 2) 9
- 3) 7
- 4) 5
- 5) 8



Answer- 2) 9

**Explanation:**

**India** bagged three gold, five silver and one bronze (9 Total) medals in the IBA Junior World Boxing Championship 2023, held at Yerevan, Armenia.

- Akansha won gold in 70 kg category, Pari clinched gold medal in 48 kg weight category, while Nisha won gold in 52 kg category. In the 52 kg weight category, Vini won the silver medal, while Srishti Sathe won the silver medal in the 63 kg weight category.
- In the boys' category, Jatin won the silver medal in the 54 kg category.
- While Hardik Panwar in the 80 kg category, Ameesha Kereta in the 54 kg category and Prachi Tokas in the 80 kg weight category had to settle for silver medals only.

**87. In which state 'Gangaikondan Spotted Deer Sanctuary' is located?**

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

Answer- 1) **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

**88. Which ministry implemented the Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN) Scheme?**

- 1) Ministry of Communications
- 2) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- 3) Ministry of Education
- 4) Ministry of Finance
- 5) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Answer- 3) **Ministry of Education**

**Explanation:**

After an eight-year journey, including a brief pause during COVID, the Ministry of Education is preparing to resume the fourth phase of the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN).

- This initiative aims to bring in distinguished scholars worldwide to teach at Indian universities.
- The National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), after evaluating the scheme, recommended its continuation.
- **GIAN is a flagship** initiative by the **Ministry of Education (MoE)**, Government of India designed to foster collaboration and enhance the quality of education and research in Indian academic institutions.
- Launched in 2015, the primary objective of the GIAN scheme is to provide an opportunity for students and faculty to interact with the best academic and industry experts from all over the world.

**89. Who is the current (as of Dec '23) Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of L&T Finance Holdings (LTFH)?**

- 1) Abhishek Sharma
- 2) Sachinn Joshi
- 3) Sudipta Roy
- 4) Apurva Rathod
- 5) Dinanath Dubhashi

Answer- **5) Dinanath Dubhashi**

**Explanation:**

**Dinanath Dubhashi** is the current Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of L&T Finance Holdings (LTFH).

- L&T Finance Holdings (LTFH), a non-banking financial company (NBFC), announced it had completed the merger of three subsidiaries with itself for “superior governance” and growth.
- All lending businesses of the company have been put under one single entity, LTFH, after the merger of L&T Finance Limited, L&T Infra Credit Limited and L&T Mutual Fund Trustee Limited.
- The boards of the three companies had in January approved the proposed merger and the process was completed on receiving approvals from shareholders, creditors, and regulatory authorities that included the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the National Company Law Tribunal, the Securities and Exchange Board of India, and stock exchanges.

**90. In December 2023, International Finance Corporation (IFC) announced to invest Rs \_\_\_\_\_ in a new last-mile mobility (LMM) company, which will be newly incorporated (NewCo).**

- 1) 500 crore
- 2) 200 crore
- 3) 100 crore
- 4) 400 crore
- 5) 600 crore

Answer- **5) 600 crore**

**Explanation:**

Global development institution International Finance Corporation (IFC) will invest **Rs 600 crore** in a new last-mile mobility (LMM) company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra that will be newly incorporated (NewCo).

- i. IFC's first investment in an EV manufacturer in the country, and the first in electric three-wheelers globally, will be in the form of compulsory convertible instruments at a valuation of up to Rs 6,020 crore.
- ii. The Rs 600 crore investment will result in an ownership of between 9.97 per cent to 13.64 per cent for IFC in NewCo. NewCo will house the last mile mobility division, including three wheelers (Alfa, Treo, Zor) and four-wheeler SCV (Jeeto).

**91. Name the space agency/company that has recently (in Dec '23) signed an agreement with SpaceX to launch three of Falcon 9 rockets to support deployment plans for its Project Kuiper.**

- 1) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
- 2) Neuralink Corp



- 3) China National Space Administration
- 4) Amazon.com, Inc
- 5) Virgin Galactic

Answer- **4) Amazon.com, Inc**

**Explanation:**

**Amazon.com, Inc** has signed an agreement with SpaceX to launch three of Elon Musk's Falcon 9 rockets to support deployment plans for its Project Kuiper.

- Kuiper is Amazon's low Earth orbit satellite broadband network designed to accommodate multiple launch providers and vehicles.
- The company announced the project in 2019, the year SpaceX began deploying its first operational Starlink spacecraft.
- Amazon aims to build Kuiper as a constellation of 3,236 satellites in low Earth orbit. The first pair of prototype satellites for the project, which is its satellite internet unit, was successfully launched on October 2023.
- SpaceX's Starlink also aims to offer broadband internet globally with its constellation of 5,000 satellites. The Falcon 9 launches are targeted to lift off beginning mid-2025.

**92. Who is the current (as of Dec '23) Director of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)?**

- 1) Atish Mathut
- 2) Praveen Sharma
- 3) Ajay Kumar
- 4) Jayanth Kumar
- 5) Vivek Gogia

Answer- **5) Vivek Gogia**

**Explanation:**

**About NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau):**

NCRB under the Ministry of Home Affairs(MoHA) is a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators.

**Director- Vivek Gogia**

**Headquarter- New Delhi, Delhi**

**Established in 1986**

**93. In which state Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary is located?**

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

Answer- **1) Madhya Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

**About Madhya Pradesh (MP):**

**Governor- Mangubhai C. Patel**

**Chief Minister- Shivraj Singh Chouhan**

**Wildlife Sanctuaries - Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary, Son Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary, Veerangana Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary**

**Tiger Reserve – Panna Tiger Reserve, Sanjay Tiger Reserve**

**94. As per the data released in December 2023, 1132 projects approved under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) in 36 states/UTs with total project cost of Rs 23071.29 crore. PMKSY is the flagship scheme of which Ministry?**

- 1) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare
- 2) Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- 3) Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- 4) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- 5) Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs

**Answer- 3) Ministry of Food Processing Industries**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (**MoFPI**) has been implementing an umbrella scheme Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) -- since 2017-18 across the country.

- PMKSY is a comprehensive package of component schemes, which is aimed at creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.
- This information was given by Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Prahlad Singh Patel in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.
- A total of **1,132 projects** for food processing have been approved in the 36 states/UTs with total project cost of Rs 23,071.29 crore, with the aim to create processing capacity of 252.297 lakh MT/annum, preservation capacity of 42.908 lakh MT/annum, employment of 6,02,070 persons and providing benefits to 38,19,220 farmers.

**95. The first leg of the Ocean Sailing expedition from \_\_\_\_\_ to Kochi, Kerala was flagged off in December 2023.**

- 1) Goa
- 2) Maharashtra
- 3) Gujarat
- 4) Odisha
- 5) West Bengal

**Answer- 1) Goa**

**Explanation:**

The **first leg of an Ocean Sailing expedition** from **Goa to Kochi** and back, as part of celebrations of 75 years of National Defence Academy, culminated in **Kochi, Kerala** on 10th December 2023.

- A crew of nine cadets and three officers have set upon this challenging and adventurous task of sailing in open ocean covering over 334 nautical miles on each leg of the expedition.
- The crew undertook this naval odyssey aboard Indian Naval sailing vessels Mhadei, Bulbul, and Neelkant.
- They underwent the basic training on sailing at Kochi followed by advanced training at Goa on aspects such as setting up sails, navigation, first aid and other essential skills.
- The first leg of the expedition from Goa to Kochi was flagged off on Dec 6. The second leg of the expedition will begin from Kochi harbour on Dec 12 and will culminate at Goa on Dec 16, according to the Ministry of Defence.



**96. In December 2023, India conducted the training launch of \_\_\_\_\_ missile 'Agni-1 from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, off the Odisha coast.**

- 1) Intermediate Range Ballistic
- 2) Medium Range Ballistic
- 3) Intercontinental Ballistic
- 4) Short Range Ballistic
- 5) Intramediate Range Ballistic

**Answer- 4) Short Range Ballistic**

**Explanation:**

**India** on December 7 successfully conducted the training launch of **short-range ballistic missile 'Agni-1 from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, off the Odisha coast**. Agni-1 is a proven very high precision missile system.

i. The missile was successfully test-fired last time on June 1 from the same base. In October 2022, India successfully test-fired 'Agni Prime' - a new generation of ballistic missiles - from off the coast of Odisha. The Agni series of missiles are the mainstay of India's nuclear delivery options.

**97. In December 2023, 1,69,300 trainees to get training till 2025 under Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalata Sampanna Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana, \_\_\_\_\_ (Ministry).**

- 1) Ministry of Minority Affairs
- 2) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- 3) Ministry of Law and Justice
- 4) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- 5) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

**Answer- 2) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**

**Explanation:**

The Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalata Sampanna Hitgrahi **(PM-DAKSH) Yojana** of the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** is a Central sector scheme, which was launched in 2020-21.

- The main objective of the scheme is to enhance competency level of the target groups -- SCs, OBCs, EBCs, DNTs, Safai Karamcharis including waste pickers, etc and to make them employable both in self-employment and wage-employment for their socio-economic development.
- The total amount spent on these trainings is Rs 127.95 crore.
- Similarly, from the year 2023-24 to 2025-26, it is projected to train 1,69,300 trainees (including 53,900, 56,450 and 58,950 trainees in the year 2023, 2024 and 2025 respectively). A total amount of Rs. 286.42 crore is likely to be spent on these trainings.

**98. Name the company that has recently (in Dec '23) appointed as the partner incubator for iDEX Initiative by the Ministry of Defence of India.**

- 1) Chakr Innovation
- 2) Befach 4X Incubator
- 3) Agrahyah Technologies
- 4) Cellzyme Biotech Incubator
- 5) Amity Innovation Incubator

**Answer- 5) Amity Innovation Incubator**

**Explanation:**

**Amity Innovation Incubator** (AII), a prominent hub nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship, proudly unveils its **appointment** as a partner incubator for India's Ministry of Defence's groundbreaking Innovation for Defence Excellence (**iDEX**) initiative.

- The iDEX initiative, a crucial step in India's quest for self-reliance in defence and defence production, aims to facilitate the rapid development of new, indigenised, and innovative technologies for the Indian defence and aerospace sector.

**99. Sam Manekshaw, India's beloved war general and India's first Field Marshal's biopic, was released in December 2023.**

**In which year did he receive the Padma Vibhushan Award?**

- 1) 1946
- 2) 1984
- 3) 1972
- 4) 1979
- 5) 1967

Answer- **3) 1972**

**Explanation:**

A movie on the life of **Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw** was released on 1st December 2023. Sam Bahadur is based on the life of **India's first Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw**.

- Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw, also known as Sam Bahadur ("Sam the Brave"), was the former Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army.
- There he responded to an insurgency in Nagaland, for which he was awarded the **Padma Bhushan in 1968**.
- For his service to the Indian Nation, the President of India awarded Manekshaw the **Padma Vibhushan in 1972**.
- Nepal honoured Manekshaw as an honorary general of the Nepalese Army in 1972.
- He was awarded the Order of Tri Shakti Patta First Class, a form of Knighthood.

**100. According to the State Bank of India (SBI) data, the electoral bonds worth Rs 1,006.03 crore were sold and encashed in the most recent (29th) tranche of sales, held in November 2023.**

**Which city secured the highest sales in the tranche sale under the electoral bond scheme?**

- 1) New Delhi, Delhi
- 2) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 3) Jaipur, Rajasthan
- 4) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- 5) Hyderabad, Telangana

Answer- **5) Hyderabad, Telangana**

**Explanation:**

State Bank of India (SBI) data, the electoral bonds worth Rs 1,006.03 crore were sold and encashed in the most recent (29th) tranche of sales that was held from November 6 to November 20.

- As much as 99 per cent of the total amount was raised through the sale of Rs 1 crore denomination bonds.



- The latest sales (29th tranche) under the electoral bond scheme saw the **highest sales** in Telangana's capital of **Hyderabad** (Rs 359 crore), followed by Mumbai (Rs 259.30 crore), and Delhi (Rs 182.75 crore).
- Among the other states where elections were held, poll bonds adding up to Rs 31.50 crore were sold in Jaipur (Rajasthan), Rs 5.75 crore in Raipur (Chhattisgarh), and Rs 1 crore in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).
- However, none of these three states recorded any encashment. No sales were recorded in Mizoram.

**101. In which state 'Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary' is located?**

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

Answer- **1) Karnataka**

**Explanation:**

**Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary** is located in **Karnataka**.

i. It is a small but important bird sanctuary that supports a diverse range of bird species, including several endemic species.

**102. In which state, Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve is located?**

- 1) West Bengal
- 2) Madhya Pradesh
- 3) Karnataka
- 4) Uttar Pradesh
- 5) Maharashtra

Answer- **2) Madhya Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (**BTR**) is located in **Madhya Pradesh's** eastern Satpura hill range of Umaria and Katni districts.

- **Bandhavgarh** was declared a national park in 1968 and then became **Tiger Reserve** in 1993.
- It derives its name from the most prominent hillock of the area, which was said to be given by Hindu Lord Rama to his brother Lakshmana to keep a watch on Lanka. Hence the name Bandhavgarh (Sanskrit: Brother's Fort).
- It is known for the Royal Bengal Tigers. The density of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh is the highest known in India as well as in the world.

**103. When was the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) established?**

- 1) 1981
- 2) 1950
- 3) 1978
- 4) 1945
- 5) 1962

Answer- **4) 1945**

**Explanation:**

**About Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO):**

**Director-General-** QU Dongyu

**Headquarters-** Rome, Italy

**Establishment-** 1945

**104. Where is the headquarters of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) located?**

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

**Answer-** 5) Geneva, Switzerland

**Explanation:**

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

**Director-General-** Gilbert Fossoun Hounbo

**Headquarters-** Geneva, Switzerland

**Establishment-** 1919

**Members-** 187 Member States

**105. Which of the following abrogated Article of the Indian Constitution has given special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir?**

- 1) Article 390
- 2) Article 385
- 3) Article 370
- 4) Article 375
- 5) Article 380

**Answer-** 3) Article 370

**Explanation:**

On 11th December 2023, The Supreme Court of India upheld the abrogation of **Article 370** by a Presidential Order on 5th August 2019.

- Article 370 granted Jammu and Kashmir autonomy of internal administration, allowing it to make its own laws in all matters except finance, defence, foreign affairs and communications.
- **Article 35A**, a further provision added to Article 370 in 1954, empowered state lawmakers to ensure special rights and privileges for permanent residents of the state.
- The erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) officially bifurcated into the **Union Territories** of J&K and Ladakh on 31st October 2019.

**106. Which country has recently (in Dec' 23) unveiled advanced Karrar combat drones armed with air-to-air missiles?**

- 1) India
- 2) Russia
- 3) North Korea
- 4) Iran
- 5) Pakistan



Answer- **4) Iran**

**Explanation:**

**Iran** has unveiled advanced **Karrar combat drones** armed with air-to-air missiles, with an operational range of up to 1,000 kilometres (620 miles).

- It is equipped with a "Majid" thermal missile with a range of eight kilometres, developed indigenously in Iran.
- The first version of the Karrar Interceptor drone was unveiled in 2010.

**107. Name the person who is set to receive the David O. Selznick Award from the Producers Guild in February 2024.**

- 1) Stephen Colbert
- 2) Martin Scorsese
- 3) Kevin Feige
- 4) Steven Spielberg
- 5) Tom Cruise

Answer- **2) Martin Scorsese**

**Explanation:**

Veteran filmmaker and producer **Martin Scorsese** to be honoured with David O. Selznick Award from the Producers Guild of America(PGA).

- Martin Scorsese is set to receive the award at the Producers Guild Awards on 25th February 2023 in Los Angeles, United States.
- He produced and directed films including Killers of the Flower Moon, Hugo and The Wolf of Wall Street, and Shutter Island. He also produced television series including Boardwalk Empire.

**108. In which year was the World Bank established?**

- 1) 1942
- 2) 1946
- 3) 1944
- 4) 1947
- 5) 1950

Answer- **3) 1944**

**Explanation:**

**About World Bank (WB):**

**President (WB Group)**– Ajay Banga

**Establishment** – 1944

**Headquarters** – Washington D.C, United States of America (USA)

**Members** – 189 member states

**109. In which city the headquarters of the KfW Development Bank Located?**

- 1) Lausanne, Switzerland
- 2) London, United Kingdom
- 3) Paris, France
- 4) Frankfurt, Germany
- 5) Moscow, Russia

Answer- **4) Frankfurt, Germany**

**Explanation:**

**About KfW Development Bank:**

**Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Stefan Wintels**

**Headquarters – Frankfurt, Germany**

**Established - 1948**

**110. Name the person who is the present (in Dec' 23) President of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).**

- 1) Václav Bálek
- 2) Simon Stiell
- 3) Catherine Russell
- 4) Zurab Pololikashvili
- 5) Audrey Azoulay

Answer- **1) Václav Bálek**

**Explanation:**

**About the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC):**

UNHRC is an intergovernmental body within the UN system whose mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world and has 47 members.

**President- Václav Bálek**

**Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland**

**Founded in- 2006**

**111. In which state is the Lengteng Wildlife Sanctuary located?**

- 1) Tripura
- 2) Meghalaya
- 3) Assam
- 4) Mizoram
- 5) Nagaland

Answer- **4) Mizoram**

**Explanation:**

**About Mizoram:**

**Chief Minister – Lalduhoma**

**Governor – Hari Babu Kambhampati**

**National Park – Murlen National Park, Phawngpui National Park**

**Wildlife Sanctuary – Lengteng Wildlife Sanctuary, Ngengpui Wildlife Sanctuary**

**112. Who is the present (as of December 2023) Chairman and Managing Director (MD) of the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Limited?**

- 1) Gurdeep Singh
- 2) Bhuwan Chandra Pathak
- 3) Vivek Kumar Dewangan
- 4) Debasish Panda
- 5) K. Sreekant

Answer- **3) Vivek Kumar Dewangan**



**Explanation:**

**About Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Limited:**

**Chairman & Managing Director (MD) – Vivek Kumar Dewangan**

**Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi**

**Established in – 1969**

**113. Which Ministry has recently (in Dec '23) announced the launch of SPECS 2.0, an incentive scheme for electronics components?**

- 1) Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
- 2) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- 3) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- 4) Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
- 5) Ministry of Defence

**Answer- 3) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) has announced the launch of the second version of the **Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS 2.0)**, an incentive scheme for electronic components.

- **SPECS 1.0**, launched in 2020, provides a financial incentive of 25% on capital expenditure for the identified list of electronic goods that comprise the downstream value chain of electronic products.
- S Krishnan, Secretary (MeitY), said that the 99 percent local mobile phone market is being met through domestic manufacturing at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Electronics Summit held on 11th December 2023 in New Delhi, Delhi.

**114. As of December 2023, which country held the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) chairmanship?**

- 1) Bangladesh
- 2) Nepal
- 3) India
- 4) Sri Lanka
- 5) Pakistan

**Answer- 2) Nepal**

**Explanation:**

**About the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC):**

**Secretary-General– Golam Sarwar (Bangladesh)**

**SAARC Chairmanship– Nepal**

**Secretariat– Kathmandu, Nepal**

**Established in 1985**

**115. In which state 'Harike Wildlife Sanctuary' is located?**

- 1) Punjab
- 2) Haryana
- 3) Gujarat
- 4) Uttar Pradesh

5) Madhya Pradesh

Answer- **1) Punjab**

**Explanation:**

**About Punjab:**

**Chief Minister**– Bhagwant Mann

**Governor**– Banwarilal Purohit

**Wildlife Sanctuaries**– Bir Aishwan Wildlife Sanctuary, **Harike Wildlife Sanctuary**

**Airports**– Sahnewal Airport (Ludhiana), Pathankot Airport (Pathankot)

**116. Which OTT platform/Channel has recently (in Dec '23) signed a four-year deal with the International Cricket Council (ICC) to provide exclusive live broadcast rights in Australia for ICC cricket?**

1) Netflix

2) Amazon Prime Video

3) Disney+ Hotstar

4) ESPN

5) HBO Max

Answer- **2) Amazon Prime Video**

**Explanation:**

The International Cricket Council (**ICC**) and **Amazon Prime Video** announced a **four-year deal** to provide exclusive live broadcast rights in Australia for ICC cricket, which will be available on Prime Video Australia.

- The partnership will see Prime Video Australia exclusively stream all men's and women's events, including the Men's and Women's Cricket World Cups, T20 World Cups, Champions Trophy, U19s and the World Test Championship Final.
- The deal includes streaming rights in Australia for 448 live games from 2024 to 2027. The new partnership, which begins in January 2024.

**117. In December 2023, Foreign direct investment (FDI) into India from Cayman Islands and Cyprus contracted significantly during April-September 2022-23 as the overall inflows declined by \_\_\_\_\_%.**

1) 32%

2) 45%

3) 36%

4) 24%

5) 20%

Answer- **4) 24%**

**Explanation:**

Foreign direct investment (**FDI**) into **India** from **Cayman Islands and Cyprus** contracted significantly during April-September 2022-23 as the overall inflows declined by **24 per cent**.

- FDI from Cayman Islands dipped 75 per cent to USD 145 million during April-September from USD 582 million in the same period last fiscal, the data showed.
- Similarly, inflows from Cyprus contracted by over 95 per cent to USD 35 million during the six-month period as against USD 764 million in April-September 2022-23.



**118. Which country has recently (in Dec '23) won the Under-17 World Cup football final held in Indonesia?**

- 1) Spain
- 2) Germany
- 3) France
- 4) Italy
- 5) England

Answer- **2) Germany**

**Explanation:**

Ten-man **Germany** beat France on penalties to win the **Under-17 World Cup football final** in Indonesia on 2nd December 2023, becoming the first team to win the world and European age titles in the same year.

i. The match went to extra time when the teams were unable to break a 2-2 deadlock in humid conditions in Surakarta on Java island.

**119. In December 2023, the Governor of Punjab Banwarilal Purohit, inaugurated a Deeptech Startup Accelerator Program dedicated to catalyzing innovation in agriculture and water technology called 'SAMRIDHI'.**

**Which company/Foundation hosted the SAMRIDHI?**

- 1) I-Hub Quantum Technology Foundation
- 2) IHUB Anubhuti
- 3) IDEAS
- 4) iHub AwaDH
- 5) TIH Foundation

Answer- **4) iHub AwaDH**

**Explanation:**

The Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh, Shri Banwarilal Purohit, inaugurated a Deeptech Startup Accelerator Program dedicated to catalyzing innovation in agriculture and water technology called **SAMRIDHI** (Strategic Acceleration for Market, Research, Innovation & Development: a Holistic Initiative for ICPS Startups) hosted by **iHub AwaDH**, a Technology and Innovation Hubs set up UNDER National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS).

- The **SAMRIDHI conclave** in which five strategic collaborations were formalized, featured five deep-tech innovations. A total of 13 startups shortlisted through rigorous evaluation, presented their ideas while 25 startups showcased their solutions at the exhibition.
- More than 30 experts spoke on strategic acceleration for market research, innovation, and development.
- The conclave organised by IIT Ropar's Technology and Innovation Hub AwaDH was supported by 46 investment partners, and over 50 jury members evaluated and mentored the startups.

**120. Which state/UT has recently (in Dec '23) signed a Letter of Intent with Meta to train 1 lakh teachers and 10 lakh students in digital safety and Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality skills by 2025?**

- 1) Delhi
- 2) Karnataka
- 3) Maharashtra
- 4) Telangana
- 5) Kerala

**Answer- 2) Karnataka**

**Explanation:**

US tech giant **Meta**, which owns Facebook, and the Government of **Karnataka** plan to **train 1 lakh teachers and 10 lakh students** in digital safety and AR (augmented reality) and VR (virtual reality) skills by 2025.

- For this, the Government of Karnataka signed a Letter of Intent with Meta to launch two major initiatives that will raise awareness among students and educators on online safety and digital citizenship.

**121. In November 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first woman to assume the role of Commanding Officer at the Armed Forces Transfusion Centre (AFTC) in Delhi Cantt.**

- 1) Colonel Sunita BS
- 2) Colonel Nandini Harinath
- 3) Colonel Vanitha Muthayya
- 4) Colonel Ritu Karidhal Srivastava
- 5) Colonel Akshata Krish

**Answer- 1) Colonel Sunita BS**

**Explanation:**

On 21st November 2023, **Colonel Sunita BS**, an officer in the Army Medical Corps, became the first woman to assume the role of **Commanding Officer at the Armed Forces Transfusion Centre (AFTC) in Delhi Cantt.**

- Prior to this, she served in the challenging role of Commanding officer at a strategically important Field Hospital in Arunachal Pradesh, where she provided the best possible Combat Medical Support.
- Graduating from the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences Rohtak, Col Sunita holds a Postgraduate degree (MD & DNB) in Pathology.

**122. Which state's Tourism Development Board hosted the Tehri Acro Festival in November 2023?**

- 1) West Bengal
- 2) Bihar
- 3) Uttar Pradesh
- 4) Assam
- 5) Uttarakhand

**Answer- 5) Uttarakhand**



**Explanation:**

The **Uttarakhand** Tourism Development Board (UTDB) hosted the inaugural **Tehri Acro Festival**, held from November 24 to 28, 2023.

- Recognised as India's first international aerial acrobatic show, this five-day extravaganza features the participation of over 150 paragliders, including approximately 45 international athletes, transforming the skies of Tehri into a canvas of thrilling acrobatics.
- Tehri's unparalleled topography, with the majestic Tehri Lake as its backdrop, sets the stage for a series of adventure sports, making it an ideal hub for paragliding and water sports.

**123. In November 2023, State Bank of India (SBI) reported an \_\_\_\_ year-on-year (YoY) growth in its Q2FY24 standalone net profit at Rs. 14,330 crore.**

- 1) 7%
- 2) 9%
- 3) 5%
- 4) 8%
- 5) 6%

Answer- **4) 8%**

**Explanation:**

State Bank of India (**SBI**), India's largest lender, announced its September quarter results on 4th November 2023. SBI reported an **8%** year-on-year (YoY) growth in its **Q2FY24 standalone** net profit at **Rs. 14,330 crore**.

- The lender's net interest income during the quarter ended September 2023 increased 12.3% YoY to Rs. 39,500 crore.
- SBI's domestic net interest margin (NIM) for Q2FY24 decreased by 12 bps YoY to 3.43%. Asset quality improved sequentially.

**124. Who has been recently (in Dec '23) appointed as the International Ambassador for 2023 Tata Steel Kolkata 25KS?**

- 1) Linford Christie
- 2) Colin Jackson
- 3) Allen Johnson
- 4) Mark Foster
- 5) Roger Kingdom

Answer- **2) Colin Jackson**

**Explanation:**

The former 110m hurdles world record holder, **Colin Jackson**, has been announced as the **International Event Ambassador** for the Tata Steel Kolkata 25K event scheduled on 17th December 2023.

- This move adds a new dimension of prestige and excitement to an already prestigious event. Colin Jackson, an iconic figure in the world of athletics, brings a wealth of experience and inspiration to the event.

**125. In November 2023, the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board made a decisive move by relocating the upcoming men's Under-19 World Cup from Sri Lanka to \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) England
- 2) South Africa
- 3) Bangladesh
- 4) Australia
- 5) West Indies

**Answer- 2) South Africa**

**Explanation:**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) Board has made a decisive move by relocating the **upcoming men's Under-19 World Cup** from Sri Lanka to **South Africa**.

- This decision comes in the wake of the ICC's provisional suspension of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), prompted by concerns of government interference in the administration of cricket in the island nation.
- SLC President Shammi Silva had previously cautioned that Sri Lanka might lose the hosting rights for the U19 World Cup if government interference persisted.
- The 2024 ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup is an international limited-overs cricket tournament that is scheduled to be held in South Africa from January to February 2024.

**126. On 19th November 2023, India reportedly reached its GDP surpassing the USD \_\_\_\_\_ trillion mark for the first time.**

- 1) 2
- 2) 3
- 3) 4
- 4) 5
- 5) 1

**Answer- 3) 4**

**Explanation:**

**India** reportedly reached a historic milestone on **19th November 2023**, when its **GDP surpassed the USD 4-trillion** mark for the first time. Though there is no official word on this.

- The milestone was hailed by billionaire and Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani, two union ministers and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.
- An unverified screengrab from the live tracking GDP feed for all countries based on International Monetary Fund (IMF) data is being widely shared on social media.

**127. Which state/UT has recently (in Nov '23) launched a campaign called 'Every Right for Every Child'?**

- 1) Uttar Pradesh
- 2) Gujarat
- 3) Delhi
- 4) Maharashtra
- 5) Odisha

**Answer- 1) Uttar Pradesh**



**Explanation:**

In November, 2023, the **Uttar Pradesh government** launched a campaign called 'Every Right for Every Child'.

- The aim of this campaign is to ensure equal opportunities for students.
- The theme of the program was 'Gender Equality: Providing equal opportunities for every student.
- Led by Power Angel and Bal Sansad, the campaign will include daily activities in all primary, upper primary and Kasturba Gandhi schools till November 25.

**128. Who has recently (in Dec '23) appointed as the new head of the fintech department of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?**

- 1) Rajeev Yadav
- 2) Sanjay Aggarwal
- 3) Govind Singh
- 4) Paul Thomas
- 5) P Vasudevan

Answer- **5) P Vasudevan**

**Explanation:**

Recently, the Reserve Bank of India underwent a shuffle, appointing **P Vasudevan**, an executive director, as the new head of the fintech department.

- Ajay Kumar Choudhary, the former executive director in charge of the fintech department, has retired.
- Choudhary has now taken on a role on the board of RBI Innovation Hub. Choudhary, who became the inaugural head of the fintech department in January 2022, along with the creation of the department, handed over charge to P Vasudevan following his retirement.

**129. Who is the present (as of Dec '23) chairman of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)?**

- 1) Shubham Goyal
- 2) K Rajaraman
- 3) Arjun Prasad
- 4) Injeti Srinivas
- 5) Saurabh Kumar

Answer- **2) K Rajaraman**

**Explanation:****About International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA):**

IFSCA is a statutory authority established by the Government of India on April 27, 2020, under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019

**Chairperson–K Rajaraman**

**Headquarters–** GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat

**130. The Tagline of Karur Vysya Bank Limited 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- **3) Smart Way to Bank**

Explanation:

**About Karur Vysya Bank Limited:**

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

**Headquarters – Karur, Tamil Nadu**

**Established in – 1916**

**Tagline – Smart Way to Bank**

**131. What is the Capital of Poland?**

1) Praia

2) Lima

3) Helsinki

4) Warsaw

5) Lisbon

Answer- **4) Warsaw**

**Explanation:**

**About Poland:**

**Capital- Warsaw**

**Currency- Polish złoty**

**President – Andrzej Duda**

**132. Under which treaty, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was formed in 1949?**

1) Mississippi Treaty

2) New York Treaty

3) California Treaty

4) Washington Treaty

5) Tennessee Treaty

Answer- **4) Washington Treaty**

**Explanation:**

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was established on the **Washington Treaty**, also known as the North Atlantic Treaty.

- The Treaty was signed by 12 founding members on April 4, 1949, in Washington, D.C., United States (US). NATO is a political and military alliance of countries in Europe and North America.
- Recently, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) has announced the formal suspension of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), a key Cold War-Era Security Treaty in response to Russia's pullout from the deal.
- The CFE Treaty, signed in 1990 and fully ratified in 1992, aimed to prevent massing of conventional armed forces by NATO and Warsaw Pact countries near mutual borders during the Cold War.
- The Cold War was a period (1945-1991) of geopolitical tension between the Soviet Union and its satellite states (the Eastern European countries), and the United States with its allies (the Western European countries) after World War II.



**133. Which company has an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered chatbot called 'Bard'??**

- 1) IBM
- 2) Google
- 3) Oracle Corporation
- 4) Meta
- 5) Twitter

Answer- **2) Google**

Explanation:

**Google** is taking a significant step in catering to the educational needs of teenagers with the launch of its AI chatbot, **Bard**.

- While the minimum age for managing a Google Account is 13, the accessibility of Bard will be subject to regional regulations, which may set slightly higher age benchmarks. The AI chatbot has undergone training to identify and filter out unsafe content, prioritizing the well-being of its young users.

**134. In which state 'Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary' is located?**

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

Answer- **5) Chhattisgarh**

Explanation:

**About Chhattisgarh:**

**Governor** – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**National Parks** – Indravati (Kutru) National Park, Kanger Valley National Park

**Wildlife Sanctuaries** – Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary, Badalkhol Wildlife Sanctuary

**135. The United States and the Philippines have recently (in Nov '23) signed a landmark deal that would allow Washington to export nuclear technology and material to \_\_\_\_\_(city of Philippines).**

- 1) Zamboanga
- 2) Manila
- 3) Navotas
- 4) Bacoar
- 5) Davao

Answer- **2) Manila**

Explanation:

The **United States** and the **Philippines** on November 17 signed a landmark deal that would allow Washington to export nuclear technology and material to **Manila**, which is exploring nuclear power in its bid to decarbonise and boost energy independence.

**i.** U.S. Congress approval is needed for the deal, which will allow a peaceful transfer of nuclear material, equipment and information in adherence with non-proliferation requirements.

**ii.** As of end-2022, the United States had 23 agreements covering 47 countries, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and democratically governed Taiwan.

**136. Who has been recently (in Nov '23) named as the next Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ernst & Young LLP?**

- 1) Mark Weinberger
- 2) Kelly Grier
- 3) Carmine Di Sibio
- 4) Rajiv Memani
- 5) Janet Truncale

Answer- **5) Janet Truncale**

**Explanation:**

**Janet Truncale** has been named the next Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Ernst & Young LLP**, becoming the first woman to lead a Big Four audit firm. She will succeed Carmine Di Sibio on 1st July 2024.

- Di Sibio took over as global chair and chief executive in 2019, having risen through the ranks of EY's US business serving financial services clients, including Goldman Sachs.

**137. In which city, Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik has recently (in Nov '23) inaugurated India's largest state-of-the-art Sports Science Centre?**

- 1) Debagarh
- 2) Bhubaneswar
- 3) Rourkela
- 4) Balasore
- 5) Khordha

Answer- **2) Bhubaneswar**

Explanation:

Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik inaugurated **India's largest state-of-the-art Sports Science Centre** at the Kalinga Stadium in **Bhubaneswar**.

- i. This centre has been established in partnership with Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medalist.
- ii. This state-of-the-art facility, the largest in the country, stands as a testament to Odisha's commitment to nurturing sporting excellence.

**138. In December 2023, Cricketer Asad Shafiq from \_\_\_\_\_ (country) announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.**

- 1) Zimbabwe
- 2) Afghanistan
- 3) Pakistan
- 4) Bangladesh
- 5) West Indies

Answer- **3) Pakistan**

**Explanation:**

**Pakistan's** middle-order batter **Asad Shafiq**, who was a crucial member of the 2016 side that reached the No. 1 ranking in Tests, announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. The 37-year-old Shafiq has announced his retirement from cricket after leading Karachi Whites to the National T20 Championship victory. Shafiq confirmed this in a post-match press conference.



- Shafiq was part of the Misbah-ul-Haq squad that helped Pakistan reach the top of the MRF Tyres ICC Men's Test Team Rankings and still holds the record for hitting most centuries at No. 6 in Tests.

**139. In which state Jaldapara National Park is located?**

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

Answer- **3) West Bengal**

**Explanation:**

The **Jaldapara National Park** (JNP) is located at the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas in Alipurduar District of northern **West Bengal** and on the banks of the Torsa River.

i. It is home to Indian leopard, Indian elephants, sambar, barking deer, spotted deer, hog deer, wild boars, gaur, etc. Jaldapara is a paradise for bird watchers.

**140. Where is the Headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) located?**

- 1) London, United Kingdom
- 2) Geneva, Switzerland
- 3) Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- 4) Paris, France
- 5) Vienna, Austria

Answer- **3) Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**

**Explanation:**

**About International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA):**

IRENA is a lead global intergovernmental agency for energy transformation.

**Director-General-** Francesco La Camera

**Membership-** 167 countries and the EU.

**Headquarters-** Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

**141. In which state 'Srivilliputhur – Meghamalai Tiger Reserve' is located?**

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

Answer- **2) Tamil Nadu**

**Explanation:**

**About Tamil Nadu:**

**Chief Minister-** M.K. Stalin

**Governor-** R. N. Ravi

**Wildlife Sanctuary-** Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary; Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary

**Tiger Reserve-** Srivilliputhur – Meghamalai Tiger Reserve

**142. Who is the present (as of Dec '23) Director General of Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)?**

- 1) Harish Chand Sharma
- 2) Abhay Bakre
- 3) Shyam Sunder Goyal
- 4) Ashok Kumar
- 5) Aarti Rana

Answer- **2) Abhay Bakre**

**Explanation:**

**About the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE):**

GoI set up BEE on 1st March 2002 under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 provisions to reduce the energy intensity of the Indian economy.

**Director General- Abhay Bakre**

**Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi**

**143. In which state/UT, Asia's Largest Pilgrimage Expo, Asian Hajj and Umrah Expo 2024 will be held in January 2024?**

- 1) Odisha
- 2) Delhi NCR
- 3) Karnataka
- 4) Maharashtra
- 5) Bihar

Answer- **2) Delhi NCR**

**Explanation:**

The Asian Arab Trade Chamber of Commerce (**AATCOC**) declares the Asian Hajj and Umrah Expo 2024 as Asia's Largest Pilgrimage Expo, set to unfold from the 16th to the 18th of January at the India Expo Mart in Greater Noida, **Delhi National Capital Region (NCR)**. Saudia Airlines has been named the Official Airlines Partner for the event.

- The expo boasts participation from over 100 partners and exhibitors, making it the largest of its kind in Asia. This extensive network of collaborators represents a diverse range of industries, from travel agencies and hospitality services to technology providers and cultural organisations.
- Unprecedented Exhibitor Presence: Over 100 exhibitors are set to showcase their offerings, creating a dynamic and comprehensive display of the latest trends, innovations, and services related to Hajj and Umrah.

**Note-** AATCOC was under the visionary leadership of Managing Director Abdul Musaddiq.

**144. Which city has recently (in Dec '23) launched its Climate Action Plan (CCAP) in line with C40 Cities' commitment to tackle climate change?**

- 1) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- 2) New Delhi, Delhi
- 3) Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- 4) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 5) Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Answer- **1) Bengaluru, Karnataka**



**Explanation:**

**Bengaluru, Karnataka** launched its Climate Action Plan (**CCAP**) in line with C40 Cities' commitment to tackle climate change. Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is an Implementation Agency.

- The objectives is 269 actions were outlined to mitigate climate change impacts in areas such as including urban heat, flooding, droughts, thunderstorms, lightning, and air pollution
- Bengaluru commits to carbon emission reduction by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050
- The BBMP has engaged the World Resources Institute (WRI) as a global consultant to formulate the CCAP for 2050

**i.** CCAP is a part of global efforts to identify and implement climate actions, addressing vulnerabilities like urban flooding and pollution.

**ii.** C40 is a global network of nearly 100 mayors of the world's leading cities that are united in action to confront the climate crisis.

- 6 Indian Cities namely Delhi NCT, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Ahmedabad are parties to it

**145. In November 2023, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a notification allowing qualified jewellers to import silver through India International Bullion Exchange IFSC Ltd (IIBX) in the same manner as gold imports.**

**The banks dealing with imports have been directed to permit jewellers importing silver to remit advance payment for \_\_\_\_\_ days as is the case with gold.**

- 1) 15
- 2) 11
- 3) 12
- 4) 9
- 5) 6

**Answer- 2) 11**

**Explanation:**

Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) issued a notification allowing qualified jewellers to import silver through India International Bullion Exchange IFSC Ltd (**IIBX**) in the same manner as gold imports.

- The banks dealing with imports have been directed to permit jewellers importing silver to remit advance payment for **11 days** as is the case with gold.
- Qualified Jewellers as notified by International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) have been permitted to import silver under specific ITC(HS) Codes through IIBX.
- AD Category-I banks have also been told to bring the contents of this circular to the notice of their customers concerned.

**146. The \_\_\_\_\_ (country) pop artist Zahara, who featured on BBC's 100 Women list in 2020, passed away in December 2023.**

- 1) Germany
- 2) Russia
- 3) Peru
- 4) South Africa
- 5) Brazil

**Answer- 4) South Africa**

**Explanation:**

The 36-year-old **South African** Afro-pop artist **Zahara** passed away in December 2023.

- Zahara won a Grammy Award for her album Loliwe in 2011. In **2020**, she was included in the **BBC's 100 Women list**, which honors the world's most powerful and inspirational women.

**147. In December 2023, the Central Government approved the financial assistance of Rs. 338.24 crore to \_\_\_\_\_ (state), which was severely affected by Cyclone Biparjoy.**

- 1) Andhra Pradesh
- 2) Chennai
- 3) Gujarat
- 4) Madhya Pradesh
- 5) Telangana

Answer- **3) Gujarat**

**Explanation:**

The Central Government has approved the financial assistance of **Rs. 338.24 crore** to **Gujarat**, which was severely affected by **Cyclone Biparjoy**.

- Under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's guidance, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has also approved an additional financial assistance of Rs. 633.73 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to Himachal Pradesh.
- In the aftermath of the extremely severe Cyclone Biparjoy, the Ministry of Home Affairs immediately deputed the Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) for assessment of the damages, without waiting for the Memorandum from the State Government.
- The Central Government had earlier released the 1st instalment of its share amounting to Rs. 584 crore to the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

**148. In which year, India will become a developed nation?**

- 1) 2045
- 2) 2030
- 3) 2025
- 4) 2040
- 5) 2047

Answer- **5) 2047**

**Explanation:**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched 'Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth' via video conferencing. During the program, Prime Minister Modi addressed the Vice Chancellors of Universities, Heads of Institutes and faculty members in workshops organised at Raj Bhawans across the country to mark the beginning of this initiative.

- In line with the Prime Minister's vision to actively involve the youth of the country in the formulation of national plans, priorities and goals of the country, 'Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth' initiative will provide a platform to the youth of the country to contribute ideas to the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.
- Viksit Bharat @2047 is the vision to make **India a developed nation** by **2047**, the 100th year of independence. The vision encompasses various aspects of development, including economic growth, social progress, environmental sustainability, and good governance.



**149. Which Small Finance Bank (SFB) has recently (in Dec '23) signed a corporate agency agreement with Care Health Insurance?**

- 1) Ujjivan SFB
- 2) AU SFB
- 3) Capital SFB
- 4) Equitas SFB
- 5) ESAF SFB

**Answer- 4) Equitas SFB**

**Explanation:**

**Equitas Small Finance Bank** and **Care Health Insurance** have entered into a corporate agency agreement. With this association, Equitas Small Finance Bank will offer Care Health's health insurance solutions to its customer base.

- Products will be offered in the retail and group segments to Equitas Small Finance bank's customers, who in addition to the company's existing portfolio can now have their health insurance needs addressed under one umbrella.

**150. Name the bi-annual exercise that has recently (in Dec '23) conducted by the Indian Navy (IN) in the Western Offshore Development Area off Mumbai, Maharashtra.**

- 1) Sea Vigil
- 2) Prasthan
- 3) Passage
- 4) Sagar Kavach
- 5) La Perouse

**Answer- 2) Prasthan**

**Explanation:**

The Indian Navy conducted a bi-annual exercise called **Prasthan** in the Western Offshore Development Area off Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- The exercise is conducted under the Western Naval Command and is conducted every six months to validate measures and procedures to address various contingencies that may arise in the oil production platforms.
- The current exercise was conducted on the R12A (Ratna) platform of ONGC, located about 45 nm West of Mumbai Harbour. The exercise simulates realistic scenarios to assess the readiness of stakeholders to respond to contingencies.
- The exercise also tests the ability of stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner.

**151. The Karnataka government has approved an additional investment of Rs \_\_\_\_\_ by Foxconn Hon Hai Technology India Mega Development in Bengaluru Rural district in December, 2023.**

- 1) 10,324 crore
- 2) 13,911 crore
- 3) 19,034 crore
- 4) 15,234 crore
- 5) 14,230 crore

**Answer- 2) 13,911 crore**

**Explanation:**

The **Karnataka government** has approved an additional investment of **Rs 13,911 crore** by **Foxconn Hon Hai Technology** India Mega Development in Bengaluru Rural district on 12 December, 2023.

- This announcement was made by the State High-Level Clearance Committee (SHLCC) in a meeting headed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held in Belagavi.
- Foxconn is investing Rs 8,500 crore for the manufacturing unit, which would generate over one lakh employment opportunities within the state in the next ten years. Production at the plant is anticipated to start by April next year, with investments spread over three phases.
- Foxconn is likely to invest Rs 3,000 crore in Phase-I (2023-2024), followed by Rs 4,000 crore in Phase-II (2025-2026), and Rs 1,000 crore in Phase-III (2026-2027).

**152. In December 2023, Israeli film \_\_\_\_\_ directed by Erez Tadmor, won the Best Film award under International Competition in Innovation Moving Images in 29th Kolkata International Film Festival.**

- 1) The Future
- 2) Running on Sand
- 3) My Daughter My Love
- 4) Children of Nobody
- 5) Israelism

Answer- **4) Children of Nobody**

**Explanation:**

The 29th Kolkata International Film Festival ended on 12th December 2023. The prize distribution and closing ceremony were held at Rabindra Sadan. 219 films from 39 countries were screened at 23 locations across Kolkata.

- **Israeli** film '**Children of Nobody**' directed by Erez Tadmor, has won the Best Film award under International Competition in Innovation Moving Images.
- The Best Director award was bagged by Carlos Daniel Malave. Anjan Dutta's 'Chalchitro Ekhon' bagged the Special Jury Award.
- Director duo Sharmistha Maity and Rajdeep Paul's 'Mon Potongo' was awarded best film under Bengali Panorama category. For the best film 'Royal Bengal Tiger Trophy' 51 lakh rupees were given as an award.

**153. Andre Braugher, the Emmy-winning actor, passed away in December 2023.**

**In which year did he win the Emmy award under the outstanding lead actor in a drama series category for his role in Homicide: Life On The Street?**

- 1) 1995
- 2) 1990
- 3) 1997
- 4) 2000
- 5) 2006

Answer- **2) 1990**

**Explanation:**

**Andre Braugher**, the Emmy-winning actor best known for his roles on the series "Homicide: Life on The Street" and "Brooklyn 99," died Monday at age 61.



- He won the Outstanding Lead Actor in A Drama Series in **1990** for his role in Homicide: Life On The Street.
- He also won his second for lead actor Outstanding Lead Actor In A Miniseries Or A Movie in 2006 for his role in Thief. Braugher was nominated for 11 Emmys overall.

**154. Name the personality who has recently (in Dec '23) won the Alconics Solutions Implementer of the Year award at the AI Summit held in New York.**

- 1) Neelam Dhawan
- 2) Sharmistha Dubey
- 3) Amrapali Gan
- 4) Priya Lakhani
- 5) Sreya Francis

Answer- **5) Sreya Francis**

**Explanation:**

**Sreya Francis**, an artificial intelligence (AI) innovator from Cherthala Kerala, won the **Alconics Solutions Implementer of the Year award** at the AI Summit held in New York.

- The prize is given to individuals who have developed in-house innovation and successfully implemented AI to drive meaningful change and business growth for their brand. Ms. Francis, who works as head of technical innovation at Farm Mutual Re in Ontario, Canada, emerged as the winner beating a line-up of five shortlisted AI innovators.

**155. In which state Ralamandal Wildlife Sanctuary is located?**

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

Answer- **5) Madhya Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

**About Madhya Pradesh (MP):**

**Chief Minister-** Mohan Yadav

**Governor-** Mangubhai C. Patel

**Wildlife Sanctuary-** Ralamandal Wildlife Sanctuary; Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary

**Tiger Reserve-** Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve; Kanha Tiger Reserve

**156. Who is the current (as of Dec '23) Chairperson of Competition Commission of India (CCI)?**

- 1) Ravneet Kaur
- 2) Brahm Dutt
- 3) Pawan Kumar
- 4) Anil Agrawal
- 5) Sanjay Kumar

Answer- **1) Ravneet Kaur**

**Explanation:**

**About Competition Commission of India (CCI):**

**Chairperson-** Ravneet Kaur

**Headquarters-** New Delhi, Delhi

**Establishment-** 2003

**Tagline-** Fair Competition for greater Good

**157. What is the capital of Kenya?**

- 1) Nairobi
- 2) Bamako
- 3) Niamey
- 4) Tripoli
- 5) Kigali

Answer- **1) Nairobi**

**Explanation:**

**About Kenya:**

**President** - William Samoei Ruto

**Capital** - Nairobi

**Currency** - Kenyan Shilling

**Note-** In 2017, Indians were recognised by the government of Kenya as the nation's 44th tribe.

**158. On 12th December 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first woman medical officer in the Indian Army (operational post) to be deployed on the Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield.**

- 1) Captain Sheila Samanta
- 2) Captain Arti Sarin
- 3) Captain Deeksha
- 4) Captain Madhuri Kanitkar
- 5) Captain Fatima Wasim

Answer- **5) Captain Fatima Wasim**

**Explanation:**

On 12th December 2022, Captain Fatima Wasim became the **first woman medical officer** in the Indian Army (**operational post**) to be **deployed** on the **Siachen Glacier**, the world's highest battlefield.

- She is the second medical officer to be deployed on the Siachen Glacier in the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- The Fire and Fury Corps further said that she was inducted to a post at an altitude of 15,200 feet after undergoing rigorous training at the Siachen Battle School, which speaks of her indomitable spirit and high motivation.

**Note-** In the 1st week of December 2023, Captain Geetika Koul became the first woman medical officer in the Indian Army to be deployed at Siachen.

**159. Who is set to receive the Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival in January 2024?**

- 1) Prasoona Joshi
- 2) Amitabh Bachchan
- 3) Sameer Anjaan
- 4) Javed Akhtar
- 5) Rashmi Singh



Answer- 4) **Javed Akhtar**

**Explanation:**

The veteran lyricist-screenwriter **Javed Akhtar** is set to be honored with the **Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award** at the upcoming Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival.

- This recognition celebrates his remarkable contributions to the Indian film industry, including iconic works like 'Zanjeer,' 'Deewar,' 'Sholay,' 'Don,' 'Kala Patthar,' and 'Mr India.'
- The award ceremony will take place on **January 3, 2024**, marking the opening day of the ninth edition of the festival.
- The award ceremony will be held at the Rukmini Auditorium, MGM University campus, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.
- The Padmapani Award, which includes a memento, a certificate, and a monetary award of Rs 2 lakh, will be presented to Javed Akhtar by the Ajantha-Ellora Film Festival Organizing Committee Chairman Nandkishore Kagliwal and Chief Guide Ankushrao Kadam.

**160. As of December 2023, the growth rate of gross value added (GVA) in agriculture and allied sectors in India has increased from 2.10% in 2018-19 to \_\_\_\_\_ in 2022-23.**

- 1) 4.01%
- 2) 2.59%
- 3) 3.96%
- 4) 3.01%
- 5) 2.89%

Answer- 3) **3.96%**

**Explanation:**

The growth rate of gross value added (**GVA**) in agriculture and allied sectors in India has **increased** from 2.10% in 2018-19 to **3.96%** in **2022-23**.

- In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Arjun Munda, Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare stated that the government has implemented various policies, reforms, and schemes since 2014 to improve agricultural growth and farmers' incomes, resulting in an average annual growth rate of 4% over the past five years.

**161. The MCLR is the minimum interest rates below which banks cannot lend.**

**What does M stand for?**

- 1) Macro
- 2) Marginal
- 3) Micro
- 4) Market
- 5) Money

Answer- 2) **Marginal**

**Explanation:**

Introduced on April 1, 2016, **Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR)** is the minimum interest rates below which banks cannot lend. It reflects the trends in banks' cost of borrowing.

- The State Bank of India (SBI) has increased its marginal cost of fund based lending rate (MCLR) by 5-10 basis points (bps) across various tenors, effective in December 2023.

- The hikes in MCLR by the lender come even as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent in its monetary policy announced on December 8. This move is likely to be followed by other lenders, resulting in costlier loans for borrowers.
- The interest rates on one – and – three-month MCLR's have been revised up by 5 bps to 8.2 per cent from 8.15 percent earlier, as per the information on the bank's website. One basis point (bps) is one-hundredth of a percentage point.
- For six-to-three-year MCLR's, the rates have been revised up by 10 bps. The lender is offering interest rates of 8.55 per cent and 8.65 per cent on six-month and one-year MCLR's, respectively. The new rate on two-year MCLR is 8.75 per cent and on the three-year tenor is 8.85 per cent.

**162. In Which state Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary is located?**

- 1) Assam
- 2) Jharkhand
- 3) Uttar Pradesh
- 4) Uttarakhand
- 5) Madhya Pradesh

Answer- **4) Uttarakhand**

**Explanation:**

**Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary** is a protected area located in the state of **Uttarakhand**, India. It is situated in the Kumaon Himalayas, at an altitude ranging from 900 to 2,480 meters (2,953 to 8,136 feet) above sea level.

- The sanctuary spans across an area of about 47 square kilometers and was established in 1988 with the purpose of conserving the diverse flora and fauna of the region.

**163. Name the personality who has won the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Player Award of the Year 2023 for the second consecutive year.**

- 1) Laura Siegemund(Germany)
- 2) Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)
- 3) Anhelina Kalinina (Ukraine)
- 4) Ellen Perez(Australia)
- 5) Iga Swiatek (Poland)

Answer- **5) Iga Swiatek (Poland)**

**Explanation:**

**Iga Swiatek, Polish tennis player** has been named Women's Tennis Association (**WTA**) **Player Award** of the Year 2023 for the **second year consecutive** and is the first player to win back-to-back awards since Serena Williams, American former tennis player.

- Williams won the honour for four consecutive years from 2012 to 2015.
- Williams, who retired in 2022, was the WTA Player of the Year every season from 2012-15, the final four of the seven total times the American claimed that award.
- Swiatek went 68-11 in 2023 with a tour-leading six titles, including at the French Open in June. That was Swiatek's third championship at Roland Garros and fourth overall at a Grand Slam tournament.



**164. Who has been recently (in Dec '23) appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of JSW Energy?**

- 1) Munesh Khanna
- 2) Sunil Goyal
- 3) Pritesh Vinay
- 4) Rupa Devi Singh
- 5) Sharad Mahendra

**Answer- 5) Sharad Mahendra**

**Explanation:**

Sajjan Jindal-led **JSW Energy's** board of directors has approved the appointment of **Sharad Mahendra** as a Whole-Time Director, taking on the role of joint **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** designate.

- The decision, based on the recommendation of the Compensation & Nomination and Remuneration Committee, is slated to be effective from December 1, 2023.
- The incumbent, Prashant Jain, will continue in his position until January 31, 2024. Mahendra will then take over on February 1, 2024.

**165. P Cyriac John, former Minister for Agriculture of \_\_\_\_\_(state) in 1982-1983 period, Passed away in December 2023**

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

**Answer- 4) Kerala**

**Explanation:**

Veteran Congress leader and **Kerala's** former Minister for Agriculture, **P Cyriac John**, passed away at a Palliative Care Institute in Kozhikode. He was 90.

- The veteran Congress leader was first elected to the Kerala Assembly on a Congress (R) ticket from the Kalpetta segment in 1970. He represented the Thiruvambady seat in the next three elections.
- Mr. John served as the **Minister for Agriculture** in the K. Karunakaran Cabinet from **1982 to 1983**. It was during his tenure that Krishi Bhavans were set up in all grama panchayats across the State. He suffered defeat in the Assembly polls a couple of times.

**166. In which state Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary is located?**

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

**Answer- 2) Tamil Nadu**

**Explanation:**

**Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary** is located in the state of **Tamil Nadu**. It lies adjacent to the Bay of Bengal along the east coast.

- It is one of the major wetlands on the Coromandel Coast after Pulicat Lake.
- The lake is connected to the Bay of Bengal by the Uppukalli Creek and the Yedayanthittu estuary and is visited for nesting by migratory birds on the Central Asian flyway.

i. In December 2023, With the onset of the winter season, hundreds of migratory birds started arriving at Kazhuveli bird sanctuary.

**167. Where is the Headquarters of the International Energy Agency (IEA) located?**

- 1) Geneva, Switzerland
- 2) Paris, France
- 3) Rome, Italy
- 4) London, United Kingdom
- 5) Vienna, Austria

Answer- **2) Paris, France**

**Explanation:**

**About International Energy Agency (IEA):**

**Executive Director-** Dr Fatih Birol

**Headquarters-** Paris, France

**Establishment-** 1974

**168. What is the capital of Saint Lucia?**

- 1) Bishkek
- 2) Dushanbe
- 3) Beirut
- 4) Tirana
- 5) Castries

Answer- **5) Castries**

**Explanation:**

**About Saint Lucia:**

**Prime Minister-** Philip J. Pierre

**Capital-** Castries

**Currency-** East Caribbean Dollar (EC\$)

**169. Kendriya Vidyalaya observed its Diamond Jubilee on \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) 13th December 2023
- 2) 15th December 2023
- 3) 10th December 2023
- 4) 17th December 2023
- 5) 12th December 2023

Answer- **2) 15th December 2023**

**Explanation:**

The Prime Minister, **Narendra Modi** has extended his greetings to the students, staff, supporting staff and alumni of the **Kendriya Vidyalaya** on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee on **15th December 2023** .



- Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, attended the function commemorating the Diamond Jubilee of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in New Delhi.
- Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan was established in 1963 with only 20 regimental schools for the wards of transferable Central Government employees and to provide uninterrupted schooling during the academic session.
- The Kendriya Vidyalayas, committed to holistic student development, continue to emphasize a balance between academic learning and physical activities. KVS has taken a significant lead in implementing the National Education Policy 2020, initiating Bal Vatikas in Kendriya Vidyalayas along with other important initiatives.
- The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan was registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act in 1965 to manage the Kendriya Vidyalayas located all over India and abroad. The Government of India wholly finances the Sangathan.

**Note-** The total number of KVs (including 3 abroad) is 1255.

**170. In December 2023, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) implemented strict measures against operators found guilty of overcharging and also imposed a penalty of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ against them.**

- 1) 50,000
- 2) 75,000
- 3) 25,000
- 4) 80,000
- 5) 65,000

**Answer- 1) 50,000**

**Explanation:**

The Unique Identification Authority of India (**UIDAI**) has implemented strict measures against operators found guilty of **overcharging** and also imposed a **penalty of Rs.50,000** against them.

**i.** Minister of State of Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, emphasized that all Aadhaar operators are obliged not to overcharge for any services, including the crucial processes of updating biometric and demographic details.

- This prohibition aims to ensure that Aadhaar services remain accessible and affordable for every citizen.

**ii.** The UIDAI responsible for the implementation of the Aadhaar program, has established a comprehensive regulatory framework to govern the provision of Aadhaar services. This framework encompasses the enrollment and update processes, aiming to maintain transparency and prevent the exploitation of citizens through unauthorized charges.

- Any person can lodge their grievances with UIDAI through email or call to the toll-free number 1947.

**171. As of December 2023, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has been conferred with the highest national awards of \_\_\_\_\_ countries, since 2014 in recognition of his leadership.**

- 1) 11
- 2) 20
- 3) 14
- 4) 17



5) 10

Answer- **3) 14**

**Explanation:**

**Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi** has been conferred with the highest national awards of **14 countries** since 2014 in recognition of his leadership at bilateral, regional, and global levels.

**i.** Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan, replying to a question, also referred to Modi receiving the highest environmental award of the United Nations in 2018.

- Minister listed several notable awards conferred on PM Modi which included the 'State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan' by *Afghanistan* in 2016, the 'Grand Collar of the State of Palestine' by **Palestine** in February 2018, the 'UN Champion of the Earth Award' by the **UN** in October 2018, the 'Order of Zayed' by **UAE** in April 2019 and the 'Order of St Andrew' by **Russia** in April 2019.
- The Minister also mentioned Mr Modi receiving the 'Order of the Distinguished Rule of Izzuddin' by **Maldives** in June 2019, the 'King Hamad Order of the Renaissance' by **Bahrain** in August 2019, the 'Legion of Merit' by **US** in December 2020, the 'Order of the Dragon King' by **Bhutan** in December 2021, the 'Order of Fiji' by **Fiji** and the 'Order of Logohu' by **Papua New Guinea** in May 2023, the 'Order of the Nile' by **Egypt** in June 2023, 'Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour' by **France** in July 2023 and 'Grand Cross of the Order of Honour' by **Greece** in August 2023.

**172. As of December 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ becomes world's No.1 Twenty20 International (T20I) bowler in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Rankings for bowlers in men's T20I.**

- 1) Axar Patel (India)
- 2) Adil Rashid (England)
- 3) Ravi Bishnoi (India)
- 4) Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)
- 5) Wanindu Hasaranga (Sri Lanka)

Answer- **3) Ravi Bishnoi (India)**

**Explanation:**

On 6th December 2023, Young Indian leg-spinner **Ravi Bishnoi** rose to the top spot (**world's No.1**) in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Twenty20 International (T20I) bowling chart on the back of his recent player of the series-winning performance against Australia.

- Bishnoi, who is on 699 rating points, has jumped five places to displace Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan (692) from the top slot.
- Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga and England's Adil Rashid, who both have 679 points, are in joint third.
- Ravi Bishnoi is the only Indian bowler in the top 10 in the shortest format even as Axar Patel climbed nine spots to be 18th.
- Suryakumar Yadav and Ruturaj Gaikwad are the only 2 Indians in the top 10 batting charts.

**173. In December 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first Bangladesh batter to be dismissed for obstructing the field.**

- 1) Mushfiqur Rahim
- 2) Tamim Iqbal
- 3) Shakib Al Hasan



4) Mohammad Ashraful

5) Sabbir Rahman

Answer- **1) Mushfiqur Rahim**

**Explanation:**

Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batter **Mushfiqur Rahim** became only the 11th player in Test cricket history, and first in 22 years, to be given out for "obstructing the field" on the opening day of the second match against New Zealand.

- Rahim, who became the **first Bangladesh batter** to be dismissed in this way, blocked a climbing delivery from New Zealand pacer Kyle Jamieson in the fourth ball of the 41st over, and then tried to keep the ball away with his right hand even though it was far from the off-stump.
- Legendary England batter Len Hutton was the first player to be given out for "obstructing the field" during a Test match against South Africa in 1951.
- Other batters to feature in the list in Test cricket are: William Endean of SA (1957), Andrew Hilditch of Australia (1979), Mohsin Khan (Pakistan, 1982), Desmond Haynes (West Indies, 1983), Graham Gooch (England, 1993), Steve Waugh (Australia, 2001), Marvan Atapattu (Sri Lanka, 2001) and Mahela Jayawardene (Sri Lanka 2001).

**i. According to Law 37.1.2**, "The striker is out obstructing the field if, except in the circumstances of 37.2, in the act of receiving a ball delivered by the bowler, he/she wilfully strikes the ball with a hand not holding the bat.

- This will apply whether it is the first strike or a second or subsequent strike. The act of receiving the ball shall extend both to playing at the ball and to striking the ball more than once in defence of his/her wicket.
- Earlier, such dismissals were classified as "handled the ball" but a change in the laws in 2017 brought them under "obstructing the field" category.

**174. Which of the following Indian states does not hold Special Category State (SCS) as of 2023?**

1) Himachal Pradesh

2) Uttarakhand

3) Odisha

4) Arunachal Pradesh

5) Telangana

Answer- **3) Odisha**

**Explanation:**

The Special Category States (SCS) is a classification given by the Centre to assist development of states that face geographical and socio-economic disadvantages.

- The Constitution does not make a provision for SCS and this classification was later done on the recommendations of the Fifth Finance Commission in 1969.
- Status was first accorded to Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Nagaland in 1969.
- SCS for plan assistance was granted in the past by the National Development Council of the erstwhile Planning Commission.
- **Eleven States including** Assam, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Uttarakhand and Telangana have been accorded the special category state status.

- Telangana, the newest State of India, was accorded the status as it was carved out of another state Andhra Pradesh.

**175. The Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary located in \_\_\_\_\_ (state).**

- 1) West Bengal
- 2) Maharashtra
- 3) Madhya Pradesh
- 4) Karnataka
- 5) Andhra Pradesh

Answer- **2) Maharashtra**

**Explanation:**

**About Maharashtra:**

**Governor** – Ramesh Bais

**Chief Minister** – Eknath Shinde

**National Park** – Gugamal National Park, Tadoba National Park (tiger reserve)

**Wildlife Sanctuary** – Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary, Sagareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary

**176. In which state Bhitarkanika national park is located?**

- 1) Tamil Nadu
- 2) Odisha
- 3) Andhra Pradesh
- 4) Maharashtra
- 5) West Bengal

Answer- **2) Odisha**

**Explanation:**

**Bhitarkanika National Park** is located in Kendrapara district in the state of **Odisha**.

- It is India's second-largest mangrove ecosystem after the Sunderbans.
- It is a 145 Sq km large national park which was designated on 16th September 1998 and obtained the status of a Ramsar site in August 2002.

**177. Where is the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve located?**

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

Answer- **5) Tamil Nadu**

**Explanation:**

**About Tamil Nadu:**

**Chief Minister**– Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin

**Wildlife Sanctuaries**– Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary

**Biosphere Reserves**– Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve, **Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve**, and Agasthiyarmalai Biosphere Reserve



**178. In which state/UT Nanda Lake is located?**

- 1) Karnataka
- 2) Goa
- 3) Andhra Pradesh
- 4) Jammu and Kashmir
- 5) Ladakh

Answer- **2) Goa**

**Explanation:**

**Nanda Lake** located in **Goa** is habitat for notable faunal species including Threskiornis melanocephalus (Black-headed ibis), Alcedoatthis (Common kingfisher), Hirundo smithii (Wire-tailed swallow)

i. Nanda Lakewetland from Goa, India was added to the Ramsar Sites in 2022.

**179. What is the capital of Tanzania?**

- 1) Khartoum
- 2) Dodoma
- 3) Kampala
- 4) Lusaka
- 5) Harare

Answer- **2) Dodoma**

**Explanation:**

**About Tanzania**

**President** – Samia Suluhu Hassan

**Capital**– Dodoma

**Currency**– Tanzanian shilling

**180. Where is the Headquarters of the International Organization of Migration (IOM) located?**

- 1) Montreal, Canada
- 2) Paris, France
- 3) London, United Kingdom
- 4) Geneva, Switzerland
- 5) Vienna, Austria

Answer- **4) Geneva, Switzerland**

**Explanation:**

**About International Organization of Migration (IOM):**

**Director General** – António Vitorino

**Headquarters** – Geneva, Switzerland

**Established in** – 1951

**181. Who is the present (as of Dec '23) Chairperson of National Commission for Minorities (NCM)?**

- 1) Rinchen Lhamo
- 2) Iqbal Singh Lalpura
- 3) Hansraj Gangaram Ahir
- 4) Vijay Sampla

5) Anant Nayak

Answer- **2) Iqbal Singh Lalpura**

**Explanation:**

**About National Commission for Minorities (NCM):**

**Chairperson – Iqbal Singh Lalpura**

**Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi**

**182. Which company has recently (in Dec '23) signed MoUs with IIT Roorkee and University of Birmingham to establish a collaborative partnership in the fields skill development for Railway signalling & development of digital twin for railway operation & maintenance respectively?**

1) THDC India Limited

2) Telecommunications Consultants India Limited

3) Indian Telephone Industries Limited

4) RailTel Corporation of India Ltd

5) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited

Answer- **4) RailTel Corporation of India Ltd**

**Explanation:**

RailTel Corporation of India Ltd (**RailTel**) has signed two MoUs with Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT**) **Roorkee** and with **University of Birmingham** to establish a collaborative partnership in the fields skill development for Railway signalling, Telecommunication, ICT and development of digital twin for railway operation & maintenance respectively.

- The MoUs were signed at the inaugural ceremony of IRSE International Railway Convention 2023.
- The collaboration with IIT Roorkee encompasses the launch of professional courses at RailTel's Center of Excellence, coupled with extensive Research and Development activities. The partnership extends to the creation and operation of a Center for Safety Assessment, forging a robust alliance.
- The collaboration with the University of Birmingham opened up opportunities for the usage of cutting technology like Digital Twin in the field of proactive Railway operation and Maintenance.

**183. Which Mutual Fund company has recently (in Dec '23) launched an open-ended target maturity index fund tracking the CRISIL IBX Gilt Index – April 2033?**

1) Axis Asset Management

2) Nippon India Mutual Fund

3) Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund

4) UTI Mutual Fund

5) Motilal Oswal Financial Services

Answer- **3) Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund**

**Explanation:**

**Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund** has announced the launch of Aditya Birla SL CRISIL IBX Gilt April 2033 Index Fund, an open-ended target maturity index fund tracking the **CRISIL IBX Gilt Index – April 2033** with a relatively high interest rate risk and relatively low credit risk.



- The new fund offer or NFO of the scheme will open for subscription on December 15 and it will close on 21st December 2023.
- The scheme will offer regular and direct plans with growth and IDCW options. The scheme will be benchmarked against CRISIL IBX Gilt Index – April 2033. The scheme will be managed by Bhupesh Bameta, Sanjay Godambe.
- The scheme will allocate 95-100% of its assets in instruments forming part of the CRISIL IBX Gilt Index – April 2033, and 0-5% in debt and money market instruments, cash and cash equivalent. The scheme is suitable for investors who are seeking income over the target maturity period.

**184. Name the Ministry that has recently (in Dec '23) launched the 'Strategic Framework for Drowning Prevention' to promote preventive measures toward water safety for all to reduce the drowning incidents.**

- 1) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- 2) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- 3) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- 4) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- 5) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**Answer- 5) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

**Explanation:**

Professor SP Singh Baghel and Dr. Bharti Pravin Pawar, Ministers of State, **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** unveiled the '**Strategic Framework for Drowning Prevention**' to promote preventive measures toward water safety for all to reduce the drowning incidents.

- Highlighting the urgency of generating awareness campaigns, Prof. Bhagel stated "38000 cases of drowning were reported in the country which is a huge number and to prevent these cases mass awareness must be initiated."

**185. Which country won the 2023 edition of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) U19 Asia Cup?**

- 1) Sri Lanka
- 2) Bangladesh
- 3) Afghanistan
- 4) Nepal
- 5) India

**Answer- 2) Bangladesh**

**Explanation:**

**Bangladesh** won the **2023 edition** of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) **U19 Asia Cup** by defeating United Arab Emirates (UAE) by 195 runs in Dubai.

- Bangladesh and UAE reached the finals of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) U19 Asia Cup, following wins over India and Pakistan in Dubai.

**186. During the Kashi Tamil Sangamam event in Varanasi in December 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched \_\_\_\_\_, an artificial intelligence (AI)-based language translation tool designed to enable real-time translation of Indian languages.**

- 1) Bhasha Sangam
- 2) Bharatavani

- 3) dwiBhashi
- 4) Bhashini
- 5) Bhasha Digi

Answer- **4) Bhashini**

**Explanation:**

During the Kashi Tamil Sangamam event in Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled "**Bhashini**," an artificial intelligence **(AI)-based language translation** tool designed to enable real-time translation of Indian languages. The PM used the tool during the event for real time translation for his Tamil-speaking audience.

- The roots of Bhashini trace back to the inauguration of Digital India Week in Gujarat in 2022, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced "Digital India Bhashini." This initiative aims to enhance internet accessibility and digital services in Indian languages, incorporating voice-based functions and promoting content creation in diverse languages.
- Bhashini operates as an AI-driven language translation system, breaking down language barriers and enabling conversations between speakers of different Indian languages. The platform is accessible through dedicated Android and iOS apps, providing a user-friendly experience.
- Bhashini developed: The Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD) comes under the Digital India Corporation, which is a section 8 Company under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India.

**187. Australian cricketer \_\_\_\_\_ became the second Australian spinner after Shane Warne to pick 500 Test wickets in a Test Match.**

- 1) Mitchell Starc
- 2) Joe Root
- 3) Nathan Lyon
- 4) Adam Zampa
- 5) Ashton Agar

Answer- **3) Nathan Lyon**

**Explanation:**

Australian cricketer **Nathan Lyon** became the **second Australian spinner** after the legendary Shane Warne and fourth spinner in the history of Test cricket to scalp 500 Test wickets.

- On December 17, 2023, he picked up five wickets during the 1st Test match against Pakistan and crossed the 500-wicket barrier in Perth, Australia.
- Lyon is the second spinner after the great Shane Warne and third bowler overall to reach the feat.

**188. In Which state Gorumara National Park is located?**

- 1) Uttarakhand
- 2) Assam
- 3) West Bengal
- 4) Madhya Pradesh
- 5) Uttar Pradesh

Answer- **3) West Bengal**