

GUPTA

CLASSES

Current Affairs

Decemeber-2023

English

Part-6



GUPTA

CLASSES

Explanation:

Gorumara National Park is located in the Dooars region of the Himalayan foothills of **West Bengal**, India. It is a medium-sized park with grasslands and forests primarily known for its population of Indian one horn rhinoceros.

189. In which state Jaisamand Wildlife Sanctuary is located?

- 1) Rajasthan
- 2) Gujarat
- 3) Haryana
- 4) Madhya Pradesh
- 5) Maharashtra

Answer- **1) Rajasthan**

Explanation:

Jaisamand Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Udaipur district of **Rajasthan** surrounding Debar Lake. The sanctuary harbours leopard, sloth bear, chinkara, wild boar, and a number of birds.

- The forest of the Sanctuary used to be a Shikargah (Game Reserve) of the erstwhile Maharanas of Mewar.
- It was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1957.

190. In which state Pulicat Lake birds Sanctuary is located?

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

Answer- **2) Tamil Nadu**

Explanation:

About Tamil Nadu:

Chief Minister- M. K. Stalin

Governor- R. N. Ravi

Birds Sanctuary- Vettangudi bird Sanctuary (Sivagangai), **Pulicat Lake birds Sanctuary** (Tiruvallur)

191. In which state Ramgarh Visdhari Tiger Reserve is located?

- 1) Madhya Pradesh
- 2) Uttar Pradesh
- 3) Rajasthan
- 4) Bihar
- 5) Karnataka

Answer- **3) Rajasthan**

Explanation:

Ramgarh Visdhari Tiger Reserve lies in the southeastern part of **Rajasthan** in Bindi district with representation of both Vindhyan and Aaravalli elements.

- It is in continuation with the buffer area of Ranthambore tiger reserve in the North-eastern side and the Mukundara Hills tiger reserve in the southern side.
- The Mez River (a tributary of Chambal River) passes through this tiger reserve.

192. Where is the Headquarters of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) located?

- 1) Montreal, Canada
- 2) Akureyri, Iceland
- 3) Copenhagen, Denmark
- 4) Paris, France
- 5) Hague, Netherland

Answer- **2) Akureyri, Iceland**

Explanation:

About International Arctic Science Committee (IASC):

President – Henry Burgess

Headquarters – Akureyri, Iceland

Established in – 1990

193. Who is the present (as of Dec '23) Chairman of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)?

- 1) Pushp Kumar Joshi
- 2) Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
- 3) Sandeep Kumar Gupta
- 4) G. Krishnakumar
- 5) Arun Kumar Singh

Answer- **2) Shrikant Madhav Vaidya**

Explanation:

About IndianOil Corporation Limited (IOCL):

IOCL is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)

Chairman- Srikant Madhav Vaidya

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

Established in – 1964

194. In which state Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve is located?

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

Answer- **5) Chhattisgarh**

Explanation:

Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve is located in the Dhamtari District of **Chhattisgarh**.

i. Udanti and Sitanadi are two wildlife sanctuaries combined together to form the reserve, covering a total area of 1842.54 sq. km. It was declared a tiger reserve in the year 2008-09.

ii. Recently, Chhattisgarh's last remaining purebred wild buffalo within the boundaries of the Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve has reportedly turned partially blind after a confrontation with a hybrid wild buffalo.

195. What is the capital of Mongolia?

- 1) Astana
- 2) Vientiane

- 3) Amman
- 4) Baghdad
- 5) Ulaanbaatar

Answer- **5) Ulaanbaatar**

Explanation:

About Mongolia:

President- Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh

Capital- Ulaanbaatar

Currency- Mongolian Tugrik

196. Which company has recently (in Dec '23) announced partnership with Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to support small businesses in India?

- 1) Tata Consultancy Services
- 2) Infosys
- 3) Wipro
- 4) IBM
- 5) Meta

Answer- **5) Meta**

Explanation:

Meta and Open Network for Digital Commerce (**ONDC**) announced a partnership to help **small businesses** unleash the power of digital commerce in India.

- The partnership is aimed at enabling and educating small business operators to drive conversational buyer and seller experiences on WhatsApp through an ecosystem of Meta's business and technical solution providers.
- ONDC will help these business solution providers become seller apps, bringing the businesses they service onto the ONDC network and helping them drive commerce.

197. In which state Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary is located?

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

Answer- **1) Himachal Pradesh**

Explanation:

About Himachal Pradesh (HP):

Chief Minister- Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

Governor- Shiv Pratap Shukla

Wildlife Sanctuaries- Khokhan Wildlife Sanctuary, **Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary**

Festivals- Nalwari Fair (March), Deotsidh Fair (March & April)

198. Which of the following organisations are associated with the World Bank?

- 1) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- 2) International Development Association
- 3) International Monetary Fund

4) Only 1 & 2

5) Only 2 & 3

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

Explanation:

The **World Bank** Group consists of **five** development institutions: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Development Association (IDA), International Finance Corporation (IFC), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) & International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

199. Bo Larsson, a football player from _____ (country) passed away.

1) Germany

2) Sweden

3) France

4) Spain

5) Italy

Answer- **2) Sweden**

Explanation:

Swedish football player **Bo Larsson**, who played 70 times for his country and at three World Cups, has passed away. He was 79

- Larsson, who could play in midfield or as a striker, featured at the World Cups in 1970, 1974 and 1978 and is regarded as one of Malmö's greatest ever players.
- "Bosse" as he was fondly known scored 289 goals in 546 games for the southern club, where he won the league six times from 1965-77 and was the competition's top scorer three times. He also had a stint playing for Stuttgart in Germany between 1966-69 before returning to Malmö.

200. Name the cricketer who has recently (in Dec '23) scored 169 runs from 151 balls in the second One Day International (ODI) match against New Zealand, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's record highest runs in ODIs against New Zealand.

1) Zak Crawley (England)

2) AB de Villiers (South Africa)

3) Soumya Sarkar (Bangladesh)

4) Glenn Maxwell (Australia)

5) Surya Kumar Yadav (India)

Answer- **3) Soumya Sarkar (Bangladesh)**

Explanation:

Bangladesh opener **Soumya Sarkar** has broken legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar's 14-year-old record during the second One Day International (ODI) match against New Zealand in Nelson.

- Soumya's outstanding innings of 169 runs from 151 balls, featuring 22 fours and 2 sixes, surpassed Tendulkar's milestone for the highest runs in ODIs by a player from the subcontinent in New Zealand.
- Tendulkar's record, set in 2009 with an unbeaten 163-run knock against the Kiwis in Christchurch, has now been eclipsed by Sarkar.
- Additionally, Soumya's innings marked the highest run scored by a Bangladesh cricketer in an away ground in the ODI format.

201. As of December 2023, the share of agriculture in India's GDP declined to _____ in FY23 from 35% in 1990-91.

- 1) 17%
- 2) 20%
- 3) 25%
- 4) 15%
- 5) 30%

Answer- **4) 15%**

Explanation:

Union agriculture minister **Arjun Munda** announced in a written reply to Lok Sabha that the share of agriculture in **India's GDP** declined to **15 per cent in FY23** from 35 per cent in 1990-91 due to rapid growth in the industrial and service sector.

- The share of agriculture in total Gross Value Added (**GVA**) of the economy has declined from 35% in 1990-91 to 15% in 2022-23.
- The decline is brought out not by the decline in agricultural GVA but a rapid expansion in industrial and service sector GVA.

202. Which of the following operations of Indian defence was related to the Goa Liberation Day in 1961?

- 1) Operation Blue Star
- 2) Operation Steeplechase
- 3) Operation Woodrose
- 4) Operation Polo
- 5) Operation Vijay

Answer- **5) Operation Vijay**

Explanation:

Every Year **December 19** is celebrated as Goa Liberation Day to mark the success of 'Operation Vijay' undertaken by the Indian armed forces to defeat Portuguese colonial forces and liberate Goa in 1961.

- **Operation Vijay** - a 36-hour military operation (started on December 18, 1961 and concluded on December 19, 1961), was about the liberation of the Portuguese territories of Goa, Daman and Diu.
- The Portuguese colonial presence in Goa began in 1510, when Afonso de Albuquerque defeated the ruling Bijapur king with the help of a local ally, Timayya, and subsequently established a permanent settlement in Velha Goa (or Old Goa).
- The Indian government finally declared that Goa should join India "either with full peace or with full use of force". December 18 and 19, 1961 saw a full-fledged military operation termed 'Operation Vijay'.

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

- 1) Prashant Tripathy
- 2) Kamlesh Rao
- 3) Tapan Kumar Singhel
- 4) Anuj Mathur
- 5) Ritesh Kumar

Answer- **1) Prashant Tripathy**

Explanation:

About Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. (Max Life):

Max life is a joint venture between Max Financial Services Limited, a part of the Max Group, and Axis Bank Limited.

Managing Director & CEO- Prashant Tripathy

Headquarters- Gurugram, Haryana

204. In which state Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary is located?

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

Answer- **3) Uttar Pradesh**

Explanation:

The **Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary** is a bird sanctuary located very close to Agra in **Uttar Pradesh**. It has been named after Soordas – the great poet of Hindi literature, who was born blind and whose place of birth is said to be within the boundary of this sanctuary.

205. In which state Gir National Park is located?

- 1) Madhya Pradesh
- 2) Uttar Pradesh
- 3) Andhra Pradesh
- 4) Gujarat
- 5) Uttarakhand

Answer- **4) Gujarat**

Explanation:

About Gujarat:

Governor – Acharya Devvrat

Wildlife Sanctuaries – Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Wild Ass Sanctuary, Jessore Sloth Bear Sanctuary

National Park – **Gir National Park**, Blackbuck National Park

206. In which year, the European Investment Bank (EIB) was established?

- 1) 1973
- 2) 1950
- 3) 1944
- 4) 1963
- 5) 1958

Answer- **5) 1958**

Explanation:

About European Investment Bank (EIB):

President – Werner Hoyer

Headquarters – Kirchberg, Luxembourg

Established in 1958

207. Who is the present (as of Dec '23) Managing Director(MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)?

- 1) Rajesh Doshi
- 2) Joydeep Dutta Roy
- 3) Debajyoti Ray Chaudhuri
- 4) Ajay Kumar Gupta
- 5) Sudha Krishnan

Answer- **3) Debajyoti Ray Chaudhuri**

Explanation:

About National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL):

NeSL is India's first Information Utility and is registered with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) under the aegis of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).

Managing Director(MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Debajyoti Ray Chaudhuri

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Established in – 2016

208. In December 2023, Sandeep Batra was re-appointed as the Executive Director (ED) of _____ (Bank).

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

Answer- **5) ICICI Bank**

Explanation:

Private sector lender **ICICI Bank** on December 20, 2023 received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to **re-appoint Sandeep Batra** as the executive director (**ED**).

- The shareholders of the bank on May 29 approved Batra's appointment as ED for five years effective from the date of approval of RBI. The effective date of the same was from December 23.
- The board of directors recorded that the current tenure of Batra as ED of the Bank as per RBI approval, which was for three years, ends on December 22, 2023. It unanimously approved the reappointment of Batra for a further period of two years with effect from December 23, 2023, to December 22, 2025.

209. In which state Valmiki Tiger Reserve is located?

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

Answer- **3) Bihar**

Explanation:

Authorities in **Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR)** have credited the rise in the protected area (PA)'s big cat numbers to a reduction in human activities, including restrictions on illegal mining in its eco-sensitive zone.

- Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) is located at the India-Nepal border in the West Champaran district of Bihar on the bank of river Gandak.
- It is situated in the Gangetic Plains biogeographic zone of the country.
- It forms the easternmost limit of the Himalayan Terai forests in India and is the only tiger reserve in Bihar.
- VTR comprises the Valmiki National Park and Valmiki Wildlife Sanctuary.

210. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has formed a committee headed by Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Director-General _____ to probe the parliament security breach in December 2023.

- 1) Archana Ramasundaram
- 2) Anish Dayal Singh
- 3) Kumar Rajesh Chandra
- 4) Sujoy Lal Thaisen
- 5) Rashmi Shukla

Answer- **2) Anish Dayal Singh**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Home Affairs (**MHA**) has formed a committee headed by Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Director-General **Anish Dayal Singh** to probe the parliament security breach on 13th December 2023.

- The committee consists of members from many other security agencies and experts.
- The committee will investigate the security lapses in the New Parliament and provide recommendations on improving the security in the new building at the earliest.

i. The MHA also directed for a survey of the Parliament building complex so that a "regular deployment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) security and fire wing on a comprehensive pattern".

- On the 22nd Anniversary of the 2001 attack on the Indian Parliament, two men jumped from the visitors gallery into the Lok Sabha Chamber. The accused have been detained under Sections 16 and 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967.

Note- The security of the complex is managed by Delhi Police, paramilitary forces, and a specialized department called Parliament Security Service (PSS).

211. Which of the following cars of Tata Motors have recently (in Dec '23) received the 5-star Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat-NCAP) rating?

- 1) Tata Nexon
- 2) Tata Safari
- 3) Tata Harrier
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 2 & 3

Answer- **5) Both 2 & 3**

Explanation:

Tata Motors' home-grown sports utility vehicles (SUV) **Tata Safari and Tata Harrier** have received the highest five-star ratings after being crash-tested under the **Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat-NCAP)**, India's independent safety performance evaluation protocol.

- They are the first two cars to have received the highest ratings for adult occupant protection and child occupant protection, under the new system.

212. Name the University that has recently (in Dec '23) signed an MoU with the Zoological Survey of India working under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

- 1) Annamalai University
- 2) Anna University
- 3) Madurai Kamaraj University
- 4) University of Madras
- 5) Delhi University

Answer- **3) Madurai Kamaraj University**

Explanation:

Madurai Kamaraj University has signed a memorandum of understanding (**MoU**) with **Zoological Survey of India**, Kolkata, working under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

- The move would facilitate collaborative research and academic activities between the two institutions. The MoU was signed at the university in the presence of J. Kumar, Vice Chancellor, MKU, and Dhriti Banerjee, Director of ZSI.
- Now MKU students could pursue their research work under the guidance of a scientist from the ZSI as both the institutions have mutually agreed to share their expertise and infrastructure facilities for academic and research activities.
- For collaborative research work with ZSI or the students wishing to pursue research work at ZSI, the enrolment to Ph.D. programme under the MKU would be carried out through the Common Research Eligibility Test (RET) conducted by the university.

213. Which ministry developed the Bhoomi Rashi portal?

- 1) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- 2) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
- 3) Ministry of Home Affairs
- 4) Ministry of Rural Development
- 5) Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Answer- **2) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**

Explanation:

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari revealed in a recent statement to the Rajya Sabha that the Bhoomi Rashi portal is instrumental in expediting the development of highway infrastructure in India.

- Launched with the objective of streamlining the online processing of land acquisition notifications, this platform has become mandatory for all Land Acquisition (LA) proposals since April 1, 2018 under the **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**.

- The portal functions as a centralised platform where Land Acquisition notifications are submitted online by designated revenue officials of the state government, known as the Competent Authority for Land Acquisition (CALA).
- Presently, the Bhoomi Rashi Portal has encompassed 1,467 projects of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

214. The Winter solstice means _____, will be celebrated on 21st December 2023.

- 1) Longest Day & Shortest Night in Northern Hemisphere
- 2) Shortest Day & Longest Night in Southern Hemisphere
- 3) Equal Day & Equal Night in Northern Hemisphere
- 4) Longest Day & Shortest Night in Southern Hemisphere
- 5) Shortest Day & Longest Night in Northern Hemisphere

Answer- 5) Shortest Day & Longest Night in Northern Hemisphere

Explanation:

Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year when one of Earth's poles is far from the Sun, will be celebrated on December 21, 2023.

- It marks the start of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and signifies the lengthening of days.
- This astronomical phenomenon, which in 2023 will occur on December 21, is recognised as the **shortest day** and the **longest night** of the year in the **Northern Hemisphere**.

215. In which state Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is located?

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

Answer- 3) Assam

Explanation:

About Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary:

It is located in the flood plains of the Brahmaputra River in **Assam**, and is known for having the highest density of one-horned rhinos (EN) in the world. It is often referred to as 'Mini Kaziranga' due to its similar landscape and vegetation.

216. 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

Explanation:

Gorumara National Park is located in the Dooars region of the Himalayan foothills of **West Bengal**, India. It is a medium-sized park with grasslands and forests primarily known for its population of Indian one horn rhinoceros.

217. Who is the current (as of Dec '23) Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN)?

- 1) Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
- 2) Antonio Guterres
- 3) Henrietta H. Fore
- 4) Tedros Adhanom
- 5) Jens Stoltenberg

Answer- **2) Antonio Guterres**

Explanation:

United Nation (UN) Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres** has used a rarely exercised power to warn the Security Council of an impending “humanitarian catastrophe” in Gaza and urged its members to demand an immediate humanitarian cease-fire.

- Guterres invoked Article 99 of the UN Charter, which says the secretary-general may inform the council of matters he believes threaten international peace and security.

218. In which state Mullaperiyar dam is located?

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

Answer- **3) Kerala**

Explanation:

Mullaperiyar Dam is a masonry gravity dam situated on the Periyar River in Thekkady, Idukki district, in **Kerala**. It is located 881 m above sea level, on the Cardamom Hills of the Western Ghats.

- The dam is built at the confluence of the Mullayar and Periyar rivers. Its construction began in 1887 and was completed in 1895.
- The construction was carried out by the British Corps of Royal Engineers under the leadership of Pennycuik. It has a height of 53.6 m from the foundation and a length of 365.7 m.

219. In which year the Geological Survey of India (GSI) was established?

- 1) 1959
- 2) 1995
- 3) 1907
- 4) 1851
- 5) 1945

Answer- **4) 1851**

Explanation:

About Geological Survey of India (GSI):

Director General- Janardan Prasad

Headquarters- Kolkata, West Bengal

Established in- 1851

220. Where is the Headquarters of the International Union for Conservation of Nature(IUCN) located?

- 1) London, United Kingdom
- 2) Virginia, United States
- 3) Gland, Switzerland
- 4) Paris, France
- 5) Rome, Italy

Answer- **3) Gland, Switzerland**

Explanation:

About International Union for Conservation of Nature(IUCN):

Director General- Dr Grethel Aguilar

President- Razan Al Mubarak

Headquarters- Gland, Switzerland

Establishment- 1948

221. Who is the present (as of Dec '23) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bandhan Bank?

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

Answer- **3) Chandra Shekhar Ghosh**

Explanation:

About Bandhan Bank Limited:

CEO- Chandra Shekhar Ghosh

Headquarters- Kolkata, West Bengal

Tagline- 'Aapka Bhala. Sabki Bhalai', (Your benefit. Everyone's welfare)

Establishment- 2001

222. National Aeronautics and Space Administration's TEMPO is a space-based spectrometer designed to measure air pollution across greater North America at a high resolution and on an hourly basis.

In TEMPO, what does T stand for _____.

- 1) Traffic
- 2) Thermospheric
- 3) Temperature
- 4) Tropospheric
- 5) Transmission

Answer- **4) Tropospheric**

Explanation:

NASA's Tropospheric Emissions Monitoring of Pollution (TEMPO) is a space-based spectrometer designed to measure air pollution across greater North America at a high resolution and on an hourly basis.

i. TEMPO monitors major air pollutants across North America. Its monitoring range extends from Canada's oil sands to the Yucatán Peninsula and across the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

- It is part of a virtual constellation with South Korea's Geostationary Environment Monitoring Spectrometer (GEMS) and the European Space Agency's upcoming satellite, aiming for comprehensive air pollution monitoring over the Northern Hemisphere.
- It will make important scientific observations, including that of ozone, nitrogen oxide, sulphur dioxide and formaldehyde levels. It is capable of measuring air quality over North America hourly during the daytime with a resolution of several square miles.
- It monitors the effects of everything from rush-hour traffic to pollution from forest fires and volcanoes.
- The present pollution-monitoring satellites are in low Earth orbit (LEO), but this new monitoring instrument is hosted in geostationary orbit. It was designed for a 20-month operation.

223. The Fagradalsfjall Volcano is located in _____ (country).

- 1) Kenya
- 2) Iceland
- 3) Australia
- 4) Spain
- 5) Brazil

Answer- **2) Iceland**

Explanation:

The Fagradalsfjall volcano, located on the Reykjanes peninsula in southwest **Iceland**, erupted on 18th December 2023 after weeks of intense earthquakes and tremors.

i. This is the third time that the Fagradalsfjall volcano has erupted in the past two years. It had been dormant for over 6,000 years but became active in March 2021.

ii. Notably, Iceland is one of the most volcanically active regions on the planet because Iceland sits on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (part of the longest mountain range in the world) in the North Atlantic Ocean, where the Eurasian and North American plates are moving apart a few centimetres every year.

Note- Volcanoes are openings, or vents where lava, tephra (small rocks), and steam erupt onto the Earth's surface. Volcanoes can be on land and in the ocean.

- They are, in part, a result of their own eruptions but also the general formation of our planet, as tectonic plates move.
- There are four main types of volcanoes: cinder cones, composite or stratovolcanoes, shield volcanoes and lava. Their type is determined by how the lava from an eruption flows and how that flow affects the volcano, and, as a result, how it affects its surrounding environment.

224. In which Indian state, Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama has recently (in Dec '23) inaugurated the three-day International Sangha Forum (ISF) 2023?

- 1) Mizoram
- 2) Assam
- 3) Bihar
- 4) Uttar Pradesh
- 5) Gujarat

Answer- **3) Bihar**

Explanation:

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama inaugurated the three-day **International Sangha Forum (ISF) 2023** on 'Bridging Traditions, Embracing Modernity-A Dialogue on the Buddha's Teaching in Today's World' in **Bodh Gaya, Bihar, India** in December 2023.

- The event, being held at the International Convention Centre Bodhgaya, is being attended by over 2,000 monastics from Buddhist traditions from different countries. Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu was also present on the occasion.
- On December 23, Tibetan spiritual leaders will participate in a World Peace Prayer Session in the morning with delegates at the International Sangha Forum along with the public at the Mahabodhi Stupa.

225. Which space startup has recently (in Dec '23) conducted a vital test of its Cosmos engine using methane from cow manure as fuel, at the Hokkaido Spaceport for the Zero rocket?

- 1) Relativity Space
- 2) Accion Systems
- 3) Kepler Communications
- 4) Spaced Ventures
- 5) Interstellar Technologies

Answer- **5) Interstellar Technologies**

Explanation:

Interstellar Technologies, a Japanese space startup, has successfully conducted a vital test of its **Cosmos engine** at the **Hokkaido Spaceport** for the **Zero rocket**. This innovative rocket utilises methane gas derived from **cow dung** as its fuel, representing a noteworthy advancement in the quest to create the world's inaugural orbital rocket powered by this abundant and sustainable resource.

- The static fire test successfully ignited the engine for 10 seconds, generating a powerful blue flame. This achievement follows the European Space Agency's own development of a cow dung-fueled rocket engine, but Interstellar Technologies is the first private company to do so.
- As per the company, the ongoing series of static fire tests is poised to enhance the progress in developing and manufacturing a 130kN-class operational model.
- This advancement is informed by the insights gained from the design, manufacturing, and testing phases of a smaller 60kN-class subscale model.

226. The Udyam Sakhi Portal was developed by the Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments (IDEMI), an organisation under the _____ (Ministry), in 2018.

- 1) Ministry of Finance
- 2) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- 3) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- 4) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- 5) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Answer- **4) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**

Explanation:

The **Udyam Sakhi Portal** provides information on various financial schemes, policies & programmes and the supporting institutions functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MoMSME**) to make women entrepreneurs self-reliant. The Portal was launched in **March, 2018**

i. The Udyam Sakhi portal provides the following services to women:

- Financial Schemes of Ministry of MSME and other central Ministries/Departments such as Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE); Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA); Trade Receivables electronic Discounting System (TReDS) etc.
- Policies and Programmes of Ministry of MSME & other Central Ministries.
- Information about preparation of Business plan.
- Details of Nodal offices / supporting organisations of the Ministry of MSME in the respective States/UTs.
- Information about exhibitions, trade fairs & international events organised by the Ministry of MSME.

ii. The **total number of beneficiaries in State** of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands are as under:

- Maharashtra-580 Nos.
- Tamil Nadu-553 Nos.
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands- 3 Nos.

iii. An expenditure of Rs. 43.52 lakhs was incurred for development of Udyam Sakhi Portal, developed by the **Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments (IDEMI)**, an organisation under Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MoMSME**).

227. In December 2023, The Indian Navy deployed frontline ships: INS Kochi and _____ (INS) in the Gulf of Aden to augment its anti-piracy mission, following the hijacking of a Malta-flagged cargo vessel by pirates.

- 1) INS Mormugao
- 2) INS Chennai
- 3) INS Kolkata
- 4) INS Kochi
- 5) INS Mumbai

Answer- **3) INS Kolkata**

Explanation:

The **Indian Navy** has deployed a second frontline ship in the **Gulf of Aden** to augment its anti-piracy mission, following the hijacking of a Malta-flagged cargo vessel by pirates.

- The Navy now has stealth guided-missile destroyer **INS Kochi and INS Kolkata** in the region
- The Navy swiftly responded after receiving a call for help from MV Ruen, the Malta-flagged hijacked vessel, on December 14.
- Concurrently, in response to the incident, INS Kochi on Anti Piracy Patrol in the Gulf of Aden was also diverted immediately to render assistance.
- INS Kochi intercepted MV Ruen in the early hours on 16 Dec 2023 and launched its integral helicopter to assess the situation.

228. In which state Koundinya wildlife sanctuary is located?

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

5) Odisha

Answer- **2) Andhra Pradesh**

Explanation:

Koundinya wildlife sanctuary is located in Palamner - Kuppam forest ranges of Chittoor district of **Andhra Pradesh**.

i. This Sanctuary comes under Project elephant - a Countrywide Elephant Conservation Project taken up by the Government of India. Uniqueness: The only home for Asiatic elephants in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

229. In which state Jessore Sloth Bear Sanctuary is located?

1) Madhya Pradesh

2) Uttar Pradesh

3) Andhra Pradesh

4) Gujarat

5) Uttarakhand

Answer- **4) Gujarat**

Explanation:

About Gujarat:

Governor – Acharya Devvrat

Wildlife Sanctuaries – Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Wild Ass Sanctuary, **Jessore Sloth Bear Sanctuary**

National Park – Gir National Park, Blackbuck National Park

230. In December 2023, the Indian government extended the import duty exemption on masur dal (lentils) until _____.

1) 31st April 2024

2) 31st January 2024

3) 31st March 2025

4) 30th April 2024

5) 31st January 2025

Answer- **3) 31st March 2025**

Explanation:

The **Centre** has extended the import duty exemption on **masur dal (lentils)** until **March 31, 2025**.

The Ministry of Finance, through an extraordinary gazette notification dated December 21, 2023, extended the import duty relief on lentils.

- Import of lentils are being allowed duty-free to help contain inflation. In the normal course, imports attract 30 per cent Customs duty
- According to the trade estimates, the high price of tur dal has seen a demand destruction of around 15-20 per cent with consumers shifting to other pulses.
- Including the expected imports during November, the total imports of lentils during April-November stood at 11.48 lakh tonnes, according to iGrain India compared with 8.58 lakh tonnes in the financial year 2022-23.
- India imports lentils mainly from major producing countries such as Canada and Australia. Recently, the government has removed the retaliatory customs tariff on imports of lentils from the United States.

231. Name the Actor who has recently (in Dec '23) became the owner of team Mumbai in the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL).

- 1) Aamir Khan
- 2) Akshay Kumar
- 3) Amitabh Bachchan
- 4) Shah Rukh Khan
- 5) Saif Ali Khan

Answer- 3) Amitabh Bachchan

Explanation:

Actor **Amitabh Bachchan** announced his association with the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) as the owner of **team Mumbai**.

- The ISPL is India's first tennis ball T10 cricket tournament that will be played inside a stadium, according to a press release. The inaugural edition is scheduled to be held from March 2 to March 9 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The tournament will feature 19 high-intensity matches, boasting a line-up of six teams – Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, and Srinagar.
- Recently, actors Akshay Kumar and Hrithik Roshan were announced as the team owners of Srinagar and Bengaluru, respectively.

232. Who is the founder of Krutrim, an AI startup working on a multilingual large language model (LLM)?

- 1) Sanjay Mahesh
- 2) Bhavish Aggarwal
- 3) Praveen Sanjay
- 4) Ajay Kumar
- 5) Vineet Aggarwal

Answer- 2) Bhavish Aggarwal

Explanation:

Krutrim, an AI startup founded by Ola CEO **Bhavish Aggarwal**, is working on a multilingual large language model (LLM). Once built, the LLM will be able to generate text in 10 Indian languages including Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Kannada and Odia.

- The model is built to understand macaroni text that blends Hindi and English.
- With an India-first cost structure, Krutrim will have the largest representation of Indian data, enabling us to create novel models beyond LLMs across sectors, making India the most productive, efficient and empowered economy in the world.

233. Where is the Headquarters of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) located?

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

Answer- 4) Geneva, Switzerland

Explanation:

About International Organisation for Migration (IOM):

Director General (DG)– Amy E. Pope (First woman DG of IOM)

Headquarters– Geneva, Switzerland

Establishment– 1951

234. Who is the current (as of Dec '23) Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)?

- 1) David Malpass
- 2) Qu Dongyu
- 3) António Guterres
- 4) Kristalina Georgieva
- 5) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Answer- **2) Qu Dongyu**

Explanation:

About Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO):

With 195 members – 194 countries and the European Union, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide.

Director-General– Qu Dongyu

Headquarters– Rome, Italy

Established in– 1945

235. Which article of the Indian constitution deals with the disqualification of Members of Parliament (MPs) from either house of the Parliament?

- 1) 109
- 2) 102
- 3) 100
- 4) 105
- 5) 112

Answer- **2) 102**

Explanation:

Article **102** deals with the **disqualification** of Members of Parliament (MPs) from either house of the Parliament.

- i.** Part (1) of the article lists the reasons why an MP can be disqualified. These include, “
 - if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State, other than an office declared by Parliament by law not to disqualify its holder;
 - if he is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court;
 - if he is an undischarged insolvent;
 - if he is not a citizen of India, or has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a foreign State, or is under any acknowledgment of allegiance or adherence to a foreign State;
 - if he is disqualified by or under any law made by Parliament.”
- ii.** The rules on the **suspension** of MPs: The Presiding Officers — the Speaker of Lok Sabha and Chairman of Rajya Sabha plays the major role in suspensions of Members of Parliament (MPs).
 - In Lok Sabha, the Speaker acts in accordance with Rules 373, 374, and 374A of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business.

- In Rajya Sabha, the Chairman acts as per Rules 255 and 256 of the Rules.

Note- Article 122 of the Constitution says parliamentary proceedings cannot be questioned before a court.

236. The Katarniya Ghat Wildlife Sanctuary is located in _____ (State).

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

Answer- **4) Uttar Pradesh**

Explanation:

The **Katarniya Ghat Wildlife Sanctuary** is situated in the Upper Gangetic plain falling in the Terai of Bahraich district of **Uttar Pradesh**, India. The Katarniya Ghat Forest provides strategic connectivity between tiger habitats of Dudhwa and Kishanpur in India and Nepal.

237. In which state 'Nawegaon – Nagzira 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)**

238. In which state 'Nanda Devi National Park,' is located?

- 1) Maharashtra
- 2) Arunachal Pradesh
- 3) Bihar
- 4) Uttar Pradesh
- 5) Uttarakhand

Answer- **5) Uttarakhand**

Explanation:

About Uttarakhand:

Uttarakhand was formed on **9th November 2000** as the 27th State of India.

National Park – **Nanda Devi National Park**, Valley of Flowers National Park

Wildlife Sanctuary – Govind wildlife sanctuary, Kedarnath wildlife sanctuary

239. Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) code is _____ digit alpha-numeric code used to identify parties to financial transactions worldwide.

- 1) 20
- 2) 18
- 3) 6
- 4) 9
- 5) 10

Answer- **1) 20**

Explanation:

Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) code is a **20-digit alpha-numeric code** used to identify parties to financial transactions worldwide. It improves the quality and accuracy of financial data systems for better risk management

240. As per latest data of the government in the Lok Sabha released in December 2023, _____ (state) has the highest number of electric vehicles in India.

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

Answer- **3) Uttar Pradesh**

Explanation:

The state of **Uttar Pradesh** in India has the **highest number of electric vehicles** in the country, as per latest data of the government in the Lok Sabha.

- Based on the shared data in the parliament on the status of electric and hybrid vehicle in use in 2023, it can be found that, the states those with highest hybrid and electric vehicle (EV) in use are Uttar Pradesh with around 7.75 lakh vehicles followed by Maharashtra with around 5.17 lakh and Karnataka with around 4 lakh vehicles.
- Whereas the states with the highest ELECTRIC Battery-Operated Vehicles (BOV) are Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Gujarat.
- According to the government data, India currently has around 30 lakh registered EVs on Indian roads. Annual electric vehicle sales in India are expected to reach close to 20 million units by 2030 with bulk of the volumes contributed by electric two and three-wheelers.

241. India's first fast railway trial track is set to be ready by October 2024 in _____ (City).

- 1) Surat, Gujarat
- 2) Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
- 3) Didwana, Rajasthan
- 4) Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- 5) Pune, Maharashtra

Answer- **3) Didwana, Rajasthan**

Explanation:

India's first dedicated fast railway trial track is set to be ready by October 2024 in **Didwana district, Rajasthan**.

- The project is intended to improve the country's railway system testing facilities.

- Indian Railways is soon going to realise the dream of the country's first fast railway test track, work is in progress 24/7.
- Construction of the country's first railway test track, being built on the lines of America, Australia and Germany, is underway near Navan City Railway Station in Didwana district of Rajasthan.

242. Who is the present (as of Dec' 23) Chairman of Quantum Ecosystems Technology Council of India (QETCI)?

- 1) Rameshchandra Ketharaju
- 2) Arun Pati
- 3) Reena Dayal
- 4) Ananth Srinivas
- 5) Vijay Kumar Saraswat

Answer- **5) Vijay Kumar Saraswat**

Explanation:

About Quantum Ecosystems and Technology Council of India (QETCI):

QETCI is a not-for-profit Section 8 company that aims to accelerate the quantum ecosystem in India.

Chairman- Vijay Kumar Saraswat

Headquarters- Hyderabad, Telangana

243. What is the capital of Argentina?

- 1) Mogadishu
- 2) Buenos Aires
- 3) Monrovia
- 4) Ashgabat
- 5) Niamey

Answer- **2) Buenos Aires**

Explanation:

About Argentina:

President- Alberto Angel Fernandez

Capital- Buenos Aires

Currency- Argentine Peso

244. Match the following Tiger Reserves with their respective state:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| i. Palamau Tiger Reserve | a. Maharashtra |
| ii. Sariska Tiger Reserve | b. Uttarakhand |
| iii. Sahyadri tiger reserve | c. Jharkhand |
| iv. Rajaji Tiger Reserve | d. Rajasthan |

- 1) i-a, ii-d, iii-b, iv-c
- 2) i-c, ii-b, iii-d, iv-a
- 3) i-c, ii-a, iii-d, iv-b
- 4) i-c, ii-d, iii-a, iv-b
- 5) i-a, ii-d, iii-c, iv-b

Answer- **4) i-c, ii-d, iii-a, iv-b**

Explanation:

- Palamau Tiger Reserve- Jharkhand
- Sariska Tiger Reserve- Rajasthan
- Sahyadri tiger reserve- Maharashtra
- Rajaji Tiger Reserve- Uttarakhand

245. Where is the Headquarters of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) located?

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

Answer- **1) Vienna, Austria**

Explanation:

About United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO):

Director General- Gerd Müller

Headquarters- Vienna, Austria

246. In which state, 'Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary' is located?

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

Answer- **4) Maharashtra**

Explanation:

Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Thane District of **Maharashtra**. It is known to be a paradise for birdwatchers. It has two rivers, the Tansa and Vaitarna, and the sanctuary gets its name from the former, which divides the sanctuary into two parts.

i. The sanctuary forms the catchment area of Tansa lake, along with the surrounding forests of Khardi, Vaitarna, Wada, and Shahapur ranges.

247. In which state Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary is located?

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

Answer- **3) Tamil Nadu**

Explanation:

Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary, locally known as "Chitrangudi Kanmoli" is located in Ramanathapuram district in **Tamil Nadu**.

- The wetland has been a protected area since 1989 and declared as Bird Sanctuary, coming under the jurisdiction of Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Ramanathapuram division. Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary is an ideal habitat for winter migratory birds.

248. In which state the 'Gugamal National Park' is located?

- 1) Maharashtra
- 2) Assam
- 3) Gujarat
- 4) Uttar Pradesh
- 5) Bihar

Answer- 1) 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

249. Delhi Metro completed its _____ years on 24th December 2023.

- 1) 35th
- 2) 19th
- 3) 21st
- 4) 25th
- 5) 30th

Answer- **3) 21st**

Explanation:

Delhi Metro, which began operations with a small 8.4-km line in December 2002, on **24th December 2023**, completed 21 years of journey dotted with several milestones. On this very day in 2002, the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had inaugurated the first stretch of the Delhi Metro from Shahdara to Tis Hazari on the Red Line.

- Passenger services began a day later on Christmas. Since then, the Delhi Metro has emerged as Delhi's lifeline and the entire National Capital Region (NCR).
- It has expanded to a network of 393 km and 288 stations, making it one of the world's largest mass transit systems. Over the years, an additional 380 km of lines have been laid in the National Capital Region, and another 65 km is under construction.

250. Which of the following banks in India, along with the government has recently (in Dec '23) working for the fund framework for green hydrogen projects?

- 1) ICICI Bank
- 2) State Bank of India
- 3) HDFC Bank
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) All 1, 2 & 3

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

Explanation:

India's largest banks, **State Bank of India**, **HDFC Bank**, and **ICICI Bank**, along with the government, are drawing up a financing framework for green hydrogen projects.

- The framework will lay down guidelines for credit appraisal, risk assessment, and concessionary finance to make assessment of such projects easier for banks and aid credit flow to the sector

251. In December 2023, The World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), opened up 100 MHz spectrum in 6 GHz band for mobility services across the world.

Where is the Headquarters of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) located?

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

Answer- **4) Geneva, Switzerland**

Explanation:

The **Headquarters** of the International Telecommunication Union (**ITU**) is located in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

- The World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) has opened up 100 MHz spectrum in 6 GHz band for mobility services across the world while the upper 6 GHz band has been identified for IMT (mobility services) in Europe, Middle East and Africa.
- Telecom operators in India have been demanding 6 GHz band for IMT as it would be pivotal for meeting national connectivity goals and future spectrum requirements for 5G/6G. In contrast, technology companies have been wanting to delicense, and allot without auction, the band for WiFi usage.
- World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) – Held once in every three to four years organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

252. In which year the World Resources Institute (WRI) was Founded?

- 1) 1979
- 2) 1995
- 3) 1982
- 4) 1992
- 5) 1976

Answer- **3) 1982**

Explanation:

About the World Resources Institute (WRI):

President and CEO – Ani Dasgupta

Founded – 1982

Headquarters – Washington, DC, United States

253. As of December 2023, Who is the president of the Asian Development Bank?

- 1) Ilan Goldfajn
- 2) Odile Renaud-Basso
- 3) Masatsugu Asakawa
- 4) Akinwumi A. Adesina
- 5) Jin Liqun

Answer- 3) Masatsugu Asakawa

Explanation:

About Asian Development Bank (ADB):

President – Masatsugu Asakawa

Headquarters – Mandaluyong City, Manila, Philippines

Established in – 1966

Members – 68 members(49 members are from Asia)

254.India has recently (in Dec '23) made its first-ever payment in rupees for crude oil purchase from _____(country).

- 1) Saudi Arabia
- 2) United States of America
- 3) Iraq
- 4) United Arab Emirate
- 5) Canada

Answer- 4) United Arab Emirate(UAE)

Explanation:

India has recently (in Dec '23) made its first-ever payment in rupees for crude oil purchase from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

- The move is part of India's broader efforts to diversify oil suppliers, cut transaction costs, and establish the rupee as a viable trade settlement currency.
- This initiative aligns with the Reserve Bank of India's move on July 11, 2022, allowing importers to pay in rupees and exporters to receive payments in the local currency.

255. As per a joint report of the European Union(EU) to the European Parliament and the Council, India and _____ (country)were the top two beneficiaries of the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) schemes for exports in 2022.

- 1) Bangladesh
- 2) Philippines
- 3) Cambodia
- 4) Indonesia
- 5) Sri Lanka

Answer- 4) Indonesia

Explanation:

As per a joint report of the EU to the European Parliament and the Council, **India** and **Indonesia** were the top two beneficiaries of the European Union's **Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) schemes** for exports in 2022, with clothing, machinery, and footwear accounting for nearly half of all standard GSP imports.

- Under the GSP scheme, the EU allows identified products originating in certain developing countries preferential access to its markets in the form of reduced or zero rates of customs duties.
- The EU has already withdrawn the GSP benefit from about 1,800 items from India in 2023, and the present policy will now continue for another four years until 2027, according to the latest decision endorsed by the EU.

256. Name the celebrity couple who was recently (in December '23) named as the brand ambassador of Quaker by PepsiCo India.

- 1) Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan
- 2) Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh
- 3) Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra
- 4) Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan
- 5) Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt

Answer- **3) Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra**

Explanation:

PepsiCo India named the celebrity couple **Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra** brand ambassador for brand Quaker.

- **Quaker Oats** was launched in India in 2006. The range of products includes Quaker Plain Oats, Quaker Oats Multigrain, Quaker Oats with Flavour Mix, and Quaker Oats Muesli.

257. Name the India based space observatory that has recently (in December '23) detected bright sub-second X-ray bursts from the 'SGR J1830-0645' magnetar.

- 1) Compton Gamma Ray Observatory
- 2) AstroSat
- 3) Hubble Space Telescope
- 4) Spitzer Space Telescope
- 5) Chandra X-ray Observatory

Answer- **2) AstroSat**

Explanation:

AstroSat, India's first multi-wavelength space-based observatory, has detected bright **sub-second X-ray bursts** from the 'SGR J1830-0645' magnetar.

- **Magnetars** are neutron stars having an ultrahigh magnetic field that are much stronger than the terrestrial magnetic field.
- One of the key findings was the detection of **67 short sub-second X-ray bursts**, with an average duration of 33 milliseconds. Of these bursts, the brightest one lasted for about 90 milliseconds.
- The study was published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society by scientists from the Raman Research Institute (RRI) and the University of Delhi.
- AstroSat with two instruments the Large Area X-Ray Proportional Counter (**LAXPC**) and Soft X-Ray telescope (**SXT**) launched in 2015.
- The 'SGR J1830-0645' magnetar was discovered in October 2020 by NASA's Swift spacecraft. It is relatively young (about 24,000 years) and isolated neutron star.

258. Which bank will no longer have the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s director on its board after the end of Yogesh Dayal's two-year term (till 23rd December 2023) as its additional director?

- 1) YES Bank
- 2) Indian Overseas Bank
- 3) Bank of Maharashtra
- 4) RBL Bank
- 5) IndusInd Bank

Answer- 4) RBL Bank

Explanation:

Reserve Bank of India(RBI) will no longer have a director on the board of **RBL Bank** following the end of the term of additional director **Yogesh Dayal** on 23rd December 2023

- RBI appointed Yogesh Dayal in December 2021 for the two-year term.
- Yogesh Dayal is currently serving as **Chief General Manager** of the RBI's Department of Communication.

259. Who was recently (In December '23) appointed as the Chief Representative for Italy in the Indian Chamber of Commerce(ICC)?

- 1) Seann Nelipinath
- 2) Sharad Bhandari
- 3) Ameya Prabhu
- 4) Vas Shenoy
- 5) Rajeev Singh

Answer- 4) Vas Shenoy

Explanation:

The Indian Chamber of Commerce (**ICC**) has appointed **Vas Shenoy** as its Chief Representative for **Italy**, with an interest in exploring new opportunities and strengthening trade relations between India and Italy.

- Shenoy is an Italian entrepreneur of Indian origin with over two decades of experience working with various governments, private sectors, and multilateral organizations in 30 countries across the globe.
- ICC is also set to appoint **Sharad Bhandari**, Founder of Ardent Advisory and a prominent Indian businessman in the UAE, as ICC Chief Representative in the UAE.

260. Name the critically endangered flying squirrel that was found in Arunachal Pradesh after going missing for 42 years.

- 1) Jentink's Flying Squirrel
- 2) Namdapha flying squirrel
- 3) Parti-coloured flying squirrel
- 4) Indian giant flying squirrel
- 5) Palawan Flying Squirrel

Answer- 2) Namdapha flying squirrel

Explanation:

The **Namdapha flying squirrel (Biswamoyopterus biswasi)** was found in Arunachal Pradesh after going missing for 42 years. It was last described in 1981 based on a single individual found in the 1,985 sq. km. **Namdapha Tiger Reserve** in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district.

- The Namdapha flying squirrel is listed as a **Critically Endangered** species in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List.
- A team from Aaranyak, an Assam-based biodiversity conservation group, found it in April 2022.

261. Which country's president is set to attend India's 75th Republic Day parade as Chief Guest on 26th January 2024?

- 1) Germany
- 2) Italy
- 3) France
- 4) United Kingdom
- 5) United States of America

Answer- **3) France**

Explanation:

Emmanuel Macron, President of **France** will attend India's 75th Republic Day parade as **Chief guest** on 26th January 2024.

- Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the guest of honour at the **Bastille Day Parade** held on 14th July 2023 in Paris(France).
- It will be the sixth time a French leader is attending the Republic Day celebration as Chief Guest. France François Hollande was the last French President who attend the celebration in 2016.

262. What is the capital of Nicaragua?

- 1) Guatemala
- 2) Belmopan
- 3) Managua
- 4) San Jose
- 5) Tegucigalpa

Answer- **3) Managua**

Explanation:**About Nicaragua:**

President - Daniel Ortega

Capital - Managua

Currency - Nicaraguan Córdoba

263. Which company has recently (In December '23) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) for the operationalisation of blast furnace-3 (BF-3) at the RINL plant in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)?

- 1) Jindal Steel Power Limited
- 2) Kalinga Commercial Corporation Limited
- 3) Tata Steel Limited
- 4) Steel Authority of India Limited

5) Essar Steel India Limited

Answer- **1) Jindal Steel Power Limited**

Explanation:

Jindal Steel Power Limited (JSPL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (**MoU**) with Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (**RINL**) for the operationalisation of blast furnace-3 (BF-3) at the RINL plant in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).

- The agreement will ensure the supply of liquid steel to JSPL's upcoming hot strip mill at Angul in Odisha.
- The tie-up with RINL will release additional liquid steel for slab casting and onward rolling into hot rolled coils from JSPL's upcoming state-of-the-art hot strip mill at Angul.
- SPL will provide working capital support or raw material supply of Rs 800-900 crore under a pact signed between the companies. In return, RINL will ensure the supply of 90,000 tonnes of cast blooms to JSPL.

264. Bab el-Mandeb Strait connects which of the following sea/ocean?

- 1) Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
- 2) Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean
- 3) Red Sea and Mediterranean Sea
- 4) Gulf of Aden and Mediterranean Sea
- 5) Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea

Answer- **1) Red Sea and Gulf of Aden**

Explanation:

Bab el-Mandeb Strait connects the **Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden**. Bab el-Mandeb, which is just 29-km wide at its narrowest point, is a strategically important strait given its location. It separates the Arabian Peninsula from East Africa.

- In recent times, Yemen's Houthis rebels targeted vessels passing through the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb.
- MV Chem Pluto, a cargo vessel carrying crude oil from Saudi Arabia which was targeted in a drone attack allegedly by Houthi, reached Mumbai port on 25th December 2023.

265. In which state 'Gomati Wildlife Sanctuary' is located?

- 1) Nagaland
- 2) West Bengal
- 3) Bihar
- 4) Assam
- 5) Tripura

Answer- **5) Tripura**

Explanation:

About Tripura:

Governor– Indrasena Reddy Nallu

Chief Minister– Manik Saha

Wildlife Sanctuary – Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary, Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary, **Gomati Wildlife Sanctuary**

266. In which year the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was established?

- 1) 1996
- 2) 1982
- 3) 1994
- 4) 1984
- 5) 1992

Answer- **2) 1982**

Explanation:

About National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD):

Chairman- Shaji K V

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

Establishment- 1982

267. In which state/UT 'Ansupa Lake' is located?

- 1) Andhra Pradesh
- 2) Kerala
- 3) Jammu & Kashmir
- 4) Tamil Nadu
- 5) Odisha

Answer- **5) Odisha**

Explanation:

Ansupa Lake is located in the Banki subdivision of Cuttack district of **Odisha**, it is an oxbow lake formed by River Mahanadi and is spread over an area of 231 ha. It is home to at least 194 species of birds, 61 species of fishes and 26 species of mammals in addition to 244 species of macrophytes.

268. In which state 'Pin Valley National Park' is situated?

- 1) Uttar Pradesh
- 2) Bihar
- 3) Uttarakhand
- 4) Himachal Pradesh
- 5) Madhya Pradesh

Answer- **4) Himachal Pradesh**

Explanation:

About Himachal Pradesh:

Chief Minister - Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

Governor- Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

National Parks- Great Himalayan National Park; **Pin Valley National Park**

Wildlife Sanctuaries- Bandli Wildlife Sanctuary; Chail Wildlife Sanctuary

269. Which state/UT is set to establish India's first AI city?

- 1) Delhi
- 2) Maharashtra
- 3) Karnataka
- 4) Uttar Pradesh

5) Haryana

Answer- **4) Uttar Pradesh**

Explanation:

Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state, is set to establish the **country's first AI city** in **Lucknow**.

- This initiative aims to create a thriving hub for artificial intelligence, integrating cutting-edge technology, research centers, and educational institutions to foster innovation and nurture the workforce of the future.
- A report by Grand View Research pegged the global AI market size at \$137 billion in 2022 and is projected to expand at a compound annual growth rate of 37.3 per cent from 2023 to 2030. Lucknow houses Centres of Excellence in areas like AI and MedTech (with extensive AI integration).
- The AI COE (centre in IIIT Lucknow) alone supports more than 15 AI/ML start-ups, nurturing a culture of creativity and entrepreneurship.
- EoI issued By integrating cutting-edge technology, research centres, and educational institutions, the AI city aspires to be a hub where ideas flourish and the workforce of tomorrow is nurtured, says an Expression of Interest (EoI) issued by UP Electronics Corporation Ltd., the nodal agency for the project, inviting a real estate developer to develop and operate the AI city.

270. In December 2023, Coca-Cola extended its partnership with the International Cricket Council (ICC) until _____(year).

- 1) 2030
- 2) 2027
- 3) 2031
- 4) 2029
- 5) 2028

Answer- **3) 2031**

Explanation:

Beverage major **Coca-Cola** announced that it has extended its partnership with the International Cricket Council (**ICC**) for an eight-year period, encompassing ICC World events across all three formats, up until the **end of 2031**.

- This eight-year partnership as a Global Partner of the ICC confirmed the collaboration as one of the longest-ever associations formed by the ICC with a single brand, spanning a total timeline of 13 years (2019-2031).
- The agreement includes all men's and women's events at the pinnacle of the sport including the ICC Cricket World Cups, ICC T20 World Cups, and ICC Champions Trophies through to the end of 2031.
- During the course of the partnership, there will be both a major international men's and women's event every year as well as a World Test Championship Final every two years.

271. In December 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) added the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine, developed by Oxford University to its list of prequalified vaccines.

Which Indian company manufactured the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine?

- 1) Dr. Reddy's Laboratories
- 2) Biological E Limited
- 3) Bharat Biotech International Limited

4) Indian Immunologicals Limited

5) Serum Institute of India

Answer- **5) Serum Institute of India**

Explanation:

The World Health Organization (**WHO**) added the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine, developed by Oxford University and **manufactured by Serum Institute of India**, to its list of prequalified vaccines.

- In October 2023, WHO had recommended its use for the prevention of malaria in children, following the advice of the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization and the Malaria Policy Advisory Group.
- The R21 vaccine is the second malaria vaccine prequalified by WHO, following the RTS,S/AS01 vaccine which had obtained prequalification status in July 2022.
- Malaria, a mosquito-borne disease, places a particularly high burden on children in the African region, where nearly half a million children die from the disease each year. In 2022, there were an estimated 249 million malaria cases in the world, and 6,08,000 malaria deaths across 85 countries.

272. The Nodal Ministry of scheme Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) is the _____.

1) Ministry of Education

2) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

3) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

4) Ministry of Labour and Employment

5) Ministry of Home Affairs

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

Explanation:

The scheme Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (**SHREYAS**), has been proposed to be implemented during the 2021-22 to 2025-26 by placing two ongoing Central Sector Schemes for OBC (Other Backward Classes) and EBC.

i. These schemes are, National Fellowship for OBC and Dr.Ambedkar Central Sector Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for OBCs and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs).

- The main objective of the schemes is Educational Empowerment of OBC & EBC students by way of awarding fellowship (financial assistance) in obtaining quality higher education and interest subsidy on educational loan for overseas studies.
- The Nodal Ministry of SHREYAS Scheme is the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- The umbrella scheme of "SHREYAS (Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers)" comprises 4 central sector sub- schemes namely "Top Class Education for SCs", "Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs", "National Overseas Scheme for SCs" and "National Fellowship for SCs".

273. Name the personality who has recently (in Dec '23) appointed as the brand ambassador of TECNO.

1) Deepika Padukone

2) Dino Morea

3) Mahendra Singh Dhoni

4) Virat Kohli

5) Anushka Sharma

Answer- **1) Deepika Padukone**

Explanation:

TECNO, the premium global smartphone brand, is delighted to announce Indian superstar **Deepika Padukone** as its **brand ambassador**.

i. This move marks the next step in **TECNO**'s proposition of delivering the best of innovation while remaining stylish and accessible with the consumers' needs at heart.

274. In Which state 'Similipal Tiger Reserve' is located?

1) West Bengal

2) Karnataka

3) Andhra Pradesh

4) Kerala

5) Odisha

Answer- **5) Odisha**

Explanation:

Union Minister of State for Environment, **Ashwini Kumar Choubey**, informed the Rajya Sabha that "melanistic tigers" have been documented only in the **Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha**.

- There are a total of 10 "black tigers" in India, all exclusively found in Odisha's Similipal, the government informed the Parliament in December 2023.
- As per the 2022 cycle of the pan-India tiger estimation exercise, the Similipal Tiger Reserve has 16 tigers, out of which 10 exhibit melanism.
- The minister said that the Similipal Tiger Reserve has been identified as a distinct conservation cluster due to its genetic composition.
- Over the last five years, the Similipal Tiger Reserve has received a financial support of Rs 32.75 crore for wildlife conservation, habitat management, human resource, and infrastructure development under the centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH).

275. In December 2023, Anil Kumar Agarwal was appointed as the Deputy Managing Director and CEO of freight rail systems in _____ (company).

1) Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd

2) Container Corporation of India Ltd

3) Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd

4) Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd

5) Bharat Earth Movers Ltd

Answer- **3) Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd**

Explanation:

Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd announced its board has approved the appointment of **Anil Kumar Agarwal** as the **deputy managing director and CEO** of freight rail systems in the company.

- Anil Kumar Agarwal, the Director (Finance) and Chief Financial Officer, has been given the responsibility of serving as Deputy Managing Director and CEO of Freight Rail Systems and designated DMD & CEO (Freight Rail Systems).

- Prithish Chowdhary, director, Marketing and Business Development, has been given the role of a whole-time director and designated as the Deputy CEO of passenger rail systems.
- The board also decided to promote Joint CFO Saurav Singhania as the chief financial officer of the company. Singhania would also be the chief risk officer of the company.

276. Who has recently (in Dec '23) assumed the charge of the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India arm Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL)?

- 1) Jagan Gadhe
- 2) Sunil Kulkarni
- 3) Vaibhav kumar
- 4) Rahul Raichur
- 5) Uday A Kaole

Answer- **5) Uday A Kaole**

Explanation:

Uday A Kaole has assumed the charge of the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India arm Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL).

- Prior to joining MCL as its CMD, Kaole was the Director (Technical) at Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL).
- Kaole brings with him 36 years of rich technical and administrative experience in the coal mining sector. He has a long experience of working in challenging underground coal mines operations, as well as in the opencast mines, MCL said in a statement.
- He had joined Coal India as Junior Engineering (Trainee) in 1987 and served at various important positions in Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) and South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL).

277. In December 2023, Indian women's cricket team recorded a historic maiden win over _____ (country) in their first 'home season' of Test cricket in 28 years at DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra (India).

- 1) England
- 2) Australia
- 3) West Indies
- 4) Netherlands
- 5) New Zealand

Answer- **2) Australia**

Explanation:

Indian women's cricket team concluded their first 'home season' of Test cricket in 28 years with a historic maiden victory over **Australia** by 8 wicket in a one-off Test match in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra on 24th December, 2023

- India's clinical performance in the two home Tests played at the Wankhede Stadium and the DY Patil Stadium against England showcased a consistent level of excellence. The team scripted the biggest win by margin of runs against England, and their first-ever triumph over Australia in 11 Tests added another victory to their record.
- On 16th December 2023, Deepti Sharma ran riot with a 9-wicket haul in the match as the Indian women's cricket registered a humongous 347-run victory - the biggest margin in the

history of women's Tests - over England in the one-off Test at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.

- The previous best was Sri Lanka's 309-run win over Pakistan in Colombo in 1998. It was also India's first win over England at home in 15 Tests, having beaten them in away games twice in 2014.

278. Who is the Present (as of Dec '23) Chairman & Managing Director of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)?

- 1) Rameshwar Prasad Gupta
- 2) Divya Gandotra
- 3) Shradha Sharma
- 4) Aditi Gupta
- 5) Kunal Shah

Answer- **1) Rameshwar Prasad Gupta**

Explanation:

About Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI):

It is a Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to implement India's National Solar Mission (NSM) and its targets.

Chairman & Managing Director- Rameshwar Prasad Gupta (RP Gupta)

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Establishment- 2011

279. Who is the present (as of Dec '23) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of CoinSwitch?

- 1) Sanjay Kumar
- 2) Praveen P Kadle
- 3) Srinivasan Varadarajan
- 4) Sanjeev Nautiyal
- 5) Ashish Singhal

Answer- **5) Ashish Singhal**

Explanation:

About CoinSwitch:

CoinSwitch was founded by Ashish Singhal; Vimal Sagar Tiwari and Govind Soni in 2017

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Ashish Singhal

Headquarters- Bengaluru, Karnataka

280. Who is the present (as of Dec '23) Chairperson of National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)?

- 1) R Chandrasekhar
- 2) Rajesh Nambiar
- 3) Rekha M Menon
- 4) Rishad Premji
- 5) Keshav Murugesh

Answer- **2) Rajesh Nambiar**

Explanation:

About National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM):

It is a non-governmental non-profit organization that advocates for and serves the Information technology (IT) industry. It is a key entity in the Indian technology sector.

Chairperson- Rajesh Nambiar

Headquarters- Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Founded in- 1988

281. Which company, along with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has recently (in Dec '23) announced an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool, 'watsonx.ai' that would be available on the open-source AI platform Hugging Space?

- 1) Tata Consultancy Services
- 2) Infosys
- 3) Wipro
- 4) IBM
- 5) Microsoft

Answer- **4) IBM**

Explanation:

At the 28th United Nations Climate Change conference, held from 30 November to 12 December 2023, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) and **IBM** announced that an Artificial Intelligence (**AI**) tool called **watsonx.ai** would be available on the open-source AI platform Hugging Space.

i. About watsonx.ai:

- It is an Artificial Intelligence tool jointly built by IBM and NASA.
- It will help users monitor the Earth from space, measuring environmental changes that have already happened while also making predictions about the future.
- The model is also designed to be extremely simple to use. A user would merely need to select a location and a date, and the model will highlight changes in floodwater, reforestation efforts and other relevant factors.

ii. How does watsonx.ai work:

- It is built on a foundation model — it's trained on a broad set of uncategorised data allowing the model to apply information about one situation to another.
- In the case of watsonx.ai, NASA provides the datasets (in terms of satellite images instead of words,) and IBM created the foundation model to interpret them.

282. In which state, 'Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary' is located?

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

Answer- **1) Uttar Pradesh**

Explanation:

Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS) is located in the Upper Gangetic plain in **Uttar Pradesh** and covers an area of 400.6 square kilometres in the Terai of the Bahraich district.

- i. In 1987, it was brought under the purview of the 'Project Tiger', and together with the Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary and the Dudhwa National Park, it forms the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve.
- ii. It provides strategic connectivity between the tiger habitats of Dudhwa and Kishanpur in India and the Bardia National Park in Nepal.

283. Who is the present (as of Dec '23) Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)?

- 1) Rishiksha Krishnan
- 2) Dilip Asbe
- 3) Biswamohan Mahapatra
- 4) Shailendra Trivedi
- 5) Amitha Sehgal

Answer- **2) Dilip Asbe**

Explanation:

About National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI):

NPCI is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India.

Managing Director(MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Dilip Asbe

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Established in – 2008

284. Which state has recently (in Dec '23) launched the registration of the fifth and last poll guarantee 'Yuva Nidhi' to provide monthly allowances to unemployed degree and diploma holders?

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

Answer- **2) Karnataka**

Explanation:

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on 26th December 2023 launched the registration of the fifth and last poll guarantee '**Yuva Nidhi**' in **Bengaluru** offering unemployment assistance to graduates and diploma holders.

- The government will begin the distribution of allowances on January 12, the day when national youth day is celebrated to mark Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary.
- The scheme offers monetary assistance of Rs.3,000 to the graduates and Rs.1,500 to the diploma holders who passed in the 2022-23 academic year.
- The money would be given to those who do not get a job even after completion of 180 days from the date of passing of the degree/diploma, officials said, adding that the candidates are required to prove domicile of Karnataka for a minimum of six years.

285. What is the Tagline of IndusInd Bank?

- 1) One Family One Bank
- 2) Good people to bank with
- 3) The Name you can Bank Upon
- 4) Honors Your Trust
- 5) We Make You Feel Richer

Answer- **5) We Make You Feel Richer**

Explanation:

About IndusInd Bank Limited:

Managing Director(MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Sumant Kathpalia

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Established in – 1994

Tagline – We Make You Feel Richer

286. In December 2023, Sitara (Sewa Grih Rin Limited) raised Rs _____ of debt financing from British International Investment (BII) to boost its affordable housing business.

- 1) 300 crore
- 2) 200 crore
- 3) 250 crore
- 4) 120 crore
- 5) 150 crore

Answer- **4) 120 crore**

Explanation:

Sitara (Sewa Grih Rin Limited) has raised **Rs 120 crore** of debt financing from British International Investment (BII), the UK's development finance and impact investor, to boost its affordable housing business.

- The company will use the capital to grow its loan book, expand operations into new locations, and provide affordable housing to low-income women and families by providing access to finance for home construction and improvements.
- Axis Bank, one of the leading private sector banks in India, has facilitated this deal between BII and Sitara. Sitara's operations include providing loans ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 30 lakhs for house construction, extension, purchase, and renovation.
- The Company currently operates through a network of 75 branches across nine states. It is a Housing Finance Company registered with the National Housing Bank and regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.
- It has provided financial solutions to under-served and low-income households since its inception in 2015.

287. In December 2023, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first world leader whose YouTube channel has crossed the _____ subscribers mark.

- 1) 60 million
- 2) 40 million
- 3) 20 million
- 4) 30 million
- 5) 50 million

Answer- **3) 20 million**

Explanation:

Indian **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has become the first world leader whose YouTube channel has crossed the **20 million** (two crore) subscribers mark. Regarding views and subscribers, PM Modi has far surpassed the YouTube channels of his Indian and global contemporaries.

- PM Modi's channel has amassed a cumulative 4.5 billion video views with the quality of videos and their upload frequency remaining consistent over the years. Notably, it was in February last year that PM Modi's YouTube channel crossed the 10 million subscriber mark. The three most popular videos on his channel have garnered a combined 175 million views.

288. Where is the Headquarters of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change(IPCC) located?

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

Answer- **4) Geneva, Switzerland**

Explanation:

About Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change(IPCC):

Chairman- Jim Skea

Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland

Established- 1988

Members- 195 member states

289. In which state, the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve is located?

- 1) Sikkim
- 2) Uttarakhand
- 3) Himachal Pradesh
- 4) Uttar Pradesh
- 5) Bihar

Answer- **2) Uttarakhand**

Explanation:

The **Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve**, also known as the Nanda Devi National Park, is a spectacular expanse of wilderness in the upper reaches of the Himalayas.

i. The Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve and the Valley of Flowers, both a part of the prestigious United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List, encompass a unique transition zone between the Zaskar mountain range and the Great Himalaya.

ii. Located under the guard of the Nanda Devi peak, the rugged and dramatic reserve is spread across three districts of **Uttarakhand**, i.e Chamoli, Pithoragarh and Bageshwar.

290. In which state, 'Udhwa Bird Sanctuary' is located?

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

5) Assam

Answer- **1) Jharkhand**

Explanation:

Udhwa Bird Sanctuary, located in the Sahibganj district in **Jharkhand**, is the state's only bird sanctuary. For a place that's popularly known for illegal mining, a nature pocket like Udhwa Bird Sanctuary is a much-needed change.

291. In which state/UT, 'Hokersar Wetland' is located?

1) Ladakh

2) Assam

3) Jammu and Kashmir

4) Himachal Pradesh

5) Uttarakhand

Answer- **3) Jammu and Kashmir**

Explanation:

Hokersar Wetland Known as the 'Queen Wetland of Kashmir', Hokersar (also known as Hokera) is a Ramsar site located in Srinagar, **Jammu and Kashmir**.

- It is spread over an area of 13.75 sq. km (1375 ha) in the northwest Himalayan Biogeographic province of Kashmir, in the backyard the snow draped Pir Panjal range with an altitude of 1584 m.
- It is a natural perennial wetland contiguous to the Jhelum basin.

292. Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary is located in _____ (State/UT).

1) Chandigarh

2) Maharashtra

3) Jammu and Kashmir

4) Uttar Pradesh

5) Odisha

Answer- **1) Chandigarh**

Explanation:

Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary is located at the foothills of the Shivalik range in **Chandigarh**.

- It forms part of the Sukhna Lake catchment area falling in the Shivalik Hills.
- The sanctuary was developed as a result of afforestation done for soil conservation around Sukhna Lake. It came into existence in March 1998 under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

293. Which company has recently (in Dec '23) signed an MoU with the Government of Gujarat to explore submarine tourism in Bet Dwarka area?

1) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

2) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited

3) Hindustan Shipyard Limited

4) Goa Shipyard Limited

5) Cochin Shipyard Limited

Answer- **2) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited**

Explanation:

Ahead of the Vibrant Gujarat summit scheduled for January 2024, the **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited** has taken a plunge into potential submarine tourism in Gujarat by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the **Government of Gujarat**.

- The collaborative effort aims to develop a submarine capable of reaching depths of up to 100 meters, catering specifically to tourism in the Bet Dwarka area.
- In a significant move, MDL and the Gujarat government formalized their partnership through the MOU, expressing Gujarat's keen interest in acquiring a submarine for tourism purposes.
- The envisioned submarine is expected to offer unique underwater experiences in the pristine waters around Bet Dwarka, adding a new dimension to the state's tourism landscape.
- The MOU, a preliminary step in the collaborative venture, signifies the intent to explore the feasibility and logistics of constructing a submarine for tourism.

294. Name the athlete who has recently (in Dec' 23) appointed as the event ambassador for the 19th edition of the Tata Mumbai Marathon.

- 1) Jenn Suhr
- 2) Nina Kennedy
- 3) Wilma Murto
- 4) Valarie Allman
- 5) Katie Moon

Answer- **5) Katie Moon**

Explanation:

Two-time pole vault world champion and Tokyo Olympics gold medallist **Katie Moon** has been roped in as **event ambassador** for the **19th edition** of the **Tata Mumbai Marathon** to be held on 31st December 2023.

- Promoted by Procam International, the Mumbai Marathon is a World Athletics Gold Label Race.
- American athlete Moon had clinched gold medal at the 2022 Eugene and 2023 Budapest World Athletics Championships.

295. Who is the present (as of Dec '23) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)?

- 1) Jayanth Kumar
- 2) Ajay Kumar
- 3) Thampy Koshy
- 4) Praveen Sharma
- 5) Supriyo Ghosh

Answer- **3) Thampy Koshy**

Explanation:

About Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC):

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Thampy Koshy

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Launched in 2022

296. In which year the European Commission was established?

- 1) 1958
- 2) 1942
- 3) 1966
- 4) 1967
- 5) 1976

Answer- **1) 1958**

Explanation:

About European Commission:

President- Ursula von der Leyen

Established in 1958

Headquarters- Brussels, Belgium

297. Who is the current (as of Dec '23) President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA)?

- 1) Saraswati Chand
- 2) P.T. Usha
- 3) Seema Punia
- 4) Dutee Chand
- 5) Kamalpreet Kaur

Answer- **2) P.T. Usha**

Explanation:

About Indian Olympic Association (IOA):

IOA is the governing body for the Olympic Movement and the Commonwealth Games in India.

President- P.T. Usha

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Established in- 1927

298. In December 2023, India imposed a definitive anti-dumping duty on gypsum board and tiles from _____ (country) for five years.

- 1) Indonesia
- 2) China
- 3) Japan
- 4) Australia
- 5) Kenya

Answer- **2) China**

Explanation:

India has imposed a definitive anti-dumping duty on gypsum board and tiles from **China** for five years.

- The anti-dumping duty will range from \$23.46-47.62 per tonne in case of imports from China and for imports from Oman, the anti-dumping duty will be between \$71.80-91.42 per metric tonne.
- The anti-dumping duty was imposed on the recommendation of the Commerce Ministry and will be applicable on tiles with at least lamination on one side.
- These boards are largely used for the construction industry for ceilings in both commercial and residential projects.

299. The Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections to all households in rural India by _____ (year).

- 1) 2025
- 2) 2027
- 3) 2024
- 4) 2028
- 5) 2026

Answer- 3) 2024

Explanation:

Making substantial progress towards the government's ambitious **Jal Jeevan Mission**, approximately 72 per cent of rural households now have access to tap water connections.

- **In 2024**, the Jal Shakti ministry faces the crucial target of achieving the 100 per cent coverage of tap water connection to every rural household -- a commitment made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019.
- However, challenges persist in states like Jharkhand, Rajasthan, and West Bengal, where tap water connection coverage in rural households remains below 50 per cent.
- According to Parliament data, out of 5.91 lakh villages in the country, 3.18 lakh aspire to achieve ODF Plus status, and 1.23 lakh villages have already achieved the model ODF Plus status. Under the Namami Gange Programme, the government is actively undertaking a comprehensive range of interventions to rejuvenate the Ganga and its tributaries.
- So far, a total of 450 projects have been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 38,022.37 Crore, out of which 270 projects have been completed and made operational. The focus next year would be to meet the project's deadline.

300. Who has been recently (in Dec '23) appointed as the brand ambassador of Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF)?

- 1) Nagarjuna Akkineni
- 2) Vinay Rajkumar
- 3) Shivarajkumar
- 4) Raghavendra Rajkumar
- 5) Venkatesh Daggubati

Answer- 3) Shivarajkumar

Explanation:

The Karnataka Milk Federation (**KMF**) released buffalo milk packets and low-fat curds to cater to the taste of Bengalureans. It also named actor **Shivarajkumar** its brand ambassador.

- Buffalo milk packet, which was released by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru, will be available at Rs. 35 for 500 ml.

301. In December 2023, _____ surpassed former skipper and legendary batter Steve Waugh to become the second-highest run-scorer for Australia.

- 1) Steve Smith
- 2) David Warner
- 3) Glenn Maxwell
- 4) Pat Cummins
- 5) Mitchell Starc

Answer- **2) David Warner**

Explanation:

Opener **David Warner** surpassed former skipper and legendary batter Steve Waugh to **become** the **second-highest run-scorer** for **Australia**. Warner made this upward movement in the record books during the second Test against Pakistan, a Boxing Day affair, at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

i. In the first innings, Warner scored a steady 38 in 83 balls. His knock had three boundaries. Now in 371 international appearances, Warner has 18,515 runs at an average of 42.56. He has 49 centuries and 93 fifties in international cricket, with the best score of 335.

ii. He is now above Waugh (18,496 runs in 493 matches at an average of 41.65, with 35 centuries and 95 fifties) and below legendary Ricky Ponting (27,368 runs at an average of 45.84 in 559 matches with 70 centuries and 146 fifties) in the all-time run-scoring list.

302. Which airport will get India's first inter-state multi-modal transport hub?

- 1) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport
- 2) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport
- 3) Kempegowda International Airport
- 4) Indira Gandhi International Airport
- 5) Chennai International Airport

Answer- **4) Indira Gandhi International Airport**

Explanation:

India's first inter-state multi-modal transport hub will be built near New Delhi's **Indira Gandhi International Airport**, providing connectivity between buses, metro lines, the proposed air train, and the airport. With the airport's increasing capacity and footfall, this hub is essential for seamless transportation.

i. The hub will be connected with an Interstate Bus Terminus, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's phase 4 line, the proposed Passenger Transport Centre, and the Rapid Rail Transit System station.

- It will cater to passengers from neighbouring states and improve facilities for bus travellers.

303. Who is the current (as of Dec '23) Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Stock Exchange (NSE)?

- 1) K Narasimha Murthy
- 2) Girish Chandra Chaturvedi
- 3) Ashishkumar Chauhan
- 4) S Ravindran
- 5) Bishnu Charan Patnaik

Answer- **3) Ashishkumar Chauhan**

Explanation:

Ashishkumar Chauhan is present Managing Director & CEO of National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE India).

- The Indian stock market achieved a milestone, touching USD 4 trillion in market capitalisation (m-cap) for the first time ever, closing in on the value of the Hong Kong stock exchange. Now, India has joined the ranks of stock market superpowers across the world, a title which was only held by the United States, China, and Japan.

- The Indian stock market has been up by around 25 percent this year, crossing the overall market valuation of USD 4.16 trillion. Meanwhile, Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index has plunged nearly 19% this year, likely to fall behind India soon.
- India is the fifth largest economy in the world, and its stock market valuation is currently only behind US, China, Japan and Hong Kong, joining the ranks of superpower in the financial world. India's market growth in 2023 is the sharpest it has ever seen in the last three years.
- The stock exchanges currently having a higher valuation than the **National Stock Exchange (NSE) of India** are New York Stock Exchange (US), Nasdaq (US), Shanghai Stock Exchange (China), Euronext, Japan Stock Exchange, and Shenzhen Stock Exchange (China).

304. In which state, Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary is located?

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

Answer- **3) Maharashtra**

Explanation:

Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Thane District of **Maharashtra**, 90 km northeast of Mumbai in the foothills of the Western Ghats.

i. It is known to be a paradise for birdwatchers & it has two rivers, the Tansa and Vaitarna, and the sanctuary gets its name from the former, which divides the sanctuary into two parts.

305. In Which state 'Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary' is located?

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

Answer- **4) Madhya Pradesh**

Explanation:

Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary is located in **Madhya Pradesh**, India, situated on the northern border of Mandsaur and Nimach districts within the same state.

- Gandhi Sagar, located approximately five to six hours away from Kuno, encompasses a forest area spanning 368 square kilometers, along with an additional surrounding area of 2,500 square kilometers.

306. The 'Sri Venkateswara National Park' is located in _____ state.

- 1) Odisha
- 2) Uttar Pradesh
- 3) Kerala
- 4) Telangana
- 5) Andhra Pradesh

Answer- **5) Andhra Pradesh**

Explanation:

About Andhra Pradesh:

Chief Minister– YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

Governor– Justice (Retd.) S. Abdul Nazeer

National Park– Sri Venkateswara National Park

Wildlife Sanctuary– Sri Lankamalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary; Krishna Wildlife sanctuary

307. In which state, Panna Tiger Reserve is located?

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

Answer- **2) Madhya Pradesh**

Explanation:

About Madhya Pradesh:

Chief Minister – Mohan Yadav

Governor- Mangubhai chhaganbhai Patel

Tiger Reserves- Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, **Panna Tiger Reserve**, Kanha Tiger Reserve

308. Who is the present (as of Dec '23) President of Maldives?

- 1) Mohamed Nasheed
- 2) Maumoon Abdul Gayoom
- 3) Abdulla Yameen
- 4) Mohamed Muizzu
- 5) Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

Answer- **4) Mohamed Muizzu**

Explanation:

About Maldives:

President– **Mohamed Muizzu**

Capital– Male

Currency– Maldivian Rufiyaa

Note- Maldives President-elect Mohamed Muizzu will take the oath of office on 17th November 2023 at a ceremony in the capital Male, where India will be represented by Union Minister Kiren Rijiju. Muizzu, a close associate of former Maldives President Abdulla Yameen who forged close ties with China during his Presidency from 2013 to 2018, defeated India-friendly incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the presidential runoff held in September, 2023.

309. The 'Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS)' is located in _____ (state).

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

Answer- **3) Kerala**

Explanation:

Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) is located in Idukki District, **Kerala**.

- It lies in the rain shadow region of the Western Ghats and receives very less rainfall every year.
- The south side of the sanctuary is covered by Eravikulam National park, and the north side is by Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary.

310. What is the capital of Venezuela?

- 1) Asunción
- 2) Paramaribo
- 3) Montevideo
- 4) Caracas
- 5) Cayenne

Answer- **4) Caracas**

Explanation:

Caracas is the capital of Venezuela and Bolivar is the currency.

- On December 15th, Guyana and Venezuela agreed to resolve their centuries-old border conflict over the Essequibo region peacefully, easing fears of potential military escalation. The Origins of the Dispute Essequibo is a sparsely populated, forested area constituting over half of Guyana's land.
- But Venezuela has claimed it since the 1800s when both were European colonies. Tensions reignited in 2013 when Guyana permitted ExxonMobil to explore offshore oil and gas reserves near Essequibo.
- The subsequent discovery of over 17 trillion cubic feet of gas and 11 billion oil-barrel equivalents sparked Venezuela's aspirations.

311. In which state 'Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve' is located?

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

Answer- **5) Rajasthan**

Explanation:

About Rajasthan:

Chief Minister (CM) – Bhajan Lal Sharma

Governor – Kalraj Mishra

Wildlife Sanctuaries – Gajner Wildlife Sanctuary; Kaila Devi Sanctuary

Tiger Reserves – Ranthambore Tiger Reserve; **Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve**

312. In which state 'Salonibari airport' is located?

- 1) Assam
- 2) Sikkim
- 3) Arunachal Pradesh
- 4) Uttar Pradesh
- 5) Uttarakhand

Answer- **1) Assam**

Explanation:

About Assam:

Chief Minister- Himanta Biswa Sarma

Governor- Gulab Chand Kataria

Airports- Jorhat Airport (Rowrah Airport); **Salonibari airport**

Wildlife Sanctuary- Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary; Marat Longri Wildlife Sanctuary

313. In which state 'Ghosu Bird Sanctuary' is located?

- 1) Nagaland
- 2) Manipur
- 3) West Bengal
- 4) Odisha
- 5) Assam

Answer- **1) Nagaland**

Explanation:

About Nagaland:

Chief Minister- Neiphiu Rio

Governor – La Ganesan

Wildlife Sanctuary – Rangapahar Wildlife Sanctuary

Bird Sanctuary – Ghosu Bird Sanctuary

314. In December 2023, Indian scientists have indigenously developed organic-inorganic halide perovskite self-powered broadband photodetector with partial substitution of lead by _____ (element), which can be useful for solar energy generation.

- 1) Phosphorus
- 2) Sodium
- 3) Potassium
- 4) Lithium
- 5) Magnesium

Answer- **5) Magnesium**

Explanation:

Indian scientists have indigenously developed organic-inorganic halide perovskite self-powered broadband photodetector with partial substitution of lead by **magnesium** which can be useful for solar energy generation.

- Organic-Inorganic halide perovskite (Methyl Ammonium Lead Iodide, MAPbI₃) has been the frontrunner of optoelectronic research, showing promise in solar cells, LEDs, and photodetectors. However, hybrid perovskite has been plagued by significant issues due to the presence of toxic lead (Pb²⁺), which is known for harmful effects on health and the environment.
- In a significant study, researchers from the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy & New Materials (ARCI), Hyderabad, an autonomous institute of Department of Science and Technology (DST) have addressed these challenges by introducing an eco-friendly alternative to replace toxic Lead (Pb).

- The team turned to Mg, an alkaline earth metal known for its non-toxic nature and abundance, as a substitute to lead.
- They synthesised the $\text{MAPb}_x\text{Mg}_{1-x}\text{Cl}_2\text{I}$ perovskite using a one-step anti-solvent approach. They carefully tuned the Mg^{2+} stoichiometry and achieved tetragonal perovskite phase with desired properties.

315. Who is the present (as of Dec '23) Director General of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)?

- 1) Vivek Jain
- 2) Pramod Kumar Tiwari
- 3) Ashish Tripathi
- 4) Mamta Upadhyay Lal
- 5) Ajay Kumar Sharma

Answer- **2) Pramod Kumar Tiwari**

Explanation:

Pramod Kumar Tiwari is the present **Director General (DG)** of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

i. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), a statutory body functioning under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, has taken a significant stride towards promoting standardisation in the field of Marine Energy Conversion Systems.

- To address the growing importance of marine energy projects undertaken by the Government of India, BIS has formed a dedicated technical committee, the Marine Energy Conversion Systems Sectional Committee under ETD 54.
- Recognizing the need for adherence to standardized norms to ensure the quality of products utilized in these projects, the establishment of this committee marks an important milestone in the development and regulation of marine energy systems in India.
- The inaugural meeting of the newly formed technical committee was held on 21 December 2023 at the prestigious National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) in Chennai.
- The gathering saw the participation of renowned experts from esteemed institutions including National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Central Electricity Authority (CEA) etc.

316. In which state Keoladeo National Park is located?

- 1) West Bengal
- 2) Jharkhand
- 3) Rajasthan
- 4) Madhya Pradesh
- 5) Haryana

Answer- **3) Rajasthan**

Explanation:

About Rajasthan:

Chief Minister – Bhajan Lal Sharma

Governor – Kalraj Mishra

National parks: Ranthambore National Park; Mukundra Hills National Park, **Keoladeo National Park**

317. In which state 'Chail Wildlife Sanctuary' is located?

- 1) Andhra Pradesh
- 2) Uttarakhand
- 3) West Bengal
- 4) Bihar
- 5) Himachal Pradesh

Answer- **5) Himachal Pradesh**

Explanation:

About Himachal Pradesh:

Chief Minister- Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

Governor- Shiv Pratap Shukla

Wildlife Sanctuary- Bandli Wildlife Sanctuary; **Chail Wildlife Sanctuary**

UNESCO heritage site- Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area; Mountain Railways of India

318. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) was constituted based on the recommendations of _____.

- 1) Malhotra Committee
- 2) Narasimham Committee
- 3) N. K Singh Committee
- 4) Kumar Mangalam Birla Committee
- 5) Kelkar Committee

Answer**1) Malhotra Committee**

Explanation:

In 1993, **Malhotra Committee report**, headed by former RBI Governor **RN Malhotra** was formed to evaluate the Indian Insurance industry and recommend its future direction.

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) was constituted as an autonomous body to regulate and develop the insurance industry.
- IRDAI, is a statutory body formed under an Act of Parliament, i.e., Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 (IRDA Act, 1999) for overall supervision and development of the Insurance sector in India.
- The IRDAI was incorporated as a **statutory body in April, 2000**. The key objectives of the IRDAI include promotion of competition so as to enhance customer satisfaction through increased consumer choice and lower premiums, while ensuring the financial security of the insurance market.

319. As of December 2023, How many Public Sector Banks (PSB) are in India?

- 1) 13
- 2) 8
- 3) 10
- 4) 9
- 5) 12

Answer- **5) 12**

Explanation:

India currently has **12 Public Sector Banks (PSB)**- Bank of Baroda (BOB), Bank of India (BOI), Bank of Maharashtra (BOM), Canara Bank, Central Bank of India, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), Punjab & Sind Bank, PNB, State Bank of India (SBI), UCO Bank, and Union Bank of India (UBI)

320. In which year, the World Trade Organization was established?

- 1) 1976
- 2) 1995
- 3) 1990
- 4) 1997
- 5) 2000

Answer- **2) 1995**

Explanation:

About World Trade Organization (WTO):

Director-General – Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland

Established in – 1995

321. Which state government has recently (in Dec '23) launched the Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS) Campaign 2023-24?

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

Answer- **5) Manipur**

Explanation:

In **Manipur**, the State Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh launched the Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (**SAANS**) Campaign 2023-24 at Imphal.

i. The Minister also inaugurated the State Newborn Resource Centre at Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS) in Imphal.

322. Name the personality who has recently (in Dec '23) conferred with the title of the Indian society of agricultural economics (ISAE) fellow 2023.

- 1) Ruby Pawankar
- 2) Tessy Thomas
- 3) Yamuna Krishnan
- 4) P Indira Devi
- 5) Prabha Chatterji

Answer- **4) P Indira Devi**

Explanation:

P Indira Devi, ICAR Emeritus professor at Kerala agricultural university (KAU) was conferred with the title of the Indian society of agricultural economics (**ISAE**) fellow 2023.

- She is the first Keralite to be conferred with this title, which is given in recognition of her outstanding achievements in the realm of agricultural economics and rural development.

i. The winner is selected by a distinguished panel of agricultural economists. Established in 1939, ISAE is one of the oldest professional societies in India. Indira Devi also holds the position of Director of the Kerala State Farmer Welfare Board and was the director of Research at KAU.

323. Which of the following is not the fully owned Subsidiaries of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- 1) Reserve Bank Information Technology Private Limited (ReBIT)
- 2) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- 3) Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (DICGC)
- 4) Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services (IFTAS)
- 5) Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL)

Answer- **2) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**

Explanation:

Fully Owned Subsidiaries of Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

- Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (DICGC)
- Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL)
- Reserve Bank Information Technology Private Limited (ReBIT)
- Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services (IFTAS)
- Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)