

GUPTA

CLASSES

Current Affairs

(March 2024)

English

Part-1



GUPTA

CLASSES

Current Affairs Q&A PDF – March 2024

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Name the Union Minister who has recently (in Feb '24) unveiled a new database for India's startup ecosystem, named Bharat Startup Ecosystem Registry, a website, & logo of 'Startup Mahakumbh'.

- 1) Narayan Tatu Rane (Union Minister of MSME)
- 2) Dharmendra Pradhan (Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship)
- 3) Piyush Goyal (Union Minister of Commerce and Industry)
- 4) Giriraj Singh (Union Minister of Rural Development)
- 5) Ashwini Vaishnaw (Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology)

Answer- 3) Piyush Goyal (Union Minister of Commerce and Industry)

Explanation:

Union Minister **Piyush Goyal**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (**MOCI**) unveiled a new database for India's startup ecosystem, named Bharat Startup Ecosystem Registry, a website, and logo of '**Startup Mahakumbh**' during the curtain raiser event of the first-ever 'Startup Mahakumbh'.

- i.** The registry will act as a single platform database for startups, investors, incubators, and other stakeholders in India's startup ecosystem.
- ii.** The event was organised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under MOCI.

2. According to the amendments to the Green Credit Rules of the Green Credit Program (GCP) by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in February 2024, Green credits will be given to the tree plantation on degraded land under the administrative control of states that have been identified by forest departments.

The minimum land size for such projects is set at _____ hectares.

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

Answer- 5) 5

Explanation:

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEF&CC**) has notified the amendments to the Green Credit Rules of the Green Credit Program (**GCP**), which is an innovative market-based mechanism designed to incentivize voluntary environmental actions.

- Under new amendments, one Green Credit will be awarded to one grown tree.

i. The new modified Green Credit Rules outlines the criteria for land eligibility; application procedures and standardised methodology for calculating green credits.

ii. Land Eligibility: Green credits will be given to the tree plantation on degraded land including open forest and scrubland, wasteland, and catchment areas, under the administrative control of states that have been identified by forest departments.

- The **minimum land size** for such projects is set at **5 hectares**.

3. In February 2024, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Railways (MoR) released a commemorative postage stamp to mark the _____ (years) of the All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF) in an event held at Karnail Singh Railway Stadium in New Delhi, Delhi.

- 1) 40 years
- 2) 60 years
- 3) 100 years
- 4) 50 years
- 5) 80 years

Answer- 3) 100 years

Explanation:

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Railways (**MoR**) has released a commemorative postage stamp to mark the **100 years** of the All India Railwaymen's Federation (**AIRF**) in an event held at Karnail Singh Railway Stadium in New Delhi, Delhi.

i. AIRF is one of the oldest and largest trade unions in India.

ii. AIRF was established on 24th April 1924, but was recognized by the Railway Board in 1929.

iii. It is one of the biggest affiliates to the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF).

4. In February 2024, the Geographical Indication(GI) Registry awarded the GI tag to 12 distinctive products, including Apatani Textile Product from _____(state).

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

Answer- 5) Arunachal Pradesh

Explanation:

Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)- based Geographical Indication (**GI**) Registry has awarded the GI tag to **12 distinctive products** from **Arunachal Pradesh** including Apatani Textile Product, Dao (broadsword), Adlay Millet, among others.

Note: With this, the **total number** of GI products from Arunachal Pradesh has **become 20**. [Click here to read more.](#)

5. Which of the following Ministries have recently (in Feb '24) launched a nationwide awareness campaign "Mera pehla vote desh ke liye"

- 1) Ministry of Education
- 2) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- 3) Ministry of Law and Justice
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 1 & 3

Answer- 4) Both 1 & 2

Explanation:

The Ministry of Education (**MoE**) and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (**MIB**) have jointly launched a nationwide awareness **campaign "Mera pehla vote desh ke liye** (my first vote for the country)" to encourage the first-time voters to participate in the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

- Union Minister Anurag Thakur, MIB & Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) launched a Campaign Anthem video to create awareness among first-time voters.
- Under this Campaign, various events will be organised in universities, colleges, and higher education institutions.

6. Which organisation/bank has recently (in March '24) partnered with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to organise a National Workshop on Logistics Efficiency Enhancement in New Delhi, Delhi?

- 1) United Nations Development Programme
- 2) International Monetary Fund
- 3) Asian Development Bank
- 4) World Bank
- 5) African Development Bank

Answer- 4) World Bank

Explanation:

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (**MoCI**), has partnered with the **World Bank** to organise a National Workshop on Logistics Efficiency Enhancement in New Delhi, Delhi.

i. The workshop brought together the logistics sector community to discuss and identify factors affecting logistics performance and areas of improvement.

7. Name the programme for Welfare of Animals that has recently (in March '24) launched by Anant Ambani, Director on the boards of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Reliance Foundation.

- 1) SAFI
- 2) Vantara
- 3) Dharamsala
- 4) Pragatti
- 5) Spaaak

Answer- 2) Vantara

Explanation:

Anant Ambani, Director on the boards of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Reliance Foundation, has launched an umbrella initiative called the '**Vantara**' (Star of the Forests) **programme** to rescue, treat, care for, and rehabilitate injured, abused, and threatened animals, in India and abroad.

i. The initiative is the first of its kind in India and it aims to construct the world's largest animal rescue and rehabilitation centre spanning about 3,000 acres within the Green Belt of Reliance's Jamnagar Refinery Complex in Gujarat.

8. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Union Cabinet approval on 29th February 2024?

A) The Union Cabinet approved the construction of three semiconductor units in India under the Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem with a total outlay of Rs 76,000 crores.

B) The Union cabinet has approved the PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana which aims to install rooftop solar panels in one crore households, with a total budget of Rs. 75,021 crore.

C) The Union Cabinet has approved an amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, to specify the royalty rate for 12 critical and strategic minerals.

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

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

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi has approved the following proposals on 29th February 2024

- The Union Cabinet approved the construction of **three semiconductor units** in India under the Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem with a **total outlay of Rs 76,000 crores** including the first semiconductor unit in the northeast(Assam).
- The Union cabinet has approved the **PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana** which aims to install rooftop solar panels in one crore households, with a total budget of Rs. 75,021 crore.
- The Union Cabinet has approved an amendment to the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957**, to specify the royalty rate for **12** critical and strategic minerals.

[Click here to read more](#)

9. Which of the following Initiatives have recently (in March '24) launched by the Union Minister of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME), Narayan Rane to promote women entrepreneurship in India?

- 1) Mentorship Platform
- 2) Panjikanan Se Pragati
- 3) Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) Unnati _ Udyamita se Pragati tak
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) All 1, 2 & 3

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

Explanation:

On 1st March 2024, Union Minister Narayan Rane, Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) launched **3 new Initiatives** to promote women entrepreneurship in India during the **9th Annual Shakti International Women Entrepreneurs Summit** held in New Delhi, Delhi.

i. The 3 new initiatives are,

- Panjikanan Se Pragati.
- Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) Unnati _ Udyamita se Pragati tak.
- Mentorship Platform.

ii. The “9th Shakti International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2024” is an annual Conference, aligning with International Women’s Day (8 March 2024). [Click here to read more](#)

10. In March 2024, Union Minister of Coal, Pralhad Joshi launched the “Coal Logistics Plan and Policy”.

The Coal Logistics Plan proposes a strategic shift towards a railway-based system in First Mile Connectivity (FMC) projects, aiming for a _____ reduction in rail logistic costs and an annual cost saving of Rs 21,000 Crore.

- 1) 25%
- 2) 16%
- 3) 14%
- 4) 20%
- 5) 10%

Answer- 3) 14%

Explanation:

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, Ministry of Coal, launched the “Coal Logistics Plan and Policy” in an event organized by the Indian National Committee World Mining Congress(INC/WMC) with the patronage of the Ministry of Coal in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi.

i. The plan proposes a strategic shift towards a railway-based system in First Mile Connectivity (FMC) projects. This will assist in reducing around 14% in rail logistic costs and an annual cost saving of Rs 21,000 crore.

ii. This will also minimize air pollution, reduce traffic congestion and reduce carbon emissions by around 100,000 tonnes per annum.

iii. This is also expected to result in a 10% saving in the average turnaround time of wagons across India.

11. Which organisation/company has recently (in March '24) partnered with the United States of America (USA) Consulate to launch the first-ever US-India Cyber Security Initiative?

- 1) InstaSafe Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
- 2) BluSapphire Cyber Systems Pvt Ltd
- 3) Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture
- 4) Arcon TechSolution
- 5) Techdefence Labs

Answer- 3) Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture

Explanation:

The United States of America (USA) Consulate and the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) have launched the **first-ever USA-India Cyber Security Initiative** to strengthen Information technology (IT) connections between the two countries.

- It also aims to bring together leading global cybersecurity experts to create jobs and develop innovative solutions.

i. The initiative develops a mentorship model in cyberspace and also encourages people-to-people ties in cyberspace.

12. In March 2024, Union Minister of Defence, Rajnath Singh launched _____ Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies.

- 1) Achieving
- 2) Acing

- 3) Attaining
- 4) Accomplishing
- 5) Assuring

Answer- **2) Acing**

Explanation:

On March 4, 2024, Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD), launched **Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme** to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies.

- The scheme was launched during the DefConnect 2024 held in New Delhi, Delhi.

i. The ADITI scheme falls under the iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) framework of Department of Defence Production (DDP), MoD.

- The scheme will provide start-ups with grant-in-aid of up to Rs 25 crore for research, development, and innovation in defence technology.
- **Budget: Rs 750 crore** has been allocated for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26.

13. According to the report “Status of Leopards in India” released by Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in March 2024, the leopard population in India has risen by _____ from 2018 to 2022.

- 1) 6%
- 2) 8%
- 3) 12%
- 4) 5%
- 5) 10%

Answer- **2) 8%**

Explanation:

According to the report “**Status of Leopards in India**” released by Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEF&CC**), estimated that the **leopards population in India** has risen by **8%** from 12,852 in 2018 to 13,874 in 2022.

- The leopard population increased at an annual growth rate of 1.08% from 2018 to 2022.
- Madhya Pradesh has 3907 leopards, the highest number of leopards in India, followed by Maharashtra (1985) and Karnataka (1,879) in the second and third, respectively.
- The fifth cycle leopard population estimation (2022) was carried out by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and Wildlife Institute of India (WII), in collaboration with State Forest Departments. [Click here to read more](#)

14. In March 2024, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi flagged off the first tanker ‘ _____’, carrying crude oil from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)’s KG-DWN-98/2 deepwater project.

- 1) Swarna Veera
- 2) Swarna Nidhi
- 3) Swarna Sindhu
- 4) Swarna Narmada
- 5) Swarna Mahi

Answer- **3) Swarna Sindhu**

Explanation:

Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** flagged off the **first tanker 'Swarna Sindhu'**, carrying crude oil from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation **(ONGC)**'s **KG-DWN-98/2** deepwater project.

- i. The project is located in the Krishna Godavari basin and is expected to add 7% to India's oil and gas production at its peak.
- ii. The Floating Production and Storage Offloading (FPSO) Armada Sterling V unit has been built and operated by Shapoorji Pallonji Energy Private Limited (SP Energy).

15. In March 2024, Pema Khandu, Chief Minister (CM) of Arunachal Pradesh, inaugurated Keyi Panyor as the _____ district of Arunachal Pradesh.

- 1) 19th
- 2) 26th
- 3) 23rd
- 4) 20th
- 5) 24th

Answer- **2) 26th**

Explanation:

On 1st March 2024, Pema Khandu, Chief Minister (CM) of Arunachal Pradesh, inaugurated **Keyi Panyor**, the **26th district** of Arunachal Pradesh.

- The new district, carved out of Lower Subansiri, will have its headquarters at Ter Gapin-Sam Sarth, strategically positioned for agricultural and horticultural development.

16. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Foundation Day of Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), observed on 1st March 2024?

- A) Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) celebrated its 22nd Foundation Day on 1st March 2024 under the theme "Energy Transition through Electrification and Decarbonization in India".**
- B) During the event, 5th edition of the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI 2023) was launched in which Karnataka leads overall in SEEI 2023 with a score of 86.5.**
- C) The Standards and Labeling (S&L) Program for Packaged Boilers and S&L program for Visi Cooler (Commercial Beverage Cooler) was launched during the event.**

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

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

Explanation:

Bureau of Energy Efficiency **(BEE)**, under the Ministry of Power, celebrated its **22nd Foundation Day** on **1st March 2024** under the **theme** "Energy Transition through Electrification and Decarbonization in India".

- The event marked the launch of the **5th edition** of the State Energy Efficiency Index **(SEEI 2023)** developed by BEE in collaboration with Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).
- **Karnataka** leads **overall** in **SEEI 2023** with a score of 86.5. It is the only state with an active Energy Conservation and Energy Efficiency Policy.

- The event witnessed the launch of Standards and Labeling (S&L) Program for Packaged Boilers and S&L program for Visi Cooler(Commercial Beverage Cooler). Both programs were launched under a voluntary phase, with validity till 31st December 2026. [Click here to read more](#)

17. In which city of Odisha, Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan has recently (in March '24) launched Project ODISERV?

- 1) Puri
- 2) Bhubaneswar
- 3) Sambalpur
- 4) Balasore
- 5) Baripada

Answer- **3) Sambalpur**

Explanation:

Union Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan**, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (**MSDE**), launched **Project ODISERV** at Gangadhar Meher University (GMU) in **Sambalpur**, Odisha, aiming to equip young graduates of Odisha for employment opportunities in the financial services sector.

i. The Project Odiserv is the inaugural skill development initiative by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Bajaj Finserv Ltd.

18. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Geographical Indication (GI) tags awarded to various states by the Geographical Indication Registry in March 2024?

A) The Geographical Indication Registry has awarded geographical indication (GI) tags to 10 distinct products from 8 states.

B) Narasapur crochet lace Products from Tamil Nadu got GI tag.

C) Ambaji White Marble and Kutch Rogan Craft from Gujarat got GI status.

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

Answer- **4) Only A & C**

Explanation:

The **Geographical Indication Registry** (Chennai, Tamil Nadu-TN) under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (**MoCI**), has awarded geographical indication (**GI**) tags to 10 distinct products from 8 states.

- Narasapur crochet lace Products is a unique design and good quality crochet craft made in Narasapur in the West Godavari region of Andhra Pradesh got GI tag.
- Ambaji White Marble and Kutch Rogan Craft from Gujarat got GI status. [Click here to read more](#)

19. Name the Ministry that has recently (in March '24) launched 'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi', an online digital platform of the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA).

- 1) Ministry of Finance
- 2) Ministry of Rural Development
- 3) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

4) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

5) Ministry of Science and Technology

Answer- **3) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**

Explanation:

Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (**MoCAF&PD**), launched '**e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi**', an online digital platform of the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (**WDRA**) to facilitate post-harvest financing for farmers.

i. The platform enables farmers to secure collateral-free loans from the banks against their farm produce stored in the WDRA-registered warehouse.

ii. It was developed collaboratively by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, the Department of Financial Services, and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

20. Name the Minister who has recently (in March '24) launched 25 new courses under Dak Karmayog project.

1) Amit Shah (Union Minister of Home Affairs)

2) Annpurna Devi (Minister of State of Education)

3) Giriraj Singh (Union Minister of Rural Development)

4) Kapil Moreshwar Patil (Minister of State of Panchayati Raj)

5) Devusinh Chauhan (Minister of State of Communications)

Answer- **5) Devusinh Chauhan (Minister of State of Communications)**

Explanation:

On 5th March 2024, Union Minister of State (**MoS**) **Devusinh Chauhan**, Ministry of Communications (**MoC**) participated in the event organised to mark the completion of the **2nd Phase of Dak Karmayogi project**, an e-learning platform to enhance the competencies of Gramin Dak Sevaks and Postal Department employees.

i. Union MoS also launched 25 new courses under Dak Karmayogi during the event held in New Delhi, Delhi.

ii. He also launched a Special Cover commemorating the successful journey of the Dak Karmayogi Project.

21. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the recent inauguration in Madhya Pradesh made by the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi in February 2024?

A) PM Narendra Modi addressed the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Madhya Pradesh' program & Inaugurated Multiple Development Projects and Program worth Rs 17,000 crore in Madhya Pradesh.

B) PM launched the Cyber Tehsil Project in Madhya Pradesh (MP) to improve the delivery of government services.

C) PM Modi virtually inaugurated the world's first 'Vikramaditya Vedic clock' at Jantar-Mantar in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.

1) Only A

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

The Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi addressed the **'Viksit Bharat Viksit Madhya Pradesh'** program via video conferencing, during which he laid the foundation stone and dedicated multiple development projects worth approximately **Rs 17,000 crores** across **Madhya Pradesh** on February 29, 2024.

i. PM launched the **Cyber Tehsil Project in Madhya Pradesh (MP)** to improve the delivery of government services. It will be implemented across all 55 districts of the MP.

ii. PM Modi virtually inaugurated the **world's first 'Vikramaditya Vedic clock'** at Jantar-Mantar in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh which aims to reintroduce the ancient Indian system of timekeeping to the modern world. [Click here to read more](#)

22. In which state, Union Minister of Steel, Jyotiraditya Scindia has recently (in March '24) inaugurated India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant in the Stainless Steel Sector?

- 1) Gujarat
- 2) Maharashtra
- 3) Haryana
- 4) Rajasthan
- 5) Odisha

Answer- **3) Haryana**

Explanation:

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, **Ministry of Steel**, virtually inaugurated **India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant** in the Stainless Steel Sector at Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL) in Hisar, **Haryana**.

i. The Green Hydrogen plant has been set up by JSL in association with Hygenco Green Energies Private Limited.

ii. This plant will be the world's 1st off-grid Green Hydrogen plant for the stainless steel industry and the world's 1st Green Hydrogen plant with rooftop and floating solar.

23. Name the Secretary of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) who has recently (in Feb '24) co-chaired the first edition of 'Blue Talks' meeting, held in New Delhi, Delhi.

- 1) Sachin Shinde
- 2) Vishvajit Sahay
- 3) R Ramesh
- 4) Komjum Riba
- 5) M. Ravichandran

Answer- **5) M. Ravichandran**

Explanation:

The **first edition** of **'Blue Talks' meeting** was held in New Delhi, Delhi on 29th February 2024. The meeting hosted by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (**MoES**) was co-partnered by the Embassy of France and Embassy of Costa Rica in India.

- The meeting was jointly **co-chaired** by the Secretary, MoES Dr. **M. Ravichandran**; Ambassador of France to India, Thierry Mathou, and Costa Rica Chargée d'affaires, Sofia Salas Monge.
- Discussions were held on matters related to 'Ocean Health and Governance'.

24. In March 2024, Farmers' enrollment under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) increased by _____ in the financial year 2023-24 (FY24).

- 1) 12%
- 2) 30%
- 3) 25%
- 4) 27%
- 5) 15%

Answer- **4) 27%**

Explanation:

Farmers' enrollment under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (**PMFBY**) has **increased** by **27%** in the financial year 2023-24 (**FY24**). So far, around 56.80 crore farmers have enrolled under PMFBY and more than 23.22 crore farmers have received claims.

- The application count has witnessed a growth of 33.4% and 41% year-on-year during 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively.

25. In March 2024, the Central Government notified rules related to possessing and breeding of exotic wild animals in captivity.

These rules are framed under _____ (Section) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, _____(year).

- 1) Section 49M; 1986
- 2) Section 32B; 1981
- 3) Section 49M; 1972
- 4) Section 32B; 1986
- 5) Section 50A; 1981

Answer- **3) Section 49M; 1972**

Explanation:

The Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (jv) of sub-section (1) of Section 63 of the Wild Life (Protection) **Act, 1972** (53 of 1972), unveiled Living Animal Species (Reporting and Registration) Rules, 2024.

i. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (53 of 1972), serves as the legal framework for safeguarding wild animal species, managing their habitats, and regulating trade in their products. Last amended in 2022, the Wild life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022, became effective on April 1, 2023.

ii. Section 49 M mandates the registration of possession, transfer, and birth, as well as reporting deaths, of living scheduled animal species listed in the Appendices of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and Schedule IV of the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.

26. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Bharat Tex 2024, the world’s biggest textile event held in February 2024?

A) Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated Bharat Tex 2024, the world’s biggest textile event held at the Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, Delhi.

B) During the event, Indian Institute of Management(IIM), Jammu and Kashmir(J&K) signed a MoU with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Srinagar, J&K to foster entrepreneurship and innovation in J&K.

C) Textiles Committee, Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), signed MoU to promote upcycled Products Made From Scrap.

1) All A, B & C

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) Only A

Answer- 1) All A, B & C

Explanation:

Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated **Bharat Tex 2024**, the world’s biggest textile event held from 26th to 29th February 2024 at the Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, Delhi.

- **Organisers:** Bharat Tex 2024 was organised by a consortium of 11 Textile Export Promotion Councils and supported by the Ministry of Textiles.

i. Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir(J&K) signed a MoU with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Srinagar, J&K to foster entrepreneurship and innovation in J&K.

ii. Textiles Committee, under the Ministry of Textiles, Government e-Marketplace (**GeM**), Ministry of Commerce and Industry(MoCI), and Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (**SCOPE**), Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Finance, have signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote the upcycled products made from textiles waste and scrap. [Click here to read more](#)

27. In March 2024, Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri virtually inaugurated 201 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Stations and India’s 1st Small Scale Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Unit of GAIL (India) Limited in _____ (state).

1) Gujarat

2) Madhya Pradesh

3) Maharashtra

4) Odisha

5) Punjab

Answer- 2) Madhya Pradesh

Explanation:

Union Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri**, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoP&NG) virtually inaugurated **201 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Stations** and **India’s 1st Small Scale Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Unit of GAIL (India) Limited.**

i. The 201 CNG stations were set up by 15 City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities of the GAIL group in 52 Geographical Areas (Gas) across 17 states.

ii. The LNG unit was set up by GAIL at its Vijaipur Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) plant in Vijaipur, **Madhya Pradesh (MP)**. The unit was set up at the project cost of 150 crores.

28. In March 2024, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA) notified that the provisions of sections 20, 35 & 40 of the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2023 will come into force with effect from 6th March 2024.

The amendments allows the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to impose a penalty of up to _____ on the global turnover of companies involved in anti-competitive practices.

- 1) 30%
- 2) 50%
- 3) 10%
- 4) 20%
- 5) 40%

Answer- 1) 30%

Explanation:

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (**MoCA**) notified that the provisions of **sections 20, 35 & 40 of the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2023** will come into force with effect from **6th March 2024**.

- The notification was issued in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2023 (9 of 2023).

i. The amendments allows the Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) to impose a penalty on the global turnover of a company for engaging in activities that distort competition.

- This global turnover includes turnover from all products and services, not just from the product being investigated.

ii. The CCI can impose a penalty of up to **30%** on the **global turnover** of companies involved in anti-competitive practices.

29. Which state government has recently (in March '24) launched the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA) program to empower young entrepreneurs?

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

Answer- 2) Uttar Pradesh

Explanation:

Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister (CM) of **Uttar Pradesh (UP)**, has launched the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (**MYUVA**) program to **empower young entrepreneurs** in UP and promote a culture of innovation and enterprise.

i. The **MYUVA program** is designed to empower educated and skilled youth across UP and to facilitate self employment opportunities and foster the establishment of new Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**).

ii. Objective: To offer support and resources to young entrepreneurs to kickstart their entrepreneurial ventures.

30. Which of the following points is “Incorrect” with respect to the cabinet approval on 7th March 2024?

- 1) Cabinet approved the extension of the targeted subsidy of Rs 200 per 10.1 kg cylinder to the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujala Yojana (PMUY) for Financial year 2024-2025 (FY25).
- 2) The Union Cabinet has approved an ambitious IndiaAI mission to strengthen the Artificial intelligence (AI) innovation ecosystem, allocated the budget outlay of Rs 10,371.92 crore.
- 3) The Union Cabinet has approved the Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization (UNNATI) Scheme, 2024 for a period of 10 years.
- 4) Cabinet approves the increase of 4 % Dearness Allowance (DA) of Central Government Employees and Dearness Relief of Pensioners with effect from 1st January, 2024.
- 5) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a hike in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of raw jute for the 2024-25 season to Rs 5,335 per quintal.

Answer- 1) Cabinet approved the extension of the targeted subsidy of Rs 200 per 10.1 kg cylinder to the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujala Yojana (PMUY) for Financial year 2024-2025 (FY25).

Explanation:

Cabinet Committee headed by Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** approved the following proposals and schemes on March 7, 2024:

- Cabinet approved the extension of the targeted subsidy of **Rs 300** per 14.2 kg cylinder to the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana **(PMUY)** for Financial year 2024-2025 **(FY25)**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved an ambitious **IndiaAI mission** to strengthen the Artificial intelligence (AI) innovation ecosystem. It has allocated the budget outlay of Rs 10,371.92 crore.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization **(UNNATI) Scheme, 2024** for a period of **10 years** from the date of notification along with 8 years for committed liabilities at a total cost of Rs 10,037 crore.
- Cabinet approves the **increase** of **4 %** Dearness Allowance (DA) of Central Government Employees and Dearness Relief of Pensioners with effect from 1st January, 2024.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a hike in the Minimum Support Price **(MSP)** of raw jute for the 2024-25 season to **Rs 5,335 per quintal**. [Click here to read more](#)

31. In March 2024, Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC), a civic body of Gujarat, raised Rs _____ by issuing Asia’s first certified green municipal bond for Sustainable Water Infrastructure.

- 1) 300 crore
- 2) 100 crore
- 3) 200 crore
- 4) 400 crore
- 5) 500 crore

Answer- 2) 100 crore

Explanation:

Vadodara Municipal Corporation **(VMC)**, a civic body of Gujarat, has raised **Rs 100 crore** (USD 12.07 million) by issuing Asia’s first certified green municipal bond for Sustainable Water Infrastructure.

i. VMC, with a semi-annual coupon rate of 7.90% on the issue, invited bids from investors, setting a new standard in green finance.

32. As of March 2024, Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Agra Metro Rail Project?

A) Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the Agra Metro’s priority corridor (from Taj East Gate to Mankameshwar) in Agra, Uttar Pradesh (UP), the 6th Metro project in UP.

B) The Agra Metro project encompasses two corridors totaling 29.4 km (~30 km), linking Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, and Sikandra with railway stations and bus terminals with the total expenditure of the projects amounts to Rs 8,379.6 crore.

C) The Agra Metro Rail Project backed by a EUR 200 million loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB) covers the construction of 2 interconnected urban metro rail lines.

1) Only A

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) All A, B & C

Answer- 2) Only A & B

Explanation:

On 6th March 2024, during his visit to West Bengal, Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** virtually inaugurated the **Agra Metro’s priority corridor** (from Taj East Gate to Mankameshwar) in Agra, Uttar Pradesh **(UP)**.

- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister (CM) of UP, flagged off the Agra Metro from Taj Mahal Metro Station, Agra, UP. This is the **6th Metro project** in UP.

i. The Agra Metro project encompasses **two corridors** totaling 29.4 km (~30 km), linking Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, and Sikandra with railway stations and bus terminals. The total expenditure of the projects amounts to Rs 8,379.6 crore

ii. The Agra Metro Rail Project backed by **EUR 450 million loan** from the European Investment Bank (EIB) covers the construction of 2 interconnected urban metro rail lines, spanning 30 kilometers long, and a network of 27 strategically located stations in Agra, UP. [Click here to read more](#)

33. Which state government has recently (in March ‘24) launched India’s first government-owned OTT (over-the-top) platform, ‘CSpace’?

1) Madhya Pradesh

2) Maharashtra

3) Kerala

4) Gujarat

5) Odisha

Answer- 3) Kerala

Explanation:

Kerala Chief Minister (CM) Pinarayi Vijayan has launched **India’s first government-owned OTT** (over-the-top) platform, ‘**CSpace**’, at an event held at the Kairali Theatre in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

i. CSpace is managed by Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC), a state-owned company responsible for the promotion of the Malayalam cinema industry on behalf of the Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Kerala.

34. As of March 2024, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) has _____ percent of women personnel, among Central Paramilitary Forces (CPF) in India.

- 1) 6%
- 2) 9%
- 3) 12%
- 4) 14%
- 5) 8%

Answer- **2) 9%**

Explanation:

The Railway Protection Force (**RPF**), established in 1957 under the Ministry of Railways (MoR), has the **largest share of women personnel (9%)** among Central Paramilitary Forces (CPF) in India.

i. These women personnel are specially trained to ensure safety and provide assistance to female passengers in distress.

ii. The measures taken by RPF for women personnel includes Infrastructure Developments (designed for the special needs of women officers) and Nomination of Female Nodal Officers at all Zones/Units for the redressal of grievances of Female personnel.

35. Which Institute has recently (in March '24) signed an Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Central Water Commission (CWC), Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) to establish an International Centre of Excellence for Dams (ICED)?

- 1) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras
- 2) Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore
- 3) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur
- 4) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee
- 5) Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune

Answer- **2) Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore**

Explanation:

Central Water Commission (**CWC**) under the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti (**MoJS**) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (**MoA**) with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore (Bengaluru), Karnataka to establish an International Centre of Excellence for Dams (ICED).

i. The Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS) under MoJS launched the Swachhata Green Leaf Rating (SGLR) program, to transform sanitation standards in India's tourism sector.

36. In March 2024, Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved funds worth Rs _____ for an indigenous fifth-generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) fighter jet project for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

- 1) 15,000 crore
- 2) 10,000 crore
- 3) 12,000 crore
- 4) 20,000 crore
- 5) 25,000 crore

Answer- 1) 15,000 crore

Explanation:

Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, has approved funds worth **Rs 15,000 crore** for an indigenous **fifth-generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) fighter jet** project for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

i. The AMCA project aims to develop five prototypes of AMCA over the next five years (before 2030) with the first prototype of AMCA expected to roll out in 2026.

ii. These aircraft will be built by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) consisting of

- Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- a private sector partner chosen by a selection process

37. Name the union minister who has recently (in March '24) launched NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)'s 'NITI For States' platform.

- 1) Amit Shah (Union Minister of Home Affairs)
- 2) Dharmendra Pradhan (Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship)
- 3) Giriraj Singh (Union Minister of Rural Development)
- 4) Ashwini Vaishnaw (Union Minister of Communications)
- 5) Virendra Kumar (Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment)

Answer- 4) Ashwini Vaishnaw (Union Minister of Communications)

Explanation:

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Communications, **NITI Aayog** (National Institution for Transforming India)'s **'NITI For States' platform** which will serve as a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) platform for policy and good governance.

- He inaugurated the 'NITI For States - Viksit Bharat Strategy Room' at NITI Aayog in New Delhi, Delhi.
- He also inaugurated the 'NITI for States' Exhibition at Rang Bhawan, Akashvani, New Delhi.

[Click here to read more](#)

38. In which Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan has recently (in March '24) inaugurated 'I-Hub Foundation'?

- 1) IIM Indore
- 2) IIM Sambalpur
- 3) IIM Ahmedabad
- 4) IIM Calcutta
- 5) IIM Lucknow

Answer- **2) IIM Sambalpur**

Explanation:

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Education (MoE), has inaugurated '**I-Hub Foundation**' during the 100 Cube Startup Conclave held at Indian Institute of Management (IIM) **Sambalpur** in Odisha on 1st March 2024.

i. During the conclave, IIM Sambalpur signed a MoU with IG Drones, India's premier Drone Tech and Analytics company to collaborate on cutting-edge applications of drone technology, specifically focusing on areas such as Business Analytics, Management Strategies, and Public Policy.

- Under this MoU, IG Drones will launch the first ever drone centre of excellence (CoE) at Delhi Campus of IIM Sambalpur. [Click here to read more](#)

39. In March 2024, India and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) signed a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) committing an investment of USD _____ over 15 years.

- 1) 300 billion
- 2) 500 billion
- 3) 200 billion
- 4) 400 billion
- 5) 100 billion

Answer- **5) 100 billion**

Explanation:

On 10th March 2024, **India** and European Free Trade Association (**EFTA**), signed a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (**TEPA**) committing an investment of **USD 100 billion** over **15 years**.

- Under the TEPA, EFTA commits to promote investments to increase the stock of foreign direct investments (FDI) in India.
- This will also facilitate the creation of 1 million direct employment in India.

40. In March 2024, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA-2019).

The rules to fast-track the citizenship process for non-Muslims, immigrants such as Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis, and Christians from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, who had entered India before December 31, _____.

- 1) 2011
- 2) 2015
- 3) 2010
- 4) 2014
- 5) 2012

Answer- **4) 2014**

Explanation:

On March 11, 2024, the Ministry of Home Affairs (**MHA**) notified the rules under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA-2019).

- These rules, called the **Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024** to **fast-track** the citizenship process for non-Muslims, immigrants such as Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis, and

Christians from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, who had entered India before December 31, **2014**.

- The rules were notified over four years after Parliament passed this law on December 11, 2019 amending the Citizenship Act of 1955.
- These rules will enable the persons eligible under CAA-2019 to apply for grant of Indian citizenship.

41. In March 2024, Bichom was inaugurated as _____ District of Arunachal Pradesh.

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

Answer- **4) 27th**

Explanation:

On 8th March 2024, Pema Khandu, Chief Minister (CM) of Arunachal Pradesh, inaugurated **Bichom**, the **27th district** of **Arunachal Pradesh** and laid the foundation of its headquarters at Napangphung.

- The new district Bichom was carved out of West Kameng and East Kameng districts.

42. In March 2024, the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) announced the Revamped Pharmaceuticals Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (RPTUAS) to enhance the technological capabilities of the Pharma Industry.

Eligibility for the PTUAS has been expanded beyond MSMEs to include pharmaceutical manufacturing units with a turnover of less than Rs _____ that requires technology and quality upgradation.

- 1) 400 crores
- 2) 200 crores
- 3) 500 crores
- 4) 100 crores
- 5) 300 crores

Answer- **3) 500 crores**

Explanation:

The Department of Pharmaceuticals (**DoP**), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, has announced the Revamped Pharmaceuticals Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (**RPTUAS**) to enhance the technological capabilities of the pharmaceutical industry, aligning it with global standards.

i. Eligibility: Eligibility for the PTUAS has been expanded beyond Micro, Small, and Medium

Enterprises (**MSMEs**) to include pharmaceutical manufacturing units with a turnover of less than **Rs 500 crores** that requires technology and quality upgradation.

- MSMEs are prioritised, supporting smaller players in achieving high-quality manufacturing standards.

43. Name the Union Minister who has recently (in March' 24) inaugurated a credit assistance program of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs).

- 1) Mansukh Mandaviya (Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers)
- 2) Nirmala Sitharaman (Union Minister of Finance)
- 3) Giriraj Singh (Union Minister of Rural Development)
- 4) Narayan Tatu Rane (Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises)
- 5) Hardeep Singh Puri (Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs)

Answer- 1) Mansukh Mandaviya (Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers)

Explanation:

On 12th March 2024, Union Minister, Dr **Mansukh Mandaviya**, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (**MoC&F**), inaugurated a credit assistance program of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**) for Jan Aushadhi Kendras (**JAKs**) during the event held in New Delhi, Delhi.

i. He also presided over the exchange of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SIDBI and Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) to offer term loan and working capital credit to JAKs.

ii. He also launched the website for credit assistance to Jan Aushadhi Kendras. [Click here to read more](#)

44. In March 2024, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a Rs _____ Deal with Big Bang Boom Solutions Private Limited (BBBS) Under the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative for Anti-drone Systems to Indian Army & Indian Air Force (IAF).

- 1) 400 crore
- 2) 150 crore
- 3) 350 crore
- 4) 200 crore
- 5) 300 crore

Answer- 4) 200 crore

Explanation:

The Ministry of Defence (**MoD**) signed a **Rs 200 crore contract** for anti-drone systems for the **Indian Army** and Indian Air Force (**IAF**) with Chennai (Tamil Nadu)-based Big Bang Boom Solutions Private Limited (**BBBS**), India's fastest-growing defence sector start-up.

i. This marks the largest contract signed by the MoD under the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative and one of the largest contracts signed with an Indian startup.

45. Which state government has recently (in March '24) signed a letter of Intent with the World Economic Forum (WEF) to establish India's sole Centre for Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

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

Answer- 1) Karnataka

Explanation:

The State Government of **Karnataka** has signed a Letter of Intent with World Economic Forum (**WEF**) to establish India's sole Centre for Artificial Intelligence (**AI**) in Karnataka.

i. This center will be a part of the WEF Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) Network, aiming to govern inclusive technology and foster digital transformation.

46. In March 2024, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) launched a National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for children from 3 to _____ years & a National Framework for Early Childhood Stimulation for children from birth to 3 years.

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

Answer- 2) 6

Explanation:

The Ministry of Women and Child Development (**MoWCD**) launched a National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education (**ECCE**) for children from **3 to 6 years** and a **National Framework for Early Childhood Stimulation for children** from birth to **3 years**.

i. The National Curriculum for ECCE 2024 aims to improve the quality of ECCE transacted at the Anganwadi Centre through competency-based lesson plans and activities.

ii. National Framework for Early Childhood Stimulation 2024 empowers caregivers and Anganwadi Workers for holistic early stimulation. [Click here to read more](#)

47. According to Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance data released in March 2024, the 1 Year Time Deposit scheme has remained unchanged with the interest rate of _____ for first quarter of 2024-2025 (Q1FY25).

- 1) 7.0%
- 2) 6.8%
- 3) 6.6%
- 4) 6.9%
- 5) 6.7%

Answer- 4) 6.9%

Explanation:

The Department of Economic Affairs (DEA-Budget Division), Ministry of Finance has kept the interest rate on small savings schemes **unchanged** for first quarter of 2024-2025(Q1FY25) i.e. from April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024 from those notified for Q4FY24.

- The **1-Year Post Office Time Deposits** scheme will attract an interest rate of **6.9%**. [Click here to read Interest Rates on Small Savings Schemes for Q1FY25.](#)

48. Which state government has recently (in March '24) renamed the Curry Road railway station as Lalbaug?

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

Answer- **3) Maharashtra**

Explanation:

The **Maharashtra** Cabinet, headed by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, approved the **renaming** of the **eight railway stations** in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

i. The following is the new names for the stations: **Curry Road as Lalbaug**, Sandhurst Road as Dongri, Marine Lines as Mumbadevi, Cotton Green as Kalachowki, Charni Road as Girgaon, Dockyard Road as Mazgaon, and King Circle as Tirthakar Parshivnath.

ii. The cabinet also sent a proposal to the Railways Ministry to rename Mumbai Central Station as Nana Jagannath Shankarsheth Station.

49. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the cabinet approval on 13th March 2024?

A) The Union Cabinet Chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved two new Delhi Metro corridors connecting Lajpat Nagar to G Block in Saket and Inderlok to Indraprastha Costing Rs 8,399 crore.

B) The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of the MoU between India and Bhutan on extending cooperation in the fields of energy efficiency and energy conservation measures.

C) The Union Cabinet approved the signing of the MoU between the Government of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan on the General Supply of Petroleum, Oil, Lubricants (POL) and related products from India to Bhutan.

1) Only A

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

The **Union Cabinet** chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved the following proposals on 13th March 2024:

i. The Union Cabinet Chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved **two new Delhi Metro corridors** connecting Lajpat Nagar to G Block in Saket and Inderlok to Indraprastha Costing Rs 8,399 crore.

ii. The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) between **India and Bhutan** on extending cooperation in the fields of energy efficiency and energy conservation measures.

- It was signed between the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Government of India, and Department of Energy, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Royal Government of Bhutan.

iii. The Union Cabinet approved the signing of the **MoU** between the Government of **India** and the **Royal Government of Bhutan** on the General Supply of Petroleum, Oil, Lubricants (POL) and related products from India to Bhutan.

50. In March 2024, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan evam Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' (PM-SURAJ) national portal to disadvantaged communities by the _____ (Ministry).

- 1) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- 2) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- 3) Ministry of Home Affairs
- 4) Ministry of Rural Development
- 5) Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Answer- 1) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Explanation:

On 13th March 2024, Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** virtually launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan evam Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' **(PM-SURAJ) national portal**, aimed at uplifting the most marginalised sections of society, and sanctioned credit assistance for 1 lakh entrepreneurs from socially disadvantaged sections.

- The portal was launched during a nationwide outreach program for credit support to disadvantaged communities by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE)** in New Delhi, Delhi.

i. Ayushman health cards and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits were distributed by the MoSJE to sewer and septic tank workers (Safai Mitras) under the National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme.

51. In which city, Union Minister of State (MoS) for Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh has inaugurated the first-of-its-kind "National Speed Breeding Crop Facility" in March 2024?

- 1) Mohali, Punjab
- 2) Dibrugarh, Assam
- 3) Roorkee, Uttarakhand
- 4) Rourkela, Odisha
- 5) Asansol, West Bengal

Answer- 1) Mohali, Punjab

Explanation:

Dr. **Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, inaugurated the first-of-its-kind "**National Speed Breeding Crop Facility**", at the National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute **(NABI) Mohali, Punjab**.

- This facility is aligned with the Government of India's (GoI) vision to double farmers' income, ensure economic empowerment, and foster Agri-StartUps.
- This will enable the farmers to enhance both the quality and quantity of their crops through this facility.

52. In March 2024, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) officially designated _____ of every year as Hyderabad Liberation Day.

- 1) 16th August
- 2) 17th September
- 3) 15th May
- 4) 17th March
- 5) 15th June

Answer- 2) 17th September

Explanation:

On 12th March 2024, the Ministry of Home Affairs (**MoHA**), Government of India (GoI), issued a gazette notification, officially designating **September 17** of every year as **Hyderabad Liberation Day**.

- The Day marks the integration of the erstwhile princely State of Hyderabad into the Indian Union in 1948.

Note: Hyderabad remained under the rule of Mir Osman Ali Khan, Nizam of Hyderabad, for 13 months post-independence on 15th August 1947.

53. In March 2024, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has inaugurated Just Udo Aviation Private Limited (Fly91), a regional airline and flagged off its maiden flight between _____ (Airport) and Agatti Islands, Lakshadweep.

- 1) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (Telangana)
- 2) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (Maharashtra)
- 3) Indira Gandhi International Airport (Delhi)
- 4) Manohar International Airport (Goa)
- 5) Kempegowda International Airport (Karnataka)

Answer- 4) Manohar International Airport (Goa)

Explanation:

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has inaugurated Just Udo Aviation Private Limited (**Fly91**), Ribandar (Goa) based **regional airline** and **flagged** off its maiden flight between Manohar International Airport (**MOPA**), **Goa** and Agatti Islands, **Lakshadweep**.

i. FLY91 is a regional carrier that strives to enhance air connectivity from tier 2 and tier 3 towns across India.

54. In March 2024, the Government of India(GoI) approved the _____ prefix on vehicle registration number plates in Telangana by replacing the 'TS' prefix.

- 1) TA
- 2) TL
- 3) TE
- 4) TG
- 5) TT

Answer- 4) TG

Explanation:

On 12th March 2024, the Government of India(GoI) approved the **'TG' prefix** on vehicle registration number plates in **Telangana** by replacing the 'TS' prefix.

i. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (**MoRTH**) also issued a gazette notification effective immediately.

ii. The approval was granted in the exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (6) of section 41 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (59 of 1988).

55. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the visit of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi to Gujarat in March 2024?

A) PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of several development projects worth over Rs 1,06,000 crore at Dedicated Freight Corridor’s Operation Control Centre(OCC) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

B) PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Petrochemicals Complex of Petronet Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) worth more than Rs 20, 000 crore was laid by the PM at Dahej, Gujarat.

C) PM Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated India’s 1st automobile in-plant railway siding project of Maruti Suzuki from Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

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

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

Explanation:

Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** visited **Gujarat** on 12th March, 2024. During his visit, PM inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development projects in Gujarat.

- Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** dedicated the nation and laid foundation stone of several development projects worth over **Rs 1,06,000 crore** at Dedicated Freight Corridor’s Operation Control Centre(OCC) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 12th March, 2024.
- PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Petrochemicals Complex of Petronet **LNG(Liquefied Natural Gas)** worth more than Rs 20, 000 crore at **Dahej, Gujarat**.
- PM Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated **India’s 1st automobile in-plant railway siding** project of Maruti Suzuki on 12th March, 2024 from Ahmedabad, Gujarat. It is located at Hansalpur, Mehsana district of Gujarat. [Click here to read more](#)

56. Name the personality who has recently (in March ‘24) launched the revamped website of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) & handed over MoUs under the Adopt a Heritage 2.0.

- 1) Amit Shah (Union Minister of Home Affairs)
- 2) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar (Union Minister of External Affairs)
- 3) Meenakshi Lekhi (Union Ministers of State of Culture)
- 4) G. Kishan Reddy (Union Minister of Tourism)
- 5) Ajay Bhatt (Union Ministers of State of Tourism)

Answer- **3) Meenakshi Lekhi (Union Ministers of State of Culture)**

Explanation:

Union Ministers of State (MoS) **Meenakshi Lekhi**, the Ministry of **Culture** (MoC), has launched the revamped website of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) (<https://asi.nic.in>) at the National Museum in New Delhi, Delhi.

- She also handed over the Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for Monuments Adoption under the Adopt a Heritage 2.0 to the representatives of the Corporate-Houses.
- ASI has MoUs with the corporates for Monuments Adoption under the ‘Adopt a Heritage 2.0’ programme.

57. Which company has recently (in March '24) signed contracts worth Rs 8073.17 crore with Ministry of Defence (MoD) to acquire the 34 Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Dhruv Mk III for Indian Army and Indian Coast Guard?

- 1) Bharat Electronics Limited
- 2) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- 3) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- 4) Bharat Dynamics Limited
- 5) Defence Research and Development Organisation

Answer- 2) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

Explanation:

On 13th March 2024, The Ministry of Defence (**MoD**) has signed contracts worth **Rs 8073.17 crore** with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (**HAL**) for the acquisition of 34 Advanced Light Helicopters (**ALH**) **Dhruv Mk III** equipped with Operational Role Equipment for Indian Army/IA (25 ALHs) and Indian Coast Guard/ICG (9 ALHs).

- This acquisition is under the Buy (Indian-IDDM – Indigenously Designed, Developed & Manufactured) category.

i. MoD also signed a contract with Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL) to procure 693 Armament Upgrades of Infantry Combat Vehicle BMP2 to BMP2M.

58. In March 2024, the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) approved a new E-Vehicle (Electric-Vehicle) scheme to promote the manufacturing of electric passenger cars in India.

Under the scheme, the automobile company should set up manufacturing facilities in India with a minimum investment of Rs. _____, for manufacturing of e-4W(Electric four-wheelers).

- 1) 4440 crore
- 2) 3220 crore
- 3) 3120 crore
- 4) 4150 crore
- 5) 2710 crore

Answer- 4) 4150 crore

Explanation:

The Ministry of Heavy Industries (**MHI**), Government of India (GoI) has approved a new **E-Vehicle (Electric-Vehicle) scheme** to promote the manufacturing of electric passenger cars in India.

i. Under the scheme, the automobile company should set up manufacturing facilities in India with a minimum investment of **Rs. 4,150 crore** (USD 500 million), for manufacturing of **e-4W**(Electric four-wheelers).

ii. Under the new scheme, foreign automobile companies will be allowed to import up to 8,000 EV passenger cars (e-4W) every year at a reduced import duty of 15% for a period of 5 years from approval of MHI, if they are subject to conditions of the scheme.

59. In March 2024, Government of India approved the transfer of the Air India building from AI Assets Holding Company Ltd (AIAHL) to the _____ (state Government) for a cash consideration of Rs 1,601 crore.

- 1) Government of Madhya Pradesh
- 2) Government of West Bengal

- 3) Government of Maharashtra
- 4) Government of Gujarat
- 5) Government of Uttar Pradesh

Answer- **3) Government of Maharashtra**

Explanation:

Government of India has approved the transfer of the **Air India building** at Nariman Point in Mumbai (Maharashtra) from AI Assets Holding Company Ltd (**AIAHL**) to the Government of Maharashtra (**GoM**) for a cash consideration of **Rs 1,601 crore**.

i. The Maharashtra govt has agreed to waive Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) dues amounting to Rs 298.42 crore. This would have been payable by AI Assets Holding Company Ltd to GoM.

60. Which company has recently (in March '24) signed a Rs. 847 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to supply 14 cutting-edge Communication and Electronic Warfare (EW) sensors and systems?

- 1) Mahindra Aerospace Limited
- 2) Larsen & Toubro Limited
- 3) Tata Advanced Systems Limited
- 4) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- 5) Lockheed Martin Corporation

Answer- **2) Larsen & Toubro Limited**

Explanation:

Bharat Electronics Limited (**BEL**), Navratna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has secured orders totalling **Rs 1940.35 crore**.

- With this, BEL has secured cumulative orders worth Rs 32,716.33 crore in the fiscal year 2023-2024 (FY24).

i. BEL has bagged a **Rs 847 Crore contract** with Larsen & Toubro (**L&T**) to supply 14 cutting-edge Communication and Electronic Warfare (EW) sensors and systems.

ii. BEL has secured Rs 1,092.65 Crore worth orders which encompasses, supply of Line Replaceable Units (LRUs) for T-70 & T-90 Tanks, Communication Systems for the Indian Navy, as well as other Spares and Services.

61. In March 2024, The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) launched a National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (NAP-SE) to reduce snakebite deaths by halve by _____ (year).

- 1) 2030
- 2) 2028
- 3) 2027
- 4) 2035
- 5) 2029

Answer- **1) 2030**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**) launched a National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (NAP-SE) during a ceremony in New Delhi, Delhi envisaging a reduction in snakebite deaths by halve by **2030**.

- It was launched by Apurva Chandra, Secretary, MoHFW.

i. A Snakebite Helpline no (15400) for immediate assistance, guidance, and support to individuals and communities affected by snake bite incidents is piloted in five States viz. Puducherry, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Assam, Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Delhi. [Click here to read more](#)

62. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Uniform Code for Pharmaceuticals Marketing Practices (UCPMP) 2024 notified in March 2024?

A) The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoCF), notified UCPMP 2024 to curb unethical pharmaceutical sector practices.

B) It prohibits pharmaceutical companies from offering gifts and travel facilities to healthcare professionals or their family members.

C) It also bans supply of free samples to those who are not qualified to prescribe such a product.

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

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

Explanation:

On March 12, 2024, the **Department of Pharmaceuticals**, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoCF), notified Uniform Code for Pharmaceuticals Marketing Practices (**UCPMP) 2024** to curb **unethical pharmaceutical sector practices**.

- It prohibits pharmaceutical companies from offering gifts and travel facilities to healthcare professionals or their family members.
- It also **bans supply of free samples** to those who are not qualified to prescribe such a product. UCPMP-2024 will be applicable to medical device manufacturers too.
- The previous version was notified in December 2014.

i. All associations are requested to constitute an Ethics Committee for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (ECPMP), set up a dedicated UCPMP portal on their website, and take necessary steps towards implementation of this Code.

63. Name the first independent headquarters building of the Indian Navy (IN) that has recently (in March '24) inaugurated by the Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence in New Delhi, Delhi.

- 1) Krushi Bhawan
- 2) Vidhan Sabha Bhawan
- 3) Thal Sena Bhawan
- 4) Nausena Bhawan
- 5) Vigyan Bhawan

Answer- **4) Nausena Bhawan**

Explanation:

On 15th March 2024, **Union Minister Rajnath Singh**, Ministry of Defence (MoD), inaugurated '**Nausena Bhawan**', the first independent headquarters building of the Indian Navy (IN), at Delhi Cantonment in New Delhi, Delhi.

i. Nausena Bhawan has three wings across four stories .The complex is equipped with a state-of-the-art integrated building management system and has achieved Green Rating IV under the integrated habitability assessment.

64. Name the company that has recently (in March '24) signed a contract worth over Rs 2,890 crore with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for Mid Life Upgrade (MLU) of 25 Dornier Aircraft of the Indian Navy (IN).

- 1) Bharat Electronics Limited
- 2) Bharat Dynamics Limited
- 3) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- 4) Defence Research and Development Organisation
- 5) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

Answer- 3) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

Explanation:

On 15th March 2024, the Ministry of Defence (**MoD**) signed a contract worth over **Rs 2,890 crore** with Bengaluru(Karnataka) headquartered Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (**HAL**) for Mid Life Upgrade (**MLU**) of **25 Dornier Aircraft** belonging to the Indian Navy (IN).

i. The MLU for Dornier Aircraft includes an upgrade to incorporate state-of-the-art Avionics Systems and Primary Role sensors to enhance the operational capabilities of the Dornier fleet for missions like maritime surveillance, coastal patrol, electronic intelligence gathering, and maritime domain awareness.

65. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the 'India's Techade: Chips for Viksit Bharat' program held in March 2024?

- A) Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually addressed 'India's Techade: Chips for Viksit Bharat' and laid the foundation stone for setting up 3 semiconductor projects worth about Rs 1.25 lakh crore.**
- B) Dholera Semiconductor Fabrication Facility will be set up by Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL) for setting up Semiconductor Fabs in India at Dholera, Gujarat**
- C) Morigaon OSAT Facility will be set up by CG Power and Industrial Solutions for Semiconductor Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging (ATMP) in Mizoram.**

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

Answer-2) Only A & B

Explanation:

On 13th March 2024, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually addressed '**India's Techade: Chips for Viksit Bharat**' and laid the foundation stone for setting up 3 semiconductor projects worth about Rs 1.25 lakh crore.

i. The 3 projects are,

- Dholera Semiconductor Fabrication Facility will be set up by Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL) under the Modified Scheme for setting up Semiconductor Fabs in India at the Dholera

Special Investment Region (**DSIR**), Dholera, Gujarat with the total investment over Rs 91,000 crore.

- A Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (**OSAT**) facility will be Set up by CG Power and Industrial Solutions Limited under the Modified Scheme for Semiconductor ATMP with the total investment about Rs. 7,500 crore in Sanand, Gujarat; and
- **Morigaon OSAT Facility** will be set up by **TEPL** Under the Modified Scheme for Semiconductor Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging (ATMP) in **Morigaon, Assam**. The Total investment is about Rs 27,000 crore. [Click here to read more](#)

66. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the visit of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi to Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in March 2024?

A) PM Modi unveiled Dekho Apna Desh, People’s Choice 2024, the first-ever nationwide tourist destination poll by the Ministry of Tourism to identify the pulse of the nation on tourism.

B) PM Modi launched the Chalo India Global Diaspora Campaign and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth more than Rs 6,400 crore.

C) PM Modi also revealed 42 tourist spots chosen under the Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) Scheme which was introduced during the Union Budget 2023-24.

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

Answer-1) All A, B & C

Explanation:

The Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi visited Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) to address the Viksit Bharat Viksit Jammu Kashmir program at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar.

- He unveiled Dekho Apna Desh, People’s Choice 2024, the first-ever nationwide tourist destination poll by the Ministry of Tourism to identify the pulse of the nation on tourism.
- He also launched the Chalo India Global Diaspora Campaign and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth more than Rs 6,400 crore.
- He also revealed **42 tourist spots** chosen under the Challenge Based Destination Development (**CBDD**) Scheme which was introduced during the Union Budget 2023-24.
- PM Modi inaugurated development projects worth around Rs 6,400 crore which includes Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (**HADP**) worth about **Rs 5,000 crore** to boost the region’s agricultural economy. [Click here to read more](#)

67. Which state hosted the Integrated Tri-Service Firepower and Manoeuvre Exercise ‘Bharat Shakti’ in March 2024?

- 1) Punjab
- 2) Chhattisgarh
- 3) Rajasthan
- 4) Maharashtra
- 5) Uttarakhand

Answer-3) Rajasthan

Explanation:

A 50-minute-long synergised demonstration of indigenous defence capabilities in the form of a Tri-Services Live Fire and Manoeuvre Exercise '**Bharat Shakti**' was held at Pokhran during PM Modi's visit to **Rajasthan** on 12th March 2024.

- i. 'Bharat Shakti' exercise displayed an array of indigenous weapon systems and platforms to showcase India's unprecedented excellence in global military equipment production.
- ii. The exercise demonstrated the firepower capabilities of indigenous weapons and the operational readiness of all three defence forces namely Indian Army (IA), Indian Navy (IN) and Indian Air Force (IAF).

68. In which city of Maharashtra, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently (in March 2024) inaugurated the Marathwada Rail Coach Factory ?

- 1) Latur
- 2) Aurangabad
- 3) Nagpur
- 4) Thane
- 5) Pune

Answer- 1) Latur

Explanation:

Prime Minister (**PM**) Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the **Marathwada Rail Coach Factory** in **Latur, Maharashtra**. He also dedicated to the nation 506 railway projects including a wagon repair workshop at Badnera and Vande Bharat chair car maintenance-cum-workshop depot in Pune.

- The projects were launched during PM Modi's Gujarat visit on 12th March 2024.

i. The PM also inaugurated 5 Jan Aushadi Kendras (JAKs), offering affordable and quality generic medicines.

69. In March 2024, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG), launched _____, a cleaner, greener automotive fuel alternative to gasoline.

- 1) Ethanol 75
- 2) 1G-Ethanol
- 3) Ethanol 200
- 4) Ethanol 2G
- 5) Ethanol 100

Answer- 5) Ethanol 100

Explanation:

On 15th March 2024, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas(MoPNG), launched **Ethanol 100 (E100 Fuel)**, a cleaner, greener automotive fuel alternative to gasoline.

- E100 was launched at Indian Oil Corporation Limited(**IOCL**)'s Retail Outlet Irwin Road Service Station, New Delhi, Delhi.
- Following the launch, E100 will be made available at selected 183 retail outlets across five states – Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh(UP), Delhi and Tamil Nadu(TN).

70. Which of the following statements is / are 'correct' with respect to the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024, as of March 2024?

- A) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has notified the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024 which replaces the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules of 1983.**
- B) The new rules have sub-divided the existing UA category into three age-based categories: 7 years (UA 7+), 13 years (UA 13+), and 16 years (UA 16+), instead of 12 years.**
- C) The new rules also provide perpetual validity of CBFC certificates, instead of the previous 10-year period**

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

Answer-1) All A, B & C

Explanation:

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has notified the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024 to improve the process of certification of films for public exhibition. This replaces the **Cinematograph (Certification) Rules of 1983**

- The rules were notified following the introduction of the Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, 2023, which amended the Cinematograph Act, 1952.
 - i. The new rules have reduced the processing time for the certification of a film and adopted a complete digital process to eliminate all transactional time.
 - ii. The new rules also provide perpetual validity of CBFC certificates, instead of the previous 10-year period.
 - iii. The new rules have sub-divided the existing UA category into **three age-based** categories: 7 years (UA 7+), 13 years (UA 13+), and 16 years (UA 16+), instead of 12 years.

71. In March 2024, the Department of Fisheries inaugurated the integration of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Fisheries scheme onto the _____ (Portal) to transform access to credit facilities.

- 1) JanSamarth Portal
- 2) Mkisan Portal
- 3) Matsya Portal
- 4) Swanirbhar Naari Portal
- 5) Svanidhi Portal

Answer-1) JanSamarth Portal

Explanation:

The **Department of Fisheries** successfully inaugurated the **integration** of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Fisheries scheme onto the **JanSamarth Portal**, to transform access to credit facilities for fishers, fish farmers, and stakeholders nationwide.

- i. Integrating the KCC Fisheries scheme onto the JanSamarth Portal facilitates seamless access to institutional credit facilities.
- ii. This initiative promotes the inclusive growth of the fisheries industry by breaking down obstacles to financial access.

72. Which of the following Institute/Regulatory bodies have recently (in March '24) signed MoUs with the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DoF&PD) to revolutionise Fair Price Shops (FPSs) across India?

- 1) National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development
- 2) Small Industries Development Bank of India
- 3) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 2 & 3

Answer- 4) Both 1 & 2

Explanation:

The Department of Food and Public Distribution (**DoF&PD**) have signed two Memorandums of Understanding (**MoUs**) with the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (**NIESBUD**) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**) to revolutionise Fair Price Shops (FPSs) across India.

- This initiative aligns with the Government of India's (GoI) vision of Kaushal Bharat (Skill India), Viksit Bharat (Developed India), and digitally empowered India.

73. Which of the following Company has recently (in March' 24) signed a Non Financial MoU with the Ministry of Rural Development to enhance livelihood interventions of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)?

- 1) Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Limited
- 2) Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited
- 3) HDB Financial Services Limited
- 4) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited
- 5) Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited

Answer- 5) Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited

Explanation:

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) signed a Non-Financial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited (BFIL)** to enhance livelihood interventions of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). **The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)** South Asia based at the Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR), to expand the '**Samaveshi Aajeevika**' program across India.

74. In March 2024, Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan launched Mock Test 2.0 under the Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) in Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security.

Which Institute developed Mock Test 2.0?

- 1) Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
- 2) National Skill Training Institute
- 3) National Instructional Media Institute
- 4) Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
- 5) Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship

Answer- 3) National Instructional Media Institute

Explanation:

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) unveiled a series of strategic partnerships aimed at enhancing the scale and efficiency of India's skill ecosystem.

i. The Minister launched Mock Test 2.0 by **National Instructional Media Institute (NIMI)**, made in **12 languages** and **4 New Age courses** under the Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) in Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security.

ii. Two Centres of Excellence (CoE) viz. Media and HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) were inaugurated at the Skill Development Institute (SDI) in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. [Click here to read more.](#)

75. In March 2024, the Central Armed Police Forces Institute of Medical Sciences (CAPFIMS) signed an Memorandum of Association (MoA) with All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi to run the 970-bed super-specialty and tertiary care hospital .

The Union Cabinet approved budgetary support of Rs _____ to run CAPFIMS as a campus of AIIMS, Delhi.

- 1) 2207.5 crore
- 2) 3500.2 crore
- 3) 4202.8 crore
- 4) 4500.1 crore
- 5) 4900.9 crore

Answer- **1) 2207.5 crore**

Explanation:

A Memorandum of Association (MoA) was signed between the Central Armed Police Forces Institute of Medical Sciences (CAPFIMS) and **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)**, New Delhi, Delhi to run the 970-bed super-specialty and tertiary care hospital (of CAPFIMS) as a campus of AIIMS.

- The Union Cabinet approved budgetary support of **Rs 2207.5 crore** in the 15th Finance Commission (FC) cycle to run CAPFIMS as a campus of AIIMS, Delhi.

76. Which country, along with India, has recently (in March '24) conducted their first-ever '2+2' Secretary level Political and Military Dialogue in New Delhi, Delhi?

- 1) Australia
- 2) Brazil
- 3) Finland
- 4) Poland
- 5) Hungary

Answer- **2) Brazil**

Explanation:

On 14th March 2024, India and **Brazil** held their first **2 plus 2 Secretary level Political and Military Dialogue** in New Delhi, Delhi. The dialogue was co-chaired by,

- India: Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas, Additional Secretary (Latin American and Caribbean-LAC), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Vishwesh Negi, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation), Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- Brazil: Marcelo Camara, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), and Rear Admiral Fernando de Luca Marques de Oliveira, MoD

77. In which state, India's first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) powered bus was inaugurated on March 2024?

- 1) Maharashtra
- 2) Madhya Pradesh
- 3) Assam
- 4) Punjab
- 5) Haryana

Answer- 1) Maharashtra

Explanation:

Maharashtra Chief Minister **(CM) Eknath Shinde** has inaugurated India's first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) powered bus, which will be operated by **Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC)**.

- MSRTC announced that it will convert its 5,000 diesel vehicles into LNG alternative fuel vehicles in phases.
- MSRTC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with M/s Kings Gas for the conversion of diesel buses to LNG. It includes the usage and supply of fuel.

78. In March 2024, Union Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah inaugurated a unique digital Criminal Case Management System (CCMS) in New Delhi, Delhi.

Which Government agency designed the CCMS?

- 1) National Investigation Agency
- 2) Enforcement Directorate
- 3) Central Bureau of Investigation
- 4) Intelligence Bureau
- 5) Research and Analysis Wing

Answer- 1) National Investigation Agency

Explanation:

Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), virtually inaugurated a **unique digital Criminal Case Management System (CCMS)**, designed by the National Investigation Agency **(NIA)** in New Delhi, Delhi.

i. He also launched a mobile app 'Sankalan' – A compendium of New Criminal Laws by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

ii. He inaugurated 2 new branch offices of NIA in Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir-J&K) and Kochi (Kerala), and a residential complex in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

79. Which state's six heritage sites were recently (in March '24) included in the tentative list of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites (WHS)?

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

Answer- 4) Madhya Pradesh

Explanation:

Six heritage sites in Madhya Pradesh (MP) were included in the tentative list of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites (WHS).

- The six sites are **Gwalior Fort**, Khooni Bhandara, **Bhojeshwar Mahadev Temple**, the Rock art sites of Chambal Valley, the historic ensemble of Dhamnar, and the Gond monuments of Ramnagar.
- As of 21st March 2024, **India has 57 sites** in UNESCO's Tentative list of heritage sites. [Click here to read more.](#)

80. In which state, 3F Oil Palm Private Limited has recently (in March '24) started the operation of India's First Integrated Oil Palm Processing Unit?

- 1) Madhya Pradesh
- 2) Pondicherry
- 3) Telangana
- 4) Odisha
- 5) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer- **5) Arunachal Pradesh**

Explanation:

On 16th March 2024, 3F Oil Palm Private Limited started the commercial operation of India's 1st Integrated Oil Palm Processing Unit at Roing, Lower Dibang Valley, **Arunachal Pradesh (AR)**.

i. This factory marks the **first Oil Palm factory in AR** and India's first Oil Palm Factory under the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP).

Note: AR offers 1,30,000 hectares of suitable land for oil palm cultivation. The **Northeast region holds 33% (9.6 Lakh hectares)** of the government – designated area fit for cultivation.

81. In which city of odisha, India's first Indoor Athletics Centre was inaugurated in March 2024?

- 1) Rourkela
- 2) Bhubaneswar
- 3) Sambalpur
- 4) Cuttack
- 5) Deogarh

Answer- **2) Bhubaneswar**

Explanation:

Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister (CM) of Odisha, has inaugurated **India's first Indoor Athletics Centre** and a state-of-the-art indoor aquatic hub at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

i. Mondo SpA, an Italian firm, has set up a **10,000 sq metre track**, a first of its kind in India.

ii. The indoor aquatic centre features a temperature-controlled 50m **Olympic-size swimming pool**

82. Which Company has been recently (in March' 24) designated as a Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) by the Ministry of Power?

- 1) GAIL India Limited
- 2) RITES Limited
- 3) Antrix Corporation Limited
- 4) Grid Controller of India Limited

5) BEML Limited

Answer- **4) Grid Controller of India Limited**

Explanation:

Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA) has been designated as a **Miniratna Category-I** Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) by the Ministry of Power, Government of India, highlighting its crucial role in India's power landscape.

i. Criteria for Miniratna Category-I:

- Must have made profit in the last three years continuously.
- Pre-tax profit of **Rs. 30 crores or more** in at least one of the three years.

83. In March 2024, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) notified the scheme guidelines for establishing hydrogen hubs in India under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

What was the Budgetary outlay of the scheme for the financial year 2025-2026 (FY26)?

- 1) Rs. 200 crore
- 2) Rs. 100 crore
- 3) Rs. 300 crore
- 4) Rs. 50 crore
- 5) Rs. 180 crore

Answer- **1) Rs. 200 crore**

Explanation:

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has notified the scheme guidelines for establishing **hydrogen hubs** in India under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM).

- Budgetary outlay: **Rs 200 crore** till the financial year 2025-2026 (**FY26**). The budget provisions under the NGHM head will be used for the expenditure of the scheme.

i. Funding: Under the scheme, at least **2 green hydrogen hubs** will be established with Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of up to **Rs 100 crore** each to support the core infrastructure.

84. Which Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has recently (in March '24) signed an MoU with the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India on Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

- 1) IIT Kharagpur
- 2) IIT Roorkee
- 3) IIT Kanpur
- 4) IIT Delhi
- 5) IIT Madras

Answer- **4) IIT Delhi**

Explanation:

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)** Delhi in New Delhi on Artificial Intelligence (AI).

i. Under this MoU, **CAG and IIT-Delhi** would partner in **four key areas**, such as the use of AI in audits, audits of AI systems, capacity building, and knowledge sharing.

85. Which edition of India, Mozambique & Tanzania (IMT) Tri-Lateral (TRILAT) Exercise (IMT-TRILAT 2024), was conducted in March 2024?

- 1) 2nd Edition
- 2) 3rd Edition
- 3) 4th Edition
- 4) 7th Edition
- 5) 9th Edition

Answer- 1) 2nd Edition

Explanation:

2nd edition of India Mozambique Tanzania (IMT) Tri-Lateral (**TRILAT**) Exercise (IMT-TRILAT 2024), the joint maritime exercises between the navies of **India, Mozambique** and **Tanzania** commenced on 21st March 2024. The exercise is set to conclude on 29th March 2024.

i. Aim: To **strengthen cooperation** between India, Mozambique, and Tanzania.

ii. As a part of the exercise, the Indian Naval Ship (**INS**) **Tir** and **INS Sujata** will engage with the respective Navies at the ports of Zanzibar in Tanzania and Maputo in Mozambique.

86. In March 2024, _____ became the 1st Indian state to launch the State Water Resources Information Systems dashboard.

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

Answer- 5) Rajasthan

Explanation:

On 16th March 2024, **Rajasthan** became the **1st Indian state** to launch the **State Water Resources Information Systems dashboard** to forecast drought and to enable better water management based on water availability.

- The portal was developed by the Department of Water Resources under the National Hydrology Project.
- The portal offers real-time information about water availability, which will benefit farmers in planning their crop cycles and irrigation.

87. Name the Portal that was recently (in March '24) launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) to advance the vision of digital inclusion.

- 1) Jansamarth
- 2) MeiNIX Net
- 3) BhashaNet
- 4) Parivahan
- 5) PhishNet

Answer- 3) BhashaNet

Explanation:

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** launched the **BhashaNet portal** to advance the vision of digital inclusion.

- The portal was launched during the **Universal Acceptance Day India event** held on **21st March 2024** at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.
- BhashaNet aims to create a multilingual internet where **local language** website names and email IDs work seamlessly everywhere.
- The event was held under the theme “BhashaNet: **Impetus Towards Universal Acceptance**”.

88. Name the operation that has recently (in March’ 24) launched by the Government of India (GoI) to evacuate stranded Indians in Haiti.

- 1) Operation Ganga
- 2) Operation Randori Behak
- 3) Operation Indravati
- 4) Operation Rakshak I
- 5) Operation Vijay

Answer- **3) Operation Indravati**

Explanation:

The Government of India (GoI) launched ‘**Operation Indravati**’ to evacuate stranded Indians in **Haiti** after armed gangs seized control of most of the Caribbean nation.

i. On 21st March 2024, Union Minister Subrahmanyam (S.) Jaishankar, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), announced that the **twelve Indians** were **evacuated** through Operation Indravati.

89. Which unit of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) has been recently (in March ‘24) notified as a statutory body to flag misinformation about the Central government and its departments across social media platforms?

- 1) Research Unit
- 2) Social Media Unit
- 3) Media engagement Unit
- 4) Media Corner Unit
- 5) Fact Check Unit

Answer- **5) Fact Check Unit**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) notified the **Fact Check Unit (FCU)** under the Press Information Bureau (PIB) as a **statutory body** with powers to flag misinformation about the Central government and its departments across social media platforms.

i. FCU under the PIB of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) has been designated as the **FCU of the government of India.**

ii. This was notified in exercise of power conferred by **Rule 3(1)(b)(v)** of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules 2021).

90. In March 2024, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released the recommendations on Usage of Embedded Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) for Machine-to-Machine Communications (M2M) under _____ (Act).

- 1) TRAI Act, 1997
- 2) TRAI Act, 2000
- 3) TRAI Act, 2014

4) TRAI Act, 1992

5) TRAI Act, 2005

Answer- **1) TRAI Act, 1997**

Explanation:

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), released the recommendations on Usage of Embedded Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) for Machine-to-Machine Communications (M2M) under the **TRAI Act 1997**.

i. Additionally, TRAI has suggested a **framework for eSIM** profile switching and **Subscription Manager-Secure Routing (SM-SR)** swapping. This framework will encourage healthy competition in the market and offer M2M eSIM consumers a great deal of choice.

91. Which law enforcement agency has recently (in March '24) signed a Working Arrangement with India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to establish cooperative relations?

1) European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation

2) International Criminal Police Office

3) Federal Bureau of Investigation

4) Bureau of Justice Statistics

5) Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit

Answer- **1) European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation**

Explanation:

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and **European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)** signed a **Working Arrangement** for cooperative relations between the law enforcement authorities of the Republic of India and the Europol to prevent and combat serious crime and terrorism.

i. It also enables cooperation between **all law enforcement agencies** in India and the **27 European countries** represented by Europol, as well as third countries and organizations associated with Europol.

92. The Indian Navy completed 100 days of maritime security operations under the banner of _____(operation) on 23rd March 2024.

1) Operation Atalanta

2) Operation Trident

3) Operation Parakram

4) Operation Raahat

5) Operation Sankalp

Answer- **5) Operation Sankalp**

Explanation:

On 23rd March 2024, The **Indian Navy** completed 100 days of maritime security operations "**Operation Sankalp**", which was launched on 14th December 2023.

i. As a part of the Op Sankalp, the Indian Navy played a major role as the **First Responder and Preferred Security Partner** in the Indian Ocean Region(IOR).

ii. During the operation, the Indian Navy **saved over 110 lives** (including 45 Indian Seafarers), and **escorted over 15 lakh tons of commodities** like fertilisers, crude oil, and finished products.

93. In March 2024, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (MNP) Regulations 2024 to eliminate porting of mobile numbers using fraudulent Subscriber Identity Module (SIM).

The regulations come into effect from _____.

- 1) 1st April 2024
- 2) 1st May 2024
- 3) 1st June 2024
- 4) 1st July 2024
- 5) 1st August 2024

Answer- 4) 1st July 2024

Explanation:

On 14th March 2024, **The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** released Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (MNP) **(ninth amendment)** Regulations 2024, to eliminate porting of mobile numbers using fraudulent Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) swap or replacement by unscrupulous elements.

- The regulations will come into effect from **1st July 2024**.

i. The amendment **prohibits** the telecom operators from **issuing a “Unique Porting Code (UPC)”**, the 1st step to changing service providers using MNP.

ii. As per the amendment, if a SIM card is swapped or replaced, the associated mobile number cannot be ported out to another telecom operator for 7 days.

94. Which edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum was held at New Delhi, Delhi in March 2024?

- 1) Fifth
- 2) Fourth
- 3) Third
- 4) Sixth
- 5) Eighth

Answer- 2) Fourth

Explanation:

The fourth edition of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** Startup Forum was held on March 19, 2024, in New Delhi, Delhi.

i. The delegates from member countries **attended a workshop** conducted by Startup India on **‘Establishing a Seed Fund: A Strategic Approach to Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship’**.

ii. India will host the **second** meeting of the Special Working Group (SWG) in **November 2024** and **SCO Startup Forum 5.0** in January 2025.

95. In March 2024, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) notified a _____ increase in the wage rate of workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for the financial year 2024-25 (FY25).

- 1) 3-10%
- 2) 4-9%
- 3) 5-10%
- 4) 4-11%
- 5) 5-9%

Answer- **1) 3-10%**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has notified a **3-10% increase** in the **wage rate of workers** under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in nominal terms for the financial year **2024-25(FY25)**.

- The notification was issued under **Section 6 (1)** of the MGNREGA, 2005.
- The new wage hike range from Rs 7 and Rs 26 will come into force from **1st April 2024**.
- **Goa** witnesses the **highest hike** of 10.56% over the current wage rate, while Uttar Pradesh(UP) and Uttarakhand have recorded the lowest raise of 3.04% each.

96. Which country's Aerospace Industries has recently (in March '24) opened its Indian subsidiary AeroSpace Services India (ASI) in New Delhi, Delhi?

- 1) Japan
- 2) Israel
- 3) Russia
- 4) United States of America
- 5) France

Answer- **2) Israel**

Explanation:

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has opened its **Indian subsidiary AeroSpace Services India (ASI)** in New Delhi, Delhi.

- ASI acts as the sole authorized **original equipment manufacturer's (OEM)** technical representative for the entire Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) system used by the Indian Army, Indian Air Force (IAF), and Indian Navy.
- MRSAM has been jointly developed by IAI and the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and produced at **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** for the Indian forces.

97. According to the "India TB Report 2024" released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in March 2024, India's incidence of Tuberculosis cases declined to _____ and 18% reduction in mortality, since 2015.

- 1) 16%
- 2) 13%
- 3) 19%
- 4) 14%
- 5) 21%

Answer- **1) 16%**

Explanation:

According to the "**India TB Report 2024**" released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare(MoHFW) on 27th March 2024, India saw a **decline of 16%** in the incidence of Tuberculosis(TB) cases (means new cases per year) and 18% reduction in mortality due to TB, since 2015.

- The incidence rate in India decreased from **237 per lakh** population in 2015 to 199 per lakh population in 2022.
- The mortality rate had declined from **28 per lakh** population in 2015 to 23 per lakh population in 2022. [Click here to read more.](#)

98. According to the report 'State of Solar PV Manufacturing in India 2024', published by Mercom India in March 2024, India has installed _____ Giga Watt (GW) of solar module and cell capacity in 2023.

- 1) 20 GW
- 2) 24 GW
- 3) 26 GW
- 4) 30 GW
- 5) 40 GW

Answer- 2) 24 GW

Explanation:

According to a report published by Mercom India titled '**State of Solar PV Manufacturing in India 2024**', in Calendar Year (CY) 2023, India has added **24 Giga Watt (GW)** of solar module and cell capacity in 2023.

i. As of December 2023, India's total solar module capacity reached **64.5 GW**, with an addition of **20.8 GW**. Additionally, the **solar cell capacity** increased to **5.8 GW**, with a 3.2 GW addition.

ii. India's solar module manufacturing capacity is projected to surpass **150 GW**, and cell capacity is expected to reach over **75 GW** by 2026.

99. Name the association/company that has recently (in March' 24) signed a MoU with Educational Testing Service (ETS) India to enhance the global employability of the Indian workforce.

- 1) Quality Council of India
- 2) Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- 3) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry
- 4) Confederation of Indian Industry
- 5) National Association of Software and Service Companies

Answer- 4) Confederation of Indian Industry

Explanation:

Educational Testing Service (ETS) India and the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to enhance the global employability of the Indian workforce.

i. The partnership aims to **improve the employability** of India's young professionals by focusing on English language proficiency and key 21st-century skills.

ii. It seeks to streamline the hiring process for Indian talent, ensuring that they secure jobs that match their skill sets on an international level.

100. In March 2024, India renewed the agreement to export electricity to _____ (country) for 3 months until the end of June 2024.

- 1) Myanmar
- 2) Nepal
- 3) Bangladesh
- 4) Bhutan
- 5) Sri Lanka

Answer- 2) Nepal

Explanation:

On 29 March 2024, **India** renewed the agreement to **export electricity** to **Nepal** for **3 months** until the end of June 2024, in response to the request of the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) just days before the expiry of the existing pact on 31 March 2024.

- Nepal can import up to 554 megawatts (MW) of electricity from India between 6 am to 6 pm under this agreement.
- This includes 500 MW from the Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur cross-border transmission line and 54 MW through Tanakpur.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. According to the 12th edition of the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index (2024) released by the United States (US) Chamber of Commerce in February 2024, India has retained the _____ rank with an overall score of 38.64%, while _____ (country) topped the list.

- 1) 39th; United Kingdom
- 2) 42nd; United States of America
- 3) 39th; France
- 4) 42nd; United Kingdom
- 5) 37th; France

Answer- 2) 42nd; United States of America

Explanation:

According to the 12th edition of the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index (2024) by the United States (US) Chamber of Commerce, **India** has retained the **42nd rank** with an overall score of 38.64%.

i. The United States of America (**USA**) **topped the list** with an overall score of 95.48% followed by the United Kingdom (UK) in the 2nd place with 94.12% and France in the 3rd with 93.12%.

2. In which country, Prime Minister (PM) of India, Narendra Modi has recently (in Feb '24) inaugurated, an Airstrip and a Saint James Jetty?

- 1) Maldives
- 2) Seychelles
- 3) Madagascar
- 4) Fiji
- 5) Mauritius

Answer- 5) Mauritius

Explanation:

On February 29, 2024, the Prime Minister (PM) of India, **Narendra Modi** and PM of Mauritius, Pravind Jugnauth, jointly inaugurated an **Airstrip** and a **Saint James Jetty** at the Agaléga Island in **Mauritius** via video conferencing.

- They also inaugurated the six community development projects in Agaléga that were implemented with financial assistance from India.
- These inaugurations will fulfil the demand for better connectivity between mainland Mauritius and Agaléga, strengthen maritime security and foster socio-economic development.

3. Which of the following countries have recently (in Feb '24) become the members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)?

- 1) Union of the Comoros
- 2) Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
- 3) São Tomé and Príncipe
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 2 & 3

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

Explanation:

On 26th February 2024, The **Union of the Comoros** and the **Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste** formally became the members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

i. The signing ceremony was held during the WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) hosted by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Abu Dhabi.

ii. With the accession of Comoros and Timor-Leste, the total number of WTO members becomes 166.

[Click here to read more](#)

4. According to the 10th edition of Women, Business, and the Law (WBL) 2024 report released by the World Bank Group in March 2024, India has climbed to _____ place out of 190 countries in the Index.

- 1) 108th
- 2) 120th
- 3) 100th
- 4) 113th
- 5) 129th

Answer- **4) 113th**

Explanation:

According to the **10th edition** of Women, Business, and the Law (**WBL) 2024 report** released by the **World Bank Group**, India has climbed to **113th** place out of 190 countries in the Index, with a score of 74.4%. For the first time, WBL assesses the gap between legal reforms and actual outcomes for women in 190 economies.

- The index shows that in India, women enjoy 60% of the legal rights granted to men, which is lower than the global average of 64.2%.
- Despite challenges, India outperforms its South Asian counterparts, where women enjoy 45.9% of the legal protections provided to men. [Click here to read more](#)

5. Which of the following organisations, along with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have recently (in March '24) pledged nearly USD 600 million towards eliminating cervical cancer?

- 1) World Bank
- 2) United Nations Children's Fund
- 3) World Health Organization
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 1 & 3

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

Explanation:

On March 5, 2024, the World Bank (**WB**), the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** and the United Nations Children's Fund (**UNICEF**) pledged nearly **USD 600 million** towards eliminating cervical cancer.

- This funding includes USD 400 million over three years by WB, USD 180 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and USD 10 million from UNICEF.
- This commitment was made during the first-ever 'Global Cervical Cancer Elimination Forum: Advancing the Call to Action' held in Cartagena, Colombia from March 5-7, 2024.

6. Which country has recently (in March '24) joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as the alliance's 32nd member?

- 1) Kosovo
- 2) Georgia
- 3) Belarus
- 4) Sweden
- 5) Bosnia

Answer- **4) Sweden**

Explanation:

Sweden officially joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (**NATO**), becoming the **alliance's 32nd member**. With this, Sweden ends decades of post-World War II neutrality and 200 years of non-alignment with major powers.

i. Sweden now benefits from the protection provided under Article 5 of the NATO Treaty, which guarantees the freedom and security of its allies.

7. In March 2024, Panama became the _____ member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

- 1) 80th
- 2) 97th
- 3) 86th
- 4) 90th
- 5) 82nd

Answer- **2) 97th**

Explanation:

Panama joined the International Solar Alliance (**ISA**) as its **97th** member, showing its commitment to advancing solar energy in the energy sector.

- In this regard, Panama's Ambassador to India Yasiel Burillo handed over the Instrument of Ratification to Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy) Abhishek Singh, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) during the meeting in New Delhi, Delhi.

Notably, on March 5th, Malta became the 119th Signatory country to join the ISA.

8. Which country's Information Technology Institute (ITI) has recently (in March '24) signed an MoU with India's National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) to promote the Information Electronics and Communication Technology (IECT) domain?

- 1) Russia
- 2) Egypt

- 3) Indonesia
- 4) Italy
- 5) United Kingdom

Answer- **2) Egypt**

Explanation:

India's National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (**NIELIT**) and **Egypt's** Information Technology Institute (**ITI**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to promote cooperation and collaboration in the Information Electronics and Communication Technology (**IECT**) domain.

i. As per the MoU, both institutes will collaborate in areas such as Curriculum and Training Materials Development, Exchange of Trainers and Experts, Mutual Recognition of Certification, Sharing of Virtual Labs Facility, Offering of Post Graduate (PG) Diplomas/ Technical Certificates to interns nominated by ITI Egypt.

9. According to 'Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2023' released by Swedish think tank, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in March 2023, _____ (country) was the world's top arms importer for the period 2019-23.

- 1) India
- 2) Saudi Arabia
- 3) Ukraine
- 4) France
- 5) Germany

Answer- **1) India**

Explanation:

According to 'Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2023' released by Swedish think tank, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (**SIPRI**), **India** was the world's top arms importer for the **period 2019-23**.

i. India's imports have increased by 4.7% compared to the period 2014-18. Saudi Arabia and Qatar were the 2nd and 3rd largest importers.

ii. The United States (US), France, and Russia were the top 3 largest exporters of arms between 2019-23. [Click here to read more](#)

10. Which country has recently (in March '24) signed the protocol for the establishment of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) with India?

- 1) Venezuela
- 2) Maldives
- 3) Jamaica
- 4) Dominican Republic
- 5) Cuba

Answer- **4) Dominican Republic**

Explanation:

On 12th March 2024, The protocol for the establishment of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee (**JETCO**) between **India** and the **Dominican Republic** was signed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIREX) of the Dominican Republic at Santo Domingo.

i. The protocol aims to establish a bilateral institutional mechanism between both nations in trade and commerce, enhance collaboration in various service sectors, and foster technological exchange and innovation.

11. Name the Indian Naval Ship (INS) that has participated in Exercise Cutlass Express – 24 (CE – 24) at Port Victoria, Seychelles in March 2024?

- 1) INS Sindhuraj
- 2) INS Tir
- 3) INS Jalashwa
- 4) INS Kesari
- 5) INS Vibhuti

Answer-2) INS Tir

Explanation:

The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tir representing the First Training Squadron (1TS), joined **Exercise Cutlass Express – 24 (CE – 24)** at Port Victoria, Seychelles from February 26 to March 08, 2024. This multinational exercise aimed to enhance maritime cooperation and security.

- Apart from the Indian Navy (IN), it saw participation from 16 friendly foreign nations.
- IN has been participating in the exercise since 2019.

12. In March 2024, the Indian Army (IA) contingent 'Gorkha Rifles' Participated in the _____ Edition Joint Military Exercise 'LAMITIYE-2024', between IA and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) in Seychelles.

- 1) 3rd
- 2) 5th
- 3) 10th
- 4) 12th
- 5) 6th

Answer- 3) 10th

Explanation:

The Indian Army (IA) contingent 'Gorkha Rifles' embarked for Seychelles to participate in the **10th Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2024"** between IA and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF).

- The exercise, meaning 'Friendship' in Creole, started on March 18 and goes until March 27, 2024.
- This exercise is a biennial event being held in Seychelles since 2001.

13. According to the 12th edition of World Happiness Report (WHR) 2024 released in March 2024, India secured _____ rank, while _____ tops the position for the 7th consecutive time.

- 1) 132nd, Israel
- 2) 126th, Finland
- 3) 132nd, Denmark
- 4) 126th, Sweden
- 5) 140th, Finland

Answer- 2) 126th, Finland