

# **GUPTA**

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# **CLASSES**

## **Current Affairs**

**(March 2024)**

**English**

**Part-2**



**GUPTA**

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**CLASSES**

**Explanation:**

According to the **World Happiness Report (WHR) 2024**, **Finland** has been named the World's happiest country for the **7th consecutive time**. Finland is followed by Denmark, Iceland, Sweden and Israel.

- **India** has maintained its rank at **126th** (out of 146 countries), which indicates low levels of happiness.
- WHR 2024 is the 12th edition of the annual report that ranks global happiness in more than 140 countries around the world. [Click here to read more](#)

**14. In Which city, Exercise Tiger Triumph – 24, the 3rd edition of the Bilateral Tri-Service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Amphibious Exercise between India and the United States of America (USA) was conducted in March 2024 ?**

- 1) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- 2) Rajkot, Gujarat
- 3) Mahad, Maharashtra
- 4) Baindur, Karnataka
- 5) Tajpur, West Bengal

Answer- **1) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

“Exercise Tiger Triumph – 24”, the **3rd edition** of the Bilateral Tri-Service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Amphibious Exercise between **India** and the **United States of America (USA)** was commenced on 18th March 2024 in **Visakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

**i. Aim:** To **share best practices and Standard Operating Procedures** in undertaking multinational HADR operations and refine Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to enable rapid and smooth coordination between forces of both countries.

**15. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi’s visit to Bhutan in March 2024?**

- A) PM Narendra Modi received the Order of the Druk Gyalpo, Bhutan’s Highest Civilian Award.**
- B) The MoU on the establishment of Kokrajhar (Assam, India)-Gelephu(Bhutan) rail link and Banarhat(West Bengal, India)-Samtse(Bhutan) rail links between India and Bhutan was also finalised.**
- C) PM Modi announced that India will provide financial support of Rs 10, 000 crore to Bhutan over the next 5 years.**

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

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

**Explanation:**

**Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi** was on a **2-day** state visit to **Bhutan** from 22nd to 23rd March 2024. He was received by Tshering Tobgay, PM of Bhutan at the Paro International Airport, Bhutan.

i. Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan, honoured PM Modi with the **Order of the Druk Gyalpo**, Bhutan's highest civilian decoration in a public ceremony at the Tendrelthang, Thimphu, Bhutan.

- He became the 1st **foreign head of government** to receive this award. He was also the 4th person ever to receive the honours.

ii. The MoU on the establishment of Kokrajhar (Assam, India)-Gelephu (Bhutan) rail link and Banarhat (West Bengal, India)-Samtse (Bhutan) rail links between India and Bhutan was also finalised.

iii. PM Modi announced that India will provide financial support of Rs 10,000 crore to Bhutan over the next 5 years. [Click here to read more.](#)

**16. Name the Indian who has been recently ( in March' 24 ) elected as the Co-Chairman of the Digital Innovation Board of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).**

- 1) Doreen Bogdan-Martin
- 2) Neeraj Mittal
- 3) Aprajita Sharrma
- 4) NK Goyal
- 5) Shailendra Kumar Mishra

Answer- **2) Neeraj Mittal**

**Explanation:**

**Dr Neeraj Mittal**, Secretary of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India (GoI), was unanimously elected as the **Co-Chairman** of the Digital Innovation Board of the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**.

i. The other 2 co-chairmen of the board are,

- Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) at ITU.
- Dr. 'Bosun Tijani, Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, Federal Republic of Nigeria.

**17. According to the 4th edition of United Nations (UN) Global E-waste Monitor (GEM) 2024 report released in March 2024, the world generated \_\_\_\_\_ of e-waste in 2022.**

- 1) 24 Million Tonnes
- 2) 53 Million Tonnes
- 3) 62 Million Tonnes
- 4) 86 Million Tonnes
- 5) 93 Million Tonnes

Answer- **3) 62 Million Tonnes**

**Explanation:**

According to the **United Nations (UN) Global E-waste Monitor (GEM) 2024**, the global electronic waste (e-waste) generation is rising **5 times faster** than documented e-waste recycling. Globally the e-waste generation is increasing by **2.6 million tonnes (Mt)** annually.

- The report revealed that the world generated **62 Mt** of e-waste in **2022**, up **82%** from **2010**. This is equivalent to filling 1.55 million (40-tonne average capacity) trucks.
- This marks the **4th edition** of the Global E-Waste Monitor.

**18. In March 2024, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the 1st global resolution on Artificial Intelligence (AI).**

**Which country proposed the nonbinding resolution?**

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

**Answer- 4) United States of America**

**Explanation:**

On 21st March 2024, The United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) unanimously adopted the **1st global resolution on Artificial Intelligence (AI)** which encourages nations to safeguard human rights, protect personal data, and monitor AI for risks.

- The nonbinding resolution was **proposed by the United States of America (USA)** and was co-sponsored by **123 countries**, including China, Cuba, and Russia.
- This is the first time the UNGA has adopted a resolution on regulating an emerging field.

**19. According to the India Employment Report 2024: Youth education, employment and skills' published by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Institute of Human Development (IHD) in March 2024, India's youth accounts for almost \_\_\_\_\_ of the unemployed workforce in India.**

- 1) 74%
- 2) 62%
- 3) 83%
- 4) 72%
- 5) 69%

**Answer- 3) 83%**

**Explanation:**

According to the '**India Employment Report 2024: Youth education, employment and skills'** jointly published by the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** and the Institute of Human Development (IHD), India's youth accounts for almost **83%** of the unemployed workforce in India.

- The report was released by V.Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) of India.

**20. According to the 13th edition of Hurun Global Rich List 2024 released in March 2024, Mukesh Ambani has been ranked as the World's \_\_\_\_\_ richest Person, while \_\_\_\_\_ tops the position for the 3rd year in a row.**

- 1) 9th; Jeff Bezos
- 2) 5th; Bernard Arnault
- 3) 7th; Elon Musk
- 4) 5th; Jeff Bezos
- 5) 10; Elon Musk

**Answer- 5) 10; Elon Musk**

**Explanation:**

According to the “2024 Hurun Global Rich List (**13th Edition**)”, **Mukesh Ambani**, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), has been ranked as the World’s **10th richest** Person with a total net worth of USD 115 billion.

**i. Elon Musk**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tesla Motors, **topped** the list for the **3rd time**, with a total net worth of USD 231 billion followed by Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon (USD 185 billion) and Bernard Arnault, CEO of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton (175 billion).

**ii.** Mumbai (Maharashtra), overtakes Beijing(China) to become the billionaire capital of Asia. 91 billionaires of India are based in Mumbai while Beijing houses 91 billionaires.[Click here to read more.](#)

**21. According to the Global Trade Update from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released in March 2024, the global trade is set to rebound in 2024, after a \_\_\_\_\_ contraction in 2023, totalling USD 1 trillion.**

- 1) 4%
- 2) 3%
- 3) 6%
- 4) 5%
- 5) 4.9%

Answer- **2) 3%**

**Explanation:**

According to the Global Trade Update (March 2024) from **the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, global trade is set to rebound in 2024, after a **3%** contraction in 2023, totalling USD 1 trillion, compared to the record high of USD 32 trillion in 2022.

**i.**The **services sector** was resilient with an **8% increase** (USD 500 billion) in 2022, while goods trade declined by 5% (USD 1.3 trillion) compared to 2022.

**22. According to the ‘Food Waste Index Report 2024 released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in March 2024, the world wasted an estimated \_\_\_\_\_ of the food produced globally in 2022.**

- 1) 12%
- 2) 15%
- 3) 19%
- 4) 22%
- 5) 25%

Answer- **3) 19%**

**Explanation:**

On March 27, 2024, the United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**) released its ‘**Food Waste Index Report 2024-Think Eat Save Tracking Progress to Halve Global Food Waste**’, which tracks countries' progress to halve food waste by 2030.

**i.** As per it, the world wasted an estimated **19%** of the food produced globally in **2022**, or about **1.05 billion metric tons**. This equals to 132 kilograms per person, amounting to nearly one-fifth of all available food.

**23. How many sites were recently (in March '24) added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Global Geoparks network?**

- 1) 15
- 2) 14
- 3) 22
- 4) 18
- 5) 13

Answer- **4) 18**

**Explanation:**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO)'s Executive Board has approved the addition of **18 new sites** situated in Brazil, China, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, and Spain to the UNESCO Global Geoparks network.

**i.** Additionally, a transboundary geopark spans **Belgium** and the Kingdom of the **Netherlands**.

**ii.** With this, the total number of geoparks in the network becomes 213 geoparks in 48 countries. [Click here to read more.](#)

## **GOVT SCHEMES**

**1. In which state, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has recently (in March '24) launched the Mahatari Vandana Yojana to uplift and economically empower women?**

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

Answer- **1) Chhattisgarh**

**Explanation:**

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** launched the **Mahatari Vandana Yojana** in **Chhattisgarh**, aiming to uplift and economically empower women in the state. The PM also disbursed Rs 655 crore, as the first installment of the Mahatari Vandana Yojana.

**i.** Objective: This scheme aims to provide financial assistance of Rs 1000 per month to eligible married women of the state through monthly Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

**2. Which state government has recently (in March '24) launched 'Indiramma Indlu', a housing scheme to provide houses for homeless poor people?**

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

Answer- **2) Telangana**

**Explanation:**

**Telangana** Chief Minister (CM) Anumula Revanth Reddy launched '**Indiramma Indlu**', a housing scheme to provide houses for homeless poor people, in Bhadrachalam, Bhadradri Kothagudem district of Telangana.

- The scheme will be implemented by the Telangana State Housing Corporation Limited (TSHCL).

i. The government of Telangana will construct 4.50 lakh Indiramma houses for Rs 22,500 crore under the scheme. A provisional agreement was made to allocate 3,500 houses to each constituency.

**3. Which state government has recently (in March '24) launched 'Krishak Unnati Yojna' to provide input assistance to Paddy Cultivators?**

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

Answer- **3) Chhattisgarh**

**Explanation:**

**Chhattisgarh** Chief Minister (CM) Vishnu Deo Sai launched '**Krishak Unnati Yojna**' to provide input assistance to farmers, primarily **paddy cultivators**, during the event held at Saryu Prasad Agrawal Stadium in Balod district, Chhattisgarh.

i. Objective: To increase farmers' income, boost crop production, and productivity, and reduce cultivation costs. It also aims to ensure fair prices for crops.

ii. Under this scheme, the paddy of all the farmers of Chhattisgarh will be purchased at the rate of Rs. 3100 per quintal.

## VISITS

**1. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's visit to Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh in February 2024?**

**A) Prime Minister (PM) attended the Golden Jubilee (50 years) celebrations of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera, Ahmedabad (Gujarat).**

**B) PM initiated work commencement for the construction of Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park with an investment worth Rs 3,000 crores in Navsari, Gujarat.**

**C) PM Narendra Modi unveiled the newly installed statue of Sant Ravidas in Varanasi on his 647th birth anniversary, on 23rd February, 2024.**

- 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 and Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) on 22nd February, 2024 to 23rd February, 2024.

- During his visit, PM inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development projects in both these states.

**i.** Prime Minister (PM) attended the **Golden Jubilee (50 years)** celebrations of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (**GCMMF**) at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera, Ahmedabad (Gujarat).

**ii.** During his visit to Gujarat, PM initiated work commencement for the construction of Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (**PM MITRA**) Park with an investment worth Rs 3,000 crores in Navsari, Gujarat.

**iii.** PM Narendra Modi unveiled the newly installed statue of **Sant Ravidas** on the eve of his 647th birth anniversary on 23rd February, 2024 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

**2. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi’s visit to Kerala, Tamil Nadu (TN) and Maharashtra in February 2024?**

**A) PM Modi visited the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala and inaugurated 3 major space infrastructure projects worth about Rs 1,800 crore.**

**B) PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India’s 1st indigenous Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Inland Waterway Vessel under the Harit Nauka initiative at Thoothukudi, TN.**

**C) PM Narendra Modi inaugurated various infrastructure projects related to road, rail and irrigation worth more than Rs 4900 crore during the public programme held in Yavatmal in Maharashtra.**

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 Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra from 27th to 28th February 2024.

- PM Modi visited the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (**VSSC**) in Thiruvananthapuram, **Kerala** and inaugurated 3 major space infrastructure projects worth about **Rs 1,800 crore**.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated **India’s 1st indigenous Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Inland Waterway Vessel** under the Harit Nauka initiative at Thoothukudi, **TN**.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and dedicated to the nation various infrastructure projects related to road, rail and irrigation worth more than **Rs 4900 crore** during the public programme held in Yavatmal in Maharashtra. [Click here to read more](#)



**3. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the visit of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi to Jharkhand, West Bengal and Bihar in March 2024?**

**A) PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation various development projects worth Rs 35,700 crore in Sindri, Dhanbad district in Jharkhand.**

**B) PM Modi dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone for various development projects worth Rs 3200 crore in the Barrackpore area of Kolkata, West Bengal.**

**C) PM Narendra Modi inaugurated development projects worth Rs 21,400 crore in Aurangabad district, Bihar.**

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:**

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi visited **Jharkhand, West Bengal and Bihar** from 1st to 2nd March 2024.

- PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation various development projects worth **Rs 35,700 crore** in Sindri, Dhanbad district in **Jharkhand**.
- PM Modi dedicated to the nation and **laid the foundation stone** for various development projects worth **Rs 7200 crore** in the Arambagh area of **Hooghly district, West Bengal**.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated development projects worth **Rs 21,400 crore** in Aurangabad district, **Bihar**. [Click here to read more](#)

**4. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the visit of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi to Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha in March 2024?**

**A) PM Narendra Modi inaugurated a Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO) which was developed by the Airports Authority of India for Rs. 350 crores at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad, Telangana.**

**B) PM Narendra Modi visited Tamil Nadu (TN) and inaugurated India’s first indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) with a capacity of 500 Mwe (Megawatt electric) at Kalpakkam, TN.**

**C) PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over Rs 19,600 crore during his visit to Odisha.**

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 **Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha** on 4th and 5th March, 2024, inaugurating and laying the foundation stone for various projects.

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated a Civil Aviation Research Organization (**CARO**) which was developed by the **Airports Authority of India** for **Rs. 350 crores** at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad, Telangana.
- PM Narendra Modi visited Tamil Nadu on 4th March 2024 and inaugurated **India's first** indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (**PFBR**) with a capacity of **500 Mwe** (Megawatt electric) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. It has been developed by BHAVINI (Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited).
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over **Rs 19,600 crore** during his visit to Odisha.

**5. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the visit of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi to West Bengal and Bihar in March 2024?**

**A) PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first underwater metro in Kolkata (West Bengal), spanning 16.6 km under the Hooghly River ( East-West Metro corridor).**

**B) PM Narendra Modi inaugurated several connectivity projects in Kolkata worth Rs 15,400 Crore to improve urban mobility and decongest road traffic including the development of the Metro Rail and Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS).**

**C) PM Narendra Modi inaugurated projects worth Rs 12,800 crore in Bihar at a program in Bettiah, the district headquarters town of West Champaran.**

- 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 West Bengal and Bihar** on 6th March, 2024.

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated **India's first underwater metro** in Kolkata (West Bengal), spanning 16.6 km under the Hooghly River ( East-West Metro corridor).
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated several connectivity projects in Kolkata worth Rs 15,400 Crore which aims to improve urban mobility and decongest road traffic including the development of the Metro Rail and Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS).
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated projects worth **Rs 12,800 crore** in Bihar at a program in Bettiah, the district headquarters town of West Champaran.

**6. Which of the following points is 'Incorrect' with respect to Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's visit to Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh in March 2024?**

1) During PM Modi visit to assam, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of projects worth Rs 17500 crore at Jorhat, Assam.

2) During PM Modi visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the 'Statue of Valour', a 140-foot tall bronze statue of Lachit Borphukan, an Ahom general was unveiled.

3) PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sela Tunnel, constructed at a cost of about Rs 825 crore, in Tawang district in Arunachal Pradesh.

4) PM inaugurated the multiple developmental projects in the rail & road sector worth more than Rs 4500 crores during the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit West Bengal Programme' in Siliguri, West Bengal.

5) PM inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of new terminal buildings of 15 airports across India worth more than Rs 9800 crores in Uttar Pradesh.

Answer- 2) **During PM Modi visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the 'Statue of Valour', a 140-foot tall bronze statue of Lachit Borphukan, an Ahom general was unveiled.**

**Explanation:**

Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** visited Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh from 8th to 10th March 2024. During the visit, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various projects.

- PM Modi inaugurated, dedicated to the nation, and laid the foundation stone of projects worth Rs 17500 crore at Jorhat, Assam.
- **PM Narendra Modi** unveiled a '**Statue of Valour**', a **125-foot tall bronze statue of Lachit Borphukan**, an Ahom general, in Jorhat, Assam at the Lachit Barphukan Maidam Development Project in Hollongapar near Teok.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sela Tunnel, constructed at a cost of about Rs 825 crore, in Tawang district in Arunachal Pradesh.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and dedicated to the nation multiple developmental projects in the rail and road sector worth more than Rs 4500 crores during the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit West Bengal Programme' in Siliguri, West Bengal.
- PM inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of new terminal buildings of 15 airport across India worth more than Rs 9800 crores in Uttar Pradesh. [Click here to read more](#)

**7. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Visit of President of India, Droupadi Murmu to the Republic of Mauritius in March 2024?**

**A) President of India Droupadi Murmu was conferred with the prestigious Honoris Causa Degree of Doctor of Civil Law by the University of Mauritius.**

**B) Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), India and Public Service Commission, Mauritius signed an MoU for sharing experiences and expertise in Public Service recruitment.**

**C) A MoU between Central Bureau Investigation (CBI), India and Independent Commission Against Corruption(ICAC), Mauritius has been signed for information sharing and capacity-building to combat corruption and money laundering.**

- 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:**

**Droupadi Murmu**, President of India, was on a **3-day state visit** to the **Republic of Mauritius** from 11th to 13th March 2024. This was her first state visit to Mauritius.

- President of India Droupadi Murmu was conferred with the prestigious **Honoris Causa Degree of Doctor of Civil Law** by the University of Mauritius in recognition of her efforts in strengthening bilateral ties between India and Mauritius.
- MoU signed between **UPSC** (Union Public Service Commission), **India** and **Public Service Commission, Mauritius** is for sharing experiences and expertise in Public Service recruitment.

- A MoU between **CBI** (Central Bureau Investigation), India and Independent Commission Against Corruption (**ICAC**), **Mauritius** has been signed for information sharing and capacity-building to combat corruption and money laundering. [Click here to read more](#)

## **BANKING AND FINANCE**

**1. In February 2024, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) notified Amendments to PFRDA (Retirement Adviser) Regulations 2016 with effect from 20th February 2024.**

**An application for grant of certificate of registration should be disposed of by PFRDA within \_\_\_\_\_ (days).**

- 1) 15 days
- 2) 60 days
- 3) 20 days
- 4) 30 days
- 5) 10 days

**Answer- 4) 30 days**

**Explanation:**

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (**PFRDA**) made changes to the PFRDA (Retirement Adviser) Regulations 2016 with effect from 20th February 2024.

- This regulation may be termed as the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (Retirement Adviser/ RA) (Amendment) Regulations, 2023.
- The amendment was made in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 52 read with clause (w) of sub-section (2) thereof and clause (d) of sub-section (2) of section 14 of the PFRDA act, 2013 (23 of 2013).

**i. Grant of certificate of registration:** An application for **grant of certificate** of registration should be disposed of by PFRDA within **30 days**. [Click here to read more](#)

**2. During the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Financial Literacy Week (FLW), RBI launched the Financial Literacy Ideathon for Postgraduate (PG) students, currently enrolled in recognized educational institutions.**

**What is the theme of FLW 2024, which is being observed from 26th February to 1st March 2024?**

- 1) Encode Digital Economy
- 2) Make a Right Start – Become Financially Smart
- 3) Good Financial Behavior- Your Saviour
- 4) Go Digital, Go Secure
- 5) Know and Plan your Finances to Live a Better Life

**Answer- 2) Make a Right Start – Become Financially Smart**

**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has launched the **Financial Literacy Ideathon** for Postgraduate (**PG**) students, currently enrolled in recognized educational institutions.

- The Ideathon is being organised as a part of the RBI's Financial Literacy Week (**FLW**) 2024 observed from **26th February to 1st March 2024**.

- The **theme of FLW 2024** is “**Make a Right Start – Become Financially Smart**”. The 2024 theme targets young adults, mainly students.

**3. In February 2024, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) raised a USD \_\_\_\_\_, 5-year global bond.**

- 1) 5.0 billion
- 2) 2.1 billion
- 3) 3.5 billion
- 4) 4.2 billion
- 5) 4.0 billion

**Answer- 3) 3.5 billion**

**Explanation:**

On February 28, 2024, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) priced a **USD 3.5 billion** 5-year global bond. The proceeds of this bond will become part of ADB's ordinary capital resources.

**i. Bond Details:**

- The bond was priced at 99.827% to yield 12.7 basis points over the 4.25% United States Treasury notes due February 2029.
- Coupon rate: 4.375% per annum (payable semi-annually)
- Maturity date: 6 March 2029

**4. In February 2024, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised the regulatory framework for Bharat Bill Payment Systems (BBPS) based on a review of developments in the payments landscape.**

**The revised directions, called RBI (BBPS) Directions, 2024, will be applicable from \_\_\_\_\_.**

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

**Answer- 3) 1st April 2024**

**Explanation:**

On February 29, 2024, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised the regulatory framework for Bharat Bill Payment Systems (BBPS) based on a review of developments in the payments landscape. The revised directions, called RBI (BBPS) Directions, 2024, will be applicable from **1st April 2024**.

- The master direction of RBI (BBPS) directions 2024 was issued under Section 18 read with Section 10(2) of the Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007 (Act 51 of 2007).
- The RBI (Filing of Supervisory Returns) Directions 2024 were issued to reduce the compliance burden of banks and non-banks on issues related to filing supervisory returns and risk mitigation.
- As per the RBI's Quarterly House Price Index (HPI) for Q3FY24, all-India HPI increased by 3.8% (Year-on-Year/Y-o-Y) in Q3FY24 compared to 3.5% growth in Q2FY24 and 2.8% in Q3FY23.

[Click here to read more](#)

**5. In February 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) updated its “Enabling Framework for Regulatory Sandbox” to streamline the process for fintech companies.**

**RBI has extended the overall timeline for the Regulatory Sandbox (RS) process from 7 months to \_\_\_\_\_, excluding the preliminary screening period.**

- 1) 11 months
- 2) 9 months
- 3) 8 months
- 4) 10 months
- 5) 12 months

**Answer- 2) 9 months**

**Explanation:**

On 28th February 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) updated its “Enabling Framework for Regulatory Sandbox” to streamline the process for fintech companies.

- This update reflects the learnings gathered from running four cohorts over the past 4.5 years along with feedback from participants like fintech companies, banking partners and other stakeholders.

**i. Extended timelines:** RBI has extended the overall timeline for the Regulatory Sandbox (RS) process from 7 months to **9 months**, excluding the preliminary screening period.

**ii. Data protection compliance:** The updated framework mandates compliance with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

**6. Which bank/Financial company has recently (in March '24) signed an MoU with NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) to transform cross-border payments using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform?**

- 1) Attica Bank
- 2) Alpha Bank
- 3) Piraeus Bank
- 4) Jumbo S.A.
- 5) Eurobank S.A

**Answer- 5) Eurobank S.A**

**Explanation:**

NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), a subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Greece-based Eurobank S.A., to transform cross-border payments using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform.

- This initiative will place Greece as one of the 1st European countries to facilitate UPI remittances, empowering the Indian diaspora in Greece to undertake efficient remittances to India.

**7. Name the bank that has recently (in March '24) launched the ‘Smart Choice Gold Loan’.**

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

**Answer- 1) Kotak Mahindra Bank**

**Explanation:**

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (**KMBL**) launched the 'Smart Choice Gold Loan' with a simpler application & disbursement process which aims to offer consumers the maximum value and flexibility to meet their credit needs

- The monthly interest rate of the loan is as low as **0.88%**.

i. The loan comes with other features like zero processing fee, same-day disbursement, flexible repayment options, and minimal documentation.

**8. In March 2024, REC Limited had listed two bonds worth Rs \_\_\_\_\_ on the NSE India (National Stock Exchange of India Ltd) and BSE Limited.**

- 1) 2,870 crore
- 2) 3,910 crore
- 3) 5,375 crore
- 4) 4,120 crore
- 5) 6,175 crore

Answer- **3) 5,375 crore**

**Explanation:**

**REC Limited** has successfully listed two bonds worth **Rs 5,375 crore** on the **NSE India** (National Stock Exchange of India Ltd) and **BSE Limited** (formerly Bombay Stock Exchange).

- The first bond is worth Rs.2,500 crore and has a maturity period of 10 years (matures on 28th February 2034). It offers a yield of 7.47%.
- The second bond is worth Rs.2,875 crore and has a maturity period of 3 years and 2 months (matures on 30th April 2027). It offers a yield of 7.64%.

i. These bonds are rated IND AAA by India Ratings and Research Private Limited (IRPL) and ICRA AAA by Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency (ICRA).

**9. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the recent step taken by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in March 2024?**

**A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave approval to NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL) to launch an interoperable payment system for internet banking in the Calendar Year 2024 (CY24).**

**B) RBI has sanctioned USD 530 million all-stocks Scheme of Amalgamation of Fincare Small Finance Bank (SFB) Ltd. (Transferor Bank) with AU SFB Ltd. (Transferee Bank).**

**C) RBI directed IIFL Finance Ltd to cease and desist from sanctioning or disbursing gold loans or assigning/ securitising/ selling any of its gold loans.**

- 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:**

On March 4, 2024, Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) gave approval to **NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd** (NBBL) to launch an interoperable payment system for internet banking in the Calendar Year 2024 (**CY24**).

- This will allow merchants to more quickly settle funds. This information was shared by the Governor of RBI, Shaktikanta Das, at the Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) celebrations, in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

**i.** RBI has sanctioned **USD 530 million** all-stocks Scheme of Amalgamation of Bengaluru, Karnataka based **Fincare Small Finance Bank (SFB) Ltd.** (Transferor Bank) with Jaipur, Rajasthan headquartered **AU SFB Ltd.** (Transferee Bank) in exercise of the powers contained in sub-section (4) of Section 44A of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949.

**ii.** RBI in exercise of its powers under Section 45L(1)(b) of the RBI Act, 1934, **directed IIFL Finance Ltd.** to cease and desist, w.e.f March 4, 2024, from sanctioning or disbursing **gold loans** or assigning/ securitising/ selling any of its gold loans. [Click here to read more](#)

**10. Which company has recently (in March '24) has received final authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate an Online Payment Aggregator (PA)?**

- 1) Phi Commerce Private Limited
- 2) Infibeam Avenues Limited
- 3) Worldline ePayments India
- 4) Paysharp Private Limited
- 5) Pine Labs Private Limited

Answer- **2) Infibeam Avenues Limited**

**Explanation:**

Gandhinagar (Gujarat) based **Infibeam Avenues Limited** (formerly Avenues India Private Limited) has received final authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) to operate an **Online Payment Aggregator (PA)** for its payment gateway brand, CCAvenue.

- Infibeam Avenues received in-principle approval from RBI to operate as a PA in 2022.

**i.** The Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) for Setting up and Operating Payment System in India is issued by RBI under Section 7 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

**11. Which organisation/Bank has recently (in March '24) approved a new project worth USD 452 million to improve connectivity in rural areas of Assam?**

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

Answer- **2) World Bank**

**Explanation:**

The **World Bank (WB)** has approved a new project worth **USD 452 million** to improve connectivity for over 1.8 million people living in rural areas of **Assam**.

**i.** The Assam Resilient Rural Bridges Program will strengthen the resilience and management of roads and bridges to help people living in 1,739 villages.

**ii.** The Program Development Objective (PDO) is to build green, inclusive, and resilient connectivity for over 1.8 million people living in rural areas of Assam and strengthen the road and bridge management capability of the Public Works Roads Department, Assam.

- The total finance of the program is USD 564.71 million.



**12. Name the company that has recently (in March '24) partnered with the Unit of Science and Educational Development (UNISED) to support the education of children in Siddharthnagar, Uttar Pradesh (UP).**

- 1) REC Limited
- 2) NTPC Limited
- 3) Power Finance Corporation
- 4) Coal India Limited
- 5) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited

**Answer- 1) REC Limited**

**Explanation:**

**REC Limited** through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm REC Foundation has **partnered** with the Unit of Science and Educational Development (**UNISED**) to **support the education** of approximately 75,500 children in the Siddharthnagar district of Uttar Pradesh (UP).

- REC has committed financial support of Rs 9.91 crores to support education.

**13. Which company has recently (in March '24) got Suspended from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to finance against shares and debentures?**

- 1) Clix Finance India Private Ltd
- 2) Siemens Financial Services Private Ltd
- 3) Altico Capital India Ltd
- 4) PTC India Financial Services Ltd
- 5) JM Financial Products Ltd

**Answer- 5) JM Financial Products Ltd**

**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has barred Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **JM Financial Products Ltd (JMFPL)** from financing against **shares and debentures** including sanction and disbursement of loans against initial public offering (IPO) of shares with immediate effect.

- RBI imposed the ban in exercise of its powers under section 45L(1)(b) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934,

**i.** The RBI cited “serious deficiencies” observed in loans sanctioned by JM Financial for IPO financing and non-convertible debenture (NCD) subscriptions as the reason for the ban.

**14. Which bank has recently (in March '24) partnered with EaseMyTrip(EMT) to launch a co-branded premier travel credit card?**

- 1) Punjab National Bank
- 2) Indian Bank
- 3) Bank of Maharashtra
- 4) State Bank of India
- 5) Bank of Baroda

**Answer- 1) Punjab National Bank**

**Explanation:**

Punjab National Bank (**PNB**), an Indian public sector bank, has **partnered** with EaseMyTrip (**EMT**), one of India’s largest online travel tech platforms, to launch ‘PNB EMT Credit Card’, a **co-branded premier** travel credit card.

- The card is intended for both mass and premium customers and offers a variety of rewards for Indian travellers.
- The PNB EMT credit card is available for an annual membership fee of Rs 2,000 and can be globally used across 100 countries.

**15. Name the Bank that has recently (in March '24) launched a Lifetime Zero Balance Savings Bank Account?**

- 1) Punjab National Bank
- 2) Bank of Baroda
- 3) Indian Bank
- 4) Bank of Maharashtra
- 5) Bank of India

Answer- **2) Bank of Baroda**

**Explanation:**

**Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has launched a **Lifetime Zero Balance Savings Bank Account** called 'bob LITE Savings Account'. This account offers a lifetime free RuPay Platinum Debit Card for customers who maintain a nominal Quarterly Average Balance (QAB).

**i.** The account is open to all resident individuals, including minors aged 10 years and above who can read and write.

**16. Which bank has recently (in March '24) launched a zero-balance digital savings account called 'GO Account'?**

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

Answer- **3) RBL Bank**

**Explanation:**

**RBL Bank** Limited has launched a **zero-balance digital savings** account called '**GO Account**'. This account offers a free premium GO Debit Card.

**i.** The account offers interest rates of up to 7.5% per annum for saving accounts and 8.10% for fixed accounts.

**ii.** The account holders are provided with vouchers worth Rs.1,500 for premier brands, comprehensive cyber insurance cover, accident and travel insurance up to Rs.1 crore and other premium banking services.

**17. Which country's central bank has recently (in March '24) signed an MoU with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to promote the use of local currencies of both countries?**

- 1) Reserve Bank of Australia
- 2) Bangladesh Bank
- 3) Bank Indonesia
- 4) Bank of Japan
- 5) Central Bank of Malaysia

Answer- **3) Bank Indonesia**

**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank Indonesia (BI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies of both countries, such as the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR), for cross-border transactions.

i. It aims to promote the use of INR and IDR bilaterally.

**18. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the amendment of the ‘Master Direction – Credit Card and Debit Card – Issuance and Conduct Directions, 2022’ by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in March 2024?**

**A) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) amended the ‘Master Direction – Credit Card and Debit Card – Issuance and Conduct Directions, 2022’, customers as they will get the freedom to choose from multiple card networks.**

**B) RBI amended in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 35A of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949 and Chapter IIIB of the RBI Act 1934.**

**C) The timeline to follow the new norms by the card issuers is 6 months.**

- 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 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 35A of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949 and Chapter IIIB of the RBI Act 1934, amended the ‘**Master Direction – Credit Card and Debit Card – Issuance and Conduct Directions, 2022**’, the provisions of which will come into effect from March 07, 2024.

- As per it, card issuers are barred from entering into any arrangement with card networks for the issuance of credit cards that restrain them from availing the services of other card networks.
- This will benefit as **customers** as they will get the freedom to choose from multiple card networks.
- The timeline to follow the new norms by the card issuers is **6 months**. [Click here to read more](#)

**19. In March 2024, Fairfax India Holdings Corporation committed to provide up to USD \_\_\_\_\_ liquidity support to IIFL Finance Limited.**

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

Answer- **4) 200 million**

**Explanation:**

Indian-Canadian billionaire Prem Watsa-backed **Fairfax India Holdings Corporation** committed to provide up to **USD 200 million** liquidity support to **IIFL Finance Limited**.

- i. The move is the aftermath of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s ban on IIFL Finance in sanctioning or disbursing gold loans.
- ii. Fairfax India is one of the long-term investors in the IIFL group of companies and it owns a 15% stake in IIFL Finance.

**20. In March 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduce a Third (III) Settlement Schemes for entities involved in the Illiquid Stock Options (ISO) segment of Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) in terms of \_\_\_\_\_ (Section) of the SEBI Act, \_\_\_\_\_ (year) read with Regulation 26 of SEBI (Settlement Proceedings) Regulations 2018.**

- 1) Section 10JA; 1992
- 2) Section 12JC; 1995
- 3) Section 15JB; 1992
- 4) Section 12JC; 1997
- 5) Section 15JB; 1995

**Answer- 3) Section 15JB; 1992**

**Explanation:**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduce a Third (III) Settlement Schemes for entities involved in the Illiquid Stock Options (ISO)/reversal trades segment of Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) in terms of **Section 15JB** of the **SEBI Act, 1992** read with Regulation 26 of SEBI (Settlement Proceedings) Regulations 2018.

- The Scheme is being implemented from **March 11, 2024 to May 10, 2024.**

i. Under this, entities involved in reversal trades in stock options between April 01, 2014, and September 30, 2015, with pending proceedings will be offered a settlement opportunity.

**21. In March 2024, the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced amendments to the Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) Regulations 2014 namely 'SEBI (REIT) (Amendment) Regulations 2024'.**

**The initial offering for an SM REIT requires a minimum subscription amount of Rs \_\_\_\_\_ per investor.**

- 1) 15 lakh
- 2) 20 lakh
- 3) 10 lakh
- 4) 25 lakh
- 5) 12 lakh

**Answer- 3) 10 lakh**

**Explanation:**

The Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced amendments to the Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) Regulations 2014 namely '**SEBI (REIT) (Amendment) Regulations 2024**'. This will establish guidelines for creation of Small and Medium REITs, or SM REITs.

i. SM REITs can raise funds starting from Rs 50 crore by issuing units to a minimum of 200 investors for acquiring and managing real estate assets, generating income for investors.

ii. The initial offering for an **SM REIT** requires a minimum subscription amount of **Rs 10 lakh per investor**, lower than the usual Rs 25 lakh.

**22. According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Annual Report of Ombudsman Scheme, 2022-23 released in March 2024, the number of complaints received by the Offices of the RBI Ombudsman (ORBIOs) and Centralised Receipt and Processing Centre (CRPC) increased by \_\_\_\_\_ in FY23.**

- 1) 70.20%
- 2) 60.01%
- 3) 68.24%
- 4) 63.10%
- 5) 59.90%

Answer- **3) 68.24%**

**Explanation:**

According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Annual Report of Ombudsman Scheme, 2022-23, the **number of complaints** received by the Offices of the RBI Ombudsman (ORBIOs) and Centralised Receipt and Processing Centre (CRPC) increased by **68.24%** to 7,03,544 during fiscal year 2022-23 (FY23) compared to 4,18,184 complaints during FY22.

i. The report, released on 11th March 2024, is the 1st stand alone report under Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS), 2021 explaining the activities of the 22 ORBIOs, CRPC and the Contact Centre.

**23. Name the bank that has recently (in March '24) launched India's first contactless payment wearable.**

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

Answer- **5) IndusInd Bank**

**Explanation:**

**IndusInd Bank** Limited has launched its **contactless payments** wearable 'Indus PayWear' which is India's first all-in-one tokenizable wearable for both debit and credit cards exclusively on Mastercard.

- The device aims to offer unparalleled flexibility, convenience, and security to users.

**24. In March 2024, the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) received the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) approval for its first anchored project, the Avaana Sustainability Fund (ASF), valued at USD \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) 120 million
- 2) 240 million
- 3) 200 million
- 4) 180 million
- 5) 150 million

Answer- **1) 120 million**

**Explanation:**

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has secured approval from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for its first anchored project, the Avaana Sustainability Fund (ASF), valued at **USD 120 million.**

- GCF will contribute USD 24.5 million to ASF.
- This was announced during the 38th board meeting of GCF held in Kigali, Rwanda from 5-7 March 2024.

**25. Which bank has recently (in March '24) launched 'Green Term Deposit Scheme' to raise deposits to finance eligible environment-friendly projects and sectors?**

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

Answer- **5) Bank of Baroda**

**Explanation:**

**Bank of Baroda (BoB)**, one of India's leading public sector banks, has launched '**bob Earth Green Term Deposit Scheme**' to raise deposits to finance eligible environment-friendly projects and sectors.

- i. The scheme offers stable & secure financial returns along with an opportunity to contribute to a greener planet.
- ii. Eligibility: The General Public/Resident Indians, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and High Net worth Individuals (HNI) investors are all eligible to invest in the scheme.

**26. Name the Insurance Company that has recently (in March '24) launched a comprehensive women's health insurance plan 'Health PowHER'.**

- 1) HDFC Standard Life Insurance
- 2) Future Generali India Life Insurance
- 3) SBI Life Insurance
- 4) IndiaFirst Life Insurance
- 5) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance

Answer- **2) Future Generali India Life Insurance**

**Explanation:**

Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Limited (FGILI)** has launched a comprehensive women's health insurance plan '**Health PowHER**' designed specifically for women.

- i. The plan aims to address the various needs of women across the different stages of their lives.

**27. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the recent step taken by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in March 2024?**

- A) SEBI expanded the framework of Qualified Stock Brokers (QSBs) to more stock brokers in order to protect the interest of investors, building trust in the securities market, and strengthening the compliance culture among stock brokers.**
- B) This information by SEBI is issued in exercise of its powers conferred under Section 11(1) of Chapter IV of the SEBI Act, 1992, read with Regulation 30 of Chapter VII of SEBI (Stock Brokers) Regulations, 1992.**
- C) SEBI has notified the SEBI (Index Providers) Regulations, 2024 mandating registration for index providers managing important indices based on Indian-listed securities.**

- 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 11, 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) expanded the framework of Qualified Stock Brokers (**QSBs**) to more stock brokers in order to protect the interest of investors, building trust in securities market, and strengthening the compliance culture among stock brokers

- This information by SEBI is issued in exercise of its powers conferred under Section 11(1) of Chapter IV of the SEBI Act, 1992, read with Regulation 30 of Chapter VII of SEBI (Stock Brokers) Regulations, 1992.

**i.** SEBI has notified the **SEBI (Index Providers) Regulations, 2024** in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 30 read with sub-section (2) of Section 11 and Section 12 of the SEBI Act, 1992 (15 of 1992).

- Under this, SEBI has **mandated registration** for index providers managing important indices based on **Indian-listed securities**. This promotes transparency in governing and administering financial benchmarks in the securities market. [Click here to read more](#)

**28. Name the bank that has recently (in March '24) partnered with the One97 Communications Limited to settle Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions.**

- 1) State Bank of India
- 2) Punjab National Bank
- 3) Bank of India
- 4) Bank of Baroda
- 5) Bank of Maharashtra

Answer- **1) State Bank of India**

**Explanation:**

State Bank of India (**SBI**), India's largest public sector bank, has partnered with Noida (Uttar Pradesh) based **One97 Communications Limited** to settle Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) transactions upon acquiring the third-party app provider (TPAP) licence.

- The other three TPAP partnerships are HDFC Bank Limited, Axis Bank Limited and YES Bank Limited.
- The partnership aims to redirect Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL)'s handle "@paytm" to one of the four banks for settlement.

**29. In March 2024, L&T Finance Holdings Ltd. signed a loan agreement with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for USD \_\_\_\_\_ to improve financial access in India's lagging states.**

- 1) 125 million
- 2) 110 million
- 3) 100 million
- 4) 130 million
- 5) 145 million

Answer- **1) 125 million**

**Explanation:**

On March 12, 2024, a **loan agreement** ceremony was held between the L&T Finance Holdings Ltd. (**LTFH**) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (**JICA**) in Mumbai, Maharashtra. This follows the signing of a loan agreement in December 2023 by LTFH with JICA for up to **USD 125 million** to improve financial access in **India's lagging states**.

- The project was arranged by the Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) who co-financed the funding amount.

**i.** The lagging states include 10 states with poverty rates above 10% viz. Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and West Bengal (WB).

**30. Name the bank that has recently (in March '24) launched 'Vikas Spoorty', a new loan scheme to strengthen the rural credit delivery system.**

- 1) Assam Gramin Vikash Bank
- 2) Madhya Pradesh Gramin Bank
- 3) Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank
- 4) Himachal Pradesh Gramin Bank
- 5) Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank

Answer- **5) Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank**

**Explanation:**

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (**KVGB**) has launched a new loan scheme called '**Vikas Spoorty**' to strengthen the **rural credit delivery system** and to motivate the common man to take up income-generating activities on a smaller scale.

- The scheme was launched by Shreekanth M Bhandiwad, Chairman of KVGB in an event held in Dharwad, Karnataka.
- Under this scheme, people may avail loans ranging from a minimum of Rs 50,000 to a maximum of Rs 2 lakh.

**31. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the recent step taken by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in March 2024?**

**A) RBI barred Federal Bank and South Indian Bank from issuing co-branded credit cards to new customers on account of regulatory deficiencies.**

**B) RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.4 crore on Bank of India (BOI) for non-compliance with certain regulatory norms.**

**C) RBI also imposed a penalty of Rs 29.55 lakh on Bank of Maharashtra for non-compliance with certain directions on 'RBI (Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2016'.**

- 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 March 12, 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) **barred Federal Bank and South Indian Bank** from issuing co-branded credit cards to new customers on account of regulatory deficiencies.



- RBI in exercise of its powers conferred under the provisions of section 47 A (1) (c) read with sections 46 (4) (i) and 51(1) of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949 and section 25(1)(iii) read with section 23(4) of the Credit Information Companies/CIC (Regulation) Act, 2005 has imposed a **monetary penalty** of **Rs 1.4 crore** on Bank of India (**BOI**) for non-compliance with certain regulatory norms..
- **RBI** in exercise of powers vested in RBI conferred under the provisions of section 47A(1)(c) read with section 46(4)(i) of the BR Act, 1949 also **imposed a penalty** of **Rs 29.55 lakh** on **Bandhan Bank Ltd** (BDN) for non-compliance with certain directions on 'RBI (Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2016'.

**32. Which Institute has recently (in March '24) signed a multi-year MoU with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to conduct joint research on Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology?**

- 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:**

The National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) has signed a multi-year Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Indian Institute of Science (**IISc**), **Bangalore** (Bengaluru, Karnataka), to conduct joint research on **Blockchain** and Artificial Intelligence (**AI**) technology.

- Under this partnership, NPCI-IISc Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Deep Tech Research & Development will be established to foster innovation in these fields.

**i. Tech Fini**, a Mumbai-based Fintech firm specializing in payment infrastructure solutions, has partnered with **NPCI** to offer Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) **2.0** Acquiring and Issuing Switch Solutions to its merchants.

**33. Which organisation has recently (in March '24) signed USD 181 Million Loan Agreement with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) for the 'Ahmedabad Peri-urban Livability Improvement Project'?**

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

Answer- **5) Asian Development Bank**

**Explanation:**

On 13th March 2024, the Ministry of Finance (**MoF**) and the Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) signed a loan agreement worth **USD 181 Million** for the 'Ahmedabad Peri-urban Livability Improvement Project'.

- The amount will be utilised to build quality infrastructure and services toward improving urban livability and mobility in the peri-urban areas of Ahmedabad city in Gujarat. The total finance of the program is USD 316.9 million.

**34. Which country's Fonepay Payment Service Ltd has recently (in March '24) partnered with the NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), India to launch cross-border Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions?**

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

**Answer- 3) Nepal**

**Explanation:**

NPCI International Payments Ltd (**NIPL**), the international arm of National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**), partnered with Fonepay Payment Service Ltd, **Nepal's** largest payment network, to launch **cross-border** Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) transactions between India and Nepal.

- This initiative was unveiled at Global Fintech Fest 2023 in India in September 2023.

**35. Who was recently (in March 2024) inducted as a member of the Committee of Advisors of Abhyudaya Cooperative Bank Limited?**

- 1) Devendara Kumar
- 2) Venkatesan Duraiswamy
- 3) Rajesh B. Paralkar
- 4) Krishna Kumar
- 5) Nityanand Prabhu

**Answer-1) Devendara Kumar**

**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reconstituted a **three-member Committee** of Advisors of **Abhyudaya Cooperative Bank** Limited by inducting **Devendara Kumar** in place of Mahendra Chhajed after his resignation.

i. The 'Committee of Advisors' **comprises** of Devendra Kumar (former Chief-General Manager, State Bank of India (SBI)), Venkatesh Hegde (former General Manager, SBI), and Suhas Gokhale (former Managing Director, COSMOS Co-operative Bank).

**36. Which company has recently (in March '24) signed an MoU with the Government of Rajasthan to finance power & infrastructure projects worth Rs. 20,000 crore?**

- 1) JSW Energy Limited
- 2) REC Limited
- 3) Reliance Power Limited
- 4) Tata Power Company Limited
- 5) Adani Energy Solutions Limited

**Answer-2) REC Limited**

**Explanation:**

**REC Limited** (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Rajasthan to finance power & infrastructure projects worth **Rs. 20,000 crore** per annum for a period of six years, extending up to 2030.

i. In addition to the MoU with REC, the Rajasthan government also signed several agreements worth Rs 1.6 lakh crore with a number of central public sector Undertakings (CPSUs) under the power ministry and the coal ministry.

**37. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the recent step taken by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in March 2024?**

**A) SEBI approved same day settlement (T+0) for 25 scrips with select brokers along measures to bring flexibility for Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), and Foreign Portfolio Investments (FPIs).**

**B) FPIs with over 50% of Indian equity in one group exempt from extra disclosures if holdings in a listed company with no identified promoter stay below 3%.**

**C) There are relaxed timelines for FPIs’ material change disclosures; reactivation within 30 days of registration expiry or disposal within 180 days.**

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

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

**Explanation:**

**The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approved same day settlement (T+0) for 25 scrips** with select brokers along measures to bring flexibility for Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), and Foreign Portfolio Investments (FPIs).

- It also endorsed a standardized approach for market rumor verification through an Industry Standards Forum (ISF).

**i. FPIs with over 50% of Indian equity in one group exempt from extra disclosures** if holdings in a listed company with no identified promoter stay below **3%**.

**ii. There are relaxed timelines for FPIs’ material change disclosures; reactivation within 30 days of registration expiry** or disposal within **180 days**, with unsold securities transferred to escrow after **360 days**.

**38. Which of the following companies/credit cards have recently (in March ‘24) partnered with Airtel Payments Bank Limited to develop the Airtel Payments Bank Smartwatch?**

- 1) Nexxbase Marketing Private Limited (Noise)
- 2) Mastercard
- 3) Visa
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 1 & 3

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

**Explanation:**

**Airtel Payments Bank Limited (APBL) has developed the Airtel Payments Bank Smartwatch in partnership with Gurugram (Haryana) based Nexxbase Marketing Private Limited (Noise) and Mastercard.**

This smartwatch is equipped with Near Field Communication (NFC) technology powered by Mastercard.

i. Upon linking the smartwatch with an Airtel Payments Bank account, a customer can make payments between Rs 1 to Rs 25,000 per day in Point of Sale (POS) machines.

**39. Which Country has recently (in March' 24) signed USD 23.27 million Line of Credit (LOC) Agreement with the Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank) for the procurement of two Dornier aircraft ?**

- 1) Guyana
- 2) Paraguay
- 3) Venezuela
- 4) Peru
- 5) Bolivia

Answer- **1) Guyana**

**Explanation:**

The government of the Co-operative Republic of **Guyana** has signed a **USD 23.27 million Line of Credit (LOC) Agreement** with the Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank) for the procurement of two **Dornier aircraft**.

**i.** Under this LOC, Guyana will purchase **two Dornier (Hindustan 228-201)** transport aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for USD 23.37 million.

**ii.** The acquisition of **2 aircraft** under this agreement marks the largest investment in the capitalisation of the force.

**40. Which of the following statements is / are correct with respect to the recent step taken by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in March 2024?**

**A) RBI finalised the 'Omnibus Framework for recognising Self-Regulatory Organisations (SRO) for Regulated Entities (REs) of RBI'.**

**B) SROs have to submit an annual report to the RBI within 3 months of completion of the accounting year.**

**C) SRO, which will be structured as a not-for-profit company registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013, will also submit periodic/ ad hoc returns as may be prescribed by RBI.**

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

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

**Explanation:**

**On March 21, 2024**, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) finalized the '**Omnibus Framework for recognising Self-Regulatory Organisations (SRO)** for Regulated Entities (REs) of RBI'.

- The framework sets general standards like objectives, responsibilities, eligibility, governance, and application procedures for all recognized SROs by RBI.
- SROs have to submit an annual report to the RBI within **3 months** of completion of the accounting year.
- The SRO, which will be structured as a not-for-profit company registered under **Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013**, will also submit periodic/ ad hoc returns as may be prescribed by RBI.

i. In response to a request from the Government of India (GoI), the RBI will keep all branches of banks handling government transactions open on March 31, 2024 (Sunday) to ensure all transactions for the fiscal year 2023-2024 (FY24) are accounted for. [Click here to read more.](#)

**41. Which Bank has recently (in March' 24) announced a USD 250 million lending commitment for new-age startups and new economy companies ?**

- 1) Standard Chartered Bank India
- 2) DBS Bank India
- 3) HSBC India
- 4) CSB Bank India
- 5) Citibank India

Answer- **2) DBS Bank India**

**Explanation:**

**DBS Bank India Limited** announced a **USD 250 million** lending commitment for **new-age startups** and new economy companies, focusing on enterprises redefining industry standards through emerging technologies and innovative solutions.

**42. Which credit card provider has recently (in March' 24) collaborated with Titan Company Limited and Payment Services Ltd to introduce co-branded Cards?**

- 1) Mastercard
- 2) SBI Card
- 3) American Express
- 4) HDFC Card
- 5) ICICI Card

Answer- **2) SBI Card**

**Explanation:**

**SBI Card and Payment Services Ltd (SBI Card)** has collaborated with **Titan Company Limited** to introduce co-branded '**Titan SBI Card**' offering exclusive benefits such as cashbacks, Titan gift vouchers, and Reward Points, totaling over **Rs 2 lakh per annum**.

- Cardholders enjoy 5% cashback on purchases from Mia, Caratlane, and Zoya, and receive Titan gift vouchers worth 3% of spend at Tanishq stores.

**43. In March 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of Rs \_\_\_\_\_ on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited and Rs 63.6 lakh on \_\_\_\_\_ (Bank) for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI.**

- 1) 1.75 crore; DCB Bank Limited
- 2) 1.31 crore; Kotak Mahindra Bank
- 3) 1.75 crore; Karur Vysya Bank
- 4) 1.31 crore; DCB Bank Limited
- 5) 2.10 crore; Kotak Mahindra Bank

Answer- **4) 1.31 crore; DCB Bank Limited**

**Explanation:**

**The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed monetary **penalties** on **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited(TMB)** and **DCB Bank Limited** for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI.

i.RBI has imposed a penalty of **Rs 1.31 crore** on **TMB** for non-compliance with RBI directions on 'Interest Rate on Advances' and 'Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) – Revision in Reporting'.

ii.RBI has imposed a penalty of **Rs 63.6 lakh** on **DCB Bank** for non-compliance with RBI directions on 'Interest Rate on Advances'.

**44. Which Bank has recently (in March' 24) introduced the scheme Jewel Loan Suvidha to serve the unique needs of housing loan borrowers?**

- 1) Indian Overseas Bank
- 2) Bank of Baroda
- 3) Punjab National Bank
- 4) UCO Bank
- 5) IDBI Bank

**Answer- 1) Indian Overseas Bank**

**Explanation:**

**Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** has launched **2** new jewel loan **products:**

**i.IOB Gold Powered Card** to provide borrowers with instant access to a card linked directly to their jewel loan overdraft accounts, and

**ii.Jewel Loan Suvidha**, to serve the unique needs of housing loan borrowers, not only from IOB but also from other Financial Institutions (FIs).

**45. Which Bank along with National Payment Corporation of India(NPCI) has recently (in March' 24 ) launched a Rupay Smart Key Chain – 'FlashPay' for contactless National Common Mobility Cards?**

- 1) RBL Bank
- 2) Federal Bank
- 3) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- 4) HDFC Bank
- 5) Axis Bank

**Answer- 2) Federal Bank**

**Explanation:**

The Federal Bank and National Payment Corporation of India(NPCI), launched a **Rupay Smart Key Chain – 'FlashPay'** for Contactless National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) payments at enabled metro stations and Point Of Sale (POS) terminals.

**46. Which bank has recently (in March '24) introduced digital opening of United States dollar Fixed Deposits (FD) for Non-Resident Indian (NRI) customers at Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City in Gandhinagar, Gujarat?**

- 1) HDFC Bank
- 2) ICICI Bank
- 3) Axis Bank
- 4) RBL Bank
- 5) Federal Bank

**Answer- 3) Axis Bank**

**Explanation:**

On March 26, 2024, **Axis Bank** has introduced **digital opening of US (United States) dollar Fixed Deposits (FD)** for NRI (Non-Resident Indian) customers at its International Financial Services Centre/IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) in Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- i. With this, Axis Bank becomes the **first bank** to offer **digitization of GIFT City Deposits**.
- ii. Customers can conveniently manage their FD digitally and enjoy flexible investment tenures ranging from seven days to ten years.

**47. Which Bank /Organisation has recently (in March' 24) signed a pact with the NTPC Limited for sourcing foreign currency loans of USD 200 million?**

- 1) African Development Bank
- 2) International Monetary Fund
- 3) World Bank
- 4) Japan Bank for International Cooperation
- 5) Asian Development Bank

Answer- **4) Japan Bank for International Cooperation**

**Explanation:**

**The NTPC Limited** (formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation) has inked a pact with **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)** for sourcing foreign currency loans of **USD 200 million** (Japanese Yen (JPY) 30 billion or around Rs 1,650 crore).

- **JBIC** will provide **60%** of the facility amount and the balance amount will be provided by other commercial banks under JBIC guarantee
- i. Agreements signed for **JPY 15 billion** loans each for NTPC Ltd and NTPC Renewables Energy Ltd (NREL).
    - Of the 30 billion, the JBIC's portion is only JPY 9 billion each.

**48. Which company has recently (in March' 24) introduced a first-of-its-kind Down Payment EMI (Equated Monthly Instalment) solution for online retail?**

- 1) Razorpay Software Ltd
- 2) PhonePe Ltd
- 3) Paytm Mobile Solution Private Ltd
- 4) Easebuzz Private Ltd
- 5) PayU Payments Private Ltd

Answer- **5) PayU Payments Private Ltd**

**Explanation:**

**PayU Payments Private Limited (PayU)**, a leading payments solution provider in India, introduced a first-of-its-kind **Down Payment EMI (Equated Monthly Instalment) solution for online retail**.

- i. This replicates the flexibility and convenience of down payment options available in offline EMIs.

**49. Name the company that has recently (in March' 24) signed a co-lending partnership with Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited (TCHFL) to provide loans to economically weaker sections?**

- 1) Star Housing Finance Limited
- 2) Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

- 3) Religare Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited
- 4) Sahara Housing Finance Corporation Limited
- 5) IIFL Home Finance Limited

Answer- **1) Star Housing Finance Limited**

**Explanation:**

**Star Housing Finance Limited** (Star HFL) has signed a **co-lending partnership** with **Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited** (TCHFL) to provide **loans to economically weaker sections** (EWS) and low-income groups (LIG) at more affordable rates.

- The partnerships aim to serve consumers across different geographies by offering diverse origination capacities and levels of franchise to the borrower base.

**50. Which of the following statements is/are “correct” with respect to the approval of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) in March 2024?**

**A) IRDAI has approved eight principle-based consolidated regulations during its 125th Authority meeting held in Hyderabad, Telangana.**

**B) The 8 regulations include IRDAI (Rural, Social Sector and Motor Third Party Obligations) Regulations, 2024 merges two regulations concerning insurers’ minimum business commitments in rural, social sector, & motor third-party sectors under the Insurance Act, 1938.**

**C) The IRDAI (Bima Sugam – Insurance Electronic Marketplace) Regulations, 2024 aims to establish a Digital Public Infrastructure named Bima Sugam towards universalization and democratisation of insurance as well as empowering and safeguarding policyholders’ interests.**

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

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

**Explanation:**

**The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has approved **eight** principle-based consolidated regulations during its **125th Authority meeting** held on 19th March 2024, at IRDAI headquarters in Hyderabad, Telangana.

**i. IRDAI (Rural, Social Sector and Motor Third Party Obligations) Regulations, 2024** merges two regulations concerning insurers’ minimum business commitments in rural, social sector, and motor third-party sectors under the Insurance Act, 1938.

**ii.** The IRDAI (Bima Sugam – Insurance Electronic Marketplace) Regulations, 2024, aims to establish a Digital Public Infrastructure named Bima Sugam towards universalization and democratisation of insurance as well as empowering and safeguarding policyholders’ interests.

**iii.** During the meeting, IRDAI also **granted certificate of registration** (CoR) to a new health insurer, **Galaxy Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited** to carry out health insurance business in India. [Click here to read more.](#)



**51. In March 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) instructed the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) to halt inflows into overseas exchange traded funds from \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**Answer- 4) 1st April 2024**

**Explanation:**

**The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has instructed the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) to halt inflows into overseas exchange traded funds (ETFs) from April 1, 2024.**

**i. This decision comes as the current limit of USD 1 billion, set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), is nearing exhaustion.**

**52. In March 2024, Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL) launched a unified digital lending platform called 'ABHFL-Finverse' for its home loan customers.**

**'ABHFL-Finverse' has been co-created in association with \_\_\_\_\_(company).**

- 1) Zoho Corporation
- 2) Infosys Technologies
- 3) L&T Technology Services
- 4) HCL Technologies
- 5) Tata Consultancy Services

**Answer- 5) Tata Consultancy Services**

**Explanation:**

**Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited, has launched a unified digital lending platform called 'ABHFL-Finverse' for its home loan customers.**

- It will offer customers a seamless experience, a quick turnaround of loan applications, real-time updates, and greater transparency of loan status.

**i. The ABHFL-Finverse platform has been co-created in association with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).**

**53. Which of the following companies was/were recently (in March' 24) retained the Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) status by the Insurance Regulator and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)?**

- 1) General Insurance Corporation of India Limited
- 2) Life Insurance Corporation of India
- 3) New India Assurance
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) All 1, 2 & 3

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

**Explanation:**

**The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** retained the **Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)** status for Life Insurance Corporation of India (**LIC**), General Insurance Corporation of India Limited (**GIC Re**) and the **New India Assurance Company Limited**.

i. This means these public sector insurance companies will continue to be **identified as D-SIIs**, as in the 2022-23 list of D-SIIs.

**54. Name the regulatory body that has recently (in March '24) modified the norms to the investment by regulated entities (REs) in the Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).**

- 1) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- 2) Association of Mutual Funds in India
- 3) Reserve Bank of India
- 4) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- 5) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority

Answer- **3) Reserve Bank of India**

**Explanation:**

On March 27, 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) issued a **directive** to address the regulatory concerns related to the investment by **regulated entities (REs)** in the Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).

- The instructions were issued in exercise of its powers conferred by **Sections 21 and 35A of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949** read with Section 56 of the Act *ibid*; Chapter IIIB of the RBI Act, 1934 and Sections 30A, 32 and 33 of the National Housing Bank (NHB Act, 1987).

i. According to the new directive, downstream investments for Regulated Entities (REs) should exclude equity shares of the debtor company but include other investments, including hybrid instruments.

ii. Offline point-of-sales(PoS) deploying company **Innoviti Payments and payment gateway Vegaah**, which is run by Concerto Software and Systems, have secured the online payment aggregator (PA) licence from RBI. [Click here to read more](#)

**55. In March 2024, India released the 2nd tranche of Rs 500 crore to \_\_\_\_\_ (country) for the GyalSung Infrastructure Project.**

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

Answer- **5) Bhutan**

**Explanation:**

On 26th March 2024, India released the **2nd tranche of Rs 500 Crore** for the development of infrastructure related to **GyalSung Project to Bhutan**.

- **Sudhakar Dalela**, Indian Ambassador to Bhutan handed over the tranche to Lyonpo D.N. Dhungyel, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Bhutan.

ii. The MoU laid down the framework for the disbursement of Rs 1,500 Crore as concessionary financing to the Royal Government of Bhutan.

iii. The 1st tranche of Rs 500 Crore was released on 28th January, 2024.

- Till Now, Government of India(GoI) has released **Rs 1000 Crore** to Government of Bhutan.

**56. In March 2024, the Government of India (GoI) updated the list of banks authorized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to import gold and silver during the Financial year 2024-2025 (FY25).**

**Which of the following banks were permitted to import only gold?**

- 1) Punjab National Bank
- 2) Union Bank of India
- 3) Indian Overseas Bank
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) All 1, 2 & 3

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

**Explanation:**

The Government of India (GoI) updated the list of banks **authorized** by the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) **to import gold** and **silver** during the Financial year 2024-2025 (FY25).

**i.** As per the list, RBI has authorised 11 banks to import Gold and Silver and **3 banks** to import only **gold** with effect from 1st April 2024.

**ii.** The authorisation will be valid up to 31st March 2025.

**iii. List of Banks authorised to import only Gold:** Indian Overseas Bank(**IOB**); Punjab National Bank(**PNB**); and Union Bank of India(**UBI**). [Click here to read more.](#)

**57. Which Bank has recently (in March' 24) acquired the co-branding rights in Delhi Metro stations-Rajouri Garden, South Extension, and Inderlok?**

- 1) Punjab National Bank
- 2) State Bank of India
- 3) Indian Overseas bank
- 4) Union Bank of India
- 5) Bank of Baroda

Answer- **5) Bank of Baroda**

**Explanation:**

**Bank of Baroda (BoB)**, an Indian public sector bank (PSB), has acquired the **co-branding rights** for **three** Delhi Metro stations namely, Rajouri Garden, South Extension, and Inderlok.

**i.** Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has awarded the naming rights to the BoB for a period of **10 years**, starting from 2024. [Click here to read more.](#)

**58. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the recent step taken by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in March 2024?**

**A) SEBI launched the beta version of T+0 rolling settlement cycle (same-day transaction settlement) on an optional basis in addition to the existing T+1 settlement cycle in the equity cash market.**

**B) T+0 Trade Settlement Cycle allows same-day settlement of stock trades, instead of one-day settlement period (T+1).**

**C) The beta version of the T+0 settlement was introduced for a limited set of 25 scrips and with a limited number of brokers.**

- 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:**

Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) launched the **beta version of T+0** rolling settlement cycle (same-day transaction settlement) on an optional basis in addition to the existing T+1 settlement cycle in the equity cash market.

- The provisions of T+0 came into effect from March 28, 2024.

**i. About T+0 Trade Settlement Cycle:**

- This allows same-day settlement of stock trades, instead of one-day settlement period (**T+1**) i.e. waiting for a day for the trade to settle and funds/stocks to be delivered.
- The beta version of the T+0 settlement was introduced for a limited set of **25 scrips** and with a limited number of brokers.

**ii.** The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has approved a reduction of overall transaction charges across cash equity and equity derivatives segments by 1% starting April 1, 2024.

**59. As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) latest data released in March 2024, the total number of credit cards issued by banks in India surpassed the 100 million mark in February 2024. Which bank leads in the number of credit card issuances with 20.40 million credit cards in circulation?**

- 1) HDFC Bank
- 2) State Bank of India
- 3) ICICI Bank
- 4) Axis Bank
- 5) YES Bank

Answer- **1) HDFC Bank**

**Explanation:**

As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) latest data, the **total number of credit cards** issued by banks in India breached the **100 million mark** in February 2024.

- Data revealed that till February 2024, the total number of credit cards in circulation was 100.6 million. Whereas, In February 2023, the total number of credit cards in circulation stood at 99.5 million.

**i. HDFC Bank**, the largest private bank in India, **leads** in the **number of credit card** issuances with 20.40 million credit cards in circulation, followed by SBI (State Bank of India) with 18.75 million credit cards, ICICI Bank with 16.84 million, and Axis Bank with 13.90 million cards.

**60. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) mandated two-factor Aadhaar authentication for accessing the Central Record keeping Agency (CRA) system, which will be effective from \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) 1st July 2024
- 2) 1st June 2024
- 3) 1st May 2024

- 4) 1st April 2024
- 5) 1st August 2024

Answer- **4) 1st April 2024**

**Explanation:**

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (**PFRDA**) in its Digital Safety Practices for Government Nodal Offices Under NPS Architecture Advisory, 2024, has mandated two-factor Aadhaar authentication for accessing the Central Record keeping Agency (**CRA**) system, enhancing security for National Pension System (NPS) transactions.

- Effective from **April 1, 2024** about 1,600 government offices will implement two-factor Aadhaar authentication for accessing the CRA system.

**61. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has mandated that all insurance policies should be issued in electronic form with effect from \_\_\_\_\_**

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

Answer- **3) 1st April 2024**

**Explanation:**

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**) has mandated that all insurance policies should be issued in electronic form with effect from **1st April 2024**. This is similar to how investors hold shares in a demat account.

- The process of acquiring and managing insurance policies electronically is known as “e-insurance”.
- The insurance plans of an individual will be collectively recorded in his e-Insurance Account (eIA).

## **ECONOMY AND BUSINESS**

**1. Which company has recently (in Feb '24) signed a Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited (MAHAGENCO) to develop Gigawatt (GW)-scale Renewable Energy Parks in Maharashtra in a phased manner?**

- 1) NTPC Green Energy Limited
- 2) Adani Green Energy Limited
- 3) Tata Power Limited
- 4) Suzlon Energy Limited
- 5) ReNew Power Private Limited

Answer- **1) NTPC Green Energy Limited**

**Explanation:**

NTPC Green Energy Limited (**NGEL**) and Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited (**MAHAGENCO**) have signed a Joint Venture Agreement (**JVA**) to develop Gigawatt (**GW**)-scale Renewable Energy Parks in Maharashtra in a phased manner.

i. The agreement is in alignment with the green energy objectives of NTPC which aims to attain 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2032.

**2. Which company has recently (in Feb '24) signed a joint venture agreement (JVA) with the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) to establish an ammonium nitrate plant in Odisha?**

- 1) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
- 2) Coal India Limited
- 3) Indian Oil Corporation
- 4) Oil India Limited
- 5) Bharat Petroleum Limited

Answer- **2) Coal India Limited**

**Explanation:**

On 28th February 2024, Coal India Limited (**CIL**) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (**BHEL**) signed a joint venture agreement (**JVA**) to establish an **ammonium nitrate plant** in the Lakhanpur area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (one of the subsidiaries of CIL), **Odisha**.

i. The plant will produce about 6.60 Lakh tons of ammonium nitrate annually through the surface coal gasification (SCG) technology route.

ii. For this purpose, CIL will supply 1.3 million tonnes (mts) of coal and BHEL will provide indigenously developed pressurised fluidized bed gasification (PFBG) technology.

**3. According to the Quarterly Estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for October-December quarter of FY24 (Q3FY24) released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in February 2024, India's GDP grew at \_\_\_\_\_ in Q3FY24.**

- 1) 8.0%
- 2) 7.6%
- 3) 7.9%
- 4) 8.4%
- 5) 8.2%

Answer- **4) 8.4%**

**Explanation:**

The National Statistical Office (**NSO**) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**) released the Second Advance Estimates (**SAE**) of National Income, Financial Year 2023-24 (**FY24**); Quarterly Estimates of Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) for October-December quarter of FY24 (**Q3FY24**).

- **Real GDP** in **Q3FY24** is estimated at Rs 43.72 lakh crore, against Rs 40.35 lakh crore in Q3 of FY23, showing a growth rate of **8.4%**.
- The growth in real GDP during FY24 is estimated at 7.6% as compared to 7% in FY23.

**4. According to the 'Ecowrap' report by the State Bank of India (SBI) released in March 2024, the GDP growth for Financial Year 2023-24 (FY24) is likely to be within striking distance of \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) 8.5%
- 2) 8.2%
- 3) 8%
- 4) 8.4%

5) 8.1%

Answer- **3) 8%**

**Explanation:**

On March 1, 2024, according to the '**Ecowrap**' report by the State Bank of India (**SBI**), the **GDP growth** for Financial Year 2023-24 (**FY24**) is likely to be within striking distance of **8%**.

- The Indian Economy grew 8.4% in Q3FY24.

**i.** The buoyancy in indirect tax mop-up (32 per cent year-on-year growth), gap between Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross Value Added (GVA) growth widened.

**5. Which company has recently (in March '24) signed an MoU with the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) to encourage innovation in India?**

- 1) Cisco Systems, Inc.
- 2) Qualcomm Technologies Inc.
- 3) Deloitte Consulting LLP
- 4) Kforce Limited
- 5) Cognizant

Answer- **2) Qualcomm Technologies Inc.**

**Explanation:**

Centre for Development of Telematics (**C-DOT**) and **Qualcomm Technologies Inc.**, a subsidiary of Qualcomm Incorporated, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to encourage innovation in India and support India-based developers and start-ups working on innovative products and use cases.

- The MoU was signed at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2024 held in Barcelona, Spain.

**i.** As per the MoU, Qualcomm will provide foundational chip technologies and domain experts to Indian startups, Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and academia.

**6. According to the report "Global Macro Outlook 2024" released by March 2024, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) projections has been raised to \_\_\_\_\_ for 2024.**

- 1) 6.2%
- 2) 7.8%
- 3) 6.8%
- 4) 7.0%
- 5) 6.5%

Answer- **3) 6.8%**

**Explanation:**

According to Global credit rating agency Moody's report "**Global Macro Outlook 2024**", India's Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) **projections** for **2024** has been raised to **6.8%** from 6.1% earlier.

- For 2025, India's GDP growth is estimated at 6.4%.

**7. Which company has recently (in March '24) signed a joint venture agreement (JVA) with Uttar Pradesh (UP) Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL) for the development of renewable power parks and projects in UP?**

- 1) NTPC Green Energy Limited
- 2) Adani Green Energy Limited
- 3) Tata Power Limited

- 4) Suzlon Energy Limited
- 5) ReNew Power Private Limited

Answer- **1) NTPC Green Energy Limited**

**Explanation:**

NTPC Green Energy Limited (**NGEL**) has signed a joint venture agreement (**JVA**) with Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP) based UP Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (**UPRVUNL**) for the development of renewable power parks and projects in UP.

i. The renewable energy (RE) power generated from the proposed joint venture company (JVC) will meet the Renewable Generation Obligation (RGO) of UPRVUNL.

**8. According to the data released by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) in March 2024, Foreign direct Investment (FDI) inflows in India decreased by \_\_\_\_\_ to USD 32.03 billion in April-December 2023.**

- 1) 18%
- 2) 13%
- 3) 10%
- 4) 15%
- 5) 9%

Answer- **2) 13%**

**Explanation:**

According to the data by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), Foreign direct investment (**FDI**) inflows in India **decreased** by **13%** to **USD 32.03 billion** in **April-December 2023**.

- This is attributed by lower investments in sectors like computer hardware and software, telecom, auto, and pharma.

i. FDI inflows were USD 36.74 billion during April to December 2022.

**9. Which company has recently (in March '24) partnered with the Sri Lanka-based Elephant House to manufacture, market, distribute and sell beverages?**

- 1) ITC Ltd
- 2) Reliance Consumer Products Ltd
- 3) Hindustan Unilever Ltd
- 4) Dabur Ltd
- 5) Britannia Industries Ltd

Answer- **2) Reliance Consumer Products Ltd**

**Explanation:**

**Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL)** has partnered with **Sri Lanka-based Elephant House** to manufacture, market, distribute and sell beverages under the Elephant House brand across India.

i. Through the collaboration, RCPL will strengthen their beverage portfolio, which already includes brands like Campa, Sosyo, and Raskik.

ii. The collaboration also offers Indian consumers great choices and value propositions through quality products.



**10. According to the CRISIL's India Outlook 2024 Report released in March 2024, India's real GDP growth will likely moderate to \_\_\_\_\_ in fiscal 2025.**

- 1) 6.5%
- 2) 6.8%
- 3) 6.2%
- 4) 6.0%
- 5) 6.3%

Answer- **2) 6.8%**

**Explanation:**

According to **CRISIL's India Outlook 2024** Report titled "Growth Marathon – Emerging Sectors, investments, efficiency gains priming India's medium term pace (March 2024)", **India's real GDP growth** will likely moderate to **6.8%** in fiscal **2025**. This follows the 7.6% expansion in FY24.

**ii.** The report noted that interest rates and lower fiscal impulses will temper demand and bring down the growth to 6.8% from 7.6% estimated in FY24.

**11. In March 2024, Fitch Rating increased its forecast for India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to \_\_\_\_\_ from 6.5% for the fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25) .**

- 1) 7%
- 2) 6.8%
- 3) 6.7%
- 4) 6.9%
- 5) 7.2%

Answer- **1) 7%**

**Explanation:**

**Fitch Rating**, an international credit rating agency, has increased its forecast for **India's** Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) growth by 0.5% points to **7%** for the fiscal year 2024-25 (**FY25**) from its prior prediction of 6.5% due to improving domestic demand and increasing investments.

- For FY24, India's GDP growth is estimated at 7.8% and the growth rate is projected to be 6.5% for FY26.
- Fitch predicts that the headline Inflation rate will be at 4% by the end of FY25 and the value will remain almost unchanged in FY26.

**12. Which company has recently (in March' 24) become India's Second Unicorn of 2024?**

- 1) Uncat
- 2) Perfios
- 3) Buxfer
- 4) Miquido
- 5) Krutrim

Answer-**2) Perfios**

**Explanation:**

Fintech-focussed Software as a Service (SaaS) firm **Perfios** has become the **second unicorn** of 2024 after it secured a USD 80 million fund from Teachers' Venture Growth (TVG).

- AI startup **Krutrim** was India's first Unicorn of 2024.

**13. Which company has recently (in March' 24) signed a MoU with REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL) to develop Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Projects across India?**

- 1) THDC India Limited
- 2) Power System Operation Corporation Limited
- 3) Power Grid Corporation of India
- 4) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- 5) Power Finance Corporation

**Answer- 4) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited**

**Explanation:**

On 15th March 2024, REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (**RECPDCL**) and **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Projects across India.

**Aim:** To contribute to the clean energy targets of the nation, through a dedicated Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

**14. Name the Indian Securities and commodity exchanges company that has recently (in March '24) signed an MoU with Jakarta Futures Exchange (JFX) for Knowledge Sharing and Regional Development.**

- 1) BSE Limited
- 2) Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited
- 3) National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange
- 4) National Multi Commodity Exchange
- 5) Indian Commodity Exchange

**Answer- 2) Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited**

**Explanation:**

**The Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX), and Jakarta Futures Exchange (JFX)** entered into a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to bolster collaboration in key areas such as knowledge sharing, research, education, training, awareness creation, and market development initiatives.

- MCX and JFX formalised the MoU on 26 February 2024, at MCX headquarters in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

**15. According to 'Global economic outlook: March 2024' released by S&P Global Market Intelligence, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is revised to \_\_\_ for the fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25).**

- 1) 10.11%
- 2) 9%
- 3) 7.8%
- 4) 7%
- 5) 6.8%

**Answer- 5) 6.8%**

**Explanation:**

According to '**Global economic outlook: March 2024**' released by S&P Global Market Intelligence **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** forecast is revised to **6.8%** for the fiscal year 2024-25

**(FY25)** from its prior prediction of 6.5% due to strong growth momentum and improving global prospects.

**i.** For FY24, India's GDP growth is revised to 7.3% from 6.9%

**ii.** The Indian economy is likely to grow 6.1% in FY26 and 6.2% in FY27.

**16. Name the company that has recently (in March' 24) signed a joint venture with M G Motor India Private Limited with the investment of USD 750 million.**

1) Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd

2) Eicher Motors Ltd

3) Maruti Suzuki India Ltd

4) JSW Group

5) Tata Motors Ltd

Answer- **4) JSW Group**

**Explanation:**

The new Joint Venture (JV) company '**JSW MG Motor India Pvt Ltd**' was launched in collaboration between **JSW Group** and **M G Motor India Private Limited**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Shanghai(China) based SAIC Motor.

**i.** It also plans to invest **USD 750 million** (about Rs 5,000 crore) to produce 300,000 units a year.

**ii.** JSW will own **35%** of the stakes in the JV, while Everstone, a few dealers, and employees will own around **16%**, bringing Indian investors' total stake to **51%**.

**17. According to the Monthly Economic Review report for February 2024 released by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and the Ministry of Finance, India's growth is expected to be between \_\_\_\_\_ in the Financial Year 2024-2025 (FY25).**

1) 6.5% and 7%

2) 6.4% and 7.5%

3) 6.6 and 7%

4) 6.9% and 7.6%

5) 7% and 7.3%

Answer- **1) 6.5% and 7%**

**Explanation:**

**The Monthly Economic Review report** for February 2024, released by the **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)** and **the Ministry of Finance**, mentioned that various agencies have expected India's growth to be between **6.5%** and **7%** in the Financial Year 2024-2025 (FY25).

**18. In March 2024, UBS Securities India Private Limited projected India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to grow at \_\_\_\_\_ in fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25).**

1) 6.9%

2) 7.2%

3) 7.3%

4) 7%

5) 7.1%

Answer- **4) 7%**

**Explanation:**

According to **UBS Securities India Private Limited**, India's Gross domestic product (GDP) growth is predicted to slow down from the projected **7.6%** in FY24 to **7%** in fiscal year 2024-25(FY25).

i. India's GDP growth in FY 2025-26 is expected to ease further to 6.8%.

**19. According to the Preliminary data on India's Balance of Payments (BoP) for Third Quarter Financial year 2024 (Q3FY24) released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in March 2024, what was the current account deficit of India for Q3FY24?**

- 1) USD 9.5 billion
- 2) USD 10.5 billion
- 3) USD 11.7 billion
- 4) USD 8.6 billion
- 5) USD 9.0 billion

Answer- **2) USD 10.5 billion**

**Explanation:**

On March 26, 2024, **the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the Preliminary data on India's **Balance of Payments (BoP)** for October-December 2023-24 i.e. **Q3FY24**. As per it, India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) for Q3FY24 showed a deficit of **USD 10.5 billion** which is **1.2% of GDP** (Gross Domestic Product).

i. It is **lower than Q2FY24's USD 11.4 billion** (1.3% of GDP) and Q3FY23's USD 16.8 billion (2.0% of GDP).

**20. In March 2024, Morgan Stanley increased India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) forecast for FY 24-25 to \_\_\_\_ from 6.5%.**

- 1) 6.8%
- 2) 7.5%
- 3) 6.7%
- 4) 8%
- 5) 8.5%

Answer- **1) 6.8%**

**Explanation:**

Brokerage Firm **Morgan Stanley** in its report titled '**Building Stronger Recovery**' has increased India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) **forecast for FY24-25 to 6.8%** from 6.5% estimated earlier amid continued traction in industrial and capex activity.

i. For Calendar Year (CY) 2024 Indian economy will grow at **6.8%** as compared to 6.4%.

ii. For FY24, India's GDP growth will be at 7.9%, and for Q4FY24 (January- March) GDP growth is at 7% with gross value-added Growth of 6.7%.

**21. According to data from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Department of Expenditure (DoE) released in March 2024, the Indian government's fiscal deficit widened to Rs \_\_\_\_\_ in April 2023-February 2024.**

- 1) 15.01 lakh crore
- 2) 13.0 lakh crore
- 3) 16.9 lakh crore
- 4) 12.12 lakh crore

5) 20.20 lakh crore

Answer- **1) Rs 15.01 lakh crore**

**Explanation:**

According to data from the Controller General of Accounts (**CGA**), Department of Expenditure (DoE), Ministry of Finance, the **Indian government's fiscal deficit** widened in **April 2023-February 2024** to **Rs 15.01 lakh crore** from Rs 11.03 lakh crore in April 2023-January 2024.

**i.**The fiscal deficit for April 2023-February 2024 accounts for **86.5%** of the revised estimate of **Rs 17.35 lakh crore**.

**ii.**The fiscal deficit in April-February 2023 stood at **Rs 14.53-lakh crore** which was **82.8%** of revised estimate.

**22. Name the company that has recently (in March' 24) collaborated with Italy's MAE S.p.A. to set up a carbon fibre plant of 35000 Metric Tonnes (MT) annual capacity with an investment of Rs 27,000 crore.**

- 1) Virgo Group
- 2) Aludecor Lamination Private Limited
- 3) Jindal Advanced Materials Private Limited
- 4) Euro Panel Products Limited
- 5) Wonder ALU Board Overseas Limited

Answer- **3) Jindal Advanced Materials Private Limited**

**Explanation:**

**Jindal Advanced Materials Private Limited (JAM)** has collaborated with **MAE S.p.A.**, an Italy-based chemical fibre manufacturer, to set up a carbon fibre plant of 35000 Metric Tonnes (MT) annual capacity with an investment of Rs 27,000 crore.

**i.** JAM has signed the project framework agreement with MAE S.p.A. at JEC World 2024 held in Paris(France), the largest global industry show for composite materials.

**ii.** JAM plans to produce low-tow to high-tow carbon fibres and aims to expand production to 10,000 MT by 2027.

**23. Which company has recently (in March' 24) signed an agreement with Singapore's GIC Private Limited to develop and operate power transmission projects in India?**

- 1) Sterlite Power Transmission Limited
- 2) Adani Energy Solutions Limited
- 3) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited
- 4) Tata Power Company Limited
- 5) JSW Energy Limited

Answer- **1) Sterlite Power Transmission Limited**

**Explanation:**

**Sterlite Power Transmission Ltd (SPTL)**, a part of the Vedanta Group, and Singapore's **GIC Private Limited** has signed a definitive agreement to set-up a new platform to develop and operate **power transmission projects** in India.

**i.**This Joint Venture (JV) platform will target the new opportunities emerging from the need for over **USD 13.0** billion of Capital expenditures announced by the Government of India.

**ii.**Sterlite Power will own the majority stake of **51%** and GIC will own the remaining **49%** stake.

**24. According to the analysis of the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) of India released in March 2024, Which of the following countries are among the top importers of Indian Engineering Goods?**

- 1) Russia
- 2) United Arab Emirates
- 3) Saudi Arabia
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) All 1, 2 & 3

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

**Explanation:**

According to the analysis of the Engineering Export Promotion Council (**EEPC**) of India, the premier trade and investment promotion organisation in India, India's engineering goods exports surged during April-February 2023-24.

**i. Russia**, The United Arab Emirates (**UAE**), and **Saudi Arabia** are among the **top importers** of Indian Engineering Goods .

- Despite an overall decline in exports, the engineering segment experienced a modest growth (Year-on-Year/Y-o-Y) of 1.23%, amounting to USD 98.03 billion.

**25. Which company has recently (in March '24) emerged as the first company in India to obtain the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) Performance Standard V3 Certification?**

- 1) India Foils Limited
- 2) National Aluminium Company Limited
- 3) Hindalco Industries Limited
- 4) Bharat Aluminium Company Limited
- 5) Hindustan Zinc Limited

**Answer- 4) Bharat Aluminium Company Limited**

**Explanation:**

The Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (**BALCO**), a unit of Vedanta Aluminium, has emerged as the **first company in India** to obtain the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (**ASI**) **Performance Standard V3 Certification** for the production and distribution of a broad range of primary aluminium products at its Korba facility, Chhattisgarh.

## **MoU's AND AGREEMENTS**

**1. Which regulatory body/Government agency has recently (in Feb '24) signed an MoU with the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana -National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) to support rural women Self-Help Groups (SHGs)?**

- 1) NITI Aayog
- 2) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- 3) Reserve Bank of India
- 4) Small Industries Development Bank of India
- 5) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority

**Answer- 2) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development**

**Explanation:**

On 27th February 2024, The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**) and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana -National Rural Livelihoods Mission (**DAY-NRLM**), under the Ministry of Rural Development(MoRD), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) aimed at bolstering rural women Self-Help Groups (**SHGs**).

- i. Under this MoU, NABARD and NRLM will empower the Women SHGs through capacity building, marketing support, and financial inclusion initiatives. The MoU covers a period of 3 years.
- ii. The MoU aligns NABARD's role as an enabler and facilitator in the SHG ecosystem with NRLM's goal of promoting women-led development in rural areas.

**2. Which of the following companies have recently (in March '24) signed a MoU with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for indigenous development of Advanced Fuelling and Control System for Engines for heavy duty applications?**

- 1) Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited
- 2) BEML Limited
- 3) Bharat Electronics Limited
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) All 1, 2 & 3

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

**Explanation:**

On 4th March 2024, The Ministry of Defence (**MoD**) has signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **BEML Limited**, Bharat Electronics Limited (**BEL**) and Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (**MIDHANI**) for indigenous development of Advanced Fuelling and Control System for Engines for heavy duty applications.

- The collaboration aims to develop indigenous capabilities to design, test, and manufacture an Advanced Fuelling and Control System.

**3. In March 2024, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with an Indian firm to upgrade the simulators of \_\_\_\_\_ aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF).**

- 1) Ilyushin Il-78
- 2) Mikoyan MiG-29
- 3) Sukhoi Su-30 MKI
- 4) LCA Tejas Mk-1A
- 5) Boeing C-17 Globemaster III

Answer- **3) Sukhoi Su-30 MKI**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Defence (**MoD**) has signed a contract with an Indian firm to upgrade the simulators of **Sukhoi Su-30 MKI aircraft** of the Indian Air Force (**IAF**).

- This upgrade led by Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) will incorporate all indigenous weapons and capabilities. This will enhance the operational training for IAF pilots.
- i. The Sukhoi Su-30MKI is a multi-role combat fighter aircraft jointly developed by the Moscow (Russia) based Sukhoi Design Bureau and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for IAF.

**4. In March 2024, National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) have signed an MoU with Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)'s National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) to facilitate Urban \_\_\_\_\_ Survey (UFS) in a digital mode.**

- 1) Frame
- 2) Field
- 3) Fund
- 4) Farm
- 5) Family

**Answer- 1) Frame**

**Explanation:**

Field Operations Division (FOD) of National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) under the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to facilitate **Urban Frame Survey (UFS) in a digital mode.**

- The state-of-the-art Geo ICT (Information Communication Technology) tools and techniques using Bhuvan Platform will be used for UFS.

**i.** The survey was conducted once every five years to prepare and maintain a frame of compact urban geographical units, which will be the sampling frame for NSSO large-scale socio-economic surveys.

**5. Which company has recently (in March '24) signed a 5 year MoU with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to strengthen the Incident Management System (IMS) on the National Highways (NHs)?**

- 1) Fortis Healthcare Limited
- 2) HLL Lifecare Limited
- 3) Max Healthcare Limited
- 4) Omega Healthcare Limited
- 5) Jorie Healthcare Limited

**Answer- 2) HLL Lifecare Limited**

**Explanation:**

On March 8, 2024, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has signed a **5-year** Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **HLL Lifecare Limited** to provide immediate assistance to accidents victims and to strengthen NHAI's Incident Management System (IMS) on the National Highways (NHs).

**i.** Under this MoU, NHAI will strengthen its existing Incident Management System. The system includes Ambulances, Route Patrol Vans & Cranes, real time tracking, and supportive supervision.

**6. Which state's Department of Industries & Commerce has recently (in March '24) signed an MoU with the YES Bank Limited and Sellmetric Private Limited to utilize Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform?**

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



Answer- **2) Nagaland**

**Explanation:**

The Department of Industries & Commerce (**DoIC**), Government of **Nagaland** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MOU**) with **YES Bank Limited** and **Sellmetric Private Limited** to facilitate digital sales for small businesses, farmers, and entrepreneurs, through the Open Network for Digital Commerce (**ONDC**) platform.

**i.** DoIC is the Nodal department for promoting and advancing the implementation of ONDC initiatives within Nagaland.

**7. Which company has recently (in March '24) signed an MoU with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to train Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)'s Women Self Help Groups (SHG) members under the Lakhpati Didi Yojana?**

- 1) Cleartrip
- 2) Easy Trip Planner Limited
- 3) MakeMyTrip
- 4) Trivago N.V
- 5) Transcorp International Limited

Answer- **2) Easy Trip Planner Limited**

**Explanation:**

New Delhi (Delhi) based **Easy Trip Planner Limited** (EaseMyTrip.com) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Ministry of Rural Development (**MoRD**) to train Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (**DAY-NRLM**)'s Women Self Help Groups (**SHG**) members under the Lakhpati Didi Yojana.

**i.** The initiative aims to focus on women-led skill development, thereby promoting entrepreneurial skills and financial independence among rural women.

**8. Which company/organisation has recently (in March '24) signed a tripartite MoU with Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to proliferate affordable and accessible digital services across India?**

- 1) Universal Service Obligation Fund
- 2) Prasar Bharati
- 3) Doordarshan
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 1 & 3

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

**Explanation:**

Universal Service Obligation Fund (**USOF**) has signed a **tripartite** Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **Prasar Bharati** and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to proliferate affordable and accessible digital services across India.

- Aim: To provide broadband services with OTT (over-the-top) and e-commerce platform for rural India using BharatNet infrastructure under USOF.

**i.** Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB), has launched Prasar Bharti – Shared Audio Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination (PB-SHABD), a news sharing service from Prasar Bharati, during an event held in National Media Centre, New Delhi, Delhi.

- He also launched the websites of Doordarshan (DD) News and Akashvani News; and the updated News on Air mobile application. [Click here to read more](#)

**9. Name the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) that has recently (in March '24) signed an MoU with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to monitor MGNREGA assets using geospatial technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI).**

- 1) IIT Madras
- 2) IIT Kanpur
- 3) IIT Bombay
- 4) IIT Guwahati
- 5) IIT Delhi

Answer- **5) IIT Delhi**

**Explanation:**

Ministry of Rural Development (**MoRD**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (**IIT - Delhi**), New Delhi, Delhi for leveraging the use of **geospatial technology** and Artificial Intelligence (**AI**) to monitor assets under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (**MGNREGA**).

- The partnership aims to utilise the power of technology for the betterment of rural development processes.

**10. Name the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) that has recently (in March '24) signed an MoU with the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) to encourage innovation and advance the automotive and electric vehicle (EV) sector.**

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

Answer- **3) IIT Roorkee**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Heavy Industries (**MHI**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (**IIT Roorkee**), Roorkee, Uttarakhand to encourage innovation and advance the automotive and electric vehicle (**EV**) sector.

**i.** The MoU aims to create a Centre of Excellence (CoE) and an Industry Accelerator at IIT Roorkee.

**ii.** For this purpose, IIT Roorkee partners with International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) Manesar (Haryana), a premier institute for automotive testing and research, for services like automotive electrical and electronics testing.

**11. Name the country that has recently (in March '24) signed an MoU with India to enhance cooperation on legal and dispute resolution services.**

- 1) Bhutan
- 2) Singapore
- 3) Malaysia
- 4) Sri Lanka
- 5) Nepal

Answer- **2) Singapore**

**Explanation:**

**India** and **Singapore** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to enhance cooperation on legal and dispute resolution services, aimed at bolstering collaboration in international commercial dispute resolution.

- The agreement was signed virtually by Singapore's Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law, Edwin Tong, and India's Minister for Law and Justice, Arjun Ram Meghwal.

**i.** Under this MoU, both ministries will work together, facilitate the exchange of best practices and promote the adoption of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms.

## **APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

**1. Who has been recently (in Feb '24) appointed as the chairperson of Lokpal?**

- 1) Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar
- 2) Pradip Kumar Mohanty
- 3) Archana Ramasundaram
- 4) Bharat Lal
- 5) Mahender Singh

Answer- **1) Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar**

**Explanation:**

On 27th February 2024, **Droupadi Murmu**, President of India, has appointed the new **Chairman and Members of Lokpal**, the anti-corruption authority in India. Former Supreme Court judge **Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar** was appointed as the **chairperson** of **Lokpal**.

- He will be the second regular chairperson of the Lokpal.

**2. In February 2024, Ajay Kanwal was re-appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of \_\_\_\_\_ (Small Finance Bank -SFB) for three years.**

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

Answer- **4) Jana SFB**

**Explanation:**

Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has approved the re-appointment of **Ajay Kanwal** as the Managing Director(MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Jana Small Finance Bank (**Jana SFB**) for three years, from 21st March 2024 to 20th March 2027.

**i.** Ajay Kanwal has been working as MD and CEO of Bengaluru – Karnataka headquartered Jana SFB since 2018.