

# **GUPTA**

---

# **CLASSES**

## **Current Affairs**

**(March 2024)**

**English**

**Part-3**



**GUPTA**

---

**CLASSES**

**3. Who has recently (in Feb '24) appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL)?**

- 1) Dheeraj Kumar Ojha
- 2) Arun Kumar Singh
- 3) Mundkur Shyamprasad Kamath
- 4) S Bharathan
- 5) Vivek Chandrakant Tongaonkar

Answer- **3) Mundkur Shyamprasad Kamath**

**Explanation:**

According to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG), the Competent Authority has approved the appointment of **Mundkur Shyamprasad Kamath** as Managing Director (**MD**) on the Board of Mangaluru (Karnataka) based Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (**MRPL**).

**i.** He will be serving the post until the date of his superannuation on 30th November 2027 or until further notice, whichever comes earlier.

**ii.** He will succeed Sanjay Varma who served as MD (Additional Charge) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MRPL.

**4. Who was recently (in Feb '24) appointed as the part-time Chairman of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd. (TMB)?**

- 1) Ezhil Jothi
- 2) Nagendra Murthy
- 3) Niranjana Sankar
- 4) Chiranjeeviraj
- 5) S Ravindran

Answer- **5) S Ravindran**

**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) approved the appointment of **S Ravindran** as the part-time Chairman of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd. (**TMB**) with effect from 29th February 2024 till 2nd August 2026.

- He is currently serving as an Independent Director of TMB.

**i.** He is also serving as the Independent Director on the boards of the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE India); LTIDPL Invit Services; Shriram Finance Ltd; and Bandhan AMC Ltd.

**5. Who has recently (in March '24) assumed the additional charge as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NHPC Limited?**

- 1) Deepak Saigal
- 2) Raj Kumar Chaudhary
- 3) Santosh Kumar
- 4) Rajendra Prasad Goyal
- 5) Vivek Dwivedi

Answer- **4) Rajendra Prasad Goyal**

**Explanation:**

**Rajendra Prasad Goyal** has assumed the **additional charge** as the Chairman and Managing Director (**CMD**) of **NHPC Limited** (Formerly known as National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd.), with effect from 1st March 2024.

- i. He is currently serving as the Director (Finance) in NHPC Limited from 2020. He is also the Chief Financial Officer(CFO) of the NHPC.
- ii. He is succeeding Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi, who was serving as CMD (Additional charge) since 1st March 2023. NHPC has been functioning without a regular CMD since the retirement of Abhay Kumar Singh in 2022.

**6. Who has recently (in March '24) sworn in as the Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan for a 2nd term?**

- 1) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi
- 2) Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif
- 3) Nawaz Sharif
- 4) Raja Pervaiz Ashraf
- 5) Yousaf Raza Gillani

Answer- **2) Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif**

**Explanation:**

**Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif** was sworn in as the Prime Minister (**PM**) of **Pakistan** for a **2nd term** on 4 March 2024. Pakistan's newly formed parliament elected Shehbaz Sharif as the new PM, who secured 201 votes in a 336-member National Assembly, surpassing the required 169 votes.

- Previously, he served as PM of a coalition government for 16 months from April 2022 to August 2023 before Parliament was dissolved to hold general elections.
- President Arif Alvi administered the oath to him at a ceremony at the Presidential mansion, Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad, Pakistan.

**7. In March 2024, Tamás Sulyok was appointed as the President of \_\_\_\_\_ (country).**

- 1) Hungary
- 2) Mauritius
- 3) Namibia
- 4) Jamaica
- 5) Uruguay

Answer- **1) Hungary**

**Explanation:**

**Tamás Sulyok**, Former Head of Hungary's Constitutional Court (CC) & a lawyer, was appointed as the **President of Hungary** by receiving 134 votes in parliament.

- He succeeded Katalin Novák, the first female President of Hungary, who resigned in February 2024 due to a scandal.
- Tamás Sulyok will be serving the post for a term of five years (until 2029).

**8. Who has been recently (in March '24) appointed as the Chief Secretary (CS) of Bihar?**

- 1) Pradeep Kumar Jena
- 2) Brajesh Mehrotra
- 3) Durga Shanker Mishra
- 4) Lalbiaktluanga Khiangte
- 5) Nandini Chakraborty

Answer- **2) Brajesh Mehrotra**

**Explanation:**

The Government of Bihar has appointed **Brajesh Mehrotra**, a 1989 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, as the Chief Secretary (**CS**) of Bihar with effect from 4th March 2024.

- Mehrotra succeeded Amir Subhani, a 1987 batch IAS officer, who voluntarily retired from the post.

**9. Who has been recently (in March '24) appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Limited (FGILI)?**

- 1) Shailesh Haribhakti
- 2) Palamadai Sundararajan
- 3) Devi Singh
- 4) K B Vijay Srinivas
- 5) Alok Rungta

Answer- **5) Alok Rungta**

**Explanation:**

Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Limited (**FGILI**) has appointed **Alok Rungta** as the Managing Director (**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) with effect from 01st April 2024.

i. Alok Rungta will take charge from Bruce De Broize, who has been serving as the MD and CEO since 2022.

**10. In March 2024, Gustavo Lino Adrianzen Olaya was sworn in as Prime Minister (PM) of \_\_\_\_\_ (country).**

- 1) Venezuela
- 2) Chile
- 3) Ecuador
- 4) Costa Rica
- 5) Republic of Peru

Answer- **5) Republic of Peru**

**Explanation:**

**Gustavo Lino Adrianzen Olaya** was sworn in as Prime Minister (**PM**) or President of the Council of Ministers (PCM) of the **Republic of Peru** with effect from 6th March 2024.

i. The swearing-in ceremony was led by the President of Peru, Dina Boluarte at the Government Palace in Lima, Peru.

ii. Gustavo Adrianzen succeeded Alberto Otarola who resigned from the post on 05th March 2024 due to a political scandal.

**11. Who has been recently (in March '24) named as the 12th nominated Member of Parliament (MP) in the Upper House of Parliament (Rajya Sabha )?**

- 1) Rajashree Birla
- 2) Roshni Nadar
- 3) Sudha Murty
- 4) Rohini Nilekani
- 5) Anu Aga

Answer- **3) Sudha Murty**

**Explanation:**

The President of India, **Droupadi Murmu** has nominated renowned author, Indian philanthropist & Padma Awardee **Sudha Murty** as the **12th nominated** Member of Parliament (MP) in the Upper House of Parliament (Rajya Sabha (RS)).

i. She received several awards including Padma Shri (the 4th highest civilian award) in 2006 and Padma Bhushan (the third highest civilian award) in 2023 for Social Work.

**12. Who has recently (in March '24) sworn in as the 14th President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the 2nd time?**

- 1) Wasim Sajjad
- 2) Muhammad Rafiq Tarar
- 3) Asif Ali Zardari
- 4) Mamnoon Hussain
- 5) Pervez Musharraf

Answer- **3) Asif Ali Zardari**

**Explanation:**

**Asif Ali Zardari**, co-chairman of the center-left Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was sworn in as the **14th President** of the **Islamic Republic of Pakistan** for the 2nd time. Previously, he served as the 11th President of Pakistan from 9th September 2008 to 9th September 2013.

i. Asif Ali Zardari replaced Arif Alvi, who stayed in office for 5 months after completing his 5-year term in September 2023.

ii. Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa administered the oath to Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr, the Presidential Palace in Islamabad, Pakistan.

**13. In March 2024, Nayab Singh Saini was sworn in as the 11th Chief Minister (CM) of \_\_\_\_\_ (state).**

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

Answer- **2) Haryana**

**Explanation:**

On 12th March 2024, **Nayab Singh Saini**, Haryana State President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and a Member of Parliament (MP) elected from the Kurukshetra Constituency, was sworn in as the **11th Chief Minister (CM)** of **Haryana**.

- Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered oath of office and secrecy to Nayab Singh Saini in the event held in Chandigarh.
- Nayab Singh Saini succeeded Manohar Lal Khattar who stepped down resulting in a split in the BJP-Jannayak Janata Party (BJP-JJP) alliance which had ruled the state since 2019.

**14. Who has been recently (in March '24) elected as the president of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)?**

- 1) V.K. Dabas
- 2) J.P. Singh

- 3) Devendra Jhajharia
- 4) Gursharan Singh
- 5) Satyanarayan

Answer- **3) Devendra Jhajharia**

**Explanation:**

Javelin thrower **Devendra Jhajharia** was **elected** unopposed as the **president** of the Paralympic Committee of India (**PCI**).

- He succeeded para-athlete Deepa Malik as president of PCI, whose term ended on 31st January 2024.

**i.** Jhajharia has received awards including the Khel Ratna (2017), Arjuna Award (2004), Padma Shri (2012), and Padma Bhushan (2022) in the field of sports. He was the only para-athlete to win the Padma Bhushan award so far.

**15. Which of the following personalities have recently (in March '24) taken charge as the New Election Commissioners(ECs) in the Election Commission of India(ECI)?**

- 1) Gyanesh Kumar
- 2) Sukhbir Singh Sandhu
- 3) Nagendra Singh
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 2 & 3

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

**Explanation:**

On 15th March 2024, Retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers **Gyanesh Kumar** and Dr. **Sukhbir Singh Sandhu** took charge as the New Election Commissioners(**ECs**) in the Election Commission of India(**ECI**).

**i.** Gyanesh Kumar and Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu are of 1988 batch from Kerala & Uttarakhand cadre respectively.

**ii.** The post of ECs were vacant since the retirement of Anup Chandra Pandey on 14th February 2024 and resignation of Arun Goel on 8th March 2024.

**16. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) has constituted a 16-member expert committee, headed by \_\_\_\_\_to review the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) in March 2024.**

- 1) Vinod Kumar Paul
- 2) Indu Bhushan
- 3) Deepti Gaur Mukerjee
- 4) Rakesh Kumar
- 5) K.Joshi

Answer-**1) Vinod Kumar Paul**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoH&FW**) has constituted a 16-member expert committee to review the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (**AB-PMJAY**).

- The committee is headed by **Vinod Kumar Paul**, Member (Health) at the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.

**17. Who has been chosen as the National Icon in Persons with Disabilities (PwD) category by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in March 2024?**

- 1) Palak Kohli
- 2) Manasi Joshi
- 3) Sheetal Devi
- 4) Gowtham Akil
- 5) Mandeep Kaur

**Answer-3) Sheetal Devi**

**Explanation:**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has chosen **Sheetal Devi**, an Indian para-archer and 2023 Arjuna Awardee, as the National Icon in Persons with Disabilities (PwD) category.

- The announcement was made at an Exhibition Cricket which was organised by ECI in association with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in New Delhi, Delhi.
- On the occasion, ECI launched a dedicated Voter's Guide for PwDs and Senior Citizen Electors.

**18. Who was appointed as Group President of One Kotak, in March 2024?**

- 1) Ashok Vaswani
- 2) Jaideep Hansraj
- 3) C Jayaram
- 4) Uday khanna
- 5) KVS Manian

**Answer-2) Jaideep Hansraj**

**Explanation:**

Mumbai (Maharashtra) headquartered Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) has appointed **Jaideep Hansraj** as Group President of One Kotak, with effect from 1st April 2024.

- **Shripal Shah**, President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) at Kotak Securities, will take over from Hansraj as the head of Kotak Securities.

**19. Who was elected as the new President of Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) in March 2024?**

- 1) Ajay Sahai
- 2) Sakthivel
- 3) Ashwani Kumar
- 4) Yogesh Gupta
- 5) Israr Ahmed

**Answer- 3) Ashwani Kumar**

**Explanation:**

**Explanation:**

On 11th March 2024, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) under the Ministry of Commerce unanimously elected **Ashwani Kumar**, as its **New President**.

- Ashwani Kumar is a Partner at Jalandhar (Punjab) based Victor Forging, a manufacturer of Hand tools.
- He will succeed Dr A Sakthivel, who successfully completed his tenure as President of FIEO.

**20. Who was assumed as the Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes in New Delhi in March 2024?**

- 1) Vijay Sampla
- 2) Arun Halder
- 3) Luv Kush Kumar
- 4) Vaddepalli Ramchander
- 5) Kishor Makwana

Answer- **5) Kishor Makwana**

**Explanation:**

**Kishor Makwana** assumed the charge of **Chairman** of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (**NCSC**) in New Delhi, Delhi. Luv Kush Kumar and Vaddepalli Ramchander also assumed charge as members of the NCSC. The post of NCSC Chairman was vacant after Vijay Sampla resigned on 18th July 2023

- Arun Halder was vice chairman during the resignation and he later assumed charge as acting chairman and held the position till February 18 2024.
- The tenure of the Commission is three years and this is the 7th Commission.

**21. In March 2024, Vladimir Putin won the Russian Presidential elections for \_\_\_\_\_ term.**

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

Answer- **2) 5th**

**Explanation:**

Russian President **Vladimir Putin** has secured a record **5th term** as **President of Russia** by winning the 2024 Presidential elections. He secured around 88%(87.97%) of the total votes.

- He is scheduled to be inaugurated on 7th May 2024.
- With this new 6-year term, Putin becomes the longest-serving Russian or Soviet leader in history since Joseph Stalin and the longest-reigning president in post-Soviet Russia.

**22. Name the Governor who has taken additional charge as the Governor of Telangana and the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Puducherry in March 2024.**

- 1) C.P. Radhakrishnan
- 2) La. Ganesan
- 3) Biswabhusan Harichandan
- 4) Ramesh Bais
- 5) P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

Answer- **1) C.P. Radhakrishnan**

**Explanation:**

**Jharkhand Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan** took additional charge as the **Governor of Telangana** on 20th March 2024. He was administered the oath of office by Alok Aradhe, Chief Justice(CJ) of the High Court of Telangana, in the presence of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at a ceremony held in the Raj Bhavan, Hyderabad, Telangana.

**I. He was also given additional charge of the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Puducherry.**



ii. Radhakrishnan is the 3rd person from Tamil Nadu(TN) to become the governor of Telangana, after ESL Narasimhan(2014-2019) and Tamilisai Soundararajan(2019-2024).

**23. Who was elected as chairman of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for the term 2023-2024?**

- 1) Sunil Mehta
- 2) Debadatta Chand
- 3) Matam Venkata Rao
- 4) Shanti Lal Jain
- 5) Dinesh Kumar Khara

Answer- **3) Matam Venkata Rao**

**Explanation:**

On 21st March 2024, **Matam Venkata Rao (MV Rao)**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of the Central Bank of India, was elected as the Chairman of the **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** for the term **2023-2024**.

i. He succeeds Atul Kumar Goel(AK Goel), MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank(PNB) who served as chairman of IBA (2022-23).

**24. Name the Union Minister who has been given additional charge of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in March 2024.**

- 1) Kiren Rijiju (Union Minister of Earth Sciences)
- 2) Nitin Gadkari (Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways)
- 3) Piyush Goyal (Union Minister of Textiles)
- 4) Rajnath Singh (Union Minister of Defence)
- 5) Mansukh L. Mandaviya (Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers)

Answer- **1) Kiren Rijiju (Union Minister of Earth Sciences)**

**Explanation:**

On 20th March 2024, **Union Minister Kiren Rijiju**, Ministry of Earth Sciences, was given additional charge of the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)** following the resignation of Pashupati Kumar Paras.

**Note:** Under Article 75 of the Indian Constitution, the president has the power to appoint ministers on the advice of the Prime Minister.

**25. Who was appointed as the Prime Minister (PM) of the Palestinian Authority (PA) in March 2024?**

- 1) Mohammad Mustafa
- 2) Rawhi Fattouh
- 3) Ismail Haniyeh
- 4) Rami Hamdallah
- 5) Mohammad Shtayyeh

Answer- **1) Mohammad Mustafa**

**Explanation:**

**Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas** has appointed **Mohammad Mustafa** as the **Prime Minister (PM) of the Palestinian Authority (PA)**, formerly the Palestinian National Authority, officially known as the State of Palestine.

- i. He succeeds Mohammad Shtayyeh, who resigned from the post in February 2024 due to developments related to the Israeli conflict in Gaza.
- ii. Mustafa has been serving as a senior economic affairs adviser to President Abbas since 2005.

**26. In March 2024, Prabowo Subianto Djojohadikusumo was elected as President of \_\_\_\_\_(country).**

- 1) Cambodia
- 2) Nepal
- 3) Indonesia
- 4) Brunei
- 5) Thailand

**Answer- 3) Indonesia**

**Explanation:**

Indonesian Defence Minister **Prabowo Subianto Djojohadikusumo** has been elected as the new **President of Indonesia** through the General Election.

- i. He is scheduled to become the **eighth president of Indonesia** in October 2024 and will replace Joko Widodo.
- ii. After running for president **three times**, he was victorious in the February 2024 presidential election with 58.6% of the total vote.

**27. Who has recently (in March '24) took charge as President of the Indian Steel Association (ISA)?**

- 1) Aditya Mittal
- 2) Naveen Jindal
- 3) Jatinder Mehra
- 4) Kumar Mangalam Birla
- 5) Natarajan Chandrasekaran

**Answer- 2) Naveen Jindal**

**Explanation:**

On 24th March 2024, **Naveen Jindal**, Chairman of Jindal Steel and Power (JSP), took charge as **President of the Indian Steel Association (ISA)**, the apex body of the domestic steel industry.

- i. He **succeeds Dilip Oommen**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AMNS) India, and Executive Vice President of ArcelorMittal.
- ii. He will also hold the post as the **Chairman of the Apex Committee**, the Governing body of ISA.

**28. Who has been recently (in March' 24) named as the Prime Minister (PM) of Portugal?**

- 1) Orlando da Costa
- 2) Pedro Nuno Santos
- 3) Joao Galamba
- 4) Luis Filipe Montenegro Cardoso de Morais Esteves
- 5) Andre Ventura

**Answer- 4) Luis Filipe Montenegro Cardoso de Morais Esteves**

**Explanation:**

**The Portugal President** Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa named **Luis Filipe Montenegro Cardoso de Morais Esteves**, the head of center-right of Democratic Alliance(DA), as the Prime Minister(PM) of Portugal.

i. He will succeed **Antonio Costa** and is expected to be sworn-in as the Prime Minister on April 2 2024.

**29. Who was selected as the Chairperson and Managing Director (CMD) of New India Assurance Company (NIAC) in March 2024?**

- 1) Satyajit Tripathy
- 2) Bhupesh Sushil Rahul
- 3) Neerja Kapur
- 4) Ajay Krishnan
- 5) Girija Subramanian

Answer- **5) Girija Subramanian**

**Explanation:**

**The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)** has selected **Girija Subramanian** as the next **Chairperson and Managing Director (CMD)** of **New India Assurance Company (NIAC)**. She currently holds the position of CMD of the Agriculture Insurance Company (AIC) of India Limited.

i. It also selected **Bhupesh Sushil Rahul**, who holds the position of AIC General Manager, as **CMD of United India Insurance Company (UIIC)**.

ii. Girija Subramanian will **succeed Neerja Kapur**, who will retire in April 2024 as CMD of the NIAC.

**30. In March 2024, the Supreme Court (SC) appointed a seven-member expert committee for the preservation of the Critically Endangered \_\_\_\_\_(bird/Mammals).**

- 1) White-rumped vulture
- 2) Kashmir stag
- 3) Javan Rhinoceros
- 4) Great Indian Bustard
- 5) Namdapha Flying Squirrel

Answer- **4) Great Indian Bustard**

**Explanation:**

The Supreme Court(SC) bench led by **Dhananjaya Yeshwant (DY) Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India (CJI)**, has appointed a seven-member expert committee for the preservation of the Critically Endangered **Great Indian Bustard(GIB)**.

i. The SC has directed the committee to submit a report **by July 2024** and listed the matter for the 2nd week of August 2024.

**31. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the appointment approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) in March 2024?**

- A) Dinesh Gupta was appointed as the Director General (DG) of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- B) Piyush Anand was appointed as DG of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).
- C) Rajeev Kumar was appointed as DG of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).

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

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

**Explanation:**

**The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the appointment of **i. Sadanand Vasant Date** will take charge as Director General (**DG**) of National Investigation Agency (**NIA**) succeeding the incumbent Dinkar Gupta, who is set to retire on 31st March 2024.

**ii. Piyush Anand** will take charge as the DG of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) succeeding Atul Karwal, current DG of NDRF, who is set to retire on 31st March 2024.

**iii. Rajeev Kumar** will take charge as the DG of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) succeeding the incumbent Balaji Srivastava, who is set to retire in March 2024. [Click here to read more](#)

**32. Who has been recently (in March' 24) appointed as the brand ambassador for Eveready Industries India Limited (EIL)?**

- 1) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy
- 2) Chirag Shetty
- 3) Rohit Sharma
- 4) Neeraj Chopra
- 5) Sourav Ganguly

Answer- **4) Neeraj Chopra**

**Explanation:**

The 2020 Tokyo Olympics gold medallist **Neeraj Chopra** has been appointed as the brand **ambassador** for **Eveready Industries India Limited (EIL)**.

**i.** Neeraj Chopra will feature Eveready's campaigns like "**Give Me Red,**" which was previously endorsed by Amitabh Bachchan and Akshay Kumar.

**33. Who has been recently (in March' 24) sworn in as a Judicial member of Lokpal of India?**

- 1) Pankaj Kumar
- 2) Ritu Raj Awasthi
- 3) Ajay Tirkey
- 4) Purva Garg
- 5) Rishita Gupta

Answer- **2) Ritu Raj Awasthi**

**Explanation:**

On 27th March 2024, **Ritu Raj Awasthi** was sworn in as one of the three **Judicial members of Lokpal of India**.

- The oath of office was administered by Justice AM Khanwilkar, Chairperson of Lokpal of India at the ceremony held in Lokpal of India office at New Delhi, Delhi.

**i.** During the event, **Pankaj Kumar**, a 1986 batch IAS officer from Gujarat cadre (retired), and **Ajay Tirkey**, a 1987 batch IAS officer from Madhya Pradesh (MP) cadre (retired), took charge as the **non-judicial members of Lokpal**.

**34. Name the personality from India who has been recently (in March' 24) appointed as the Assistant Secretary-General (SG) and Special Representative of the SG for Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).**

- 1) Kamal Kishore
- 2) Vidhu P Nair
- 3) Jaideep Mazumdar
- 4) Alok Ranjan Jha
- 5) Sanjay Rana

**Answer- 1) Kamal Kishore**

**Explanation:**

On 27th March 2024, **United Nations (UN) Secretary-General (SG) Antonio Guterres** appointed **Kamal Kishore of India** as Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the SG for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (**UNDRR**).

- He is currently serving as the Head of the Department of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)(rank of Secretary to the Government of India), the apex body for Disaster Management in India.

**i.** He succeeds **Mami Mizutori** of Japan who held the post since January 2018.

**35. Who has been recently (in March' 24) appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the Bank of Maharashtra (BOM)?**

- 1) Asheesh Pandey
- 2) Rohit Rishi
- 3) Abhijit Phukon
- 4) Rakesh Kumar
- 5) Nidhu Saxena

**Answer- 5) Nidhu Saxena**

**Explanation:**

**Nidhu Saxena** was appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (**MD & CEO**) of the **Bank of Maharashtra (BOM)** for a period of three years, with effect from March 27, 2024.

- He will be replacing A.S Rajeev upon his election as Vigilance Commissioner in Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

**i.** He served as the **Executive Director** of Union Bank of India (**UBI**) from February 1, 2022, to March 26, 2024.

**36. Name the Hockey Personalities who have been recently (in March' 24) appointed as co-chairs of the International Hockey Federation's (FIH) new Athletes Committee.**

- 1) Virendra Singh & Brahmanand Shankwalkar
- 2) Camila Caram & Virendra Singh
- 3) Atanu Bhattacharya & Brahmanand Shankwalkar
- 4) Parattu Raveendran (PR) Sreejesh & Camila Caram
- 5) Hemanta Dora & Atanu Bhattacharya

**Answer- 4) Parattu Raveendran (PR) Sreejesh & Camila Caram**

**Explanation:**

Indian hockey goalkeeper Parattu Raveendran (PR) **Sreejesh** and Chilean women's hockey player **Camila Caram** are appointed as **co-chairs** of the International Hockey Federation's (FIH) new Athletes Committee.

**i. Camila Caram** has been assigned Co-Chair and Athletes Committee **Representative** on the Executive Board.

**ii. PR Sreejesh** is the **Co-Chair** and he will lead the planning and meetings alongside Camila Caram.

**37. Who has recently (in March '24) took over as the 41st National President of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Ladies Organisation (FLO) for the year 2024-2025?**

- 1) Joyshree Das Verma
- 2) Sudha Shivkumar
- 3) Anjali Sud
- 4) Sharmistha Dubey
- 5) Zarin Daruwala

Answer- **1) Joyshree Das Verma**

**Explanation:**

**Joyshree Das Verma** took over as the **41st** National President of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (**FICCI**) Ladies Organisation (**FLO**) for the year **2024-2025**.

- Joyshree Das Verma succeeds Sudha Shivkumar, the 40th President of FICCI FLO (2023-2024).
- Before this appointment, Joyshree Das Verma served as the National Senior Vice President of FICCI FLO.

**38. In March 2024, Bassirou Diomaye Diakhar Faye was elected as the president of \_\_\_\_\_ (country).**

- 1) Sudan
- 2) Senegal
- 3) Ethiopia
- 4) Gambia
- 5) Tanzania

Answer- **2) Senegal**

**Explanation:**

**Bassirou Diomaye Diakhar Faye** was elected president of Senegal after winning the election that was held on March 24, 2024.

- Faye succeeds Macky Sall who served as the **President of Senegal** from 2012 to 2024.
- On April 2, 2024, Faye is scheduled to take over as president, replacing Macky Sall.

**i.** Faye became the 5th president of Senegal with 54.28% of the votes in the presidential election, while former prime minister Amadou Ba came in second with 35.79%.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

**1. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship & Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2022 & 2023 & Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2022 & 2023, as of February 2024?**

**A) The General Council of Sangeet Natak Akademi unanimously elected 6 eminent personalities in the field of performing arts as of Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna Sadasyata).**

**B) The General Council selected 92 artists for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the years 2022 and 2023.**

**C) A total of 80 Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar were presented for the year 2022 and 2023 combined.**

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 General Council of Sangeet Natak Akademi, the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, New Delhi, Delhi, unanimously elected **6 eminent personalities** in the field of performing arts as of Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna Sadasyata).

**i.** The General Council selected **92 artists** from the field of Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional/Folk/Tribal Music/Dance/ Theatre, Puppetry and Overall contribution/scholarship in the Performing Arts for the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar)** for the years 2022 and 2023.

**ii.** A total of **80 Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar** were presented for the year **2022 and 2023 combined**. The awards were presented to 41 individuals for both 2022 and 2023. [Click here to read more](#)

**2. Who has recently (in Feb '24) became the 1st Indian citizen to be conferred the title of Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE) under King Charles III reign?**

1) Kavin Bharti Mittal

2) Rajan Mittal

3) Rakesh Bharti Mittal

4) Shravin Mittal

5) Sunil Bharti Mittal

Answer- **5) Sunil Bharti Mittal**

**Explanation:**

**Sunil Bharti Mittal**, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises became the 1st Indian citizen to be conferred the title of **Knight Commander** of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (**KBE**) under **King Charles III reign**, recognising his contributions “for services to United Kingdom (UK) and India business relations”.

- The KBE is one of the highest honours conferred by the British Sovereign to civilians, granted to foreign nationals in recognition of their outstanding contributions.

**3. In March 2024, “Staliner Divan”, the Bengali translation of Jean-Daniel Baltassat’s French novel “Le Divan de Staline”, by \_\_\_\_\_ won the Romain Rolland Book Prize 2024.**

- 1) Shamsur Rahman
- 2) Taslima Nasrin
- 3) Humayun Ahmed
- 4) Manik Bandyopadhyay
- 5) Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee

**Answer- 5) Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee**

**Explanation:**

The **7th edition** of the Romain Rolland Book Prize (**2024**) has been awarded to “**Staliner Divan**”, the Bengali translation of Jean-Daniel Baltassat’s French novel “Le Divan de Staline” (Stalin’s Couch), by **Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee**.

- The Romain Rolland Book Prize is annually presented by the French Institute in India (IFI – Institut Français en Inde) in collaboration with Apeejay Trust.
- The original French novel was published in 2013. The Bengali translation of the book was published by New Bharat Sahitya Kutir in 2023.

**4. Who has been recently (in March ‘24) named for the Pritzker Architecture Prize 2024?**

- 1) Jean-Philippe Vassal (Russia)
- 2) Anne Lacaton (France)
- 3) Riken Yamamoto (Japan)
- 4) David Chipperfield (United Kingdom)
- 5) Diebedo Francis Kere (France)

**Answer- 3) Riken Yamamoto (Japan)**

**Explanation:**

Architect **Riken Yamamoto** of Yokohama, Japan, has been named the **2024 Laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize**, the highest global architectural recognition.

- He is the **53rd laureate** of the Pritzker Architecture Prize and the 9th Japanese architect to win the prize.
- The award includes a cash prize of USD 100,000 and a bronze medallion.

**5. Who has been recently (in March ‘24) awarded with the Erasmus Prize 2024 by the Netherlands’ Praemium Erasmianum Foundation?**

- 1) Jhumpa Lahiri
- 2) Amitav Ghosh
- 3) Arundhati Roy
- 4) Ruskin Bond
- 5) Salman Rushdie

**Answer- 2) Amitav Ghosh**



**Explanation:**

Eminent Indian Writer and Padma Shri Awardee **Amitav Ghosh** was awarded the **Erasmus Prize 2024** by the Netherlands' Praemium Erasmianum Foundation for his writings on the planetary crisis and climate change.

- He was honoured for his contribution to the theme of the Erasmus Prize 2024 “imagining the unthinkable”.

**i.** He was the first English-language writer to be honoured with the Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary award, in 2018.

**ii.** He also got Padma Shri in 2007 in the field of 'literature and education'.

**6. How many winners have recently (in March '24) won the first National Creators Award, presented by the Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi in March 2024?**

- 1) 23
- 2) 26
- 3) 20
- 4) 18
- 5) 19

Answer- **1) 23**

**Explanation:**

On March 8, 2024, the Prime Minister (PM) of India **Narendra Modi** presented the inaugural National Creators Award (2024) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi in Delhi. These awards aim to honor excellence and impact across various domains, serving as a catalyst for positive change through creativity.

- The **first National Creators Award** event saw **23 winners** including 3 international creators. The awards were presented in the 20 categories, following a voting round. [List of All National Creators Awardees.](#)

**7. Which country/organisation has recently (in March '24) recognised with the Measles and Rubella Champion Award by the Measles and Rubella Partnership (M&RP)?**

- 1) India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- 2) Bangladesh 's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh
- 3) Pan American Health Organization
- 4) Ministry of Public Health of Thailand
- 5) Sri Lanka 's Ministry of Health

Answer- **1) India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

**Explanation:**

On 6th March 2024, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**), **Government of India**, was recognised with the “**Measles and Rubella Champion**” Award by the Measles and Rubella Partnership(M&RP) for its efforts towards Measles and Rubella Disease Prevention.

**i.** Ambassador Sripriya Ranganathan, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Washington D.C., The United States of America (USA) has received the award on behalf of MoHFW during the event held at the American Red Cross Headquarters in Washington D.C., USA

**8. How many units of the Indian Air Force (IAF) have recently (in March '24) received the President's Standards and Colours, presented by Droupadi Murmu, President of India?**

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

Answer- **2) 4 Units**

**Explanation:**

On 8th March 2024, **Droupadi Murmu**, President of India, presented the President's Standards and Colours to **four units** of the Indian Air Force (IAF) at the ceremony held at Hindon Air Force station, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh(UP).

- For the first time, 4 units were honoured with the President's Standard & Colours in a single ceremony.

**i.** President's Standard were presented to **No. 45 'Flying Daggers'**, the first Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) squadron, and **No. 221 Squadron 'Valiants'** which flew several missions during the 1999 Kargil conflict.

**ii.** President's Colours were presented to 11 **Base Repair Depot (BRD)** and 509 **Signal Unit (SU)**.

**9. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the winners of the 96th Academy Awards (Oscars 2024) announced in March 2024?**

**A) Christopher Nolan's directorial Oppenheimer movie won seven Oscars, including "Best Picture' Award, 'Best Director', and 'Best Actor'.**

**B) Poor Things" won four awards, including Best Actress, Production Design, Makeup & Hairstyling, and Costume Design.**

**C) Billie Eilish and her brother Finneas O'Connell won the Best Original Song award for "What Was I Made For?" from the Barbie movie.**

- 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 winners of the **96th Academy Awards (Oscars 2024)** were announced at the ceremony held at the Dolby Theatre at Ovation Hollywood, Los Angeles, California, United States of America (USA) on 10th March 2024.

- It honours and recognises the movies released in 2023.

**i. 'Oppenheimer'** wins **seven awards** at the Oscars 2024; Director – Christopher Nolan, Best actor – Cillian Murphy, Best supporting actor – Robert Downey Jr., Film editing – Jennifer Lame, Cinematography – Hoyte van Hoytema, Music (Original Score) – Ludwig Göransson, and Best Picture.

**ii. "Poor Things"** won **four awards**, including Best Actress, Production Design, Makeup & Hairstyling, and Costume Design.

iii. **Billie Eilish** and her brother Finneas O'Connell won the **Best Original Song award** for "What Was I Made For?" from the Barbie movie. [Click here to read more](#)

**10. Who has recently (in March '24) won the Miss World 2024 title at the 71st Miss World Pageant?**

- 1) Megan Young (Philippines)
- 2) Mireia Lalaguna (Spain)
- 3) Karolina Bielawska (Poland)
- 4) Toni-Ann Singh (Jamaica)
- 5) Krystyna Pyszkova (Czech Republic)

Answer- **5) Krystyna Pyszkova (Czech Republic)**

**Explanation:**

**Krystyna Pyszkova** from the **Czech Republic** won the **Miss World 2024** title at the **71st Miss World Pageant** held in the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Yasmina Zaytoun of Lebanon secured the 1st runner up position.

- Krystyna Pyszkova was crowned by Poland's Karolina Bielawska, Miss world 2022.
- She is the second Miss World from the Czech Republic after Tatana Kucharova, Miss World 2006.

**Note-** Reliance Foundation Chairperson Nita Ambani was honoured with the 'Beauty with a Purpose Humanitarian Award' as recognition for her commitment to philanthropy and social work.

**11. Who has recently (in March '24) won the Golden Book Award 2024 for the book, "Breaking Free Embracing Me: Healing from Childhood Abuse and Toxic Conditioning"?**

- 1) Sudha Murthy
- 2) Preeti Shenoy
- 3) Anupam Kher
- 4) Anuja Chauhan
- 5) Rakhi Kapoor

Answer- **5) Rakhi Kapoor**

**Explanation:**

Wings Publication International announced the winners of **Golden Book Award 2024**, which celebrates and honours the outstanding authors and their literary works.

**i.** Author **Rakhi Kapoor** won her 2nd Golden Book Award for her 26th book titled "Breaking Free Embracing Me: Healing from Childhood Abuse and Toxic Conditioning".

**ii.** The winners of Golden Book Award 2024 includes Anupam Kher (Lessons Life Taught Me, Unknowingly: An Autobiography); Raju S Jha (Drunken Manager); Gaurav Tiwari (Love. That Lasted Forever). [Click here for the complete list of winners of 2024](#)

**12. Which of the following Journalists recently (in March '24) received the Chameli Devi Jain Award 2024 for Outstanding Woman Media Person of the Year?**

- 1) Greeshma Kuthar and Ritika Chopra
- 2) Rana Ayyub and Sheren Bhan
- 3) Anuradha Bhasin and Mayanti Langer
- 4) Nidhi Razdan and Shaili Chopra
- 5) Anjana Om Kashyap and Anubha Bhonsle

**Answer- 1) Greeshma Kuthar and Ritika Chopra**

**Explanation:**

The Media Foundation jointly awarded the **Chameli Devi Jain Award 2024** for Outstanding Woman Media Person of the Year to the journalists **Greeshma Kuthar and Ritika Chopra**.

i. The award presentation took place at CD Deshmukh Hall in the India International Centre, New Delhi, Delhi.

**13. Who has been selected for the Sangita Kalanidhi award 2024 by The Music Academy in March 2024?**

- 1) Vinod Kumar Dwivedi
- 2) Kalapini Komkali
- 3) Thodur Madabusi Krishna
- 4) Prabhakar Karekar
- 5) Subhra Guha

**Answer- 3) Thodur Madabusi Krishna**

**Explanation:**

**Thodur Madabusi Krishna (TM Krishna)**, a renowned Carnatic vocalist & Ramon Magsaysay Award (2016) recipient, has been selected for the **Sangita Kalanidhi award 2024** by The Music Academy, Madras in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).

- He has also authored several books like The Spirit of Enquiry (2021), 'Sebastian and Sons: A Brief History of Mridangam Makers(2020), and 'A Southern Music: The Karnatic Story(2016).

**14. Who has been recently (in March' 24) awarded with the PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for his outstanding contributions in the field of Philanthropy?**

- 1) Shiv Nadar
- 2) Azim Premji
- 3) Kumar Mangalam Birla
- 4) Ratan Naval Tata
- 5) Nandan Nilekani

**Answer- 4) Ratan Naval Tata**

**Explanation:**

**Ratan Naval Tata** was awarded the prestigious **PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award** for his outstanding contributions in the field of Philanthropy. The award presentation took place at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

i. He served as the Chairman of Tata Sons from 1991 to 2012 and as Interim Chairman from October 2016 to February 2017.

iii. In addition to this award, he also won **Padma Bhushan in 2000, Padma Vibhushan in 2008** in the field of Trade and Industry and Order of Australia in 2023.

**15. Name the poet who has been recently (in March' 24) selected for Saraswati Samman 2023 award for poetic work "Roudra Sathwikam".**

- 1) Suhas Kumar
- 2) Sampooran Singh Kalra
- 3) Sameer Abdul
- 4) Sitanshu Yashaschandra

5) Prabha Varma

Answer- **5) Prabha Varma**

**Explanation:**

The renowned Malayalam poet and author **Prabha Varma** has been named the recipient of **Saraswati Samman 2023** for his poetic work titled "**Roudra Sathwikam**".

**i.** He is the **33rd recipient of Saraswati Samman** which is annually presented by the **K.K Birla Foundation**.

**ii.** This becomes the first Malayalam work to win the award after 12 years. Malayalam poetess Sugathakumari won the award in 2012 for her poetry collection ' Manalezhuthu.

**16. Name the personality who was recently (in March '24) awarded with Abel Prize 2024 for Mathematics.**

1) Michel Pierre Talagrand

2) Luis Caffarelli

3) Dennis Sullivan

4) Avi Wigderson

5) Hillel Furstenberg

Answer- **1) Michel Pierre Talagrand**

**Explanation:**

**The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters** announced **Michel Pierre Talagrand**, the French mathematician, as the **2024 Abel Prize** winner in Oslo, Norway.

**i.** Michel Talagrand, a 72- year-old retired **mathematician** of French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), was honoured for his work in probability theory involving understanding random phenomenon particularly, Gaussian process.

**ii.** Michel Talagrand is the **27th recipient of the Abel Prize**, also known as the Nobel Prize for Mathematics, and he is the **5th Frenchman** to receive the award.

**17. Name the Company that has recently (in March' 24) received "Airline of the Year" at the 2024 Air Transport Awards held at Ekali, Greece.**

1) Akasa Air

2) SpiceJet

3) IndiGo

4) Air India Express

5) Vistara

Answer- **3) IndiGo**

**Explanation:**

The Indian **airline IndiGo** was named as the "**Airline of the Year**" at the 2024 Air Transport Awards held at Ekali, Greece.

- **IndiGo** became the first Indian airline to carry **100 million passengers** in a single calendar year (2023).
- It was also the first Indian airline to fly **2,000 flights** in a **single day**.

**18. According to the “Insurance 100 2024” report released by Brand Finance in March 2024, \_\_\_\_\_ emerged as the world’s strongest insurance brand with brand value up 0.04% to USD 9.8 billion.**

- 1) UnipolSai Insurance
- 2) Cathay Life Insurance
- 3) Life Insurance Corporation of India
- 4) NRMA Insurance
- 5) Berkshire Hathaway Inc

**Answer- 3) Life Insurance Corporation of India**

**Explanation:**

According to the “**Insurance 100 2024**” report by **Brand Finance, independent brand valuation and strategy consultancy**, India’s Life Insurance Corporation of India (**LIC**) has emerged as the **world’s strongest insurance brand**, with brand value up **0.04% to USD 9.8 billion**. It has a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 88.3 and an associated AAA brand strength rating.

**i.** LIC is followed by **Taiwan based Cathay Life Insurance**(brand value up 9% to USD4.9 billion) and Australia based NRMA Insurance (brand value up 82% to USD1.3 billion) as 2nd and 3rd strongest insurance brands respectively.

**ii.** According to the report, **China’s Ping An** continues its reign as the world’s most valuable insurance brand for **6 consecutive years**, showcasing a 4% increase in brand value to USD 33.6 billion.[Click here to read more.](#)

## **COMMITTEE AND MEETING**

-----

## **INDEX**

-----

## **SUMMITS, CONFERENCES**

-----

## **ACQUISITION AND MERGERS**

**1. In March 2024, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) granted approval to Ring Plus Aqua Limited’s (RPAL) proposed acquisition of a \_\_\_\_\_ stake in Maini Precision Products Limited (MPPL).**

- 1) 38.34%
- 2) 49.02%
- 3) 50.24%
- 4) 42.10%
- 5) 59.25%

**Answer- 5) 59.25%**

**Explanation:**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has granted approval to Ring Plus Aqua Limited's (RPAL) proposed acquisition of a **59.25% stake** in Maini Precision Products Limited (MPPL).

- Under this, there will be acquisition of 59.25% shareholding in MPPL by RPAL, the acquisition of the entire shareholding of JK Files & Engineering Limited (JK Files) in JK Talabot Limited (JKTL) by a wholly owned subsidiary of Raymond Limited (New Company), and merger of RPAL, MPPL and the engineering business of JK Files into the New Company.

**2. Which Small Finance Bank (SFB) has recently (in March '24) merged with the Garagepreneurs Internet Private Limited (GIPL) by the approval of Competition Commission of India (CCI)?**

- 1) Utkarsh SFB
- 2) North East SFB
- 3) Capital SFB
- 4) Equitas SFB
- 5) Ujjivan SFB

Answer- **2) North East SFB**

**Explanation:**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the merger of a financial technology company, Garagepreneurs Internet Private Limited (GIPL) with the **North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB)**.

- The GIPL includes Quadrillion Finance Private Limited (QFPL) (an NBFC-SI-ICC) and Intergalactory Foundry Private Limited (IFPL).
- NESFB include RGVN (North-East) Microfinance Limited (RGVN)

**3. Which company was recently (in March '24) acquired by the TPG Growth V SF Markets Pte. Ltd. and Waverly Pte. Ltd. through Asia Healthcare Holdings Pte. Ltd?**

- 1) Steris Healthcare Pvt Ltd
- 2) Asian Institute of Nephrology and Urology Pvt Ltd
- 3) Ikon Remedies Pvt Ltd
- 4) Smotec Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd
- 5) Medrix PharmaPvt Ltd

Answer- **2) Asian Institute of Nephrology and Urology Pvt Ltd**

**Explanation:**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of stake in **Asian Institute of Nephrology and Urology Private Limited** by TPG Growth V SF Markets Pte. Ltd. **and** Waverly Pte. Ltd. **through** Asia Healthcare Holdings Pte. Ltd.

**i. It includes the following:**

- Acquisition of fresh Redeemable Preference Shares (New RPS) in Asia Healthcare Holdings Pte. Ltd. (AHH) by TPG Growth V SF Markets Pte. Ltd. (Growth V) and Waverly Pte. Ltd. (Waverly) (Part I)
- Subsequent acquisition of majority shareholding in Asian Institute of Nephrology and Urology Private Limited (AINU) by AHH (Part II).

**4. In March 2024, the Board of Directors (BoD) of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL) approved the Scheme of Amalgamation of \_\_\_\_\_ (company).**

- 1) Aditya Birla Finance Limited
- 2) Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail
- 3) Aditya Birla Renewables Limited
- 4) Aditya Birla Insulators Limited
- 5) Aditya Birla Power Composites Limited

**Answer- 1) Aditya Birla Finance Limited**

**Explanation:**

The Board of Directors (**BoD**) of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (**ABCL**) has approved the Scheme of Amalgamation of **Aditya Birla Finance Limited (ABFL)**, with ABCL.

- The scheme aims to make ABCL a large unified operating Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).
- The amalgamation is subject to the approval of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

**i.** After the merger, Vishakha Mulye will be acting as Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) whereas Rakesh Singh will assume the role as Executive Director (ED) and CEO (NBFC) of the merged amalgamated company.

**5. Which company has recently (in March '24) acquired 13.01% of Paramount Global's stake in Viacom18 Media Private Ltd for Rs 4,286 crore ?**

- 1) Reliance Industries Limited
- 2) Aditya Birla Capital
- 3) Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited
- 4) Tata Capital Limited
- 5) Jindal Capital

**Answer-1) Reliance Industries Limited**

**Explanation:**

**Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** acquired **13.01%** of Paramount Global's stake in Viacom18 Media Private Ltd for **Rs 4,286 crore** on a fully diluted basis.

- This acquisition has increased RIL's share in Paramount Global from 57.48% to **70.49%**.

**6. Which company has recently (in March '24) received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to acquire Kesoram Cement Business from Kesoram Industries Limited?**

- 1) Ambuja Cement Limited
- 2) J.K. Cement Limited
- 3) Chettinad Cement Corporation Private Limited
- 4) Sagar Cement Limited
- 5) UltraTech Cement Limited

**Answer- 5) UltraTech Cement Limited**

**Explanation:**

On 19th March 2024, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the Acquisition of Kesoram Cement Business from Kesoram Industries Limited by **UltraTech Cement Limited**

- CCI approves Ultratech's acquisition of Kesoram's cement unit



**i.UltraTech Cement Limited** will acquire Kesoram **Industries Limited's** grey cement business through a composite scheme of arrangement and an Implementation Agreement dated November 30, 2023, under Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013.

**7. In March 2024, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the Shriram Ownership Trust (SOT) to acquire a \_\_\_\_\_ stake in Shriram Investment Holdings (SIHL) held by APRN Enterprises Private Limited (APRN) and another 20% held by Piramal Enterprises Limited (PEL).**

- 1) 5%
- 2) 6.9%
- 3) 7.6%
- 4) 8.9%
- 5) 9.44%

Answer- **5) 9.44%**

**Explanation:**

On 19th March 2024, **The Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the Acquisition of certain shareholding of Shriram Investment Holdings Private Limited (SIHL) by **Shriram Ownership Trust(SOT)**.

**i. Shriram Ownership Trust (SOT)** will buy a **9.44%** stake in Shriram Investment Holdings (SIHL) held by APRN Enterprises Private Limited (APRN) and another **20%** held by Piramal Enterprises Limited (PEL).

- SOT and Shriram Capital Private Limited (SCPL) already hold a combined 70.56% stake in SIHL.

**8. In March 2024, HDFC Bank sold its stake in HDFC Credila for Rs \_\_\_\_\_ to BPEA EQT and ChrysCapital.**

- 1) 9553 crore
- 2) 8633 crore
- 3) 9001 crore
- 4) 1000 crore
- 5) 4576 crore

Answer- **1) 9553 crore**

**Explanation:**

HDFC Bank sold its stake in HDFC Credila, its education finance arm, for **Rs 9553 crore (USD 1.15 billion)** to private equity firms BPEA EQT and ChrysCapital.

**i.** This sale, announced in June 2023, was a regulatory requirement before the merger of Housing Development Finance Corp with HDFC Bank.

**9. Name the companies that have recently (in March' 24) received approval from Competition Commission of India (CCI) for subscription to Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares (CCPS) B of API Holdings Limited.**

- 1) MEMG LLP
- 2) 360 ONE
- 3) Chryscapital Ltd
- 4) Both 1 & 2

5) Both 1 & 3

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

**Explanation:**

Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the subscription to Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares (CCPS) B of API Holdings Limited by MEMG Family Office LLP (MEMG LLP) and 360 ONE Private Equity Fund (Fund) through its investment manager, 360 ONE Asset Management Limited (AML) (together referred to as **360 One**)

**10. Which company has recently (in March '24) received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to acquire 100% equity share capital of Lanco Amarkantak Power Limited?**

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

Answer- **2) Adani Power Limited**

**Explanation:**

Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved acquisition of **100%** equity share capital of **Lanco Amarkantak Power Limited**, a part of the Lanco Group, by Adani Power Limited, a part of the Adani Group.

- Lanco Amarkantak Power Limited is involved in thermal power generation in India and is currently undergoing Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).

**11. In March 2024, Tata Sons sold a \_\_\_\_\_ stake in Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for over Rs. 9,300 crore.**

- 1) 1%
- 2) 0.65%
- 3) 1.9%
- 4) 2%
- 5) 2.7%

Answer- **2) 0.65%**

**Explanation:**

**Tata Sons**, the holding company of Tata Group, sold around 2.02 crore shares (**0.65% equity**) in Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in a block deal worth over **Rs 9,300 crore**.

**i.** The average share price for the sale was **Rs 4,043 per share**.

**ii.** As of 26th March 2024, Tata Sons holds **71.9% of the stake** in TCS.

**12. In March 2024, SBI Mutual Fund (MF) acquired \_\_\_\_\_ stake in Savita Oil Technologies Ltd.**

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

Answer- 2) 3%

**Explanation:**

On 22nd March 2024, **SBI Mutual Fund(MF)** acquired a **3%** stake, equivalent to 20.73 lakh equity shares, in Savita Oil Technologies Ltd, via a **block deal**. SBI MF bought the shares at an average price of **Rs. 408** apiece from its promoter entity Mehra Syndicate.

i. Before the sale, promoters held **62.78%** stake, equivalent to **43,383,855 shares**. **Post-sale**, promoter stake reduced to **59.78%**, comprising 41,310,855 shares.

**13. In March 2024, Standard Chartered Bank sold its entire \_\_\_\_\_ stake in Central Depository Services (India) Ltd (CDSL) for Rs 1,266.48 crore.**

- 1) 6.90%
- 2) 7.18%
- 3) 9.45%
- 4) 12.8%
- 5) 11.7%

Answer- 2) 7.18%

**Explanation:**

**The Standard Chartered Bank** sold its entire **7.18% stake** in Central Depository Services (India) Ltd (**CDSL**) in a block deal worth over **Rs 1,266.48 crore**.

i. CDSL facilitates the holding of securities in electronic form. CDSL and National Stock Exchange (NSE)-promoted National Securities Depository Ltd(NSDL) are the **only two depositories** in India.

**14. In March 2024, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) bought a \_\_\_\_\_ share in Gautam Adani's Madhya Pradesh power project.**

- 1) 26%
- 2) 34%
- 3) 20%
- 4) 32%
- 5) 29%

Answer- 1) 26%

**Explanation:**

The Reliance Industries Limited (**RIL**), owned by Mukesh Ambani, has bought a **26% share** in Gautam Adani's **Madhya Pradesh power project** and has agreed to use the 500 MW of electricity produced by the facility for captive use. The two billionaires are working together on a business project for the first time.

- Under the terms of the Captive User policy as outlined in the Electricity Rules, 2005, Mahan Energen Limited (MEL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Adani Power Limited (APL), and RIL have signed into a 20-year long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for 500 MW.
- Reliance will purchase five crore equity shares at par (Rs 50 crore) in Mahan Energen Ltd.

**15. In which bank, Warburg Pincus has recently (in March '24) sold its entire 2.25% stake for Rs 1,195 crore?**

- 1) Axis Bank
- 2) ICICI Bank
- 3) IDFC First Bank

- 4) YES Bank
- 5) HDFC Bank

Answer- **3) IDFC First Bank**

**Explanation:**

**Warburg Pincus**, a Private equity firm sold its entire 2.25% stake in **IDFC** (formerly Infrastructure Development Finance Company Limited) **First Bank** for **Rs 1,195 crore** through the open market transaction.

**i. Note:**Warburg Pincus sold its IDFC First Bank shares on the BSE (formerly Bombay Stock Exchange) through its affiliated Cloverdell Investment Limited.

**ii.** As per BSE, the investment group used block deals to sell its 2.25% stake in the bank. More than 15.88 crore IDFC First Bank shares were sold by Cloverdell Investment.

**16. In March 2024, Which company has recently (in March '24) received approval from shareholders to delist its shares to proceed with its merger with ICICI Bank?**

- 1) ICICI Financial Services Ltd
- 2) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- 3) ICICI Home Finance
- 4) ICICI Prudential Trust Limited
- 5) ICICI Securities

Answer- **5) ICICI Securities**

**Explanation:**

The Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (**ICICI**) **Securities** has received approval from shareholders to **delist its shares** to proceed with its merger with **ICICI Bank**, the parent company and main shareholder.

- The delisting motion received 71.9% of the votes, and the minority shareholders of the brokerage supported the move.
- Norges Bank Investment Management has the largest public share of 3.2% in ICICI Securities.
- As of March 28, 2024, ICICI Bank holds a roughly 75% stake in ICICI Securities.

## **DEFENCE**

**1. In March 2024, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed five major capital acquisition of Rs \_\_\_\_\_ contracts with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Larsen & Toubro Limited and BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited in New Delhi, Delhi.**

- 1) 30,123.56 crore
- 2) 28,902.39 crore
- 3) 40,134.18 crore
- 4) 21,132.12 crore
- 5) 39,125.39 crore

Answer- **5) 39,125.39 crore**

**Explanation:**

On 1st March 2024, the Ministry of Defence (**MoD**) signed **five major capital acquisition contracts** worth **Rs 39,125.39 crore** in New Delhi, Delhi.

i. Out of the five contracts, one was with M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), two with M/s Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) and two with M/s BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL). [Click here to read more](#)

**2. In which city, Samudra Laksamana 2024, the third edition of India-Malaysia Maritime Exercise was held from 28th February 2024 to 2nd March 2024?**

- 1) Chandipur, Odisha
- 2) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- 3) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- 4) Digha, West Bengal
- 5) Kochi, Kerala

Answer- **2) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

**Exercise Samudra Laksamana 2024**, the **third edition** of the India-Malaysia maritime exercise, was held at/off the coast of **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP)** from February 28, 2024 to March 2, 2024 between the Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Malaysian Navy.

- Aim: To enhance interoperability and relationships between Indian and Royal Malaysian Navies
- Participants: Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kiltan and the Royal Malaysian Ship KD Lekir.

**3. Which country's Coast Guard, along with the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has recently (in March '24) concluded the 'Sea Defenders-2024', the comprehensive maritime security exercise at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) Island?**

- 1) United States
- 2) Australia
- 3) Japan
- 4) Indonesia
- 5) Philippines

Answer- **1) United States**

**Explanation:**

**'Sea Defenders-2024'**, the comprehensive maritime security exercise between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) & United States Coast Guard (USCG) was successfully concluded at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) Island on 9th March 2024.

- Aim of the Exercise: To enhance maritime cooperation and interoperability between ICG & USCG.

i. 'Sea Defenders-2024' exercise covered various situations like pollution response, showcasing firefighting and damage control skills, practice to neutralize asymmetric threats related to drone threats and shipboard emergencies.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**1. In February 2024, Yard 128 (LSAM 18), the \_\_\_\_\_ Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile (ACTCM) Barge was launched at M/s Suryadipta Projects Private Limited (SPPL), Thane , Maharashtra.**

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

**Answer- 4) 4th**

### **Explanation:**

On 28th February 2024, Indian Navy (IN) has launched an Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile (ACTCM) Barge, **LSAM 18 (YARD 128)', 4th Barge** of 11 x **ACTCM Barge Project** at M/s Suryadipta Projects Private Limited, Thane (Maharashtra).

**i.** The Barges are indigenously designed and built by the classification Naval Rules and Regulations of the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).

**ii.** The model testing of the Barge during the design stage was conducted at the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

**2. In February 2024, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the flight test of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile, a Man Portable Air Defence System(MANPADS) in \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) Karnataka, Bengaluru
- 2) Chandipur, Odisha
- 3) Pokhran, Rajasthan
- 4) Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- 5) Gandhinagar, Gujarat

**Answer- 2) Chandipur, Odisha**

### **Explanation:**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the flight test of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile, a Man Portable Air Defence System(MANPADS) , off the coast of Odisha on 28th and 29th February 2024.

- The missile was tested from a ground-based portable launcher from the Integrated Test Range in **Chandipur, Balasore, Odisha.**

**i.** VSHORADS was designed and developed by the Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in collaboration with other DRDO labs and Indian Industry Partners.

**3. In which state, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Limited has recently (in Feb '24) commissioned its first indigenously built hydrogen electrolyser at the Green Hydrogen Plant?**

- 1) Odisha
- 2) Bihar
- 3) Uttar Pradesh
- 4) Gujarat

5) West Bengal

Answer- **4) Gujarat**

**Explanation:**

Mumbai (Maharashtra) headquartered Larsen & Toubro (**L&T**) **Limited** has commissioned its first indigenously built hydrogen electrolyser at the **Green Hydrogen Plant** in Hazira in **Gujarat**.

- The electrolyser has a rated power capacity of **1 megawatt (MW)**, expandable to 2 MW. It can produce 200 Nm<sup>3</sup>/hour of hydrogen.
- It is a pressurised alkaline electrolyzer, equipped with two stacks and an indigenously manufactured Electrolyzer Processing Unit (**EPU**) **ML400**.

**i.** These alkaline electrolysers are manufactured by L&T Electrolysers Limited, a newly incorporated entity of L&T using the technology from McPhy Energy, France.

**4. Which country's research-sensing and imaging satellite, Pars 1 has recently (in March '24) launched by the Soyuz-2.1b rocket of Russia into an orbit 500 km above Earth?**

- 1) Türkiye
- 2) Iran
- 3) South Korea
- 4) Indonesia
- 5) Kenya

Answer- **2) Iran**

**Explanation:**

**Russia** launched **Pars 1**, an **Iranian** research-sensing and imaging satellite by its **Soyuz-2.1b rocket** from the Vostochny Cosmodrome launch base of **Russia** (some 8,000 kilometers(km) east of Moscow) into an orbit 500 km above **Earth**.

**i.** Pars 1 will scan **Iran's** topography and carry a 15-meter camera, enabling it to send high-resolution images of surface locations from its orbit.

**ii.** The Pars-1 Satellite was indigenously developed by the Iranian Space Research Institute. It is designed for remote sensing and testing future satellite technologies.

**5. In March 2024, the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying \_\_\_\_ (spacecraft) launched the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s SpaceX Crew-8 mission from Florida, United States of America (USA).**

- 1) Orion spacecraft
- 2) Artemis spacecraft
- 3) Dragon spacecraft
- 4) CubeSat spacecraft
- 5) Starship spacecraft

Answer- **3) Dragon spacecraft**

**Explanation:**

On 3rd March 2024, the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying **Dragon spacecraft** launched the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**)'s **SpaceX Crew-8 mission** from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, United States of America (USA).

**i.** Crew-8 mission is NASA's eighth commercial crew rotation mission with SpaceX to the International Space Station (ISS).

**6. In March 2024, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal virtually inaugurated 60T bollard pull tug named "Ocean Grace", the first ever Made-in-India Approved Standardised Tug Design and Specification (ASTDS) tug at Paradip Port, Odisha.**

**Which company has developed the Ocean Grace?**

- 1) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- 2) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- 3) Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- 4) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited
- 5) Goa Shipyard Limited

**Answer- 2) Cochin Shipyard Limited**

**Explanation:**

On 2nd March 2024, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (**MoPSW**) virtually inaugurated 60-tonne (**60T**) **bollard pull tug** named "**Ocean Grace**", the first ever Made-in-India Approved Standardised Tug Design and Specification (**ASTDS**) tug at Paradip Port, Odisha.

**i.** Ocean Grace, developed by the **Cochin Shipyard Limited** under MoPSW, was built at a cost of Rs 45 crores.

**ii.** The tug is designed for optimal efficiency and reliability, guaranteeing seamless navigation and proficient vessel assistance, especially for large vessels like Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCCs) and ultra-large crude carriers (ULCCs).

**7. Name the Indian Naval Ship (INS) that has recently (in March '24) commissioned by the Indian Navy (IN) at Minicoy, the southernmost island in Lakshadweep.**

- 1) INS Trinkat
- 2) INS Kumbhir
- 3) INS Nishank
- 4) INS Jatayu
- 5) INS Guldar

**Answer- 4) INS Jatayu**

**Explanation:**

The Indian Navy (**IN**) **commissioned** the Indian Naval Ship (**INS**) **Jatayu** at Minicoy, the southernmost island in Lakshadweep. This is the 2nd naval base in Lakshadweep after INS Dweeprakshak in Kavaratti, the capital of Lakshadweep.

- It was commissioned by Admiral Radhakrishnan (R.) Hari Kumar, the Chief of Naval Staff (CNS).

**i.** INS Jatayu will be functioning under the operational control of the Naval Officer in Charge (Lakshadweep), Southern Naval Command.

**8. In which city, Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 334 'Seahawks', India's first MH 60R multirole helicopter Squadron was commissioned in March 2024?**

- 1) Kochi, Kerala
- 2) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- 3) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 4) Chandipur, Odisha
- 5) Digha, West Bengal



Answer- **1) Kochi, Kerala**

**Explanation:**

The Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) R. Hari Kumar commissioned Indian Naval Air Squadron **(INAS) 334 'Seahawks'**, India's first MH 60R multirole helicopter Squadron, at INS Garuda in **Kochi, Kerala**.

- The first Seahawk squadron of 48 officers and 170 men is commanded by Captain M. Abhisheik Ram. The squadron is raised with six helicopters.

**9. Name the transport aircraft of Indian Air Force (IAF) that has recently (in March '24) airdropped an extra long and heavy indigenously developed platform.**

- 1) CH-47F (I) aircraft
- 2) C-130J aircraft
- 3) C-17 aircraft
- 4) A-12 aircraft
- 5) C-10 aircraft

Answer- **3) C-17 aircraft**

**Explanation:**

Indian Air Force **(IAF)'s transport aircraft C-17** airdropped an extra long and heavy indigenously developed platform that can carry a maximum load of over 22 tonnes.

**i.** The platform was developed by the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), which is a pioneer Research & Development (R&D) lab of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

**10. In March 2024, India successfully conducted the 1st flight test of an indigenously developed Agni-5 ballistic missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology under \_\_\_\_\_ (Mission).**

- 1) Mission Divyastra
- 2) Mission Lakshya
- 3) Mission Nishant
- 4) Mission Rustom
- 5) Mission Shakti

Answer- **1) Mission Divyastra**

**Explanation:**

On 11 March 2024, **India** successfully conducted the **1st flight test** of an indigenously developed **Agni-5 ballistic missile** by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), equipped with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle **(MIRV) technology** from DR. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

- The flight test was conducted as part of India's nuclear-capable missile named **Mission Divyastra (divine weapon)**.
- With the flight test of Mission Divyastra, India has joined the select group of nations that have MIRV capability.

**11. In March 2024, Deepak Mohanty, Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), inaugurated the National Pension System (NPS) web application for Financial Inclusion.**

**Which company developed the NPS Web application?**

- 1) Edelweiss Broking Ltd
- 2) Karvy Stock Broking Ltd
- 3) Zerodha Broking Ltd
- 4) Religare Broking Ltd
- 5) Angel Broking Ltd

**Answer- 3) Zerodha Broking Ltd**

**Explanation:**

Deepak Mohanty, Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (**PFRDA**), inaugurated the National Pension System (**NPS**) **web application** developed by Bengaluru(Karnataka) based **Zerodha Broking Limited**.

**i.** The app offers seamless access to NPS for users, allowing them to easily manage their NPS accounts.

**12. Which Company has recently (in March '24) launched 'Agray' and 'Akshay', the 5th and 6th ships of Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Shallow Water Craft (SWC) Project for Indian Navy (IN) in Kolkata, West Bengal?**

- 1) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- 2) Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Limited
- 3) Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- 4) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited
- 5) Mazagon Dock Limited

**Answer- 4) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited**

**Explanation:**

On March 13, 2024, **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE)** launched '**Agray**' and '**Akshay**', the 5th and 6th ships of 8 Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Shallow Water Craft (SWC) Project for Indian Navy (IN) in Kolkata, West Bengal.

- They are designed to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and Mine Laying Operations.
- The ASW SWC ships are 77.6 metre long & 105 m wide with a displacement of 900 tons and endurance of over 1800 Nautical Miles(NM).

**13. Which company has recently (in March '24) launched the MethaneSAT satellite into orbit aboard a Falcon9 rocket from California, The United States of America(USA)?**

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

**Answer- 2) SpaceX**

**Explanation:**

Space Exploration Technologies Corporation's (**SpaceX**) launched the MethaneSAT satellite into orbit aboard a Falcon9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 4E at Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, The United States of America(USA) on 3rd March 2024.

- This will monitor the methane emissions from oil and gas companies across the world.

**i.** MethaneSAT is an imaging satellite operated by MethaneSAT LLC, a subsidiary of the Environmental Defense Fund(EDF) and New Zealand Space Agency. This is the first satellite by a nonprofit environmental group.

**14. Which defence sector/Government agency has recently (in March' 24) launched the "Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG)", a first-of-its-kind specialised technology unit to enhance its communication infrastructure?**

- 1) Indian Army
- 2) Indian Navy
- 3) Indian Space Research Organisation
- 4) Indian Air Force
- 5) Border Security Force

Answer- **1) Indian Army**

**Explanation:**

On 18th March 2024, the **Indian Army** launched the "**Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG)**", a first-of-its-kind specialised technology unit to enhance its communication infrastructure, in New Delhi, Delhi.

**i.** The STEAG unit will be headed by a Colonel-rank officer from the Corps of Signals, a combat support arm handling military communications.

**ii.** STEAG unit with a strength of around 280 personnel will operate under the Signals Directorate. The unit will be based in Delhi.

**Note:** This is not a new raising, the Indian Army has transformed 21 Signals Group with the fresh mandate as STEAG.

**15. In which city, India has recently (in March '24) completed the Maiden Test-firing of its first indigenously developed 1500 HorsePower(HP) engine for the Indian Army's Main Battle Tanks (MBT)?**

- 1) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- 2) Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- 3) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- 4) Mysuru, Karnataka
- 5) Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu

Answer- **4) Mysuru, Karnataka**

**Explanation:**

**On March 20 2024**, India successfully completed the **Maiden Test-firing** of its first indigenously developed **1500 HorsePower(HP) engine** for the Indian Army's Main Battle Tanks (MBT), at BEML Limited Engine division complex in **Mysuru, Karnataka**.

**i.**It also has cutting-edge features such as high power-to-weight ratio which can be operated under extreme conditions including high altitudes, sub-zero temperatures of minus 40 degree Celsius and desert environments up to 55 degree Celsius.

**16. Which country has recently (in March '24) launched Queqiao-2, a relay satellite to provide Earth-Moon communication services?**

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

Answer- **5) China**

**Explanation:**

On 20th March 2024, the **China National Space Administration (CNSA)** launched a **Long March-8 rocket** carrying **Queqiao-2, a relay satellite** designed to provide Earth-Moon communication services, from the **Wenchang Space Launch Site** in South China's Hainan province.

i. The rocket also carried **Tiandu-1** and **Tiandu-2**, two miniature satellites to conduct tests for the construction of a constellation of data relay and navigation satellites.

**17. Name the United Kingdom's 1st-ever Laser-Directed Energy Weapon (LDEW) that was recently (in March '24) tested at the Hebrides Range.**

- 1) Nukes
- 2) DE M-SHORAD
- 3) Dragon Fire
- 4) Hwasong-8
- 5) Sky Sabre

Answer- **3) Dragon Fire**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) of the **United Kingdom (UK)** has successfully tested its 1st-ever Laser-Directed Energy Weapon (LDEW), named "**DragonFire**", at the Hebrides Range, located off the northwest coast of Scotland, UK.

i. The DragonFire LDEW system achieved the UK's 1st high-power firing of a laser weapon against aerial targets.

ii. Designed to target and neutralise drones, DragonFire offers a cost-effective alternative to traditional missiles.

**18. Name the App that has recently (in March' 24) developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research(ICAR)-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) to encourage citizen science initiatives in marine fisheries research.**

- 1) MARLIN@CMFRI
- 2) CIFT Lab Test
- 3) mKRISHI Fisheries
- 4) CIBA Shrimp
- 5) Matsya Setu

Answer- **1) MARLIN@CMFRI**

**Explanation:**

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research(ICAR)-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has developed an android mobile app, '**MARLIN@CMFRI**', to encourage citizen science initiatives in marine fisheries research.

- i. The app was developed under a project by Eldho Varghese at the Fishery Resources Assessment, Economics and Extension division (FRAEED) of the CMFRI.
- ii. MARLIN stands for **MAR**ine Fishery Machine Learning Routines of **IN**dian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

**19. Which Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)'s Institute has recently (in March '24) signed an MoU with the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) to scale up advanced materials for India's space programme?**

- 1) Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (AMPRI)
- 2) National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)
- 3) National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR)
- 4) National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST)
- 5) Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO)

**Answer- 4) National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST)**

**Explanation:**

**The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research -National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** to scale up research and delivery of strategically-advanced materials for India's space programme.

i. Under the agreement, the VSSC and the NIIST will work together for the delivery of advanced materials such as engineered alloys, coatings, and functional materials that hold applications in ISRO missions.

**20. In which city, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has recently (in March '24) conducted the "Pushpak" – Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV-LEX-02)?**

- 1) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- 2) Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu
- 3) Chitradurga, Karnataka
- 4) Mahendragiri, Odisha
- 5) Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh

**Answer- 3) Chitradurga, Karnataka**

**Explanation:**

On 22nd March 2024, the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully conducted the **"Pushpak" – Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV-LEX-02)** at the **Aeronautical Test Range (ATR)** in **Chitradurga, Karnataka**.

- This landing is the 2nd of the series of experiments conducted by ISRO at ATR, with the first mission RLV-LEX-01 being conducted in 2023.

**21. In March 2024, the Indian Army (IA) deployed an initial batch of new indigenous Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction Systems (IDD&IS) along the northern borders with China in March 2024.**

**Which company has developed IDD&IS systems along with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)?**

- 1) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- 2) Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited
- 3) Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited
- 4) India Optel Limited
- 5) Bharat Electronics Limited

**Answer- 5) Bharat Electronics Limited**

**Explanation:**

**The Indian Army (IA)** has deployed an initial batch of **seven** new indigenous Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction Systems (IDD&IS) along the northern borders with China.

**i.**The IDD&IS systems were togetherly developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**.

- This Mark-1 variant IDD&IS was inducted by the Army Air Defence (AAD).

**22. In March 2024, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) has designated the \_\_\_\_\_(asteroid) as “(215884) Jayantmurthy”, named after Indian Prof. Jayant Murthy.**

- 1) EX10 Hygiea
- 2) EX433 Eros
- 3) 2005 EX296
- 4) EX99942 Apophis
- 5) EX666 Desdemona

**Answer- 3) 2005 EX296**

**Explanation:**

**The International Astronomical Union (IAU)** has designated the asteroid **2005 EX296** as **“(215884) Jayantmurthy”**, named after **Indian Prof. Jayant Murthy** in recognition of his work in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) New Horizons Science Team to observe the ultraviolet background radiation in the universe.

**i.**The announcement was made on 18th March 2024 by the IAU’s Working Group on Small Bodies Nomenclature, designated body to provide official names to all asteroids, comets and other small objects in the Solar System.

**ii.**This Asteroid was **discovered by M.W. Buie** at Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona, United States of America (USA), in 2005.

**23. Name the portal that has recently (in March’ 24) launched by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to facilitate easier voting for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).**

- 1) Saksham
- 2) Nirmaya
- 3) Samarth
- 4) Sahyogi
- 5) Anudaan

**Answer- 1) Saksham**

**Explanation:**

**The Election Commission of India (ECI)** has launched a new app called '**Saksham**' to facilitate easier voting for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). This will also enable the PwDs to avail facilities (like wheelchair) at the polling stations.

**i.** To ensure "No Voter to be left behind", ECI has announced that citizens above the **age of 85 and PwDs with 40** per cent benchmark disability can vote from home. This is the first time the ECI is providing a 'vote-from-home' option.

**24. Which company has recently (in March' 24) developed India's first homegrown indigenous Hydroxyurea oral suspension for the treatment of sickle disease?**

- 1) Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited
- 2) Akums Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited
- 3) Alkem Laboratories Limited
- 4) Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Limited
- 5) Aurobindo Pharma Limited

**Answer- 2) Akums Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited**

**Explanation:**

**Akums Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited**, a New Delhi (Delhi)-based pharmaceutical company, has developed **India's first homegrown indigenous Hydroxyurea oral suspension** for the treatment of **sickle disease** in a cost-effective way.

**i.** This product has received Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) approval following rigorous review and bioequivalence studies

**25. In March 2024, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3) of \_\_\_\_\_ (Launch Vehicle)/XPoSat mission, re-entered the Earth's atmosphere with zero debris in orbit.**

- 1) PSLV-C37
- 2) PSLV-C58
- 3) PSLV- C6
- 4) PSLV-C29
- 5) PSLV-C51

**Answer- 2) PSLV-C58**

**Explanation:**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) announced that the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle Orbital Experimental Module-3 (**POEM-3**) re-entered the Earth's atmosphere with zero debris in orbit.

- The milestone was achieved on 21st March, 2024 and that **PSLV C58/XPoSat** mission has practically left no debris in orbit.

**i.** It is ISRO's unique cost-effective space platform which used the spent PS4 stage of the PSLV-C58 launch vehicle and launched XPoSat (X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite) on 1st January, 2024.

**26. In March 2024, International Astronomical Union (IAU) approved the name \_\_\_\_\_ for the landing site of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander.**

- 1) Statio Durgama
- 2) Statio Ram Lalla

- 3) Statio Shiv Shakti
- 4) Statio Pashupati
- 5) Statio Kedarnath

Answer- **3) Statio Shiv Shakti**

**Explanation:**

**International Astronomical Union (IAU)'s Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature (WGPSN)** has approved the name "**Statio Shiv Shakti**" for the landing site of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander.

- The approval was given on **19th March 2024**.

**i.** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been honoured with the Aviation Week Network's 2023-2024 Laureates Award under Space category for its achievements in Chandrayaan-3.

- Ambassador Sripriya Ranganathan, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India in Washington DC, USA, received the award on behalf of ISRO.

**27. Which country has recently (in March' 24) launched the Yunhai-3 02 satellite to Monitor Atmospheric, and Space Environments?**

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

Answer- **5) China**

**Explanation:**

**China** launched a new satellite "**Yunhai-3 02**" from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center located in north China's Shanxi Province. The satellite was launched atop a modified version of the **Long March-6 rocket**.

**i.** This launch marks the 514th mission of the Long March series carrier rockets, highlighting China's extensive experience in space missions.

- Yunhai-3 02 is specifically designed to conduct: Atmospheric and marine environment surveys, Space environment monitoring, Disaster prevention and reduction efforts and Scientific experiments.

**28. Which Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has recently (in March '24) collaborated with Starburst Accelerator (SARL) to establish a 100 Million Euros Startup Hub?**

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

Answer- **1) IIT Madras**

**Explanation:**

French aerospace and defence firm **Starburst Accelerator (SARL)** collaborated with the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (**IIT Madras**) to establish an innovative hub for start-ups with the funding support of **100 million Euros**.



- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) formalizing this collaboration was signed at the IIT Madras campus in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

i. Under this partnership, IIT Madras will enable Starburst to set up accelerator programs to strengthen India's Aviation, Space, and Defence (ASD) ecosystem.

**29. Which company has recently (in March '24) test-fired the Stage-2 of the Vikram-1 space launch vehicle, 'Kalam-250'?**

- 1) Antrix Corporation Limited
- 2) Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited
- 3) Bellatrix Aerospace Private Limited
- 4) Hyoristic Innovations Private Limited
- 5) Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited

Answer- **5) Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited**

**Explanation:**

**Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited**, a Hyderabad (Telangana)-based aerospace company, has successfully test-fired the **Kalam-250**, otherwise called **Stage-2** of the Vikram-1 space launch vehicle.

i. The test was conducted at the propulsion testbed of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh(AP).

**30. Name the fighter aircraft that has recently (in March '24) completed its first flight in Bengaluru, Karnataka.**

- 1) Dassault Mirage 2000
- 2) Sukhoi Su-30 (MKI)
- 3) Tejas Mark (Mk)-1A
- 4) Mikoyan MiG-29
- 5) HF-24 Marut

Answer- **3) Tejas Mark (Mk)-1A**

**Explanation:**

On March 28, 2024, the **Tejas Mark (Mk)-1A fighter aircraft** made its successful maiden flight from the **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** facility in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

i. HAL's chief test pilot, Group **Captain KK Venugopal (retd)** flew the light combat aircraft (LCA) Mk-1A.

ii. The Tejas Mark-1A is designed by the **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited(HAL).

## **SPORTS**

**1. Which country's women's national football team has recently (in Feb '24) won the final in the Turkish Women's Cup 2024 by defeating the Indian women's football team?**

- 1) Estonia
- 2) Hong Kong
- 3) Kosovo
- 4) Bulgaria

5) Zambia

Answer- **3) Kosovo**

**Explanation:**

The **Indian women's football team** (nickname: Blue Tigresses) finished **runner-up** at the **Turkish Women's Cup 2024** after losing to **Kosovo** in the finals held at the Gold City Sports Complex in Alanya, Türkiye.

**i.** The **8th edition of the Turkish Women's Cup**, also known as the Alanya Gold City Cup, was held from 21st to 27th February 2024 in Alanya, Türkiye.

**ii.** India's Manisha Kalyan was awarded "**Best Midfielder of the Tournament**" for her exemplary display throughout the competition.

**2. Which team has recently (in March '24) won the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) Season 10?**

1) Tamil Thalaivas

2) Bengaluru Bulls

3) Haryana Steelers

4) Gujarat Giants

5) Puneri Paltan

Answer- **5) Puneri Paltan**

**Explanation:**

**Puneri Paltan** won the Pro Kabaddi League (**PKL**) **Season 10** by defeating the Haryana Steelers in the finals held at the GMC Balayogi Stadium in Gachibowli, Hyderabad, Telangana.

- It marks Puneri Paltan's first-ever PKL title win since its first edition in 2014.

**i.** The title winner, Puneri Paltan, was awarded prize money of Rs 3 crore, and runner-up Haryana Steelers was awarded Rs 1.8 crore.

**3. Which University has recently (in Feb '24) topped the medal tally of 4th edition of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG 2023) with a total of 71 medals held in the NorthEast region of India?**

1) Guru Nanak Dev University

2) Lovely Professional University

3) Panjab University

4) Chandigarh University

5) Jain University

Answer- **4) Chandigarh University**

**Explanation:**

**Chandigarh University** won the overall championship of the 4th edition of the Khelo India University Games (**KIUG 2023**) held in the NorthEast region from 17th -29th February 2024. Chandigarh University topped the medal tally of KIUG 2023 with a total of 71 medals (32 gold, 18 silver, and 21 bronze).

**i.** Lovely Professional University (Punjab) with 42 medals (20 gold, 14 silver, and 8 bronze), and Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar (Punjab) with 51 medals (12 gold, 20 silver, and 19 bronze) were ranked in 2nd and 3rd place, respectively.

- The Mascot of the KIUG 2023 is 'Ashtalakshmi', a butterfly. [Click here to read more](#)

**4. Who has recently (in March '24) won the season-opening Formula 1 (F1) Bahrain Grand Prix 2024?**

- 1) Max Verstappen
- 2) Sergio Perez
- 3) Carlos Sainz
- 4) Lando Norris
- 5) Charles Leclerc

Answer- **1) Max Verstappen**

**Explanation:**

Belgian-Dutch driver **Max Verstappen** (competing under the Dutch flag) of Red Bull won the **season-opening Formula 1 (F1) Bahrain Grand Prix 2024** held at the Bahrain International Circuit, Bahrain, from 29th February to 2nd March 2024.

- This victory also marks Verstappen's second consecutive Bahrain GP title (2023 and 2024).

**5. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Anthony de Mello Trophy 2024 held from January to March 2024?**

- A) The Indian men's test cricket team led by Rohit Sharma won the Anthony de Mello Trophy 2024 by defeating England (captained by Ben Stokes) in the five-match test series for 4-1.**
- B) Ravichandran Ashwin played his 100th Test for India in the fifth Test against England at Dharamshala, where he also took five wickets in the second innings.**
- C) With the 712 runs, Yashasvi Jaiswal surpassed Virat Kohli's record for most runs (655 runs) in a Test series against England.**

- 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 Indian men's test cricket team led by Rohit Sharma won the Anthony de Mello Trophy 2024 by defeating England (captained by Ben Stokes) in the five-match test series for 4-1 held from 25th January to 9th March 2024 in five venues across India.

**i. Ravichandran Ashwin** played his 100th Test for India in the fifth Test against England at Dharamshala, where he also took five wickets in the second innings.

- Ashwin is the ninth bowler and the second Indian (After Anil Kumble - 619) to pick up 500 Test wickets.

**ii. With 712 runs, Yashasvi Jaiswal** surpassed Virat Kohli's record for most runs (655 runs) in a Test series against England. [Click here to read more](#)

**6. Which of the following Indian badminton players have recently (in March '24) won the men's doubles title at the finals of the YONEX French Open 2024 held in Paris, France?**

- 1) Lakshya Sen and Srikanth Kidambi
- 2) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty
- 3) Chirag Shetty and Lakshya Sen
- 4) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Srikanth Kidambi

5) Prannoy H. S. and Chirag Shetty

Answer- **2) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty**

**Explanation:**

The Indian badminton pair **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** won the **men's doubles title** by defeating Chinese Taipei's Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan at the finals of the YONEX French Open 2024.

- The 94th edition of the French Open, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour Super 750 Badminton tournament, was held from 5-10th March 2024 at the Arena Porte de la Chapelle, Paris, France.

**Winners of French Open 2024:**

Championship	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	Shi Yu Qi (China)	Kunlavut Vitidsaran (Thailand)
Women's Singles	An Se Young (South Korea)	Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
Men's Doubles	Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty (India)	Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan (Chinese Taipei)
Women's Doubles	Chen Qingchen and Jia Yi Fan (China)	Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida (Japan)
Mixed Doubles	Feng Yanzhe and Huang Dongping (China)	Seo Seung-Jae and Chae Yoo-Jung (South Korea)

**7. Who has recently (in March '24) won the Formula 1 (F1) Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (GP) 2024?**

- 1) Lewis Hamilton
- 2) Lando Norris
- 3) Max Verstappen
- 4) Fernando Alonso
- 5) Charles Leclerc

Answer- **3) Max Verstappen**

**Explanation:**

Belgian-Dutch driver **Max Verstappen** (competing under the Dutch flag) of Red Bull won the Formula 1 (F1) **Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (GP) 2024** held at Jeddah Corniche Circuit, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from 7th to 9th March 2024.

i. Sergio Perez (Mexico) secured 2nd Position and Charles Leclerc (Monaco) secured 3rd position in Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (GP) 2024.

**8. Which cricket team has recently (in March '24) won their 42nd Ranji Trophy title by defeating Vidarbha?**

- 1) Haryana
- 2) Saurashtra
- 3) Karnataka

4) Mumbai

5) Gujarat

Answer- **4) Mumbai**

**Explanation:**

The **Mumbai cricket team** led by Ajinkya Rahane won the **Ranji Trophy** 2023-2024 season (89th edition) by defeating Vidarbha led by Akshay Wadkar in the finals held at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, Maharashtra in March 2024.

- This marks the Mumbai team's **42nd Ranji Trophy** and first trophy since 2016.

**i.** Mumbai's Musheer Khan (age: 19 years and 14 days) surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's record and became the youngest Mumbai player to score a century in the Ranji Trophy final.

**ii.** Indian fast bowler Dhawal Kulkarni announced his retirement from international cricket and first-class cricket after the Ranji Trophy Finals. [Click here to read more](#)

**9. Which team won the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2024 title by defeating Delhi Capitals in March 2024?**

1) Gujarat Giants

2) UP Warriorz

3) Royal Challengers Bangalore

4) Mumbai Indians

5) Chennai Super Kings

Answer- **3) Royal Challengers Bangalore**

**Explanation:**

**Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)**, led by Smriti Mandhana, won the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2024 title by defeating Delhi Capitals (DC), led by Meghann(Meg) Lanning (Australia), in the final held at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The second edition of the WPL was held from 23rd February to 17th March 2024. It marks RCB's first WPL title.
- RCB won Rs 6 crore, while DC was awarded Rs 3 crore as the runner-up. [Click here to read more](#)

**10. Which bank has recently (in March '24) partnered with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to become the Official Banking Partner for Team India for the Paris Olympics 2024?**

1) HDFC Bank

2) Axis Bank

3) Kotak Mahindra Bank

4) IndusInd Bank

5) YES Bank

Answer- **5) YES Bank**

**Explanation:**

**YES Bank** partnered with the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** and has been named the Official Banking Partner for Team India for the upcoming **Paris Olympics 2024**, which is scheduled to take place from **26th July to 11th August 2024** in Paris, France.

**i.** As part of the partnership, YES Bank launched the campaign '**Milkar Jitayengey**,' ("**Together We Win**") for the Indian Olympic team, highlighting the shared effort behind every victory.

**11. Name the personality who has been recently (in March' 24) selected as India's flag bearer for the 2024 Paris Olympics?**

- 1) Achanta Sharath Kamal
- 2) Shiva Keshavan
- 3) Gagan Narang
- 4) Ramanathan Krishnan
- 5) Vijay Amritraj

Answer- **1) Achanta Sharath Kamal**

**Explanation:**

The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** named table tennis player **Achanta Sharath Kamal** as India's **flagbearer** for the **2024 Paris Olympics**, set to be held from 26th July to 11th August 2024 in Paris, France.

- **Sharath Kamal** will be the **19th flag bearer** for India at the Olympics.
- The IOA also appointed boxer **Mangte Chungneijang Mary Kom** as the **chef de mission** of the Indian Olympic contingent.
- Luge player **Shiva Keshavan** was appointed as the **deputy chef de mission**.
- **Gagan Narang** has been tasked with overseeing India's operations at the shooting range at the Paris Olympics. [Click here to read more.](#)

**12. Name the personality who has recently (in March '24) won the men's singles title at the World Table Tennis (WTT) Feeder Beirut 2024 held in Lebanon?**

- 1) Sathiyam Gnanasekaran
- 2) Manav Vikas Thakkar
- 3) Manush Shah
- 4) Manish Sharma
- 5) Giridharan Rajagopalan

Answer- **1) Sathiyam Gnanasekaran**

**Explanation:**

India's **Sathiyam Gnanasekaran** (hailing from Tamil Nadu) won the men's singles title at the World Table Tennis (WTT) Feeder Beirut 2024 by defeating compatriot **Manav Vikas Thakkar** (Gujarat) in the finals.

- He became the **first ever Indian player** to win the Men's Singles trophy at a WTT Feeder Series event.
- WTT Feeder Beirut 2024 was held from 19th to 21st March 2024 at the Al Kawthar Secondary School in Beirut, Lebanon.

**i.** India's Manush Utpalbhair Shah (Gujarat) and Diya Parag Chitale (Maharashtra) won the Mixed Doubles title at WTT Feeder Beirut 2024 by defeating compatriots Manav Vikash Thakkar and Archana Girish Kamath (Karnataka) in the finals. [List of Winners & Runners of WTT Feeder Beirut 2024.](#)

**13. Name the personality who has recently (in March' 24) won the Formula 1 (F1) Australian Grand Prix (GP) 2024.**

- 1) Charles Leclerc
- 2) Max Verstappen
- 3) Carlos Sainz Jr.

- 4) Lando Norris
- 5) Fernando Alonso

Answer- **3) Carlos Sainz Jr.**

**Explanation:**

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Vázquez de Castro (**Carlos Sainz Jr.**) of Spain won the **Formula 1 (F1) Australian Grand Prix (GP) 2024**, held from 22nd to 24th March 2024 at Albert Park Circuit, Melbourne, **Australia**.

**i. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc(Monaco)** and United Kingdom's Lando Norris won the **second** and third positions, respectively.

**14. Name the Indian personality who has recently (in March' 24) won the women's singles title at the World Table Tennis (WTT) Feeder Beirut II 2024 held in Lebanon.**

- 1) Poulomi Ghatak
- 2) Bhavina Hasmukhbhai Patel
- 3) Sreeja Akula
- 4) Manika Batra
- 5) Sutirtha Mukherjee

Answer- **3) Sreeja Akula**

**Explanation:**

**India's Sreeja Akula** (Hailing from Telangana) won the **women's singles title at the World Table Tennis (WTT) Feeder Beirut II 2024** by defeating Sarah De Nutte (Luxembourg) in the finals.

- WTT Feeder Beirut II 2024 was held from 22nd to 24th March 2024 at the Al Kawthar Secondary School in **Beirut, Lebanon**.

**i. India's Manush Utpalbhair Shah**(Gujarat) and **Manav Vikash Thakkar**(Gujarat) won the men's doubles title by defeating Indian duo Mudit Dani(Maharashtra) and Akash Pal(West Bengal) in the all-Indian finals.

**ii. Akash Pal and Poymantee Baisya**(West Bengal) won the **mixed doubles title** by defeating compatriots Sathiyar Gnanasekaran(Tamil Nadu) and Manika Batra(Delhi) in the finals. It marks their first WTT title. [Click here to read more.](#)

## **BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

**1. Who authored the book, 'Swallowing the Sun: A Novel', which was launched in February 2024?**

- 1) Gauri Shankar Gupta
- 2) Ajay Bisaria
- 3) Vikas Swarup
- 4) Navtej Sarna
- 5) Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri

Answer- **5) Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri**

**Explanation:**

**Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri**, Former Assistant Secretary General, United Nations (UN) and wife of Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, penned **her debut novel 'Swallowing the Sun: A Novel'**. She is also a former deputy executive director of UN Women.

i. The novel is published by Aleph Book Company, an independent publishing firm promoted by Rupa Publications India.

**2. Name the sports magazine that has recently (in March '24) published the coffee table book titled 'FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023'.**

- 1) Bharatiya Kushti Patrika
- 2) Sport and Pastime
- 3) Sportinfo Magazine
- 4) Sportstar
- 5) SportsBusiness

Answer- **4) Sportstar**

**Explanation:**

**Odisha** Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** released a coffee table book titled '**FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023**' published by **Sportstar**, the sports magazine of The Hindu Group.

i. The 252-page book captured every on-field and off-field moment of the 15th edition of the (Fédération Internationale de Hockey, or International Hockey Federation) FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023, which was held from 13th to 29th January 2023 in Bhubaneswar & Rourkela, Odisha.

**3. Name the Former President who has recently (in March '24) authored the book, 'The Conspiracy to Oust Me from the Presidency'.**

- 1) Gotabaya Rajapaksa (Sri Lanka)
- 2) Ram Nath Kovind (India)
- 3) Isaac Herzog (Israel)
- 4) Vladimir Putin (Russia)
- 5) Volodymyr Zelenskyy (Ukraine)

Answer- **1) Gotabaya Rajapaksa (Sri Lanka)**

**Explanation:**

Former President of **Sri Lanka**, **Gotabaya Rajapaksa**, has authored a book titled '**The Conspiracy to Oust Me from the Presidency**' which speaks about his political downfall to a "conspiracy" involving foreign and local parties.

- Gotabaya Rajapaksa served as the 7th Executive President of Sri Lanka from 2019 to 2022.
- The book is available in the English and Sinhalese language.

**4. Who authored the book, 'Israel War Diary' that was released by Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Singh Thakur in March 2024?**

- 1) Kiran Desai
- 2) Bhavik Sarkhedi
- 3) Amitav Ghosh
- 4) Vikram Seth
- 5) Vishal Pandey

Answer- **5) Vishal Pandey**



**Explanation:**

Union Minister **Anurag Singh Thakur**, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), has released a book titled '**Israel War Diary** "इजराइल वॉर डायरी" authored by **Vishal Pandey** at an event held in New Delhi, Delhi.

- i. The book speaks about the war between Israel and Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya (HAMAS), an Islamic Resistance Movement which is the largest and most capable militant group in the Palestinian territories.
- ii. The book is published by Prabhat Prakashan Private Limited & available in Hindi language.

**5. Which of the following books were recently (in March' 24) presented by S.Ramann, Chairman & Managing Director of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to Union Minister of Finance, Nirmala Sitharaman.**

- 1) Prabhaav
- 2) Diagnostic Mapping of Cluster- Charting the Path Ahead through Intervention
- 3) Industrial Development Bank of India
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 2 & 3

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

**Explanation:**

S.Ramann, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) presented 2 books titled '**Prabhaav**' and '**Diagnostic Mapping of Cluster- Charting the Path Ahead through Intervention**' to Union Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance.

- i. Prabhaav is an impact assessment report on the Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) released by SIDBI. The 3rd-party assessment of the scheme was undertaken by CRISIL.
- ii. Diagnostic Mapping of Clusters is the first of SIDBI's information series aimed at kindling cluster development.

**6. Which of the following personalities did not co-author the book "A Compendium on Non-Native Organisms of India," launched by J. Chinchu Rani, Minister for Animal Husbandry of Kerala, in March 2024?**

- 1) Manoj Kumar
- 2) Vinod Haridas
- 3) K.V. Jayachandran
- 4) Jasmin Anand
- 5) Sheela S

Answer- **1) Manoj Kumar**

**Explanation:**

**Animal Husbandry Minister J. Chinchurani**, the government of Kerala published a book titled "A Compendium on Non-Native Organisms of India" in a event held at T.K. Madhava Memorial (TKMM) College, Nangiarkulangara, Kerala.

- The book was **co-authored by K.V. Jayachandran**, honorary professor of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries department, Kerala University **along with TKMM College faculties: Sheela S., Jasmin Anand and Vinod Haridas.**
- The book offers information about invasive species discovered in various parts of Alappuzha (Kerala), the issues they pose, and strategies to prevent their spread.

**7. Which of the following personalities did not author the book 'An illustrated guide to the Lepidoptera of India: taxonomic procedures, family characters, diversity, and distribution' published by the Zoological Survey of India in March 2024?**

- 1) Dhriti Banerjee
- 2) Navneet Singh
- 3) Rahul Joshi
- 4) P. C. Pathania
- 5) Karm Narayan Bahl

**Answer- 5) Karm Narayan Bahl**

**Explanation:**

**The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** published the **first of its kind book titled 'An illustrated guide to the Lepidoptera of India: taxonomic procedures, family characters, diversity, and distribution'**.

**i.** The book was written by **Dr. Dhriti Banerjee**, Director of the ZSI, along with **Dr. Navneet Singh**, **Dr. Rahul Joshi**, and **Dr. P. C. Pathania**, ZSI scientists, and **Dr. R.C. Kendrick**, a Lepidoptera expert from Hong Kong.

## **OBITUARY**

**1. In February 2024, India's oldest parliamentarian and a founding member of the Samajwadi Party (SP), \_\_\_\_\_ passed away.**

- 1) Shafiqur Rahman Barq
- 2) Mulayam Singh Yadav
- 3) Beni Prasad Verma
- 4) Akhilesh Yadav
- 5) Mohammad Azam Khan

**Answer- 1) Shafiqur Rahman Barq**

**Explanation:**

**India's oldest parliamentarian** and a founding member of the Samajwadi Party (SP), **Shafiqur Rahman Barq** passed away at the age of 93 in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

**i.** He was serving as Member of Parliament (MP) of the 17th Lok Sabha (2019-24) representing the Sambhal constituency of UP.

- He served as an MP for five times.
- He served as a Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) in UP for four times in the years 1974-77, 1977-80, 1985-89 and 1989-91 respectively.

**2. In March 2024, Renowned Archaeologist and Padma Shri awardee, Arun Kumar Sharma, passed away.**

**In which year did he receive the Padma Shri award?**

- 1) 2017
- 2) 2015
- 3) 2018
- 4) 2016
- 5) 2019

Answer- **1) 2017**

**Explanation:**

Renowned **Archaeologist** and **Padma Shri awardee, Arun Kumar Sharma**, passed away at the age of 91 in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. He was born on 12 November 1933, in Mohandi village near Chandkhuri in Chhattisgarh.

- The government of India honoured him with **Padma Shri** (Others category) in **2017**.
- Arun Kumar Sharma joined the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), in 1959.

**3. In March 2024, Martin Brian Mulroney, who served as the 18th Prime Minister (PM) of \_\_\_\_\_ (country) passed away.**

- 1) Canada
- 2) Argentina
- 3) Brazil
- 4) Spain
- 5) Italy

Answer- **1) Canada**

**Explanation:**

**Martin Brian Mulroney**, who served as the **18th Prime Minister (PM) of Canada**(1984-1993), passed away at the age of 84 in Palm Beach, Florida, the United States of America (USA).

- He played a crucial role in the signing of the Canada-United States (US) Free Trade Agreement with former US President Ronald Reagan.

**i.** The agreement was later superseded by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994.

**4. In March 2024, \_\_\_\_\_, who served as Governor of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Mizoram, passed away.**

- 1) Surjit Singh Barnala
- 2) Sudarshan Agarwal
- 3) Banwari Lal Joshi
- 4) Krishan Kant Paul
- 5) Aziz Qureshi

Answer- **5) Aziz Qureshi**

**Explanation:**

Senior Congress leader **Aziz Qureshi**, who served as **Governor of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Mizoram**, passed away at the age of 83 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

**i.** He served as a Member of Parliament (MP – Lok Sabha) from 1984 to 1989. He was elected from Satna constituency of Madhya Pradesh.

**ii.** He served as Governor of Uttarakhand from 2012-2015; and Governor of Mizoram from January 2015 to March 2015. He served as Governor (Additional charge) of Uttar Pradesh from 23 June 2014 to 22 July 2014.

**5. In March 2024, \_\_\_\_\_, creator of Dragon Ball, one of the most influential and best-selling manga from Japan passed away.**

- 1) Hiromu Arakawa
- 2) Eiichiro Oda