

GUPTA

CLASSES

Current Affairs

(March 2022)

English



GUPTA

CLASSES

1. Which of the following points are correct with respect to the cabinet approval in March 2022?

A) The Cabinet approved the extension of applicability of the New Investment Policy (NIP)-2012 for three upcoming units of Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL) at Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni.

B) The CCEA also approved an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of raw jute by Rs 450 to Rs 7,949 per quintal for the 2022-23 season.

C) The Cabinet gave its nod to the Bill for 'Delhi Municipal Corporation Amendment Act 2022' to merge 3 municipal corporations in Delhi into a single unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

1) Only A

2) Only B

3) Only C

4) Only A & B

5) Only A & C

Answer- 5) Only A & C

The Cabinet approved the extension of applicability of the New Investment Policy (NIP)-2012 for three upcoming units of Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL) at **Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni.**

i. The CCEA also approved an increase in the Minimum Support Price (**MSP**) of raw jute by **Rs 250 to Rs 4,750** per quintal for the **2022-23** season to ensure a return of 60.53% over all India weighted average cost of production.

ii. The Cabinet gave its nod to the Bill for '**Delhi Municipal Corporation Amendment Act 2022**' to merge **3** municipal corporations in Delhi into a **single** unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

2. Who recently (in March'22) became the 11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand?

1) Pushkar Singh Dhama

2) Harish Rawat

3) Tirath Singh Rawat

4) Vijay Bahuguna

5) N. D. Tiwari

Answer- 1) Pushkar Singh Dhama

Explanation:

Pushkar Singh Dhama, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and son of an ex-serviceman took oath as 11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand for his second consecutive term in Dehradun's Parade Ground administered by the Governor Lt Gen (retd) Gurmit Singh. Along with him, eight cabinet ministers were also administered the oath.

i. Pushkar Singh Dhama became the 11th chief minister of the hill state at the young age of 46 years belonging to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

ii. He has to get re-elected from any of the constituencies of Uttarakhand within a period of six months post which he ceases to be a Minister (Article 164(4) of Indian Constitution).

About Uttarakhand

Governor - Lt Gen (retd) Gurmit Singh

Chief Minister - Pushkar Singh Dhama

Legislative Assembly strength - 70 members

3. In March 2022, RBI Gives Approval to SBI Group of Entities to Pick Up 9.99% stake in which Bank for 1 Year?

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

Answer- **2) ICICI Bank**

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) approved **SBIFML** (State Bank of India Mutual Fund Limited)/SBI Mutual Fund, along with other SBI group companies, to acquire up to **9.99%** equity capital in the **ICICI Bank**. The approval to SBI Mutual Fund is valid for a period of one year that is up to 22 March, 2023.

i. RBI instructed SBIFML to ensure that the SBI groups shareholding remains below 10% at all times. The approval is subject to compliance with the provisions of Banking Regulation Act 1949.

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

Founded- 1 April 1935

Governor- Shaktikanta Das

4. In March 2022, Governor of RBI Shaktikanta Das, inaugurated the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Who was appointed as the 1st chairman of RBIH?

- 1) Vishal Sikka
- 2) Narayana Murthy
- 3) Kris Gopalakrishnan
- 4) Nandan Nilekani
- 5) S. D. Shibulal

Answer- **3) Kris Gopalakrishnan**

Explanation:

The Governor of Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**), Shaktikanta Das, inaugurated the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (**RBIH**) in Bengaluru, Karnataka. It has been set up as a Section 8 company under Companies Act, 2013, with an initial capital contribution of Rs 100 crore; and wholly owned subsidiary of the RBI.

i. Senapathy (**Kris**) **Gopalakrishnan**, co-founder and former co-Chairman, Infosys, was earlier appointed as **RBIH 1st Chairman**.

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

Establishment– April 1, 1935

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Deputy Governors– Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao, T. Rabi Sankar

5. Who was recently (in March'22) appointed as the interim Managing Director (MD) and CEO of CSB Bank for 3 months?

- 1) B K Divakara
- 2) Bhama Krishnamurthy
- 3) Sumit Maheshwari
- 4) Pralay Mondal
- 5) Madhavan Menon

Answer- 4) Pralay Mondal

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of **Pralay Mondal** as interim Managing Director (MD) and **CEO of CSB Bank** for a period of **3 months**.

i. The appointment is for a three month period which is effective from April 1, 2022 or till the appointment of a regular MD & CEO is made.

ii. He is currently serving as the Deputy Managing Director of CSB Bank since his appointment in June 2021.

About CSB Bank Limited:

MD & CEO – Rajendran Chinna Veerappan

Establishment – 1920 (celebrated its centenary year in 2020)

Headquarters – Thrissur, Kerala

6. Which of the following is “Incorrect” with respect to the 2nd edition of the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2021 that was released in March 2022?

- 1) National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness released the 2nd edition of the EPI 2021.
- 2) Maharashtra has retained the top position in the overall ranking with its total share in exports accounting for 18.9% as of 2020-2021.
- 3) Gujarat has emerged as the top-performing state in the ‘Coastal States’ category, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- 4) In the category of Landlocked States, Haryana was the best-performing state, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh.
- 5) Among the Himalayan States and UT, Uttarakhand and Delhi are the top-performing states respectively.

Answer- 2) Maharashtra has retained the top position in the overall ranking with its total share in exports accounting for 18.9% as of 2020-2021.

Explanation:

National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness, released the 2nd edition of the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2021.

- i. Gujarat has retained the top position in the overall ranking with its total share in exports accounting for 20.83% as of 2020-2021.
- ii. Among the Himalayan States and UT, Uttarakhand and Delhi are the top-performing states respectively.
- iii. Gujarat has emerged as the top-performing state in the 'Coastal States' category, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka. Most of the coastal states are among the best performers.
- iv. In the category of Landlocked States, Haryana was the best-performing state, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Telangana.

7. The Ministry of Ayush recently (in March'22) signed an agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO) to set up the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO-GCTM) in _____, Gujarat.

- 1) Rajkot
- 2) Vadodara
- 3) Gandhinagar
- 4) Ahmedabad
- 5) Jamnagar

Answer- **5) Jamnagar**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Ayush (**MoA**), Government of India signed an agreement with the World Health Organization (**WHO**) to set up the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (**WHO-GCTM**) in **Jamnagar**, Gujarat.

- i. The onsite launch of the new WHO -GCTM will take place on April 21, 2022.
- ii. The Government of India invested USD 250 million in the GCTM.

About World Health Organization (WHO):

Director-General- Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland

Founded- 1948

8. Who recently (in March'22) became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for a second consecutive term?

- 1) Akhilesh Yadav
- 2) Yogi Adityanath
- 3) Mulayam Singh Yadav
- 4) Ram Prakash Gupta
- 5) Kalyan Singh

Answer- **2) Yogi Adityanath**

Explanation:

Yogi Adityanath took oath as the Chief Minister (**CM**) of Uttar Pradesh (**UP**) for the second term in office. Governor of UP, Anandiben Patel administered the oath of office and secrecy to Yogi Adityanath along with 52 ministers in the ceremony organized at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

- i. The party secured more than 250 seats out of 403 in the state assembly elections in 2022.
- ii. He has become the first such BJP leader to become the CM for the second consecutive term.

9. On which date the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change plans to observe National Dolphin Day every year from 2022?

- 1) 5th October
- 2) 5th November
- 3) 5th June
- 4) 5th August
- 5) 5th September

Answer- 1) 5th October

Explanation:

Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, has announced that starting from 2022, the **5th October** of every year will be observed as **National Dolphin Day** to create awareness and encourage community participation in the conservation of dolphins including the Gangetic Dolphin.

- i.** The decision to designate the 5th October of every year National Dolphin Day was taken by the standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife (**NBWL**) during its 67th meeting.
- ii.** The **first-ever** National Dolphin Day will be observed on **5th October 2022**.

10. The Union Cabinet recently (in March'22) extended the "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY)" till _____ with an outlay of Rs 80,000 crore.

- 1) December, 2022
- 2) September, 2022
- 3) November, 2022
- 4) June, 2022
- 5) July, 2022

Answer- 2) September, 2022

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has approved the **extension** of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (**PM-GKAY**) for another six months till **September, 2022**, with an outlay of Rs 80,000 crore.

- i.** Government has spent approximately Rs. 2.60 Lakh Crore so far and with the above addition of 80,000 crores the total expenditure under the scheme is said to be nearly Rs.3.4 lakh crore which includes all six phases.
- ii.** Under the extended Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) each beneficiary will get an additional 5 kg free ration per person per month in addition to his normal quota of foodgrains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013.

11. Which of the following points are correct with respect to the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and UAE in March 2022?

- A) India-UAE CEPA is the first full free trade Agreement to be signed by India with any country in the past decade.**
- B) It was signed with a view to boost bilateral trade to USD 100 billion over a 5-year period and creation of lakhs of jobs.**
- C) The Leaders also agreed to set up an India - UAE Cultural Council to facilitate and promote cross- cultural exchanges, cultural projects and exhibitions.**

- 1) All A, B & C

- 2) Only A & B
- 3) Only B & C
- 4) Only A
- 5) Only B

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

Explanation:

India-UAE CEPA is the **first full free trade** Agreement to be signed by India with any country in the past decade.

- i.** It was signed with a view to boost bilateral trade to **USD 100 billion** over a **5-year period** and creation of lakhs of jobs.
- ii.** The Leaders also agreed to set up an India – UAE Cultural Council to facilitate and promote cross- cultural exchanges, cultural projects and exhibitions.
- iii.** The minister visited UAE to participate in ‘Investopia Summit’ on March 28, 2022 and ‘World Government Summit’ on March 29, 2022, both venues at Dubai.

12. In March 2022, _____ became India's first city to get “Steel Slag” road.

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

Answer- **5) Surat, Gujarat**

Explanation:

The Diamond City of India, **Surat in Gujarat**, became India’s first city to get a road that is made out of steel waste (1st ever ‘steel slag ’road) at Hazira, Surat .

- i.** The road was constructed by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India with CSIR India (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) & CRRI (Central Road Research Institute) New Delhi along with the support of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.
- ii.** The project will be constructed under the initiative of the Waste to Wealth and Clean India Campaign and Laid in the Hazira Industrial Area, the road consists of 100% processed steel slag.

13. Which of the following points are correct with respect to the 94th Academy Awards (Oscars 2022) ceremony held at California, USA in March 2022?

- A) Troy Kotsur has won the Best Actor In A Leading Role for his performance in “CODA”.**
- B) Ariana Debose has won the Best Actress In A Leading Role for her role in “The Eyes Of Tammy Faye”.**
- C) Film, Dune directed by Denis Villeneuve won 6 awards and CODA has won the Oscars 2022 under 3 categories.**

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

Answer- **3) Only C**

Explanation:

Will Smith has won the Best Actor In A Leading Role for his performance in “King Richard”.

i. Jessica Chastain has won the Best Actress In A Leading Role for her role in “The Eyes Of Tammy Faye”.

ii. Film, Dune directed by Denis Villeneuve won 6 awards and **CODA** has won the Oscars 2022 under 3 categories.

14. Who was recently (in March’22) elected as the “11th Director-General of the International Labour Organization”?

- 1) Francis Blanchard (France)
- 2) Michel Hansenne (Belgium)
- 3) Gilbert F. Hougbo (Togo)
- 4) Juan Somavia (Chile)
- 5) Guy Ryde (UK)

Answer- **3) Gilbert F. Hougbo (Togo)**

Explanation:

The International Labour Organization (**ILO**) elected **Gilbert Fossoun Hougbo** from **Togo** as its next Director-General (**DG**) by succeeding Guy Ryder from the United Kingdom (UK), who has held the office since 2012.

i. He will take office on 1st October 2022 for five years.

ii. Gilbert F. Hougbo will become the 11th DG of ILO and he is the **First African** to hold the post of DG. He was the former Prime Minister of Togo who served from 2008 to 2012.

About International Labour Organization (ILO):

Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland

Director-General- Guy Ryder (March 2022)

Founded- 1919

Member Countries- 187

15. Who recently (in March’22) took the oath as the “CM of Goa” for the 2nd consecutive term?

- 1) Manohar Parrikar
- 2) Laxmikant Parsekar
- 3) Digambar Kamat
- 4) Pratapsingh Rane
- 5) Pramod Sawant

Answer- **5) Pramod Sawant**

Explanation:

Pramod Sawant took oath as the Chief Minister (**CM**) of **Goa**, for a **second consecutive** term (2022-2027) at the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee stadium in Taleigao, Goa.

i. The Governor of Goa, P S Sreedharan Pillai administered the oath of office and secrecy to Pramod Sawant.

ii. The other eight Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) also took oath as Cabinet Ministers in the swearing in ceremony.

16. Who recently (in March'22) became the World's Youngest & Fastest Female Swimmer to Swim Across the Palk Strait for 13 hours and 10 minutes?

- 1) Shikha Tandon
- 2) Jiya Rai
- 3) Shivani Kataria
- 4) Maana Patel
- 5) Bhula Chowdhary

Answer- 2) Jiya Rai

Explanation:

Mumbai based Autistic teen **Jiya Rai** (13 years old), daughter of an Indian Navy officer, became the **world's youngest** and **fastest female swimmer** to swim across the Palk Strait.

i. She swam across the Palk Strait (29 kilometres) connecting Sri Lanka and India, in 13 hours and 10 minutes & she started her swimming on 20th March 2020 at Talaimannar, Sri Lanka and finished at Dhanushkodi, Tamil Nadu(India).

ii. She is a recipient of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, the highest honour given to Indian Citizens below 18 years of age.

Note: The record was previously held by Bhula Chowdhary who swam in 13 hours 52 minutes in 2004.

17. UNESCO recently (in March'22) included the Living Root Bridges or Jingkieng Jri to the tentative list of World heritage sites.

In which state is Jingkieng Jri located?

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

Answer- 4) Meghalaya

Explanation:

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (**UNESCO**) includes Meghalaya's "**Living Root Bridges or Jingkieng Jri**" on a tentative list of World heritage sites. At present there are about 100 living root bridges around 70 villages of Meghalaya's subtropical terrain region.

i. Villagers, (especially Khasi and Jaintia tribal communities) build and maintain these bridges from the past for more than 600 years.

ii. 2022 Tentative list of UNESCO: The Geoglyphs of Konkan region of Maharashtra, Sri Veerabhadra Temple and Monolithic Bull (Nandi) at Lepakshi of Andhra Pradesh have made it to the Tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites in 2022.

18. Which of the following points are correct with respect to the Wings India 2022, Asia's Largest Event on Civil Aviation held at Hyderabad, Telangana in March 2022?

A) HANSA-NG Aircraft designed and developed by CSIR-NAL are displayed in a showcase of civil aircraft initiatives at Wings India 2022.

B) The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed an agreement with Bharat Electronics Ltd to develop indigenous Air Traffic Management Systems (ATMS).

C) In Wings India Awards 2022, Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru has won 'Best Airport' and 'Aviation Innovation' Award.

1) Only A

2) Only C

3) Only A & B

4) Only B & C

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

HANSA-NG Aircraft designed and developed by **CSIR-NAL** are displayed in a showcase of civil aircraft initiatives at Wings India 2022.

i. The Airports Authority of India (**AAI**) has signed an agreement with **Bharat Electronics Ltd** to develop indigenous Air Traffic Management Systems (**ATMS**).

ii. In Wings India Awards 2022, **Kempegowda** International Airport, **Bengaluru** has won 'Best Airport' and 'Aviation Innovation' Award.

19. Which organisation recently (in March'22) issued the world 1st Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB) to protect Africa's Black Rhino?

1) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

2) World Wide Fund for Nature

3) United Nations Environment Programme

4) African Development Bank

5) World Bank

Answer- **5) World Bank**

Explanation:

The **World Bank** (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, IBRD) has created the world's first kind of Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB), also known as the "**RhinoBond**," in support of South Africa's efforts to protect the endangered species.

i. It is a five-year, USD 150 million Sustainable Development Bond, matures in 2027, that includes a potential performance payment from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

About Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB) or the Rhino Bond:

i. It was issued by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) at 94.84 percent of the nominal aggregate amount, with a maximum Conservation Success Payment of US \$13.76 million.

20. Name the Olympic medalist who was recently (in March'22) honoured with the 3rd edition of BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year(ISWOTY) 2021.

- 1) Lovlina Borgohain
- 2) Mirabai Chanu
- 3) Sakshi Malik
- 4) Mary Kom
- 5) Saina Nehwal

Answer- 2) Mirabai Chanu

Explanation:

Indian Weightlifter, Padma Shri Saikhom **Mirabai Chanu**, who became the first Indian weightlifter to win a silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics, has won the 3rd edition of the (British Broadcasting Corporation) BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year(ISWOTY) 2021.

i. BBC Lifetime Achievement Award 2021: Karnam Malleswari, former Indian weightlifter.

ii. BBC Emerging Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2021: Shafali Verma, the youngest female cricketer who played for India in the Women's T20 International match in 2019.

iii. BBC ISWOTY is the sports award by BBC Hindi in India that celebrates and honours India's finest sportswomen and it highlights the extraordinary achievements of sportswomen in India.

21. As per Duff & Phelps (Now Kroll)'s "Digital Acceleration 2.0" report, Who is India's most valued celebrity 2021 for the 5th consecutive time with the brand value of USD 185.7 million?

- 1) Alia Bhatt
- 2) MS Dhoni
- 3) Akshay Kumar
- 4) Virat Kohli
- 5) Ranveer Singh

Answer- 4) Virat Kohli

Explanation:

According to the Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2021 (7th Edition) titled "Digital Acceleration 2.0." released by Duff & Phelps (Now Kroll), Indian Cricketer **Virat Kohli** was ranked as India's most valued celebrity for the **5th** consecutive time in 2021 with the brand value of USD 185.7 million in 2021.

Rank	Name	Brand Value (In Millions)
1	Virat Kohli	USD 185.7
2	Ranveer Singh	USD 158.3
3	Akshay Kumar	USD 139.6

22. Which state recently (in March'22) signed a pact with Assam to resolve the border dispute in six places?

- 1) Mizoram
- 2) Nagaland
- 3) Arunachal Pradesh
- 4) West Bengal

5) Meghalaya

Answer- **5) Meghalaya**

Explanation:

The Chief Minister of **Assam** Himanta Biswa Sarma and the Chief Minister of **Meghalaya** Conrad Sangma in the presence of Union Home Minister, Amit Shah had signed a pact to resolve the protracted border dispute in six out of twelve places along the 884.9 Kilometre border between the two states.

i. The day is called as 'Historic day' as it resolves five-decade old border dispute between Assam and Meghalaya, since the demarcation of Meghalaya from Assam in 1972 also Meghalaya has issues with the Assam Reorganisation Act, 1971.

ii. The First Phase of settlement covers 36 villages situated in six places (Hahim, Gizang, Tarabari, Boklapara, Khanapara-Pilingkata, Ratacherra) out of twelve covering an area of 36.79 square kilometres.

23. Which country recently (in March'22) signed an MoU with India to jointly explore Lithium and Cobalt mineral resources?

1) Australia

2) New Zealand

3) Germany

4) Indonesia

5) Singapore

Answer- **1) Australia**

Explanation:

The Government of **India** and **Australia** has committed to invest USD 6 million jointly to explore Lithium and Cobalt mines in Australia in the next six months.

The MoU includes building an Australia-India partnership in the critical mineral ecosystem; development of a robust and commercially-viable critical mineral supply chain to support sustainable production; and ensuring reliable supplies of the materials needed to fuel sectors such as transport, energy, telecommunications, medicine, aviation and defence.

24. Who recently (in March'22) won Governor of the year Award 2022 at the 9th Central Banking Awards 2022?

1) Mario Marcel (Chile)

2) Ernest Addison (Ghana)

3) Margarita Delgado (Spain)

4) Mark Carney (England)

5) Victoria Rodriguez (México)

Answer- **1) Mario Marcel (Chile)**

Explanation:

Mario Marcel Cullell (**Mario Marcel**), the **Governor** of Banco Central de **Chile** (BCCh – Central Bank of Chile) has won the **Governor of the year Award 2022** at the 9th edition of the Central Banking Awards 2022. The award recognises all-around achievements in the job.

- The annual Central Banking Awards 2022 is made up of 17 central bank categories and 14 partner and service provider categories and the inaugural Central Banking Awards were presented in 2014.

About Mario Marcel:

- i. Mario Marcel served as the Governor of the BCCh from 2016 to January 2022.
- ii. He resigned his post as governor in January 2022, and became finance minister under the new administration of Gabriel Boric, President of Chile.

25. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) recently (in March'22) extended the term of its Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg till _____.

- 1) November, 2023
- 2) July, 2023
- 3) August, 2023
- 4) June, 2023
- 5) September, 2023

Answer- **5) September, 2023**

Explanation:

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (**NATO**) extended the term of its Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg by one year until 30 **September, 2023**.

- i. Jens Stoltenberg, a former Prime Minister of Norway, took the office of Secretary General in October 2014. In September 2021, his term was set to end.

About North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):

Members- 30 states (as of 2022)

Founded- 4 April 1949

Headquarters- Brussels, Belgium

26. In which institute India's 1st Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) was launched?

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

Answer- **3) IISc-Bengaluru**

Explanation:

India's first Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (**ARTPARK**) for creating a better world through an inclusive Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Robotics revolution has been **inaugurated** at Indian Institute of Science (**IISc**) **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

- i. It was launched by the Government of Karnataka's Minister for Information, Biotechnology, and Science and Technology, Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan.

- ii. It is a joint initiative of IISc Bengaluru and AI Foundry, Bengaluru in a public-private collaborative model to promote technology innovations in the field of AI & Robotics.

iii. ARTPARK is a one-of-its kind, a not-for-profit foundation with a total seed capital of 230 crores, which is funded by the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India and the Government of Karnataka.

27. In March 2022, Who took oath as the Chief Minister of Punjab?

- 1) Beant Singh
- 2) Parkash Singh Badal
- 3) Bhagwant Singh Mann
- 4) Amarinder Singh
- 5) Charanjit Singh Channi

Answer- **3) Bhagwant Singh Mann**

Explanation:

The Leader of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), **Bhagwant Singh Mann**, was sworn in as the Punjab Chief Minister (CM) & the oath of office and secrecy was administered by Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit to Bhagwant Mann.

i. The AAP in Punjab won 92 seats out of 117 seats in the Punjab Assembly elections 2022.

ii. Bhagwant Singh Mann is a former Member of Parliament (MP) in Lok Sabha and represented Sangrur constituency, Punjab.

28. Who authored the biography book, “Rahul Bajaj: An Extraordinary Life”?

- 1) Sanjeev Sanyal
- 2) Shobhaa De
- 3) Shashi Tharoor
- 4) Ruskin Bond
- 5) Gita Piramal

Answer- **5) Gita Piramal**

Explanation:

The first authorized biography titled “**Rahul Bajaj: An Extraordinary Life**”, authored by **Gita Piramal** and published by India Portfolio, Imprint of Penguin Random House India (PRHI) will be launched on 21 March 2022.

i. The book is based on the life of the late iconic industrialist Rahul Bajaj.

ii. Rahul Bajaj was the chairman emeritus of the Bajaj Group and a former member of Parliament. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan.

iii. He is also a former chairman and member of the International Business Council, World Economic Forum.

29. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways recently (in March’22) launched India’s 1st Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) named “Toyota Mirai” in New Delhi?

The FCEV was powered by _____.

- 1) Hydrogen
- 2) Sodium
- 3) Sulfur
- 4) Carbon Monoxide
- 5) Nitrogen

Answer- **1) Hydrogen**

Explanation:

Union Minister for **Road Transport and Highways**, Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the world's most advanced technology-developed Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) Toyota Mirai at New Delhi, India. Toyota Mirai is India's first Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV), which is completely powered by **Hydrogen**.

- i.** This launch is a pilot project taking place in Delhi by Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd (TKM) and International Center for Automotive Technology (ICAT).
- ii.** In Japanese, the word 'Mirai' means 'future'. Toyota Mirai was launched in 2014 and was one of the world's first hydrogen fuel EV.
- iii.** The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) will be supplying Hydrogen for this vehicle.

30. As per Deloitte's "Global Powers of Retailing 2022: Resilience Despite Challenges" report, Reliance Retail Ltd (RRL) from India has ranked _____ on the list of Top 250 global retailers, while ____ tops the index.

- 1) 60th; Amazon Inc
- 2) 56th; Walmart Inc
- 3) 42nd; Schwarz Group
- 4) 60th; Walmart Inc
- 5) 58th; Amazon Inc

Answer- **2) 56th; Walmart Inc**

Explanation:

According to the global consulting firm Deloitte.'s report titled "Global Powers of Retailing 2022: Resilience Despite Challenges", Reliance Retail Limited(RRL), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited(**RIL**) has ranked **56th** on the list of Top 250 global retailers.

i. Walmart Inc., an American multinational retail corporation, tops the list, followed by Amazon, Inc., Costco Wholesale Corporation, Schwarz Group, and The Home Depot, Inc.

31. Name the company that recently (in March'22) Mahila Money Prepaid Card for Women Entrepreneurs along with Mahila Money and Transcorp PPI.

- 1) Capital One
- 2) Mastercard
- 3) Visa
- 4) American Express
- 5) Maestro

Answer- **3) Visa**

Explanation:

The digital payments networks Mahila Money, **Visa** and Transcorp Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) have partnered in launching **Mahila Money Prepaid Card**, an exclusive product to help women entrepreneurs use digital payments more effectively.

i. The prepaid card is designed in such a way that it caters to the needs of digital entrepreneurs, small business owners, and women. It serves those community members who prefer a bank account with combined features of flexibility, safety, and convenience.

32. Which of the following points are correct with respect to the 2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List released in March 2022?

- 1) Mukesh Ambani has emerged as the richest Indian & Asian title and secured 9th rank globally in The Index.
- 2) Elon Musk, co-founder and Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Tesla has topped the Billionaires list as the World's richest person for the 2nd consecutive year.
- 3) Mukesh Ambani is the only Indian to feature in the world's top 10 billionaires list and has also earned the title of "Richest Telecom Entrepreneur."
- 4) Only 1 & 2
- 5) Only 1, 2 & 3

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

Explanation:

Mukesh Ambani has emerged as the richest Indian & Asian title and secured 9th rank globally in The Index.

i. Elon Musk, co-founder and Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Tesla has topped the Billionaires list as the World's richest person for the 2nd consecutive year.

ii. Mukesh Ambani is the only Indian to feature in the world's top 10 billionaires list and has also earned the title of "Richest Telecom Entrepreneur."

iii. Mumbai became the billionaire capital of India with 72 billionaires followed by New Delhi with 51.

33. Astrophysicist Eugene Parker recently (in March'22) passed away. Which organisation was named after him for a spacecraft called the "Parker Solar Probe" in 2018?

- 1) Blue Origin
- 2) European Space Agency
- 3) JAXA
- 4) SpaceX
- 5) NASA

Answer- **5) NASA**

Explanation:

American Astrophysicist Eugene Newman Parker (**Eugene Parker**), who contributed to solar physics, has died at the age of 94 at a retirement community in Chicago, Illinois, United States of America (USA).

i. Eugene Parker witnessed the launch of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**)'s Parker Solar Probe in 2018, the first NASA mission named after a living person, and became the first person to witness the launch of a spacecraft named after them.

34. Which company recently (in March'22) signed an agreement with Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) to build "India's 1st Make in India Dredger" in collaboration with IHC Holland?

- 1) Hindustan Shipyard Ltd
- 2) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd
- 3) Goa Shipyard Ltd
- 4) Cochin Shipyard Ltd

5) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd

Answer- **4) Cochin Shipyard Ltd**

Explanation:

Cochin Shipyard Limited (**CSL**) signed an agreement with Dredging Corporation of India Limited (**DCIL**) to build **India's first Make in India dredger** in collaboration with the Industriële Handels Combinatie (**IHC**) **Holland**. The construction of the dredger costs around Rs 920 crore and will be delivered in 34 months.

i. The **objective** of the dredger is to **fulfill** the Maritime **India Vision 2030**, with well-equipped dredgers for operation of ports to bring down the logistic cost of the cargo.

ii. A dredger is a **boat** which is fitted with a special machine that is used to increase the size of harbours, rivers, and canals and its **127-metre-long**, 28-metre-wide vessel (dredger) is based on the 'Beagle' platform of IHC.

35. In March 2022, _____ became the first state in India to implement the Crop Diversification Index.

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

Answer- **1) Telangana**

Explanation:

Telangana turned out to be the **first state in India to adopt** the Crop Diversification Index (**CDI**) by way of recording their crop diversification pattern in the form of an index.

i. According to the CDI, Telangana grows 77 varieties of crops, out of which only 10 crops (mostly grains) are chosen for crop diversification.

ii. The districts of Nirmal, Vikarabad, and Sangareddy emerge as the most diverse, ranking in the top 3 in the state.

About Crop Diversification Index (CDI):

All the areas under the 77 different crops, which include food, non-food, and cash crops, as well as the areas under floriculture practices, have been considered to calculate the index.

36. NPCI is set to launch 'On-Device Wallet-UPI Lite for Small Value Transactions' in Offline Mode.

What is the Upper Limit of payment transactions in UPI Lite?

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

Answer- **5) Rs 200**

Explanation:

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) will launch **On-Device Wallet** i.e. 'UPI Lite' for UPI users which will enable small value transactions in an offline mode. UPI stands for (Unified Payments Interface).

This functionality enables transactions without additional factor authentication (AFA) or a UPI PIN (Personal Identification Number). Designed by NPCI.

Limits in UPI Lite:

- Upper Limit of payment transaction- **Rs 200**
- Total limit of balance for an On-Device Wallet- Rs 2,000 at any point of time

37. Name the bank that recently (in March'22) signed an LOC to provide USD 1 Billion to Sri Lanka to Recover from the Economic Crisis.

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

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

Explanation:

India announced a **USD 1 billion Line of Credit (LOC)** to Sri Lanka as part of its financial assistance to deal with its economic crisis.

i. An agreement extending the LOC was signed between **SBI** and the Government of **Sri Lanka** for the procurement of food, medicine, and other essential items.

ii. In addition to the USD 1 billion LOC, India has also offered a series of economic package announcements like a currency swap arrangement of USD 400 million and a debt deferral of USD 515 million for two months to Sri Lanka to wipe away its immediate problems.

38. Which of the following points are correct with respect to the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) of India for 2017–2019 released by the Registrar General of India in March 2022?

A) India's maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has improved to 103 for the period 2017-19 when compared to the previous data of 113 in 2016–2018.

B) Kerala had recorded the lowest MMR of 30/lakh live births and also achieved the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target for MMR of 70/lakh live births by 2030.

C) 9 states in India have achieved the National Health Policy (NHP) target for MMR of 100/lakh live births by 2020.

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

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

Explanation:

India's maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has improved to **103** for the period 2017-19 when compared to the previous data of 113 in 2016–2018.

- i. Kerala** had recorded the lowest MMR of 30/lakh live births and also achieved the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target for MMR of 70/lakh live births by 2030.
- ii.** 9 states in India have achieved the National Health Policy (NHP) target for MMR of 100/lakh live births by 2020.

39. As per the 10th United Nations' World Happiness Report 2022, India secured the _____ rank, while _____ tops the index as the happiest country in the world for the 5th consecutive year.

- 1) 124; Denmark
- 2) 136; Finland
- 3) 124; Iceland
- 4) 139; Denmark
- 5) 136; Iceland

Answer- 2) 136; Finland

Explanation:

As per the **10th** United Nations' **World Happiness Report 2022**, **India's** rank has been improved by 3 spots to **136** out of 146 countries from 139 in 2021 with a score of 3.777.

For the **5th** year in a row, **Finland** continues to occupy the top spot being the happiest country in the world. The **top 5** rankings were occupied by Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

i. Afghanistan was ranked as the **unhappiest nation**, followed by Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Botswana.

ii. Bhutan was **not** included in the world happiness report 2022.

40. Who recently (in March'22) won the 70th edition of Miss World 2021 pageant held in San Juan, Puerto Rico?

- 1) Karolina Bielawska (Poland)
- 2) Carla Yules (Indonesia)
- 3) Emmy Pena (Dominican Republic)
- 4) Toni-Ann Singh (Jamaica)
- 5) Shree Saini (USA)

Answer- 1) Karolina Bielawska (Poland)

Explanation:

Karolina Bielawska from **Poland** has won the **70th** edition of the **Miss World** (Miss World 2021) pageant that was held in Coca-Cola Music Hall, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

i. She is the 2nd woman from Poland to win the Miss World Title.

ii. Indian-American **Shree Saini**, who represented the United States of America(USA) in the pageant, is the **1st runner up** at the Miss World 2021 followed by **Olivia Yace** of Côte d'Ivoire, **2nd runner up**.

41. In March 2022, _____ became the first African to win the 51st Pritzker Architecture Prize-2022.

- 1) Frei Otto
- 2) Arata Isozaki

- 3) Diebedo Francis Kere
- 4) Alejandro Aravena
- 5) Jean-Philippe Vassal

Answer- **3) Diebedo Francis Kere**

Explanation:

An architect, **Diebedo Francis Kere** from Burkina Faso, West Africa, became the **first African** to win the **51st Pritzker Architecture Prize 2022**. It's a most prestigious honour in the field of architecture.

About Pritzker Architecture Prize:

It is granted annually and is often referred to as "architecture's Nobel". First awarded- 1979
Sponsored by- Hyatt Foundation.

Note- Balkrishna Doshi is the first Indian winner of the 2018 Pritzker Prize.

42. In March 2022, the National Capital Regional Transport Corporation (NCRTC) launched India's 1st Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train for Delhi to _____ corridor.

- 1) Ahmedabad
- 2) Varanasi
- 3) Kolkata
- 4) Amritsar
- 5) Meerut

Answer- **5) Meerut**

Explanation:

The National Capital Regional Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has recently brought to light India's first rapid rail along the Delhi to Meerut corridor.

This Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train covers the entire 82 km (approx.) Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS route, will have 25 stations in total, including two depots at Duhai and Modipuram of Uttar Pradesh and one stabling yard at Jangpura, New Delhi.

43. The Narasingapettai Nagaswaram, a classical wind music instrument, recently (in March'22) got the GI Tag under the category of musical instruments.

"Narasingapettai Nagaswaram" belongs to which state?

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

Answer- **2) Tamil Nadu**

Explanation:

The **Narasingapettai Nagaswaram**, a classical wind music instrument, handcrafted in Narasingapettai Village in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu (**TN**) got the Geographical Indication (**GI**) Tag under the category of musical instruments of class 15 from Geographical Indications Registry.

Narasingapettai Nagaswaram instrument:

- Narasingapettai Nagaswaram is a classical wind instrument. It has a length of 2.5 feet.

- A major portion of the 'Narasingapettai Nagaswaram' is made from the Water Resistance Tree aacha (*Hardwickia binata*). Wood used to craft the Nagaswaram is at least 100 year old.
- Reeds are made from the leaves of the locally grown plant called 'Naanal'.
- The instrument has a cylindrical body that flares out into a bell shape at the bottom, that provides the Nagaswaram with its characteristic volume and captivating tone. It is a double-reed wind instrument with a large flaring bell.

44. _____ has become the 1st state in India to introduce carbon-neutral farming methods for better soil health.

- 1) Jharkhand
- 2) Andhra Pradesh
- 3) Punjab
- 4) Tamil Nadu
- 5) Kerala

Answer- **5) Kerala**

Explanation:

Kerala became the first state in India to introduce carbon-neutral agricultural practices in select locations for better soil health.

About Carbon-Neutral Farming:

Carbon-neutral farming is the technique of decreasing carbon emissions and aid carbon storage in the soil, through techniques such as Integrated farming methods, Crop rotation, Fertigation, Precision Farming methods, Shifting how the soil is irrigated, and restricting the haphazard use of Fertiliser application.

45. Which organisation recently (in March'22) signed an MoU with One Health, global alliance to Advance Humans, Ecosystem and Animals Health?

- 1) UNESCO
- 2) World Health Organization
- 3) world bank
- 4) UN-HABITAT
- 5) United Nations Environment Programme

Answer- **5) United Nations Environment Programme**

Explanation:

United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**) under the Executive Directorship of Inger Andersen, has signed the **MoU** with the tripartite partnership for One Health, bringing together the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), formally the Quadripartite partnership at its annual executive meeting held on 18 March 2022 at Nairobi, Kenya.

i. The UNEP will offer the expertise required to tackle the ecological dimension of human and animal health.

46. Who was appointed as the Chief Minister (CM) of Manipur for the 2nd consecutive term?

- 1) Rishang Keishing
- 2) N Biren Singh
- 3) Radhabinod Koijam
- 4) Okram Ibobi Singh
- 5) R Jaichandra Singh

Answer- 2) N Biren Singh

Explanation:

Nongthombam (N) Biren Singh, sworn in as the Chief Minister (CM) of Manipur for the **second** consecutive term. The oath of office was administered by Manipur Governor La Ganesan at the Raj Bhawan in Imphal, Manipur. He is the 12th CM of Manipur (Excluding Repetition).

i. N Biren Singh was elected from the Heingang seat for the record fifth time, in the recently concluded 12th Manipur assembly elections. BJP won 32 seats in the 60-member house.

ii. In 2017, Biren Singh won the elections and became the first BJP chief minister of Manipur.

47. Which of the following points are correct with respect to the 2nd India-Australia Virtual Summit was held between the PM of Narendra Modi and Australian PM Scott John Morrison?

A) Khanij Bidesh India Ltd, India and Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO), Australia was signed an MoU to establish a framework for joint investments in Australian projects.

B) MoU between Prasar Bharati, India & Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), Australia signed for cooperation, co-production and joint broadcasting of programmes.

C) Matching funds as Australia of the amount of AUD 10 million for Pacific Island Countries under Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) and International Solar Alliance (ISA).

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

Answer- 5) All A, B & C

Explanation:

Khanij Bidesh India Ltd, India and Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO), Australia was signed an MoU to establish a framework for joint investments in Australian projects.

i. MoU between Prasar Bharati, India & Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), Australia signed for cooperation, co-production and joint broadcasting of programmes.

ii. Matching funds as Australia of the amount of AUD 10 million for Pacific Island Countries under Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) and International Solar Alliance (ISA).

48. In March'22, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifted all the restrictions placed on _____ under its Digital 2.0 programme.

- 1) IndusInd Bank
- 2) Axis Bank

- 3) YES Bank
- 4) HDFC Bank
- 5) ICICI Bank

Answer- **4) HDFC Bank**

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has **lifted** all the restrictions placed on **HDFC Bank** regarding its business-generating activities under the HDFC Bank's Digital 2.0 programme.

i. In September 2021, RBI had lifted restrictions on HDFC Bank on issuing new credit cards.

49. Who was recently (in March'22) awarded with 'Sports Icon' award at the Maldives Sports Awards 2022 by the Government of Maldives?

- 1) Hardik Pandya
- 2) Suresh Raina
- 3) Ravindra Jadeja
- 4) MS Dhoni
- 5) Virat Kohli

Answer- **2) Suresh Raina**

Explanation:

Former Indian International cricket player **Suresh Raina** was awarded with 'Sports Icon' award at the Maldives Sports Awards 2022 by Government of Maldives. He was nominated alongside 16 international sportspersons.

The President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih chaired the event along with Sports Ministers, world-renowned athletes and Maldivian athletes.

Career record- Suresh Raina is the first Indian player to score 6000 as well as 8000 runs in a T20 career and the first-ever cricketer to reach 5,000 runs in IPL. He also holds the record for scoring the most fifties in Champions League T20 history.

50. Ashleigh Barty, a professional tennis player, recently(in March'22) announced her retirement from tennis. She belongs to which country?

- 1) Germany
- 2) Belgium
- 3) Russia
- 4) US
- 5) Australia

Answer- **5) Australia**

Explanation:

Australian professional Tennis player and Cricketer **Ashleigh Barty**, announced her retirement from tennis at the age of 25.

i. Ash Barty was the one who won singles major championships on three different surfaces — on clay at the 2019 French Open, on grass at Wimbledon 2021 and on the hard courts of Melbourne Park in 2022.

ii. Barty was the only other woman who has walked away from the sport while atop the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) rankings: Justine Henin was No. 1 when she retired in May 2008. Barty has won 3 grand slams.

51. Who co-authored the book, “The Little Book of Joy ” along with Archbishop Desmond Tutu?

- 1) Nadia Murad
- 2) Dalai Lama
- 3) Abiy Ahmed
- 4) Denis Mukwege
- 5) Maria Ressa

Answer- 2) Dalai Lama

Explanation:

A picture book edition co-authored by Nobel Peace Prize winners **Dalai Lama** (14th Dalai Lama(Tenzin Gyatso)) & **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, titled “**The Little Book of Joy**” will be released in September 2022. It will be published by Random House Children’s Book.

i. In 2016, they also co-authored the book titled “The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World”.

52. Which country participated with India in the 9th edition of Maritime Bilateral Exercise ‘SLINEX-21’ that was held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh?

- 1) France
- 2) Sri Lanka
- 3) Singapore
- 4) Seychelles
- 5) Bangladesh

Answer- 2) Sri Lanka

Explanation:

The **9th edition** of **Sri Lanka-India** Naval Exercise, ‘**SLINEX-21**’, a Bilateral Maritime Exercise is being held at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP) from March 7-10, 2022 between the Indian Navy (IN) and Sri Lanka Navy (SLN).

i. SLINEX is conducting in two phases, the Harbour Phase at Visakhapatnam on March 7-8, and Sea Phase on March 9-10 in the Bay of Bengal.

ii. Representors: IN- INS (Indian Naval Ship) Kirch, a guided missile corvette, other participants from IN include **INS Jyoti**, a Fleet support tanker, Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), Seaking and Chetak Helicopters and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

SLN- SLNS Sayurala, an advanced offshore patrol vessel.

iii. The 8th edition of SLINEX-20 was conducted off Trincomalee, a port city of Srilanka in October 2020.

53. Which of the following points are correct with respect to the UPI123Pay & DigiSaathi initiatives launched in March 2022?

A) RBI and the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) launched two landmark initiatives UPI123Pay and DigiSaathi.

B) DigiSaathi is a 24/7 information Helpline for providing information on digital payment products which are available in English & Hindi that has been set up by NPCI.

C) UPI123PAY for feature phones to improve digital payments to a higher level, paving the way for a cashless economy.

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

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

Explanation:

RBI and the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) launched two landmark initiatives UPI123Pay and DigiSaathi.

i. DigiSaathi is a 24/7 information Helpline for providing information on digital payment products which are available in English & Hindi that has been set up by NPCI.

ii. UPI123PAY for feature phones to improve digital payments to a higher level, paving the way for a cashless economy.

iii. Need for UPI123Pay: Earlier UPI can be accessed through NUUP (National Unified USSD Platform) using the short code of *99#. But this option is cumbersome and not popular.

Considering that there are more than 40 crore feature phone mobile subscribers in the country, UPI123pay will materially improve the options for such users to access UPI.

54. In March 2022, Tamil Nadu CM M. K. Stalin inaugurated India's largest floating solar power plant in _____.

- 1) Thoothukudi
- 2) Neyveli
- 3) Erode
- 4) Tirunelveli
- 5) Koodankulam

Answer- **1) Thoothukudi**

Explanation:

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M. K. Stalin inaugurated India's largest floating solar power plant constructed at a cost of Rs 150.4 crore. The floating plant is established in Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation Limited (SPIC) factory at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu to provide clean energy.

i. It aims to provide environmentally sustainable power generation and to reduce carbon footprint.

ii. The floating power plant can produce 42 million units of electricity per annum.

55. Which country recently (in March'22) signed an MoU with India on cooperation in the fields of science, technology and innovation?

- 1) Singapore
- 2) Indonesia
- 3) Sri Lanka
- 4) Japan
- 5) Bhutan

Answer- **1) Singapore**

Explanation:

An **MoU** on cooperation in the fields of Science, Technology and Innovation was signed between the Department of Science & Technology, Government of **India** and Ministry of Trade & Industry, Government of **Singapore**.

- i.** The MoU was signed during the inaugural event of **India – Singapore Technology Summit 2022**.
- ii.** This MoU will also encourage, develop and facilitate cooperation between India and Singapore in other fields like Agriculture, Food Science & Technology, Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering etc.
- iii.** This Memorandum will remain in effect for a period of **5 years** and will be automatically extended for a successive period of 5 years.

56. In which place India's first 100% women-owned 'FLO (FICCI Ladies Organisation) Industrial Park (FIP)' Inaugurated in March 2022?

- 1) Bangalore, Karnataka
- 2) Kolkata, West Bengal
- 3) Hyderabad, Telangana
- 4) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- 5) Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Answer- **3) Hyderabad, Telangana**

Explanation:

India's **first 100 %** women-owned '**FLO (FICCI Ladies Organization) Industrial Park (FIP)**' in **Hyderabad, Telangana** is around 50 acres and was established by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (**FICCI**) Ladies Organization (**FLO**) in **association** with **Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC)** with an investment of **Rs.250 crore**.

- i.** It was inaugurated with the commencement of operations by 25 women-owned and operated units representing 16 diverse Green Category Industries at the Park.
- ii.** It is the flagship project at a national level with participation open to Chapter Members, and the national members of FLO.

57. India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha is being constructed in which of the following pilgrimage sites?

- 1) Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh
- 2) Nalanda, Bihar
- 3) Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh,
- 4) Kapilvastu, Uttar Pradesh
- 5) Bodh Gaya, Bihar

Answer- **5) Bodh Gaya, Bihar**

Explanation:

India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha is being constructed in **Bodh Gaya, Bihar**. The **100 feet long** and 30 feet high statue depicts Lord Buddha in a sleeping posture.

- i.** The statue is being built by Buddha International Welfare Mission. The sculptors from Kolkata are building the statue with fiberglass.

ii. The construction of the statue was started in 2019 and it will be open for devotees from February 2023.

58. SEBI recently (in March'22) increased the limit for Public debt investment through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) from Rs 2 Lakh to _____ with the effect from 1st May, 2022.

- 1) Rs 5 lakh
- 2) Rs 3 lakh
- 3) Rs 6 lakh
- 4) Rs 4 lakh
- 5) Rs 7 lakh

Answer- **1) Rs 5 lakh**

Explanation:

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) increased the limit for investment through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) mechanism to **Rs 5 lakh** from **Rs 2 Lakh** for the investors applying in public issues of debt securities, which will open on or after May 1, 2022.

i. The move comes following NPCI's decision in December 2021, to enhance the per transaction limit in UPI from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh for UPI-based Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) Initial Public Offer (IPO).

59. Name the country that recently (in March'22) launched Noor 2, the second military satellite into orbit.

- 1) Saudi Arabia
- 2) Iran
- 3) Qatar
- 4) Iraq
- 5) Israel

Answer- **2) Iran**

Explanation:

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (**IRGC**) of **Iran** successfully put a **Noor 2** satellite or "light" in Persian into orbit at an altitude of 500 kilometres (311 miles).

i. Noor 2 has a three-stage Qased, or "Messenger", carrier, launched from the Shahroud spaceport of Iran.

ii. The first military satellite was launched by the Islamic Republic in April 2020. It is placed at an orbit of 425km (265 miles) above the earth's surface.

About Iran:

Capital- Tehran

President- Ebrahim Raisi

Currency- Iranian rial

60. Which of the following points is "Incorrect" with respect to the Cabinet Approvals in March 2022?

- 1) The Union Cabinet has approved the MoU signed between the ICMR and DFG, Germany to enable cooperation in scientific research and technological development.
- 2) The Union Cabinet approved the MoU signed between ICMR and the Oxford University, UK which aims towards capacity building for Indian scientists and researchers
- 3) GOI and World Bank signed an agreement to set up the World's 1st & Only Global Outposted Centre for Traditional Medicine in New Delhi, Delhi.
- 4) Cabinet also approved the setting up National Land Monetization Corporation as a Special Purpose Vehicle to undertake monetization of surplus land Monetization.
- 5) The Cabinet approved the amendment of the Second Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 for specifying the rate of royalty in certain minerals.

Answer- 3) GOI and World Bank signed an agreement to set up the World's 1st & Only Global Outposted Centre for Traditional Medicine in New Delhi, Delhi.

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has approved the MoU signed between the ICMR and DFG, Germany to enable cooperation in scientific research and technological development.

- The Union Cabinet approved the MoU signed between ICMR and the Oxford University, UK which aims towards capacity building for Indian scientists and researchers
- **GOI and WHO-Global Centre for Traditional Medicine** signed an **agreement** to set up **World's 1st & Only Global Outposted Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat.**
- Cabinet also approved to set up National Land Monetization Corporation as a Special Purpose Vehicle to undertake monetization of surplus land Monetization.
- The Cabinet approved the amendment of the Second Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 for specifying the rate of royalty in certain minerals.
- The Union Cabinet also approved the MoU signed between ICMR, and US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) & National Institute of Health (NIH) of Department of Health and Human Services, Maryland in September 2021.

61. Which of the following points are correct with respect to the Democracy Report 2022 by V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute?

- 1) India secured 89th rank in the Liberal Democracy Index (LDI) out of 200 countries while New Zealand Tops the Index.
- 2) India is one of the top ten 'autocratisers' in the world, which indicates that India is autocratic rather than a democracy.
- 3) In South Asia, India is ranked below Sri Lanka , Nepal , and Bhutan but India is ranked above Pakistan in the LDI.
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 2 & 3

Answer- 5) Both 2 & 3

Explanation:

India secured **93rd rank** in the Liberal Democracy Index (**LDI**) out of **179** countries while **Sweden** Tops the Index.

- i.** India is one of the top ten 'autocratisers' in the world, which indicates that India is autocratic rather than a democracy.
- ii.** In South Asia, India is ranked below Sri Lanka , Nepal , and Bhutan but India ranked above Pakistan in the LDI.

62. Which of the following financial institutes recently (in March'22) became 5th All India Financial Institution (AIFI) under the Sections 45L and 45N of RBI Act, 1934?

- 1) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- 2) Export Import (EXIM) Bank
- 3) National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development
- 4) Small Industries Development Bank of India
- 5) Securities and Exchange Board of India

Answer- 3) National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development

Explanation:

The **RBI** announced that National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (**NaBFID**) will be regulated and supervised as an All India Financial Institution (**AIFI**) by it under the Sections 45L and 45N of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934.

- i.** NaBFID has been set up as a Development Financial Institution (DFI) to support the development of long-term infrastructure financing in India.
- ii.** It shall be the **5th AIFI** after Export Import (EXIM) Bank, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Housing Bank (NHB) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

63. Who recently (in March'22) became the new president of South Korea?

- 1) Yoon Suk-yeol
- 2) Lee Jae-myung
- 3) Moon Jae-in
- 4) Kim Jae-yeon
- 5) Oh Jun-ho

Answer- 1) Yoon Suk-yeol

Explanation:

The leader of People Power Party (conservative party), **Yoon Suk-yeol** won the presidential election 2022 of South Korea. He succeeded Moon Jae-in, previous President of South Korea. He is scheduled to assume office as president on May 10, 2022.

- i.** Yoon Suk-yeol is a South Korean politician, former public prosecutor and lawyer. He served as Prosecutor General of South Korea in 2019- 2021 under the tenure of President Moon Jae-in.

64. Who recently (in March'22) became the 23rd Woman Grandmaster (WGM) of India?

- 1) Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi
- 2) Priyanka Nutakki
- 3) Vantika Agrawal

4) Sakshi Chitlange

5) Divya Deshmukh

Answer- **2) Priyanka Nutakki**

Explanation:

Priyanka Nutakki secured her final WGM-norm at the MPL 47th National Women Chess Championship 2022, held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

She scored 7.0/9, performed at 2348 to become the 23rd Woman Grandmaster (WGM) of India and got placed third in the tournament.

Woman Grandmaster (WGM) title: WGM is an International Chess Federation (FIDE) title and will be provided to women players. It is above Women International Masters (WIM), and Woman FIDE Master (WFM).

65. Who recently (in March'22) got appointed as the Chairperson of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) for a period of three years?

1) Jai Krishan Singh

2) Amit Kumar Jain

3) Ashok Kumar Gupta

4) Ajay Bhushan Pandey

5) Rakesh Bhanot

Answer- **4) Ajay Bhushan Pandey**

Explanation:

The Government of India has appointed **Ajay Bhushan Pandey**, former Finance & Revenue secretary of India, Ministry of Finance, as new **Chairperson** of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) for a period of **three years** from the date of assumption of charge or till he attains the age of 65 years.

The ACC has **also** appointed **2 full-time** members for NFRA,

- **Praveen Kumar Tiwari**, former Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General, a retired Indian Audit and Accounts Service official.
- **Smita Jhingran**, Principal Director General at Central Board of Direct Taxes, an Indian Revenue Service officer.

66. As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, _____ became the top state in the list of full immunization with 90.5 per cent coverage under Mission Indradhanush.

1) Madhya Pradesh

2) Uttar Pradesh

3) Maharashtra

4) Gujarat

5) Odisha

Answer- **5) Odisha**

Explanation:

According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, **Odisha** became the top state in the list of **full immunization** in India with 90.5 per cent coverage under **Mission Indradhanush**.

i. Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0 (IMI) was rolled out on 7 March 2022, in Odisha to provide preventive health care for mothers and children and for boosting full immunization coverage.

67. At what percent the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has recently (in March'22) set the interest rate on Provident Fund Deposits for 2021-22?

- 1) 8.4%
- 2) 8.1%
- 3) 8.3%
- 4) 8.5%
- 5) 8.2%

Answer- **2) 8.1%**

Explanation:

The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (**EPFO**) has set the **interest rate on Provident Fund Deposits for 2021-22 at 8.1%**, up from 8.5% in the previous fiscal year 2020-21.

i. This decision was taken by the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), the apex decision-making body of the EPFO, and will be sent to the Ministry of Finance for consensus.

ii. The EPF interest rate stood at 8 per cent in 1977-78, and this 8.1% is the lowest it has been in more than four decades.

iii. This interest rate was set by the retirement fund body for its approximately 50 million subscribers for the current fiscal year ending March 31.

68. Who was recently (in March'22) appointed as the Chairman of Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for 3years?

- 1) Debasish Panda
- 2) Siddharth Singh
- 3) Subhash Chandra Khuntia
- 4) V S Narendra Chandra
- 5) Bhaskar Roy

Answer- **1) Debasish Panda**

Explanation:

The government appointed **Debasish Panda** as the **Chairman** of Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**). He will serve for the tenure for three years (2022-2025). Debasish Panda will succeed Subhash Chandra Khuntia, who completed his term in May 2021.

i. The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**).

About Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI):

It is a statutory organization established by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

Founded- 1999

Headquarters- Hyderabad

69. Name the organisation that introduced a new one-of-a-kind mission named "Vigil" to protect the Earth from its nearest star (Sun).

- 1) European Space Agency
- 2) JAXA
- 3) SpaceX
- 4) NASA
- 5) Canadian Space Agency

Answer- 1) European Space Agency

Explanation:

The European Space Agency (**ESA**) introduced its new one-of-a-kind mission named "Vigil", which is meant to protect the Earth from its nearest star (Sun). 'Vigil' is derived from the Latin word 'vigilia' meaning wakefulness, while 'vigilis exceptus' means sentry, or guard.

i. The mission was previously named "Lagrange" after the location the mission spacecraft will be sent but later the name has been changed to 'Vigil'.

ii. The Vigil spacecraft will be launched to the fifth Lagrange(L5) point which is 150 million kilometres from both Earth and the sun.

70. In March 2022, _____ became the first city in South Asia to set a target of "zero out carbon emissions by 2050".

- 1) Mumbai, India
- 2) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 3) Bangkok, Thailand
- 4) Jakarta, Indonesia
- 5) Hanoi, Vietnam

Answer- 1) Mumbai, India

Explanation:

Mumbai, Maharashtra (India) announced its detailed framework to 'zero out carbon emissions by 2050' and became the first city in South Asia to set such a target.

i. Mumbai's target is 20 years ahead of India's target to reach net zero emissions by 2070.

ii. Targets also include a 30 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 and 44 per cent reduction by 2040.

71. In which city the Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti (AVB) organization will establish "India's first World Peace Center"?

- 1) New Delhi, Delhi
- 2) Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- 3) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 4) Kolkata, West Bengal
- 5) Gurugram, Haryana

Answer- 5) Gurugram, Haryana

Explanation:

Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti (**AVB**) organization will establish **India's first World Peace Center in Gurugram, Haryana**. The Center will work for the establishment of peace and harmony in the world.

i. The land for the construction of the World Peace Center (WPC) was allocated by the Haryana Government to the organization. The Construction work of about 25000 square feet will be completed in two years.

72. In March 2022, the Ministry of MSME extended the Rs 20,000 crore "Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD)" till _____.

- 1) 31st March, 2024
- 2) 1st July, 2023
- 3) 30th June, 2023
- 4) 31st March, 2023
- 5) 1st January, 2024

Answer- **4) 31st March, 2023**

Explanation:

On the basis of the requests received from the stakeholders, the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (**M/o MSME**) has extended 'Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (**CGSSD**)' worth Rs 20,000 crore for stressed MSMEs for 1 year till **March 31, 2023**.

i. Initially the scheme was up to March 31, 2021. The government later extended this scheme up to March 31, 2022.

ii. The CGSS was approved by the Government on June 1, 2020 and the scheme was launched on June 24, 2020 to provide credit facility through lending institutions to the promoters of stressed MSMEs viz. SMA (Special Mention Account)-2 and Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) accounts, which are eligible for restructuring.

73. Which state government's IT ministry recently (in March '22) launched India's 1st ever digital water databank, "AQVERIUM"?

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

Answer- **5) Karnataka**

Explanation:

The Information Technology (IT) Minister of **Karnataka**, Chikkakalya Narayanappa Ashwath Narayan (C N Ashwath Narayan) launched **India's 1st ever digital water databank 'AQVERIUM'** in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

i. AQVERIUM is an initiative of the Bengaluru-headquartered Digital Startup – AquaKraft Digital Ventures Pvt Ltd, a newly formed subsidiary of AquaKraft Projects Private Limited, the flagship company of AquaKraft Group Ventures.

ii. AquaKraft Group Ventures is offering a unique social franchising model to create 'water entrepreneurs' with an objective to make India 'Water Positive' by 2030.

74. Which of the following points are correct with respect to the RBI' Regulatory Framework for Microfinance Loans Directions 2022 which will be effective from April 01, 2022?

A) All collateral-free loans provided to households having annual income up to Rs 3 lakh is to be considered microfinance loans.

B) The maximum limit on microfinance loans for such NBFCs now stands revised to 25 per cent of the total assets.

C) The guidelines prescribe a limit on loan repayment obligations that is capped at 50% of the monthly household income.

1) All A, B & C

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A

5) Only B

Answer- 1) All A, B & C

Explanation:

All collateral-free loans provided to households having annual income up to **Rs 3 lakh** are to be considered microfinance loans.

i. The maximum limit on microfinance loans for such NBFCs now stands revised to **25 per cent** of the total assets.

ii. The guidelines prescribe a limit on loan repayment obligations that is capped at 50% of the monthly household income.

75. Which small finance bank (SFB) recently (in March'22) launched the industry's first digital onboarding facility for its micro banking customers?

1) Ujjivan SFB

2) Equitas SFB

3) A U SFB

4) Capital SFB

5) Utkarsh SFB

Answer- 1) Ujjivan SFB

Explanation:

The **Ujjivan** Small Finance Bank (**SFB**) launched **Industry's first digital** onboarding facility for its micro banking customers through its 'Ujjivan SFB Assisted' app.

i. The Ujjivan SFB Assisted app provides the facility to update mobile numbers for individual banking transactions through paperless and secured manner.

About Ujjivan Small Finance Bank:

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) & MD- Ittira Davis

Tagline- Build a Better Life

Headquarter-Bengaluru, Karnataka

76. As per Bloomberg's data on Market capitalization (M-Cap) in March 2022, India ranked _____ with an overall M-Cap of USD 3.21 trillion while _____ tops the ranking with M-Cap of USD 47.32 trillion.

- 1) 3rd; US
- 2) 4th; China
- 3) 5th; US
- 4) 4th; UK
- 5) 5th; China

Answer- 3) 5th; US

Explanation:

As per Bloomberg's recent data on Market capitalization, for the 1st time, India's equities market has entered the world's top 5 in terms of market capitalization. **India is ranked 5th** with an overall market capitalization of **USD 3.21 trillion**. India has climbed two positions, despite a 7.4% drop in its market cap.

i. The **US tops** the ranking with an overall market cap of **USD 47.32 trillion**, followed by China (USD 11.52 trillion), Japan (USD 6 trillion) and Hong Kong (USD 5.55 trillion). The total world market cap stands at USD 109.22 trillion.

ii. India's market cap has surpassed the United Kingdom (UK) ranked 6th with an M-Cap of USD 3.19 trillion.

77. Who was recently (in March '22) appointed as the Chairman of Air India?

- 1) Cyrus Mistry
- 2) T. V. Narendran
- 3) Rajesh Gopinathan
- 4) N Chandrasekaran
- 5) Ilker Ayci

Answer- 4) N Chandrasekaran

Explanation:

The board of Air India has appointed Natarajan Chandrasekaran (**N Chandrasekaran**), Chairman of the Board of Tata Sons Private Limited (Tata Sons), as the **Chairman of Air India**.

i. At present, 3 executive directors who were appointed by the government when Air India was under the control of the Government of India are still serving on the board of Air India.

Air India CEO & MD:

- Tata Sons is yet to appoint the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) for Air India.
- In February 2022, Air India appointed Ilker Ayci, former Chairman of Turkish Airlines as the CEO & MD of Air India. He was set to assume his responsibilities on or before 1 st April 2022.
- On 1st March 2022, Ilker Ayci declined Tata Sons' offer to be CEO & MD of Air India.

78. Name the operation that was launched by the Indian Government (in Feb'22) to rescue Indian citizens from Ukraine due to the war between Russia and Ukraine.

- 1) Operation Samudra Setu
- 2) Operation Safe Homecoming

3) Operation Raahat

4) Operation Ganga

5) Operation Bharat

Answer- **4) Operation Ganga**

Explanation:

The Government of India (**GoI**) has launched '**Operation Ganga**' to evacuate Indian citizens from Ukraine, due to Ukraine's war against Russia. The GoI has planned to help nearly 15,000 Indians to reach India with the help of Air India flights.

i. With the help of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva, the GoI has guided the Indian citizens towards the border of Ukraine.

Assignment To The Ministries:

The Prime Minister of India has decided to send 4 Union Ministers to Poland and Romania to oversee the evacuation.

- Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs and Petroleum and Natural Gas – Hardeep Singh Puri
- Minister for Law and Justice – Kiren Rijiju
- Civil Aviation Minister – Jyotiraditya Scindia
- Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Civil Aviation – General V K Singh

79. In February 2022, the Union Cabinet approved the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of up to _____ under the "automatic route" in the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India, ahead of a mega initial public offering (IPO).

1) 25%

2) 10%

3) 30%

4) 20%

5) 40%

Answer- **4) 20%**

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved Foreign Direct Investment (**FDI**) of up to **20 per cent** under the '**automatic route**' in Life Insurance Corporation (**LIC**) of India, ahead of the mega initial public offering (**IPO**) of the LIC of India, the largest insurer in India is expected to be held in March 2022.

i. The **current** FDI policy which permits **74** per cent foreign investment under the automatic route in the insurance sector **does not** apply for the **LIC**, as it is established and governed under the **LIC Act, 1956**.

ii. According to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), LIC has reserved 50 per cent of the net offer (after excluding the reservation for policyholders and employees) for qualified institutional buyers (QIB), 15 per cent for non-institutional bidders and 35 per cent for retail individual bidders.

80. In February 2022, _____ became the first Indian to be named for the Boltzmann Medal in 2022 for contributions in the field of statistical physics.

- 1) Ashoke Sen
- 2) Piara Singh Gill
- 3) Rajeev Bhalerao
- 4) Meghnad Saha
- 5) Deepak Dhar

Answer- 5) Deepak Dhar

Explanation:

The renowned Indian physicist and Emeritus Professor at the Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, Prof **Deepak Dhar** will be conferred the prestigious **Boltzmann Medal 2022** for contribution in the field of statistical physics.

i. He became the first Indian to be awarded the Boltzmann Medal. He will share the medal with John J Hopfield of Princeton University.

ii. The medal presentation ceremony will be held during the StatPhys28 conference in August 2022 in Tokyo, Japan.

81. In February 2022, _____ became the 1st Woman to be appointed as the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for the period of 3years.

- 1) Sharmistha Dubey
- 2) Sonia Syngal
- 3) Madhabi Puri Buch
- 4) Rekha Sharma
- 5) V. Mohini Giri

Answer- 3) Madhabi Puri Buch

Explanation:

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Madhabi Puri Buch** as the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) **chairman** for an initial period of three years from 1st March 2022.

i. She will be the 1st woman to head the SEBI, securities market regulator and she is also the 1st person from the private sector to head SEBI and also 1st non-IAS to be appointed as the SEBI chairman.

ii. She will be the 10th chair of the board. She succeeds Ajay Tyagi, who served as a chairman for 5 years. His tenure ends on 28th February 2022.

82. Which of the following points are correct with respect to the Cabinet approval in February 2022?

A) CCEA has approved the offering of coal (dry fuel) by coal companies via a common e-auction window of Coal India Limited which will replace the sector-specific auctions.

B) CIL also has ambitious coal production plans for the future with an aim of producing 1 BT (Billion Tonne) coal by 2023-24.

C) CCEA approves the national roll-out of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with a budget of Rs 1,600 crore for 5 years.

- 1) All A, B & C

- 2) Only A
- 3) Only B
- 4) Only A & B
- 5) Only B & C

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

Explanation:

CCEA has approved the offering of coal (dry fuel) by coal companies via a common **e-auction window of Coal India Limited** which will replace the sector-specific auctions.

i. CIL also has ambitious coal production plans for the future with an aim of producing 1 BT (Billion Tonne) coal by 2023-24.

ii. CCEA approves the national roll-out of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with a budget of Rs **1,600 crore** for **5 years**.

83. Which of the following points are correct with respect to the 9th edition of Down To Earth's annual 'State of India's Environment Report 2022' released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change?

A) India has slipped three spots to 120 from 117 in 2021 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda in 2015.

B) Kerala ranked 1st followed by Tamil Nadu & Himachal Pradesh in the 2nd position under State/UT-wise preparedness category to meet SDGs by 2030.

C) As per report, India is now behind all south Asian nations except Pakistan, which stands at 129.

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

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

Explanation:

India has slipped **three** spots to **120** from **117** in 2021 on the **17** Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**) adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda in 2015.

i. Kerala ranked 1st followed by **Tamil Nadu & Himachal Pradesh (HP)** in the 2nd position under State/UT-wise preparedness category to meet SDGs by 2030.

- Jharkhand and Bihar are the least prepared to meet the SDGs by the target year 2030. Among the Union Territories (UTs), Chandigarh was ranked 1st, followed by Delhi, Lakshadweep and Puducherry in the 2nd place and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the 3rd.

ii. As per report, India is now behind all south Asian nations except Pakistan, which stands at 129. The south Asian countries ahead of India are Bhutan ranked 75, Sri Lanka (87), Nepal (96) and Bangladesh (109).

84. As per Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, _____ became top performing state in India in terms of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices (as of March'22).

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

Answer- 1) Telangana

Explanation:

Telangana became the **top** performing state in India with a population over one crore in terms of growth rate of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). It succeeded other states like Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

i. The Gross State Domestic Price (GSDP) of Telangana increased from Rs 359434 crores in 2011-12 to Rs 1,154,860 crores in 2021-22.

- It recorded GSDP growth by 31.12 per cent from 2011-12. It is one of the highest growth rates for any state in the country.

About Telangana:

Chief Minister- K Chandrashekar Rao

Rivers- Bhima River, Tungabhadra river

85. Which of the following points are Incorrect with respect to the Knight Frank's 16th Edition of The Wealth Report 2022 released in March 2022?

- 1) The number of ultra-high-net-worth-individuals (UHNWIs) globally increased by 9.3 percent in 2021 to 6,10,569, from 5,58,828 in 2020.
- 2) India ranked 4th in billionaire population globally while China Tops with most billionaires.
- 3) Amongst the Indian cities, Bengaluru witnessed the highest growth in the number of UHNWIs followed by Delhi.
- 4) The declining countries in UHNWI population are Malaysia, Vietnam.
- 5) In India, the UHNWI population is expected to grow by 39 percent between 2021 and 2026.

Answer- 2) India ranked 4th in billionaire population globally while China Tops with most billionaires.

Explanation:

India ranked 3rd in billionaire population globally while United States (US) Tops with most billionaires.

i. The number of ultra-high-net-worth-individuals (UHNWIs) globally increased by 9.3 percent in 2021 to 6,10,569, from 5,58,828 in 2020.

ii. Amongst the Indian cities, Bengaluru witnessed the highest growth in the number of UHNWIs followed by Delhi.

iii. The declining countries in UHNWI population are Malaysia, Vietnam.

iv. In India, the UHNWI population is expected to grow by 39 percent between 2021 and 2026.

86. Which state's Chief Minister autobiography is named "Ungalil Oruvan-1" – One Among You, was released by Rahul Gandhi, MP of the Indian National Congress (INC)?

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

Answer- 3) Tamil Nadu

Explanation:

Rahul Gandhi, Member of Parliament (MP) of Indian National Congress(INC) released the book titled "**Ungalil Oruvan -1**" – **One Among You**, the first volume of the autobiography of MK Stalin, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and leader of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), at the event held in Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

i. The book is published by Poompuhar Pathippagam.

ii. The book pertains to the first 23 years of Stalin's life (till he was arrested under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) in 1976).

87. Which of the following points are correct with respect to the project that was released during the International Women's Day week events by the Ministry of Women and Child Development?

A) An Insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh for the workers of one-stop centres (OSC) which was established under the Nirbhaya fund to provide medical aid to distressed women.

B) MoWCD launched the 'Stree Manoraksha Project' in collaboration with the National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences with an aim to improve the mental health of women in India.

C) The inaugural event of the week was organised by the MoWCD in collaboration with the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).

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

Answer- 1) All A, B & C

Explanation:

An **insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh** for the workers of one-stop centres (**OSC**), was established under the **Nirbhaya fund** to provide medical aid to distressed women.

i. MoWCD launched the 'Stree Manoraksha Project' in collaboration with the National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences with an aim to improve the mental health of women in India.

ii. The inaugural event of the week was organised by the MoWCD in collaboration with the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).

88. In March 2022, _____ become World's First Airlines to Use Solar Aviation fuel.

- 1) Singapore International Air Lines
- 2) American Airlines Inc

- 3) Swiss International Air Lines
- 4) Emirates Air Lines
- 5) Austrian Airlines AG

Answer- **3) Swiss International Air Lines**

Explanation:

Swiss International Air Lines AG (SWISS or Swiss Air Lines), a part of the Lufthansa Group, has signed a new strategic collaboration with Switzerland based solar fuels start-up, Synhelion SA (Synhelion) to use their solar aviation fuel.

- i. SWISS is set to become the world's first airline to use Solar Aviation fuel ("sun-to-liquid" fuel).
- ii. Synhelion is set to build the world's first facility to industrially produce solar fuel in Jülich, Germany. The plant will become operational from 2022 onwards. SWISS will become the first customer of solar kerosene in 2023.

89. In March 2022, India's 1st Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) named "Höegh Giant" arrived at H-Energy's _____ from Keppel Shipyard.

- 1) Cochin Terminal, Kerala
- 2) Chennai Terminal, Tamil Nadu
- 3) Visakhapatnam Terminal, Andhra Pradesh
- 4) Jaigarh Terminal, Maharashtra
- 5) Paradip Terminal, Odisha

Answer- **4) Jaigarh Terminal, Maharashtra**

Explanation:

India's **first** Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU), **Höegh Giant** which sailed **from Keppel Shipyard, Singapore** has arrived at H-Energy's **Jaigarh Terminal** in **Maharashtra (MH)** that has chartered the FSRU for a 10 years.

- i. This will be the 1st year-round Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal which is located at JSW Jaigarh Port in the Ratnagiri district, MH.
- ii. Höegh Giant was built in 2017 with storage capacity of 170,000 cubic metres and installed regasification capacity of 750 million cubic feet per day (that equals to about 6 million tonnes a year).

90. Which of the following points are correct with respect to the Fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2) held on 28th February – 2nd March 2022?

A) The UNEA-5.2 was held with the theme of 'Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals'.

B) 175 nations signed a mandate to end the use of plastic by developing a legally binding agreement by 2024.

C) Special Session of the UNEA- UNEP@50, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme in 1972.

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

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

Explanation:

The UNEA-5.2 was held with the theme of 'Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals'.

- i. 175 nations sign a mandate to end the use of plastic by developing a legally binding agreement by 2024.
- ii. Special Session of the UNEA- UNEP@50, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme in 1972.

91. Which organization recently (in March'22) received the 'Special Jury Award' for its contribution in Ganga Rejuvenation at the 7th India Industry Water Conclave & the 9th FICCI Water Awards?

- 1) NITI Aayog
- 2) National Mission for Clean Ganga
- 3) Central Ground Water Authority
- 4) National Ganga Council
- 5) Ministry of Jal Shakti

Answer- **2) National Mission for Clean Ganga**

Explanation:

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) received the 'Special Jury Award' for its considerable contribution in **Ganga Rejuvenation** at the **7th India Industry Water Conclave** and the **9th** edition of **FICCI Water Awards**, held virtually, from 2nd to 3rd March, 2022.

About National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG):

Establishment of NMCG: August 12, 2011

Director General of NMCG:G. Asok Kumar

Minister of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat (Jodhpur constituency, Rajasthan)

92. In March 2022, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)'s IPL Governing Council announced _____ as an official partner for the Tata IPL 2022.

- 1) RuPay
- 2) PhonePe
- 3) Upstox
- 4) Vivo
- 5) CRED

Answer- **1) RuPay**

Explanation:

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)'s Indian Premier League (IPL) Governing Council announced National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)'s flagship product **RuPay** as an official partner for the Tata IPL 2022. This will be a multi-year partnership.

- i. Tata IPL 2022 will be co-presented by Dream11 and co-powered by Tata and CRED. Swiggy, Prystin Care, Zepto, Livspace, L'Oreal and Spinny have been signed-on as associate sponsors.

Tata IPL 2022

- i. The 15th edition of Tata IPL 2022 will start on 26th March 2022.
- ii. A total of 70 league matches will be played across four international venues in Mumbai and Pune. The venue for the playoff matches will be decided later.

93. Name India's first Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) that was recently (in March'22) tested by Indian Railways between Gullaguda-Chitgidda Railway stations?

- 1) Bachan
- 2) Kavach
- 3) Panah
- 4) Bachav
- 5) Sharan

Answer- 2) Kavach

Explanation:

The indigenously-developed **India's first** Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), "**Kavach** " was successfully tested by Indian Railways. The test was conducted between Gullaguda-Chitgidda Railway stations on Lingampalli-Vikarabad section in Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway.

i. This system will help the Railways achieve the goal of 'zero accidents' as it enables the trains to stop on their own if the digital system notices any manual error like jumping of the red signal or any other malfunction.

About KAVACH:

Announced in the 2022 Union Budget as a part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, it is an indigenously developed ATP (Automatic Train Protection) system by Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with Indian industry. Its trials are facilitated by South Central Railway.

94. Which of the following points is correct with respect to the recent (in March'22) exemption of the investments made in the umbrella organisation by RBI?

- A) RBI has exempted the investments made in Umbrella Organization by Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs) from non-Statutory Liquidity Ratio holding limits.**
- B) The limits are Non-SLR investments should be limited to 10% of a bank's total deposits as on March 31 of the previous year & Investments in unlisted securities should not exceed 10% of the total non-SLR investments at any time.**
- C) RBI had accorded regulatory approval to the NAFCUB June 2019 for the formation of a UO for the UCB sector.**

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

Answer- 1) All A, B & C

Explanation:

RBI has exempted the investments made in Umbrella Organization by Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs) from non-Statutory Liquidity Ratio holding limits.

- i. The limits are Non-SLR investments should be limited to 10% of a bank's total deposits as on March 31 of the previous year & Investments in unlisted securities should not exceed 10% of the total non-SLR investments at any time.
- ii. RBI had accorded regulatory approval to the NAFCUB June 2019 for the formation of a UO for the UCB sector.

95. The legendary Spinner, Shane Keith Warne recently (in March'22) passed away. Which country did he represent in international cricket?

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

Answer- **4) Australia**

Explanation:

Shane Keith Warne, the legendary **Australian spinner** has passed away at the age of 52. He had also contributed towards the victory of the ICC World Cup for the Australian Cricket team in the years – 1995/96 (Wills World Cup) and 1999 (ICC World Cup).

- i. To honour Shane Warne the Australian Cricket Board decided to rename the Great Southern Stand as “Shane Warne stand” in Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).
- ii. He was the First cricketer to take 700 international test wickets in 2006, later he was overtaken by Muttiah Muralitharan with 800 wickets.

96. In March 2022, the Ministry for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying inaugurated the 'Sagar Parikrama', an initiative to solve the concerns of the fishermen community.

_____ is the first state as part of the Sagar Parikrama initiative.

- 1) Kerala
- 2) Karnataka
- 3) Maharashtra
- 4) Gujarat
- 5) Odisha

Answer- **4) Gujarat**

Explanation:

The Union Ministry for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying , Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the '**Sagar Parikrama**', an initiative to solve the concerns of the fishermen community in **Gujarat**, marked as the first state as part of Parikrama initiative.

- i. Sagar Parikrama was flagged from the freedom fighter Shyamiji Krishna Varma Memorial at Mandvi, Gujarat, on the first day it reached Okha in Devbhumi Dwarka district, Gujarat and the first leg of Sagar Parikrama will end at Porbandar, Gujarat & Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Hovercraft is on board for the Parikrama.

ii. It covers 9 maritime States/4UTs and provides livelihood support to millions of coastal fisher folk as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava'.

97. Which organization recently (in March'22) signed an MoU with Indian Banks Association (IBA) to improve creditors handling of bankruptcy cases?

- 1) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
- 2) Small Industries Development Bank of India
- 3) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- 4) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority
- 5) Securities and Exchange Board of India

Answer- 1) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

Explanation:

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (**IBBI**), an insolvency regulator signed an **MoU** with Indian Banks Association (**IBA**) to collaborate on capacity building for financial creditors on topics related to insolvency, bankruptcy and related subjects.

i. The MoU was signed during the workshop on 'Committee of Creditors: An Institution of Public Faith' organised jointly by IBBI, SBI(State Bank of India) and IBA at New Delhi.

About Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI):

Establishment – 1st October, 2016 (under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016)

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

Chairperson – Ravi Mital

98. In March 2022, India's 1st indigenous flying trainer named 'HANSA-NG (New Generation)' completed the sea-level trials at Puducherry.

Which organization developed the 'HANSA-NG'?

- 1) Bharat Electronics Limited
- 2) CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories
- 3) Defence Research and Development Organisation
- 4) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- 5) Indian Space Research Organisation

Answer- 2) CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories

Explanation:

India's first indigenous flying trainer '**HANSA-NG (New Generation)**' designed and **developed** by Bengaluru (Karnataka) based **CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)**, has successfully completed the sea-level trials at Puducherry from February 19 to March 5, 2022.

i. The aircraft was flown to Puducherry covering 140 nautical miles in one-and-half-hours at a speed of 155 km per hour.

ii. NAL operates under the aegis of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

iii. HANSA-NG is an ideal aircraft for Commercial Pilot Licensing (CPL) due to its low cost and low fuel consumption.

99. Which of the following points are correct with respect to the Europa Clipper Spacecraft?

- 1) In March 2022, NASA has started the assembly of 'Europa Clipper Spacecraft' a new spacecraft that will carry out the Europa clipper mission.
- 2) The spacecraft has been designed & constructed by Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center & Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).
- 3) The Spacecraft is targeted to be launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida in October 2024.
- 4) Only 1 & 2
- 5) Only 1, 2 & 3

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

Explanation:

In March 2022, NASA has started the assembly of 'Europa Clipper Spacecraft' a new spacecraft that will carry out the Europa clipper mission. Europa Clipper Mission is meant to scan Europa, one of the Galilean moons of Jupiter

- i. The spacecraft has been designed & constructed by Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center & Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).
- ii. The Spacecraft is targeted to be launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida in October 2024.

Features:

- The main body of the spacecraft which comprises a propulsion system measures 10 feet tall (3 meters).
- The fully assembled spacecraft will be as large as an SUV (Sport Utility Vehicle) and it will be equipped with solar arrays long enough to span a basketball court.

100. Name the personality who has been selected to represent India at the 2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition in March 2022.

- 1) Sumaira Abdulali
- 2) Aarushi Verma
- 3) Vivek Gurav
- 4) Sunita Narain
- 5) Viral Desai

Answer- **2) Aarushi Verma**

Explanation:

Aarushi Verma, a national-level shooter and an environmentalist hailing from Delhi has been selected to represent India at the **2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition** which is set to be held in March 2022.

- i. Aarushi Verma is a national level shooter in Pistol and trap shooting and a State & Northern India Champion & National medalist, and an active environmentalist.

2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition:

2041 Climate Force is a global initiative to train and develop the next generation of sustainability champions and to help corporations with their sustainability solutions.