

# **GUPTA**

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# **CLASSES**

## **Current Affairs**

**February-2024**

**English**

**Part-1**



**GUPTA**

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**CLASSES**

# Current Affairs Q&A PDF - February 2024

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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Union cabinet approval on 24th January 2024?

A) The Cabinet committee approved a Rs 8,500 crore scheme for the promotion of Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects of Government PSUs (Public Sector Undertakings) and Private Sector.

B) The Union Cabinet was apprised of an MoU signed between India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) on cooperation in the field of Information Technology (IT).

C) The Union Cabinet approved the proposal of the signing of a protocol between India and the Dominican Republic for the establishment of a Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO).

1) Only A

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) All A, B & C

Answer- 4) Only A & C

**Explanation:**

On January 24, 2024, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved the following schemes and incentives:

i. The Cabinet committee approved a Rs 8,500 crore scheme for the promotion of Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects of Government PSUs (Public Sector Undertakings) and Private Sector.

ii. The Union Cabinet was apprised of an MoU signed between **India and Oman** on cooperation in the field of **Information Technology(IT)**.

iii. The Union Cabinet approved the proposal of the signing of a protocol between India and the Dominican Republic for the establishment of a Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO). [Click here to read more](#)

2. In January 2024, India nominated the ‘Maratha Military Landscapes’, a network of \_\_\_\_ forts across Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu for inclusion in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage list for 2024-25.

1) 12

2) 20

3) 15

4) 10

5) 25

Answer- 1) 12

**Explanation:**

India has nominated the ‘Maratha Military Landscapes’, a network of **12 forts** across Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu(TN) for inclusion in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage list for 2024-25 under the category of ‘Cultural Sites’.

i. The 12 components under this nomination are forts of Salher, Shivneri, Lohagad, Khanderi, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra and Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu. [Click here to read more](#)



**3. According to the report on the Status of Snow Leopards in India released by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav in January 2024, How many snow leopards are reported in India?**

- 1) 518
- 2) 690
- 3) 437
- 4) 718
- 5) 823

Answer- **4) 718**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri **Bhupender Yadav** released the report on the **Status of Snow Leopards in India** during the National Board for Wildlife meeting held in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The exercise reported **718** snow leopards in India. It was conducted from 2019 to 2023.

**4. Name the Union Minister who has recently (in Jan '24) launched the computerisation scheme for the offices of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs) & the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCSs) of all States and Union Territories (UTs) in New Delhi, Delhi.**

- 1) Amit Shah (Union Minister of Cooperation)
- 2) Giriraj Singh (Union Minister of Rural Development)
- 3) Arjun Munda (Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare)
- 4) Nirmala Sitharaman (Union Minister of Finance)
- 5) Hardeep Singh Puri (Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs)

Answer- **1) Amit Shah (Union Minister of Cooperation)**

**Explanation:**

On 30th January 2024, Union Minister, **Amit Shah**, Ministry of Cooperation (**MoC**), launched the computerisation scheme for the offices of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (**ARDBs**) and the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (**RCSs**) of all States and Union Territories (UTs) in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The programmes were launched at an estimated cost of Rs.225 crore.

**5. In January 2024, Chenab River was diverted through the diversion tunnels for 850 MegaWatt (MW) Ratile Hydro Electric Project in \_\_\_\_\_ (state).**

- 1) Arunachal Pradesh
- 2) Uttarakhand
- 3) Himachal Pradesh
- 4) Ladakh
- 5) Jammu and Kashmir

Answer- **5) Jammu and Kashmir**

**Explanation:**

On 27th January 2024, **Chenab river** was **diverted** through the **diversion tunnels** at Drabshalla in Kishtwar district, in **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)**.

- This is a major milestone of the 850 MegaWatt (MW) Ratile Hydro Electric Project on the Chenab River in Kishtwar which is scheduled to be commissioned in May 2026.
- The project is being executed by Ratile Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (RHPCL), a Joint Venture(51:49) of NHPC Limited and Government of J&K.



**6. Which company has recently (in Jan '24) delivered two customised Octaquad Coaxial X8 drones, India's first mineral exploration drones, to NMDC Limited?**

- 1) Marut Dronetech Private Limited
- 2) Info Edge (India) Limited
- 3) Drone Destination Limited
- 4) Paras Defence and Space Technologies Limited
- 5) Droneacharya Aerial Innovations Limited

**Answer- 1) Marut Dronetech Private Limited**

**Explanation:**

Hyderabad (Telangana) based **Marut Dronetech Private Limited** has delivered two customised Octaquad Coaxial X8 drones, **India's first mineral exploration drones**, to NMDC Limited.

- Marut Drones Collaborates with NMDC for Drone-Based Mineral Exploration in India.

**7. In January 2024, the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education (MoE) released the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22.**

**In 2021-22, Gross Enrolment Ratio(GER) in Higher Education for the age group 18-23 years in India increased to \_\_\_\_\_ from 27.3 in 2020-21.**

- 1) 38.9
- 2) 28.4
- 3) 30.1
- 4) 32.9
- 5) 40.2

**Answer- 2) 28.4**

**Explanation:**

On 25th January 2024, the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education (MoE) released the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22.

- This marks the 12th edition of AISHE and the 2nd survey done through web Data Capture Format (DCF) format.

**i. AISHE 2021-22 registered a total of 1168 Universities/University level Institutions, 45,473 Colleges and 12,002 Stand Alone Institutions.**

**ii. In 2021-22, Gross Enrolment Ratio(GER) in Higher Education for the age group 18-23 years in India increased to 28.4 from 27.3 in 2020-21 and 23.7 in the base year 2014-15. [Click here to read more](#)**

**8. In February 2024, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav announced that 5 wetlands from India (3 from Karnataka and 2 from Tamil Nadu) were designated as RAMSAR Sites – Wetlands of International importance.**

**With this addition, the total number of RAMSAR sites in India has increased to \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) 80
- 2) 72
- 3) 75
- 4) 82
- 5) 85

**Answer- 1) 80**

**Explanation:**

On 1st February 2024, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) announced that 5 wetlands from India (3 from Karnataka and 2 from Tamil Nadu-TN) were designated as RAMSAR Sites – Wetlands of International importance.

i. With this addition, the **total number of RAMSAR sites** in India has increased from 75 to **80**. [Click here to read more](#)

ii. Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve; Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve; and Aghanashini Estuary in Karnataka; and Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary; and Longwood Shola Reserve Forest in TN.

**9. In January 2024, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal launched two digital modules namely the Maritime Single Window (MSW) module and the Mercantile Maritime Department (MMD) module within the \_\_\_\_\_ (National Logistics Portal(NLP) -Marine) platform.**

- 1) Sagar Parikrama
- 2) Sagar Manthan
- 3) SagarMala
- 4) Sagar Baran
- 5) Sagar Setu

Answer- **5) Sagar Setu**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (**MoPSW**) launched two digital modules namely the Maritime Single Window (**MSW**) module and the Mercantile Maritime Department (**MMD**) module within the **SagarSetu** (National Logistics Portal(NLP) -Marine) platform to transform and modernize Indian ports.

i. During the event, 'Swachhta Pakhwada' awards were presented to MoPSW organizations to recognise their outstanding contributions towards cleanliness and sanitation initiatives.

- Winners: First – The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).

**10. In January 2024, Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary was declared as \_\_\_\_\_ Wildlife Sanctuary of Tamil Nadu.**

- 1) 20th
- 2) 16th
- 3) 14th
- 4) 18th
- 5) 15th

Answer- **4) 18th**

**Explanation:**

The Governor of **Tamil Nadu (TN)** Ravindra Narayana Ravi, has declared the Reserve forest areas of Anthiyur taluk of Erode district as **Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary** with effect from 30th January 2024. This becomes the **18th** Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) of **TN**

i. The declaration was made in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 26-A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (Central Act 53 of 1972).



**11. In which state, the 4th edition of the Rüsoma Orange Festival 2024 was held under the theme “Organic Orange” in January 2024?**

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

**Answer- 1) Nagaland**

**Explanation:**

The **4th edition** of the **Rüsoma Orange Festival 2024** was held under the **theme** “Organic Orange” from 24th to 25th January 2024 in Rüsoma village near Kohima, in **Nagaland**.

**i.** The festival was inaugurated by Salhoutuonuo Kruse, Minister of Women Resource Development of Nagaland. The Orange Festival is also known as Shühuo Nyi, and it originated in 2020.

**12. Which state government has recently (in Jan ‘24) inaugurated the 4th National Chilika Bird Festival?**

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

**Answer- 3) Odisha**

**Explanation:**

The Chief Minister (CM) of **Odisha**, Naveen Patnaik, has inaugurated the **4th National Chilika Bird Festival**, which was observed from January 27th to 29th, 2024, to showcase the aviation biodiversity of Chilika Lake (Asia’s largest brackish water lagoon) in Odisha.

**i.** The festival was organised by the Odisha’s State Department of Tourism, Department of Forest and Chilika Development Authority.

**13. In February 2024, the Indian Navy declared 2024 as the \_\_\_\_\_(year).**

- 1) Year of Naval Civilians
- 2) Year of Naval Technology
- 3) Year of Naval Weapons
- 4) Year of Naval AI
- 5) Year of Naval Equipment

**Answer- 1) Year of Naval Civilians**

**Explanation:**

The Indian Navy has declared **2024** as the **‘Year of Naval Civilians’** with a focus on enhancing administration, efficiency, and the well-being of its civilian workforce.

**i.** The major focus areas identified for implementation in 2024 include maximising administrative efficiency; digital initiatives; generic and specific training programs; and welfare activities.

**14. In February 2024, the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) released the guidelines of the “Scheme of Pilot Projects on Use of Green Hydrogen in the \_\_\_\_\_ (Sectors) under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM).**

- 1) Fertilizers & Shipping Sectors
- 2) Shipping & Steel Sectors
- 3) Steel & Fertilizers Sectors
- 4) Shipping & Natural Gas Sectors
- 5) Natural Gas & Cement Sectors

**Answer- 2) Shipping & Steel Sectors**

**Explanation:**

On 1st February 2024, the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) released the guidelines of the “Scheme of Pilot Projects on Use of Green Hydrogen in the **Shipping Sector**” under the National Green Hydrogen Mission(NGHM).

- The total budget outlay for the implementation of the scheme till the financial year (FY) 2025-26 is Rs 115 crore.

**i.** On 2nd February 2024, MNRE released guidelines

of the “scheme for pilot projects on the use of Green Hydrogen in the **steel sector**” under NGHM.

- The total budget outlay for the implementation of the scheme till the FY 2029-30 is Rs 455 crore. [Click here to read more](#)

**15. Which of the following medals, along with Union Home Minister’s Awards for Meritorious Service in Forensic Science, have been merged to instituted a new medal named ‘Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak’ by the Ministry of Home Affairs in February 2024?**

- 1) Union Home Minister’s Special Operation Medal
- 2) Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation
- 3) Asadharan Assuchana Kushalata Padak
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) All 1, 2 & 3

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

**Explanation:**

On 1st February 2024, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has instituted a new medal named ‘Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak’ by **merging four existing medals**

- Union Home Minister’s Special Operation Medal
- Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation
- Asadharan Assuchana Kushalata Padak
- Union Home Minister’s Awards for Meritorious Service in Forensic Science. [Click here to read more](#)

**16. Which Metro Rail Limited has recently (in Feb ‘24) became India’s first metro rail service to join Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)?**

- 1) Jaipur Metro Rail Corporation Limited
- 2) Kochi Metro Rail Limited



3) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited

4) Chennai Metro Rail Limited

5) Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited

Answer- **4) Chennai Metro Rail Limited**

**Explanation:**

**Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL)** launched its ticketing services on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) network and became **India's first metro rail** service to **join ONDC**.

- Yaary became the first seller-side technology partner for CMRL.

**17. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the cabinet approval on 1st February 2024?**

**A) The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) to be implemented under the Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) for three years till 2025-26 with an outlay of Rs 29,610.25 crore.**

**B) The Union Cabinet approved the extension of the Scheme of Sugar Subsidy for Antyodya Anna Yojna (AAY) Families distributed through the Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) till 30th April 2025.**

**C) The Union approved the extension of the Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) for two years till 31st March 2026 for export of Apparel/Garments and Made-ups.**

1) Only A

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) All A, B & C

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

**Explanation:**

On February 1, 2024, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved the following schemes and initiatives:

**i.** The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) to be implemented under the Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) for three years till 2025-26 with an outlay of Rs 29,610.25 crore.

**ii.** The Union Cabinet approved the extension of the **Scheme of Sugar Subsidy** for Antyodya Anna Yojna (**AAY) Families** distributed through the Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) for two more years **till 31 March 2026**.

**iii.** The Union Cabinet approved the extension of the Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) for two years till 31st March 2026 for export of Apparel/Garments and Made-ups.

[Click here to read more](#)

**18. Which Indian Institute of Management (IIM) has topped among the Top Government MBA colleges in the Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF)'s Top Master of Business Administration (MBA) Colleges in India – 2024 released in February 2024?**

1) IIM Indore

2) IIM Bangalore

3) IIM Ahmedabad

- 4) IIM Calcutta
- 5) IIM Kozhikode

Answer- **3) IIM Ahmedabad**

**Explanation:**

According to the Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF)'s **Top Master of Business Administration (MBA) Colleges in India – 2024**, the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad (Gujarat)**, has topped among the Top Government MBA colleges in India. [Click here to read more.](#)

**i.** In the 2024 MBA Colleges ranking, Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI), Jamshedpur (Jharkhand), has topped among the Top Private MBA colleges in India.

**Note:** IIM Ahmedabad has emerged as the top-ranked college (Overall among Government & Private) in India, based on an overall index score of 937.24.

**19. Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) celebrated its Silver Jubilee on \_\_\_\_\_ by launching the New Satellite Data Acquisition and Processing Facility & special postal stamp.**

- 1) 1st February 2024
- 2) 5th February 2024
- 3) 3rd February 2024
- 4) 2nd February 2024
- 5) 4th February 2024

Answer- **3) 3rd February 2024**

**Explanation:**

On **3rd February 2024**, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) launched a **new Satellite Data Acquisition and Processing Facility** and unveiled a special **postal stamp** "INCOIS My Stamp" as a part of its INCOIS Foundation day – Silver Jubilee **(25 years)** celebration held in Hyderabad, Telangana.

**i.** The celebration was held as a part of the Indian Ocean Regional Decade Conference 2024 held from 1st to 3rd February 2024 at INCOIS in Hyderabad, Telangana. [Click here to read more](#)

**20. In February 2024, the quality standards for \_\_\_\_\_ spices were finalised at the 7th session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH7) held in \_\_\_\_\_(city).**

- 1) 6; Bengaluru, Karnataka
- 2) 5; Kochi, Kerala
- 3) 6; Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- 4) 7; Kochi, Kerala
- 5) 5; Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Answer- **2) 5; Kochi, Kerala**

**Explanation:**

The quality standards for **5 spices** namely small cardamom, turmeric, juniper berry, allpice, and star anise were finalised at the **7th session** of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH7) held in **Kochi, Kerala**.



- CCSC7, hosted by the Government of India, was held from 29th January to 2nd February 2024.

**21. In February 2024, Suresh Kumar Khanna, Finance Minister of Uttar Pradesh, presented the \_\_\_\_\_ budget for the FY25 (2024-2025).**

- 1) Rs 6.43 lakh crore
- 2) Rs 9.34 lakh crore
- 3) Rs 8.20 lakh crore
- 4) Rs 7.36 lakh crore
- 5) Rs 6.10 lakh crore

Answer- **4) Rs 7.36 lakh crore**

**Explanation:**

On February 5, 2025, the Finance Minister of Uttar Pradesh (UP), **Suresh Kumar Khanna**, presented **Rs 7.36 lakh crore** (Rs 7,36,437.71 crore) **budget for FY25 (2024-2025)** in Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly (UPLA) in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

- It is higher from the current fiscal's (FY24) Budget of Rs 6.90 lakh crore.
- i. Rs 1,150 crore has been allocated for the construction of the "Noida International Airport" in Jewar, Gautam Budh Nagar. [Click here to read more.](#)

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

- A) Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various infrastructure projects worth over Rs 68,000 crore in Sambalpur, Odisha.**
- B) PM laid the foundation stone of the 1st phase of Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited (NLCIL) Talabira Thermal Power Project in Odisha.**
- C) PM inaugurated various development projects worth Rs 11,600 crore in Assam.**

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

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

**Explanation:**

Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** visited Odisha and Assam on 3rd February to 4th February, 2024 and laid the foundation stone and inaugurated several projects.

- i. During his visit to **Odisha** on 3rd February, 2024, PM Modi inaugurated and laid the **foundation stone** for various infrastructure projects worth over Rs 68,000 crore in **Sambalpur, Odisha.**
- ii. PM Modi laid the **foundation stone** of the 1st phase of Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited **(NLCIL) Talabira Thermal Power** Project in Odisha.
- iii. On 4th February, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated various development projects worth **Rs 11,600 crore** in **Assam.** [Click here to read more](#)

**23. In which Institute, Union Minister of State of Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar launched the “Digital India FutureLABS” in February 2024?**

- 1) Jawaharlal Nehru University
- 2) Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi
- 3) Jamia Millia Islamia University
- 4) University of Delhi
- 5) Indian Institute of Technology Madras

**Answer- 2) Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister of State (**MoS**) **Rajeev Chandrasekhar**, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the “**Digital India FutureLABS**” at Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology-Delhi (**IIIT-Delhi**), New Delhi, Delhi

**i.** The MoS also addressed the Digital India FutureLABS Summit 2024 held at IIIT-Delhi on 3rd February 2024.

**ii.** The Summit hosted by IIIT-Delhi focused on ‘Catalyzing the Next-generation Electronics System Design through Digital India FutureLABS’. [Click here to read more](#)

**24. Which of the following points is/are ‘correct’ with respect to the Kerala state government budget for FY 2024-2025 presented in February 2024?**

**A) The Finance Minister of Kerala, K.N. Balagopa has presented a deficit budget for FY 2024-2025 at the State Legislative Assembly in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.**

**B) The budget estimates for 2024-25 includes revenue receipts of Rs 1,38,655.16 crore, revenue expenditure of Rs 1,66,501.21 crore and capital expenditure of Rs 15,596 crore.**

**C) The government aims to attract an investment of Rs 3 lakh crore to the state in the upcoming 3 years.**

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

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

**Explanation:**

On February 5, 2024, the **Finance Minister** of Kerala Kalanjoor Narayana Panicker Balagopal (**K.N. Balagopa**) has presented a deficit budget for **FY 2024-2025** at the State Legislative Assembly in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

**i.** The budget estimates for 2024-25 includes revenue receipts of Rs 1,38,655.16 crore, revenue expenditure of Rs 1,66,501.21 crore and capital expenditure of Rs 15,596 crore.

**ii.** The government aims to attract an investment of **Rs 3 lakh crore** to the state in the upcoming **3 years**. [Click here to read more](#)

**25. In January 2024, the 3-judge bench of the Supreme Court (SC) of India led by Justice \_\_\_\_\_ issued a set of guidelines for effective functioning of environmental regulatory bodies and authorities in India.**

- 1) Ritu Raj Awasthi
- 2) D.Y. Chandrachud



- 3) Bhushan Ramakrishna Gavai
- 4) Reeta Vasishtha
- 5) Naresh Chibber

Answer- **3) Bhushan Ramakrishna Gavai**

**Explanation:**

On January 31, 2024, the **3-judge** bench of the Supreme Court (**SC**) of **India** issued a set of guidelines for effective functioning of **environmental regulatory bodies** and authorities in India.

- The **3-judge bench**, led by **Justice Bhushan Ramakrishna Gavai** (BR Gavai), includes justices Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha, and Prashant Kumar Mishra.
- i. The SC stated that the bodies, authorities, regulators and executive offices incharge of environmental duties should function with institutional features and should be accountable, transparent and efficient in their functioning. [Click here to read more](#)

**26. In February 2024, the Finance Minister (FM) of Gujarat, Kanubhai Desai presented Rs \_\_\_\_\_ state budget for the financial year 2024-25 (FY25).**

- 1) 2,10,695 crore
- 2) 3,32,465 crore
- 3) 4,10,510 crore
- 4) 5,90,790 crore
- 5) 6,10,895 crore

Answer- **2) 3,32,465 crore**

**Explanation:**

The Finance Minister (**FM**) of **Gujarat**, Kanubhai Desai presented **Rs 3,32,465 crore** state budget for the financial year **2024-25 (FY25)** in the Gujarat Assembly House in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- i. It was the highest-ever budget presented in the history of Gujarat. The state proposes no new taxes. [Click here to read more](#)

**27. In February 2024, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first Indian state to Pass Bill on the Uniform Civil Code Bill.**

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

Answer- **5) Uttarakhand**

**Explanation:**

On 7th February 2024, **Uttarakhand** Legislative Assembly passed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Uttarakhand Bill, 2024 which aims to govern and regulate laws related to marriage, divorce, land, property and inheritance for all citizens, irrespective of their religion.

- i. The bill will now be sent to President of India Droupadi Murmu for her assent after which it will become a law.
- ii. With this, **Uttarakhand** will become the **first Indian state** to get a **common law**.

**28. Which state government has recently (in Feb '24) approved the establishment of the Tadoba-Kawal conservation reserve?**

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

**Answer- 3) Telangana**

**Explanation:**

The State Board for Wildlife (SBWL) of **Telangana** has approved the establishment of the **Tadoba-Kawal conservation reserve** in the area situated between Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (located in Maharashtra) and Kawal Tiger Reserve (Telangana).

i. The board meeting of SBWL was chaired by Konda Surekha, Telangana State Minister for Forests and Environment.

**29. In February 2024, the headquarters of the Confederation of International Tea Smallholders (CITS) will shift from \_\_\_\_\_ (country) to India.**

- 1) Japan
- 2) Nepal
- 3) China
- 4) Bhutan
- 5) Sri Lanka

**Answer- 3) China**

**Explanation:**

The **headquarters** of the Confederation of International Tea Smallholders (**CITS**) will shift from **China** to **India**. The decision was taken during the 25th session of the Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**) Intergovernmental Group on Tea (**IGG/Tea**) held at Guwahati, Assam for the 1st time from 31 January-2 February 2024.

i. India took over as the Chair of the FAO IGG/Tea from the United Kingdom (UK) for the next 2 years (2024-2026) and the session was presided over by Saurav Pahari, Deputy Chairman of Tea Board India.

- Sri Lanka will host the next IGG session after 2 years in 2026.

**30. Which state government has recently (in Feb '24) decided to change the Prefix of Vehicle Registration, State Emblem, and redesigned Talli (mother) statue?**

- 1) Odisha
- 2) Arunachal Pradesh
- 3) Karnataka
- 4) Telangana
- 5) Jharkhand

**Answer- 4) Telangana**



**Explanation:**

The Chief Minister (CM) of **Telangana**, Anumula Revanth Reddy in his 1st cabinet meeting decided to replace the **prefix code** of vehicle registration from TS to TG, proposed to adopt a **new state emblem**, and a **redesigned** **Telangana Talli (mother) statue**.

- i. The Cabinet also approved 'Jaya Jaya he Telangana, Janani Jaya ketanam', as Telangana's official song written by Ande Sri.
- ii. Changes in the emblem and statue will be made after consultation with stakeholders, poets, and people. [Click here to read more](#)

**31. Which Ministry has recently (in Feb '24) launched APAAR through the Common Service Centres (CSCs) in remote villages of India?**

- 1) Ministry of Rural Development
- 2) Ministry of Education
- 3) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- 4) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- 5) Ministry of Home Affairs

Answer- **2) Ministry of Education**

**Explanation:**

The **Ministry of Education** (MoE) launched **APAAR** (Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry) through the Common Service Centres (**CSCs**) in remote villages of India.

- i. APAAR, conceptualized under the National Education Policy (NEP 2020), aims for 'One Nation, One Student ID'.
- ii. APAAR mandates all college/university students to register on the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) platform.

**32. In February 2024, the Finance Minister (FM) of Andhra Pradesh, Buggana Rajendranath Reddy presented Rs \_\_\_\_\_ state budget for the financial year 2024-25 (FY25).**

- 1) 4.60 lakh crore
- 2) 2.86 lakh crore
- 3) 3.10 lakh crore
- 4) 4.20 lakh crore
- 5) 3.58 lakh crore

Answer- **2) 2.86 lakh crore**

**Explanation:**

Andhra Pradesh's (**AP**) **Finance Minister**, Buggana Rajendranath Reddy, presented a vote-on-account budget of Rs 2,86,389.27 crore (**Rs. 2.86 lakh crore**) for Financial Year 2024-25 (**FY25**) in the state assembly in Amaravati, AP.

- i. The budget also includes a vote on account of Rs 88,21,580 Lakh or (Rs 88,215 crore) for 2024-25, to be utilized until a new government presents a full budget post-Assembly elections in April 2024
- ii. Between 2019-20 and 2023-24, the state government had spent Rs 2,53,000 crore through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) schemes and another Rs 1,68,000 crore through non-DBT schemes. [Click here to read more](#)



**33. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the cabinet approval on 8th February 2024?**

**A) The Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY), a Central Sector sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).**

**B) The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the Fisheries Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) for 3 years up to 2025-26 within the approved fund of Rs 7522.48 crore.**

**C) The Cabinet has approved the auction in eight spectrum bands for mobile phone services at a base price of Rs 96,317 crore**

1) Only A

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) All A, B & C

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

**Explanation:**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** approved the following schemes and initiatives on 8th February 2024:

**i. The Union Cabinet** approved the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana **(PM-MKSSY)**, a Central Sector sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana **(PMMSY)**.

**ii. The Union Cabinet** has approved the extension of the Fisheries Infrastructure Development Fund **(FIDF)** for **3 years up** to 2025-26 within the approved fund of Rs 7522.48 crore and budgetary support of Rs 939.48 crore.

**iii. The Cabinet** has approved the auction in eight spectrum bands for mobile phone services at a base price of **Rs 96,317 crore** to improve the quality of telecom services and coverage for consumers. [Click here to read more](#)

**34. Which Department of GoI has recently (in Feb '24) unveiled the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) Way Forward Annual Report 2023?**

1) Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances

2) Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare

3) Department of Justice

4) Department of Social Justice and Empowerment

5) Department of Land Resources

Answer- **1) Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances**

**Explanation:**

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances **(DARPG)** under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has unveiled the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment **(NeSDA) Way Forward Annual Report 2023**.

**i. DARPG** organised 3 Regional Conferences on e-Governance in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Mumbai (Maharashtra), and Guwahati (Assam), respectively.

**ii. A total of 16,487 e-services** were provided across States/UTs in December 2023, as against 11,614 in April 2023. [Click here to read more](#)



**35. In February 2024, the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Vinai Kumar Saxena, approved the annual budget of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25) with an outlay of Rs \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) 8,811 crore
- 2) 7,100 crore
- 3) 6,430 crore
- 4) 5,982 crore
- 5) 4,230 crore

**Answer- 1) 8,811 crore**

**Explanation:**

The **Lieutenant Governor of Delhi**, and the Chairperson of Delhi Development Authority (DDA), **Vinai Kumar Saxena**, approved the annual budget of **DDA**, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) for Financial Year 2024-25 (**FY25**) with an **outlay of Rs 8, 811 crores**.

**i.** Revenue targets for FY25 are set at Rs 9,182 crores, reflecting a significant 19% increase from FY24.

[Click here to read more](#)

**36. In February 2024, the 193rd Meeting of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) was held in New Delhi, Delhi under the chairmanship of Union Minister of Labour and Employment, Bhupender Yadav.**

**ESIC approved to provide Medical Benefit for insured superannuating workers leaving the ESI Scheme due to exceeding the wage ceiling, if the worker was under insurable employment for at least \_\_\_\_\_ (years) before superannuation/voluntary retirement.**

- 1) 10 years
- 2) 5 years
- 3) 8 years
- 4) 6 years
- 5) 3 years

**Answer- 2) 5 years**

**Explanation:**

On February 10, 2024, the **193rd** Meeting of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (**ESIC**) was held in New Delhi, Delhi under the chairmanship of Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav**, Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE), and Chairman of ESIC.

**i.** During the meeting, **ESIC** approved the proposal to provide Medical Benefit for insured superannuating workers leaving the ESI Scheme due to exceeding the wage ceiling, if the worker was under insurable employment for **at least 5 years** before superannuation/voluntary retirement. [Click here to read more](#)

[Click here to read more](#)

**37. Name the country that has recently (in Feb '24) signed a protocol to amend the agreement on nuclear reactor construction at Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project in Tamil Nadu.**

- 1) Israel
- 2) Japan
- 3) United Arab Emirates
- 4) Kuwait
- 5) Russia

**Answer- 5) Russia**

**Explanation:**

**India and Russia** signed a protocol to amend the 2008 intergovernmental agreement focusing on cooperation in constructing additional nuclear reactors at the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (**KKNPP**) site and new Russia-designed nuclear power plants at new sites in India.

**i.** The KKNPP in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu(TN) is a joint initiative of India and Russia. This is a flagship project of bilateral technological and energy cooperation.

**38. Which bank has recently (in Feb '24) signed an MoU with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) for the implementation of the SMART Payment card to provide hassle-free payments for treatment?**

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

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

**Explanation:**

On February 13, 2024, the Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (**MoH&FW**) launched **AIIMS-SBI Smart Payment Card** to provide hassle-free payments for treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (**AIIMS**).

**i.** Initially the card was launched for AIIMS, New Delhi. Its services will be extended across all the AIIMS in India in future.

**ii.** The validity of the card is 5 years with effect from the date of issue. During the event, State Bank of India (SBI) and AIIMS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of the AIIMS-SBI SMART Payment card.

**39. In February 2024, the Secretary of the Department of Land Resources (DLR), Nidhi Khare launched the Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) in Darrang district of \_\_\_\_\_ (state).**

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

Answer- **4) Assam**

**Explanation:**

The **Secretary** of the Department of Land Resources (**DLR**), under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), **Nidhi Khare** has launched the Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (**ULPIN**) in an event held in Darrang district of Assam.

**i.** ULPIN can be described as the AADHAR or fingerprint for land and it is a **14-digit alphanumeric** identification number allotted to every land parcel.



**40. In February 2024, Union Minister of Finance, Nirmala Sitharaman proposed the budget estimation of Rs \_\_\_\_\_ for the fiscal year 2024-2025(FY25) for the Union Territory(UT) of Jammu and Kashmir(J&K).**

- 1) Rs 1.18 lakh crore
- 2) Rs 2.68 lakh crore
- 3) Rs 2.90 lakh crore
- 4) Rs 1.15 lakh crore
- 5) Rs 2.10 lakh crore

**Answer- 1) Rs 1.18 lakh crore**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**, Ministry of Finance, proposed the **budget estimation** of Rs 1,18,728 crore (**Rs 1.18 lakh crore**) for the fiscal year 2024-2025 (**FY25**) for the Union Territory (**UT**) of Jammu and Kashmir (**J&K**).

**i.** The UT Government has proposed the “Vote on Account” or “Interim Budget” for Rs.59,364 Crore, which includes allocations of Rs 40,081 crore for revenue expenditure and Rs 19,283 crore for capital expenditure. [Click here to read more](#)

**41. In which city, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has recently (in Feb '24) inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple developmental projects worth Rs 7,500 crore?**

- 1) Brahmapur, Odisha
- 2) Pune, Maharashtra
- 3) Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh
- 4) Jamshedpur, Jharkhand
- 5) Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh

**Answer- 3) Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

On 11 February 2024, Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi** inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple developmental projects worth **Rs 7,500 crore** in **Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh (MP)**.

**i.** The PM disbursed monthly instalments of Rs 1500 under Aahar Anudan Yojna to 2 lakh women beneficiaries from specially backward tribes.

**ii.** On 13 February 2024, PM Narendra Modi announced the launch of ‘PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana’, to encourage people to install solar panels on their rooftops for free electricity. [Click here to read more](#)

**42. According to the 21st quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) bulletin for October-December 2023 (Q3FY24) released by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in February 2024, India’s urban unemployment rate (UR) declined to \_\_\_\_\_ during Q3FY24.**

- 1) 6.2%
- 2) 6.9%
- 3) 6.7%
- 4) 6.3%
- 5) 6.5%

**Answer- 5) 6.5%**

**Explanation:**

The National Sample Survey Office (**NSSO**), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released its **21st** quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) bulletin for October-December 2023 (**Q3FY24**).

**i.** As per it, **India's** urban unemployment rate (**UR**) in Current Weekly Status (CWS) terms for persons aged 15 years and above **declined** to **6.5%** during **Q3FY24** which is the lowest level in over 4 years.

- It was 6.6% in Q2FY24, and 7.2% in Q3FY23.
- It was high at 12.6% recorded in the Covid-affected April-June quarter of FY22 (Q1FY22). [Click here to read more](#)

**43. In February 2024, the Chief Minister (CM) of Goa, Pramod Sawant presented Rs \_\_\_\_\_ budget for Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25).**

- 1) 26,850.56 crore
- 2) 12,290.12 crore
- 3) 30,190.20 crore
- 4) 42,872.10 crore
- 5) 15,670.30 crore

Answer- **1) 26,850.56 crore**

**Explanation:**

The Chief Minister (**CM**) of **Goa** Pramod Sawant, who also holds the finance portfolio of the state, presented **Rs 26,850.56 crore** budget for Financial Year 2024-25 (**FY25**) with no additional taxes at the Goa State Legislative Assembly Complex in Porvorim, Bardez in Goa. It was his 5th budget.

**i.** The Gross State Domestic Product (**GSDP**) for **FY25** is projected at Rs 1,21,309.02 crore at current prices with a growth rate of 13.87% as compared to FY24 and a Per Capita Income of Rs 7.64 lakh.

[Click here to read more](#)

**44. Which state government has recently (in Feb '24) declared the Gupteswar forest as its fourth Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS)?**

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

Answer- **2) Odisha**

**Explanation:**

The **Odisha** government has declared the **Gupteswar forest** in Koraput district as its fourth Biodiversity Heritage Site (**BHS**).

**i.** The three other BHS sites in Odisha are Mandasaru in Kandhamal district, Mahendragiri in Gajapati district, and Gandhamardan in Bargarh and Bolangir districts.

**45. In February 2024, Kaji Nemu was declared as the State Fruit of \_\_\_\_\_.**

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



5) Odisha

Answer- **4) Assam**

**Explanation:**

The Government of **Assam** has declared **Kaji Nemu** (Citrus Limon) as the **State Fruit of Assam**. The announcement was made by Assam's Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, following a Cabinet meeting. Kaji Nemu is also known as the "Queen of all citrus fruits"

- i. Kaji Nemu is a medium-to-large variety of lemon that has an elongated, oblong, elliptic, to obovate shape.
- ii. In 2019, Kaji nemu received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag as 'Agricultural' Goods.

**46. Which of the following points is 'Incorrect' with respect to the 2nd edition of India Energy Week (IEW 2024) held at Goa in February 2024?**

- 1) Indian Oil Market Outlook to 2030 report released by International Energy Agency (IEA) stated that India is set to become the single largest source of global oil demand growth from 2023 to 2030.
- 2) NITI Aayog and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands released a report titled "Liquefied Natural Gas as a transportation fuel in Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicle".
- 3) India signed the biggest-ever deal worth USD 78 billion to extend LNG imports from Qatar for 20 years from 2029 to 2048 at lower than current rates.
- 4) Indian Oil Corporation Limited unveiled the 1st indigenous alkaline electrolyser in India
- 5) Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) has signed an MoU with two technology partners to set up 19 Compressed Biogas (CBG) Plants across Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh(UP).

Answer- **4) Indian Oil Corporation Limited unveiled the 1st indigenous alkaline electrolyser in India**

**Explanation:**

The 2nd edition of India Energy Week (IEW 2024) was held from 6th to 9th February 2024 at the Institute of Petroleum Safety, Health and Environment Management (IPSHEM)-Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Training Institute, South Goa, Goa.

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) released a report titled "Indian Oil Market Outlook to 2030" which stated that India is set to become the single largest source of global oil demand growth from 2023 to 2030.
- NITI Aayog and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands released a report titled "LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) as a transportation fuel in Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicle".
- India signed the biggest-ever deal worth USD 78 billion to extend LNG imports from Qatar for 20 years from 2029 to 2048 at lower than current rates.
- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** unveiled the 1st indigenous alkaline electrolyser in India.
- Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) has signed an MoU with two technology partners to set up 19 Compressed Biogas (CBG) Plants across Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh(UP).

[Click here to read more](#)

**47. In which Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan has recently (in Feb '24) launched the '100 Cube' initiative?**

- 1) IIT Delhi
- 2) IIT Kanpur
- 3) IIT Madras



4) IIT Kharagpur

5) IIT Bhubaneswar

Answer- **5) IIT Bhubaneswar**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Education (**MoE**) has launched the '**100 Cube**' initiative during a two-day 100 Cube Start-up Conclave held at Research and Entrepreneurship Park (REP) of the Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT**) **Bhubaneswar**, Odisha from 11th to 12th February 2024.

**i.** Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) and IIT Bhubaneswar have signed a MoU to support innovation and research, technology transfer, and cultivate a thriving start-up ecosystem in the renewable energy sector.

- The MoU was signed at the 100 Cube Start-up Conclave.

**48. In February 2024, the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, & Dairying, Parshottam Rupala granted income tax exemptions for the Dairy Cooperative Society under the Income Tax Act, 1961.**

**The surcharge on cooperative societies' income ranging from Rs. 1 crore to 10 crores has been decreased from 12% to \_\_\_\_\_.**

1) 7%

2) 5%

3) 10%

4) 9%

5) Nil

Answer- **1) 7%**

**Explanation:**

The Union Minister Parshottam Rupala, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, & Dairying (MoFAHD), Government of India (GoI), granted income tax exemptions for the Dairy Cooperative Society under the Income Tax Act, 1961, to provide relief to the cooperative societies.

**i.** Primary cooperative societies supplying milk to the Federal Cooperative Society can claim deductions under section 80P of the Income Tax Act of 1961.

**ii.** The **surcharge on cooperative societies' income**, ranging from Rs. 1 crore to 10 crores, has been decreased from 12% to 7%.

**49. Which Ministry has recently (in Feb '24) issued the scheme guidelines for the implementation of Pilot Projects for the use of Green Hydrogen in the Transport Sector?**

1) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

2) Ministry of New & Renewable Energy

3) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

4) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

5) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Answer- **2) Ministry of New & Renewable Energy**

**Explanation:**

On 14th February 2024, The **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy** (MNRE) issued Scheme Guidelines for the **implementation of Pilot Projects for the use of Green Hydrogen** in the Transport Sector under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM).



- The scheme was approved by Union Minister Raj Kumar Singh, MNRE. The President of India, Droupadi Murmu also sanctioned the implementation of the scheme.
- These projects will be implemented through the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and the Scheme Implementing Agencies (SIAs) nominated under this Scheme.

**50. In February 2024, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first North-Eastern state to achieve 100% household tap water connections.**

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

Answer- **3) Arunachal Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

Chief Minister (CM) of **Arunachal Pradesh** (AR), Pema Khandu announced that AR has achieved **100% household tap water connections** under the centrally sponsored Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

**i.** With this, AR has become the **first state** in North-East India and as the 10th state/Union territory in overall India to achieve 100% saturation of Har Ghar Jal (tap water in every household) under JJM.

**51. Which state government has recently (in Feb '24) introduced a declaration to strengthen bird conservation initiatives in the South Asian region?**

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

Answer- **3) Bihar**

**Explanation:**

The **Bihar** government has brought out the '**Patna Declaration**' to strengthen bird conservation initiatives and address the challenges posed by illegal hunting in the South Asian region.

**i.** The declaration was finalised at the international workshop organised by the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (DEFCC) of Bihar and the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).

**ii.** It also aims to implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) at the grassroots level through the Wildlife Protection Action Act of 1972 (as amended in 2022).

**52. In February 2024, President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, aimed at preventing malpractices in government recruitment examinations.**

**As per the Bill, committed offence will be punishable with imprisonment between 3 to 10 years, and a fine up from Rs. \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) 60 lakh to 4 crore
- 2) 10 lakh to 1 crore
- 3) 5 lakh to 10 lakh
- 4) 20 lakh to 2 crore

5) 50 lakh to 3 crore

Answer- **2) 10 lakh to 1 crore**

**Explanation:**

President Droupadi Murmu has given her assent to the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, aimed at preventing malpractices in government recruitment examinations.

**i. Penalties:** Offenders under the Bill will face severe penalties, including:

- Imprisonment ranging from 3 to 10 years.
- Fines ranging from Rs. **10 lakh to 1 crore**.

**53. In February 2024, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshotam Rupala launched the realigned Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund(AHIDF) Scheme at New Delhi, Delhi.**

**The interest subvention for Dairy Cooperatives has been increased to \_\_\_\_\_ under the realigned AHIDF instead of the 2.5% under Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund(DIDF).**

- 1) 5%
- 2) 3.5%
- 3) 4%
- 4) 3%
- 5) 4.5%

Answer- **4) 3%**

**Explanation:**

On 14th February 2024, Union Minister Parshotam Rupala, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (**MoFAH&D**) launched the realigned Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (**AHIDF**) Scheme at New Delhi, Delhi.

- He also released a radio jingle (advertisement music) on AHIDF.

**i.** The Scheme will encourage investments in animal-based (Dairy and Meat) processing and diversification, Animal Feed Plant, breed multiplication farms, Agri-waste management, and veterinary vaccine/drug production facilities.

**ii.** Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund (**DIDF**) has been subsumed in the realigned AHIDF. The **interest subvention for Dairy Cooperatives** has been increased to **3%** under the realigned **AHIDF** instead of the 2.5% under DIDF.

**54. In February 2024, The Government of India (GoI) through its citizen engagement platform MyGov announced the first-ever 'National Creators Award' with \_\_\_\_\_ categories to recognise new-age influencers & creators.**

- 1) 5
- 2) 10
- 3) 20
- 4) 15
- 5) 8

Answer- **3) 20**

**Explanation:**

The Government of India (GoI) through its citizen engagement platform MyGov announced the first-ever 'National Creators Award' to recognise and celebrate the contributions of new-age influencers, and content creators and celebrate India's digital creator economy.



- The awards will recognise outstanding creativity and innovations across over **20 categories** in diverse sectors such as education, social change, environmental sustainability, gaming, and more.
- Age Requirement: Participants must be 18 years or above at the time of nomination. [Click here to read more](#)

**55. Which country has recently (in Feb '24) signed an MoU with India on sharing India's open-sourced Digital Public Infrastructures (DPIs) – India Stack Solutions – implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation?**

- 1) Colombia
- 2) Ecuador
- 3) Venezuela
- 4) Spain
- 5) Italy

Answer- **1) Colombia**

**Explanation:**

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), **Government of India** and Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) of **Colombia** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) on sharing India's open-sourced Digital Public Infrastructures (**DPIs**) – **India Stack Solutions** – implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation.

**i.** The MoU intends to promote digital transformation (India Stack) through capacity building programs, the exchange of best practices, the exchange of public officials and experts, the development of pilot or demo solutions, and the facilitation of private sector contacts to mutually benefit the digital ecosystems of both countries.

**56. Which organisation has recently (in Feb '24) collaborated with the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) to organise a 2-day national workshop on urban livelihoods?**

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

Answer- **4) United Nations Development Programme**

**Explanation:**

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (**DAY-NULM**), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), collaborated with United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**) to organise a 2-day **national workshop on urban livelihoods** from 15th to 16th February 2024 in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

**i.** The workshop aimed to explore emerging trends and opportunities in urban livelihoods, with a special emphasis on strengthening resilience, and empowering women across urban India.

**ii.** During the event, Isabelle Tschan, Resident Representative of UNDP India highlighted the importance of achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11: "Sustainable Cities and Communities."

**57. Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance (MoF), released \_\_\_\_\_ souvenir coins, during the \_\_\_\_\_ Foundation Day celebrations of the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) on 15th February 2024.**

- 1) 3 coins; 15th
- 2) 5 coins; 20th
- 3) 3 coins; 19th
- 4) 5 coins; 15th
- 5) 6 coins; 20th

**Answer- 3) 3 coins; 19th**

**Explanation:**

On 15th February 2024, **Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman**, Ministry of Finance (MoF), released **3 souvenir coins**, during the **19th Foundation Day** celebrations of the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (**SPMCIL**), a wholly owned Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) of the Government of India in New Delhi, Delhi through a hybrid mode.

**i. 3 Coins Includes:**

- A Coloured souvenir coin on Endangered Animals of India – Greater One Horned Rhinoceros;
- A bi-metallic clad souvenir coin on the Enlightenment of Buddha; and
- Shree Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir Ayodhya (Coloured souvenir silver coin)

**58. In February 2024, the Government of India (GoI) increased the authorised capital of Food Corporation of India (FCI) from Rs 10,000 crore to Rs \_\_\_\_\_ .**

- 1) 21,000 crore
- 2) 15,000 crore
- 3) 18,000 crore
- 4) 25,000 crore
- 5) 17,000 crore

**Answer- 1) 21,000 crore**

**Explanation:**

The Government of India (**GoI**) has increased the authorised capital of Food Corporation of India (FCI) from **Rs 10,000 crore** to **Rs 21,000 crore**. The move aims to enhance the operational capabilities of FCI in fulfilling its mandate effectively.

**i. The GoI provides equity to the FCI for working capital requirements and the creation of capital assets.**

**59. Which company has recently (in Feb '24) signed an MoU with the Department of Fisheries to promote digital marketing of fishes and other aquatic produce?**

- 1) Ninjacart
- 2) Open Network for Digital Commerce
- 3) BigBasket
- 4) Grofers
- 5) Fresh Pick

**Answer- 2) Open Network for Digital Commerce**



**Explanation:**

The **Department of Fisheries** under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (**MoFAHD**) signed an Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Open Network for Digital Commerce (**ONDC**) to promote digital marketing of fishes and other aquatic produce.

**i.** The MoU aims to help traditional fishermen, fish farmers, producer organisations, entrepreneurs from fisheries sector to buy and sell their products through the e-market place.

**60. Which state government has recently (in Feb '24) launched INSPIRES (Integrated Service Provision and Innovation for Revising Economics), a World Bank-Assisted Program for Economic Empowerment of Women & Youth?**

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

Answer- **3) Sikkim**

**Explanation:**

**Sikkim** Chief Minister (CM) Prem Singh Tamang launched **Sikkim INSPIRES** (Integrated Service Provision and Innovation for Revising Economics), a World Bank (**WB**)-assisted program under the Planning and Development Department of the Government of Sikkim was launched at Chintan Bhavan, Gangtok, Sikkim.

**i.** This WB-assisted program is the first-ever direct partnership between the Government of Sikkim and the WB

**ii.** Through INSPIRES, the Sikkim Government is adopting evidence-based modules for economic inclusion opportunities, especially for women and youth.

**61. Name the Guidelines for Indian Port Performance Index that was recently (in Feb '24) released by the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal.**

- 1) Sagar Parikrama
- 2) Sagar Manthan
- 3) Sagar Mala
- 4) Sagar Baran
- 5) Sagar Aankalan

Answer- **5) Sagar Aankalan**

**Explanation:**

The Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (**MoPS&W**) released "**Sagar Aankalan**", the national benchmarking guidelines for Indian port performance index to boost their efficiency and improve competitiveness.

**i.** The guidelines were released during the stakeholders' meeting on implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) signed at the 3rd edition of the Global Maritime India Summit 2023 (GMIS 2023).

**62. In February 2024, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched 3 impactful books from Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-(G)) during the National Conference on Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and SBM-(G) held in \_\_\_\_\_(city).**

- 1) New Delhi, Delhi
- 2) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- 3) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- 4) Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- 5) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

**Answer- 3) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Ministry of Jal Shakti launched **3 impactful books** from Swachh Bharat Mission (**SBM-(G)**) during the National Conference on Jal Jeevan Mission (**JJM**) and **SBM-(G)** held on 16 and 17 February 2024 in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.

- The conference brought together diverse stakeholders from States/Union territories (UTs), fostering the exchange of ideas and best practices toward sustainable solutions in the rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector.

**63. In which state, Country's first Skill India Centre (SIC) was inaugurated by Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan in February 2024?**

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

**Answer- 4) Odisha**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (**MSDE**) inaugurated **Country's first Skill India Centre (SIC)** in Sambalpur, **Odisha**.

**Note:** The SIC is scheduled to be inaugurated in Angul, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Talcher and Deogarh.

**i. Aim:** To address the specific skill needs of industries that have the potential to drive regional development and create sustainable employment opportunities.

**64. In February 2024, the Finance Minister of West Bengal (WB) Chandrima Bhattacharya presented a state budget of Rs \_\_\_\_\_ for FY 2024-25.**

- 1) 3.4 lakh crore
- 2) 2.8 lakh crore
- 3) 3.6 lakh crore
- 4) 2.1 lakh crore
- 5) 3.9 lakh crore

**Answer- 3) 3.6 lakh crore**

**Explanation:**

The Finance Minister of West Bengal (WB) Chandrima Bhattacharya presented a state budget of Rs 3,66,166 crore (**Rs 3.6 lakh crore**) for **FY 2024-25** which introduced a Gender and Child Budget.

**i. Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** for FY25 is projected at Rs 18.8 lakh crore, showing a growth of 10.5% over FY24.



ii. The total allocation towards gender budget is Rs 96,272.69 crores in which Rs 21,380.69 crore under 100% women specific schemes and Rs 74,891 crore for schemes with 30% to 99% dedicated to the development and empowerment of women. [Click here to read more](#)

**65. In February 2024, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first Northeastern state to launch CM Jan Arogya Yojana (CMJAY), a universal health insurance scheme for all.**

- 1) Arunachal Pradesh
- 2) Tripura
- 3) Meghalaya
- 4) Assam
- 5) Manipur

Answer- **2) Tripura**

**Explanation:**

Manik Saha, Chief Minister (CM) of **Tripura**, launched the CM Jan Arogya Yojana (**CMJAY**), a universal health insurance scheme for all. With this launch, Tripura became the first **Northeastern state** to launch a universal health cover.

- The scheme was launched at a mega event held in Netaji Subhas Vidyaniketan, Agartala, Tripura.

i. The scheme offers universal health insurance coverage and it will benefit 4.15 lakh families of Tripura and provide cover of Rs 5 lakh per family annually.

**66. Which state government has recently (in Feb '24) launched the logo and web portal to increase the domestic and global demand for high-quality products?**

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

Answer- **4) Kerala**

**Explanation:**

P Rajeeve, Minister for Industries, Law and Coir, Government of Kerala, unveiled the logo and web portal of the **Kerala Brand** to increase the domestic and global demand for high-quality products made in **Kerala**.

i. The logo of Kerala Brand carries the motto 'Nanma', a Malayalam expression which translates to 'Goodness'.

ii. All the products under the brand will be imprinted with the wording 'Made-in-Kerala' to tap into the domestic and global markets.

**67. In February 2024, the Deputy Chief Minister (CM) and Finance Minister of Telangana Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu presented the state's vote on account budget with an outlay of Rs \_\_\_\_\_ for Financial Year 2024-2025 (FY25).**

- 1) 1.90 Lakh Crore
- 2) 2.75 Lakh Crore
- 3) 3.10 Lakh Crore
- 4) 4.30 Lakh Crore

5) 5.75 Lakh Crore

Answer- **2) 2.75 Lakh Crore**

**Explanation:**

The Deputy Chief Minister (CM) and Finance Minister of Telangana Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu presented the state's vote on account budget for Financial Year 2024-2025 (FY25) with an outlay of Rs 2,75,891 crore (**Rs 2.75 Lakh Crore**) in the State Legislative Assembly in Hyderabad, Telangana.

i. This is the first budget presented by the Congress Government which came to power after the recent elections. [Click here to read more](#)

**68. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Cabinet Approval on 21st February 2024?**

**A) The Union Cabinet approved amendments in the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy for the space sector.**

**B) The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the centrally sponsored Scheme, the "Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)" with a total outlay of Rs 4,100 crores for a period of 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26**

**C) The Union Cabinet approved the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)'s proposal to continue the implementation of Umbrella Scheme on 'Safety of Women' from 2021-22 to 2025-26.**

1) Only A

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) All A, B & C

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

**Explanation:**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved the following schemes and initiatives on 21st February 2024.

- The Union Cabinet approved amendments in the Foreign Direct Investment (**FDI**) policy for the space sector.
- The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the centrally sponsored Scheme, the "Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (**FMBAP**)" with a total outlay of **Rs 4,100 crores** for a period of **5 years** from 2021-22 to 2025-26 (15th Finance Commission period).
- The Union Cabinet approved the Ministry of Home Affairs(MHA)'s proposal to continue the **implementation of Umbrella Scheme** on 'Safety of Women' from 2021-22 to **2025-26**. [Click here to read more](#)

**69. In February 2024, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved Rs \_\_\_\_\_ to procure more than 200 BrahMos Extended Range (ER) supersonic cruise missiles for the Indian Navy Warships.**

1) 10,000 crore

2) 15,000 crore

3) 17,000 crore

4) 20,000 crore

5) 19,000 crore

Answer- **5) 19,000 crore**



**Explanation:**

On 21st February 2024, The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved the procurement of more than **200 BrahMos Extended Range (ER) supersonic cruise missiles** and associated equipment for the deployment on the Indian Navy Warships. The deal is worth around **Rs 19,000 crore**.

**Note:** During the first week of March 2024, the formal contract will be signed between BrahMos Aerospace and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for the induction of the weapons into the Indian Navy.

**70. In February 2024, the Finance Minister of Assam Ajanta Neog presented a Rs \_\_\_\_\_ budget for Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25).**

- 1) 1.6 lakh crore
- 2) 2.9 lakh crore
- 3) 3.5 lakh crore
- 4) 2.5 lakh crore
- 5) 3.8 lakh crore

Answer- **2) 2.9 lakh crore**

**Explanation:**

The Finance Minister of Assam Ajanta Neog presented a **Rs 2.9 lakh crore** budget for Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25) with a deficit of Rs 774.47 crore. The budget proposed no new tax.

- This was his 4th budget under the leadership of Chief Minister (CM) of Assam Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma. [Click here to read more](#)

**71. In February 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that the Interest Equalization Scheme (IES) for Pre and Post-Shipment Rupee Export Credit was extended by the Government of India (GoI) till \_\_\_\_\_ with an additional allocation of Rs. 2500 crores.**

- 1) 31st May 2024
- 2) 30th June 2024
- 3) 30th September 2024
- 4) 31st July 2024
- 5) 30th April 2024

Answer- **2) 30th June 2024**

**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that the Interest Equalization Scheme (IES) for Pre and Post-Shipment Rupee Export Credit was extended by the Government of India (GoI) till **30th June 2024** with an additional allocation of **Rs. 2500 crores**.

**i.** For the Manufacturers and Merchant Exporters exporting under 410 Harmonized System (HS) lines, the interest equalization rate will be at 2%.

- For Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) manufacturers, exporting under any HS line, the interest equalization rate will be at 3%.

**72. Which company has recently (in Feb '24) signed a land lease agreement with Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) to develop an "Integrated Green Hydrogen Hub" in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP)?**

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

4) Suzlon Energy Limited

5) ReNew Power Private Limited

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

**Explanation:**

NTPC Green Energy Limited (**NGEL**), a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC Ltd signed a land lease agreement with Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (**APIIC**) to develop an “**Integrated Green Hydrogen Hub**” on 1,200 acres of land near Pudimadaka village (Atchutapuram Mandal) in **Visakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- The Pudimadaka green hydrogen hub aims to create a cutting-edge ecosystem for technologies in the new energy model.

**73. Name the Union Ministry who has recently (in Feb ‘24) launched “Joint National Level Project of Health Screening and Management through Ayurvedic Interventions”.**

1) Mansukh L. Mandaviya (Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare)

2) Sarbananda Sonowal (Union Minister of AYUSH)

3) Arjun Munda (Union Minister of Tribal Affairs)

4) Smriti Zubin Irani (Union Minister of Women and Child Development)

5) Amit Shah (Union Minister of Home Affairs)

Answer- **3) Arjun Munda (Union Minister of Tribal Affairs)**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister **Arjun Munda**, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (**MoTA**) has launched “Joint National Level Project of Health Screening and Management through Ayurvedic Interventions” to cater to the healthcare requirements of students residing in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (**EMRS**) across tribal areas in **India**.

- It is a joint initiative of MoTA, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-National Institute of Research in Tribal Health (NIRTH), Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) and Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) functioning under the Ministry of AYUSH.

**74. In February 2024, the Finance Minister of Odisha, Bikram Keshari Arukha, presented a Rs \_\_\_\_\_ Budget for the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25).**

1) 1.50 Lakh Crore

2) 2.55 Lakh Crore

3) 1.98 Lakh Crore

4) 3.24 Lakh Crore

5) 2.86 Lakh Crore

Answer- **2) 2.55 Lakh Crore**

**Explanation:**

The Finance Minister of Odisha, **Bikram Keshari Arukha**, presented a growth-oriented Annual Budget (Vote-On-Account) for the Financial Year 2024-25 (**FY25**) in the Legislative Assembly, with an outlay Rs 2,55,000 crore (**Rs 2.55 Lakh Crore**), a 11% increase from Annual Budget, FY24. No new schemes were introduced.

- An interim budget of Rs 1.18 lakh crore was also presented for the first four months of FY25.



**75. In which city, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has recently (in Feb '24) inaugurated 2 institutes of the Ministry of AYUSH- 'Central Research Institute of Yoga & Naturopathy' (CRIYN) and NISARG GRAM'?**

- 1) Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- 2) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- 3) Pune, Maharashtra
- 4) Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- 5) Patna, Bihar

**Answer- 3) Pune, Maharashtra**

**Explanation:**

Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** virtually inaugurated **2 institutes** of the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy **(AYUSH)** namely the 'Central Research Institute of Yoga & Naturopathy' **(CRIYN)** in Deverkhana Village, Jhajjar, Haryana, and the National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN) titled '**NISARG GRAM**' in **Pune, Maharashtra**.

- The 2 major hospitals and research centers related to Yoga and Naturopathy in Maharashtra and Haryana are aimed at advancing the holistic healthcare landscape in India.

**76. Which country has recently (in Feb '24) collaborated with India under the Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Program (ITHCP) for Transboundary Tiger Conservation in Sunderbans?**

- 1) Myanmar
- 2) Bangladesh
- 3) Bhutan
- 4) Nepal
- 5) Vietnam

**Answer- 2) Bangladesh**

**Explanation:**

Under the Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Program **(ITHCP)**, a people-centric engagement took place between **India** and **Bangladesh** at Joymoni, Bagerhat District, Bangladesh from 4th to 8th February 2024.

- The initiative aims to mutually understand the tiger conservation process of India and Bangladesh in **Sunderbans**.

**77. In February 2024, Samrat Chaudhary, Deputy Chief Minister (Dy CM) cum Finance Minister of Bihar, presented a budget of Rs \_\_\_\_\_ for the fiscal year 2024-2025 (FY25).**

- 1) 4.23 Lakh Crore
- 2) 3.28 Lakh Crore
- 3) 1.98 Lakh Crore
- 4) 3.89 Lakh Crore
- 5) 2.79 Lakh Crore

**Answer- 5) 2.79 Lakh Crore**

**Explanation:**

**Samrat Chaudhary**, Deputy Chief Minister (Dy CM) cum Finance Minister of Bihar, presented a budget of Rs 2,78,725 crore (**Rs 2.79 Lakh Crore**) for the fiscal year 2024-2025(**FY25**) in the Bihar Assembly.

- The budget expenditure has increased by Rs 16840.32 crore from Rs 2,61,885.40 crore in FY24. [Click here to read more](#)

**78. In February 2024, the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh (HP) presented budget estimates of Rs \_\_\_\_\_ for the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25).**

- 1) 58,444 crore
- 2) 46,123 crore
- 3) 39,222 crore
- 4) 64,789 crore
- 5) 50,768 crore

Answer- **1) 58,444 crore**

**Explanation:**

On February 24, 2024, the Chief Minister of **Himachal Pradesh (HP)**, who also holds the finance portfolio, presented budget estimates of **Rs 58,444 crore** for the Financial Year 2024-25 (**FY25**).

- It is 9.1% higher than the budget of Rs 53,413 crore in FY 24. [Click here to read more](#)

**79. Which state's Startup Fund Trust has recently (in Feb '24) signed an MoU with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to enhance the Startup Ecosystem?**

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

Answer- **3) Bihar**

**Explanation:**

**Bihar** Startup Fund Trust (**BSFT**), the Department of Industries, the Government of Bihar, and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to administer the Rs. 50 crore Bihar Startup Scale-up Financing Fund (BSSFF) to transform Bihar into a startup hub.

- The collaboration will provide a conducive environment for startups to contribute to economic growth and by focussing on innovation, the BSSFF addresses the challenges faced by the economy and society.

**i.** The University Grants Commission (UGC) granted Category-I University status to the Central University of South Bihar (CUSB), the 1st time for a university in Bihar.

**80. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Viksit Bharat Viksit Chhattisgarh' programme virtually addressed by the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi held in February 2024?**

- A) During the event, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several development projects worth Rs 34,400 crore in Chhattisgarh.**
- B) He also laid the foundation stone for the Lara Super Thermal Power Project, Stage-II (2×800 MW) in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh.**
- C) Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) has commissioned India's largest Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) that stores energy using solar energy in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh.**



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

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

**Explanation:**

On 24th February 2024, Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** virtually addressed the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Chhattisgarh' programme. During the event, He inaugurated, dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone of several development projects worth **Rs 34,400 crore** in **Chhattisgarh**.

- During the event, He also laid the foundation stone for the **Lara Super Thermal Power Project**, Stage-II (2×800 MW) in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh.
- PM Modi inaugurated three key First Mile Connectivity (FMC) projects of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) built at a total cost of more than Rs 600 crores.
- Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (**SECI**) has commissioned India's largest Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) that stores energy using solar energy in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh.

**81. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Maharashtra MSME Defense Expo 2024 held at Pune in February 2024?**

**A) Maharashtra MSME Defence Expo 2024 was held at the Pune International Exhibition and Convention Center (PIECC) in Pune with the theme of "Opportunities for MSMEs in Defence".**

**B) DRDO handed over 23 Licensing Agreements for Transfer of Technology (LATOT) to 22 industries in various domains.**

**C) The MoUs were signed between the Maharashtra Govt and Max Aerospace and Aviation Pvt Ltd, SBL Energy Ltd, as well as collaboration between Nibe Ltd and Munitions India Limited.**

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

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

**Explanation:**

**Maharashtra MSME** (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) **Defence Expo 2024** was held at the Pune International Exhibition and Convention Center (PIECC) in **Pune**, Maharashtra from 24th to 26th February 2024.

- The **theme** of the 2024 expo is "**Inspire : Learn : Engage**".
- i.** During the MSME defence Expo 2024, DRDO handed over **23 Licensing Agreements for Transfer of Technology (LATOT) to 22 industries** in various domains such as electronics, laser technology, combat vehicles, naval systems, and aeronautics.
- ii.** During the 2024 expo, the **MoUs** were signed between the Maharashtra Govt and Max Aerospace and Aviation Pvt Ltd, SBL Energy Ltd, as well as collaboration between Nibe Ltd and Munitions India Limited. [Click here to read more](#)



**82. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the recent Inauguration made by the Prime Minister (PM) of India, Narendra Modi in February 2024?**

- A) Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated, laid the foundation stone and dedicated over 2000 railway infrastructure projects worth around Rs 41,000 crores.**  
**B) PM laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 553 railway stations spread across 27 States and Union Territories (UTs) under the Amrit Bharat scheme.**  
**C) PM Modi laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 46 stations in Gujarat under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.**

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

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

**Explanation:**

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** virtually **inaugurated, laid the foundation stone** and dedicated over 2000 railway infrastructure projects worth around Rs 41,000 crores.

- PM laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of **553 railway stations** spread across 27 States and Union Territories (UTs) under the Amrit Bharat scheme.
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 46 stations in Gujarat under the **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.**
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone, inaugurated and dedicated to the nation **1500 Road Over Bridges** and Underpasses spread across 24 States and UTs. [Click here to read more](#)

**83. Which company has recently (in Feb '24) launched India's first & South Asia's largest integrated ammunition manufacturing Complex in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh?**

- 1) Adani Defence and Aerospace
- 2) ICOMM Tele Limited
- 3) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- 4) Mahindra Defence Systems Limited
- 5) Bharat Forge Limited

Answer- **1) Adani Defence and Aerospace**

**Explanation:**

On 26th February 2024, **Adani Defence and Aerospace**, a part of Adani Group, unveiled its **India's first** private sector ammunition-missile manufacturing complex in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh (UP). The complex spread over 500 acres is set to become **South Asia's largest integrated ammunition manufacturing Complex.**

- The complex, unveiled on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the 'Operation Bandar', was dedicated to the warriors of Balakot airstrike.

**84. In February 2024, Indian Coast Guard(ICG) conducted 'Day at Sea' off Chennai Harbour to celebrate its \_\_\_\_\_ Raising Day.**

- 1) 46th
- 2) 48th
- 3) 45th



4) 49th

5) 50th

Answer- **2) 48th**

**Explanation:**

On 25th February 2024, as a part of the events planned to celebrate the **48th Raising Day** of Indian Coast Guard (**ICG**), ICG Regional Headquarters (East) organised “**A Day at Sea**” off **Chennai Harbour** (Chennai, Tamil Nadu).

- 8 ships of ICG, with around 1,500 guests sailed out from Chennai harbour on a voyage to witness operational prowess and ICG’s capabilities at sea.

**Note:** ICG celebrated its **48th Raising Day** on 1st February 2024.

## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**1. Giridhar Aramane, Secretary, Ministry of Defence (MoD), India and Dr Mohammed Bin Naseer Bin Ali Al Zaabi, Secretary-General, MoD, Oman co-chaired the \_\_\_\_\_ Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC) meeting held in Muscat, Oman in January 2024.**

1) 13th

2) 10th

3) 12th

4) 15th

5) 14th

Answer- **3) 12th**

**Explanation:**

Giridhar Aramane, Secretary, Ministry of Defence (MoD), India and Dr Mohammed Bin Naseer Bin Ali Al Zaabi, Secretary-General, MoD, Oman **co-chaired** the **12th** Joint Military Cooperation Committee (**JMCC**) meeting held in **Muscat, Oman** on 31st January 2024.

**i.** India and Oman signed an MoU regarding the procurement of Defence Material and Equipment which will provide a framework for new areas of defence collaboration.

**2. In January 2024, India contributed USD \_\_\_\_\_ to the United Nations (UN) Regular Budget (RB) for 2024.**

1) 21.098 million

2) 30.260 million

3) 29.134 million

4) 25.091 million

5) 32.895 million

Answer- **5) 32.895 million**

**Explanation:**

On 31 January 2024, **India** contributed **USD 32.895 million** (approximately Rs. 273 Crore) to the United Nations (**UN**) Regular Budget (**RB**) for 2024 and earned its spot in the “Honour Roll of the UN for 2024”.

**i.** Honour Roll is a list of UN that have paid their mandatory financial support in full to the UN’s RB within 30 days of issuance of a payment note from the UN.

**3. In which city, the 2nd edition of the World Defence Show (WDS 2024) was held in February 2024?**

- 1) Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- 2) Delhi, India
- 3) Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- 4) Doha, Qatar
- 5) Dhaka, Bangladesh

Answer- **1) Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**

**Explanation:**

The **2nd edition** of the World Defence Show (**WDS 2024**) was held at Riyadh International Convention & Exhibition Center, in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia** from 4th to 8th February 2024.

- i. WDS 2024 was organised by the General Authority for Military Industries (GAMI), the regulator, enabler, licenser for the military industry in Saudi Arabia with the theme of “Equipped for Tomorrow”.
- ii. Pune (Maharashtra)- based Munitions India Limited (MIL), Defence Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract worth USD 225 million for the supply of artillery ammunition to Saudi Arabia. [Click here to read more](#)

**4. In February 2024, the first-ever ‘State of the World’s Migratory Species’ report was released at Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP14) in \_\_\_\_\_ (country).**

- 1) Uzbekistan
- 2) Armenia
- 3) Zambia
- 4) Spain
- 5) Afghanistan

Answer- **1) Uzbekistan**

**Explanation:**

On February 12, 2024, the first-ever ‘**State of the World’s Migratory Species**’ report was launched at the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP14), also known as Bonn Convention in Samarkand, **Uzbekistan** from February 12-17, 2024.

- It is prepared by the conservation scientists in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (**UNEP-WCMC**) and CMS.
- Of the species covered by the UN’s CMS, 82% listed as being in danger of extinction are threatened with 76% experiencing population decline. [Click here to read more](#)

**5. Who has recently (in Feb ‘24) chaired the 62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD62) held in New York, the United States of America (USA)?**

- 1) Seema Pujani
- 2) Ruchira Kamboj
- 3) Geetika Srivastava
- 4) Sneha Dubey
- 5) Asma Garg

Answer- **2) Ruchira Kamboj**



**Explanation:**

Ambassador **Ruchira Kamboj**, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN), **chaired** the **62nd** Session of the Commission for Social Development (**CSocD62**), held from 5-14 February 2024 at the UN Headquarters in New York, the United States of America (USA).

- India chaired the session of CSocD for the first time since 1975.

**Note:** Poland is set to chair the 63rd session of the CSocD in 2025.

**6. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in February 2024?**

**A) India and UAE signed an MoU on interlinking of instant payment platforms i.e. UPI (India) and AANI (UAE).**

**B) India and UAE signed an Intergovernmental Framework Agreement on the India-Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEEC).**

**C) PM Narendra Modi and Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Makkoum, Vice President of UAE virtually laid the foundation stone of Bharat Mart at Jebel Ali Free trade zone, Dubai(UAE), will be built by DP World.**

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

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

**Explanation:**

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi was on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar from 13th February to 15th February, 2024.

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between India and UAE on interlinking of instant payment platforms i.e. **UPI (India) and AANI (UAE)**.
- India and UAE signed an Intergovernmental Framework Agreement on the India-Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEEC).
- PM Narendra Modi and Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Makkoum, Vice President of UAE virtually laid the **foundation stone of Bharat Mart** at Jebel Ali Free trade zone, Dubai(UAE). Bharat Mart will be built by **DP World**.
- **During the PM Modi visit to Doha, Qatar** on 14th February,2024. Qatar has emerged as an important commercial partner for India, with two-way trade currently worth \$20 billion a year. [Click here to read more](#)

**7. According to the monthly update (February 2024) of the Henley Passport Index 2024, India's rank dropped from 80th to \_\_\_\_\_ between January 2024 and February 2024.**

- 1) 84th
- 2) 85th
- 3) 83rd
- 4) 87th
- 5) 86th

Answer- **2) 85th**



**Explanation:**

According to the monthly update (February 2024) of the **Henley Passport Index 2024**, **India's ranking** dropped from 80th to **85th** between January 2024 and February 2024.

- i. 6 countries namely France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, and Singapore continue to dominate the top spot with the most powerful passports in the world.
- ii. These 6 countries enabled their citizens visa-free entry to 194 out of 227 global destinations, marking a record-breaking achievement. [Click here to read more](#)

**8. In February 2024, \_\_\_\_\_ became the 119th Signatory Country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).**

- 1) Rwanda
- 2) Tunisia
- 3) Malta
- 4) Algeria
- 5) Niger

Answer- **3) Malta**

**Explanation:**

On February 21, 2024, **Malta** became the **119th Signatory Country** to join the International Solar Alliance (**ISA**) after Malta's Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Christopher Cutajar, signed the ISA Framework Agreement in New Delhi, Delhi in the presence of Head of Depository and Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy) Abhishek Singh.

- The ISA was established in Paris, France in 2015 as a joint effort by India and France to mobilize efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions.

**9. According to the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)'s 2023 edition of the World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) report in February 2024, which Indian company has topped the Top 300 Cooperatives ranking based on the ratio of turnover over GDP per capita under the Agriculture and Food Industries section?**

- 1) Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited
- 2) Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited
- 3) Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Limited
- 4) Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited
- 5) Britannia Industries Limited

Answer- **2) Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited**

**Explanation:**

According to the International Cooperative Alliance (**ICA**)'s **2023** edition of the World Cooperative Monitor (**WCM**) report, India's Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (**IFFCO**) Limited has **topped** the **Top 300 Cooperatives ranking** based on the ratio of turnover over GDP (gross domestic product) per capita under the Agriculture and Food Industries section.

- India's Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Limited (AMUL) has been ranked 2nd followed by France's Groupe Cr dit Agricole at 3rd.
- IFFCO has been ranked 72nd in the ranking of Top 300 Largest Cooperative and Mutual Organisations based on Turnover. IFFCO was ranked 97th in the 2022 report.



**10. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the 5th Plenary session of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) held at Paris, France in February 2024?**

**A) Ms. Elisa de Anda Madrazo of Mexico was appointed as the next President of the FATF for a fixed 2-year term, starting on 1 July 2024.**

**B) Senegal and Rwanda are newly added to the Grey List.**

**C) Barbados, Gibraltar, Uganda, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were removed from the Watchlist of FATF**

1) Only A

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) All A, B & C

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

**Explanation:**

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) concluded its **5th Plenary session** in Paris, France on February 23, 2024, under the presidency of T Raja Kumar of Singapore.

- Ms. **Elisa de Anda Madrazo** of Mexico was appointed as the next **President** of the FATF for a fixed 2-year term, starting on 1 July 2024.
- **Kenya and Namibia** are newly added to the **Grey List**. existing countries - 23.
- Barbados, Gibraltar, Uganda, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were removed from the Watchlist of FATF. [Click here to read more](#)

## GOVT SCHEMES

**1. Which state government has recently (in Feb '24) launched the 'Van Mitra' scheme & portal to encourage community participation in tree plantation activities on non-forest lands?**

1) Odisha

2) Maharashtra

3) Uttar Pradesh

4) Madhya Pradesh

5) Haryana

Answer- **5) Haryana**

**Explanation:**

Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister (CM) of **Haryana**, launched the '**Van Mitra**' scheme and its portal to encourage community participation in tree plantation activities on non-forest lands.

**i. Objective:** To empower local communities to participate in expanding Haryana's green cover, increase the survival rates of newly planted trees and to increase tree planting in non-forest land outside traditional forest zones.

**2. Name the state government that has recently (in Feb '24) approved the Swatantra Yuva Udyami Scheme (SWAYAM) to provide interest-free loans to unemployed/underemployed youths.**

1) Karnataka

2) Odisha

- 3) West Bengal
- 4) Andhra Pradesh
- 5) Telangana

Answer- **2) Odisha**

**Explanation:**

The **Odisha** cabinet approved various proposals including the establishment of a new scheme named Swatantra Yuva Udyami Scheme (**SWAYAM**), to provide **interest-free loans** to unemployed/underemployed youths, and to promote self-employment among the youths in Odisha.

**i.** Under the scheme, the eligible youth in the age group of 18-35 residing in both rural and urban areas in Odisha can avail loan of up to Rs 1 lakh to start a new business or expand the existing ones.

**3. Which state government has recently (in Feb '24) launched the 'Asha Kirana – Eye Care at Your Doorstep' scheme to offer free eye care services to families?**

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

Answer- **4) Karnataka**

**Explanation:**

**Karnataka** Chief Minister (CM) Siddaramaiah launched the '**Asha Kirana – Eye Care at Your Doorstep**', a scheme to offer free eye care services to families across Karnataka, during an event held in Haveri, Karnataka.

**i.** The Scheme launched by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka, falls under the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCB&VI).

## **VISITS**

**1. During the Visit of Emmanuel Macron, President of France to India as the Chief Guest for the 75th Republic Day of India, Which company has signed an MoU with Airbus Helicopters to set up a final assembly line (FAL) for H125 helicopters in India?**

- 1) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- 2) Bharat Electronics Limited
- 3) TATA Advanced Systems Limited
- 4) Mahindra Aerospace Limited
- 5) Pawan Hans Limited

Answer- **3) TATA Advanced Systems Limited**

**Explanation:**

Emmanuel Macron, President of France, paid a State Visit to India as the Chief Guest for the 75th Republic Day of India at the invitation of Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India.

- This is also the 6th visit by a French leader as Guest of honour for India's Republic Day.

**i. TATA Advanced Systems Limited** (TASL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons, and **Airbus Helicopters**, the helicopter manufacturing division of Airbus, signed an **MoU** to set up a final



assembly line (FAL) for H125 helicopters in India with a significant indigenous and localisation component. This will become India's 1st FAL for helicopters.

**2. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi visit to Goa in February 2024?**

- A) PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various projects worth over Rs 1330 crores during the Viksit Bharat-Viksit Goa 2047 programme in Goa.**
- B) The PM inaugurated a 100 TPD (Tonnes Per Day) Integrated Waste Management Facility in South Goa.**
- C) He laid the foundation stone for the construction of a 100 MLD (Mega Liters per Day) Water Treatment Plant in South Goa**

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

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

**Explanation:**

On 6th February 2024, Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** visited Goa and inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various projects worth over **Rs 1330 crores** during the Viksit Bharat-Viksit Goa 2047 programme in Goa.

- i. The PM inaugurated a 100 TPD (Tonnes Per Day) Integrated Waste Management Facility in South Goa.**
- ii. He laid the foundation stone for the construction of a 100 MLD (Mega Liters per Day) Water Treatment Plant in South Goa. [Click here to read more](#)**

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

- A) During the visit to Haryana, the PM dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than Rs 9750 crores in Rewari, Haryana.**
- B) The PM inaugurated the Gurugram Metro Rail project with a total length of 28.5 km estimated at Rs 5450 crores.**
- C) PM visited Rajasthan to attend the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Rajasthan' Programme and he unveiled and laid the foundation stone of Multiple development projects worth over Rs 17000 crore via video conferencing.**

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

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

**Explanation:**

On 16 Feb, 2024 Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi visited Haryana and Rajasthan. During the visit, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various projects



- During the visit to **Haryana**, the PM dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than **Rs 9750 crores** in **Rewari, Haryana**. The projects include sectors concerning urban transport, health, rail, and tourism
- The PM inaugurated the **Gurugram Metro Rail project** with a total length of **28.5 km** estimated at **Rs 5450 crores**.
- PM visited **Rajasthan** to attend the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Rajasthan' Programme and during the event, he unveiled and laid the foundation stone of Multiple development projects worth over **Rs 17000 crore** via video conferencing.

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

**A) PM Modi launched 14000 projects worth over Rs 10 Lakh crore across Uttar Pradesh (UP) at the 4th GroundBreaking Ceremony (GBC 4.0) of UP Global Investors Summit 2023 (UPGIS 2023) in Lucknow, UP.**

**B) PM Modi laid the foundation stone and unveiled the model of Shri Kalki Dham Temple in Sambhal district, UP.**

**C) PM Modi laid the foundation stone for four projects being developed by Tata Power Co Ltd in UP at an investment of about Rs 50,000 crore.**

1) Only A

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) All A, B & C

**Answer- 2) Only A & B**

**Explanation:**

On 19th February 2024, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi visited Uttar Pradesh(UP). During the visit, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various development projects.

- PM Modi launched 14000 projects worth over **Rs 10 Lakh crore** across Uttar Pradesh (UP) at the 4th GroundBreaking Ceremony (**GBC 4.0**) of UP Global Investors Summit 2023 (**UPGIS 2023**) in Lucknow, UP.
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone and unveiled the model of Shri Kalki Dham Temple in Sambhal district, UP, constructed by Shri Kalki Dham Nirman Trust under the leadership of Acharya Pramod Krishnam.
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone for four projects being developed by **Torrent Power** in UP at an investment of about **Rs 25,000 crore**.

**5. Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi visited Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) on 20th February 2024.**

**During his visit, PM inaugurated the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Vijaypur (Samba), Jammu established at a cost of over Rs \_\_\_\_\_.**

1) 3000 crore

2) 1800 crore

3) 1660 crore

4) 2200 crore

5) 1000 crore



Answer- 3) 1660 crore

**Explanation:**

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** visited Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) on 20th February 2024. During his visit, he was inaugurated, dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone of projects worth **Rs 32,000 crore** during the event held at Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu(J&K).

- The PM inaugurated the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Vijaypur (Samba), Jammu established at a cost of over **Rs 1660 crore**.
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone for the new terminal building at Jammu Airport.
- PM Modi launched various railway projects worth over Rs 16000 crore in J&K. [Click here to read more](#)

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

**A) During the visit, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than Rs. 52,250 crores.**

**B) The PM inaugurated 5 new AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) at Rajkot, Bathinda, Raebareli, Kalyani, and Mangalagiri constructed at a total cost of Rs. 6315.23 crore.**

**C) PM inaugurated Sudarshan Setu, India’s longest cable-stayed bridge spanning 2.32 km, connecting Okha mainland and Beyt Dwarka island in Gujarat to provide easier access to Dwarkadhish temple.**

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

Answer- 5) All A, B & C

**Explanation:**

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi visited Gujarat on the 24th and 25th of February, 2024. During the visit, he **inaugurated and laid the foundation stone** of multiple development projects worth more than **Rs. 52,250 crores**.

- During the visit, PM inaugurated **5 new AIIMS** (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) at Rajkot, Bathinda, Raebareli, Kalyani, and Mangalagiri constructed at a total cost of Rs. 6315.23 crore.
- PM inaugurated Sudarshan Setu, **India’s longest cable-stayed bridge** spanning 2.32 km, connecting Okha mainland and Beyt Dwarka island in Gujarat to provide easier access to Dwarkadhish temple at a cost of around Rs. 980 crores.
- PM Modi inaugurated two Ayush institutes- Central Research Institute of Yoga & Naturopathy (CRIYN) in Jhajjar, Haryana, and the National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN) in Pune, Maharashtra. [Click here to read more](#)



# BANKING AND FINANCE

1. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the recent step taken by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in January 2024?

A) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the eligibility norms for the inclusion of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934.

B) RBI allows Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) holders to make advance payment for gold import via India International Bullion Exchange IFSC Ltd (IIBX).

C) RBI directed Fino Payments Bank to stop onboarding of new customers with immediate effect.

1) Only A

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) All A, B & C

Answer- 2) Only A & B

**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the eligibility norms for the inclusion of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) in the **Second Schedule** to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934. These instructions are issued under clause (a) of sub-section (6) of section 42 of the RBI Act, 1934.

- UCBs must maintain a Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of at least 3% higher than the minimum requirement for their tier to enhance capital strength and resilience to risks.

i. RBI allows Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) holders to make advance payment for **gold import** via India International Bullion Exchange IFSC Ltd (IIBX).

ii. RBI in exercise of its powers under section 35A of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949, directed **Paytm Payments Bank Ltd** (PPBL or the bank) to stop onboarding of new customers with immediate effect. [Click here to read more](#)

2. In February 2024, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has issued guidelines mandating general and health insurance companies to cover Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) treatments in their health insurance policies with effect from \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

1) 1st June

2) 1st August

3) 1st May

4) 1st July

5) 1st April

Answer- 5) 1st April

**Explanation:**

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has issued guidelines mandating general and health insurance companies to cover Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) treatments in their health insurance policies with effect from **1st April 2024**.



- The circular was issued in terms of **Section 14(2)(b)** of the **IRDA Act,1999**.

**i.** For this purpose, the Ministry of Ayush(MoA) constituted a 'Core Group of Experts for the Insurance Sector' in 2023.

**3. In February 2024, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) was formally launched in \_\_\_\_\_(city).**

- 1) Geneva, Switzerland
- 2) Paris, France
- 3) New York, United States of America
- 4) London, United Kingdom
- 5) Jakarta, Indonesia

**Answer- 2) Paris, France**

**Explanation:**

The Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) was formally launched at the Eiffel Tower in **Paris, France**.

**i.** For this purpose, NPCI International Payments (NIPL), the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), partnered with **Lyra Network**, a French e-commerce and proximity payment platform, to facilitate the acceptance of UPI payments in Europe.

**4. Name the Small Finance Bank (SFB) that has recently (in Feb '24) announced a bancassurance partnership with Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance Company Limited to offer life insurance products.**

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

**Answer- 1) ESAF SFB**

**Explanation:**

Thrissur (Kerala) based **ESAF Small Finance Bank (SFB)** announced a bancassurance partnership with **Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance Company Limited** to offer life insurance products to a wider range of customers, particularly those in underserved communities.

**Note-** Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance is a joint venture(JV) between Edelweiss Financial Service Limited and Tokio Marine Holdings Inc. of Japan.

**5. Name the bank that has recently (in Feb '24) received Rs 9,013.72 crore from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) after the bank invoked Government of India (GoI) guarantees on decade-old loans extended to some African countries.**

- 1) Standard Chartered Bank
- 2) DBS Bank India
- 3) Canara Bank India
- 4) Export-Import Bank of India
- 5) HSBC Bank India

**Answer- 4) Export-Import Bank of India**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**) has provided **Rs 9,013.72 crore** to the **Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)** after the bank invoked Government of India (GoI) guarantees on decade-old loans extended to some African countries.

- These loans were classified as “doubtful debts” in Financial Year(FY) 2023-24.
- Exim Bank had to invoke guarantees due to non-performing assets (NPAs) of the loans given to African countries.

**6. Which bank has recently (in Feb '24) launched National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)-integrated debit cards?**

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

Answer- **4) Federal Bank**

**Explanation:**

**Federal Bank** has launched National Common Mobility Card (**NCMC**)-integrated debit cards which will enable its RuPay Debit Card holders to use their debit cards for offline payments at NCMC-enabled terminals at metro stations, buses, etc.

i. Through this, the payment will be made just by tapping the card on the card reader. Cards issued after April 2022 will exclusively support the NCMC feature.

**7. Name the bank that has recently (in Feb '24) collaborated with the Flywire Corporation to simplify cross-border education payments for Indian students pursuing studies abroad.**

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

Answer- **4) State Bank of India**

**Explanation:**

State Bank of India (**SBI**) in collaboration with Boston, United States of America (USA) based **Flywire Corporation**, a global payments enablement and software company, aims to simplify cross-border education payments for Indian students pursuing studies abroad.

- The facility is available only to local currency account holders of SBI in India.

**8. Which bank has recently (in Feb '24) launched 4 variants of Business range credit cards- BizFirst, BizGrow, BizPower, and BizBlack?**

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

Answer- **3) HDFC Bank**



**Explanation:**

On 6th February 2024, **HDFC Bank**, India's largest private sector bank., launched 4 variants of new Small and Medium Enterprises (SME)-focused **Business range credit cards** namely BizFirst, BizGrow, BizPower, and BizBlack.

i. These cards will cater to the needs of the self-employed community including Micro-Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), startups, professionals, and freelancers.

**9. Name the Individual Life Insurance Plan that was recently (in Feb '24) launched by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).**

- 1) LIC Index Plus
- 2) LIC Vriddhi Plus
- 3) LIC Index Anand
- 4) LIC Ratna Index
- 5) LIC Aadhaar Index

Answer- **1) LIC Index Plus**

**Explanation:**

Life Insurance Corporation of India (**LIC**) launched "**LIC Index Plus**", a unit-linked, regular premium, individual life insurance plan.

i. The plan offers a combination of life insurance coverage and savings throughout the policy's duration.

ii. LIC Index Plus will be available for purchase from 6th February 2024.

**10. Which of the following fintech startups/Software-as-a-Service providers were recently (in Feb '24) received the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approval to act as a Payment Aggregator (PA)?**

- 1) Juspay Technologies Private Limited
- 2) Decfin Tech Private Limited
- 3) Zoho Payment Technologies Private Limited
- 4) Both 1 & 3
- 5) All 1, 2 & 3

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

**Explanation:**

As of February 6, 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has granted final approval to two fintech startups namely **Juspay Technologies Private Limited**(Juspay) and **Decfin Tech Private Limited** (Decfin) and a Software-as-a-Service(SaaS) provider **Zoho Payment Technologies Private Limited** (Zoho) to act as a Payment Aggregator (PA).

i. The authorisation was granted under Section 7 of Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. [Click here to read more](#)

**11. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the 6th Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) for FY24 released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in February 2024?**

**A) The Repo Rate was retained at 6.5% for the 6th consecutive time.**

**B) The Fixed Reverse Repo Rate and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate are kept unchanged at 3.35% & 6.75% respectively.**

**C) The Bank Rate is kept unchanged at 6.25%.**

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

Answer- **2) Only A & B**

**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s **6th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee** (MPC) met on 6th, 7th and 8th February 2024 and decided to retain the repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) at 6.50%.

**i.** For the **6th consecutive time**, the **repo rate** was retained at **6.5%** to maintain a tight surveillance on inflation. [Click here to read more](#)

Category	Rates
Policy Repo Rate	6.50%
Fixed Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate	6.75%
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate	6.25%
<b>Bank Rate</b>	<b>6.75%</b>
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18%

**12. Which company has recently (in Feb '24) received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up its wholly-owned subsidiary in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) situated in GIFT City?**

- 1) Indian Rare Earths Ltd
- 2) Bharat Dynamics Ltd
- 3) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd
- 4) IRCON International Ltd
- 5) National Fertilizers Ltd



**Answer- 3) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd**

**Explanation:**

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (**IREDA**) has received approval (No Objection Letter) from the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) to set up its wholly-owned subsidiary in the International Financial Services Centre (**IFSC**) situated in **GIFT City** (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City) in Gujarat.

**i.** The new subsidiary will serve as an offshore platform for securing competitive funding to push the growth of the renewable energy sector.

**13. Name the bank that has recently (in Feb '24) raised USD 300 million through its first-ever sustainable finance bond issue.**

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

**Answer- 2) HDFC Bank**

**Explanation:**

**HDFC Bank** Limited has raised **USD 300 million** through its **first-ever sustainable finance bond issue** as a part of its overall raise of USD 750 million through Regulation S Bonds.

**i.** In addition to a USD 300 million bond, it also raised USD 450 million through senior unsecured five-year dollar bonds with an interest rate of 5.180%.

**ii.** The USD 300 million Bond has a maturity period of three years at an interest rate of 5.196%.

**14. Which bank has recently (in Feb '24) signed an MoU with Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) to facilitate low-interest rate loans to farmers and traders?**

- 1) State Bank of India
- 2) Indian Bank
- 3) Bank of Baroda
- 4) Indian Overseas Bank
- 5) Punjab & Sind Bank

**Answer- 5) Punjab & Sind Bank**

**Explanation:**

Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (**WDRA**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB)** to facilitate low-interest rate loans to farmers and traders.

**i.** The MoU aims to raise awareness and encourage funding against electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (**e-NWRs**) to improve agricultural pledge finance in India.

**15. Name the bank that has recently (in Feb '24) partnered with LeRemitt to enable cross-border transactions for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).**

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

5) HDFC Bank

Answer- **4) YES Bank**

**Explanation:**

**YES Bank Limited** has partnered with the Bengaluru Based fintech startup, **LeRemitt** to create a cross-border platform to enable Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**) to conduct international transactions in key currencies, including USD and euro.

**i.** It will also offer transparency, efficiency, and cost benefits for small businesses involved in global trade.

**16. Which company has recently (in Feb '24) partnered with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) to offer financial support and technological resources to fast-growing climate technology firms?**

1) Amazon Web Services India

2) Google Cloud Platform

3) Oracle Cloud Infrastructure

4) IBM Cloud

5) Microsoft Azure India

Answer- **2) Google Cloud Platform**

**Explanation:**

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (**HSBC**) in partnership with Google Cloud Platform (**GCP**) aims to offer financial support and technological resources to fast-growing climate technology firms.

**i.** HSBC will be funding about **USD 1 billion** to climate tech companies selected by Google through its Google Cloud Ready-Sustainability (**GCR-Sustainability**) programme by **2030**.

**17. Which company has recently (in Feb '24) received regulatory approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for its Inaugural Category II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)?**

1) Unitech Limited

2) Brigade Group

3) Shivalik Group

4) Godrej Properties

5) Incor Infrastructure

Answer- **3) Shivalik Group**

**Explanation:**

Ahmedabad (Gujarat)-based real estate developer **Shivalik Group** has received regulatory approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) for its **inaugural** fund- Shivalik Investment Fund as a Category II Alternative Investment Fund (**AIF**).

**i.** The fund aims to **raise Rs. 300 crore** through private placement including Rs. 150 Crore Green Shoe Option.

**ii.** The fund is sponsored & managed Shivalik Investment Fund Private Limited