

# **GUPTA**

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# **CLASSES**

## **Current Affairs**

**JANUARY-2024**

**English**

**Part-1**



**GUPTA**

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**CLASSES**

# Current Affairs Q&A PDF – January 2024

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# NATIONAL AFFAIRS

**1. Which state government has recently (in Dec '23) ranked first for the third consecutive year in recording the highest entries on the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) platform?**

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

**Answer- 1) Uttar Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

**Uttar Pradesh (UP)** has ranked **first** for the **third consecutive year** in recording the highest entries (1,56,22,514 entries) on the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System **(ICJS) platform**.

- With 35,04,828 entries Madhya Pradesh (MP) secured second position and Bihar is in third place with 16,65,107 entries.

**i.** ICJS is an initiative of the Supreme Court e-committee and implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) in 2013.

**ii.** ICJS was created to enable the seamless transfer of data and information among different pillars of the criminal justice system, like courts, police, jails and forensic science laboratories through a single window system.

**iii.** Working: ICJS acts as a centralised database of criminal records; Phase II of ICJS extends from 2022-23 to 2025-26.

- The ICJS Phase II works with the principle of 'one data one entry'.

**2. In December 2023, the Ministry of Finance imposed a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of 'Wheel Loaders' from \_\_\_\_\_ (country) for a period of 5 years.**

- 1) Japan
- 2) Indonesia
- 3) China
- 4) Singapore
- 5) Cambodia

**Answer- 3) China**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Finance has imposed a definitive **anti-dumping duty** on imports of **'Wheel Loaders'** from **China** for a period of **5 years**. The duty rates, ranging from 18.84% to 82.71%, vary based on the producer and specific goods.

- The duty will be applicable on imports in complete build unit (CBU) and semi-knocked down (SKD) forms, and not on the completely knocked down (CKD) form.

**i.** It has imposed a definitive anti-dumping duty on gypsum board/tiles with lamination at least on one side (also known as PVC gypsum tiles, gypsum ceiling tiles or ceiling tiles) from China and Oman for five years.

- It will range from USD 23.46-47.62 per tonne in case of imports from China, and between USD 71.80-91.42 per metric tonne for Oman.

**3. As of January 2024, \_\_\_\_\_ (state) is set to build India's first Artificial intelligence (AI) city to promote the AI ecosystem.**

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

**Answer- 2) Uttar Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

**Uttar Pradesh (UP)** is set to build **India's first Artificial intelligence (AI) city** in Lucknow to promote the **AI ecosystem**. The AI city will be a hub integrating cutting-edge technology, research centres, and educational institutions.

**i.** U.P. Electronics Corporation Limited, the nodal agency of the project, has issued an Expression of Interest (EoI) inviting real estate developers to build and operate the AI city.

- U.P. Electronics is a unit of the Department of Information Technology (IT) and Electronics, Government of UP.

**ii.** The government of UP will provide 40 acres in Nadarganj Industrial Area for the project.

**4. Name the Extremist/Insurgent organisation of North East Region that has recently (in Dec '23) signed a Memorandum of Settlement (peace pact), with the government of India and Assam.**

- 1) People's Liberation Front
- 2) Garo National Liberation
- 3) Kamtapur Liberation Organization
- 4) National Democratic Front of Assam
- 5) United Liberation Front of Assam

**Answer- 5) United Liberation Front of Assam**

**Explanation:**

On 29th December 2023, The faction of United Liberation Front of Assam (**ULFA**) led by Arabinda Rajkhowa, signed a **Memorandum of Settlement (peace pact)**, with the government of **India** and **Assam**.

- The 29 member delegations of ULFA's pro-talk delegation (16 ULFA members, 13 civil society members) signed the agreement in the presence of Union Minister, Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA).

**i.** ULFA, the oldest insurgent group in Assam, was formed in April 1979 after the agitation against undocumented immigrants from Bangladesh (erstwhile East Pakistan).

**5. Which country's Lam Dong Province, along with the Leh region of Ladakh, India has recently (in Dec '23) launched a cultural exchange and tourism cooperation initiative with the theme "Ladakh Unveiled"?**

- 1) Indonesia
- 2) Thailand
- 3) Philippines
- 4) Vietnam
- 5) Cambodia

Answer- **4) Vietnam**

**Explanation:**

**Lam Dong Province in Vietnam** and the **Leh region of Ladakh, India** officially launched a cultural exchange and tourism cooperation initiative with the theme “**Ladakh Unveiled**” in Da Lat, Vietnam.

- This event signifies a crucial step towards strengthening the bonds between these two distinguished regions.
- i.** It was mutually agreed by both parties to promote each other’s unique destinations as premier tourist hubs.
  - ii.** The Lam Dong Provinces is a potential tourist spot known for its temperate climate, natural landscapes, and rich cultural heritage.
  - iii.** Samten Hills Dalat, a majestic Buddhist heritage construction showcase richness of Lam Dong, Vietnam is also present in this province.
    - This space, the Spiritual & Cultural space of Vajrayana Buddhism certified by Vietnam Federation of UNESCO Associations, includes the world’s largest prayer wheel recognized by the Guinness World Record.

**6. In January 2024, the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) extended the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobile and Auto Components by \_\_\_\_ year, with partial amendments.**

- 1) Five
- 2) Four
- 3) Two
- 4) One
- 5) Three

Answer- **4) One**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Heavy Industries (**MHI**) extended the Production Linked Incentive (**PLI**) Scheme for **Automobile** and **Auto Components** by **one year**, with partial amendments. This amended incentive scheme will be applicable for five consecutive financial years, starting from 2023-24 (FY24) and ending in 2027-28 (FY28).

- This decision has been made after receiving the approval of the Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS).
  - These amendments aim to provide clarity and flexibility to the scheme.
- i.** Under amended Scheme, the incentive disbursement will be made in the subsequent financial year i.e. FY25.
  - ii.** If a company fails to meet the determined sales value threshold in a year, it won’t receive an incentive for that year.
  - iii.** The eligibility for benefits in the next year if the threshold is met with a 10% year-on-year growth.

**7. The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated its \_\_\_\_\_ Foundation day or Raising Day on 1st January 2024.**

- 1) 64th
- 2) 65th
- 3) 66th
- 4) 67th
- 5) 68th

Answer- **3) 66th**

**Explanation:**

Defence Research & Development Organisation (**DRDO**), the Research and Development (R&D) wing of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), annually celebrates its **Foundation day or Raising Day** on 1 January.

- DRDO, formed in 1958, celebrated its **66th foundation day on 1st January 2024**.
  - i. DRDO was formed in 1958 from the amalgamation of the then already functioning Technical Development Establishment (TDEs) of the Indian Army and the Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO).
  - ii. On 1st January 2024, DRDO Chairman also launched the **Quantity-Distance Software developed** by Pune(Maharashtra)-based lab, High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (**HEMRL**), to automate the siting of explosives and related buildings.
    - The software is an essential tool for all MoD establishments engaged in creating explosive-related infrastructure in optimum time and with greater precision.

**8. Which state has recently (in Jan '24) recognised as the 'petro capital' of India?**

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

Answer- **1) Gujarat**

**Explanation:**

**Gujarat** has been **recognised** as the '**petro capital**' of India, due to the presence of the Reliance Industry Limited's Jamnagar refinery and ONGC Petro Additions Limited (OPaL)'s state-of-the-art petrochemical complex at **Dahej** in Bharuch district.

- RIL-Jamnagar refinery complex is the largest and most complex single-site refinery in the world.
- The refinery can process 1.4 million barrels of crude oil per day. The Refinery has a complexity index of 21.1 which is the highest in the world.
- i. OPaL Refinery Complex is one of South Asia's single largest petrochemical complexes.
  - It is a joint venture(JV) between the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), the Gas Authority of India (GAIL) & Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPC).

**Note-** Dahej's PCPIR is one of the four PCPIRs declared by the Government of India(GoI) under the PCPIR Policy 2007.

**9. In January 2024, the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) amended the Central Civil Services (CCS) (pension) rules, \_\_\_\_\_(year) to allow female government servant/pensioner to nominate her child/children for family pension in precedence to her husband.**

- 1) 2021
- 2) 2022
- 3) 2000
- 4) 2005
- 5) 2020

Answer- **1) 2021**

**Explanation:**

Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, has amended the Central Civil Services **(CCS) (pension) rules, 2021**, to allow female government servant/pensioner to nominate her child/children for family pension in precedence to her husband.

- **Note:** The sub-rules (8) and (9) of Rule 50 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021, states that if a deceased Government servant/pensioner is survived by a spouse, a family pension is initially granted to the spouse, with other family members becoming eligible only after the spouse becomes ineligible or passes away.

**i. Details of the amendment:**

- In case of any marital discord leading to filing of divorce proceedings in a Court of Law or filing of a case under Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act or Dowry Prohibition Act or under Indian Penal Code(IPC), the female govt servant/pensioner can make a request to the effect that in the event of her death, the family pension may be granted to her eligible child in precedence to her spouse.
- In the event of the death of the female govt servant/pensioner during the pendency of the above proceedings the family pension will be [disbursed as following](#),
  - (a)Widower without eligible children – family pension is payable to the widower.
  - (b)Widower with minor children or children with disorder or disability of mind
  - (c)Widower with children who have attained majority but are eligible for family pension.

**10. In January 2024, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first Union Territory (UT) in India to implement the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana (PMVY).**

- 1) Lakshadweep
- 2) Ladakh
- 3) Puducherry
- 4) Delhi
- 5) Jammu and Kashmir

Answer- **5) Jammu and Kashmir**

**Explanation:**

Jammu and Kashmir **(J&K)** has become the **first** Union Territory **(UT)** in **India** to implement the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana **(PMVY)**.

- The training programme for the 1st batch of 30 trainees (Viswakarmas) in 'darzi craft' under PMVY was inaugurated at Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Shopian, J&K.

- i. The trainees will be offered basic training of 5 to 7 days, and advanced training of 15 days or more.
- ii. The trainees will be paid a stipend of Rs 500 per day and will receive a free modern toolkit worth Rs 15,000.

**11. In January 2024, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) extended the deadline to upload wage details of higher pension options online till \_\_\_\_\_.**

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

Answer- **2) 31st May 2024**

**Explanation:**

On January 3, 2024, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (**EPFO**) approved a five months extension for **employers for uploading wage** details of higher **pension options** online i.e. till **31st May, 2024** from 31st December 2023.

- The information for the same was provided by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- i. With over 3.6 lakh pending applications for the Validation of Options/ Joint Options, the EPFO has approved an extension to facilitate employers in processing these outstanding submissions.

**12. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the President of India, Droupadi Murmu's assent given to the bills in December 2023?**

- A) President of India Droupadi Murmu gave assent to the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023 replaces the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991.**
- B) The president would appoint the CEC and ECs based on the recommendation of a selection committee.**
- C) The Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023 replaces the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.**

- 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:**

**President of India** Droupadi Murmu gave assent to two bills including The **Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners** (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) **Bill, 2023**, and The Press and Registration of Periodicals (**PRP**) **Bill, 2023**

- As per the Indian constitution, a bill transforms into an act upon receiving the president's assent and is formally announced in the official gazette. Consequently, the aforementioned bills have now been enacted as acts.
- i. The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023



- The key purpose of the bill is to put in place a mechanism for the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and other Election Commissioners (ECs).
- The Bill replaces the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991. [Key features of the bill:](#)
- The **president** would **appoint** the **CEC and ECs** based on the recommendation of a **selection committee**, comprising the prime minister, a union cabinet minister, and the leader of the opposition or the leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha.
- The CEC and other EC shall hold office for a term of 6 years from the date on which he assumes his office or till he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.

**ii. The Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023** replaces the **Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867**

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is the concerned ministry Highlights of Bill
- The bill aims to modernise and simplify the registration and declaration process. It will help publishers in easing up the procedures and reducing the number of declarations and fillings.

**13. Which state's products 'Adi Kekir, Handmade Carpet and Wancho Wooden Craft' have recently (in Jan '24) received Geographical Indication (GI) tag status from Geographical Indications Registry?**

- 1) Odisha
- 2) Arunachal Pradesh
- 3) Assam
- 4) Mizoram
- 5) Madhya Pradesh

Answer- **2) Arunachal Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN) based Geographical Indications Registry has awarded the Geographical Indication **(GI) tag 3** indigenous products from **Arunachal Pradesh (AR)** namely **Adi Kekir** (ginger), **Handmade Carpet** (by Tibetan settlers), and **Wancho Wooden Craft**.

**i.** With the addition of 3 new GI products, Arunachal Pradesh now has a total of 8 GI products.

**ii.** The other 5 products are: Arunachal (Wakro) Orange; Idu Mishmi Textile; Khaw Tai (Khamti Rice); Yak Churpi and Tangsa Textile

**14. Which state government has recently (in Jan '24) declared Poila Baisakh as the State day?**

- 1) Bihar
- 2) West Bengal
- 3) Gujarat
- 4) Assam
- 5) Tripura

Answer- **2) West Bengal**

**Explanation:**

The Government of **West Bengal (WB)** declared **Poila Baisakh**, the Bengali New Year, as the **State day** and Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's 1905 ode to Bengal, "Banglar Mati, Banglar Jal" (The soil of Bengal, the water of Bengal) as the State Song.

- The state day will be celebrated as "Bangla Divas".

- Poila Baisakh is celebrated on the first day of the Baisakh month, the first month of the Bengali calendar year which usually falls on the 14th or 15th of April.

i. Rabindranath Tagore had penned the song in support of the Bangabanga Rodh movement to oppose Bengal's partition.

**Note:** Rabindranath Tagore won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 and became the 1st Indian and 1st Asian to win the award.

**15. Which state has recently (in Jan '24) celebrated the 14th edition of Chandubi Festival?**

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

Answer- **3) Assam**

**Explanation:**

The Chandubi festival is an annual 5 day festival held from the first day of the New Year along the Chandubi lake(64 km away from Guwahati city), **Assam**. The **14th edition of Chandubi Festival** was held from 1st to 5th January 2024.

- This festival celebrates the cultural heritage of Assam's tribal communities such as Rabhas, Garos, Gorkhas, etc that live near the Chandubi Lake.
- The 2024 festival was organised by the people of Rajapara village in the Kamrup district, under the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council (RHAC).

i. The opening of the festival witnessed the release of the souvenir 'Lokeia' by Gaurikanta Bhauyan, a teacher and creator of the Kuhipath.

- The festival was inaugurated by Hemanga Thakuria, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Palashbari constituency.

**16. Which state's products 'Tangail Cotton Sarees, Korial Sarees and Garad Silk Sarees' have recently (in Jan '24) received Geographical Indication (GI) tag status from Geographical Indications Registry?**

- 1) Odisha
- 2) West Bengal
- 3) Assam
- 4) Mizoram
- 5) Madhya Pradesh

Answer- **2) West Bengal**

**Explanation:**

The Geographical Indications Registry under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry has recently awarded geographical indication (**GI**) tags to 3 handloom sarees of **West Bengal**, namely Tangail, Korial and Garad received geographical indication (GI) tags under the goods of Textiles.

- The tangail sarees are woven in Nadia and Purba Bardhaman districts, while korial and garad are woven in Murshidabad and Birbhum.

**i. Tangail Cotton Sarees:** Finer count, adorned with extra warp designs using colored yarn; named after Tangail district in present Bangladesh.

**ii. Korial Sarees:** Lavish silk in white or cream; feature heavy gold and silver embellishments akin to Benarasi sarees in border and pallu.

**iii. Garad Silk Sarees:** Plain white or off-white body, unornamental colored border, striped pallu; traditionally worn during pujas; handwoven with pure silk in Murshidabad, West Bengal.

**17. Which of the following products of Odisha did 'Not' receive geographical indication (GI) tags status from the Geographical Indications Registry in January 2024?**

- 1) Dungaria Kondh embroidered shawl
- 2) Lanjia Saura painting
- 3) Wancho Wooden Craft
- 4) Mayurbhanj Kai Chutney
- 5) Koraput Kalajeera Rice

Answer- **3) Wancho Wooden Craft**

**Explanation:**

The Geographical Indications Registry awarded **GI tags** to **7 distinct products** of **Odisha**. These include two local foods, three agricultural products and one each for Textile and Handicraft products viz. Lanjia Saura painting, Dungaria Kondh embroidered shawl, Gajapati Date Palm, Dhenkanal Maggi, Mayurbhanj Kai Chutney, Nayagarh Kanteimundi Brinjal and Koraput Kalajeera Rice.

- With this, Odisha has received **25 GI tags** to date.

**18. In January 2024, the Indian Navy (IN)'s Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) in Gurugram, Haryana is set to be upgraded into the National Maritime Domain Awareness (NMDA) centre in about 3 years.**

**Which company is entrusted with the responsibility of providing all the requisite hardware and software necessary for the NMDA?**

- 1) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- 2) Bharat Electronics Limited
- 3) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- 4) Bharat Dynamics Limited
- 5) Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited

Answer- **2) Bharat Electronics Limited**

**Explanation:**

The Indian Navy (**IN**)'s Information Management and Analysis Centre (**IMAC**) in Gurugram, Haryana is **set to be upgraded** into the National Maritime Domain Awareness (**NMDA**) **centre** in about **3 years**. NMDA aims to address maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

**i.** NMDA center will unite 15 departments and organizations spanning seven ministries including Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas(MoPNG), Ministry of Defense(MoD), Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPS&W)

**ii. Bharat Electronics Limited** (BEL), a Navratna Public Sector Unit (PSU) under the Ministry of Defence (MoD) is **entrusted** with the responsibility of providing all the requisite hardware and software necessary for the **NMDA**.

**19. In which state, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya has recently (in Jan '24) inaugurated "PRASADAM", India's 1st Healthy & Hygienic Food Street?**

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

**Answer- 5) Madhya Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

On 7th January 2024, Dr. **Mansukh Mandaviya**, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, inaugurated "**PRASADAM**", **India's 1st Healthy & Hygienic Food Street**, at Neelkanth Van, Mahakal Lok, in Ujjain, **Madhya Pradesh** (MP).

- Dr. Mohan Yadav, Chief Minister(CM) of MP along with other dignitaries were present during the inauguration.
  - PRASADAM, with a total number of 17 shops spread across 939 square meters, offers convenient and culturally rich dining options for devotees of Mahakaleshwar Temple.
- i.** The Union Minister also launched the Mannhit app, an initiative facilitating screening for mental health.
- ii.** Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) released "The DART Book" to empower consumers to tackle adulteration at home with simple tests.

**20. Which state's Transport Corporation has recently (in Jan '24) launched Baayu, India's First 100% electric and decentralised open mobility electric bike (e-bike) taxi service?**

- 1) Odisha
- 2) Assam
- 3) West Bengal
- 4) Gujarat
- 5) Madhya Pradesh

**Answer- 2) Assam**

**Explanation:**

**Assam** State Transport Corporation (ASTC) has launched an initiative called '**Baayu**' a Clean Air Movement to improve air quality in Assam's cities.

- It is **India's First 100%** electric and decentralised open mobility electric bike (**e-bike**) **taxi service**.
  - The e-bike taxi service was launched by Parimal Suklabaidya, Minister of Transport of Assam Government, in Guwahati, Assam.
- i.** Baayu Clean Air Movement is a sustainable mobility initiative launched by ASTC in collaboration with Guwahati based Bikozee Ecotech Private Limited led by the Department of Transport, Government of Assam.
- ii.** The movement is supported by the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog's Shoonya Zero Pollution Mobility campaign.

**21. In January 2024, India's 1st 31-metre, single-span U-girder was successfully cast for \_\_\_\_\_ (city) Suburban Rail Project.**

- 1) Kanpur
- 2) Mumbai
- 3) Pune
- 4) Bengaluru
- 5) Chennai

**Answer- 4) Bengaluru**

**Explanation:**

On 6th January 2024, for the **1st time** in **India**, a **31-metre**, single-span **U-girder** was successfully cast at the casting yard in Devanahalli for the **Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP)**. So far, 28-metre U-girders have been used in metro projects across India. For the first time, BSRP has decided to use the 31m U girder.

- These girders will be used for the construction of a viaduct (elevated section) of around 8 km from Hebbal to Yeshwanthpur, a part of the Mallige line or Corridor 2 of BSRP.

**Note-** BSRP is implemented by Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-Ride), A Joint Venture of the government of Karnataka and the Ministry of Railways.

**22. Which of the following points is "Incorrect" with respect to the cabinet approval on 5th January 2024?**

- 1) The union cabinet has approved the overarching scheme "PRITHvi Vigyan (PRITHVI)" of the Ministry of Earth Sciences with a total outlay of Rs 4,797 crore.
- 2) The Union Cabinet appraised the MoU signed between the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC) for cooperation on the development of a Joint Small Satellite.
- 3) Cabinet approved the MoU signed between Indian Railways(IR), the Government of India and the United States for International Development / India (USAID/India) to support IR to achieve Net Zero Carbon Emission by 2030.
- 4) The proposal was approved to declare Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya Airport as an International Airport and name it "Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham".
- 5) The Cabinet approved the MoU signed between the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas(MoPNG), GoI and the Ministry of Natural Resources, United Arab Emirates (UAE) on cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector.

**Answer- 5) The Cabinet approved the MoU signed between the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas(MoPNG), GoI and the Ministry of Natural Resources, United Arab Emirates (UAE) on cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector.**

**Explanation:**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** has approved the following proposals on 5th January 2024,

- The union cabinet chaired by PM Modi has approved the overarching scheme "**PRITHvi Vigyan (PRITHVI)**" of MoES with a total outlay of Rs 4,797 crore. The scheme will be implemented during the period from 2021 to 2026.
- The Union Cabinet appraised the Memorandum of Understanding **(MoU)** signed between the Indian Space Research Organization **(ISRO)** and Mauritius Research and Innovation Council **(MRIC)** for cooperation on the development of a **Joint Small Satellite**.

- The Union Cabinet approved the MoU signed between Indian Railways(**IR**), the Government of India and the United States Agency for International Development / India (**USAID/India**) on 14th June 2023 to support IR to achieve Net Zero Carbon Emission by 2030.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi has approved the proposal to declare **Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya Airport** as an International Airport and name it "Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham".
- The Union Cabinet approved the MoU signed between the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas(MoPNG), Government of India and the Ministry of Natural Resources, **Republic of Guyana** on cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector.
  - The MoU is signed for 5 years and can be automatically renewed on a quinquennium basis.

**23. As per the report 'MSMEs: Unleashing the Engines of Economic Prosperity', prepared by CBRE India Research in January 2024, \_\_\_\_\_ (state) has accounted for the highest share (17%) of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India.**

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

Answer- **4) Maharashtra**

**Explanation:**

According to a report titled **MSMEs: Unleashing the Engines of Economic Prosperity**, prepared by **CBRE India Research**, **Maharashtra** has accounted for the **highest share (17%)** of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**) in India followed by Tamil Nadu (TN) (10%) and Uttar Pradesh (UP) (9%).

- The report was unveiled during the CREDAI National New India Summit 2024 (5th edition) held in Varanasi, UP from 7th to 9th January 2024.
  - CBRE India Research is the knowledge partner of the New India Summit 2024.
- i.** The MSME sector plays a vital component in the economic progress of India, contributing nearly 30% to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and about 44% of Exports in India.
- UP in particular has a 90-lakh MSME base and contributes around 14% share of India's total MSMEs.

**24. In which city, the International Kite Festival 2024 was inaugurated in January 2024?**

- 1) Kolkata, West Bengal
- 2) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- 3) Chandipur, Odisha
- 4) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 5) Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Answer- **5) Ahmedabad, Gujarat**

**Explanation:**

Chief Minister(CM) of Gujarat, Bhupendrabhai Patel has inaugurated the **International Kite Festival 2024** at Sabarmati Riverfront, Vallabh Sadan in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.

- i.** The festival will be held from 7th to 14th January 2024 in Ahmedabad.

ii. The festival marks the days in the Hindu calendar when winter begins turning to summer, known as Makar Sankranti or Uttarayan.

iii. The festival features over 153 international kite flyers from 55 countries, 68 national kite flyers from 12 states, and 865 kite enthusiasts from 23 cities in Gujarat.

**Note:** Since 1989, the city of Ahmedabad has hosted the International Kite Festival as part of the official celebration of Uttarayan.

**25. In January 2024, the Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) committed an investment of Rs \_\_\_\_\_ for development of river cruise tourism in India in its first meeting.**

- 1) 60,000 crore
- 2) 45,000 crore
- 3) 55,000 crore
- 4) 65,000 crore
- 5) 50,000 crore

**Answer- 2) 45,000 crore**

**Explanation:**

On 8th January 2024, the **first meeting** of Inland Waterways Development Council (**IWDC**), chaired by the Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), committed an investment of **Rs 45,000 crore** for development of **river cruise tourism** in India.

- Rs 35,000 crore of this sum has been allocated for cruise vessels and Rs 10,000 crore is set aside for development of cruise terminal infrastructure by 2047 (end of Amrit Kaal).

i. The Union Minister also launched '**Harit Nauka**– Guidelines for Green Transition of Inland Vessels' and 'River Cruise Tourism Roadmap, 2047' during the meeting. [Click here to read more.](#)

**26. Which state government has recently (in Jan '24) launched a new social welfare scheme 'Yogyasree' for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students?**

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

**Answer- 3) West Bengal**

**Explanation:**

On January 8, 2024, the Chief Minister (CM) of **West Bengal (WB)** Mamata Banerjee launched a new **social welfare scheme 'Yogyasree'** during a programme in Kolkata, WB.

- Under the Yogyasree scheme, **50 centres** will be opened all across the state where the Scheduled Caste (**SC**) and Scheduled Tribe (**ST**) **students** will be able to take training completely free of cost for competitive examinations.

**27. In January 2024, the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) collaborated with the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to launch the fifth training program under the Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme in Chilika Lake, a Ramsar Site in \_\_\_\_\_ (state).**

- 1) Karnataka
- 2) West Bengal
- 3) Assam

4) Odisha

5) Maharashtra

Answer- **4) Odisha**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Tourism (**MoT**) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (**MoEF&CC**) has launched the fifth training program under the Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme in **Chilika Lake**, a Ramsar Site in **Odisha** on 6th January 2024. [Click here to read more](#)

**i.** In the first phase of the Capacity Building Scheme, five priority Ramsar sites were identified namely Sultanpur National Park(Haryana), Sirpur Wetland (Madhya Pradesh), Yashwant Sagar(Madhya Pradesh), Bhitarkanika National Park(Odisha), and Chilika Lake( Odisha).

**ii.** Out of five sites, the training programmes for Sultanpur National Park, Sirpur Wetland, and Yashwant Sagar were completed in December 2023. The fourth was completed in Bhitarkanika National Park on January 5, 2024.

**28. In January 2024, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) notified the revised Pharma manufacturing rules under Schedule M guidelines of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, \_\_\_\_\_(year), in the Gazette of India.**

1) 1942

2) 1940

3) 1939

4) 1945

5) 1930

Answer- **4) 1945**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**) notified the revised Pharma manufacturing rules under **Schedule M** guidelines of the **Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945**, in the Gazette of India to ensure robust quality control for pharma and biopharmaceutical products. [Click here to read more](#)

**i.** The revised Schedule M has been notified as rules to ensure 'Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Requirements of Premises, Plant and Equipment for Pharmaceutical Products.'

**29. In January 2024, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) introduced substantial revisions to its Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) Regulations' to address fatigue among pilots and crew and enhance overall flight safety.**

**DGCA has increased the mandatory weekly rest period for flight crew to 48 hours from the previous \_\_\_\_\_.**

1) 26 hours

2) 36 hours

3) 24 hours

4) 40 hours

5) 38 hours

Answer- **2) 36 hours**



**Explanation:**

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (**DGCA**) has introduced substantial revisions to its Flight Duty Time Limitations (**FDTL**) **Regulations'** to address fatigue among pilots and crew and enhance overall flight safety. [Click here to read more](#)

- The revised FDTL regulations are effective immediately, and compliance is mandatory by June 1, 2024.

**i. DGCA has increased** the mandatory weekly rest period for flight crew to **48 hours** from the previous **36 hours**.

**30. The Indian Army was officially declared 2024 as the \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) Year of Transformation
- 2) Year of Technology Absorption
- 3) Year of Cyber Operation
- 4) Year of Digital Transformation
- 5) Year of Border Security

**Answer- 2) Year of Technology Absorption**

**Explanation:**

The Indian Army has officially declared **2024** as the “**Year of Technology Absorption**”, symbolising a dedicated commitment to integrating cutting-edge technologies, fostering development, and promoting innovation.

- The objective is to transform the Indian Army into a modern and agile force, with a strong emphasis on indigenization.

**31. In January 2024, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first International Organization for Standardization (ISO) / International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) 27001:2022 certified petrochemical organisation in India.**

- 1) Haldia Petrochemicals Limited
- 2) Reliance Petroleum Limited
- 3) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- 4) Savita Oil Technologies Limited
- 5) Supreme Petrochem Limited

**Answer- 1) Haldia Petrochemicals Limited**

**Explanation:**

**Haldia Petrochemicals Limited (HPL)** has become the **first International Organization for Standardization (ISO) / International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) 27001:2022 certified** petrochemical organisation in India.

**i.** The certification was awarded by the United Kingdom (UK) based certification body, British Standards Institution (BSI) in a ceremony held in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB).

**32. As per a report 'Engendering Land Ports in India' released by the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) in January 2024, stated that LPAI targets to make all land ports gender friendly in the next \_\_\_\_\_ years.**

- 1) 4 years
- 2) 2 years
- 3) 6 years

4) 3 years

5) 5 years

Answer- **4) 3 years**

**Explanation:**

The Land Ports Authority of India (**LPAI**), working under the aegis of Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), released a report title 'Engendering Land Ports in India', which highlights **LPAI's target** to make **all land ports** gender friendly in the **next 3 years**.

- The study aims for a gender-inclusive framework for cross-border trade and tourism through land ports in India. Land Ports are also known as Integrated Check Posts (IPCs).
- i. The report provided insights to the gender assessment undertaken at three selected land ports in India viz. ICP Agartala (Tripura), ICP Petrapole (West Bengal), and ICP Raxual (Bihar).

**33. Which Tiger Reserve has recently (in Jan '24) designated as India's first Dark Sky Park and Asia's fifth park for protecting the night sky?**

- 1) Corbett Tiger Reserve (Uttarakhand)
- 2) Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka)
- 3) Pench Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra)
- 4) Simlipal Tiger Reserve (Odisha)
- 5) Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (Assam)

Answer- **3) Pench Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra)**

**Explanation:**

The Pench Tiger Reserve (**PTR**) in **Maharashtra** has been designated as India's first Dark Sky Park and Asia's fifth park for protecting the night sky and preventing light pollution, making the place ideal for astronomy enthusiasts.

- i. The Dark Sky Place certification focuses on lighting policy, dark sky-friendly retrofits, outreach and education, and monitoring the night sky.

**34. Which state government has recently (in Jan '24) launched a 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan' scheme to develop 4 million Self-Help-Group (SHG) women as rural micro-entrepreneurs?**

- 1) Gujarat
- 2) Assam
- 3) West Bengal
- 4) Odisha
- 5) Madhya Pradesh

Answer- **2) Assam**

**Explanation:**

The Chief Minister (CM) of **Assam** Himanta Biswa Sarma launched a '**Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan**' scheme to develop 4 million Self-Help-Group (**SHG**) women as rural micro-entrepreneurs and help them become 'lakhpati baidos (elder sister)'.

- The outlay of the scheme is Rs 4,000 crore and will be offered to SHG members who are committed to personal business plans along with their group activity.

**35. In January 2024, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) launched the 'New Solar Power Scheme' with an outlay of Rs \_\_\_\_\_ for electrification in habitations and villages of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG).**

- 1) 729 crore
- 2) 218 crore
- 3) 515 crore
- 4) 387 crore
- 5) 629 crore

Answer- **3) 515 crore**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (**MNRE**) has launched the '**New Solar Power Scheme**' with an outlay of **Rs 515 crore** for electrification in habitations and villages of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (**PVTG**).

- i.** The scheme was launched under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) programme.
- ii.** The scheme launched for the tenure expanding from Financial Year 2023-24 (FY24) to Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26).

**36. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the States' Startup Ranking 2022 & National Startup Awards (NSA) 2023, presented in January 2024?**

**A) The results of the 4th edition of 'States' Startup Ranking 2022 & 4th 'National Startup Awards (NSA) 2023 were declared by Startup India, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI).**

**B) In the State's Startup Ranking 2022, Gujarat, Karnataka Kerala, and Tamil Nadu (TN) emerged as the best-performing States in Category A (Population above 1 Crore)**

**C) Axial Aero Private Limited in Medak, Telangana won the National Startup Awards 2023 under the AeroInnovate Award category.**

- 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 the occasion of 8th National Startup Day 2024 (on January 16, 2024), the results of the 4th edition of 'States' Startup Ranking 2022- On support to Startup Ecosystems of States and Union Territories' & 4th 'National Startup Awards (NSA) 2023- Celebrating Achievers Ahead of the Curve' were declared by **Startup India**, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (**MoCI**).

- i.** In the State's Startup Ranking 2022, **Gujarat, Karnataka Kerala, and Tamil Nadu (TN)** emerged as the best-performing States in Category A (Population above 1 Cr) for developing startup ecosystems for budding entrepreneurs
- ii.** **Axial Aero Private Limited** in Medak, Telangana won the **National Startup Awards 2023** under the AeroInnovate Award category. [Click here to read more](#)

**37. In January 2024, Union Minister of Defence, Rajnath Singh approved the proposal to launch Group (Term) Insurance Scheme for Casual Paid Labourers (CPLs) engaged by Border Roads Organisation(BRO)/General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF).**

**The scheme provides Rs \_\_\_\_\_ as insurance to CPLs' families/Next of Kin in case of death.**

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

**Answer- 3) 10 lakh**

**Explanation:**

On January 13, 2024, Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD), approved the proposal to launch **Group (Term) Insurance Scheme** for Casual Paid Labourers (**CPLs**) engaged by Border Roads Organisation (**BRO**)/General Reserve Engineer Force (**GREF**) for their ongoing projects.

- The scheme provides **Rs 10 lakh** as insurance to CPLs' families/Next of Kin in case of death.

**38. According to a recent NITI Aayog report 'National Multidimensional Poverty: A Progress Review -2023,' released in January 2024, \_\_\_\_\_ individuals emerged from multidimensional poverty between 2013-14 and 2022-23.**

- 1) 39.10 crore
- 2) 24.82 crore
- 3) 36.21 crore
- 4) 29.40 crore
- 5) 30.12 crore

**Answer- 2) 24.82 crore**

**Explanation:**

The National Institution for Transforming India's (**NITI Aayog**) discussion paper on the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), 'National Multidimensional Poverty: A Progress Review - 2023,' has reduced India's Multidimensional poverty from 29.17% (**2013-14**) to 11.28% (**2022-23**), with about **24.82 crore individuals** emerged from **poverty** during this transformative period (**9 years**).

**i.** At the State level, Uttar Pradesh leads the list with 5.94 crore people escaping poverty, followed by Bihar at 3.77 crore and Madhya Pradesh at 2.30 crore. [Click here to read more](#)

**39. In January 2024, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) launched the 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' initiative to discourage user behavior of using a single FASTag for multiple vehicles.**

**Under the initiative, FASTags with incomplete KYC to get deactivated/blacklisted by banks post \_\_\_\_\_ 2024**

- 1) 30th April
- 2) 31st January
- 3) 30th June
- 4) 31st March
- 5) 31st July

**Answer- 2) 31st January**

**Explanation:**

The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) launched the 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' initiative to discourage user behavior of using a single FASTag for multiple vehicles or linking multiple FASTags to a particular vehicle. [Click here to read more.](#)

- Only the latest FASTag account shall remain active, as previous tags will be deactivated or blacklisted after **January 31, 2024**, even though they have a valid balance.
- The FASTag users must register the latest FASTag with the completion of 'Know Your Customer' (KYC) process as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines.

**40. In January 2024, V.K. Saraswat, Member (S&T), NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog, inaugurated India's 1st National Highway Steel Slag Road section on National Highway(NH)-66 connecting \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) Pune-Gujarat
- 2) Noida-Bihar
- 3) Bengaluru-Goa
- 4) Gandhinagar-Maharashtra
- 5) Mumbai-Goa

Answer- **5) Mumbai-Goa**

**Explanation:**

Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member (S&T), NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog, inaugurated **India's 1st National Highway Steel Slag Road** section on National Highway (NH)-66 connecting **Mumbai-Goa**.

- The four lane road stretches for about 1 kilometre on Indapur-Panvel Section of NH-66.
- i. The road was constructed by Mumbai (Maharashtra) based JSW Steel, under the guidance of New Delhi (Delhi) based Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) – Central Road Research Institute (CRRI).

**41. In January 2024, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) celebrated its 150th Foundation Day.**

**IMD developed an in-house Web-Geographic Information System (GIS)-based integrated Decision Support System (DSS) called Weather Analysis and Forecast \_\_\_\_\_ System (WAFES).**

- 1) Energy
- 2) Enabling
- 3) Equipment
- 4) Engine
- 5) Emulator

Answer- **2) Enabling**

**Explanation:**

On January 15, 2024, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), celebrated its **150th Foundation Day** commemorating 150 years of its establishment and service to the nation.

i. IMD developed an in-house Web-Geographic Information System (**GIS**)-based integrated Decision Support System (**DSS**) called **Weather Analysis and Forecast Enabling System (WAFES)**, inspired by Pancha Mahabhuta i.e. Water, Air, Fire, Earth and Sky.

ii. IMD launched MAUSAM, an integrated GIS based mobile app and released Mausam Gram in line with programme of “Sabka Saath Sabka Vikaas” during the event. [Click here to read more](#)

**42. As per the 3rd Advance Estimate of Area and Production of Various Horticultural Crops for 2022–23 released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare in January 2024, the estimation of total horticulture production for 2022–23 is \_\_\_\_\_ tonnes.**

- 1) 502.15 million
- 2) 392.14 million
- 3) 355.25 million
- 4) 419.34 million
- 5) 302.12 million

Answer- **3) 355.25 million**

**Explanation:**

On January 18, 2024, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare (**MoA&FW**) released the Third Advance Estimate of Area and Production of Various Horticultural Crops for 2022–23.

i. As per it, the **estimation** of total horticulture production for **2022–23** is **355.25 million tonnes**, which is about 8.07 million tonnes more (an increase of 2.32%) than 2021–22 (final). [Click here to read more.](#)

**43. In which state, S Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has recently (in Jan ‘24) launched India’s first Graphene Centre - India Innovation Centre for Graphene (IICG) & Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Intelligent Internet of Things (IIoT) Sensors?**

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

Answer- **5) Kerala**

**Explanation:**

The two flagship programs namely “Centre of Excellence (**CoE**) in Intelligent Internet of Things (**IIoT**) **Sensors**” and India’s first Graphene Centre - “India Innovation Centre for Graphene (**IICG**)” were launched by S Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) in Kochi, **Kerala**.

- IICG aims to promote Research & Development (R&D), product innovation and capacity building in the area of Graphene and two-dimensional (2D) material systems.

**44. In January 2024, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first state in India to launch a regenerative tourism model to redefine tourism.**

- 1) Tamil Nadu
- 2) Karnataka
- 3) Maharashtra

4) Goa

5) Madhya Pradesh

Answer- **4) Goa**

**Explanation:**

The Government of **Goa** has launched **India's first regenerative tourism model** to redefine tourism by promoting environmental restoration, cultural preservation, and community empowerment.

- The model aims to promote 11 spiritual sites under the **Ekadasha Teertha campaign**.

i. The model was launched to mark the 62nd anniversary of the Liberation of Goa (December 19, 2023).

**45. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Cabinet approval on 18th January 2024?**

**A) The Union Cabinet has approved the creation of three posts at the level of Joint Secretary i.e. two posts of Joint Secretary and one post of Economic Adviser for the 16th Finance Commission.**

**B) The Union Cabinet approved a MoU between the GoI and the European Commission on Working Arrangements on Semiconductors Ecosystems, its supply chain and innovation under the framework of European Union (EU)-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC).**

**C) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved equity investment by South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) and Coal India Limited (CIL).**

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 January 18, 2024, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) of India, Narendra Modi, has approved the following proposals:

**i. The Union Cabinet** has approved the creation of three posts at the level of Joint Secretary i.e. two posts of Joint Secretary and one post of Economic Adviser for the **16th Finance Commission (FC)**.

**ii. The Union Cabinet** approved a MoU between the GoI and the European Commission on Working Arrangements on Semiconductors Ecosystems, its supply chain and innovation under the framework of European Union (**EU**)-India Trade and Technology Council (**TTC**).

**iii. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** approved equity investment by South Eastern Coalfields Limited (**SECL**), Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (**MCL**) and Coal India Limited (**CIL**). [Click here to read more](#)

**46. In January 2024, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi released six special commemorative postage stamps dedicated to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple in \_\_\_\_\_.**

1) Bhubaneswar, Odisha

2) Nashik, Maharashtra

3) Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh

4) Orchha, Madhya Pradesh

5) Patna, Bihar

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

**Explanation:**

Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** has released **six special commemorative postage stamps** dedicated to the Shri **Ram Janmabhoomi** temple in **Ayodhya(Uttar Pradesh)** and also revealed a book with stamps issued by various countries portraying Lord Ram.

- The commemorative collection comprises six distinct stamps, including depictions of the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, Lord Ganesh, Lord Hanuman, Jatayu, Kevatraj, and Ma Shabri.

**i.** The consecration ceremony (Pran Pratishtha) of Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya is to be held on 22nd January 2024. [Click here to read more](#)

**47. Which state has recently (in Jan '24) celebrated the 9th edition of the Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF)?**

- 1) Mizoram
- 2) Sikkim
- 3) Odisha
- 4) West Bengal
- 5) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer- **5) Arunachal Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

The **9th edition** of the Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival **(PPHF)** was celebrated at Seijosa in the Pakke-Kessang district of **Arunachal Pradesh (AR)** from January 18th to 20th, 2024.

- It was held under the theme “Domutoh Domutoh, Paga hum Domutoh,” meaning ‘Let Our Hornbills Remain’ in the Nyishi language.

**48. Which state’s Kachchhi Kharek has recently (in Jan '24) got geographical indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indication Registry?**

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

Answer- **5) Gujarat**

**Explanation:**

**Kachchhi Kharek** or Kutchi dates, the indigenous dates variety of Kutch in **Gujarat** got a geographical indication **(GI) tag** from the Chennai (Tamil Nadu) based Geographical Indication Registry under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

- Kachchhi Kharek has become the **second fruit** of Gujarat to get a GI tag after Gir Kesar Mango (2011) under the goods of Agriculture.



**49. Which Indian Institute of Management (IIM) has recently (in Jan '24) collaborated with the Strategy Perspective Planning and Monitoring Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to develop 'ICAI Vision 2049'?**

- 1) IIM Kozhikode
- 2) IIM Ahmedabad
- 3) IIM Bangalore
- 4) IIM Lucknow
- 5) IIM Indore

**Answer- 2) IIM Ahmedabad**

**Explanation:**

The Strategy Perspective Planning and Monitoring Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in partnership with the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) **Ahmedabad** (Gujarat) has initiated a task of formulating **ICAI Vision 2049**.

- It aims to make ICAI a globally recognized leader in the field of accountancy.

**50. In which company, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, has recently (in Jan '24) inaugurated the first pilot state-of-the-art technology project to make jet fuel from Alcohol?**

- 1) Piramal Industries Limited
- 2) Triveni Engineering & Industries Limited
- 3) Praj Industries Limited
- 4) Suzlon Energy Limited
- 5) Thermax Limited

**Answer- 3) Praj Industries Limited**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), **Hardeep Singh Puri**, has inaugurated the **first pilot** state-of-the-art technology project to make **jet fuel** from **Alcohol** in **Praj Industries Limited** Research and Development (R&D) unit in Pune, Maharashtra.

- This project will produce sustainable biological aviation fuel (SAF).

**51. In January 2024, the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education released the 'Guidelines for Regulation of Coaching Center 2024' which prohibits coaching centres from enrolling students below the age of \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) 10
- 2) 12
- 3) 16
- 4) 18
- 5) 15

**Answer- 3) 16**

**Explanation:**

On January 19, 2023, the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education (MoE) released the 'Guidelines for Regulation of Coaching Center 2024' which prohibits **Coaching centres** from enrolling students **below the age of 16**.

**i.** This decision has been taken amid rising student suicides, exorbitant high fees at the study centres and mental pressure. [Click here to read more](#)

**52. In which state, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala has recently (in Jan '24) launched the project of depositing artificial reefs in the seabed?**

- 1) Odisha
- 2) West Bengal
- 3) Karnataka
- 4) Tamil Nadu
- 5) Kerala

Answer- **5) Kerala**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister Parshottam Rupala, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (**MoFAHD**) virtually launched the project of **depositing artificial reefs in the seabed** in Vizhinjam, Thiruvananthapuram, **Kerala**.

- The project aims to increase the income of fishermen by enhancing the fish population in the waters of Kerala.

**i.** The project is implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (**PMMSY**) of **MoFAHD** by the Kerala State Coastal Area Development Corporation (KSCADC).

**53. In January 2024, the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi participated in the Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Shri Ramlalla idol in the newly built Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.**

**The 51-inch (4.25-ft) Ramlalla Idol placed in the sanctum of the temple was sculpted by**

- 
- 1) Latika Katt
  - 2) Arun Yogiraj
  - 3) Tutu Pattnaik
  - 4) Shilpa Gupta
  - 5) Anish Kapoor

Answer- **2) Arun Yogiraj**

**Explanation:**

On 22nd January 2024, The Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi** participated in the **Pran Pratishtha** (consecration /Establishing the Life Force) ceremony of **Shri Ramlalla idol** in the newly built Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir(temple) in **Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh(UP)**.

- The consecration ceremony was officiated by a team of priests led by Varanasi, UP Priest Lakshmikant Dixit.

**i.** The **51-inch** (4.25-ft) **Ramlalla Idol** placed in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple was sculpted by Mysuru (Karnataka) based **Arun Yogiraj**.

**ii.** The Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir was designed by celebrated architect Chandrakant B Sompura, 81, and his son Ashish, 51 in the Māru-Gurjara architecture of Nagara style, a type of Hindu temple architecture found primarily in northern India. It is constructed by **Larsen and Toubro (L&T)**. [Click here to read more](#)

**54. In January 2024, Air India launched India's first Airbus A350-900 model aircraft 'AI 589' from Bengaluru, Karnataka to \_\_\_\_\_ (city).**

- 1) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- 2) Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh
- 3) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 4) New Delhi, Delhi
- 5) Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Answer- **3) Mumbai, Maharashtra**

**Explanation:**

**Air India Limited** has launched India's and Air India's first Airbus A350-900 model aircraft '**AI 589**'.

- The flight made its inaugural fly from Kempegowda International Airport, **Bengaluru (Karnataka)** to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, **Mumbai (Maharashtra)**.

i. The Airbus A350 was inaugurated by Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, in the Wings India 2024 Summit which was held in Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad (Telangana) from 18th to 21st January 2024.

**55. Which state government has recently (in Jan '24) launched the 'My School-My Pride' campaign under the 'Apna Vidyalay' programme?**

- 1) Maharashtra
- 2) Odisha
- 3) Gujarat
- 4) Himachal Pradesh
- 5) Madhya Pradesh

Answer- **4) Himachal Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

**Himachal Pradesh (HP)** Government has launched the '**My School-My Pride**' campaign under the '**Apna Vidyalay**' programme, aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 aimed to enhance the quality of education in government schools by fostering collaboration among various stakeholders.

i. Under the program, the 'Giving Back to Society' initiative invites retired teachers, professionals, housewives, or any community members to voluntarily join the academic support team.

**56. Which company has recently (in Jan '24) received the approval from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) to establish a wholly-owned subsidiary company for green energy and gas business?**

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

Answer- **5) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation**

**Explanation:**

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (**ONGC**) has received the **approval** from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (**MoPNG**) to establish a wholly-owned subsidiary company for **green energy and gas business**.

- The proposed name of the subsidiary is “ONGC Green Limited” subject to the approval of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs(MoCA).

**57. In which city, the 9th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF 2023) was held in January 2024?**

- 1) Kolkata, West Bengal
- 2) Pune, Maharashtra
- 3) Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- 4) Faridabad, Haryana
- 5) Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Answer- **4) Faridabad, Haryana**

**Explanation:**

The **9th edition** of India International Science Festival (**IISF 2023**) was held from 17th to 20th January 2024 at **Faridabad, Haryana**.

- IISF 2023 is held under the central theme – ‘Science and Technology Public Outreach in Amrit Kaal’.
- In the category of the **Best Technology Pavilion Award**, Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), Ministry of Defence stood first. [Click here to read more](#)

**58. In January 2024, Union Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah inaugurated and addressed the 5th International and 44th All India Criminology Conference at National Forensic Science University (NFSU) at \_\_\_\_\_ (city).**

- 1) Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- 2) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 3) Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- 4) New Delhi, Delhi
- 5) Bengaluru, Karnataka

Answer- **3) Gandhinagar, Gujarat**

**Explanation:**

On 23rd January 2024, **Union Minister Amit Shah**, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) inaugurated and addressed the **5th International and 44th All India Criminology Conference** at National Forensic Science University (**NFSU**) at **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

- i. The conference on “Behavioural Forensics: Reintegrating expanding contours of Criminology and Criminalistics” was organised by NFSU and Indian Society of Criminology (ISC),
- ii. The Union Minister also inaugurated the Centre of Excellence in Digital Forensics at NFSU to support capacity building and investigation.

**59. Which of the following organisations/Government agencies, along with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare have recently (in Jan ‘24) launched the Investment Forum for Advancing Climate Resilient Agrifood Systems in India?**

- 1) Food and Agriculture Organization
- 2) NITI Aayog
- 3) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 1 & 3

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

**Explanation:**

The **NITI Aayog** (National Institution for Transforming India), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (**MoA&FW**), and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**) jointly launched the 'Investment Forum for Advancing Climate Resilient Agrifood Systems in India'.

**i.** The joint initiative aims to foster partnerships and investments among the government, private sectors, farmers' organizations, and financial institutions in India, to advance climate-resilient agrifood systems.

**60. In which city, Union Minister of Coal, Mines, and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi has recently (in Jan '24) inaugurated the second State Mining Ministers' Conference?**

- 1) Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- 2) Pune, Maharashtra
- 3) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- 4) Raichur, Karnataka
- 5) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Answer- **5) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister of Coal, Mines, and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi inaugurated the **second State Mining Ministers' Conference** held in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh** on 23rd January 2024.

**i.** Madhya Pradesh bagged the first rank and received the award from the Union minister for recognizing its efforts in the mining auction for the year 2022-23.

**ii.** The Coffee table book 'Building Trust-Transforming Lives' showcases the activities of the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) was also released during the conference by the Minister. [Click here to read more](#)

**61. In Which state/UT, the Dagger Division of the Indian Army has recently (in Jan '24) opened 'India Selfie Point' near the Line of Control (LOC)?**

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

Answer- **4) Jammu and Kashmir**

**Explanation:**

The **Dagger Division** (the then 19th Indian Infantry Division) of the **Indian Army** opened '**India Selfie Point**' near the Line of Control (**LOC**) in Uri in the Baramulla district of **Jammu and Kashmir**(J&K).

**i.** It is located along National Highway 44 (**NH 44**), which is the longest national highway in India and connects Srinagar (J&K) to Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu).

**62. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Asia’s Largest Aviation Expo-Wings India 2024 held at Hyderabad, Telangana in January 2024?**

- A) Kempegowda International Airport and Chennai International Airport won the Airport of the Year (Joint Awards) at the 4th edition of “Wings India Awards” event.**
- B) Timetooth, a Bengaluru-based engineering company has launched India’s first-ever aircraft passenger seat at Wings India 2024.**
- C) Air India Express unveiled a new aircraft, VT-BXH, a Boeing 737-8 aircraft with a Kalamkari-inspired tail Pattern reflecting the richness of Indian Culture through its tail art.**

- 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:**

Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated **Asia’s Largest Aviation Expo-Wings India 2024** at Begumpet Airport in **Hyderabad, Telangana** from 18th to 21st January 2024.

**i. Bangalore International Airport Limited (Kempegowda International Airport) and Delhi International Airport Limited (Indira Gandhi International Airport) won the Airport of the Year (Joint Awards) at the 4th edition of “Wings India Awards” event.**

**ii. Timetooth, a Bengaluru-based engineering company has launched India’s first-ever aircraft passenger seat at Wings India 2024.**

**iii. Air India Express unveiled a new aircraft, VT-BXH, a Boeing 737-8 aircraft with a Kalamkari-inspired tail Pattern reflecting the richness of Indian Culture through its tail art. [Click here to read more](#)**

**63. In January 2024, the Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi launched development projects worth more than Rs 19,100 crore in \_\_\_\_\_ (District).**

- 1) Pune, Maharashtra
- 2) Patna, Bihar
- 3) Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh
- 4) Deoghar, Jharkhand
- 5) Malkangiri, Odisha

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

**Explanation:**

On January 25, 2024, the Prime Minister (PM) of India **Narendra Modi** launched **development projects** worth more than **Rs 19,100 crore** in **Bulandshahr district** in western **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** for several important sectors like rail, road, oil and gas and urban development & Housing.

- A 173-km-long double-line electrified section between New Khurja and New Rewari on the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) was inaugurated by flagging off goods trains from the two stations through video conference. [Click here to read more](#)

**64. Which of the following points is 'Incorrect' with respect to the 75th Republic Day (R-Day) of India celebrated on 26th January 2024?**

- 1) The Theme of R-Day 2024 is 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) and 'Bharat- Loktantra ki Matraka' (Bharat – The Mother of Democracy).
- 2) President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi was the chief guest for Republic Day 2024.
- 3) The President of India, Droupadi Murmu approved Tatrakshak Medals to 6 outstanding Indian Coast Guard (ICG) personnel.
- 4) President approved conferment of Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards-2023 on 31 persons.
- 5) During the event, a total of 1132 personnel of Police, Fire Service, Home Guard & Civil Defence and Correctional Service have been awarded Gallantry/Service Medals.

**Answer- 2) President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi was the chief guest for Republic Day 2024.**

**Explanation:**

India celebrated its **75th Republic Day (R-Day)** on 26th January 2024 to mark and celebrate the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect on January 26, 1950.

- **Theme of R-Day 2024:** 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) and 'Bharat- Loktantra ki Matraka' (Bharat – The Mother of Democracy)
- President of **France Emmanuel Macron** was the **chief guest** for Republic Day 2024.
- The President of India, Droupadi Murmu approved **Tatrakshak Medals** to **6** outstanding Indian Coast Guard (ICG) personnel.
- President approved conferment of Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards-2023 on **31 persons** which includes 3 Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak, 7 Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak and 21 Jeevan Raksha Padak.
- During the event, a total of **1132 personnel** of Police, Fire Service, Home Guard & Civil Defence and Correctional Service have been awarded Gallantry/Service Medals. [Click here to read more](#)

**65. In January 2024, the Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee (75th Year) celebration of the Supreme Court of India (SCI) in Delhi.**

**During the event, the PM announced that the Government of India has allocated Rs \_\_\_\_\_ for the expansion of the Supreme Court Building Complex.**

- 1) 600 crore
- 2) 300 crore
- 3) 800 crore
- 4) 200 crore
- 5) 500 crore

**Answer- 3) 800 crore**

**Explanation:**

On January 28, 2024, the Prime Minister (PM) of India **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee (75th Year) celebration of the Supreme Court of India (SCI) at the Supreme Court auditorium in Delhi.

- The day marks the 75th anniversary of the inauguration of the Supreme Court of India on 28th January 1950.

**i.** PM Modi launched multiple citizen-centric information and technology initiatives – Digital Supreme Court Reports(SCR), Digital Courts 2.0 and new website of Supreme Court

ii. During the event, PM Modi announced that the **Government of India** has allocated **Rs 800 crore** for the expansion of the Supreme Court Building Complex.

[Click here to know more](#)

**66. Who has recently (in January '24) been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Puducherry?**

- 1) Paban Kumar Borthakur
- 2) Naresh Kumar
- 3) Vineet Joshi
- 4) Sharat Chauhan
- 5) Puneet Kumar Goel

Answer- **4) Sharat Chauhan**

**Explanation:**

**Sharat Chauhan**, Principal Commissioner, Finance, Planning and Investment Department, Arunachal Pradesh, is appointed the new **Chief Secretary** of the Union Territory of **Puducherry** with immediate effect as per an order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on January 29, 2024.

- He is replacing Rajeev Verma, a 1992 batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, and has been posted as Adviser to the Administrator in Chandigarh.
- Chauhan belongs to the 1994 **AGMUT** (Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre.

## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**1. Which of the following points is "Incorrect" with respect to the visit of External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India S. Jaishankar to Russia in December 2023?**

**A) During EAM's visit to Russia, he signed agreements related to the construction of the power-generating units of the Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant in Uttara Kannada, Karnataka.**

**B) India and Russia signed the protocol of consultation for the next 4 years (2024-28) to make progress in economic cooperation, energy trade, connectivity, military-technical cooperation, and people-to-people exchange.**

**C) Union Minister also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in pharmaceuticals and healthcare**

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

Answer- **1) Only A**

**Explanation:**

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar was on a 5-day visit to Russia from 25-29 December 2023 as a part of the ongoing high-level exchanges between India and Russia.

- During his visit, EAM Jaishankar met with Vladimir Putin, President of Russia in Moscow.



- He also met with Denis Manturov, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry and Trade of Russia and discussed bilateral economic cooperation and met with Sergey Lavrov, the Foreign Minister of Russia and discussed bilateral, multilateral and international issues.
- i. During EAM's visit to Russia, he signed agreements related to the construction of the power-generating units of the **Kudankulam nuclear power plant** in Tirunelveli, **Tamil Nadu**.
  - ii. During his visit, EAM Jaishankar and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov signed the protocol of consultation for the **next 4 years (2024-28)** to make progress in economic cooperation, energy trade, connectivity, military-technical cooperation, and people-to-people exchange.
  - iii. During the visit, EAM visited school No. 653, named after Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in St. Petersburg, Russia and interacted with teachers and students. The school teaches Hindi as part of its regular curriculum.
  - iv. He visited the Russian Industry and Trade exhibition with Denis Manturov. He also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in pharmaceuticals and healthcare

## **2. Which of the following countries did 'Not' joined the BRICS as new members in January 2024?**

- 1) United Arab Emirates
- 2) Egypt
- 3) Argentina
- 4) Saudi Arabia
- 5) Iran

Answer- **3) Argentina**

### **Explanation:**

Five countries namely **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** have joined BRICS(Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) bloc as their membership came into force from **January 1, 2024**.

- With the induction of new members, BRICS' membership count increased to 10 from 5.

**Note:** Argentina which was supposed to join BRICS withdrew from the entry by its President Javier Milei.

### **i. 2024 BRICS chairmanship:**

- On 1st January 2024, Russia took over the BRICS chairmanship. Russian President Vladimir Putin stressed the commitment to advancing global development and security through the theme "Strengthening Multilateralism for Equitable Global Development and Security."
- The 16th BRICS summit was scheduled to happen in Kazan, Russia in October 2024.

## **3. According to the United Nations Department of Economic & Social Affairs (UN-DESA) released the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2024 report in January 2024, India's economic growth is projected to reach \_\_\_\_\_ in 2024.**

- 1) 6.2%
- 2) 6.0%
- 3) 6.5%
- 4) 6.4%
- 5) 6.3%

Answer- **1) 6.2%**

**Explanation:**

On January 5, 2024, According to the United Nations Department of Economic & Social Affairs (**UN-DESA**) released World Economic Situation and Prospects (**WESP**) 2024 report projecting **India's economic growth** to reach **6.2%** in **2024** which is slightly lower than the 6.3% estimate for 2023.

- India's GDP is estimated to reach 6.6% in 2025.
  - South Asia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to increase by 5.2% in 2024. It grew by an estimated 5.3% in 2023.
- i. It forecasts a slowdown in global economic growth from 2.7% in 2023 to 2.4% in 2024 with short-term risks and structural vulnerabilities.
- This is below the pre-pandemic growth rate of 3.0%.
- ii. Global headline inflation fell from 8.1% in 2022 to an estimated 5.7% in 2023 and is projected to decline to 3.9% in 2024.

**4. As per the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)'s Food Price Index (FFPI) December 2023 stood at 118.5 points, \_\_\_\_\_ lower than December 2022 level.**

- 1) 16.4%
- 2) 14.5%
- 3) 13.3%
- 4) 10.1%
- 5) 12.9%

Answer- **4) 10.1%**

**Explanation:**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (**FAO**) Food Price Index (**FFPI**) **December 2023** stood at 118.5 points, 1.8 points (1.5%) lower than November 2023 level(120.3) and **13.3 points (10.1%)** lower than December 2022 level(130.4).

- For 2023 as a whole, FFPI stood at 124.0 points, 19.7 points (13.7%) lower than the average value in 2022.
  - The FAO's World Food Price Index tracks monthly changes in the international prices of a set of globally-traded food commodities.
- i. December 2023's FAO Cereal Price Index increased by 1.8 points(1.5%) from November 2023 level but 24.2 points(16.6%) lower than December 2022 level(147.3).
- In December 2023, the FAO All Rice Price Index rose 1.6% above its November 2023 level.

**5. Which country has recently (in Jan '24) signed the Bilateral Haj Agreement 2024 with India to send a total quota of 1,75,025 pilgrims from India for Haj 2024?**

- 1) United Arab Emirates
- 2) Saudi Arabia
- 3) Egypt
- 4) Iraq
- 5) Kuwait

Answer- **2) Saudi Arabia**

**Explanation:**

On 7th January 2024, **India** and the Kingdom of **Saudi Arabia** signed the **Bilateral Haj Agreement 2024** under which a total quota of 1,75,025 pilgrims from India has been finalised for Haj 2024 with

1,40,020 seats reserved for pilgrims to proceed through Haj Committee whereas 35,005 pilgrims would be permitted to proceed through private operators.

**i.** Union Minister Irani & MoS Haj Muraleedharan visited the Terminal of King Abdulaziz International Airport, Jeddah, to oversee the arrangements for pilgrims.

**ii.** On 8th January 2024, Union Minister Irani attended the opening ceremony of the 3rd 'Haj and Umrah Conference' in Jeddah organised by the Saudi Ministry of Haj and Umrah Affairs.

**6. India is set to chair and host the \_\_\_\_ session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee in July 2024 in New Delhi, Delhi.**

1) 49th

2) 52nd

3) 46th

4) 50th

5) 48th

Answer- **3) 46th**

**Explanation:**

**India** is set to **chair** and **host** the **46th session** of the **UNESCO** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) **World Heritage Committee** from July 21–31, 2024 in New Delhi, Delhi.

This marks the first time for India to chair and host the UNESCO heritage committee.

**i. Bureau Members:**

- Chairperson– Vishal V Sharma(Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO)
- Vice–Chairpersons: Bulgaria, Greece, Kenya, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

**7. Which of the following cities are nominated for the Wetland City Accreditation (WCA) scheme under the Ramsar Convention by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)?**

1) Indore, Madhya Pradesh

2) Udaipur, Rajasthan

3) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

4) Both 1 & 2

5) All 1, 2 & 3

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

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEF&CC**) has nominated three Indian cities viz. **Indore** and **Bhopal** in Madhya Pradesh (**MP**) and **Udaipur** in **Rajasthan** for the Wetland City Accreditation (**WCA**) scheme under the **Ramsar Convention**.

- These are the 1st three Indian cities to be nominated for WCA.

**i.** The WCA is a voluntary accreditation system established by the Ramsar Convention.

**8. Which country's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) has recently (in Jan '24) signed a Letter of Arrangement with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), India for defence collaboration in Research and Development (R&D)?**

1) United Kingdom

2) Germany

- 3) France
- 4) Australia
- 5) United States of America

Answer- **1) United Kingdom**

**Explanation:**

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh made a two day visit to the **United Kingdom (U.K)** on 9 & 10 January 2024 and held the bilateral meeting with his British Counterpart Grant Shapps. The visit also saw signing of LoA and MoU by both the countries.

**i.** A Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) was signed between **India and U.K.** on conduct of bilateral international cadet exchange programme.

**ii. Letter of Arrangement** was signed between Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**), **India** and Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (**DSTL**), **U.K.** on defence collaboration in Research and Development (**R&D**).

**9. Name the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) that has recently (in Jan '24) announced a plan to establish a new campus of its Tech university in Kandy, Sri Lanka.**

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

Answer- **4) IIT Madras**

**Explanation:**

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (**IIT-Madras**) based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu is set to start a **new campus** of its Tech university in **Kandy, Sri Lanka** in 2024.

- Dr. Susil Premajayantha, Education minister of Sri Lanka, announced that this proposal was part of the Budget 2024 presented by Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremasinghe in his capacity as Finance Minister.

**10. Which country has recently (in Jan '24) partnered with India to launch Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI)?**

- 1) United Arab Emirates
- 2) France
- 3) Spain
- 4) Germany
- 5) Denmark

Answer- **5) Denmark**

**Explanation:**

**Denmark** has launched "Green Fuels Alliance India" (**GFAI**), an initiative to boost collaborative efforts between **India** and Denmark in the sustainable energy solutions sector, at the Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2024, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

**i.** The initiative is led by the Danish Embassy and Consulate General of Denmark in India.

**11. As per the report titled “Renewables 2023” released by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in January 2024, the world added \_\_\_\_\_ more renewable energy capacity in 2023 compared to 2022.**

- 1) 20%
- 2) 50%
- 3) 30%
- 4) 40%
- 5) 60%

Answer- **2) 50%**

**Explanation:**

The International Energy Agency (**IEA**) released the report titled “Renewables 2023”. It highlighted the important finding of the report that the world added **50% more renewable** energy capacity in 2023 compared to 2022 but it also mentioned that the world still needs to adopt more robust efforts to counter climate change.

**i.** The increase in renewable energy saw the fastest growth in the last 20 years and consecutively for 22 years. It also mentioned that renewable energy capacity reached around 510 GigaWatts (GWs) last year.

**12. Name the organisation that has recently (in Jan ‘24) launched the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11), Traditional Medicine (TM) Chapter Module 2 in New Delhi, Delhi.**

- 1) United Nations Children's Fund
- 2) Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
- 3) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- 4) World Health Organization
- 5) World Ayurveda Foundation

Answer- **4) World Health Organization**

**Explanation:**

On January 10, 2024, the **World Health Organization** (WHO) launched the International Classification of Diseases (**ICD-11**), Traditional Medicine (**TM**) **Chapter Module 2** at the event held in India Habitat Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.

**i.** ICD 11 TM module 2 includes data and terminology related to diseases based on Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani(ASU) Systems.

**ii.** With this, the terms defining diseases in these traditional systems are indexed as morbidity codes and included in the WHO Disease Classification Series ICD-11.

- The Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) in collaboration with WHO has prepared a classification of diseases used in ASU systems under the TM-2 module of the ICD-11 series.

**13. Which organisation, along with NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog has recently (in Jan ‘24) launched a Compendium on Mainstreaming Millets in Asia & Africa countries?**

- 1) Food and Agriculture Organization
- 2) International Fund for Agricultural Development
- 3) World Bank

4) United Nations Children's Fund

5) World Food Programme

Answer- **5) World Food Programme**

**Explanation:**

On 12th January 2024, **NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog** and **World Food Programme (WFP)** launched a compendium featuring the field stories showcasing the use of millets in Asian and African countries, including India, in New Delhi, Delhi.

i. The launch also marks the successful completion of Mapping and Exchange of Good Practices (MEGP) Initiative for Millets Mainstreaming in Asia and Africa.

**14. Which country has recently (in Jan '24) signed an agreement with Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) to explore and develop 5 lithium brine blocks?**

1) Peru

2) Uganda

3) Argentina

4) Spain

5) Brazil

Answer- **3) Argentina**

**Explanation:**

Khanij Bidesh India Limited (**KABIL**) signed an agreement with **Argentina's** state-owned enterprise Catamarca Minera y Energética Sociedad del Estado (CAMYEN SE) at Catamarca, Argentina to explore and develop 5 lithium brine blocks.

i. The agreement is worth about Rs. 200 crores and is the 1st-ever lithium exploration and mining project by a Government of India-owned enterprise.

**15. As per the 18th Global 500 2024 annual report released by Brand Finance in January 2024, Reliance Jio ranked \_\_\_\_\_ among the world's strongest brands in 2024, while \_\_\_\_\_ (company) tops the list.**

1) 15th; YouTube

2) 17th; WeChat

3) 19th; Google

4) 17th; YouTube

5) 19th; WeChat

Answer- **2) 17th; WeChat**

**Explanation:**

As per the 18th "Global 500 2024" annual report by Brand Finance, Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio continues to be India's top and strongest brand, **ranked 17th** among the **world's strongest brands in 2024**, with a brand strength index (BSI) of 88.9 out of 100.

- Globally, **WeChat** topped **the list with a 94.3 BSI** followed by YouTube (92.7), and Google (92.5) in the 2nd and 3rd positions respectively in the strongest brands of 2024.

i. The other Indian brands featured in the list are Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), ranked 23rd followed by the State Bank of India (SBI) ranked 24th. Both held the same BSI of 88.3. [Click here to read more.](#)

**16. According to the 2024 Military Strength Ranking released by Global Firepower (GFP) in January 2024, India is ranked as the \_\_\_\_\_ most powerful military in the world, while the United States of America (USA) tops the list.**

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

Answer- **5) 4th**

**Explanation:**

According to the **2024 Military Strength Ranking** released by Global Firepower (GFP), **India** is ranked as the **4th most powerful military** in the world. The United States of America (**USA**) **tops the list** followed by Russia and China in the 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

**i.** In the 2024 list, Bhutan has ranked (145th) as the least powerful military with a PwrIdx of 6.3704, after Moldova (4.2311), Suriname (3.9038), Somalia(3.9006) and Benin(3.8912).

**17. Which country has recently (in Jan '24) declared as a Malaria-free country by the World Health Organization (WHO)?**

- 1) Republic of Cabo Verde
- 2) Burkina Faso
- 3) Angola
- 4) Mozambique
- 5) Nigeria

Answer- **1) Republic of Cabo Verde**

**Explanation:**

The World Health Organization (**WHO**) has declared the **Republic of Cabo Verde** (also known as Cabo Verde or Cape Verde) as a **Malaria-free country**.

- With this Cabo Verde became the third country to be certified in the WHO African region to eradicate malaria, following Mauritius in 1973 and Algeria in 2019.

**18. During the visit of Union Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar to Iran in January 2024, Persian (Farsi) became one of the \_\_\_\_\_ classical language of India.**

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

Answer- **5) 9**

**Explanation:**

On January 14-15, 2024, Union Minister Subrahmanyam (S.) Jaishankar, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) was on an **official visit to Iran** to hold discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues with Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Foreign Minister of Iran in Tehran.

**i.** The Union Minister Jaishankar met Minister of Roads and Urban Development of Iran, Mehrdad Bazrpash and held a detailed and productive discussion on establishing a long-term cooperation framework on the strategically vital Chabahar Port.

ii. India also announced its decision to include **Persian (Farsi)** under the New Education Policy (NEP), 2020 of India. With this, it will become the **one of the nine classical language** of India.

- After Tamil, Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014) have also been declared as classical languages in India.
- According to the NEP 2020, **Pali, Prakrit, and Farsi** (Persian) should be preserved.

## GOVT SCHEMES

**1. Which state government has recently (in Jan '24) launched a 'Shri Ramlala Darshan Scheme' to provide the free pilgrimage visit to the newly built Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh (UP)?**

- 1) Odisha
- 2) Chhattisgarh
- 3) Gujarat
- 4) Madhya Pradesh
- 5) Maharashtra

Answer- **2) Chhattisgarh**

**Explanation:**

The Cabinet of the government of **Chhattisgarh** headed by Chief Minister (CM) Vishnu Deo Sai has decided to launch a pilgrimage scheme '**Shri Ramlala Darshan Scheme**' to offer the people of Chhattisgarh **Free Pilgrimage Visit** to the newly built Ram Temple in **Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh (UP)**.

**i.** The people of Chhattisgarh natives aged 18 to 75 who are medically fit are eligible under the scheme, facilitated by the Chhattisgarh Tourism Board and the Budget Tourism Department in collaboration with the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

**2. Name the scheme that has recently (in Jan '24) launched to provide Rooftop Solar (RTS) power systems to 1 crore households.**

- 1) Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana
- 2) Pradhan Mantri Bijli Yojana
- 3) Pradhan Mantri Surya Shakti Yojana
- 4) Pradhan Mantri Dhamra Urja Yojana
- 5) Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

Answer- **1) Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana**

**Explanation:**

On 22 January 2024, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi launched "**Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana**", a government scheme to provide Rooftop Solar (RTS) power systems to **1 crore households**.

- The scheme will support India to achieve the target of 40 Gigawatt (GW) rooftop solar capacity.

**i. Objective:** To provide electricity through solar rooftop installations, along with offering additional income for surplus electricity generation.



# VISITS

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

**A) PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth more than Rs 20,000 crores in the Tiruchirappalli (Trichy) district of Tamil Nadu.**

**B) During his visit to Lakshadweep, PM inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth Rs 1150 crore at Kavaratti Island in Lakshadweep.**

**C) PM Modi held a mega roadshow in Thrissur during his visit to Kerala.**

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 visited](#) Tamil Nadu (TN), Lakshadweep and Kerala from 2nd to 3rd January 2024.

**i. During his visit to Tamil Nadu on 2nd January 2024, PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth more than Rs 20,000 crores in the Tiruchirappalli (Trichy) district of Tamil Nadu.**

- The projects were related to various sectors such as rail, road, oil and gas and shipping in TN.
- PM Modi dedicated to the nation rail sector projects, which includes,
  - Doubling of 41.4 Km Salem–Magnesite Junction–Omalur–Mettur Dam section;
  - Doubling of rail line section of 160 Km from Madurai – Tuticorin;
  - PM inaugurated General Cargo Berth-II (Automobile Export/Import Terminal-II and capital dredging Phase-V) of Kamarajur Port, on the Coromandel Coast, Chennai, TN.

**ii. Highlights of PM Modi’s visit to Lakshadweep:** PM inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth Rs 1150 crore at Kavaratti Island in Lakshadweep on 3rd January 2024.

- The Project includes various sectors: technology, energy, water resources, healthcare and education.
- PM Modi initiated the Kochi –Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Optical Fibre Connection (KLI-SOFC) project which will help to address the challenge of slow internet speed on Lakshadweep Island.
  - It will increase internet speed by more than 100 times i.e. from 1.7 Gbps to 200 Gbps.
- PM Modi dedicated to the nation the Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) plant at Kadmat which will produce 1.5 lakh litres of clean drinking water every day.

**iii. Highlights of PM Modi’s visit to Kerala:** On 3rd January 2024, PM Modi held a mega roadshow in Thrissur during his visit to Kerala.

- He also addressed the Bharatiya Janata Party’s women’s conference “Sthree Shakti Modikkoppam” held at Thekkinkadu Maidan, Thrissur, Kerala.
- Women associated with ASHA, MGNREGA(Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act), and Anganwadi participated in large numbers in the event.

**2. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi’s visit to Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh in December 2023?**

**A) The Prime Minister dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than Rs 15,700 crore at Ayodhya Dham.**

**B) PM inaugurated Phase I of the redeveloped Ayodhya Railway (Known as Ayodhya Dham Junction Railway Station) is developed at a cost of more than Rs 240 crore and also flagged off six new Vande Bharat Trains.**

**C) PM also inaugurated the newly built Ayodhya Airport which has been named Maharishi Valmiki International Airport at a cost of more than Rs 1450 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:**

On 30th December 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh for the inauguration and launch of various initiatives and events as follows:

- The Prime Minister dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than **Rs 15,700 crore** at **Ayodhya Dham**. These include
  - Rs 11,100 crores for the development of Ayodhya and its surrounding area Which includes
  - Development of Greenfield township in Ayodhya for more than Rs.2180 crore and Vashishtha Kunj Residential scheme at a cost of about Rs 300 crore.
- Phase I of the redeveloped **Ayodhya Railway** (Known as Ayodhya Dham Junction Railway Station) is developed at a cost of more than **Rs 240 crore**.
  - PM Flagged off two new categories of superfast passenger trains in the country – the Amrit Bharat Express with Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) push-pull technology and locos at both ends for better acceleration
  - The Prime Minister also flagged off **six new Vande Bharat Trains**.
- The prime Minister also inaugurated the **newly built Ayodhya Airport** which has been named **Maharishi Valmiki International Airport**. Phase 1 of the state-of-the-art airport at a cost of more than Rs 1450 crore.
- The 51 -inch tall idol of Lord Ram Lalla for ‘Pran Pratishtha (consecration)’ was finalized by the temple trust in Ayodhya, the idol was carved by Karnataka’s renowned sculpture Artist Arun Yogiraj. The PM will attend the consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple on January 22, 2024.

**3. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Union External Affairs Minister (EAM) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar’s visit to Nepal in January 2024?**

**A) During his visit, Nepal signed a long term power deal with India to export 10,000 MW (MegaWatt) of electricity over 10 years.**

**B) Dhruva Space Private Limited collaborated with Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) to facilitate the launch of the Munal Satellite on India’s Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).**

**C) India will provide financial assistance of USD 75 million for the reconstruction of infrastructure in western districts of Nepal affected by the 2023 earthquake.**

- 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 Union External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. [Subrahmanyam Jaishankar visited Nepal](#) on 4 & 5 January 2024. He was invited by the Foreign Minister of Nepal, Narayan Prakash Saud to **co-chair** the 7th India-Nepal Commission meeting in Kathmandu.

- Nepal signed a long term power deal with India to export **10,000 MW (MegaWatt)** electricity over **10 years**.
- New Space India Limited (**NSIL**) collaborated with Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (**NAST**) to facilitate the launch of the Munal Satellite on India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (**PSLV**).
- India will provide financial assistance of **USD 75 million** for the reconstruction of infrastructure in western districts of Nepal affected by the **2023 earthquake**.

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

**A) During his visit, PM inaugurated India's longest bridge, "Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewari-Nhava Sheva Atal Setu" in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.**

**B) He also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development projects worth Rs 12,700 crore.**

**C) PM also inaugurated Bharat Ratnam which is a Mega Common Facilitation Center (CFC) for the gems and jewellery sector at Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone- Special Economic Zone (SEEPZ- SEZ) in Mumbai,**

- 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 was on an official visit to Maharashtra on January 12, 2024.

**i.** During his visit, PM inaugurated the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) named "Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewari-Nhava Sheva Atal Setu" in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra. This 21.8 km long 6-lane bridge becomes the **longest bridge** and also the **longest sea bridge** in India.

ii. He also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development projects worth Rs 12,700 crore.

iii. PM Modi inaugurated **Bharat Ratnam** which is a Mega Common Facilitation Center (CFC) for the gems and jewellery sector at Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone- Special Economic Zone (SEEPZ- SEZ) in Mumbai. [Click here to read more.](#)

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

**A) During the visit to Maharashtra, the PM laid the foundation stone of 8 AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) projects worth around Rs. 2000 crore.**

**B) PM inaugurated the new State-of-the-art Boeing India Engineering & Technology Centre (BIETC) campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka with an investment of Rs. 1600 crore on 43-acre of land.**

**C) PM Modi was the Chief Guest for the opening ceremony of the 6th Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2023 held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.**

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) Shri Narendra Modi visited Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu on 19th January 2024 and inaugurated various projects including:

**i. During the visit to Maharashtra, the PM laid the foundation stone of 8 AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) projects worth around Rs. 2000 crore.**

**ii. PM inaugurated the new State-of-the-art Boeing India Engineering & Technology Centre (BIETC) campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka with an investment of Rs. 1600 crore on 43-acre of land.**

**iii. PM Modi was the Chief Guest for the opening ceremony of the 6th Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2023 held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. This is the first time that Khelo India Youth Games are being held in South India. [Click here to read more](#)**

**6. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the visit of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi to Andhra Pradesh and Kerala on 16th-17th January 2024?**

**A) During PM visit to Kerala, the projects worth more than Rs 4000 crore in line with the Prime Minister’s vision were inaugurated to transform India’s ports, shipping, and waterways sector.**

**B) The projects include New Dry Dock (NDD) at Hindustan Shipyard Limited, International Ship Repair Facility (ISRF) of Cochin Shipyard Limited, and LPG Import Terminal of Indian Oil Corporation Limited at Kozhikode, Kochi.**

**C) PM inaugurated the new State-of-Art campus of the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN) at Palasamudram, Sri Sathya Sai District, Andhra Pradesh.**

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 Prime Minister **(PM)** Shri **Narendra Modi** Visited **Andhra Pradesh and Kerala** on 16th-17th January 2024. During his visit to the state he also inaugurated few projects which are:

- i.** The PM inaugurated projects worth more than **Rs 4000 crore** in line with the Prime Minister's vision to transform India's ports, shipping, and waterways sector, and build capacity and self-sufficiency in it.
  - The projects include New Dry Dock **(NDD)** at Cochin Shipyard Limited **(CSL)**, International Ship Repair Facility (ISRF) of CSL, and LPG Import Terminal of Indian Oil Corporation Limited at Puthuvypeen, Kochi.
- ii.** The PM inaugurated the new State-of-Art campus of the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics **(NACIN)** at Palasamudram, Sri Sathya Sai District, **Andhra Pradesh** to improve governance through Civil Service Capacity Building. [Click here to read more](#)

## **BANKING AND FINANCE**

**1. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India (2022-2023) released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in December 2023?**

**A) The remuneration of Managing Director(MD) and Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of SFBs was 28.4 times the average employee pay in 2022.**

**B) The RBI revealed that grievances related to loans and advances, deposits increased exponentially to 60%, 70% respectively at the Reserve Bank of Ombudsman.**

**C) The total number of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) in India increased by 3.5% in FY22.**

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

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

**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India **(RBI)** released the report titled "Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India" **(2022-2023)**.

- The report provides comprehensive data about the state of the banking system in India.
- i.** As per the RBI report, the gap in the remuneration between top executives and average employees is widest for Small Finance Banks (SFBs).
  - It mentioned that **remuneration** of Managing Director**(MD)** and Chief Executive Officer**(CEO)** of **SFBs** was **58.1 times** the average employee pay in 2022.
  - Compared to SFBs, remuneration of MD and CEO of Private Sector Banks(PVSBs), Public Sector Banks(PSBs) was 26.1 times and 2.4 times of average employee pay in 2022.
  - For Private Sector Banks (PVBs), the share of variable pay in total remuneration increased from 31 %( at March-end 2021) to 39 %( at March-end 2022).

- ii. According to the report, RBI urged the Urban Co-operative Banks(UCBs) that they need to discourage very long and continuous tenures of their directors, in accordance with the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act(1949)
- iii. The **RBI** revealed that grievances related to loans and advances, deposits increased exponentially to **60%, 70%** respectively at the **Reserve Bank of Ombudsman**.
- iv. RBI report showed that the **total number** of Automated Teller Machines(**ATMs**) in India **increased** by **3.5%** in FY22. White-label ATMs accounted for the maximum number of ATMs.

**2. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the 28th edition of Financial Stability Report (FSR) released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in December 2023?**

**A) As per the RBI data, their share has declined to 15.9% in Scheduled Commercial Banks’ (SCBs) loans as at September-end 2023 from 17.2% as at March-end 2023.**

**B) According to a study by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Rs. 1.7 lakh crore of AUM (Asset Under Management) of open-ended debt schemes of 17 mutual funds were under stress as of September.**

**C) The Capital adequacy ratio may decline to 71 basis points (BPS).**

- 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:**

**RBI** (Reserve Bank of India) has released the half-yearly publication of the Financial Stability Report(FSR) 2023, September 2023 which assesses risks to financial stability and the resilience of the Indian financial system.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the **28th edition** of Financial Stability Report (**FSR**) on 28th Dec, 2023.

**i. None of the Top 100 Borrower Accounts** in the NPA Category for Scheduled Commercial Banks(SCBs)

- The Credit of large borrowers has improved and it is welcomed that the top 100 borrower accounts do not fall in the NPA(Non-Performing Assets) category.The share of top 100 borrower accounts was increasing in the NPA category until March 2023 which has seen moderation during 2023-24.
- Their share in **Scheduled Commercial Banks’ (SCBs) loans** decreased to **15.9%** as of **September-end 2023**, down from 17.2% as of **March-end 2023**.

**ii. According to a study by SEBI, Rs. 1.7 lakh crore** of AUM (Asset Under Management) of open-ended debt schemes of 17 mutual funds were under stress as of September.

- However, only 24 out of a total of 299 schemes were under stress as per the Financial Stability Report by RBI

**iii. According to the RBI Financial Stability Report, the Capital adequacy ratio** may decline to 71 basis points (BPS).

- The increase in risk weights for personal loans and loans to non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) can lead to the decline.

**3. In December, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the deadline for implementation of Instructions regarding Penal Charges in Loan Accounts to \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) 1st March 2024
- 2) 1st May 2024
- 3) 1st April 2024
- 4) 1st June 2024
- 5) 1st February 2024

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

**Explanation:**

On December 29, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the **deadline** for implementation of Instructions regarding Penal Charges in **Loan Accounts** by three months i.e. from January 1, 2024 to **April 1, 2024**, as a part of fair lending practices.

- In this regard, all Regulated Entities (REs) must implement the new penal charges instructions for fresh loans from April 1, 2024.
- In case of existing loans, the transition to the new regime should be ensured by the next review/renewal date on or after April 1, 2024, but no later than June 30, 2024.

**i.** This extension will be applicable to all Commercial Banks (including Small Finance Banks (SFBs), Local Area Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), excluding Payments Banks), All Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks, All Non-Banking Financial Company-NBFC (including HFCs-Housing Finance Companies), and All India Financial Institutions.

**4. Name the bank that has recently (in Dec '23) launched a new scheme called 'Inspire' programme for senior citizens.**

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

**Answer- 5) Bandhan Bank**

**Explanation:**

**Bandhan Bank** Limited has launched a new scheme called '**Inspire**' programme designed to cater to the specific needs and aspirations of senior citizens. It offers plans that focus on financial security, healthcare, and convenience of old age people.

**i. Eligibility:**

- Individuals residing in India of age 60 years and above.
- Monthly Average Balance (MAB) should be Rs.1 lakh for Premium Savings Account and Rs.25,000 for Advantage Savings Account.

**5. Which bank has recently (in Jan '24) launched a Super Special 175 days Fixed Deposit (FD) scheme with an interest rate of 7.50% per annum?**

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

Answer- **5) Bank of India**

**Explanation:**

**Bank of India (BoI)**, a Public Sector Bank (PSB), has launched a **Super Special Fixed Deposit (FD) scheme** with a specified **maturity period of 175 days**, commencing from January 1st, 2024.

- The scheme offers an **interest rate of 7.50% per annum** for deposits ranging from Rs 2 crore to less than Rs 50 crore.
- i. Senior citizens (aged 60 to 80) will get an additional interest rate of 0.50% on their retail term deposits (below Rs 2 crore) for tenors ranging from 6 months and above up to 3 years.
- ii. Super senior citizens (aged above 80) will get an extra 0.65% on the same retail term deposits.
  - At present BoI pays 4.50% interest rate for a 175 day tenor for deposits below Rs 2 crore. 7.25% is the highest interest rate paid by BoI for a 2 year deposit.

**6. In January 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued revised guidelines for classifying accounts and deposits as inoperative accounts and unclaimed deposits by banks which will come into effect from \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.**

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

Answer- **2) 1st April**

**Explanation:**

On January 1, 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) issued revised guidelines for classifying accounts and deposits as **inoperative accounts** and **unclaimed deposits by banks** which will come into effect from **April 1, 2024**.

- These will be applicable to all Commercial Banks (including Regional Rural Banks/RRBs) and all Co-operative Banks.
- These instructions by RBI are issued in exercise of the powers conferred by Sections 35A of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949 read with Sections 26A, 51 and 56 of the Act ibid and all other provisions of this Act or any other laws enabling RBI to issue instructions in this regard.

Revised Instructions:

- Unclaimed credit balances in bank accounts inactive for ten years or more, as per paragraph 3(iii) of the Depositor Education and Awareness (**DEA) Fund Scheme, 2014**, must be transferred to the RBI's DEA Fund, following the provisions outlined in the DEA Fund Scheme, 2014.
- Comprehensive guidelines issued are to be followed by the banks regarding various aspects, including classifying accounts and deposits as inoperative or unclaimed, periodic review, fraud prevention, grievance redressal, and procedures for tracing customers, nominees, or legal heirs.
- Banks shall undertake at least an annual review in respect of accounts, where there are no customer induced transactions for more than a year.
- Banks must notify account holders via letters, emails, or SMS (Short Message Service) on a quarterly basis if there's been no activity in their accounts for the past year.
- To classify an account as inoperative, only customer-initiated transactions, not bank-initiated ones, will be considered.



**7. In January 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised Bulk Deposits limit for Scheduled Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks in Tier 3 and 4 to Rs \_\_\_\_\_ from Rs 15 lakh and above.**

- 1) 60 lakh and above
- 2) 75 lakh and above
- 3) 50 lakh and above
- 4) 1 crore and above
- 5) 25 lakh and above

**Answer- 4) 1 crore and above**

**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revises Bulk Deposits limit for **Scheduled Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks in Tier 3 and 4 to Rs 1 crore and above** from **Rs 15 lakh and above**. This is a 6.66 times increase.

- The bulk deposit limit for urban co-operative banks not located in Scheduled UCBs in Tier 3 and 4 cities has been increased to Rs 15 lakh and above.
- Previously, a deposit of Rs 15 lakh and above was considered a bulk deposit across all UCBs, allowing customers to negotiate interest rates with the banks.
- However, with the revised threshold set at Rs. 1 crore and above, customers depositing amounts below this limit will now earn a uniform rate of interest.

**8. Name the Payments Bank that has recently (in Jan '24) collaborated with LEO1 to launch MasterCard Powered 'LEO 1 Card', India's first numberless Prepaid ID card.**

- 1) NSDL Payments Bank
- 2) Fino Payments Bank
- 3) Jio Payments Bank
- 4) Airtel Payments Bank
- 5) Paytm Payments Bank

**Answer- 1) NSDL Payments Bank**

**Explanation:**

**LEO1** (formerly known as Financepeer), an Edu-fintech startup, in collaboration with **NSDL Payments Bank Limited (NPBL)**, the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL), has launched '**LEO 1 Card**' which is **India's first numberless Prepaid ID card** with **MasterCard** as a network partner.

- The card aims to transform a student ID card into a student utility card.
  - i. The card acts as a contactless debit card as well as an identity card.
  - ii. The card comes with a virtual wallet which can be controlled through the LEO1 mobile application(app).
  - iii. Once the money is added to the wallet, it can be used at any point of sales (POS) outlet and also be withdrawn from an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) without setting up a bank account.
  - iv. The cardholder should be of minimum 18 years old.

**Note-** The cardholder can set up spending limits with a maximum of Rs 2 lakh per day.

**9. Which bank has recently (in Jan '24) launched the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) RuPay Reloadable Prepaid Card under the 'One Nation, One Card' initiative?**

- 1) Indian Bank
- 2) Bank of Baroda

- 3) Bank of India
- 4) State Bank of India
- 5) Punjab National Bank

Answer- **2) Bank of Baroda**

**Explanation:**

The **Bank of Baroda (BoB)**, a public sector bank, has launched the National Common Mobility Card (**NCMC) RuPay Reloadable Prepaid Card** in alignment with the **'One Nation, One Card' initiative**.

- i.** It is a chip-enabled contactless RuPay Platinum Europay, Mastercard and Visa (EMV) prepaid card.
- ii.** Apart from acting as a traditional ATM card, it can also be used to pay for public transport (such as metro rails, buses, trains, cabs, ferries, tolls and parking).
- iii.** The maximum online wallet balance allowed is Rs 1 lakh and the maximum offline wallet balance allowed is Rs 2,000.

**10. Which bank has recently (in Jan '24) executed transactions via the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)'s Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments app as a part of the 'UPI for secondary market' facility?**

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

Answer- **2) HDFC Bank**

**Explanation:**

**HDFC Bank Limited** has executed transactions via the National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI)'s Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments app** as a part of the 'UPI for secondary market' facility.

- This is in line with "Trading supported by Blocked Amount in Secondary Market" which was permitted by the Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Indian Stock Exchanges, on an optional basis.
- This is similar to the Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) facility available for primary markets.
- The funds of the buyer of the share(s) will continue to remain in their savings account with the required funds being blocked.

**11. Which of the following companies have recently (in Jan '24) received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to act as a Payment Aggregator (PA)?**

- 1) DigiO
- 2) Tata Communications Payment Solutions
- 3) DirecPay
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 2 & 3

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

**Explanation:**

Tata Group's digital payments arm, **Tata Communications Payment Solutions Limited (Tata Pay)**, has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to act as a Payment Aggregator (PA).