

# **GUPTA**

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# **CLASSES**

## **Current Affairs**

**JANUARY-2024**

**English**

**Part-3**



**GUPTA**

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**CLASSES**

**Explanation:**

Frederik André Henrik Christian (**Frederik X**), Crown Prince of Denmark, was proclaimed as the **new king of Denmark** by its Prime Minister (PM) Mette Frederiksen.

i. King Frederik X took the throne after the abdication of his mother Queen Margrethe II at Christiansborg Palace on 14 January 2024.

**25. In January 2024, the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) constituted a committee under the chairmanship of \_\_\_\_\_, to examine the demand for including more components in the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobile and Auto Component Industry (PLI-AUTO).**

- 1) Ajay Gururani
- 2) Nikhil Gajraj
- 3) Deepak Purohit
- 4) Kunal Pandey
- 5) Hanif Qureshi

Answer- **5) Hanif Qureshi**

**Explanation:**

On January 16, 2024, the Ministry of Heavy Industries (**MHI**) constituted a committee to examine the demand for including more components in the Production Linked Incentive (**PLI**) Scheme for Automobile and Auto Component Industry (**PLI-AUTO**).

- **Chairman- Hanif Qureshi**, Additional Secretary in MHI
- **Members- 11 members** including representatives from testing agencies like Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) and the auto industry.

**26. Who has been recently (in Jan '24) appointed as the Chief Secretary (CS) of Madhya Pradesh (MP)?**

- 1) Chithra Arumugam
- 2) Veera Rana
- 3) Pradeep Kumar Jena
- 4) Nitin Kareer
- 5) Niyati Pattnaik

Answer- **2) Veera Rana**

**Explanation:**

The Government of Madhya Pradesh (**MP**) has appointed **Veera Rana** as the Chief Secretary(CS) of MP.

- She becomes the 2nd woman Chief Secretary of MP after Nirmala Buch, who served as the 1st woman CS of MP from 1991-1993.

i. The Government of MP also has appointed Sanjay Bandopadhyay as chairman of the MP Employees Selection Board (MPESB)(earlier known as Vyapam).

**27. Who has recently (in Jan '24) sworn in as President of Guatemala?**

- 1) Mario Taracena
- 2) Álvaro Arzú Escobar
- 3) César Bernardo Arévalo de León
- 4) Samuel Pérez Álvarez

5) Shirley Rivera

Answer- **3) César Bernardo Arévalo de León**

**Explanation:**

**César Bernardo Arévalo de León**, an anti-corruption leader, was sworn in as **President of Guatemala**.

i. Bernardo Arévalo succeeded Alejandro Giammattei, a leader of the right-wing party Vamos.

**28. In January 2024, GoI formed a high-level Committee under the chairmanship of \_\_\_\_\_, to examine administrative measures aimed at protecting the interests of the most disadvantaged groups within the Scheduled Caste (SC), like Madigas.**

1) Rajendra Singh Yadav

2) Prabhat Kumar

3) Rajiv Gauba

4) Naresh Chandra

5) Ajit Kumar Seth

Answer- **3) Rajiv Gauba**

**Explanation:**

The government of India (**GoI**) has formed a **high-level Committee** to examine administrative measures aimed at protecting the interests of the most disadvantaged groups within the Scheduled Caste (SC), like Madigas.

- The committee was constituted under the direction of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, with **Rajiv Gauba**, the Cabinet Secretary as its **Chairman**.

**29. Which country has recently (in Jan '24) elected as the 1st Vice-Chair of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management(SCFM) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations(FAO) Committee on Fisheries (COFI)?**

1) Bangladesh

2) Bhutan

3) India

4) Sri Lanka

5) Nepal

Answer- **3) India**

**Explanation:**

**India** has been elected as the **1st Vice-Chair** of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (**SCFM**) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (**FAO**) Committee on Fisheries (**COFI**).

- The Bureau of the SCFM includes the Chairman of the Sub-Committee, the First Vice-Chairman and 5 other Vice-Chairman, all elected for a 2-year term.

i. The Indian delegation was led by J. Balaji, former Joint Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Dr. Balaji was elected as the first vice chairperson of the incoming bureau of the SCFM.

**30. Who has been recently (in Jan '24) appointed as the Director General (DG) of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)?**

- 1) Daljit Singh Chaudhary
- 2) Anish Dayal Singh
- 3) Vitul Kumar
- 4) Hanumant Singh Rawat
- 5) Anshuman Yadav

**Answer- 1) Daljit Singh Chaudhary**

**Explanation:**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Indian Police Service (IPS) officer **Daljit Singh Chaudhary** as the Director General (**DG**) of Sashastra Seema Bal (**SSB**) with effect from the date of joining till 30th November 2025 (the date of his superannuation).  
**i.** He succeeds Rashmi Shukla, who served as the DG of SSB from March 2023 to January 2024.

**31. Who has recently (in Jan '24) appointed as the brand ambassador of VARNI?**

- 1) Suryakumar Yadav
- 2) Ravindrasinh Anirudhsinh Jadeja
- 3) Shreyas Iyer
- 4) Kuldeep Yadav
- 5) Shubman Gill

**Answer- 2) Ravindrasinh Anirudhsinh Jadeja**

**Explanation:**

**VARNI**, the premium electronic product brand, has appointed Indian cricketer **Ravindrasinh Anirudhsinh Jadeja** (Ravindra Jadeja) as its **brand ambassador**.

- VARNI was founded in 2009 by Kishan Mali who is also Managing Director of the company.

**32. In January 2024, Tshering Tobgay is set to become Prime Minister (PM) of \_\_\_\_\_ (country) for the 2nd term.**

- 1) Thailand
- 2) Nepal
- 3) Bhutan
- 4) Vietnam
- 5) Philippines

**Answer- 3) Bhutan**

**Explanation:**

Bhutan's former Prime Minister (**PM**) **Tshering Tobgay**, President of People's Democratic Party (PDP), is set to become PM of **Bhutan** for the **2nd term**. He served as PM for the 1st time from 2013 to 2018.

- Tshering Tobgay will succeed Lotay Tshering, who served as the PM of Bhutan from 2018 to 2023.

**33. In January 2024, Nitish Kumar took oath as the Chief Minister (CM) of Bihar for the \_\_\_\_\_ time.**

- 1) 6th
- 2) 9th

3) 5th

4) 7th

5) 4th

Answer- **2) 9th**

**Explanation:**

Janata Dal (United) (JD-U) President **Nitish Kumar** took oath as the Chief Minister (**CM**) of **Bihar** for the **9th time** after he joined hands with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and its partners to form a new government in Bihar.

- He was administered the oath of office by Bihar Governor Rajendra Arlekar at Raj Bhavan, Patna (Bihar). Along with him, Samrat Chaudhury, and Vijay Kumar Sinha took oath as Deputy CMs.

**34. In January 2024, Azali Assoumani was re-elected as the President of the \_\_\_\_\_ (country) for a fourth 5 year term.**

1) Union of Comoros

2) Djibouti

3) Cabo Verde

4) Seychelles

5) Vanuatu

Answer- **1) Union of Comoros**

**Explanation:**

**Azali Assoumani** has been **re-elected** as the **President** of the **Union of Comoros** for a fourth **5 year term**.

- Azali Assoumani has been serving as the President of Comoros since 1999. This marks his 3rd consecutive term and he will rule until 2029.

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

**1. Who has recently (in Jan '24) won the Pubity Sport Men's Athlete of the Year 2023 Award?**

1) Lionel Messi

2) Novak Djokovic

3) Virat Kohli

4) Max Verstappen

5) Cristiano Ronaldo

Answer- **3) Virat Kohli**

**Explanation:**

Indian cricketer **Virat Kohli** won the **Pubity Sport Men's Athlete of the Year 2023 Award** by defeating Argentine footballer Lionel Messi in the final clash of the online poll in which Kohli got 78 percent out of the total votes while Messi got remaining 22 percent.

- Spanish footballer Aitana Bonmati (76%) wins Pubity female Athlete of The Year 2023 Award by defeating American tennis player Coco Gauff (24%).

**i.** The award was selected based on the online poll conducted by Pubity Sport, a subsidiary channel of Pubity.

ii. The poll for the Pubity Sport Men’s Athlete of the Year featured 16 sports players across various disciplines.

iii. The Top 4 players in the list includes Virat Kohli and Lionel Messi, Novak Djokovic (tennis – Serbia) and Max Verstappen (Formula 1 motorsport – Belgian-Dutch ).

**2. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the winners of Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2023 announced in January 2024?**

**A) The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS) announced the winners of ‘Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar’ 2023 and the award will be presented by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu on 9th January 2024.**

**B) Jain (Deemed-to-be University) in Bengaluru, Karnataka won the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2023 award under the Identification and nurturing of budding / young talent category.**

**C) Odisha Mining Corporate Limited (Bhubaneswar, Odisha) won the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2023 award under the Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility 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 4th January 2023, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (**MoYAS**) announced the winners of ‘**Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar**’ 2023 which recognises the corporate entities and individuals for outstanding contribution in the area of sports promotion and development.

- The award will be presented by the **President of India, Droupadi Murmu**, during a special event organised at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on **9th January 2024**.

**Note-** The Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar is one of the 6 National Sports Awards annually presented by the MoYAS.

**i. Winners of 2023 Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar:**

- The 2023 award was announced under 2 categories:

Category	Winners
Identification and nurturing of budding / young talent	<b>Jain (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, Karnataka</b>
Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility	<b>Odisha Mining Corporate Limited Bhubaneswar, Odisha</b>

**Note-** The scheme of Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar includes 4 categories. The other 2 are Employment of Sports Persons and Sports Welfare Measures; and Sports for Development.

**3. Who recently (in Jan '24) won 75th Creative Arts Emmy Award under the Outstanding Narrator category for Netflix documentary series Working: What We Do All Day "The Middle"?**

- 1) Barack Obama
- 2) Ellen DeGeneres
- 3) Oprah Winfrey
- 4) Robert Downey
- 5) Naomi Campbell

Answer- **1) Barack Obama**

**Explanation:**

**Barack Obama**, former President of the United States of America(USA) (2009-2017), won the **75th Creative Arts Emmy Award** under the **Outstanding Narrator** category for his Netflix documentary series title **Working: What We Do All Day "The Middle"**.

**i.** Previously, he won the award in the same category in 2022 for the Netflix documentary series Our Great National Parks "A World Of Wonder".

**ii.** He also has 2 Grammys under the Best Spoken Word Album category for "The Audacity Of Hope: Thoughts On Reclaiming The American Dream" in 2008 and "Dreams From My Father (Senator Barack Obama) in 2006.

**Note:** The Television Academy presented the 75th Creative Arts Emmy® Awards honouring outstanding artistic and technical achievement in television on 6th and 7th January 2024 at Peacock Theater in Los Angeles, California, USA. List of winners of the 75th Creative Arts Emmy Award([List 1](#) & [List 2](#))

**4. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the 81st edition of Golden Globe Awards (2024) presented in January 2024?**

- A) Five-time Oscar nominee Christopher Nolan's film "Oppenheimer" won the 5 awards in 81st Golden Globe Awards under the categories Best Film in Drama, Best Actor in Drama, Best Supporting Actor and for best original score.**
- B) Lily Gladstone won best female actor in Drama for Martin Scorsese's Killers of the Flower Moon.**
- C) Succession won the Golden Globe Award under the Best Television Series-Drama 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:**

The **81st edition of Golden Globe Awards (2024)** held on 8th January, 2024 at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California, United States of America (U.S.A.).

- The Golden Globe Awards are held annually and are presented by Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA).
- American Actor and Comedian, Joseph Glenn Herbert Sr. also known as Jo Koy hosted the 2024 award ceremony.

i. Five-time Oscar nominee **Christopher Nolan's** film "**Oppenheimer**" steals the entire spotlight at 81st Golden Globe Awards by securing **5 awards** in coveted categories such as: Best Film in Drama, Best Actor in Drama, Best Supporting Actor and for best original score by Ludwig Goranson.

- Christopher Nolan won his career 1st Golden Globe Award for Best Director for his film "Oppenheimer". Though, he was nominated for Golden Globe 6 times.

ii. Cillian Murphy won the Golden Globe for best male actor in Drama for his role as the father of the atomic bomb "J. Robert Oppenheimer" in Oppenheimer.

iii. **Lily Gladstone** won best female actor in Drama for Martin Scorsese's Killers of the Flower Moon.

iv. After Oppenheimer, Succession (T.V. Series in Drama) stood out at 81st Golden Globe Awards by winning 4 awards- Best Performance by a Male Actor in a Television Series – Drama, Best Performance by a Female Actor in a Television Series – Drama, Best Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role on Television and Best Television Series-Drama.

- **Succession** won the Golden Globe Award under the Best Television Series-Drama Category.

**5. Who has been recently (in Jan '24) honoured with the Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar 2023 by the Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Trust?**

- 1) Sanjeev Chattopadhyay
- 2) Shirshendhu Mukhopadhyay
- 3) Ghanram Chakraborty
- 4) Bijan Bhattacharya
- 5) Satinath Bhaduri

Answer- **2) Shirshendhu Mukhopadhyay**

**Explanation:**

**Bengali writer** and novelist, **Shirshendhu Mukhopadhyay** (87), has been honoured with the **Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar 2023** by the Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Trust.

- The award recognises the litterateurs who had contributed to any language recognised by the constitution of India.
- The award includes a cash award of Rs 5 lakh, a silver medal and a citation.

**Note:** The annual award was instituted in 2013 as a tribute to the late Kannada poet Kuvempu.

i. Shirshendhu Mukhopadhyay has authored more than 90 books, including travelogues and fiction for children.

- He received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1989 for his novel Manabajamina and became a fellow of the Sahitya Akademi in 2021.

**6. Which of the following personalities does not receive the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award (TNNAA) 2022 from Droupadi Murmu, President of India in January 2024?**

- 1) Savita Kanswal (Posthumous)
- 2) Tulsi Chaitanya Mothukuri
- 3) Anshu Kumar Tiwari
- 4) Praveen Singh
- 5) Aryan Singh Dadijala

Answer- **5) Aryan Singh Dadijala**



**Explanation:**

Droupadi Murmu, President of India, honoured the **Four winners** of Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award (**TNNAA**) **2022** during the Sports and Adventure Award 2023 event held in Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, Delhi.

**Winners of TNNAA 2022:**

S.No	Winner Name	Category	State
1	Late Ms. Savita Kanswal (Posthumous)	Land Adventure	Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand
2	Tulsi Chaitanya Mothukuri	Water Adventure	Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
3	Anshu Kumar Tiwari	Air Adventure	Gopalganj, Bihar
4	Praveen Singh	Lifetime Achievement	Kangra, Himachal Pradesh

- The award includes a bronze statuette, a certificate, a blazer with a silken tie/a saree, and award money of Rs. 15 Lakh.

**7. Name the personality who has recently (in Jan '24) received the Award for International Sports Personality for 2023.**

- 1) Pierluigi Collina
- 2) Gianni Infantino
- 3) Patrice Motsepe
- 4) Michel Platini
- 5) Erick Thohir

Answer- **2) Gianni Infantino**

**Explanation:**

**Gianni Infantino**, President of the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA), received the **Award for International Sports Personality for 2023** at the 12th annual Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Awards held in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

**8. Which of the following cities have recently (in Jan '24) recognised as the cleanest city in India under the category of cities with a population more than 1 lakh?**

- 1) Surat, Gujarat
- 2) Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- 3) Panaji, Goa
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 2 & 3

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

**Explanation:**

Droupadi Murmu, President of India, presented the Swachh Survekshan (Cleanliness Survey) Awards 2023 at the ceremony hosted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, Delhi.

**i. Surat (Gujarat) and Indore (Madhya Pradesh)** were jointly recognised as the cleanest city in India under the category of cities with a population more than 1 lakh.

**ii.** For 7 consecutive years (since 2016), Indore city, Madhya Pradesh has been ranked as the cleanest city in India. [Click Here to read more](#)

**9. Which of the following footballers have recently (in Jan '24) received the Best FIFA Men's Player 2023 Award and Best FIFA Women's Player 2023 Award respectively?**

- 1) Cristiano Ronaldo and Aitana Bonmati
- 2) Luis Suárez and Jenni Hermoso
- 3) Lionel Messi and Alexia Putellas
- 4) Cristiano Ronaldo and Jenni Hermoso
- 5) Lionel Messi and Aitana Bonmati

Answer- **5) Lionel Messi and Aitana Bonmati**

**Explanation:**

The Best FIFA (International Federation of Association Football) Football Awards ceremony 2023 was held in London (United Kingdom) on 15th January 2024. [Click here to read more](#)

**Winners of Best FIFA Football Awards 2023:**

<i>S.No</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Winner</i>
1	<b>Best FIFA Men's Player 2023 Award</b>	<b>Lionel Messi</b> (Argentina) Club - Inter Miami CF
2	<b>Best FIFA Women's Player 2023 Award</b>	<b>Aitana Bonmati</b> (Spain) Club- FC Barcelona

**Note-** This marks Messi's eighth individual FIFA award, including in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2019, 2022, and 2023.

**10. In January 2024, President of India Droupadi Murmu Conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024 award to \_\_\_\_\_ Children.**

- 1) 16
- 2) 19
- 3) 10
- 4) 12
- 5) 15

Answer- **2) 19**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Women and Child Development (**MoWCD**) announced the recipients of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (**PMRBP**) for the year **2024**.

- i.** The 2024 awardees include 9 boys and 10 girls (**Totally 19 children**), from 18 States and Union Territories (UTs) including 2 Aspirational Districts, conferred by President of India Droupadi Murmu.
- ii.** The award is annually presented to children aged 5-18 from India for their exceptional abilities and outstanding achievements in 7 fields - Bravery; Sports; Social Service; Science & Technology; Environment; Arts & Culture; and Innovation. [List of Awardees of PMRBP 2024](#).

**11. Which of the following Indian cricketers who have recently (in Jan '24) won the best men's international cricketer & best women's international cricketer of 2022-23 respectively?**

- 1) Suryakumar Yadav and Shafali Verma
- 2) Shubman Gill and Harmanpreet Kaur
- 3) Virat Kohli and Deepti Sharma
- 4) Suryakumar Yadav and Harmanpreet Kaur
- 5) Shubman Gill and Deepti Sharma

Answer- **5) Shubman Gill and Deepti Sharma**

**Explanation:**

**Shubman Gill** won the **best men's international cricketer** (Polly Umrigar Award) of **2022-23** in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Awards (Naman Awards) 2024 held in Hyderabad, Telangana.

- **Deepti Sharma** won the **best women's international cricketer** of 2022-23.

i. BCCI Awards for the past four seasons (2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23) were awarded jointly at the 2024 Awards ceremony. [Click here to read more](#)

**12. Who has been recently (in Jan '24) awarded with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award posthumously?**

- 1) Karpoori Thakur
- 2) Bhagwat Jha Azad
- 3) Lalu Prasad Yadav
- 4) Ram Sundar Das
- 5) Jagannath Mishra

Answer- **1) Karpoori Thakur**

**Explanation:**

On 24th January 2024, Droupadi Murmu, President of India, awarded the **Bharat Ratna**, India's highest civilian award, to Former Bihar Chief Minister (CM) and Socialist Leader **Karpoori Thakur** (posthumously).

i. He becomes the **49th** recipient of Bharat Ratna, and the 15th to be accorded posthumously.

**13. In January 2024, the City of London Corporation honoured \_\_\_\_\_, an India-born Lawyer in the United Kingdom (UK) with the "Freedom of the City of London" Award.**

- 1) Ashok Desai
- 2) Ram Jethmalani
- 3) Mukul Rohtagi
- 4) Ajit Mishra
- 5) Abhishek Singhvi

Answer- **4) Ajit Mishra**

**Explanation:**

The City of London Corporation honoured **Ajit Mishra**, an India-born Lawyer in the United Kingdom (UK) with the **"Freedom of the City of London" Award** for his contribution to strengthening the business partnership between the City of London and India.

- He received the honours at the Chamberlain's Court at Guildhall, London, UK.

**14. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the 2024 Padma Award?**

**A) Droupadi Murmu, the President of India has approved the conferment of 132 Padma Awards for 2024.**

**B) The list comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan, and 110 Padma Shri awards, which include 2 duo cases (in a duo case, the award is counted as one).**

**C) Among the awardees, there are 30 women and the list also comprises 8 persons from the category of Foreigners/ NRI/ PIO/OCI and 9 Posthumous awardees.**

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 25th January, 2024, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) announced the **Padma Awards for 2024**. Emmanuel Macron, President of France was the chief guest on the 75th Republic Day of India.

- Droupadi Murmu, the President of India has approved the conferment of **132 Padma Awards for 2024**.
- The official list released comprises **5 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan, and 110 Padma Shri awards**, which include 2 duo cases (in a duo case, the award is counted as one).
- Among the awardees, there are **30 women** and the list also comprises 8 persons from the category of Foreigners/ NRI/ PIO/OCI and 9 Posthumous awardees. [Click here to read more](#)

**15. In January 2024, Indian cricketer \_\_\_\_\_ has won the ICC Men's One Day International (ODI) Cricketer of the Year 2023 and Suryakumar Yadav has won the ICC Men's Twenty20 International (T20I) Cricketer of the Year 2023 for the \_\_\_\_\_ consecutive year.**

1) Rohit Sharma; 3rd

2) Virat Kohli; 2nd

3) Rohit Sharma; 4th

4) Virat Kohli; 3rd

5) Shubman Gill; 2nd

Answer- **2) Virat Kohli; 2nd**

**Explanation:**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the winners of the ICC Awards 2023, India's **Virat Kohli** has won the **ICC Men's One Day International (ODI) Cricketer** of the Year 2023, and **Suryakumar Yadav** has won the **ICC Men's Twenty20 International (T20I) Cricketer** of the Year 2023 for the **second consecutive year** after he got it in 2022. [List of Winners of ICC Awards 2023.](#)

**16. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the 69th Hyundai Filmfare Awards (Filmfare Awards 2024) held at GIFT City in Gandhinagar, Gujarat in January 2024?**

**A) Rajkumar Hirani's directorial venture "12th Fail" won 7 awards at the 69th Filmfare Awards 2024, including Best Film and Best Director.**

**B) Sandeep Reddy Vanga's "Animal" movie also won 5 awards including Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) and Best Music Album.**

**C) Indian Film Director and Editor David Dhawan was conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award 2024**

- 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 **69th Hyundai Filmfare Awards** (Filmfare Awards 2024) was held in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (**GIFT City**) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 27th to 28th January 2024.

- The Filmfare Awards 2024 were presented in partnership with the Gujarat Tourism, Government of Gujarat.

**i. Vidhu Vinod Chopra's** directorial venture **“12th Fail”** won **5 awards** at the **69th Filmfare Awards 2024**, including Best Film and Best Director.

**ii.** Sandeep Reddy Vanga’s **“Animal”** movie also won 5 awards including Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) and Best Music Album.

**iii.** Indian Film Director and Editor David Dhawan was conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award 2024 for his immense contributions to Indian cinema.

[Click here to know more](#)

**17. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Best Electoral Practices Awards 2023 presented in January 2024?**

- A) A total 16 awards, including 13 individuals for ECI’s Best Electoral Practices Awards and 3 Organization for ECI Media Awards were presented by Droupadi Murmu, President of India.**
- B) Vinit Nandanwar, Collector and District Election Officer (DEO), Dantewada (Chhattisgarh) won Best Electoral Practices Awards under the Election Management category.**
- C) Radio Mirchi, Bengaluru, Karnataka won the ECI Media Awards under the Electronic Media (Radio) 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:**

Droupadi Murmu, President of India, presented the Best Electoral Practices Awards 2023 during the event organised by Election Commission of India (ECI) as a part of the 14th National Voters Day (NVD 2023) on 25th January 2024 in New Delhi, Delhi.

- A total 16 awards were presented during the event. These include 13 individuals for ECI’s Best Electoral Practices Awards; and 3 Organization for ECI Media Awards.

**i.** Radio Mirchi, Bengaluru, Karnataka won the ECI Media Awards under the Electronic Media (Radio) category.

**ii. Best Electoral Practices Awards** -Election Management category.: Vinit Nandanwar, Collector and District Election Officer (DEO), Dantewada (Chhattisgarh) for Election Management.

[Click here to know more](#)

## INDEX

**1. According to the Henley Passport Index 2024 released by Henley and Partners in January 2024, Indian passports ranked \_\_\_\_\_ by providing visa-free or visas on arrival access to 62 countries.**

- 1) 83rd
- 2) 76th
- 3) 80th
- 4) 79th
- 5) 82nd

Answer- **3) 80th**

**Explanation:**

According to the **Henley Passport Index 2024** Global Ranking released by **Henley and Partners**, **Indian passports** are ranked **80th** by providing visa-free or visas on arrival access to **62 countries**. India shares the 80th rank with Uzbekistan.

- The top spot is grabbed by 6 countries: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and Spain with citizens enjoying visa-free access to 194 travel destinations.

**i.** The Henley Passport Index ranking is based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), and is evaluated on the basis of the total number of destinations that its holders can travel visa-free. [Click here to read more](#).

**2. What is India's rank in the MSCI Emerging Markets (EM) index released in January 2024?**

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

Answer- **5) 2nd**

**Explanation:**

**India** has secured a **2nd rank** in the MSCI Emerging Markets **(EM) index** by surpassing Taiwan. The first spot is grabbed by China.

- India's share in MSCI Emerging Markets index saw an increase in over eight years from 7% to 17.1% and is projected to rise further to 20% by early 2024.
- Top 5 countries in MSCI EM Index (8 Jan '24) - China (26.6), India (17.1), Taiwan (15.8), South Korea (12.6), and Brazil (5.7).

**3. Name the company that has collaborated with Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) to launch the Indian Railway Freight Activity (IRFA) Index.**

- 1) RailTel Corporation of India Ltd
- 2) Texmaco Rail & Engineering Ltd

- 3) Titagarh Rail Systems
- 4) Jupiter Wagons Ltd
- 5) Oriental Rail Infrastructure Ltd

Answer- **4) Jupiter Wagons Ltd**

**Explanation:**

Florida(United State of America)- based Dun & Bradstreet (D&B), in collaboration with **Jupiter Wagons Ltd.**, unveiled the Indian Railway Freight Activity (**IRFA**) **Index** during the 15th International Railway Equipment Exhibition (IREE 2023) in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, Delhi from 12th to 14th October 2023.

- i. The IRFA Index has become a first-of-its-kind tool for monitoring and understanding the intricacies of Indian railway freight activity.
- ii. The IRFA index for Q3 2023 is at 48, indicating a sub-neutral level of rail freight activity, compared to the same quarter in 2022.[Click here to read more](#)

## **SUMMITS, CONFERENCES**

**1. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGS) 2024 held in January 2024?**

- A) The Gujarat government signed 41,299 MoUs for investment intentions on the 10th edition of VGGS 2024, with a value of Rs. 26.33 lakh crore.
- B) US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) joined Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024 as Partner Organization.
- C) Torrent Power signs 4 MoUs with the Government of Gujarat to invest Rs 47,350 crores.

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

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

**Explanation:**

The **Gujarat government** signed **41,299** Memorandum of Understanding (**MoUs**) for investment intentions on the **10th edition** of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (**VGGS**) **2024**, with a value of **Rs. 26.33 lakh crore**, at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat from January 10th to 12th, 2024.

- The theme of this year’s summit is ‘Gateway to the Future’

i. US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (**USISPF**) joined Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024 as **Partner Organization**.

ii. **Torrent Power** signs 4 MoUs with the Government of Gujarat to invest **Rs 47,350 crores**. [Click here to read more](#)

**2. In January 2024, Union Minister of External Affairs Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar led the Indian delegation at the 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Heads of State and Government Summit held in \_\_\_\_\_ (city).**

- 1) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2) Kampala, Uganda

3) Porlamar, Venezuela

4) Baku, Azerbaijan

5) Tehran, Iran

Answer- **2) Kampala, Uganda**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister **Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar**, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) led the Indian delegation at the **19th** Non-Aligned Movement (**NAM**) Heads of State and Government Summit held in Speke Resort Convention Center, Munyonyo in **Kampala, Uganda**, on 19-20 January 2024.

- During the summit, Uganda assumed the NAM chairmanship (President of Uganda Yoweri Kaguta Museveni-chairman) for 2024-2027. Uganda took over the leadership from Azerbaijan (2019-2023).

**3. In January 2024, Minister of State of External Affairs, V.Muraleedharan represented India and addressed the Plenary session of the Group of 77 +China (G-77+China) Third South Summit held in \_\_\_\_\_ (city).**

1) Havana, Cuba

2) Doha, Qatar

3) Kampala, Uganda

4) New Delhi, Delhi

5) Jakarta, Indonesia

Answer- **3) Kampala, Uganda**

**Explanation:**

**V. Muraleedharan**, Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs represented India and addressed the Plenary session of the Group of 77 +China (**G-77+China**) **Third South Summit**, held in **Kampala, Uganda** on 21-23 January 2024. He emphasised the pivotal role of the Global South as the world's "future growth engine."

- The **theme** of (G-77+China) Third South Summit was, "**Leaving No One Behind.**"
- The third South Summit was hosted by the Republic of Uganda, under the Chairmanship of H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. [Click here to read more.](#)

**4. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to Davos Summit 2024, the 54th Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum (WEF) held in Davos, Switzerland in January 2024?**

**A) During the Davos Summit 2024, Maharashtra has signed MoUs worth Rs 3,53,675 crore.**

**B) Adani Enterprises Limited has signed an MoU with the government of Maharashtra to invest Rs 50,000 crore over 10 years to set up 1GW (GigaWatt) capacity of hyperscale data center infrastructure.**

**C) Mahindra & Mahindra Limited announced that it has acquired General Motors India Private Limited (GMI)'s Talegaon plant in Maharashtra.**

1) Only A

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) All A, B & C

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



**Explanation:**

The **54th** Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (**WEF**), also known as “**Davos Summit 2024**” was held at Swiss Alpine School, Davos in Switzerland from 15th to 19th January 2024. The theme of the 2024 summit is “Rebuilding Trust.

- **Maharashtra** has signed memorandums of understanding(**MoUs**) worth **Rs 3,53,675 crore** at WEF 2024 in Davos, Switzerland.
- **Adani Enterprises Limited**, the flagship company of the Adani Group, has signed an MoU with the government of Maharashtra to invest Rs 50,000 crore over 10 years to set up **1GW(GigaWatt)** capacity of hyperscale data center infrastructure.
- **Hyundai Motor India Ltd. (HMIL)** announced that it has acquired General Motors India Private Limited (**GMI**)’s **Talegaon plant** in Maharashtra. Hyundai Motor India Ltd. Has committed to invest Rs 6000 crore in Maharashtra. [Click here to read more](#)

## ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

**1. Which company has recently (in Jan '24) acquired a 100% equity stake in Bikaner III Neemrana II Transmission Limited, a special purpose vehicle (SPV), for Rs 18.6 crore?**

- 1) ReNew Power
- 2) Nayara Energy
- 3) Reliance Power
- 4) Tata Power
- 5) Adani Transmission

Answer- **4) Tata Power**

**Explanation:**

**Tata Power** has acquired a **100% equity stake** in **Bikaner III Neemrana II Transmission Limited**, a special purpose vehicle (**SPV**), for **Rs 18.6 crore**.

- SPV was set up by PFC Consulting Limited which is a subsidiary of Power Finance Corporation.
- SPV was formed in June 2023 for the electrical power transmission project, which will be developed on a Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) basis.
- The transmission line project with an estimated cost of Rs. 1544 crore will transfer 7.7 Gigawatt (GW) of green power from Bikaner to Neemrana in Rajasthan about a distance of 340 kms.

**2. Which state’s Power Corporation Ltd has recently (in Jan '24) received the proposed acquisition of 100% shareholding of GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited from the Competition Commission of India (CCI)?**

- 1) Madhya Pradesh
- 2) Maharashtra
- 3) Rajasthan
- 4) Haryana
- 5) Punjab

Answer- **5) Punjab**

**Explanation:**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed acquisition of **100% shareholding** of **GVK Power** (Goindwal Sahib) Limited by **Punjab** State Power Corporation Ltd (PSPCL).

- This relates to the resolution plan, entailing the 100% acquisition of GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited by PSPCL once it is declared as the resolution applicant.
  - i. The Punjab government has acquired the **Goindwal Sahib Thermal Power Plant**, for Rs 1,080 crore. With this, Punjab has become the first state government to purchase a private thermal plant.
  - ii. The **540-Megawatt (MW)** thermal plant will be named after Guru Amardass, the 3rd Guru of Sikhs.
- Note-** GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited, incorporated in December 1997, is a wholly owned subsidiary of GVK Energy Limited, a subsidiary of GVK Power and Infrastructure Limited.

**Headquarters-** Secunderabad, Telangana

**3. In January 2024, ICICI Venture Funds Management Company Limited decided to sell its entire \_\_\_\_\_ paid-up share capital in Mumbai-based Theobroma Food Private Limited for Rs 1,200 crore.**

- 1) 40%
- 2) 56%
- 3) 36%
- 4) 42%
- 5) 32%

Answer- **4) 42%**

**Explanation:**

Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **ICICI Venture Funds Management Company** Limited has decided to sell its entire **42%** paid-up share capital in Mumbai-based **Theobroma Food Private Limited** for **Rs 1,200 crore**.

- It takes six to nine months to complete the deal.
- ICICI Venture on-boarded Theobroma Food Private Limited in 2017 with a commitment to offer USD 20 million to expand it throughout India.

**4. As of January 2024, Brookfield Asset Management(BAM) through its affiliate Data Infrastructure Trust(DIT) is set to fully acquire the Indian unit of American Tower Corporation (ATC) for an enterprise value of around USD \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) 2.5 Billion
- 2) 3.1 Billion
- 3) 2.9 Billion
- 4) 2.0 Billion
- 5) 3.2 Billion

Answer- **1) 2.5 Billion**

**Explanation:**

Canada-based Brookfield Asset Management(**BAM**) through its affiliate Data Infrastructure Trust(**DIT**) is set to fully acquire the Indian unit of American Tower Corporation (**ATC**) for an enterprise value of around **USD 2.5 Billion**.

- The transaction is subject to regulatory approvals and expected to close in the second half of 2024.

- Following the acquisition, Brookfield will become India's largest tower company with 2.53 lakh towers.
- Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (RJIL) is the anchor client of Brookfield whereas Vodafone Idea Limited (VI) is the anchor client of ATC.

**5. In January 2024, ACC Limited acquired the remaining \_\_\_\_\_ stake in Asian Concretes and Cements Private Limited (ACCPL) from its existing promoter at an enterprise value of Rs. 775 crores.**

- 1) 51%
- 2) 40%
- 3) 55%
- 4) 49%
- 5) 30%

Answer- **3) 55%**

**Explanation:**

**ACC Limited**, a subsidiary of Adani-owned Ambuja Cements Limited, acquired the remaining **55% stake** (valued at Rs 425.96 crores) in Asian Concretes and Cements Private Limited (**ACCPL**) from its existing promoter at an **enterprise value of Rs. 775 crores**, making it a fully-owned subsidiary.

- Prior to the acquisition, ACC Ltd held a **45% stake** in ACCPL.

**i.** The acquisition has been completely funded by internal accruals and includes cash and equivalents of Rs 35 crore with Asian Concretes.

**6. In January 2024, the Board of Directors of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) approved the proposal to acquire up to \_\_\_\_\_ equity stake in a company promoted by the National Housing Bank (NHB).**

- 1) 30%
- 2) 10%
- 3) 40%
- 4) 20%
- 5) 50%

Answer- **2) 10%**

**Explanation:**

On January 8, 2024, the Board of Directors of Life Insurance Corporation of India (**LIC**) approved the proposal to acquire up to **10% equity stake** in a company promoted by the National Housing Bank (**NHB**).

**i.** The investment in the NHB promoted company would focus on residential mortgage-backed securities (**RMBS**).

**7. In January 2024, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of the remaining \_\_\_\_\_ paid-up share capital in Signet Excipients Private Limited (Signet) by IMCD India Private Limited (IMCD India).**

- 1) 60%
- 2) 49%
- 3) 51%
- 4) 40%

5) 30%

Answer- **5) 30%**

**Explanation:**

The Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) has approved the acquisition of the **remaining 30%** paid-up share capital in Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Signet Excipients Private Limited (**Signet**) by Mumbai-based IMCD India Private Limited (**IMCD India**).

i. IMCD India is currently holding 70% paid-up share capital in Signet since 2020; whereas the remaining 30% of the share capital is held by the promoters.

**8. In January 2024, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposed amalgamation of Shriram LI Holdings Private Limited (SLIH) with \_\_\_\_\_ (company).**

- 1) Shriram Housing Finance Private Limited
- 2) Shriram GI Holdings Private Limited
- 3) Shriram Finance Private Limited
- 4) Shriram Life Insurance Company Limited
- 5) Shriram Fortune Private Limited

Answer- **4) Shriram Life Insurance Company Limited**

**Explanation:**

The Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) has approved the proposed amalgamation of Shriram LI Holdings Private Limited (**SLIH**) with Shriram Life Insurance Company Limited (**SLIC**).

- The primary objective of SLIH is to undertake the investment business of SLIC.

i. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed amalgamation of Shriram GI Holdings Private Limited (SGIH) with Shriram General Insurance Company Limited (SGIC).

**9. In January 2024, the Government of India (GoI) raised about Rs. 2500 crores through Offer for Sale (OFS) by disinvesting about \_\_\_\_\_ of paid-up share capital in NHPC Limited.**

- 1) 4.5%
- 2) 4.2%
- 3) 3.0%
- 4) 3.5%
- 5) 4.0%

Answer- **4) 3.5%**

**Explanation:**

The Government of India (**GoI**) has raised about **Rs. 2500 crores** through Offer for Sale (**OFS**) by **disinvesting** about **3.5%** of paid-up share capital in **NHPC Limited** (erstwhile National Hydroelectric Power Corporation), which is a Mini Ratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) under Ministry of Power(MoP).

- The Union Budget for financial year 2023-24 (**FY24**) had set a disinvestment target of **Rs 51,000 crore**.

**10. In January 2024, Japan-based Softbank Group Corp sold another 1.95% of paid-up share capital in \_\_\_\_\_ (company) for Rs 950 crore.**

- 1) CRED
- 2) PhonePe
- 3) Paytm

4) BharatPe

5) Razorpay

Answer- **3) Paytm**

**Explanation:**

Japan-based **Softbank Group Corp** has sold another **1.95%** of paid-up share capital in **Paytm's** parent company One97 Communications for approximately **Rs 950 crore**.

i. This reduced Softbank's share in Paytm to 5.06% from 7.01%.

**11. Name the Bank that has recently (in Jan '24) sold 2.01% of the paid-up share capital in Computer Age Management Services Limited (CAMS) for all cash consideration of Rs. 252.34 crore.**

1) ICICI Bank

2) HDFC Bank

3) YES Bank

4) IndusInd Bank

5) Axis Bank

Answer- **2) HDFC Bank**

**Explanation:**

**HDFC Bank Limited** has sold **2.01%** of the paid-up share capital in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) based Computer Age Management Services Limited (**CAMS**) for all cash consideration of **Rs. 252.34 crore**.

- This reduced the HDFC Bank's shareholding in CAMS to 3.94% from 5.95% between 25th August 2023 and 23rd January 2024.

**12. Culver Max Entertainment Private Limited (CME) has recently (in Jan '24) terminated its USD \_\_\_\_\_ merger agreement with Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL).**

1) 10 Billion

2) 6 Billion

3) 5 Billion

4) 4 Billion

5) 2 Billion

Answer- **1) 10 Billion**

**Explanation:**

Culver Max Entertainment Private Limited (**CME**), formerly known as Sony Pictures Networks India Private Limited (**SPNI**) has officially terminated its **USD 10 Billion** merger agreement with Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (**ZEEL**).

i. The partnership aimed to establish India's largest entertainment company, to compete against global giants like Netflix Inc. and Amazon.com Inc.

**13. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has recently (in Jan '24) approved the acquisition of around 38% of the paid-up share capital of \_\_\_\_\_ (company) by JSW Ventures Singapore Pte. Limited.**

1) Renault India Private Limited

2) Tata Motors Limited

3) Maruti Suzuki India Limited

4) M G Motor India Private Limited

5) Kia India Private Limited

Answer- **4) M G Motor India Private Limited**

**Explanation:**

The Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) has approved the following on 23rd January 2024.

- CCI approved the acquisition of around **38%** of the paid-up share capital of **M G Motor India Private Limited** (Target), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Shanghai(China) based SAIC Motor, by **JSW Ventures Singapore Pte. Limited(Acquirer)**.
- CCI has approved the merger of Bengaluru (Karnataka) based Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited (Fincare SFB) and Jaipur (Rajasthan) AU Small Finance Bank Limited (AU SFB) with AU being the merged entity. [Click here to read more](#)

**14. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has got the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s approval to raise its stake up to 9.99% in the \_\_\_\_\_ (Bank).**

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

Answer- **1) HDFC Bank**

**Explanation:**

Life Insurance Corporation of India (**LIC**) has got the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**)'s approval to raise its **stake up** to **9.99%** in the Housing Development Finance Corporation (**HDFC**) Bank.

- As of January 2024, LIC holds a 5.19% share of HDFC Bank.

## **DEFENCE**

**1. Which country, along with India, has commenced the 1st edition of joint military exercise, Desert Cyclone 2024 in Mahajan, Rajasthan on 2nd January 2024?**

- 1) Mongolia
- 2) Egypt
- 3) Oman
- 4) United Arab Emirates
- 5) Kyrgyzstan

Answer- **4) United Arab Emirates**

**Explanation:**

**Desert Cyclone 2024**, the **1st edition** of the **India-United Arab Emirates (UAE)** joint military exercise, commenced in **Mahajan, Rajasthan** on 2nd January 2024. The 2-week-long Exercise will conclude on 15th January 2024.

- The goal of the exercise is to achieve shared security objectives and foster bilateral relations between two nations.

**Note:** "Desert Eagle", the first-ever India-UAE Joint Air Forces exercise took place in September 2008 at the Al-Dhafra base in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

**i. Objective:** To boost interoperability in Sub-conventional Operations, focusing on Fighting in the Built-Up Area (FIBUA) within desert and semi-desert terrain under Chapter VII of the United Nations (UN) Charter on Peacekeeping Operations.

- It will enhance cooperation and interoperability between both sides during Peacekeeping Operations.

**ii. Participants:**

- UAE contingent: 45 personnel from the Zayed First Brigade.
- Indian Army contingent: 45 personnel, primarily by a Battalion from the Mechanised Infantry Regiment.

**2. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the recent contracts signed by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in January 2024?**

**A) MoD inked a contract worth Rs 473 crore with M/s Jupiter Wagons Limited for the procurement of 697 Bogie Open Military (BOM) wagons.**

**B) MoD inked a contract worth Rs 329.87 crore, was signed with M/s Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited for the procurement of 56 Mechanical Minefield Marking Equipment (MMME) Mark II.**

**C) The procurements were made under the Buy Indian-IDD (Indigenously Designed, Developed, and Manufactured) category.**

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

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

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has inked 2 contracts worth Rs 802 crore for indigenous military equipment. The 1st contract, worth **Rs 473 crore**, was inked with **M/s Jupiter Wagons Limited** for the **procurement of 697 Bogie Open Military (BOM) wagons**.

**i. The 2nd contract, worth Rs 329.87 crore, was signed with M/s BEML Limited (Formerly Bharat Earth Movers Limited ) for the procurement of 56 Mechanical Minefield Marking Equipment (MMME) Mark II.**

- The BOM wagons, designed by Research Design and Standard Organization (RDSO) are specialist wagons used by the Indian Army for mobilisation of the Army units.
- BOM wagons are used to transport light vehicles, Artillery Guns, BMPs, Engineering Equipment, etc. from their peacetime locations to operational areas.

**ii. The procurements were made under the Buy Indian-IDD (Indigenously Designed, Developed, and Manufactured) category.**

- Marking of all minefields is a mandatory requirement under the amended Protocol-II of ‘the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons by United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)’ to which India is a signatory.
- MMME is designed to operate cross-country with a full load of stores and carry out marking of minefields with minimal time and manpower employment.

**3. The Indian Navy's (IN) P8I aircraft participated in the on-going \_\_\_\_\_ edition of the anti-submarine warfare (ASW) 'Exercise Sea Dragon 24' held at Guam, United States of America (USA).**

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

**Answer- 2) 4th**

**Explanation:**

The Indian Navy's **(IN) P8I aircraft** participated in the on-going **4th edition** of the anti-submarine warfare **(ASW) 'Exercise Sea Dragon 24'** from January 10th to 22nd January, 2024, held at Anderson Air Force Base in **Guam**, United States of America **(USA)**.

**i.** Six countries that are participating in the exercise are India, USA, Australia, Japan, Canada, and the Republic of Korea (South Korea).

**4. Which country's Coast Guard, along with Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has recently (in Jan '24) conducted a 5-day annual joint exercise, 'Sahyog Kaijin,' off the coast of Chennai, Tamil Nadu?**

- 1) Japan
- 2) Sri Lanka
- 3) France
- 4) Thailand
- 5) Australia

**Answer- 1) Japan**

**Explanation:**

The Indian Coast Guard **(ICG)** and Japan Coast Guard **(JCG)** conducted a 5-day annual joint exercise, **'Sahyog Kaijin,'** off the coast of Chennai, Tamil Nadu from 8–12 January 2024. This marks the 20th edition joint exercise between the Japanese and Indian Coast Guards since its institution in 2000.

**i.** The exercise was held as per the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed between India and Japan in 2006, promoting interactions between the 2 Coast Guard organisations.

**5. Which of the following Indian Navy Ships (INS) were recently (in Jan '24) decommissioned in the Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar (A&N)?**

- 1) INS Kumbhir
- 2) INS Cheetah
- 3) INS Guldar
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) All 1, 2 & 3

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

**Explanation:**

Three Indian Navy Ships **(INS)** namely **INS Cheetah**, **INS Guldar** and **INS Kumbhir** were decommissioned simultaneously during a ceremony conducted at **Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar (A&N)**. All three ships rendered nearly 40 years of glorious service to India.

**i.** All three ships were built at Gdynia Shipyard, Poland; They belonged to the Polnocny class Landing Ships



- The ships were commissioned in 1984 (Cheetah), 1985 (Guldar), and 1986 (Kumbhir).

**6. Name the bilateral exercise that was recently (in Dec '23) conducted between Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN).**

- 1) Ex-Prabal Dostyk
- 2) Ex-Sampriti
- 3) Ex-SIMBEX
- 4) Ex-Ayutthaya
- 5) Ex-Indra

Answer- **4) Ex-Ayutthaya**

**Explanation:**

The Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) conducted a maiden **bilateral exercise**, named '**Ex-Ayutthaya**' from 20th to 23rd December 2023.

- The 36th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) was also conducted along with the Exercise Ayutthaya.

i. Indigenously built Indian Naval Ships (INS) Kulish and Indian Navy Landing Craft Utility-56 (IN-LCU 56) participated in the exercise.

**7. In which state, the 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Khanjar 2024' commenced in January 2024?**

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

Answer- **4) Himachal Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

"**Exercise Khanjar 2024**", the **11th** edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise, commenced on 22nd January 2024 at Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, **Himachal Pradesh** (HP).

- The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 22nd January to 3rd February 2024.

**8. Name the India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise that was commenced at Anshas, Egypt in January 2024.**

- 1) Exercise Cyclone II
- 2) Exercise Vayu Shakti II
- 3) Exercise Paschim Lehar II
- 4) Exercise Vijay Prahar II
- 5) Exercise Garuda Shakti II

Answer- **1) Exercise Cyclone II**

**Explanation:**

"**Exercise Cyclone II**", the 2nd edition of the **India-Egypt** Joint Special Forces Exercise, **commenced** on 22nd January 2024 in **Anshas, Egypt**.

- The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 22nd January to 1st February 2024.

**9. Which of the following countries, along with India have recently (in Jan '24) conducted the "Exercise Desert Knight", a Trilateral Air Force Exercise?**

- 1) Oman
- 2) United Arab Emirates
- 3) France
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 2 & 3

**Answer- 5) Both 2 & 3**

**Explanation:**

**"Exercise Desert Knight"**, a Trilateral Air Force Exercise, was conducted between the Indian Air Force (IAF) along with the French Air and Space Force (FASF), **France** and the United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) Air Force on 23rd January 2024. The joint exercise was hosted at the Al Dhafra air base in the UAE.

- **Participants and Aircraft of IAF:** Su-30 MKI (Sukhoi), MiG-29, Jaguar, Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), C-130-J transport plane, Air to Air Refueller.

**10. Name the company that has recently (in Jan '24) signed a contract worth Rs. 1070 crore with the Ministry of Defence for the acquisition of 14 Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).**

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

**Answer- 2) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Defence (**MoD**) signed a contract worth **Rs. 1070 crore** with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (**MDL** – functioning under MoD) for the acquisition of **14** Fast Patrol Vessels (**FPVs**) for the Indian Coast Guard (**ICG**).

**i.** The contract was made under the Buy Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured (**IDDM**) category.

- The FPVs are designed, developed and manufactured by MDL Mumbai, Maharashtra.

**11. Which Indian state hosted the inaugural edition of the India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise "SADA TANSEEQ" in January 2024?**

- 1) Odisha
- 2) Gujarat
- 3) Punjab
- 4) Karnataka
- 5) Rajasthan

**Answer- 5) Rajasthan**

**Explanation:**

The inaugural edition of the India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise, **"SADA TANSEEQ"**, started on **29 January 2024** at Mahajan, **Rajasthan**, and will run until 10 February 2024.

- The exercise involves significant participation from both the Royal Saudi Land Forces and the Indian Army.

**12. In January 2024, the Indian Naval Ship(INS) Nirupak was decommissioned after 38 years of service to the nation.**

**INS Nirupak belongs to which class ?**

- 1) Kolkata Class
- 2) Talwar Class
- 3) Sandhayak class
- 4) Brahmaputra Class
- 5) Shivalik Class

**Answer- 3) Sandhayak class**

**Explanation:**

On 29th January 2024, the Indian Naval Ship(INS) **Nirupak**, an indigenously designed and built hydrographic survey ship, was **decommissioned** at the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh(AP).

- The ship was decommissioned after **38** years of service to the nation.
- The ceremony was presided over by Vice Admiral Adhir Arora, Chief Hydrographer to the Government of India.

**i.**INS Nirupak, the 3rd ship of the **Sandhayak class**, was launched in June 1981 at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd(GRSE) in Kolkata, West Bengal(WB).

**ii.**The ship was commissioned into service in August 1985 by Vice Admiral Jayant Ganpat Nadkarni, then Chief of Naval Staff(CNS).

**iii.**INS Nirupak was awarded the **Admiral Jal Cursetji Rolling Trophy** for best survey ship in 1994, 1995, 2005 and 2009.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**1. In December 2023, SpaceX launched US military's secretive X-37-B military space plane onboard with \_\_\_\_\_ rocket from Launch Complex 39A (LC-39A) at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, the United States of America(USA).**

- 1) Razak Demo-2
- 2) Starhopper
- 3) Crew Dragon Demo-1
- 4) Falcon Heavy
- 5) Transporter-1

**Answer- 4) Falcon Heavy**

**Explanation:**

On 28th December 2023, **SpaceX's Falcon Heavy** rocket carrying US military's secretive **X-37-B military space plane** to orbit was launched from Launch Complex 39A (LC-39A) at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, the United States of America(USA).

- The mission involves tests of 'new orbital regimes, experimenting with future space domain awareness technologies.'

- The mission codenamed “USSF-52” is the 7th mission of X-37B. This mission includes multiple cutting-edge experiments. This is the first time the X-37B is launched using a Falcon Heavy rocket.

**i. About X-37B:**

- X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle, operating since 2010, was designed for the Air Force by United Launch Alliance, a joint venture between Boeing and Lockheed Martin.
- It is 30 feet (9 meters) long, has a 15-foot wingspan and is powered by solar panels.

**2. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the XPoSat launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in January 2024?**

**A) ISRO launched XPoSat (X-ray Polarimeter Satellite), India’s 1st dedicated polarimetry mission onboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)-C58 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.**

**B) With this, India becomes the 2nd country in the world (after the United States of America(USA)) to launch a specialised astronomy observatory to study black holes and neutron stars in our galaxy.**

**C) This mission includes the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3) aiming to accommodate and execute 10 payloads contributed by ISRO and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACE).**

- 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 1st January 2024, Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) [launched XPoSat \(X-ray Polarimeter Satellite\)](#), **India’s 1st dedicated polarimetry mission** onboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (**PSLV)-C58** from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP). **PSLV-C58** has launched **XPOSAT Satellite** into an **Eastward low inclination orbit**.

- It was PSLV-C58’s 60th mission and lifted a mass of 260 tons. It should be noted that this launch was by PSLV-DL variant. It was PSLV-DL’s 4th mission.
- The satellite is expected to operate for at least 5 years.

**i.** The mission aims to study various dynamics of bright astronomical X-ray sources like black holes, neutron stars, active galactic nuclei, pulsar wind nebulae etc. in extreme conditions.

**ii.** With this, **India** becomes the **2nd country** in the world (after the United States of America(**USA**)) to launch a specialised astronomy observatory to study black holes and neutron stars in our galaxy.

- After the launch, PS4 stage underwent two restarts for orbit adjustment to a stable 350 km circular orbit, ensuring a stable 3-axis mode for Orbital Platform (OP) experiments.

**iii.** This mission includes the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (**POEM-3**) aiming to accommodate and execute **10 payloads** contributed by **ISRO** and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (**IN-SPACE**).

- It carried the following two scientific payloads-POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays) and XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing) in a low Earth orbit (LEO).

**3. In January 2024, SpaceX launched the 21 Starlink satellites, including its first six "direct-to-cell" satellites, into Low-Earth orbit (LEO) on board a \_\_\_\_\_ (Launch vehicle) from California, United States of America(USA).**

- 1) Falcon 1e
- 2) Grasshopper
- 3) Falcon 9
- 4) Starship
- 5) Falcon 5

**Answer- 3) Falcon 9**

**Explanation:**

On 2nd January 2024, **SpaceX's Falcon 9** launched the **21 Starlink satellites**, including its **first six "direct-to-cell" satellites**, to Low-Earth orbit (**LEO**) from Space Launch Complex 4 East (SLC-4E) at Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, the United States of America (USA).

- i.** Direct to cell satellites aim to provide seamless global access to text, call, and browse across all-terrain and location coverage without changing hardware or firmware.
- ii.** These starlink satellites use an advanced eNodeB modem that acts as a cellphone tower in space.
  - eNodeB – refers to the base station equipment that handles the radio interface with the mobile devices.
- iii.** This will eliminate dead zones (a place that doesn't receive a cell signal) with network integration similar to a standard roaming partner.
  - The global cellular providers which are currently using Direct to cell include T-Mobile in the USA, Rogers in Canada, KDDI in Japan, Optus in Australia, One NZ in New Zealand, Salt in Switzerland, and Entel in Chile and Peru.

**4. Which company is set to launch GSAT-20 (renamed GSAT-N2), a Ka-band high throughput satellite (HTS), onboard the Falcon-9 rocket of Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) in the 2nd quarter of 2024?**

- 1) NewSpace India Limited
- 2) Godrej Aerospace
- 3) KaleidEO Space Systems
- 4) Dhruva Space
- 5) Skyroot Aerospace

**Answer- 1) NewSpace India Limited**

**Explanation:**

NewSpace India Limited (**NSIL**), the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is set to launch **GSAT-20 (renamed GSAT-N2)**, a Ka-band high throughput satellite (**HTS**), onboard the **Falcon-9 rocket** of Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (**SpaceX**) in the **2nd quarter of 2024**.

- This will be ISRO's first partnership with SpaceX to launch the satellites.
- i. About GSAT-N2:**
- GSAT-N2 is specifically designed to meet the broadband, In-flight and Maritime Connectivity (IFMC) and cellular backhaul service needs of remote/ unconnected regions.
  - It offers 32 user beams in the Ka-Ka band having Pan-India coverage including Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep islands.
  - GSAT-N2, weighing 4700 kg, offers an HTS capacity of nearly 48 Gigabytes Per Second(Gpbs).

- GSAT-N2 satellite will be fully owned, operated and funded by NSIL.

**5. Which company has recently (in Jan '24) unveiled 'GoRoga' India's first anti-stress wearable?**

- 1) Nazara Technologies Limited
- 2) GSS Infotech Limited
- 3) Tracxn Technologies Limited
- 4) GlobalSpace Technologies Limited
- 5) Zensar Technologies Limited

**Answer- 4) GlobalSpace Technologies Limited**

**Explanation:**

Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **GlobalSpace Technologies Limited** has unveiled '**GoRoga**' **India's first anti-stress wearable**.

- The device uses non-invasive brain stimulation (NIBS) technology to reduce anxiety and promote mental wellness.
- i. The device is manufactured and patented as RogaLife in the United States of America (USA) and the software is developed in India under the 'Make in India' initiative.
  - ii. 'GoRoga' is designed to activate cortisol (steroid hormone) by connecting to a phone and utilizing sticky pads on the ears.

**6. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s Aditya-L1 spacecraft, as of January 2023?**

**A) (ISRO successfully performed the crucial manoeuvre (final manoeuvre) of injecting the Aditya-L1 spacecraft, India's first space-based observatory-class solar probe to study the Sun, into the halo orbit around Lagrangian point 1 (L1), travelled around 2.1 million kilometres in 75 days.**

**B) Between 3rd and 15th September 2023, the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru, Karnataka, has carried out 4 Earth-Bound Manoeuvres (EBN).**

**C) Aditya L1 carries 7 payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere, and corona (the outermost layers of the Sun) using electromagnetic and particle detectors.**

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

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

**Explanation:**

On 6th January 2024, the Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) successfully performed the crucial manoeuvre (final manoeuvre) of injecting the [Aditya-L1 spacecraft](#), India's first space-based observatory-class solar probe to study the Sun, into the halo orbit around Lagrangian point 1 (**L1**).

- Aditya L1 has travelled around **3.7 million kilometres** in **126 days** to reach **L1**.
  - This marks the transition of the Aditya L1 mission from cruise phase to orbit phase.
- i. After a flight duration of 63 minutes and 20 seconds, Aditya L1 was successfully injected into an elliptical orbit of 235×19500 km around the Earth.
  - ii. Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C57) launched Aditya L1 on 2nd September 2023 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- Between 3rd and 15th September 2023, the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru, Karnataka, has carried out 4 Earth-Bound Manoeuvres (EBN).
- On 30th September 2023, Aditya L1 travelled beyond a distance of 9.2 lakh km from Earth and escaped the sphere of Earth's influence and began its journey towards L1.
- Mission Director: Nigar Shaji, a scientist at the UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), part of ISRO, in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Nigar Shaji hails from Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu.

**iii.** Aditya L1 carries **7 payloads** to observe the photosphere, chromosphere, and corona (the outermost layers of the Sun) using electromagnetic and particle detectors.

- 4 payloads will directly view the Sun and 3 payloads will carry out in-situ studies of particles and fields at the L1. These payloads were indigenously developed in collaboration with various ISRO Centres and Scientific Institutes.

**7. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the recent test made by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in January 2024?**

**A) ISRO has tested a 100-watt(W) class Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell based Power System (FCPS) to assess its operation in space and to collect data to facilitate the design of systems for future missions.**

**B) The test was carried out in ISRO's orbital platform, PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM3), which was launched onboard Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)-C58 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh on 1st January 2024.**

**C) ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) has tested 10 Ampere Hour (Ah) Silicon(Si)-Graphite anode based High Energy Density Lithium(Li)-ion cells through the POEM3 experiment to assess the anode's capability to survive and perform in the space environment.**

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:**

Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) has tested a **100-watt(W) class Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell based Power System (FCPS)** to assess its operation in space and to collect data to facilitate the design of systems for future missions.

**i.** The test was carried out in ISRO's orbital platform, PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM3) which was launched onboard Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)-C58 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh on 1st January 2024.

**ii. Testing:**

- FCPS is an electric generator which works on electrochemical principles.
- During the testing of FCPS, 180 W power was generated from Hydrogen(H<sub>2</sub>) and Oxygen(O<sub>2</sub>) gases stored in high pressure vessels.
- These two gases react to produce electricity, water and small amounts of heat.

**iv.** ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (**VSSC**) has tested **10 Ampere Hour (Ah) Silicon(Si)-Graphite anode** based High Energy Density Lithium(Li)-ion cells through the POEM3 experiment to assess the anode's capability to survive and perform in the space environment.

- Si-Graphite anode-based cells can accommodate more Li-ions thereby increasing the energy density of the cell to 190 Watt-hour(Wh)/kg with an operating voltage(V) of 4.2 to 2.8 V.
- The cell also utilizes readily available materials and a crimped sealing design which reduces hardware and fabrication costs. These cells are low-weight and low-cost alternatives to present Li-ion cells.

**8. Which company has recently (in Jan '24) tested the 3-dimensionally (3-D) printed innovative propulsion system called "Rotating Detonation Rocket Engine (RDRE)" at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, the United States of America (USA)?**

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

**Answer- 4) National Aeronautics and Space Administration**

**Explanation:**

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has successfully tested the 3-dimensionally **(3-D) printed innovative propulsion system** called "Rotating Detonation Rocket Engine **(RDRE)**" at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, the United States of America (USA).

- RDRE is NASA's first engine which generates thrust using a supersonic combustion phenomenon known as a detonation.
- i. RDRE is managed and funded by the Game Changing Development Program within NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate.
  - ii. The engine can power both human landers and interplanetary vehicles.
  - iii. The RDRE incorporates the NASA-developed GRCop-42, a copper, chromium and niobium alloy, with the powder bed fusion additive manufacturing process.

**9. In January 2024, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched five payloads to soft land on the Moon's surface aboard \_\_\_\_\_ (Mission) through United Launch Alliance (ULA)'s Vulcan Centaur Launch Vehicle (VC2S) from Cape Canaveral, Florida, United States of America (USA).**

- 1) Able 5A (Pioneer P-30)
- 2) Akatsuki Mission One
- 3) Concordia Mission One (TO2-AB)
- 4) ARIEL mission One
- 5) Peregrine Mission One (PM1) (TO2-AB)

**Answer- 5) Peregrine Mission One (PM1) (TO2-AB)**

**Explanation:**

On 08th January 2024, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration **(NASA)** launched **five payloads** to **soft land** on the **Moon's surface** aboard **Peregrine Mission One (PM1) (TO2-AB)**. The mission was launched through United Launch Alliance **(ULA)'s** Vulcan Centaur Launch Vehicle **(VC2S)** from Cape Canaveral, Florida, United States of America **(USA)**.



- This is the first launch of NASA under the Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) Initiative. PM1 is the first commercial mission of Astrobotic Technology to land on another planetary body.
- Sharad Bhaskaran, who is of Indian origin, is the mission director.

i. The **five payloads** of the mission are:

- Laser Retro-Reflector Array (LRA) – function as a permanent location marker on the Moon.
- Linear Energy Transfer Spectrometer (LETS) – demonstrates the capabilities of the radiation monitors on the lunar surface.
- Near-Infrared Volatile Spectrometer System (NIRVSS) – Studies lunar soil composition and finds hidden minerals and volatiles.
- Peregrine Ion-Trap Mass Spectrometer (PITMS) – analyses thin lunar atmosphere and studies escaping gases & molecules.
- Neutron Spectrometer System (NSS) – detects potential water present in the lunar soil.

**Note-** This is the **first lunar mission of NASA** after the launch of Apollo 17 in **1972**.

**10. Name the assault rifle that was recently (in Jan '24) launched by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Army (IA).**

- 1) Kiran
- 2) Sitara
- 3) Pushpak
- 4) Deepak
- 5) Ugram

Answer- **5) Ugram**

**Explanation:**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) launched the “**Ugram (ferocious)**” assault rifle for the Indian Army (**IA**). It was unveiled by Shailendra Gade, the Director General of the Armament and Combat Engineering (ACE) system of the DRDO.

- i. It has been developed by Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune, Maharashtra and a Hyderabad-based private firm Dvipa Armour India Private Limited (DAIPL).
- ii. It is 7.62 x 51 mm caliber, weighs less than four kilograms, and has a 500-meter firing range. It has a rivet-free design.

**11. Name the University that has recently (in Jan '24) developed an electrically conductive growing medium called electronic soil (e-Soil) for hydroponics.**

- 1) Indira Gandhi Agricultural University (India)
- 2) Linköping University (Sweden)
- 3) University of Massachusetts Amherst (United States)
- 4) Zhejiang University (China)
- 5) Stockholm University (Sweden)

Answer- **2) Linköping University (Sweden)**

**Explanation:**

Researchers from **Sweden's Linköping University**, have developed an electrically conductive growing medium called **electronic soil (e-Soil)** which finds its application in soil-less gardening or **hydroponics**.

i. The study on e-Soil was published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), a peer reviewed journal of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS).

**12. In January 2024, the Indian Navy received Drishti 10 Starliner, the 1st indigenously manufactured Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) from \_\_\_\_\_ (company).**

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

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

**Explanation:**

The **Indian Navy** received **Drishti 10 Starliner** (also known as Elbit Hermes 900), the **1st** indigenously manufactured Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), manufactured at the Adani Defence and Aerospace (**ADA**) facility in Hyderabad, Telangana.

i. The drone was unveiled by admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), Indian Navy, in Hyderabad, Telangana.

ii. The Drishti 10 drones were produced by Adani Group in partnership with Israel's Elbit Systems.

**13. In January 2024, the National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) project introduced a mobile app 'Report Fish Disease' (RFD) to track and monitor fish diseases across India.**

**Which Institute/resource centre has developed the 'Report Fish Disease' app?**

- 1) Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
- 2) National Bureau of Aquaculture Resources
- 3) Central Institute of Fisheries Technology
- 4) National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources
- 5) Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture

Answer- **4) National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources**

**Explanation:**

The National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (**NSPAAD**) project has introduced a mobile app 'Report Fish Disease' (**RFD**) to track and monitor fish diseases across India.

i. The '**Report Fish Disease**' app has been developed by **ICAR** (Indian Council of Agricultural Research)-**NBFG**R (National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources) in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) under the National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (**NSPAAD**).

- NSPAAD is funded under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAH&D), Government of India.

**14. Which country's space startup OrienSpace has recently (in Jan '24) launched its maiden rocket Gravity-1(Yinli-1) from Defu-15002, the mobile sea platform?**

- 1) Japan
- 2) Russia
- 3) China

- 4) Israel
- 5) United States of America

Answer- **3) China**

**Explanation:**

**OrienSpace, a Chinese space** startup firm, has launched its maiden **rocket Gravity-1**(Yinli-1) from **Defu-15002, the mobile sea platform** off the coast of Haiyang (Yellow Sea) in the eastern Shandong province of China.

- Gravity-1 carried three Yunyao-1 weather satellites to 500km low earth orbit(LEO).

**15. Name the missile that has recently (in Jan '24) conducted a flight test by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.**

- 1) Astra-NG
- 2) Prahaar
- 3) Akash-NG
- 4) HELINA
- 5) Amogha 1

Answer- **3) Akash-NG**

**Explanation:**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) successfully conducted a flight test of the New Generation **AKASH (AKASH-NG) missile** from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

**i.** The AKASH-NG system is a state-of-the-art missile system, capable of intercepting high-speed, agile aerial threats.

**16. Which company has recently (in Jan '24) launched an H-IIA rocket carrying Japan's Information-Gathering Satellite (IGS) "Optical-8" into a 500-kilometre-altitude sun-synchronous orbit (SSO)?**

- 1) Lockheed Martin Corporation
- 2) Boeing India
- 3) Northrop Grumman Corporation
- 4) United Technologies Corporation
- 5) Mitsubishi Heavy Industries

Answer- **5) Mitsubishi Heavy Industries**

**Explanation:**

**Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Limited** has launched an **H-IIA rocket** carrying Japan's Cabinet Satellite Information Center's Information-Gathering Satellite (**IGS) "Optical-8"** into a 500-kilometre-altitude sun-synchronous orbit (**SSO**) from Tanegashima Space Centre (TNSC) in **Japan** on 12th January 2024.

- The IGS satellites serve "both Japan's national defence and civil natural disaster monitoring and capture high-resolution images at night and in bad weather.

**17. In January 2024, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) launched the lotus-shaped astronomical satellite Einstein Probe (EP) to observe violent cosmic phenomena on a \_\_\_\_\_ carrier rocket from southwest Sichuan Province of China.**

- 1) Long March 2C
- 2) Long March 11
- 3) Long March 3B
- 4) Long March 2F
- 5) Long March 2D

**Answer- 1) Long March 2C**

**Explanation:**

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) launched the lotus-shaped astronomical satellite Einstein Probe (EP) to observe violent cosmic phenomena on a **Chang Zheng (Long March) 2C carrier rocket** from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest Sichuan Province of China, on 9th January 2024.

i. Einstein Probe is a collaboration led by CAS with the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics (MPE), Germany.

- The lotus-shaped satellite features twelve petals and two stamens, where the twelve petals are twelve modules consisting of wide-field X-ray telescope (WXT), and the two “stamens” consist of two modules of Follow-up X-ray Telescope (FXT).

**18. Name the end-to-end secure mobile ecosystem that was recently (in Jan '24) developed by the Indian Army to enhance national defense capabilities.**

- 1) SAI
- 2) mSeva
- 3) SAMBHAV
- 4) KEMAS
- 5) Anuman

**Answer- 3) SAMBHAV**

**Explanation:**

The Indian Army has indigenously developed an end-to-end **secure mobile ecosystem** called **SAMBHAV (Secure Army Mobile Bharat Version)** to enhance national defense capabilities.

- SAMBHAV operates on state-of-the-art contemporary 5G technology and aims to provide secure communication with instant connectivity, even on the move.
- It was developed in collaboration with the National Centres of Excellence from academia and industry.

**19. In January 2024, the 25T Bollard Pull (BP) Tug, named Bhishm was launched at M/s Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL) in \_\_\_\_\_ (city).**

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

**Answer- 1) Kolkata, West Bengal**

**Explanation:**

On 14th January 2024, Commodore S Sreekumar, Warship Production Superintendent (**Kolkata, West Bengal**) launched the **25T Bollard Pull(BP) Tug**, named **Bhishm**, at M/s Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (**TRSL**) in **Kolkata**.

- i. The Tug was built under the classification rules of Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).
- ii. With the launch, the contract for construction and delivery of six 25T BP Tugs was concluded with TRSL.

**20. Which organisation/company has recently (in Jan '24) developed 'Distress Alert Transmitter – Second Generation' (DAT-SG) for the fishermen at sea to send emergency messages from fishing boats?**

- 1) Afcons Infrastructure Ltd
- 2) Marine craft Engineers Pvt
- 3) Praga Marine Pvt Ltd
- 4) Larsen and Toubro Ltd
- 5) Indian Space Research Organisation

Answer- **5) Indian Space Research Organisation**

**Explanation:**

Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) has successfully developed 'Distress Alert Transmitter – Second Generation' (**DAT-SG**) for the **fishermen** at sea to send emergency messages from fishing boats.

- i. DAT-SG was inaugurated by Sreedhara Panicker Somanath, Secretary to the Department of Space (DOS) & Chairman of ISRO, in the presence of Rakesh Pal, Director General of Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

**21. In January 2024, Space Exploration Technologies Corporation's (SpaceX) Falcon 9 rocket launched Axiom Space's Axiom Mission 3 (Ax-3) by carrying \_\_\_\_\_ (country)'s 1st astronaut, Alper Gezeravcı, to the International Space Station (ISS).**

- 1) Tunisia
- 2) Israel
- 3) Iran
- 4) Jordan
- 5) Türkiye

Answer- **5) Türkiye**

**Explanation:**

On 18th January 2024, Space Exploration Technologies Corporation's (**SpaceX**) **Falcon 9 rocket** launched Axiom Space's Axiom Mission 3 (**Ax-3**) to the International Space Station (ISS) from Launch Complex 39A (LC-39A) at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s Kennedy Space Center in Florida, The United States of America (USA).

- i. The mission carried the **Türkiye's 1st astronaut, Alper Gezeravcı**, along with crew members representing Spain, Italy and Sweden aboard the SpaceX's Dragon 'Freedom' spacecraft. [Click here to read more.](#)

**22. In January 2024, the Minister of State (MoS) Ajay Bhatt, Ministry of Defence (MoD) flagged off the indigenously developed and manufactured Astra Missiles for supply to the Indian Air Force (IAF).**

**Which company manufactured the Astra Missiles?**

- 1) Bharat Electronics Limited
- 2) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- 3) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- 4) Bharat Dynamics Limited
- 5) BEML Limited

**Answer- 4) Bharat Dynamics Limited**

**Explanation:**

The Minister of State (MoS) Ajay Bhatt, Ministry of Defence (MoD) flagged off the indigenously developed and manufactured **Astra Missiles** for supply to the Indian Air Force (IAF).

**i.** Astra is a Beyond Visual Range (BVR) class of Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) system. It is designed to be mounted on fighter aircraft.

**ii.** It was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).

**23. Which country's defence ministry has recently (in Jan '24) tested a nuclear-capable underwater attack drone 'Haeil-5-23'?**

- 1) North Korea
- 2) Russia
- 3) Israel
- 4) Iran
- 5) China

**Answer- 1) North Korea**

**Explanation:**

The **North Korean defence ministry's** think tank has tested a nuclear-capable underwater attack drone 'Haeil-5-23' (meaning tsunami) in the East Sea, also known as the Sea of Japan.

- The underwater drone 'Haeil-1' was first tested in March 2023.

**i.** The test was conducted in response to the three-day joint military exercises conducted by the navies of South Korea, the United States of America (USA) and Japan

**24. In January 2024, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully landed Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) on the Lunar Surface.**

**With this Japan became the \_\_\_\_\_ nation to soft land on the Moon.**

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

**Answer- 3) 5th**

**Explanation:**

On 20th January 2024, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (**JAXA**), the Japanese national air and space agency, successfully landed Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (**SLIM**) within 330 feet (100 meters) of its target site on the **rim of Shioli Crater**.

- With this **Japan** became the **5th** nation to soft land on the lunar surface after the United States of America (USA), Russia, China, and India.
- i. The SLIM probe nicknamed “Moon Sniper” was launched onboard the H-IIA Launch Vehicle No. 47 (H-IIA F47) on 7th September 2023 from JAXA Tanegashima Space Center, Kagoshima, Japan.

**25. Which country has recently (in Jan '24) launched the Sorayya satellite using a three-stage solid-fuel Qaem 100 satellite carrier?**

- 1) Türkiye
- 2) Iran
- 3) United Arab Emirates
- 4) Israel
- 5) Saudi Arabia

Answer- **2) Iran**

**Explanation:**

**Iran's** Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (**IRGC**) has launched **Sorayya satellite** using a three-stage solid-fuel **Qaem 100 satellite** carrier, developed by IRGC Aerospace Force.

i. Iran for the very first time launched a satellite to a height of about 750-kilometre (460 miles) above the earth's surface.

**26. Which company, along with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has recently (in Jan '24) launched the X-59 quiet Supersonic Jet, a one-of-a-kind experimental aircraft known as the 'Son of Concorde'?**

- 1) Lockheed Martin Corporation
- 2) Northrop Grumman Corporation
- 3) Boeing
- 4) BAE Systems
- 5) Airbus SE

Answer- **1) Lockheed Martin Corporation**

**Explanation:**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) and **Lockheed Martin Corporation**, a global aerospace and defence company unveiled the **X-59 quiet Supersonic Jet**, a one-of-a-kind experimental aircraft known as the '**Son of Concorde**'.

i. The X-59 Supersonic Jet was revealed at Lockheed Martin's Skunk Works facility in Palmdale, California, United States of America (USA).

ii. The X-59 is at the centre of NASA's Quiet Supersonic Technology (QueSST) mission that aims to demonstrate the ability to fly supersonic while generating a gentle “sonic thump” without making loud sonic booms.

**27. Name the company that has recently (in Jan '24) launched India's 1st indigenous Generative AI (GenAI) Large Language Model (LLM) called BharatGPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformers).**

- 1) Yellow.ai
- 2) kFin Technologies
- 3) CoRover.ai
- 4) Niki.ai
- 5) Phronetic.ai

Answer- **3) CoRover.ai**

**Explanation:**

Bengaluru, Karnataka based **CoRover Private Limited** (CoRover.ai) launched **India's 1st** indigenous Generative AI (**GenAI**) Large Language Model (**LLM**) called **BharatGPT** (Generative Pre-trained Transformers).

**i.** This is the only Indian Indigenous GenAI platform available across channels in 14+ Indian languages, with generative Video, Voice & Text.

**28. In January 2024, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first country in the world to incorporate a malaria vaccine into its routine national immunisation program.**

- 1) Republic of Uganda
- 2) Mozambique
- 3) Republic of Ghana
- 4) Tanzania
- 5) Republic of Cameroon

Answer- **5) Republic of Cameroon**

**Explanation:**

The **Republic of Cameroon**, a Central African country, has become the **first country** in the world to incorporate a **malaria vaccine** into its routine national immunization program.

**i.** Cameroon uses a RTS,S/AS01(Mosquirix) vaccine, the only vaccine that has demonstrated it can significantly reduce malaria in young children

**29. In January 2024, Yard 129 (LSAM 19), the \_\_\_\_\_ Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile (ACTCM) Barge was launched at M/s Suryadipta Projects Private Limited (SPPL), Thane, Maharashtra.**

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

Answer- **1) 5th**

**Explanation:**

On 24th January 2024, the **fifth** Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile (**ACTCM**) Barge, **Yard 129 (LSAM 19)** was launched by Commodore V Pravin AWPS (Mumbai, Maharashtra) at M/s Suryadipta Projects Private Limited (**SPPL**), **Thane** (Maharashtra).

**i.** The Barge was built by Thane-based Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) M/s Suryadipta Projects Private Limited. It was built under relevant Naval Rules and Regulation of Indian Register of Shipping (IRClass).



**30. In January 2024, Indian Navy (IN) in collaboration with BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL), test-fired an extended-range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile (BrahMos ER). BrahMos ER is an improved variant of the basic BrahMos missile, with a range of around \_\_\_\_\_ kilometres.**

- 1) 550 to 600
- 2) 650 to 700
- 3) 750 to 800
- 4) 850 to 900
- 5) 450 to 500

**Answer- 5) 450 to 500**

**Explanation:**

Indian Navy (IN), in collaboration with BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL), test-fired an extended-range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile (BrahMos ER) on 24th January 2024.

- The test-firing was conducted from combat and mission-ready ships.
- i. The BrahMos ER is developed by BAPL, a joint venture (JV) between Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPO Mash) and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **BrahMos ER** is an improved variant of the basic BrahMos missile, with a range of around **450 to 500 kilometres**, compared to 290 kilometres for the baseline version.

**31. In January 2024, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully deployed the \_\_\_\_\_ metre long magnetometer boom on the Aditya-L1 satellite in Halo orbit at the Lagrange point L-1.**

- 1) 20
- 2) 15
- 3) 10
- 4) 12
- 5) 6

**Answer- 5) 6**

**Explanation:**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully deployed the **6-metre long magnetometer boom** on the **Aditya-L1 satellite** in Halo orbit at the Lagrange point L-1 on 11th January 2024.

- The boom had been in stowed condition (Kept for future use) for 132 days since India's maiden solar mission Aditya-L 1 launched on September 2, 2023.

**32. In January 2024, Which country has simultaneously launched 3 satellites for the 1st time using the 2-stage, liquid-fueled Simorgh (Phoenix) Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV)?**

- 1) Japan
- 2) South Korea
- 3) China
- 4) Iran
- 5) North Korea

**Answer-4) Iran**

**Explanation:**

In January 2024, **Iran** simultaneously launched **3 satellites** for the **1st time** using the 2-stage, liquid-fueled **Simorgh** (Phoenix) Satellite Launch Vehicle (**SLV**) developed by the Ministry of Defence.

- The satellites were launched from the Imam Khomeini Spaceport in Semnan province, Iran into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- The 3 satellites include a larger satellite named **Mahda** and two nanosatellites, **Keyhan-2** and **Hatef-1**.

## SPORTS

**1. In December 2023, Norwegian Grandmaster (GM) and World No.1, Magnus Carlsen won the World Rapid Chess Championship title (Men) for \_\_\_\_\_ time, while Russian chess player Anastasia Bodnaruk won the 2023 FIDE World Rapid Chess Women's title by defeating Indian Chess Grandmaster, \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) 5th; Koneru Humpy
- 2) 6th; Vaishali Rameshbabu
- 3) 5th; Harika Dronavalli
- 4) 4th; Vaishali Rameshbabu
- 5) 6th; Koneru Humpy

Answer- **1) 5th; Koneru Humpy**

**Explanation:**

Norwegian Grandmaster (GM) and World No.1, Magnus Carlsen won the **2023 International Chess Federation (FIDE) World Rapid Chess title (Men)** held at Samarkand, Uzbekistan from 26 December to 28 December 2023. This title marks Magnus Carlsen's **5th World Rapid Chess Championship title**.

- He has totally won 16 World Championship titles, which include 5 rapid titles, 6 blitz titles, and 5 classical titles. He also received the Prize Money -USD 60,000.

**ii.** Russian chess player Anastasia Bodnaruk (neutral Fide flag) won the 2023 FIDE World Rapid Chess Women's title by defeating **Indian Chess Grandmaster, Koneru Humpy** in a tiebreaker match to secure first place.

**2. In December 2023, Norwegian Grandmaster and World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen won his \_\_\_\_\_ World Blitz Chess Championships (open tournament) title and Russian grandmaster \_\_\_\_\_ won the World Women's Blitz Chess Championships title in 2023.**

- 1) 8th; Polina Shuvalova
- 2) 7th; Valentina Gunina
- 3) 8th; Alexandra Kosteniuk
- 4) 7th; Polina Shuvalova
- 5) 6th; Valentina Gunina

Answer- **2) 7th; Valentina Gunina**

**Explanation:**

Norwegian Grandmaster and World Chess Champion **Magnus Carlsen** won the title at the **2023 World Blitz Chess Championships (open tournament)** held at the Samarkand Congress Center, Samarkand, Uzbekistan from 29th to 30th December 2023.

- This marks Carlsen's **7th World Blitz championship title** and 17th World Championship title.
- Russia's **Valentina Gunina** won the title in the **Women's Blitz tournament**. This marks her **2nd World Blitz title**. She previously won the title in 2012.

**i. Top 3 under Open and Women's tournament:**

- **Open:** Magnus Carlsen finished with 16 points scored in 21 games, while Russia's Daniil Dubov (15.5 points), and Russia's Vladislav Artemiev (15 points) finished 2nd and 3rd in the Open Blitz tournament.
- **Women:** Valentina Gunina finished with 14 points out of 17 games. The former World Champion Alexandra Kosteniuk of Switzerland finished 2nd (13.5), and China's Zhu Jiner finished 3rd (12.5). The Russian players are currently playing under the neutral FIDE flag.

**ii.** The prize fund of the 2023 championship is 1 million US dollars, with USD 700,000 for the Open and USD 300,000 for the Women's tournaments.

**3. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the changes made by the International Cricket Council (ICC) in December 2023?**

**A) The International Cricket Council (ICC) has made changes to the stumping rule by stating that while checking for a stumping appeal, the TV umpire (referred as 3rd Umpire) will only assess the images from the side-on camera (to show only stumping done by the wicketkeeper).**

**B) The change in the stumping rules make the bowling team go for a separate Decision Review System (DRS) referral for the caught-behind appeal (whether the ball caught by the wicketkeeper has been hit or edged by the batsman).**

**C) According to new changes in the concussion (head or neck injury) Substitution rule, the substitute player will not be allowed to bowl if the replaced(injured) player was suspended from bowling at the time of the concussion incident.**

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

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

**Explanation:**

The International Cricket Council (**ICC**) has made changes to the stumping rule by stating that while checking for a stumping appeal, the **TV umpire** (referred as 3rd Umpire) will only assess the images from the side-on camera (to show only stumping done by the wicketkeeper) and will not assess the caught-behind scenario.

- ICC also made changes to the concussion substitute rules.

**i. About New Stumping Rule:**

- The change in the stumping rules make the bowling team go for a separate Decision Review System (**DRS**) **referral** for the caught-behind appeal (whether the ball caught by the wicketkeeper has been hit or edged by the batsman).
- The new changes to the Stumping rule came into effect on 12th December 2023.

**ii. About concussion Substitution rule:**

- According to new changes in the **concussion** (head or neck injury) **Substitution rule**, the substitute player will not be allowed to bowl if the replaced(injured) player was suspended from bowling at the time of the concussion incident.

**Note-** Additional Info: The ICC has also imposed a four-minute time limit for on-field injury assessment and treatment.

**4. Name the Australian batsman who has recently (in Jan '24) announced his retirement from one-day international (ODI) cricket and test cricket.**

- 1) David Warner
- 2) Marcus Harris
- 3) Peter Handscomb
- 4) Travis Head
- 5) Matt Renshaw

Answer- **1) David Warner**

**Explanation:**

Australian batsman **David Warner** announced his retirement from one-day international (**ODI**) **cricket** and **test cricket** during his last test match against Pakistan, held from 3-6 January 2024 in Sydney, Australia.

- David Warner was awarded Australian Cricket Awards(formerly Allan Border Medal) three times in 2020,2017 & 2016 by Cricket Australia (The national governing body for cricket in Australia) for his outstanding performance.
- He was part of the cup-winning Australian team in the following tournaments, including
- ODI World Cup (2015) hosted by New Zealand and Australia
- Twenty20 (T20) World Cup (2021) held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman
- World Test Championship (2021-2023) held in London, United Kingdom(UK)
- ODI World Cup (2023) held in India
- David Warner holds the record for Australia's second-highest run scorer across all three formats(ODI,T20I and Test) with 18,612 runs, behind Ricky Ponting (27,483 runs).

**5. Which country has recently (in Jan '24) won the United Cup 2024 title by defeating the Poland tennis team?**

- 1) Serbia
- 2) France
- 3) Australia
- 4) Norway
- 5) Germany

Answer- **5) Germany**

**Explanation:**

The **German tennis team** won the **United Cup 2024** title by defeating **Poland** 2-1 in the finals held at the Ken Rosewall Arena in Sydney, Australia. The second edition of the United Cup was held from 29th December 2023 – 7th January 2024 in Perth and Sydney, Australia.

**i.** Each tie (round) in the United Cup 2024 features three matches (men's singles, women's singles, and mixed doubles).

- Germany's Alexander Zverev (6th in the ATP ranking) defeated Poland's Hubert Hurkacz (9th ranked) in the men's singles finals.
- In the women's singles finals, Poland's Iga Swiatek(1st in WTA ranking) defeated Angelique Kerber (Germany).

- In the mixed doubles event, Alexander Zverev and Laura Siegemund (Germany) defeated Hubert Hurkacz and Iga Swiatek (Poland) in the finals.
- Winners of men's singles and women's singles in the final receive USD 251,000 prize money, while mixed doubles winners get USD 47,255.
  - The final winning team received USD 23,155 in prize money.

**6. The Indian cricket team won the One Day International (ODI) series under the captainship of \_\_\_\_\_ during India tour of South Africa from December 2023 to January 2024, while T20I and test series ended in a draw.**

- 1) Hardik Pandya
- 2) Suryakumar Yadav
- 3) KL Rahul
- 4) Rohit Sharma
- 5) Shreyas Iyer

Answer- **3) KL Rahul**

**Explanation:**

The [Indian cricket team toured South Africa](#) from 10th December 2023 to 07th January 2024 to play Three Twenty20 International (T20I), Three One Day International (ODI), and two test matches.

- The Indian cricket team won the ODI series while T20I and test series ended in a draw.
  - i. During three-match T20I series, Indian T20I captain **Suryakumar Yadav** scored his **fourth century** in the third T20I match against South Africa and he equalled the record for most T20 centuries in international cricket jointly held by Rohit Sharma and Glenn Maxwell (Australia).
  - ii. During the **ODI series**, **KL Rahul** captained the **Indian ODI team**, which won the **3-match ODI series** 2-1 against South Africa and with this KL Rahul became **2nd Indian captain** after Virat Kohli (2018) to lead India to an ODI Series victory in South Africa.

**7. In December 2023, Former Test captain of \_\_\_\_\_ (country) Dean Elgar announced his retirement from International Cricket.**

- 1) South Africa
- 2) West Indies
- 3) Zimbabwe
- 4) New Zealand
- 5) Australia

Answer- **1) South Africa**

**Explanation:**

**South Africa's** former Test captain **Dean Elgar** has announced his retirement from **International Cricket** after the last test match against India in December 2023.

- i. South African batsman **Heinrich Klaasen** has announced his retirement from **Test cricket**. He continues to play in One Day International (ODI) and Twenty20 International (T20I) matches.

**8. Which company has recently (in Jan '24) announced as the title sponsor for the Indian Premier League (IPL) from 2024 to 2028?**

- 1) MRF
- 2) TATA Group
- 3) DLF

4) TVS Motor

5) BYJU'S

Answer- **2) TATA Group**

**Explanation:**

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (**BCCI**) has announced **TATA Group** as the title sponsor for the Indian Premier League (**IPL**) from **2024 to 2028**, extending their partnership for a 5-year term.

- BCCI awards the sponsorship for a value of Rs. 2500 crore.

**Note-** TATA Group is also the title sponsor of the Women's Premier League, the biggest women's T20 league in the world.

**9. Which of the following Indian badminton players have recently (in Jan '24) won the silver medal in the men's doubles of Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2024 held in New Delhi, Delhi?**

1) Lakshya Sen and Srikanth Kidambi

2) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty

3) Chirag Shetty and Lakshya Sen

4) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Srikanth Kidambi

5) Prannoy H. S. and Chirag Shetty

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

**Explanation:**

Indian badminton pair **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** won the **silver medal**

(Runners-up) in the **men's doubles** of **Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2024** held from 16th-21st January 2024 in K. D. Jadhav Indoor Stadium in New Delhi, Delhi.

- In the finals of the men's doubles, the Indian pair lost to South Korean pair Kang Min Hyuk and Seo Seung Jae (Gold medallists).

**Note-** Satwiksairaj and Chirag also won the silver medal(Runners-up) in the men's doubles after they lost to Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang(Winner – Gold Medal) of China in the PETRONAS Malaysia Open 2024.

**10. How many medals have won by India in the Asian Shotgun Championships 2024 held at Kuwait in January 2024?**

1) 12

2) 8

3) 6

4) 10

5) 5

Answer- **2) 8**

**Explanation:**

The **Indian contingent** won **8 medals** (1 Gold, 3 Silver, and 4 Bronze) in the **Asian Shotgun**

**Championships 2024** held at the Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex in Kuwait City, **Kuwait** from 12-22 January 2024.

**i.** India **ranked fifth** in the medal tally with 8 medals while China secured first position with 13 medals (5 Gold, 6 Silver, and 2 Bronze). [List of Indian Medal Winners](#)

**11. Which team has recently (in Jan '24) won Australia's Big Bash League (BBL) 2023-24 title?**

- 1) Perth Scorchers
- 2) Melbourne Renegades
- 3) Brisbane Heat
- 4) Sydney Sixers
- 5) Hobart Hurricanes

Answer- **3) Brisbane Heat**

**Explanation:**

**Brisbane Heat** cricket team won **Australia's Big Bash League (BBL) 2023-24** title by defeating Sydney Sixers in the finals held at Sydney Cricket Ground, Sydney (Australia).

- This victory marks Brisbane Heat's second BBL title including their win in 2012-13 and 2023-24 seasons.
- The 13th edition of the BBL witnessed the participation of eight teams, held from 7th December 2023 – 24th January 2024.

**12. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Australian Open (AO) 2024 held in Melbourne, Australia?**

**A) Novak Djokovic won the men's singles title by defeating Jannik Sinner in the finals.**

**B) Aryna Sabalenka defeated Zheng Qinwen of China to win her second consecutive women's singles title at the Australian Open, including her win in 2023.**

**C) India's Rohan Machanda Bopanna became the oldest man (at 43 years and 329 days) to win a Grand Slam after he and his partner Matthew Ebden (Australia) won the men's doubles title at the Australian Open.**

- 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:**

**Jannik Sinner (Italy)** won the men's singles title by defeating **Daniil Medvedev (Russian – unflagged)** in the Australian Open 2024 Finals held at Rod Laver Arena, Melbourne, Australia.

- **Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus- unflagged)** defeated Zheng Qinwen of China to win her second consecutive women's singles title at the Australian Open, including her win in 2023.
- India's **Rohan Machanda Bopanna** became the oldest man (at 43 years and 329 days) to win a Grand Slam after he and his partner Matthew Ebden (Australia) won the men's doubles title at the Australian Open.
- Australian Open 2024, the 112th edition of the Australian Open, the 56th in the Open Era, and the first major/Grand Slam of the year 2024 was held from 14-28 January 2024.
- The Australian Open is played on **hard courts**.

[Click here to know more](#)

**13. Which football team won the Indian Super Cup 2024 by defeating Odisha FC in the finals held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar(Odisha)?**

- 1) North East United FC
- 2) East Bengal FC
- 3) Kerala Blasters Football Club
- 4) Odisha FC
- 5) Mumbai City FC

**Answer- 2) East Bengal FC**

**Explanation:**

Fourth edition of the 2024 Indian Super Cup (also known as the 2024 Kalinga Super Cup) final football match was held between **East Bengal FC** and Odisha FC at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

- It is their first title in over 12 years and East Bengal qualified for the 2024–25 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Champions League 2 preliminary stage.
- Odisha FC's **Lalthuammawia Ralte** was adjudged the Best Goalkeeper of the tournament,
- Odisha FC's **Isak Vanlalruatfela** won the Kalinga Player of the Tournament award.

## **BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

**1. Which of the following personalities have recently (in Jan '24) authored the book titled "Ram Mandir Rashtra Mandir Ak Sajhi Virast" that was launched by Kerala Governor Arif Muhammed Khan?**

- 1) L.B. Sriram & Sarah Joseph
- 2) Geeta Singh & Arif Khan Bharti
- 3) L.B. Sriram & V. V. Vinayak
- 4) Geeta Singh & Sarah Joseph
- 5) Devi Prasad & Arif Khan Bharti

**Answer- 2) Geeta Singh & Arif Khan Bharti**

**Explanation:**

Kerala Governor Arif Muhammed Khan launched a book titled "**Ram Mandir Rashtra Mandir Ak Sajhi Virast**" (Meaning: Ram Mandir, Rashtra Mandir – A Common Heritage) jointly written by **Geeta Singh** and **Arif Khan Bharti**.

- i.** The book launch event was held at the Rang Bhawan Auditorium of Akashwani in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ii.** The book explores the profound influence of Lord Ram not only in India but across the Asian continents.

**2. In January 2024, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister (CM) MK Stalin released a Tamil book titled 'Maha Kavithai' written by poet \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) Pa. Vijay
- 2) Sirpi Balasubramaniam
- 3) Thamarai
- 4) Vairamuthu
- 5) Tamilanban

**Answer- 4) Vairamuthu**



**Explanation:**

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **MK Stalin** released a **Tamil book** titled '**Maha Kavithai**' (means 'Great Poem') written by poet **Vairamuthu** at the event held in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) on 1st January 2024.

- The event was attended by Former Union Minister of Finance and Home Affairs P Chidambaram.
- The book covers a wide range of subjects including the genesis of the universe, planet Earth, the functions of five elements, climate change, and its impact.
- The book also delves into the immediate need for checking the ever-increasing global temperature and the dangers being faced by humans because of the deteriorating environment.

**3. Who authored the book, 'Sanskriti ke Ayaam', released by General V.K. Singh (Retd.), Union Ministers of State (MoS) of Road Transport and Highways & Civil Aviation in January 2024?**

- 1) Manorama Mishra
- 2) Shashi Tharoor
- 3) Amitav Ghosh
- 4) Ravi Subramanian
- 5) Ashwin Sanghi

Answer- **1) Manorama Mishra**

**Explanation:**

**General V.K. Singh** (Retd.), Union Ministers of State (MoS), Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) released the book '**Sanskriti ke Ayaam**' authored by **Manorama Mishra**.

- i. The book, authored in Hindi language, is published by the National Book Trust, India functioning under the Ministry of Education (MoE).
- ii. The book speaks about Indian knowledge, tradition and culture.

**4. Former Chief of Army Staff(CoAS), \_\_\_\_\_ has penned his autobiography titled "Four Stars of Destiny: An Autobiography", which is set to be published in January 2024.**

- 1) General Deepak Kapoor
- 2) General Vijay Kumar Singh
- 3) General Bikram Singh
- 4) General Dalbir Singh Suhag
- 5) General Manoj Mukund Naravane

Answer- **5) General Manoj Mukund Naravane**

**Explanation:**

**General Manoj Mukund Naravane** (MM Naravane), **former** Chief of Army Staff(**CoAS**) has penned his autobiography titled "**Four Stars of Destiny: An Autobiography**". The book is set to be published in January 2024 by Penguin Veer, an imprint of Penguin Random House India.

- i. The book narrates the experiences that shaped his character, from his childhood to his years in the Services.
- ii. He has also served as the Vice CoAS and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Training and Eastern Commands.
- iii. He has received several national and international awards which includes Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM) in 2019 and the Distinguished Public Service Award 2022 conferred by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).

**5. Name the Union Minister who has recently (in Jan '24) released a handbook titled "Panchayats Free From Gender-Based Violence (GBV) – A Handbook for Elected Representatives".**

- 1) Dharmendra Pradhan (Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship)
- 2) Amit Shah (Union Minister of Home Affairs)
- 3) Smriti Zubin Irani (Union Minister of Women and Child Development)
- 4) Giriraj Singh (Union Minister of Panchayati Raj)
- 5) Virendra Kumar (Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment)

**Answer- 4) Giriraj Singh (Union Minister of Panchayati Raj)**

**Explanation:**

**Union Minister Giriraj Singh**, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) released a handbook titled "**Panchayats Free From Gender-Based Violence (GBV) – A Handbook for Elected Representatives**" during the virtual inauguration of the one-day National Workshop on Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The workshop was organized by the MoPR in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) India in New Delhi, Delhi.

**6. Name the Union Minister who has recently (in Jan '24) authored the book, 'Fertilising the Future: Bharat's March Towards Fertilizer Self-Sufficiency'.**

- 1) Smriti Zubin Irani
- 2) Giriraj Singh
- 3) Mansukh Mandaviya
- 4) Virendra Kumar
- 5) Hardeep Singh Puri

**Answer- 3) Mansukh Mandaviya**

**Explanation:**

Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice President (VP) of India, has released a new book titled '**Fertilising the Future: Bharat's March Towards Fertilizer Self-Sufficiency**' authored by **Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya**, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) and Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoC&F).

**i.** The Hindi version of the book is titled 'Urvarak-Atmanirbharta ki Raah'.

**7. Who authored the book, 'Assam's Braveheart – Lachit Barphukan', that was recently (in Jan '24) released by the Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, Amit Shah?**

- 1) Sumanta Baruah
- 2) Jahnvi Barua
- 3) Hema Saraswati
- 4) Hiren Gohain
- 5) Arup Kumar Dutta

**Answer- 5) Arup Kumar Dutta**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister of Home Affairs and Union Minister of Cooperation, **Amit Shah**, has released the book titled '**Assam's Braveheart – Lachit Barphukan**', authored by **Arup Kumar Dutta**.

**i.** It was also translated in all Scheduled Indian languages and the book speaks about Lachit Barphukan, a 17th-century Ahom general who fought against the Mughal's invasion of Assam.