

GUPTA

CLASSES

Current Affairs

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English

Part-6



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169. Name the company that has recently (in Jan '24) entered into an agreement with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) for indigenous manufacturing of high-performance computing systems.

- 1) Jabil Circuit India
- 2) Kaynes Tech India
- 3) Dixon Technologies
- 4) Avalon Technologies
- 5) Sanmina Corporation

Answer- 4) Avalon Technologies

Explanation:

Avalon Technologies Ltd has entered into an agreement with **C-DAC** (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology for indigenous manufacturing of high-performance computing systems.

- As per the partnership, Avalon would be able to extend its support for the next generation of server development and manufacturing at C-DAC under the 'RUDRA' program.

170. Which state government has recently (in Jan '24) launched the Yuva Nidhi scheme for educated unemployed youth?

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

Answer- 3) Karnataka

Explanation:

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar launched the **Yuva Nidhi scheme**, the fifth poll guarantee of the Congress for **educated unemployed youth** of Karnataka, in Shivamogga on 12th January 2024.

- The scheme offers financial aid to graduates and diploma holders who are yet to get a job, but only for a maximum of two years.
- Training will be provided to the graduates and diploma holders who register themselves on the skill connect portal of the State Government.

171. Which state government has recently (in Jan '24) inaugurated Vigyan Dhara Week?

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

Answer- 2) Goa

Explanation:

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated **Vigyan Dhara Week** at the Art and Culture Hall in Panaji.

i. Vigyan Dhara 2024 supports the multidisciplinary approach encroaching the diverse educational path and aligning with the policy vision to create a well-rounded and comprehensive learning experience for Goa's youth.

172. Name the University that has recently (in Jan '24) unveiled its first international branch campus in India.

- 1) University of Oxford
- 2) Columbia University
- 3) Harvard University
- 4) Yale University
- 5) Deakin University

Answer- **5) Deakin University**

Explanation:

Deakin University (Australia), ranked in the top 1% universities worldwide, has officially unveiled its India campus, opening **India's first-ever** international branch campus.

i. This is a landmark initiative epitomising the friendship, collaboration and commitment between the Indian and Australian Governments and Deakin University, supporting the tangible realisation of knowledge exchange and educational excellence envisioned by the National Education Policy 2020.

173. Which company has recently (in Jan '24) introduced the first pure electric vehicle (EV) architecture called 'acti.ev'?

- 1) Maruti Suzuki
- 2) Hyundai Motor
- 3) Tata Motors
- 4) Mahindra and Mahindra Limited
- 5) Bajaj Auto

Answer- **3) Tata Motors**

Explanation:

Tata Motors introduced the **first pure electric vehicle (EV)** architecture called '**acti.ev**', which will underpin its future portfolio of EVs such as Punch, Sierra, Harrier and Curvv.

- Punch.ev will be the first product based on this pure electric architecture, which will spawn a slew of vehicles with multiple body styles and sizes.

i. The 'acti.ev' architecture will be different from the electrified modular architecture (EMA) that Tata Motors will be sourcing from Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) for the development of 'Avinya' range of cars.

174. Who is the current (as of Jan '24) Lieutenant Governor of Delhi?

- 1) Tejendra Khanna
- 2) Najeeb Jung
- 3) Anil Baijal
- 4) Vinai Kumar Saxena
- 5) Banwari Lal Joshi

Answer- **4) Vinai Kumar Saxena**

Explanation:

Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena gave assent to **The Delhi Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2023** in December 2023. This will ensure uniformity between Central and State legislation on the subject.

- It was introduced for consideration with prior recommendations of the L-G as required under Section 22 of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991.
- The Bill has made amendments to the Delhi Goods and Services Tax (DGST), 2017, to provide for a reference to the word “goods”, certain time limits and input tax credits, according to the recommendations of the GST Council in its 47th meeting that was held on June 28 and 29, 2022, 48th meeting held on December 17, 2022, and 49th meeting on February 18, 2023.

175. In which state, the Malkangiri Airport was inaugurated in January 2024?

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

Answer- **5) Odisha**

Explanation:

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik visited Malkangiri district and inaugurated **Malkangiri Airport in Odisha**. The runway was constructed on 233 acres of land at a cost of Rs 70 crore. Malkangiri got the air services.

- The Chief Minister's Office added that CM Patnaik also approved the Govindapally Irrigation Project across the Saptdhara River in Malkangiri District.

176. In which year, India Meteorological Department (IMD) was established?

- 1) 1890
- 2) 1875
- 3) 1990
- 4) 1992
- 5) 1997

Answer- **2) 1875**

Explanation:

About India Meteorological Department (IMD):

Director General of Meteorology- Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra,

Headquarters- Delhi

Establishment- 1875

177. Guatemalan _____ is the currency of Guatemala.

- 1) Quetzal
- 2) Lira
- 3) Krone
- 4) Franc
- 5) Dinar

Answer- **1) Quetzal**

Explanation:

About Guatemala:

Guatemala is a Central American country, south of Mexico.

Capital – Guatemala City

Currency – Guatemalan Quetzal

178. Who is the current (as of Jan '24) Director-General of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)?

- 1) Gambhir Singh Chauhan
- 2) Manoj Kumar Yadav
- 3) Atul Karwal
- 4) Rakesh Kumar Mishra
- 5) Amit Murari

Answer- **3) Atul Karwal**

Explanation:

About National Disaster Response Force (NDRF):

Director-General– Atul Karwal

Headquarters– New Delhi, Delhi

Motto– Sustained Disaster Response Service

179. Which company has recently (in Jan '24) become the first Indian jewellery brand to join Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) Network?

- 1) Senco Gold & Diamonds
- 2) Titan Company
- 3) Rajesh Exports
- 4) Goenka Diamond & Jewels
- 5) Radhika Jeweltech

Answer- **1) Senco Gold & Diamonds**

Explanation:

Kolkata (West Bengal)-based **Senco Gold & Diamonds** announced that it has become the **first Indian jewellery brand** to join Open Network for Digital Commerce (**ONDC**) Network.

- This integration marks a crucial step for Senco Gold and Diamonds, as it will now make their extensive catalogue accessible on multiple shopping apps within the growing ONDC Network.

180. In January 2024, a laser beam was transmitted and reflected between an orbiting _____ (company) spacecraft and an Oreo-sized device on the Indian Space Research Organisation's Vikram lander of India's Chandrayaan-3 mission for the 1st time.

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

Answer- **5) National Aeronautics and Space Administration**

Explanation:

For the first time on the Moon, a **laser beam** was transmitted and reflected between an orbiting National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) **spacecraft** and an Oreo-sized device on the Indian Space Research Organisation's Vikram lander of India's Chandrayaan-3 mission.

- The Laser Retroreflector Array (LRA) on the Chandrayaan-3 lander has begun serving as a fiducial point point (precisely located markers for reference) on the moon. NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) achieved a laser range measurement using the LRA by successfully detecting signals reflected by it on December 12, 2023.
- The range utilized the Lunar Orbiter Laser Altimeter (LOLA) on the LRO. The observation occurred during lunar night time, with the LRO ascending to the east of Chandrayaan-3.
- NASA's LRA was accommodated on the Vikram lander under international collaboration.

181. Name the United States-led military operation by a multinational coalition formed in December 2023 to respond to Houthi-led attacks on shipping in the Red Sea.

- 1) Operation Riviresa Guardian
- 2) Operation Prosperity Guardian
- 3) Operation Sinsay Guardian
- 4) Operation Eagle Claw
- 5) Operation Black Guardian

Answer- **2) Operation Prosperity Guardian**

Explanation:

The US Secretary of State Lloyd Austin announced a joint maritime security initiative called **Operation Prosperity Guardian** on December 19, 2023 to aid the safe movement of ships in the **Red Sea**.

- As part of a maritime security initiative in the Red Sea named Operation Prosperity Guardian, the United States military announced that its forces opened fire on Yemen's Houthi rebels.
- The USS Gravely destroyer first shot down two anti-ship ballistic missiles fired at a Maersk ship passing through the southern Red Sea.
- Initially, it was reported that 9 countries were joining the operation – the United Kingdom, Bahrain, Canada, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Seychelles and Spain.

182. Name the Lieutenant Governor who has recently (in Jan '24) released a coffee table book on Haj Committee, "The Spiritual Journey HAJ".

- 1) B.D. Mishra (Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh)
- 2) D K Joshi (Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Island)
- 3) Vinai Kumar Saxena (Lieutenant Governor of Delhi)
- 4) Tamilisai Soundararajan (Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry)
- 5) Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir)

Answer- **5) Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir)**

Explanation:

In Jammu and Kashmir, **Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha** released the Coffee Table Book of Jammu Kashmir Haj Committee "**The Spiritual Journey HAJ**" at Raj Bhawan in Srinagar.

- The pilgrimage to the Holy places during Haj and Umrah is a cherished life-long dream and the Coffee Table Book will considerably improve the ease of travel and provide much-needed information about services rendered to the respected Hajis.

183. In January 2024, Tata Consumer Products acquired a complete 100% stake in Capital Foods for Rs _____.

- 1) 5,100 crore
- 2) 4,000 crore
- 3) 3,100 crore
- 4) 2,700 crore
- 5) 6,800 crore

Answer- 1) 5,100 crore

Explanation:

On 12th January 2024, **Tata Consumer** Products announced that it has acquired a complete **100% stake in Capital Foods**, renowned for marketing products under the brands Ching's Secret and Smith & Jones. The transaction, valued at **Rs. 5,100 crore**, will be an all-cash deal.

- The FMCG company said that it would initially acquire 75% of the equity shareholding, with the remaining 25% to be procured over the next three years.

184. In January 2024, Cricketer Shaun Marsh from _____ (country) announced his retirement from Professional Cricket.

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

Answer- 4) Australia

Explanation:

Australian cricketer **Shaun Marsh** announced his retirement from **professional cricket**, with the Melbourne Renegades' fixture against Sydney Thunder in the Big Bash League on 17th January 2024 being his last assignment.

- He joins former Australian skipper Aaron Finch in retirement.

185. Which company's Starling mission is set to test new technologies for autonomous swarm navigation on a team of four CubeSats in low-Earth orbit?

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

Answer- 1) National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Explanation:

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**)'s **Starling mission**, a team of four CubeSats in low-Earth orbit on a mission to test out key technologies for the future of deep space missions, has accomplished a significant objective.

- The tiny CubeSats have succeeded in an early space navigation test called the Starling Formation-Flying Optical Experiment (**StarFOX**).

- The mission team used ground-based software to demonstrate StarFOX's ability to autonomously differentiate the background field of stars and other orbiting spacecraft from fellow members of the Starling swarm.

186. Name the motorsports athlete who has recently (in Jan '24) became first Indian to finish on top in the overall ranking for Rally 2 of Dakar Rally.

- 1) Ashish Raorane
- 2) Gaurav Gill
- 3) Harith Noah
- 4) KP Aravind
- 5) CS Santosh

Answer- 3) Harith Noah

Explanation:

Kerala rider **Harith Noah** created history by becoming the **first Indian to finish** on top in the overall ranking for Rally 2 of **Dakar Rally**. Noah, representing Sherco TVS Rally Factory squad, won Stage 8 in the Rally 2 class in his fifth Dakar.

- Harith Noah is only the third Indian after KP Aravind and CS Santosh to participate in the prestigious Dakar rally.

187. According to the exchange rate published on the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) website on 10th January 2024 , India ranks _____ with value listed as 82.9 per US Dollar.

- 1) 15th
- 2) 12th
- 3) 10th
- 4) 7th
- 5) 9th

Answer- 1) 15th

Explanation:

Forbes has released a list of 10 strongest currencies in the world (compared the Indian Rupee as well as USD), along with the factors that contribute to their prominence. The first in the list is the Kuwaiti Dinar, said Forbes. One Kuwaiti Dinar is equal to ₹ 270.23 and \$3.25.

- The US Dollar is tenth on this list, with one USD valued at ₹ 83.10.
- According to exchange rate published on the **International Monetary Fund's (IMF) website**, **India** ranks **15** with value listed as 82.9 per US Dollar.

Note- The list is based on currency values till January 10, 2024.

188. In which state Chandaka-Dampara wildlife sanctuary is located?

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

Answer- 2) Odisha

Explanation:

Chandaka-Dampara wildlife sanctuary is located in Khurda district of **Odisha** represents the north-eastern limits of Eastern Ghats.

- It is also a home to a number of threatened wild animals and birds. This landscape got sanctuary status in 1982.

189. Who is the current (as of Jan '24) Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officers (CEO) of National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE)?

- 1) Tablesh Pandey
- 2) Vikram Limaye
- 3) Ashishkumar Chauhan
- 4) S Sudarshan
- 5) Ravindran

Answer- **3) Ashishkumar Chauhan**

Explanation:

About National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE):

NSE was incorporated in 1992; recognised as a stock exchange by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in April 1993; and commenced operations in 1994.

Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officers (CEO) – Ashishkumar Chauhan

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

190. What is the capital of the Republic of Cabo Verde?

- 1) Cairo
- 2) Kinshasa
- 3) Moroni
- 4) Bangui
- 5) Praia

Answer- **5) Praia**

Explanation:

About the Republic of Cabo Verde:

President – José Maria Neves

Capital – Praia

Currency – Cape Verdean Escudo

191. In which year, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) was established?

- 1) 2016
- 2) 2013
- 3) 2015
- 4) 2011
- 5) 2014

Answer- **1) 2016**

Explanation:

About Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB):

President and Chair of the Board of Directors – Jin Liqun

Headquarters – Beijing, China

Established in – 2016

192. In January 2024, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has introduced an agri-export facilitation centre (AEFC) under its Farm Sector Promotion Fund to create an ecosystem and facilitate export of agri commodities in _____(state).

- 1) West Bengal
- 2) Uttar Pradesh
- 3) Haryana
- 4) Rajasthan
- 5) Jharkhand

Answer- 4) Rajasthan

Explanation:

Agri Export Facilitation Centre (**AEFC**), Jodhpur supported by NABARD under the **Farm Sector Promotion Fund**, and managed by the South Asia Biotechnology Centre (SABC), Jodhpur, has introduced a user-friendly web-based agri-business information system aimed at promoting agricultural and food product exports in **Rajasthan**.

i. The website will provide timely and accurate information on crop production, weather, market prices, and pest management and will enable online transactions, such as buying and selling inputs, products, and services.

193. In January 2024, _____ became the second Indian man to win gold at Asian Marathon Championships.

- 1) Tejaswin Shankar
- 2) Man Singh
- 3) Avinash Sable
- 4) Devendra Jhajharia
- 5) Murali Sreeshankar

Answer- 2) Man Singh

Explanation:

Man Singh became the **second Indian man** to clinch a **gold medal** at the **Asian Marathon Championships** as he won the race with a personal best time.

i. Clocking a personal best time of 2:14:19, Singh surpassed his previous record of 2:16:58 from the Mumbai Marathon last year. China's Huang Yongzheng took silver with a time of 2:15:24, and Kyrgyzstan's Tiapkin Ilya claimed bronze in 2:18:18.

i. In the women's marathon race in Hong Kong, Ashvini Madan Jadhav finished eighth with a time of 2:56:42 while Jyoti Gawate ended at 11th in 3:06:20.

Note- Gopi Thonakal was the first Indian man to win the Asian Marathon Championships title in 2017. He had clocked 2:15:48 to win the gold in Dongguan, China.

194. As of January 2024, How many Scheduled Public Sector Banks are in India?

- 1) 10
- 2) 12
- 3) 15
- 4) 20
- 5) 40

Answer - **2) 12**

Explanation:

There are **12 Scheduled Public Sector Banks** in India- Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank, Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India, UCO Bank and Union Bank of India.

i. On the occasion of 'Pran Pratishtha' rituals will be conducted by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, scheduled on 22nd January 2024, a new branch of a PSU bank that opened in a building along the Ram Path has been named the 'Ramjanmabhoomi' branch.

195. In January 2024, _____ Team Rally became the first-ever Indian manufacturer to finish on the podium in the Dakar Rally.

- 1) JA Motorsport
- 2) Hero MotoSports
- 3) Maruti Suzuki MotoSports
- 4) Mahindra & Mahindra MotoSports
- 5) Sherco MotoSports

Answer- **2) Hero MotoSports**

Explanation:

Hero MotoSports Team Rally created history by becoming the first-ever Indian manufacturer to finish on the podium in the prestigious Dakar Rally.

- It was a double delight for the Indian motorsports community as Sherco TVS Rally Factory rider Harith Noha secured the numero position in the overall ranking for Rally 2, also a first for India.

196. Which state government has recently (in Jan '24) signed an MoU with the Civil Aviation Authority of India for the operation of ATC control, radar and other technical equipment at Hisar Airport?

- 1) Maharashtra
- 2) Uttar Pradesh
- 3) Odisha
- 4) Haryana
- 5) Jharkhand

Answer- **4) Haryana**

Explanation:

Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala announced that an **MoU** has been signed with the **Civil Aviation Authority of India** for the operation of ATC control, radar and other technical equipment at **Hisar Airport**.

- The traffic will start under the Central Government's UDAN-5.2 scheme through primary airlines, with Viable Gap Funding support, for which MoU has been signed to start flights from Hisar to Delhi, Chandigarh and through UDAN-5.3 scheme to Delhi, Ahmedabad and Jaipur.

197. Name the company that was recently (in Jan '24) awarded with the southern region 'Narakas' official language award for 2022-23.

- 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:

Bharat Dynamics Limited (**BDL**) has been awarded the southern region 'Narakas' official language award for **2022-23**.

- The award was presented by Union minister of Home Ajay Kumar Mishra to N. Srinivasulu, Director (finance), BDL, during the southwestern region official language conference at Bengaluru, Karnataka.

198. Name the Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India who was recently (in Jan '24) selected for Assam's highest civilian award - Assam Baibhav.

- 1) Ranjan Gogoi
- 2) Sharad Arvind Bobde
- 3) N. V. Ramana
- 4) Dipak Misra
- 5) T. S. Thakur

Answer- 1) Ranjan Gogoi

Explanation:

Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, **Ranjan Gogoi**, has been named with Assam's highest civilian award - Assam Baibhav.

i. Gogoi, who served as **46th CJI**, has been selected from the field of law and justice. The state civilian award will be presented on 10th February 2024 by Assam governor Gulab Chand Kataria at an event in the city where Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar will be the chief guest.

199. In January 2024, Arunachal Pradesh State Council for Science and Technology and National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) have signed an MoU for setting up of a Science Centre (Category-II) and Digital Planetarium (Category-II) at _____ (city/town) in Arunachal Pradesh.

- 1) Seppa
- 2) Rupa
- 3) Basar
- 4) Dirang
- 5) Bomdila

Answer- 4) Dirang

Explanation:

Arunachal Pradesh State Council for Science and Technology and National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Ministry of Culture, have signed an MoU for setting up of a Science Centre (Category-II) and Digital Planetarium (Category-II) at Dirang in Arunachal Pradesh.

- i. The signing of the MoU was held at Kolkata, West Bengal. This will be the **third science** centre in the state after Itanagar and Namsai.
- ii. The Science Centre and planetarium would be set up under the 'Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science' of the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India.

200. In January 2024, Haryana government signed an MoU with _____ (company) to start flights from Maharaja Agrasen Airport in Hisar.

- 1) Alliance Air
- 2) IndiGo
- 3) SpiceJet
- 4) Vistara
- 5) Go First

Answer- **1) Alliance Air**

Explanation:

Haryana government has signed an **MoU** with **Alliance Air** to start flights from Maharaja Agrasen Airport in **Hisar**.

- The first phase, seven routes have been finalised, including Hisar to Chandigarh, Hisar to Delhi, Hisar to Jaipur, Hisar to Kullu, Hisar to Ahmedabad, Hisar to Jammu, and Hisar to Dharamshala.
- The new terminal building of Maharaja Agrasen Airport will be ready by January 2026.

201. As of January 2024, _____ (company) surpassed State Bank of India (SBI) to become India's most valued Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) firm by market valuation.

- 1) REC Limited
- 2) Bharat Electronics Limited
- 3) Power Finance Corporation Limited
- 4) Life Insurance Corporation of India
- 5) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

Answer- **4) Life Insurance Corporation of India**

Explanation:

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) surpassed State Bank of India (**SBI**) to become India's most valued Public Sector Undertakings (**PSU**) firm by market valuation.

- LIC stood at the ninth place in the ranking of top ten most valued firms. Reliance Industries leads the list of country's most valued firms with a market valuation of Rs 18,42,160.54 crore.

Note- The government holds **96.5%** stake in **LIC**.

202. Which state celebrated the 46th Kokborok Day on 19th January 2024?

- 1) Tripura
- 2) Sikkim
- 3) Odisha
- 4) Assam
- 5) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer- **1) Tripura**

Explanation:

Kokborok Day, observed annually on January 19th, is a significant cultural event in **Tripura**, India. The **19th January 2024** celebration marks the **46th** anniversary of **Kokborok's** recognition as an official language of the state alongside Bengali and English.

- This day celebrates the rich linguistic and cultural heritage of the Tripuri people.

203. Where is the Headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) located?

- 1) London, United Kingdom
- 2) Rome, Italy
- 3) Paris, France
- 4) Vienna, Austria
- 5) Geneva, Switzerland

Answer- **2) Rome, Italy**

Explanation:

About Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):

Director-General– Dr. Qu Dongyu

Headquarters– Rome, Italy

Established in– 1945

204. Who is the current (as of Jan '24) Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DP World Group?

- 1) Deepak Parekh
- 2) Yuvraj Narayan
- 3) Mohammed Saif Al Suwaidi
- 4) Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem
- 5) Vijay Malhotra

Answer- **4) Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem**

Explanation:

Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, the **Chairman** and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of **DP World Group**, engaged with Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel at Mahatma Mandir during his participation in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024.

- He commended the proactive approach of the Gujarat Government, expressing his eagerness to collaborate with the state in developing ports, logistics, and supply chains, drawing inspiration from Dubai's success.

205. In December 2023, Noted Author Tshering Tashi from _____ (country) was conferred with the Sahitya Akademi's 'Premchand Fellowship'.

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

Answer- **1) Bhutan**

Explanation:

On 8th December 2023, Noted Bhutanese author **Tshering Tashi** was conferred with the Sahitya Akademi's 'Premchand Fellowship'. Based in **Bhutan**'s capital Thimphu, Mr. Tashi is a writer known for his works in the field of creative non-fiction.

i. He has written numerous books on Bhutan and has made his country accessible, engaging, and interesting for the youth.

206. In January 2024, Lockton announced its entry into the Indian market with the appointment of _____ as Chief Executive Officer, India and a member of the Lockton Asia leadership team.

- 1) Vijay Murthy
- 2) Arun Misra
- 3) Munish Vasudeva
- 4) Priya Agarwal Hebbar
- 5) Sandeep Dadia

Answer- **5) Sandeep Dadia**

Explanation:

Lockton, the world's largest independent insurance brokerage, has announced its entry into the Indian market with the **appointment** of **Sandeep Dadia** as **Chief Executive Officer, India** and a member of the Lockton Asia leadership team.

- Sandeep Dadia, who most recently was Chief Executive Officer and Principal Officer at Aditya Birla Insurance Brokers Limited (ABIBL), will play a key role in driving Lockton's growth and building a risk solutions strategy for clients, with a focus on attracting top talent, in India.

207. Who has been recently (in Jan '24) appointed as the new India chief of PepsiCo India?

- 1) Anshul Khanna
- 2) Jagrut Kotecha
- 3) Gautam Garg
- 4) Sandeep Kamath
- 5) Vinod Kaushal

Answer- **2) Jagrut Kotecha**

Explanation:

Beverage and snacks maker **PepsiCo India** announced **Jagrut Kotecha**, senior vice president and chief commercial officer at its AMESA (Africa, Middle East and South Asia) region, as its **new India chief**.

i. Ahmed El Sheikh will move on from his role as CEO for the Middle East Business Unit. PepsiCo's snacks business, which includes Lays and Doritos, declined in the quarter to September 2023.

208. Which of the following personalities have recently (in Jan '24) joined the Board of Directors of US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF)?

- 1) Amarjyoti Barua
- 2) Dorothy Attwood
- 3) Anand Mahindra
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 2 & 3

Answer- 4) Both 1 & 2

Explanation:

Walt Disney and Mahindra group officials have joined the Board of Directors of US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (**USISPF**), which the organisation said is testimony to the success story of American companies in India and a growing presence of Indian conglomerates in the US.

- The two officials are **Dorothy Attwood**, senior vice president of Global Legal, Policy and Compliance for The Walt Disney Company, and **Amarjyoti (Amar) Barua**, Executive Vice President (EVP) of Group Strategy at the Mahindra Group to the Board of Directors, the US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF).

209. Name the actor who has recently (in Jan '24) appointed as the brand ambassador of RuPay Prime Volleyball powered by A23.

- 1) Abhishek Bachchan
- 2) Saif Ali Khan
- 3) Hrithik Roshan
- 4) Akshay Kumar
- 5) Ajay Devgan

Answer- 3) Hrithik Roshan

Explanation:

RuPay Prime Volleyball powered by A23 has appointed **Hrithik Roshan** as its brand ambassador.

- Hrithik engaged in a discussion about the upcoming season of RuPay Prime Volleyball League powered by A23 with some of the top volleyball stars who will be competing in the third edition.

210. Who has recently (in Jan '24) appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and whole-time director of Jindal Stainless Ltd (JSL)?

- 1) Tarun Khulbe
- 2) Anurag Mantri
- 3) Jagmohan Sood
- 4) Arti Luniya
- 5) Jayaram Easwaran

Answer- 1) Tarun Khulbe

Explanation:

Jindal Stainless Ltd (**JSL**) has appointed **Tarun Khulbe** as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** and whole-time **director** of the company.

- As per the regulatory filing, the board has recognised Khulbe's leadership skills, strategic vision, and dedication to core values to lead the company.

211. In January 2024, _____, son of American civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr., passed away.

- 1) Jesse Jackson
- 2) Dexter Scott King
- 3) Bayard Rustin
- 4) Julian Bond King
- 5) Pauli Murray

Answer- **2) Dexter Scott King**

Explanation:

Dexter Scott King, son of American civil rights activist **Martin Luther King Jr.**, passed away on 22nd January 2024.

- Dexter Scott King, who dedicated much of his life to shepherding the civil rights legacy of his parents, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, had served as chairman of the the King Centre in Atlanta.

212. Which of the following states have celebrated their 52nd Statehood Day on 21st January 2024?

- 1) Tripura
- 2) Meghalaya
- 3) Manipur
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) All 1, 2 & 3

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

Explanation:

Three northeastern states: **Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur** celebrated their **52nd Statehood Day** on 21st January 2024.

- With the introduction of North-East Area (Re-organisation) Act 1971, Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya attained statehood on January 21, 1972.

213. In January 2024, the Union Minister of Home Affair & Cooperation Amit Shah addressed the 71st Plenary Session of the North Eastern Council in _____(city).

- 1) Shillong, Meghalaya
- 2) Kohima, Nagaland
- 3) Silchar, Assam
- 4) Gangtok, Sikkim
- 5) Aizawl, Mizoram

Answer- **1) Shillong, Meghalaya**

Explanation:

The union home minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah addressed the **71st Plenary Session** of the North Eastern Council in **Shillong, Meghalaya** on 19th January 2024.

- The union home minister announced that in the 50 years of its establishment, the North Eastern Council (NEC) has increased the pace of development of the region by providing a policy-related platform to all the states and simplifying the solutions to their problems.

214. What is the capital of Kyrgyzstan?

- 1) Ashgabat
- 2) Ankara
- 3) Damascus
- 4) Ulaanbaatar
- 5) Bishkek

Answer- **5) Bishkek**

Explanation:

About Kyrgyzstan:

President – Sadyr Japarov

Capital– Bishkek

Currency– Kyrgyzstani Som

215. Who is the current (as of Jan '24) Managing Director (MD) & Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gujarat International Finance Tec-city (GIFT-City)?

- 1) Sanjeev Kumar
- 2) Tapan Ray
- 3) Hasmukh Adhia
- 4) Rajkumar Beniwal
- 5) Anjali Bansal

Answer- 2) Tapan Ray

Explanation:

About Gujarat International Finance Tec-city co. ltd. (GIFT-City):

Managing Director (MD) & Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Tapan Ray

Chairman – Dr. Hasmukh Adhia

Headquarters– Gandhinagar, Gujarat

216. Which country hosts the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup 2024 in January 2024?

- 1) Vietnam
- 2) Australia
- 3) Qatar
- 4) United Arab Emirates
- 5) Saudi Arabia

Answer- 3) Qatar

Explanation:

India crashed out of the Asian Cup football tournament after suffering a 0-1 defeat to Syria in their last group match in Al Khor, Qatar.

- **Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup 2024** hosted by **Qatar**, and began on 12 January 2024. A total of 24 teams divided into six groups of four teams each will be participating in the upcoming edition of AFC Asian Cup.

217. In January 2024, the Ministry of Finance hiked import duties on gold and silver finds and coins of precious metals to _____ from the existing 10%.

- 1) 15%
- 2) 25%
- 3) 20%
- 4) 30%
- 5) 35%

Answer- 1) 15%

Explanation:

The **Finance Ministry** has hiked import duties on gold and silver findings and coins of precious metals to **15%** from the existing 10%.

i. Import duty on gold and silver findings and coins of precious metals will now be 15 per cent. This includes Basic Custom Duty (BCD) of 10 percent and 5 per cent of AIDC (Agriculture Infrastructure Development Cess)

- This is exempt from Social Welfare Surcharge (SWC).

ii. The Ministry has also hiked import duty on spent catalysts containing precious metals. The duty has been hiked to 14.35 percent including 10 Basic Custom Duty (BCD) and 4.35 per cent AIDC (Agriculture Infrastructure Development Cess) with exemption from SWS.

218. In January 2024, _____ (Indian Cricketer) led team, 'One World' won the T20 format One World One Family (OWOF) Cup in January 2024.

- 1) Yuvraj Singh
- 2) Sachin Tendulkar
- 3) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- 4) Rohit Sharma
- 5) Suresh Raina

Answer- **2) Sachin Tendulkar**

Explanation:

Sachin and Yuvraj inaugurated the new cricket stadium – Sai Krishnan Stadium at Sathya Sai Grama – a global hub and an epicentre of service and spiritual activities conducted by Sri Madhusudan Sai across 33 countries.

- **Sachin Tendulkar** led team, '**One World**' won the T20 format led One World One Family (**OWOF**) Cup, while Yuvraj Singh is the skipper of One Family.
- A total of 24 legendary players from seven countries will participate in the match. One Family has named a 12-player squad containing players from India, England, Australia, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. One World has players from India, South Africa, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, and England.

219. Name the company that has recently (in Jan ' 24) introduced Instant Refunds Within 2 mins for Failed Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Transactions on its POS Devices.

- 1) Paytm
- 2) Amazon Pay
- 3) Razorpay
- 4) PhonePe
- 5) Freecharge

Answer- **3) Razorpay**

Explanation:

Razorpay, an omnichannel payments and banking platform for businesses, announced the launch of instant refunds on Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) transactions by **Razorpay POS**.

i. This development will allow merchants to provide a more seamless payment experience by providing instant refunds for failed UPI transactions within 2 minutes.

220. In January 2024, Pixxel inaugurated its first Spacecraft Manufacturing Facility in _____ (Indian city).

- 1) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- 2) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- 3) Pune, Maharashtra
- 4) Chandipur, Odisha
- 5) Hyderabad, Telangana

Answer- **1) Bengaluru, Karnataka**

Explanation:

Pixxel, a space data company known for its cutting-edge hyperspectral earth-imaging technology, has inaugurated its **first Spacecraft Manufacturing Facility**, MegaPixxel, in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

i. This state-of-the-art facility spans over 30,000 square feet and is designed to streamline the satellite manufacturing process from conceptualisation to launch readiness.

221. In January 2024, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) regained contact with its _____ (Planet) helicopter Ingenuity on 21st January 2024.

- 1) Jupiter
- 2) Venus
- 3) Mars
- 4) Mercury
- 5) Saturn

Answer- **3) Mars**

Explanation:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) regained contact with its **Mars helicopter Ingenuity** on 21st January 2024, after it was unable to communicate with it towards the end of its 72nd flight on the red planet earlier.

- The small robotic chopper is the first aircraft in history to make a powered, controlled flight on another planet.

i. On July 30, 2020, NASA launched a spacecraft towards Mars, carrying the Perseverance rover, which had Ingenuity attached to its belly. On February 18, 2021, Perseverance successfully landed on the red planet.

222. Name the operation that has been recently (in Jan '24) launched by the Indian Army to revive terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

- 1) Operation Rakshak I
- 2) Operation Shivalik
- 3) Operation Steeplechase
- 4) Operation Sarvashakti
- 5) Operation Mand

Answer- **4) Operation Sarvashakti**

Explanation:

The **Indian Army** is launching **Operation Sarvashakti** involving security forces from both sides of the Pir Panjal range in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) to flush out terrorists who have been involved in a series of ambushes on Indian troops carried out in areas of Rajouri and Poonch.

- Troops of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps and the Nagrota-based 16 Corps will be operating in tandem, along with other agencies and paramilitary forces, as part of the operation to wipe off terrorists sponsored by Pakistan.
- The operation will be on the lines of Operation Sarpvish of 2003, which was launched against terrorists south of the Pir Panjal range.

223. In which state 'Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary' is located?

- 1) Madhya Pradesh
- 2) West Bengal
- 3) Jharkhand
- 4) Maharashtra
- 5) Chhattisgarh

Answer- **5) Chhattisgarh**

Explanation:

About Chhattisgarh:

Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

National Parks – Indravati (Kutru) National Park, Kanger Valley National Park

Wildlife Sanctuaries – Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary, Badalkhol Wildlife Sanctuary

224. In which state 'Srivilliputhur – Meghamalai Tiger Reserve' is located?

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

Answer- **2) Tamil Nadu**

Explanation:

About Tamil Nadu:

Chief Minister- M.K. Stalin

Governor- R. N. Ravi

Wildlife Sanctuary- Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary; Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary

Tiger Reserve- Srivilliputhur – Meghamalai Tiger Reserve

225. In which state Jaldapara National Park is located?

- 1) Jharkhand
- 2) Odisha
- 3) West Bengal
- 4) Assam
- 5) Uttar Pradesh

Answer- **3) West Bengal**

Explanation:

The **Jaldapara National Park (JNP)** is located at the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas in Alipurduar District of northern **West Bengal** and on the banks of the Torsa River.

i. It is home to Indian leopard, Indian elephants, sambar, barking deer, spotted deer, hog deer, wild boars, gaur, etc. Jaldapara is a paradise for bird watchers.

226. In which state Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary is located?

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

Answer- 2) Tamil Nadu

Explanation:

Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary is located in the state of **Tamil Nadu**. It lies adjacent to the Bay of Bengal along the east coast. It is one of the major wetlands on the Coromandel Coast after Pulicat Lake.

- The lake is connected to the Bay of Bengal by the Uppukalli Creek and the Yedayanthittu estuary and is visited for nesting by migratory birds on the Central Asian flyway.

227. Who is the current (as of Jan '24) Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)?

- 1) Arun Kumar Singh
- 2) Om Prakash Singh
- 3) Pankaj Kumar
- 4) Sushma Rawat
- 5) Manish Pareek

Answer- 1) Arun Kumar Singh

Explanation:

About Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC):

ONGC was established as the Oil & Natural Gas Commission on 14th August 1956 and is an Indian central public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Arun Kumar Singh

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

228. In which state Kalesar National Park is located?

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

Answer- 4) Haryana

Explanation:

About Haryana:

Governor- Bandaru Dattatreya

Capital- Chandigarh

National Parks- Kalesar National Park, Sultanpur National Park

229. What is the capital of the Republic of Cameroon?

- 1) Maseru
- 2) Brazzaville
- 3) Asmara

4) Bangui

5) Yaounde

Answer- **5) Yaounde**

Explanation:

About Republic of Cameroon:

President – Paul Biya

Capital – Yaounde

Currency – Central African CFA Franc

230. In January 2024, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) levied a penalty of Rs 1.10 crore on _____ (company) for safety violation in its Boeing 777 aircraft.

1) Air India

2) IndiGo

3) SpiceJet

4) Vistara

5) Akasa Air

Answer- **1) Air India**

Explanation:

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (**DGCA**), civil aviation regulator has levied a penalty of **Rs 1.10 crore** on **Air India** for safety violation in its **Boeing 777 aircraft**. The **Tata Group** airline announced it may **contest the fine**.

i. DGCA has also terminated services of its chief flight operations inspector Vivek Chhabra. Chhabra, an Air India pilot himself, had got an extension last year as the regulator's chief inspector.

231. In January 2024, _____ announced his resignation as Vice Chairman of Bajaj Auto Ltd.

1) Sanjiv Bajaj

2) Madhur Bajaj

3) Rakesh Sharma

4) Abhinav Bindra

5) Anami Roy

Answer- **2) Madhur Bajaj**

Explanation:

Bajaj Auto Ltd announced that **Vice Chairman Madhur Bajaj** has resigned due to health reasons.

- Bajaj Auto announced its independent director Lila Poonawalla has expressed her desire not to seek a second term when her first term ends on March 31, 2024.

232. Who has recently (in Jan '24) appointed as the Judge of the Supreme Court?

1) Rajendra Babu

2) Subhro Kamal Mukherjee

3) Prasanna B Varale

4) Dinesh Kumar

5) Vikramajit Sen

Answer- **3) Prasanna B Varale**

Explanation:

The Centre cleared the appointment of Karnataka High Court Chief Justice **Prasanna B Varale** as **judge of the Supreme Court**.

- The appointment comes less than a week after the Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud recommended him on January 19, 2024.
- With this appointment, the Supreme Court will once again function at its full-strength of 34 judges.

233. In January 2024, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu inaugurated Kaushal Bhawan – a new building of the _____ (Ministry) in New Delhi, Delhi.

- 1) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- 2) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- 3) Ministry of Home Affairs
- 4) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- 5) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Answer- **4) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**

Explanation:

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu inaugurated **Kaushal Bhawan** – a new building of the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** in New Delhi, Delhi on 24th January 2024.

i. On the occasion, the President visited the exhibition stalls set up by the beneficiaries of various initiatives of the Government such as PM Vishwakarma, PM JANMAN, Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and interacted with them.

234. As of January 2024, HSBC Asset Management predicts that Indian bonds will attract USD _____ of foreign inflows due to global bond index inclusion.

- 1) 250 billion
- 2) 150 billion
- 3) 200 billion
- 4) 300 billion
- 5) 100 billion

Answer- **5) 100 billion**

Explanation:

HSBC Asset Management predicts that **Indian bonds** will attract **USD 100 billion** of foreign inflows due to global bond index inclusion.

- India has become a favourite market for Wall Street investors, attracted by one of the world's fastest rates of economic growth and as it positions itself as an alternative to China. Foreigners own just 2% of the government bonds.

235. In January 2024, the Fit India Mission, a flagship programme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, is set to launch its 'Fit India Champions' podcast .

It is being launched in partnership with _____.

- 1) Vestige
- 2) HealthifyMe
- 3) GOQii

4) Awair

5) Molekule

Answer- 3) GOQii

Explanation:

Fit India Mission, a flagship programme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, is set to launch the '**Fit India Champions**' podcast series.

- It is being launched in partnership with **GOQii**, a major stakeholder in the fitness sector that proactively manages health through its digital and multimedia technology.

236. In January 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the first installment of Rs 540 crore to 1 lakh beneficiaries of _____ (scheme) under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN).

1) Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

2) Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana

3) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna

4) Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin

5) Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

Answer- 4) **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin**

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the **first instalment of Rs 540 crore to 1 lakh beneficiaries** of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (**PMAY-G**) under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (**PM-JANMAN**) via video conferencing.

- The PM-JANMAN (comprising Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes) to focus on 11 critical interventions through nine ministries including the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, with a budget of approximately Rs 24,000 crore.

237. In which state Attiveri Bird Sanctuary is located?

1) Odisha

2) West Bengal

3) Andhra Pradesh

4) Telangana

5) Karnataka

Answer- 5) **Karnataka**

Explanation:

About Karnataka:

Governor – Thawar Chand Gehlot

WildLife Sanctuary – Talacauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, Thimlapura Wildlife Sanctuary, Yadahalli Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary

Bird Sanctuary-Adichunchanagiri Peacock Sanctuary, **Attiveri Bird Sanctuary**, Ghataprabha Bird Sanctuary

238. In which state Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary is located?

1) Karnataka

2) Madhya Pradesh

3) Gujarat

4) West Bengal

5) Assam

Answer- **3) Gujarat**

Explanation:

The **Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary** is located near Ahmedabad, **Gujarat** & it is the one of 4 more Indian sites that were recognised as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

239. In which state Kanger Valley National Park is located?

1) Gujarat

2) Maharashtra

3) Chhattisgarh

4) Uttar Pradesh

5) Madhya Pradesh

Answer- **3) Chhattisgarh**

Explanation:

Kanger Valley National Park is located in Jagdalpur, in the Bastar district of **Chhattisgarh** state. It is located on the banks of the Kholaba River (tributary of the Godavari River).

- The National Park derives its name from the Kanger River, which flows in its length. It got the status of a national park in 1982.

240. Who is the current (as of Jan '24) Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Max Life Insurance Company?

1) Prashant Tripathy

2) Sachin Bajaj

3) Anurag Chauhan

4) Rahul Talwar

5) Shailesh Singh

Answer- **1) Prashant Tripathy**

Explanation:

About Max Life Insurance Company Limited (Max Life):

Max Life is a Joint Venture (JV) between Max Financial Services Limited and Axis Bank Limited.

Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)– Prashant Tripathy

Headquarters– Gurugram, Haryana

241. Who is the current (as of Jan '24) Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India?

1) V.S.Sampath

2) O. P. Rawat

3) Sushil Chandra

4) Rajiv Kumar

5) Sunil Arora

Answer- **4) Rajiv Kumar**

Explanation:

About Election Commission of India (ECI):

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India– Rajiv Kumar, IAS

Election Commissioner (EC)– Anup Chandra Pandey, IAS; Arun Goel, IAS

Headquarters– New Delhi, Delhi

Established in– 25th January 1950

242. Name the personality who has recently (in Jan '24) appointed as chairman of Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC).

- 1) Anil Shukla
- 2) M. Mahendar Reddy
- 3) Rashmi Shukla
- 4) Anant Ganesh
- 5) Rajiv Singh

Answer- 2) M. Mahendar Reddy

Explanation:

Former Director General of Police **M. Mahendar Reddy** was appointed as **chairman** of Telangana State Public Service Commission (**TSPSC**).

- Along with Reddy, another five members were also appointed to the panel.

243. Name the Indian wushu athlete who has recently (in Jan '24) won the Wushu Sanda Athlete of the Year award for 2023.

- 1) Partap Singh
- 2) Vikrant Ballyan
- 3) Roshibina Devi Naorem
- 4) Kushal Kumar
- 5) Surya Bhanu

Answer- 3) Roshibina Devi Naorem

Explanation:

India's wushu athlete **Roshibina Devi Naorem** clinched the **Wushu Sanda Athlete of the Year award for 2023**.

- The award was announced by the International Wushu Federation (**IWUF**).

244. Which state Government has recently (in Jan '24) announced to establish a melanistic tiger safari?

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

Answer- 2) Odisha

Explanation:

The **Odisha** Government announced to establish a **melanistic tiger safari** — a first of its kind in the world.

- The safari will be established near Baripada, district headquarter town of Mayurbhanj, which also houses the famed Similipal Tiger Reserve (**STR**).

Note- The Similipal Tiger Reserve is the only home for melanistic tigers in the wild in the world.

245. Which organisation/Government Agency of GoI has selected Smart Paper, a leader in AI-based educational assessment technology as its innovative application in learning assessment in January 2024?

- 1) United Nations Children's Fund
- 2) NITI Aayog
- 3) National Council of Educational Research and Training
- 4) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- 5) All India Council for Technical Education

Answer- 4) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Explanation:

Smart Paper, a leader in AI-based educational assessment technology, announced its selection by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) for its innovative application in learning assessment.

- i. Smart Paper uses computer vision algorithms and handwriting recognition models to grade paper worksheets for English, Hindi, and Maths.
- ii. The competency-based assessments in Rajasthan state powered by Smart Paper provide actionable data about every child's learning competencies.

246. Who has recently (in Jan '24) won a bronze medal in the men's 61 kg freestyle event at the Grand Prix De France Henri Deglane 2024 wrestling tournament held in France.

- 1) Ravi Kumar Dahiya
- 2) Bajrang Punia
- 3) Sushil Kumar
- 4) Deepak Punia
- 5) Yogeshwar Dutt

Answer- 1) Ravi Kumar Dahiya

Explanation:

Tokyo Olympic silver medallist **Ravi Kumar Dahiya** won a **bronze medal** in the **men's 61 kg freestyle** event at the Grand Prix De France Henri Deglane 2024 wrestling tournament in Nice, France.

- Ravi Kumar Dahiya won the bronze medal bout 10-4 against Kairat Amirtayev of Kazakhstan.

247. Which city is set to host India's first carbon-neutral sports city featuring an international cricket stadium?

- 1) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- 2) Kochi, Kerala
- 3) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 4) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- 5) Bengaluru, Karnataka

Answer- 2) Kochi, Kerala

Explanation:

'**Cochin Sports City**,' India's first carbon-neutral sports city featuring an international cricket stadium, will come up on 40 acres in Chengamanad village near the Cochin International Airport in **Kochi, Kerala**.

- The Kerala Cricket Association (KCA) handed over the proposal, which is part of its mission 'Beyond 2020,' complete with the initial design to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at the four-day International Sports Summit Kerala that got under way at the Greenfield Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram.

248. In January 2024, To Kill a Tiger, set in a small Indian village directed by Delhi-born _____, was nominated for the best documentary feature at the 2024 Academy Awards.

- 1) Prakash Jha
- 2) Sudhir Mishra
- 3) Nisha Pahuja
- 4) Mira Nair
- 5) Jahnu Barua

Answer- **3) Nisha Pahuja**

Explanation:

To Kill a Tiger, set in a small Indian village, was nominated for the best documentary feature at the **2024 Academy Awards**. A Canadian production, **To Kill a Tiger** is directed by Delhi-born **Nisha Pahuja**, an Emmy-nominated filmmaker based in Toronto.

- The film is produced by Cornelia Principe and David Oppenheim.
- Other four nominees in the best Oscar for documentary feature include **Bobi Wine: The People's President**, **The Eternal Memory**, **Four Daughters**, and **20 Days in Mariupol**. The 96th annual Academy Awards will be held on March 10 at the Dolby Theatre at Ovation Hollywood in Los Angeles.

249. Name the Indian personality who has recently (in Jan '24) won the women's singles at the Swedish Open International Series Badminton tournament.

- 1) Devika Sihag
- 2) Tasnim Mir
- 3) Unnati Hooda
- 4) Ashmita Chaliha
- 5) Aakarshi Kashyap

Answer- **1) Devika Sihag**

Explanation:

Devika Sihag wins the **women's singles** at the Swedish Open International Series beating World Rank 79 Leonice Huet of France.

- The Swedish Open International Series Badminton tournament was held in Uppsala, Sweden in January 2024.

250. In January 2024, a government panel led by Principal Scientific Adviser, _____ was assigned the task of resolving the issue surrounding the rollout of 5G services in and around airports.

- 1) V. K. Saraswat
- 2) Ajay Kumar Sood
- 3) Baba Kalyani
- 4) Subhash Kak
- 5) Kiran Kumar

Answer- **2) Ajay Kumar Sood**

Explanation:

A government panel led by Principal Scientific Adviser **Ajay Kumar Sood** has been assigned the task of resolving the issue surrounding the rollout of **5G services** in and around airports.

- The focus of these discussions will be on concerns related to aircraft and passenger safety. A broader panel has been constituted to "address the 5G matter".

251. In which state, 'Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary' is located?

- 1) Manipur
- 2) Arunachal Pradesh
- 3) Karnataka
- 4) West Bengal
- 5) Assam

Answer- **5) Assam**

Explanation:

The **Amchang Wildlife sanctuary** is located on the eastern fringe of Guwahati, **Assam**. It comprises three Reserve forests-Khanapara, Amchang, and South Amchang.

252. In which state Manas National Park is located?

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

Answer- **5) Assam**

Explanation:

About Assam:

Chief Minister – Himanta Biswa Sarma

Governor – Gulab Chand Kataria

National Park – Kaziranga National Park, **Manas National Park**

253. Turkish _____ is the currency of Türkiye.

- 1) Lira
- 2) Pound
- 3) Won
- 4) Baht
- 5) Riyal

Answer- **1) Lira**

Explanation:

About Türkiye:

President– Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Capital– Ankara

Currency– Turkish **lira**

254. In which year, the World Economic Forum (WEF) was established?

- 1) 1990
- 2) 1982
- 3) 1984
- 4) 1971
- 5) 1994

Answer- **4) 1971**

Explanation:

About World Economic Forum (WEF):

Founder and Executive Chairman- Prof. Klaus Schwab

Managing Director(MD)- Saadia Zahidi

Headquarter- Cologny, Geneva Canton, Switzerland

Established in 1971

255. Where is the Headquarters of World Customs Organization (WCO) located?

- 1) Brussels, Belgium
- 2) London, United Kingdom
- 3) Geneva, Switzerland
- 4) Vienna, Austria
- 5) Madrid, Spain

Answer- **1) Brussels, Belgium**

Explanation:

About World Customs Organization (WCO):

WCO is the only international organisation with competence in Customs matters. It represents 185 Customs administrations across the globe that collectively process approximately 98% of world trade.

Secretary-General- Mr. Ian Saunders (United States of America)

Headquarters- Brussels, Belgium

Established in- 1952

256. Which company has recently (in Jan '24) become India's first AI startup to reach unicorn status?

- 1) Artivatic
- 2) Haptik
- 3) Krutrim
- 4) Avaamo
- 5) Flutura

Answer- **3) Krutrim**

Explanation:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) start-up **Krutrim**, launched by Ola founder and chairman Bhavish Aggarwal, has raised **USD 50 million** at a **valuation of USD 1 billion**. The round was led by Matrix Partners India and others.

- Krutrim has now become India's first AI startup to reach unicorn status. The investor's in Krutrim's latest funding round include Matrix Partners India.

257. Artificial Intelligence was used to identify the best marching contingent in Army Day Parade 2024 on 15th January 2024 in _____ for the 1st Time.

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

Answer- 4) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Explanation:

For the first time, **Artificial Intelligence** was used to identify the best marching contingent in Army Day Parade 2024 in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.

- The 76th Indian Army Day was celebrated on 15th January 2024 with a main parade in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh for the 1st time.

258. In January 2024, _____ became the first woman to hold the rank of Subedar in the Indian Army.

- 1) Preeti Rajak
- 2) Disha Amrith
- 3) Neha Singh
- 4) Prerna Deosthalee
- 5) Priya Semwal

Answer- 1) Preeti Rajak

Explanation:

Havildar **Preeti Rajak**, who is a champion trap shooter, has become the **first woman to hold the rank of Subedar** in the Indian Army after she was promoted in January 2024.

- Subedar Rajak joined the Army in the Corps of Military Police in December 2022.

259. Name the cricketer who has recently (in Jan '24) became the fastest to score 300 runs in first-class cricket during the Ranji Trophy match.

- 1) Debabrata Pradhan
- 2) Tanmay Agarwal
- 3) Rohit Rayudu
- 4) Tilak Varma
- 5) Shashank Singh

Answer- 2) Tanmay Agarwal

Explanation:

India's **Tanmay Agarwal** became the **fastest to score 300 runs** in first-class cricket during the **Ranji Trophy match** (India's domestic first class tournament) between Hyderabad and Arunachal Pradesh on 26th January 2024.

- The batter took only 147 balls to reach the triple-ton mark, beating South Africa's Marco Marais who had scored 300 off 191 balls in 2017 while playing for Border vs Eastern Province.

260. In January 2024, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) renewed its recognition to AMC Repo Clearing Ltd as a clearing corporation for _____ (year) for clearing and settling transactions in repo and reverse repo in debt securities.

- 1) 3 years
- 2) 1 year
- 3) 4 years
- 4) 2 years
- 5) 5 years

Answer- 2) 1 year

Explanation:

Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has renewed its recognition to **AMC Repo Clearing Ltd** as a clearing corporation for **one year** for clearing and settling transactions in repo and reverse repo in debt securities.

- The regulator has granted renewal of recognition for one year starting from January 17, 2024 till January 16, 2025.
- Under the rules, AMC Repo Clearing Ltd will not undertake any activity except that of clearing and settling of transactions in repo and reverse repo in the debt securities that are dealt with or traded on a recognised stock exchange.

261. In January 2024, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) released 'Pahal'- the insightful house journal of its Vigilance Department.

Who is the current (as of Jan '24) Chairman & Managing Director of the IREDA?

- 1) Ram Nihal Nishad
- 2) Ajay Yadav
- 3) Pradip Kumar Das
- 4) Padam Lal Negi
- 5) Bijay Kumar Mohanty

Answer- 3) Pradip Kumar Das

Explanation:

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (**IREDA**), Government of India enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has released 'Pahal'- the insightful house journal of its Vigilance Department.

- The journal was unveiled by Chairman & Managing Director of IREDA, Shri Pradip Kumar Das on January 25, 2024.
- The initiative marks a significant step towards transparency, accountability, and the promotion of renewable energy initiatives by IREDA.

262. What is the tagline of South Indian Bank?

- 1) Experience Next-Generation Banking
- 2) Your Perfect Banking Partner
- 3) We Understand Your World
- 4) Serving To Empower
- 5) Your Family Bank Across India

Answer- 1) Experience Next-Generation Banking

Explanation:

About South Indian Bank:

Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)– P R Seshadri

Tagline– Experience Next-Generation Banking

Established in 1929

263. In which state 'Saman Bird Sanctuary' is located?

- 1) West Bengal
- 2) Uttar Pradesh
- 3) Andhra Pradesh
- 4) Kerala
- 5) Odisha

Answer- 2) Uttar Pradesh

Explanation:

The **Saman Bird Sanctuary** in the **Mainpuri** district of **Uttar Pradesh** is a seasonal oxbow lake on the Ganges floodplain. It is heavily reliant on the arrival of the south-westerly monsoon in July and August, which provides the vast majority of annual rainfall.

264. In which state Jaldapara National Park is located?

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

Answer- 5) West Bengal

Explanation:

About West Bengal:

Capital- Kolkata

Chief Minister- Mamta Bannerjee

Governor- C.V. Ananda Bose

National Parks- Sundarbans National Park, Singalila National Park, **Jaldapara National Park**

265. In which state Talacauvery Wildlife Sanctuary is located?

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

Answer- 5) Karnataka

Explanation:

About Karnataka:

Governor – Thawar Chand Gehlot

WildLife Sanctuary – **Talacauvery Wildlife Sanctuary**, Thimlapura Wildlife Sanctuary, Yadahalli Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary

Bird Sanctuary-Adichunchanagiri Peacock Sanctuary, Attiveri Bird Sanctuary, Ghataprabha Bird Sanctuary

266. Who is the current (as of Jan '24) Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of REC Limited?

- 1) Manoj Sharma
- 2) Shashank Misra
- 3) Vijay Kumar Singh
- 4) Ajoy Choudhury
- 5) Vivek Kumar Dewangan

Answer- **5) Vivek Kumar Dewangan**

Explanation:

About REC Limited (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited):

It is registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC), and Infrastructure Financing Company (IFC).

Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)- Vivek Kumar Dewangan

Headquarter- New Delhi, Delhi

Establishment- 1969

267. Where is the Headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO) located?

- 1) London, United Kingdom
- 2) Vienna, Austria
- 3) Paris, France
- 4) Geneva, Switzerland
- 5) Rome, Italy

Answer- **4) Geneva, Switzerland**

Explanation:

About World Health Organization (WHO):

Director General- Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Established on- 7 April 1948

Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland

268. Name the company that has recently (in Jan '24) implemented India's one of the first pilot projects aligned with the "National Green Hydrogen Mission."

- 1) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
- 2) GAIL (India) Limited
- 3) THDC India Limited
- 4) NHPC Limited
- 5) Adani Green Energy Ltd

Answer- **3) THDC India Limited**

Explanation:

THDC India Limited, a leading Power Sector PSU, has also established a benchmark in Green Hydrogen production, by successfully implementing **India's one of the first pilot projects** aligned with the "**National Green Hydrogen Mission**" on the auspicious occasion of 75th Republic Day (26th January 2024).

- The pilot project will produce 50KG of Green Hydrogen on daily basis sourcing input energy from 1MW rooftop solar plant, the produced Green Hydrogen will be stored in two storage tanks and shall be utilized in night hours for illumination of THDC office Complex through a 70 KW PEM Fuel Cell.

269. In January 2024, the central government implemented a new rule for assessment year 2024-25 under which buyers must pay for goods bought from MSMEs within _____ (days) of delivery and clear all dues to MSMEs before March 31, 2024.

- 1) 20 days
- 2) 45 days
- 3) 30 days
- 4) 25 days
- 5) 35 days

Answer- **2) 45 days**

Explanation:

The **central government** has implemented a **new rule** for assessment year **2024-25** under which **buyers must pay** for goods bought from **MSMEs** within **45 days of delivery** and clear all dues to MSMEs before March 31, 2024, failing which the pending payment will be deemed to be income on which tax will be levied.

- Some buyers have decided not to buy goods before February 16 to ensure that their payment deadline comes after March 31.
- The textile value chain on the other hand operates on a credit period of up to 120 days, so this rule has affected it the most.

270. In January 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that banks cannot impose penalty for not maintaining minimum balance on accounts that are inoperative, those that have not recorded any transaction for over two years with effect from _____.

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

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

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has announced that banks cannot impose a penalty for not maintaining minimum balance on accounts that are inoperative — those that have not recorded any transaction for over two years.

- It also added that banks cannot classify accounts created for receiving scholarship money or direct benefit transfers as inoperative even if they have not been used for over two years.
- The directive to banks is a part of RBI's new circular on inoperative accounts — and part of its efforts to bring down the level of unclaimed bank deposits.
- The new rules come into effect from **April 1, 2024**.

271. Which country is set to become the world's largest producer of lentils in the 2023-24 crop year?

- 1) Germany
- 2) Bangladesh
- 3) Bhutan
- 4) India
- 5) Brazil

Answer- 4) India

Explanation:

India is expected to become the **world's largest producer of lentils** in the 2023-24 crop year, with an estimated surge in production of around 16 lakh tonnes.

- This increase is due to higher acreage. The lentil production in Canada and Australia is estimated to be around 14 lakh tonne and 15 lakh tonne respectively.

272. Which of the following new rules for United Payments Interface (UPI) payments has not come into effect as of January 1, 2024?

- 1) The transaction limit for UPI payments made to hospitals and educational institutions has been hiked to Rs 5 lakh.
- 2) The Maximum transaction limit for UPI Lite wallets has also been hiked from Rs 200 to Rs 1000.
- 3) The RBI had also announced that UPI payments to Rs 1 lakh for credit card repayments, mutual fund subscriptions.
- 4) The NPCI had last year announced the imposition of a 1.1 per cent interchange fee on UPI payments made by merchants.
- 5) NPCI has asked banks and mobile payment applications like Google Pay, Paytm, and PhonePe to deactivate the UPI IDs and numbers of the accounts that have been inactive for one year.

Answer- 2) The Maximum transaction limit for UPI Lite wallets has also been hiked from Rs 200 to Rs 1000.

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced several changes to new rules for United Payments Interface (UPI) payments that have come into effect from 1st January 2024.

- The transaction limit for UPI payments made to hospitals and educational institutions has been hiked to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 1 lakh earlier
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has asked banks and mobile payment applications like Google Pay, Paytm, and PhonePe to deactivate the UPI IDs and numbers of the accounts that have been inactive for one year.
- **The transaction limit for UPI Lite wallets has also been hiked from Rs 200 to Rs 500.** These payments can be made by people without an internet connection. However, the maximum amount which can be transferred online is Rs 2,000.
- The RBI had also announced that UPI payments to Rs 1 lakh for credit card repayments, mutual fund subscriptions and insurance premiums will no longer require an additional factor authentication.
- The NPCI had last year announced the imposition of a 1.1 per cent interchange fee on UPI payments made by merchants.

273. Who has been recently (in Jan '24) appointed as the Chief Executive of Punjab Energy Development Agency?

- 1) Gautam Jain
- 2) Surabhi Malik
- 3) Rupinder Pal Singh
- 4) Amit Sareen
- 5) Gurjinder Singh

Answer- **2) Surabhi Malik**

Explanation:

Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer **Surabhi Malik**, who was Deputy Commissioner (DC), Ludhiana, has been posted as **Chief Executive** of Punjab Energy Development Agency.

- Showkat Ahmad Parray will be DC, Patiala, replacing Sakshi Sawhney, who has been posted as DC, Ludhiana.

274. Toyota Motor has recently (in Jan '24) become the World's Top-selling Automobile Maker for the _____ consecutive year.

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

Answer- **5) 4th**

Explanation:

In 2023, **Toyota Motor** achieved a global sales record of 11.2 million vehicles, securing its position as the **world's top-selling automaker** for the **fourth consecutive year**.

- The 7.2% increase was driven by robust overseas sales, totaling 8.9 million units. Toyota's parent-only vehicles, including Lexus, reached a record 10.3 million sales, with hybrids comprising one-third and battery electric vehicles less than 1%.

275. Name the company that has recently (in Jan '24) certified as a Top Employer 2024 in India by the Top Employers Institute.

- 1) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- 2) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited
- 3) NTPC Limited
- 4) Coal India Limited
- 5) GAIL (India) Limited

Answer- **3) NTPC Limited**

Explanation:

The 2024 Top Employers of the Top Employers Institute have been announced and **NTPC Limited** has been certified as a **Top Employer** in India by the institute.

- NTPC completed the following steps in order to qualify for the certification: HR Best Practice Survey, Validation and Audit.

276. In which state Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary is located?

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

Answer- **4) Jharkhand**

Explanation:

Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary is located 10 kilometers from the city of Jamshedpur in the state of **Jharkhand**.

- It is situated around the Dalma Hills on the Chottanagpur Plateau.

277. Which of the following is 'Not' a five development institutions of the World Bank?

- 1) Institute for Capacity Development
- 2) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- 3) International Development Association
- 4) International Finance Corporation
- 5) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency

Answer- **1) Institute for Capacity Development**

Explanation:

About World Bank:

Together, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA) form the World Bank.

i. The World Bank Group consists of five development institutions: IBRD, IDA, International Finance Corporation (IFC), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) & International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

278. In which state, Raimona National Park is located?

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

Answer- **2) Assam**

Explanation:

The **Raimona National Park** is within the Bodoland Territorial Region in **Assam**. The area of the park includes the northern part of the notified Ripu Reserve Forest, which forms the western-most buffer to the Manas National Park that straddles the India-Bhutan border.

279. In which state, 'Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary' is located?

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

Answer- **1) Kerala**

Explanation:

Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary by spreading over 14 acres of land, located on the banks of the Vembanad Lake, **Kerala**.

i. The sanctuary is a favourite haunt of migratory birds like the Siberian Stork, egret, darter, heron and teal.

280. In which state 'Tal Chhapar Wildlife Sanctuary' is located?

- 1) Rajasthan
- 2) Maharashtra
- 3) Madhya Pradesh
- 4) Uttar Pradesh
- 5) Jharkhand

Answer- **1) Rajasthan**

Explanation:

The **Tal Chhapar Sanctuary** is situated on the border of the Great Indian Thar Desert, **Rajasthan**. It is a distinctive shelter of the most graceful Antelope seen in India, "the Blackbuck".

- It was given the status of a sanctuary in 1966.

281. Who is the current (as of Jan '24) Chief Election Commissioner of the Election Commission of India(ECI)?

- 1) Rajiv Kumar
- 2) Sushil Chandra
- 3) Anup Chandra Pandey
- 4) Sunil Arora
- 5) Arun Goel

Answer- **1) Rajiv Kumar**

Explanation:

About Election Commission of India(ECI):

Chief Election Commissioner- Rajiv Kumar

Election Commissioners- Anup Chandra Pandey, Arun Goel

Headquarter- New Delhi, Delhi

282. In which state Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary is located?

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

Answer- **4) Gujarat**

Explanation:

About Gujarat:

Chief Minister- Bhupendrabhai Patel

Governor- Acharya Devvrat

National Park– Gir National Park, Blackbuck National Park

Wildlife Sanctuary– Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Wild Ass Sanctuary

283. According to the data (as of Jan '24) of Forbes, who overtook Elon Musk as the wealthiest person in the world?

- 1) Mark Zuckerberg
- 2) Bernard Arnault
- 3) Jeff Bezos
- 4) Larry Ellison
- 5) Warren Buffett

Answer- **2) Bernard Arnault**

Explanation:

On 29th January 2024, **Bernard Arnault**, the founder, chairman and CEO of global luxury goods brand LVMH (Louis Vitton) overtook Elon Musk as the **wealthiest person** in the world, according to Forbes.

- The Arnault family's net worth soared to USD 207.8 billion on 26th January 2024, rising by USD 23.6 billion. Musk's fortune, on the other hand, stood at USD 204.5 billion, dropping by more than USD 18 billion.

284. Which country has recently (in Jan '24) defeated Australia in the second Test Match at the Gabba in Brisbane, Australia after 27 Years?

- 1) South Africa
- 2) Netherlands
- 3) New Zealand
- 4) England
- 5) West Indies

Answer- **5) West Indies**

Explanation:

Kraig Brathwaite-led **West Indies** side defeated Pat Cummins' Australia by 8 runs in the **second Test Match** at the Gabba in Brisbane, on January 28, 2024 to record their first Test win on Australian soil after 27 years.

285. Name the Union minister who has recently (in Jan '24) launched Framework for Voluntary Carbon Market in Agriculture Sector and Accreditation Protocol of Agroforestry Nurseries in Delhi.

- 1) Mansukh L. Mandaviya
- 2) Arjun Munda
- 3) Bhupender Yadav
- 4) Hardeep Singh Puri
- 5) Raj Kumar Singh

Answer- **2) Arjun Munda**

Explanation:

Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Tribal Affairs, **Arjun Munda** launched the **Framework for Voluntary Carbon Market in Agriculture Sector** and Accreditation Protocol of Agroforestry Nurseries in Delhi.

- Carbon markets are essentially a tool for putting a price on carbon emissions— they establish trading systems where carbon credits or allowances can be bought and sold.
- A carbon credit is a kind of tradable permit that, per United Nations standards, equals one tonne of carbon dioxide removed, reduced, or sequestered from the atmosphere.

286. In January 2024, _____ became the first player to surpass a full day of play in a single grand slam by spending a record 24 hours and 17 minutes on court.

- 1) Daniil Medvedev
- 2) Novak Djokovic
- 3) Andrey Rublev
- 4) Jannik Sinner
- 5) Rafael Nadal

Answer- **1) Daniil Medvedev**

Explanation:

Daniil Medvedev lost to Jannik Sinner at the Australian Open in January 2024. The tournament equaled the most five-set matches in the open era with 35 going the distance across the 15 days, a record first set at the US Open in 1983.

- Over his seven matches, Medvedev spent a record 24 hours and 17 minutes on court to become the **first player** to surpass a full day of play in a **single grand slam**.

287. Figure skater Kamila Valieva of _____(country) was given a four-year ban after it was found she committed an anti-doping rule violation during the 2022 Beijing Winter Games.

- 1) China
- 2) Turkmenistan
- 3) Russia
- 4) Kazakhstan
- 5) Uzbekistan

Answer- **3) Russia**

Explanation:

The Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sport has announced a four-year ban until 2025 for the **Russian** figure skater **Kamila Valieva** after it was found she committed an anti-doping rule violation during the 2022 Beijing Winter Games.

- Valieva tested positive for a banned drug, trimetazidine.
- She was stripped of her gold medal in the team event at the 2022 Beijing Winter Games.

i.The Olympic Committee announced that the United States of America(USA) team comprised of van Bates, Karen Chen, Nathan Chen, Madison Chock, Zachary Donohue, Brandon Frazier, Madison Hubbell, Alexa Knierim and Vincent Zhou are the **first U.S. Olympic figure skating team** to earn gold in the history of the games.

288.Which company has recently (in January '24) announced that it had installed a brain implant in its first human patient with "promising" initial results?

- 1) Synchron
- 2) Blackrock Neurotech
- 3) Precision Neuroscience
- 4) Neuralink

5) Paradromics

Answer- **4) Neuralink**

Explanation:

On 30th January 2024, **Elon Musk** announced his **Neuralink** startup had installed a brain implant in its first human patient with "promising" initial results.

- Neuralink, co-founded by Musk in 2016 aims to build direct communication channels between the brain and computers.
- The ambition is to supercharge human capabilities, and treat neurological disorders like ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) or Parkinson's.
- According to Musk, the first product from Neuralink will be called '**Telepathy**'.

289. Who has recently (in January '24) been nominated by President Droupadi Murmu to the Rajya Sabha?

- 1) Suresh Gopi
- 2) Satnam Singh Sandhu
- 3) Subramanian Swamy
- 4) Mary Kom
- 5) Swapan Dasgupta

Answer- **2) Satnam Singh Sandhu**

Explanation:

Satnam Singh Sandhu is one of India's leading educationists from **Punjab**.

i. Satnam Singh Sandhu founded the Chandigarh Group of Colleges (CGC) at Landran in Mohali in 2001. In 2012, he founded the Chandigarh University.

ii. He runs two NGOs including the Indian Minorities Foundation and the New India Development (NID) Foundation to further communal harmony in the country.

iii. In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-clause (a) of clause (1) of article 80 of the Constitution of India, read with clause (3) of that article, the President is pleased to nominate Satnam Singh Sandhu to Rajya Sabha to fill the vacancy caused due to the retirement of one of the nominated members

290. Name the company that has recently (January '24) terminated an acquisition deal valued at USD 1.7 billion with iRobot, a Roomba Robot Vacuum Cleaners maker.

- 1) Nvidia
- 2) Google
- 3) Amazon
- 4) Flipkart
- 5) Tesla

Answer- **3) Amazon**

Explanation:

On 29th January 2024, **Amazon** and Roomba Robot Vacuum Cleaner maker **iRobot** mutually agreed to terminate the acquisition deal valued at **USD 1.7 billion**.

- It was terminated due to opposition from European Union (EU) and United States of America (USA) antitrust regulators.
- The reason given by EU antitrust regulators for this termination was that the acquisition of iRobot would have enabled Amazon to foreclose iRobot's rivals by restricting or degrading access to Amazon stores.

291. Name the author of the book 'The Rajiv I Knew – And Why He Was India's Most Misunderstood Prime Minister' which was released in January 2024.

- 1) Ghulam Nabi Azad
- 2) Mani Shankar Aiyar
- 3) Jairam Ramesh
- 4) Shashi Tharoor
- 5) P. Chidambaram

Answer- 2) Mani Shankar Aiyar

Explanation:

The book 'The Rajiv I Knew – And Why He Was India's Most Misunderstood Prime Minister' written by **Mani Shankar Aiyar** and published by Juggernaut Books was released on 19th January 2024.

- In his book, Mani Shankar recounts Rajiv's tenure as PM and controversies like the Shah Bano case, foreign policy initiatives, and domestic initiatives like the Panchayati Raj.
- The veteran congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar was a member of parliament from 1999-2009 from the Mayiladuturai constituency(Tamil Nadu).
- He also served as the Union Minister from 2004-2009.
- He has written several books including Pakistan Papers and Remembering Rajiv, and has edited a four-volume publication, Rajiv Gandhi's India.

292. Which is the capital of the Union of Comoros?

- 1) Praia
- 2) Porto-Novo
- 3) Moroni
- 4) Malabo
- 5) Libreville

Answer- 3) Moroni

Explanation:

About Comoros:

Comoros is an archipelagic country made up of 3 islands in Southeastern Africa.

President- Azali Assoumani

Capital- Moroni

Currency- Comorian Franc

293. When was the Supreme Court of India established?

- 1) 23rd January 1950
- 2) 26th January 1950
- 3) 24th January 1950
- 4) 28th January 1950
- 5) 25th January 1950

Answer- 4) 28th January 1950

Explanation:

About Supreme Court of India (SCI):

i.The Supreme Court of India is the apex judicial body under the Constitution of India. **Article 124** of the Constitution states that "There shall be a Supreme Court of India."

ii.The inauguration of the SCI took place in the Chamber of Princes in the old Parliament building which housed the Federal Court of India from 1937 to 1950.

iii.The first Chief Justice of India, **Harilal J. Kania** led the inaugural sitting of the Supreme Court on 28 January 1950.

Current CJI- Dhananjaya Yeshwant (DY) Chandrachud

Establishment- January 28, 1950

Headquarter- New Delhi, Delhi

294. In which state/UT, 'Hokersar bird sanctuary' is located?

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

Answer- **3) Jammu and Kashmir**

Explanation:

About Jammu and Kashmir(J&K):

Lieutenant Governor- Manoj Sinha

Bird sanctuary- Hokersar bird sanctuary

Festival- Losar; Matho Nagrang

295.In which state Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve is located?

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

Answer- **5) Rajasthan**

Explanation:

About Rajasthan:

Chief Minister (CM) – Ashok Gehlot

Governor – Kalraj Mishra

Wildlife Sanctuaries – Gajner Wildlife Sanctuary; Kaila Devi Sanctuary

Tiger Reserves – Ranthambore Tiger Reserve; **Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve**