

GUPTA

CLASSES

Current Affairs

November-2023

English

Part-3



GUPTA

CLASSES

Explanation:

On November 6, 2023, American tennis player **Serena Williams** received the Council of Fashion Designers of America's (CFDA) **Fashion Icon Award** in 2023. With this, she became the **first athlete** to receive this award.

- She received the award from American socialite Kim Kardashian (the recipient of 2022 CFDA Fashion icon award).
- The award was presented at the ceremony held at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, United States of America (USA).
- Amazon Fashion is the Presenting Partner for the CFDA Fashion Awards.

Note- The Council of Fashion Designers of America has been celebrating the top talent in fashion design with the CFDA Awards since 1980. The event is considered the fashion industry's equivalent of the Oscars.

15. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Eco Warrior Awards 2023, India's first ever dedicated award show for Indian Forest Service Officers, presented in November 2023?

A) The Eco Warrior Awards 2023 were distributed by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav to honour exceptional individuals and initiatives that have made significant contributions to environmental conservation & sustainable practices.

B) The Eco Warrior Awards 2023 was organised jointly by Indian Masterminds and Indian Forest Service Association.

C) The award was divided into 5 categories, including Wildlife Conservation. Dr. Mohan Ram won the award under Wildlife Conservation for his work in wildlife conservation in Gir Forest, Gujarat.

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:

India's first ever dedicated award show for Indian Forest Service Officers, the **Eco Warrior Awards 2023**, was held in New Delhi, Delhi to honour exceptional individuals and initiatives that have made significant contributions to environmental conservation and sustainable practices.

i. The awards were distributed by the Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav**, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

ii. Eco Warrior Awards 2023 was organised jointly by **Indian Masterminds** and **Indian Forest Service Association**, and the awards were sponsored by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) – a Maharatna company in oil and gas sector; Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL – Maharatna); and Okinawa – Ye E Sahi Hai.

iii. The awards were given in the **following 5 categories:**

- Wildlife Conservation: Dr. Mohan Ram for his work in wildlife conservation in Gir Forest, Gujarat

- Wildlife Protection: Ritesh Sarothiya, Regional Deputy Director, Northern Region (NR), Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Headquarters, MoEF&CC, Delhi
- Forest Protection: Vasu Kanojia, DFO, North Seoni, Madhya Pradesh (MP).
- Best Use of Technology for Conservation: Biswajit Mishra, currently serving as Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF), (CTI), in Bengaluru
- Award for Community Connect: Millo Tassar, Conservator of Forests in Arunachal Pradesh.

16. Name the personality who has recently (in Nov '23) won the 19th edition of the 'Kalakar Puraskar' award.

- 1) Apolinaris D'Souza
- 2) Sreelekha Mitra
- 3) Goutam Ghose
- 4) Tapas Paul
- 5) Aparna Sen

Answer- **1) Apolinaris D'Souza**

Explanation:

Apolinaris D'Souza, a prominent Konkani singer, lyricist, and composer, was honored with the **19th edition of the 'Kalakar Puraskar' award** in appreciation of his immense contributions to the field of music for over 5 decades.

- The award was presented by Mandd Sobhann, in association with 'Carval Ghorane'.
- The award was presented during the 263rd Monthly Theatre at Kalaangann, Shakhthinagar, Karnataka.

i. Apolinaris D'Souza has made immense contributions to Konkani music in Oman and in Mangaluru, Karnataka.

- The 'Kalakar Puraskar' award was institutionalised in 2004 by linguist Pratap Naik under the name of his Carvalho (Carval) family.

ii. It is presented every year to a Konkani individual of the Karnataka region in recognition of his/her achievements in the field of music, dance, drama, or folklore.

17. Which of the following personalities has recently (in Nov '23) inducted into the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Hall of Fame for the year 2023?

- 1) Aravinda de Silva (Sri Lanka)
- 2) Virender Sehwag (India)
- 3) Diana Fram Edulji (India)
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) All 1, 2 & 3

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

Explanation:

Former Indian cricketer **Virender Sehwag** and former Indian **women's cricket team** captain **Diana Fram Edulji**, along with Sri Lanka's **Aravinda de Silva**, were inducted into the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Hall of Fame for the year 2023.

i. Diana Fram Edulji is the first Indian woman cricketer inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.

ii. The three legends are to be presented with a commemorative ICC Cricket Hall of Fame cap during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup semi-final at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai (Maharashtra) on 15th November 2023.

- Virender Sehwag was the recipient of the Padma Shri (2010) in the sports category and the Arjuna Award (2002).
- Diana Edulji was the recipient of the PadmaShri(2002) in the sports category and Arjuna Award(1983).
- Sri Lankan right-hand batsman Pinnaduwege Aravinda de Silva was part of the Sri Lankan cricket team that won their first ICC Men's Cricket ODI World Cup in 1996, which was hosted by India and Pakistan.

18. Who has recently (in Nov '23) received the first-ever "Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award"?

- 1) Vikram Seth
- 2) Salman Rushdie
- 3) Kiran Desai
- 4) Aravind Adiga
- 5) Rohinton Mistry

Answer- **2) Salman Rushdie**

Explanation:

Indian-born British-American author **Salman Rushdie** received the first-ever "**Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award**" presented by the Vaclav Havel Center in Manhattan, New York, United States of America (USA).

- i. He has authored many novels and book of stories including Midnight's Children which was awarded the Booker Prize in 1981.
- ii. In 2008, he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for his services to literature.

19. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Healthcare Excellence Awards presented in November 2023?

- A) The 15th Edition of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Healthcare Excellence Awards was held in New Delhi, Delhi.
- B) Dr. Yash Paul Bhatia, Chairman & Managing Director, Astron Groups won the FICCI Healthcare Excellence Awards 2023 List (Individuals Awards) under Lifetime Achievement in Healthcare Industry Category.
- C) Zydus Hospital, Ahmedabad (Gujarat) won the FICCI HealthCare Awards 2023 - Excellence in Patient Safety & Care under Private Hospitals Sub-Category.

- 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 **15th Edition** of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (**FICCI**) **Healthcare Excellence Awards** was held in New Delhi, Delhi. [List of Awards and Recipients.](#)

- i. The award is given to recognize and felicitate organizations and individuals for their outstanding contributions to the Indian healthcare sector.

ii. **Dr. Yash Paul Bhatia**, Chairman & Managing Director, Astron Groups won the **FICCI Healthcare Excellence Awards 2023 List (Individuals Awards)** under Lifetime Achievement in Healthcare Industry Category.

iii. **Zydus Hospital**, Ahmedabad (Gujarat) won the **FICCI HealthCare Awards 2023 – Excellence in Patient Safety & Care** under Private Hospitals Sub-Category.

20. Which NGO/Foundation has been recently (in Nov '23) awarded with the 2023 Olympic Cup by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)?

- 1) Welthungerhilfe
- 2) Save the Children Fund
- 3) International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- 4) International Rescue Foundation
- 5) Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation

Answer- **5) Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation**

Explanation:

The International Olympic Committee (**IOC**) awarded the **2023 Olympic Cup** to the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation (**THF**) in recognition of its long-term commitment to empowering refugee athletes and refugees worldwide through taekwondo.

- Thomas Bach, IOC President, presented the Olympic Cup to World Taekwondo President Chungwon Choue in a ceremony at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- The unique Olympic Cup award was created by the IOC's founder Pierre de Coubertin in 1906. The Olympic Cup honors an organisation that promotes the ideals of the Olympic Movement.

i. About the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation(THF):

- The Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation(THF) was founded by World Taekwondo President Chungwon Choue at the United Nations headquarters in New York(United States) in 2015.
- THF aims to empower refugees worldwide through taekwondo and helping them to improve their quality of life, develop their life skills, learn Olympic values, and pursue their dreams.
- THF is also one of the implementing partners of Terrains d'Avenir, a programme co-financed by the Olympic Refuge Foundation (ORF) and the French Sports Ministry.

21. Who has been recently (in Nov '23) named for the 'Gansamragini Lata Mangeshkar Award' for the year 2023 by the Government of Maharashtra?

- 1) Sadhana Sargam
- 2) Ananya Wadkar
- 3) Anuradha Paudwal
- 4) Suresh Ishwar Wadkar
- 5) Kavita Krishnamurthy

Answer- **4) Suresh Ishwar Wadkar**

Explanation:

Government of **Maharashtra** honoured veteran playback singer and Padma Shri awardee **Suresh Ishwar Wadkar** with prestigious '**Gansamragini Lata Mangeshkar Award**' also known as Lata Mangeshkar Award for the year **2023**.

- The Lata Mangeshkar Award is an annual award given by the Directorate of Cultural Affairs of the Maharashtra Government in memory of the legendary playback singer Lata Mangeshkar.
- Suresh Wadkar was honoured with the Padma Shri for his work in the field of arts in 2020.

- He was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2018 for Sugam Sangeet.
- He won a National Award in 2010 for the Best Male Playback Singer category for the song 'Hey Bhaskara' for the Marathi biopic Mee Sindhutai Sapkal (2010).

22. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Asian Power Magazine, as of November 2023?

A) Asian Power Magazine presented The 19th Asian Power Awards, 3rd Asian Oil & Gas Awards, and inaugural Asian Water Awards in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in November 2023.

B) GAIL India Limited won the 'Innovation Award – India' and also won 'Midstream Project of the Year – India' under the Asian Oil & Gas Awards.

C) Kirloskar Brothers Limited won the Community-Based Water Project of the Year – India under the Asian Water Awards.

- 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:

Asian Power Magazine presented the 19th **Asian Power Awards**, 3rd **Asian Oil & Gas Awards**, and inaugural **Asian Water Awards** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in November 2023. [List of Indian Winners at Asian Oil & Gas Awards, Asian Power Awards, and Asian Water Awards.](#)

i. GAIL India Limited won the '**Innovation Award – India**' for reduction in LNG Shipping cost & emissions through Ship-to-Ship (STS) transfer of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) with backhauling.

- It also won '**Midstream Project of the Year – India**' for the installation of the first floating Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) station at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (UP). These awards are presented under the Asian Oil & Gas Awards.

ii. Kirloskar Brothers Limited won the Community-Based Water Project of the Year – India under the **Asian Water Awards**.

iii. Adani Electricity Mumbai Ltd. (AEML) won the Power Utility of the Year for Transmission and Distribution under the Asian Power Awards.

23. In November 2023, Indian economist & Padma Shri awardee _____ and David Barkin from _____ (country) won the 2023 Kenneth E. Boulding Memorial Award for Ecological Economics.

- 1) Bina Agarwal; Canada
- 2) Shaibal Gupta; Brazil
- 3) Bina Agarwal; Mexico
- 4) Shaibal Gupta; Canada
- 5) Amiya Kumar Bagchi; Mexico

Answer- **3) Bina Agarwal; Mexico**

Explanation:

The International Society for Ecological Economics (**ISEE**) honoured Indian economist & Padma Shri awardee **Bina Agarwal** with the **2023 Kenneth E. Boulding Memorial Award** for Ecological Economics.

- Bina Agarwal is a Professor of Development Economics and Environment at the University of Manchester in Manchester, United Kingdom(UK).
- Along with Bina Agarwal, David Barkin, a professor at the Metropolitan University in **Mexico** City was declared as the joint recipient of the 2023 award.
- The award was presented during the IESS's 2023 Biennial Conference in Santa Marta, Colombia held from 23 to 28 October 2023.
- Kenneth Boulding Award recognises individuals who embody the exceptional qualities of Kenneth E. Boulding(American economist and educator), aiming to preserve and perpetuate the wisdom he imparted to ISEE members and beyond.

Note- Bina Agarwal received the Padma Shri, for her work in the field of Literature and Education in 2008.

24. In November 2023, _____ became the First Woman to win the Dhahan Prize for Punjabi Literature.

- 1) Dalip Kaur Tiwana
- 2) Veena Verma
- 3) Ajeet Cour
- 4) Sukhwinder Amrit
- 5) Deepti Babuta

Answer- **5) Deepti Babuta**

Explanation:

Punjabi-author **Deepti Babuta** won the **Dhahan Prize for Punjabi Literature 2023** for her Short stories collection titled "**Bhukh Eon Sah Laindi Hai ('Hunger Breathes Like This')**". She became the first woman to win The Dhahan Prize. The award carries a cash prize of CAD 25,000.

i. The awards were presented during the 10th annual Dhahan Prize for Punjabi Literature ceremonies, held on 16th November 2023, at Northview Golf and Country Club in Surrey, Canada.

ii. The Dhahan Prize is the largest international literary award for fiction books in the Punjabi language. It was conceptualised in 2013 by the Canada-India Education Society (CIES) and the University of British Columbia (UBC).

25. Who has recently (in Nov '23) crowned with the Miss Universe at the 72nd Miss Universe Beauty Pageant 2023 held in San Salvador, Republic of El Salvador?

- 1) Moraya Wilson (Australia)
- 2) Sheynnis Alondra Palacios Cornejo (Nicaragua)
- 3) Anntonia Porsild (Thailand)
- 4) Shweta Sharda (India)
- 5) R'Bonney Gabriel (United States of America)

Answer- **2) Sheynnis Alondra Palacios Cornejo (Nicaragua)**

Explanation:

Miss **Sheynnis Alondra Palacios Cornejo** (23) from **Nicaragua** was crowned **Miss Universe** at the 72nd Miss Universe Beauty Pageant 2023 in San Salvador, Republic of El Salvador. She is the **first woman from Nicaragua** to win the Miss Universe crown.

- She was crowned by the United States' (US) R'Bonney Gabriel, who held the title of Miss Universe for 2022. The first runner-up was Miss Anntonia Porsild of Thailand, and the second runner-up was Miss Moraya Wilson of Australia.

- Miss India Shweta Sharda made it to the top 20 but didn't reach the top 10 (evening gown round).
- Three Indians have won the Miss Universe crown, Sushmita Sen in 1994, Lara Dutta in 2000 and Harnaz Sandhu in 2021.

Note- The next Miss Universe, the 73rd edition, will be held in Mexico.

26. Which of the following associations has been recently (in Nov '23) awarded with the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2022?

- 1) Indian Medical Association
- 2) Trained Nurses Association of India
- 3) National Integrated Medical Association
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 2 & 3

Answer- 4) Both 1 & 2

Explanation:

On November 19, 2023, the **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2022** was **jointly awarded** to the New Delhi, Delhi headquartered **Indian Medical Association (IMA)** and the New Delhi based Trained Nurses Association of India (**TNAI**) as representatives of the COVID-19 warriors in India.

- The award for the same was presented to Dr. Sharad Kumar Agarwal, President, IMA, and Professor (Dr.) Roy K. George, President, TNAI by Former Vice-President Hamid Ansari.
- This award acknowledges every doctor, nurse, paramedic and karamchari for their selfless service during challenging times.

Note- Indira Gandhi Peace Prize established in 1986 by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust, it is given annually to recognize individuals or organizations contributing to international peace, disarmament, and development.

27. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the 51st International Emmy® Awards (2023) presented by the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in November 2023?

- A) Indian Comedian & actor Vir Das won the Emmy Award under the Comedy category for his show "Vir Das: Landing" and became the first Indian Comedian to win the Emmy Award.**
- B) Ektaa R. Kapoor, Co-Founder of Balaji Telefilms was honoured with the International Emmy Directorate Award for her contribution to the world of arts and entertainment.**
- C) British Screenwriter and producer Jesse Armstrong, Chairman and CEO of HBO and Max Content was honoured with the 2023 International Emmy Founders Award.**

- 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 20th November 2023, The International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences announced the winners of the [51st International Emmy® Awards \(2023\)](#) in New York City, United States of America (USA).

i. Indian Comedian and actor **Vir Das** won the Emmy under the Comedy category for his Netflix stand-up special show “**Vir Das: Landing**”.

- Vir Das shared the Emmy for Comedy with “Derry Girls – Season 3”, a United Kingdom(UK) origin web series produced by Hat Trick Productions. With this, he became the **first Indian Comedian** to win the Emmy Award.

ii. Ektaa R. Kapoor, Co-Founder of Balaji Telefilms was honoured with the International Emmy Directorate Award for her contribution to the world of arts and entertainment.

- Ektaa R Kapoor received the award from Author and new age leader Dr Deepak Chopra. She became the first Indian Woman Filmmaker to win the Directorate Award.

iii. British Screenwriter and producer Jesse Armstrong, Chairman and CEO of HBO and Max Content was honoured with the 2023 International Emmy Founders Award.

- He is the creator of the television drama ‘Succession’ and the co-creator of the Channel 4 comedy series Peep Show, Fresh Meat, and Babylon.

Note- A total of 15 Emmy and 2 Special Awards (Founders Award & Directorate Award) were presented during the event.

28. Who has recently (in Nov ‘23) received National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Implementation and Advanced Concepts Team (IMPACT) Planet Award 2023?

- 1) Vinay Kumar Sankarapu
- 2) Niraj Lunavat
- 3) Binny Bansal
- 4) Kunal Bahl
- 5) Sujit Roy

Answer- **5) Sujit Roy**

Explanation:

Sujit Roy, Co-Founder of Noida(Uttar Pradesh) based **BrainAlive Research Pvt. Ltd.**, was honoured with National Aeronautics and Space Administration(NASA) Implementation and Advanced Concepts Team (IMPACT) Planet Award 2023 for his outstanding contribution to the Geospatial artificial intelligence (AI) Foundation Model project.

i. NASA and IBM Research collaborated to create NASA’s first open-source geospatial AI foundation model for Earth observation data. Sujit Roy was part of NASA's research team.

ii. The HLS Geospatial Foundation Model (HLS Geospatial FM) in the application of AI for Earth science has a wide range potential applications, including monitoring natural disasters and predicting agriculture harvests.

iii. BrainAlive AI is an AI Engine that converts raw interaction data into real-time user engagement insights using a data transformation approach.

29. Name the book that was originally written in Tamil as “Aalanda Patchi” by Perumal Murugan, won the 2023 JCB Prize for Literature in November 2023.

- 1) Poonachi or the Story of a Goat
- 2) Seasons of the Palm

- 3) Fire Bird
- 4) I Named my Sister Silence
- 5) A Lonely Harvest

Answer- **3) Fire Bird**

Explanation:

Fire Bird, originally written in Tamil as “Aalanda Patchi” by renowned Tamil Writer **Perumal Murugan** won the 2023 JCB Prize for Literature. The book was translated into English by **Janani Kannan** and was published by Penguin Random House India.

- i. The book explores themes of displacement and the human desire for stability in a changing world.
- ii. Fire Bird is the 5th translated work to win JCB Prize for Literature.

Note: Aalanda Patchi was first published in 2012 by Kalachuvadu Publications Pvt Ltd

30. Which of the following Indian personality is not featured on the 11th edition of the list of BBC 100 Women 2023 released by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in November 2023?

- 1) Kartiki Gonsalves
- 2) Dia Mirza
- 3) Harmanpreet Kaur
- 4) Arati Kumar-Rao
- 5) Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo

Answer- **1) Kartiki Gonsalves**

Explanation:

On November 21, 2023, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) released the 11th edition of the list of BBC 100 Women 2023 which includes four Indian women viz. Actress **Dia Mirza**, Cricketer **Harmanpreet Kaur**, Photographer **Arati Kumar-Rao**, and Tibetan Buddhist nun **Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo**.

- It is a list of 100 inspiring and influential women from around the world for 2023.
 - The list is organised into categories like Culture and Education; Entertainment and Sport; Politics and Advocacy; and Science, Health, and Tech.
- i. **Harmanpreet Kaur** and **Dia Mirza** are named under the Entertainment & Sport category while Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo is acknowledged under the category of Culture and education.
 - ii. In 2023, for the first time, this BBC 100 Women list specifically highlights ‘Climate pioneers’, a group of women leading the battle against the climate crisis.
 - The list features 28 Climate Pioneers from across the globe who are inspiring and leading their communities to tackle the devastating impact of climate change. This includes Indian photographer Arati Kumar-Rao.

31. Which company has recently (in Nov ‘23) received the “Best Employer for Policies in Diversity & Inclusion” Award?

- 1) Vedanta Limited
- 2) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- 3) National Aluminium Company Limited
- 4) REC Limited
- 5) Oil India Limited

Answer- **4) REC Limited**

Explanation:

REC Limited (Formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited) received the “**Best Employer for Policies in Diversity & Inclusion**” Award.

i. It was awarded at the 4th Diversity & Inclusion Excellence Awards and Conclave 2023 organized by the Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) in New Delhi, Delhi.

ii. REC was awarded for its commitment to creating a workplace that accommodates differences, fosters innovation, and promotes equal opportunities for all employees.

32. Who has recently (in Nov '23) won the National Metallurgist Award (NMA) 2022 under the Lifetime Achievement Award?

- 1) Dipankar Banerjee
- 2) Arun Kumar Biswas
- 3) Kamachi Mudali Uthandi
- 4) Srikumar Banerjee
- 5) Ramachandra Anantharaman

Answer- **3) Kamachi Mudali Uthandi**

Explanation:

On 22 November 2023, the **Ministry of Steel** presented the National Metallurgist Award (**NMA**) 2022 to recognise the excellence and contribution of Metallurgists in the Iron & Steel Sector during the NMA 2022 ceremony.

- The NMA 2022 awards were conferred to 5 distinguished metallurgists in 4 categories.

Category	Winner	Cash Prize
Lifetime Achievement Award	Dr Kamachi Mudali Uthandi	Nil
National Metallurgist Award	Dr Debashish Bhattacharjee	Nil
Award for R&D in Iron and Steel Sector	Dr Rameshwar Sah	Rs 1 Lakh
Young Metallurgist Award	Dr Niloy Kundu (Metal Science)	Rs 1 Lakh
	Agilan Muthumanickam (Environment)	Rs 1 Lakh

33. Name the personality who has recently (in Nov '23) won the 2023 Booker Prize for the novel, 'Prophet Song'.

- 1) Sarah Gilmartin
- 2) Naoise Dolan
- 3) Paul Lynch
- 4) Kathleen McMahon
- 5) Colin Walsh

Answer- **3) Paul Lynch**

Explanation:

On November 26, 2023, Irish author **Paul Lynch** won **2023 Booker Prize** for his novel, '**Prophet Song**' published by Oneworld. He was awarded by Shehan Karunatilaka, the 2022 winner, during a ceremony held at Old Billingsgate, London in the United Kingdom (UK).

- He received 50,000 Pound sterling and the Iris Trophy for his award winning novel.
- In 2022, Shehan Karunatilaka won for 'The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida', set during the Sri Lankan civil war.

i. The Booker Prize is awarded to the best novel of fiction by writers of any nationality, written in English and published in the UK or Ireland. It was first awarded in 1969.

ii. The Booker Prize Foundation has decided the name of the trophy as 'Iris' – after Iris Murdoch (Winner of The Booker Prize 1978 for The Sea, the Sea). The trophy is Jan Pieńkowski's original statuette.

34. Which word has been selected as Word of the Year 2023 by the Merriam-Webster in November 2023?

- 1) AI
- 2) Authentic
- 3) Deepfake
- 4) X
- 5) Doppelgänger

Answer- **2) Authentic**

Explanation:

United States of America (USA) dictionary publisher **Merriam-Webster** announced that the **Word of the Year for 2023** is "**Authentic**". According to Merriam-Webster, Authentic is defined as "not false or imitation" and "true to one's own personality, spirit, or character".

i. The searches for the word 'Authentic' on Merriam-webster.com increased in 2023, because of stories and conversations about Artificial intelligence (AI), celebrity culture, identity, and social media.

Note- 'Authentic' as Identity: The word is often connected to national as well as personal identity.

35. Who has recently (in Nov '23) named for the 2023 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Nansen Refugee Award?

- 1) Azizbek Ashurov (Kyrgyzstan)
- 2) Abdullahi Mire (Somalia)
- 3) Angela Merkel (Germany)
- 4) Zannah Mustapha (Nigeria)
- 5) Aqeela Asifi (Afghanistan)

Answer- **2) Abdullahi Mire (Somalia)**

Explanation:

Abdullahi Mire, a former refugee from **Somalia** has been named the **2023 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Nansen Refugee Award's** Global Laureate for championing the right to education while putting 100,000 books in the hands of displaced children and youth in Kenya.

i. The awards will be presented at a ceremony in Geneva, Switzerland on 13 December 2023 at the Global Refugee Forum 2023, which will take place from 13 to 15 December 2023.

- The Somali born grew up in the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya.
- ii. The 2023 Regional Winners of the **UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award** have also been named, recognising their outstanding work with refugees, internally displaced, and stateless people.
- **Elizabeth Moreno Barco** from Colombia(Americas)
 - **Asia Al-Mashreqi** from Yemen (Middle East & North Africa)
 - **Abdullah Habib, Sahat Zia Hero, Salim Khan and Shahida Win** (Asia-Pacific): four Rohingya storytellers documenting the experiences of stateless Rohingya refugees
 - **Lena Grochowska and Władysław Grochowski** from Poland (Europe)

SUMMITS, CONFERENCES

1. Which of the following points is “Incorrect” with respect to the India Mobile Congress (IMC 2023) held in October 2023?

A) The Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated the 9th Edition of IMC 2023, Asia’s largest telecom, media, and technology forum in New Delhi, Delhi with the theme of ‘New Digital Universe’.

B) Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (Reliance Jio) launched India’s first satellite-based gigabit broadband service “JioSpaceFiber” during IMC 2023

C) Sunil Bharti Mittal, Chairman of Bharti Enterprises and founder of Bharti Airtel, announced a significant breakthrough in satellite communication at IMC 2023.

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

Answer- 1) Only A

Explanation:

The **7th Edition** of India Mobile Congress (IMC 2023), Asia’s largest telecom, media, and technology forum, was held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi, from 27th to 29th October 2023.

- The **theme** of the IMC 2023 was ‘**Global Digital Innovation**’.
- The congress was inaugurated by Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi on 27th October 2023.
- IMC 2023 introduces ‘Aspire,’ a startup program fostering connections between startups, investors, and established businesses.
- This aims to catalyze entrepreneurial initiatives and collaborations.
- During IMC 2023 PM Modi awarded 100 ‘5G Use Case Labs’ to educational institutions across India. The institutions will get 5G Use Case Labs as part of the initiative of the Department of Telecommunication (DoT), Ministry of Communications.
- **Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (Reliance Jio)** launched India’s first satellite-based gigabit broadband service “JioSpaceFiber” during IMC 2023. This aims to provide high-speed internet access to previously unreachable areas in India.
- **Sunil Bharti Mittal**, Chairman of Bharti Enterprises and founder of Bharti Airtel, announced a significant breakthrough in satellite communication at IMC 2023. He revealed that OneWeb Satellite communication service is ready to connect all parts of India from next month. The service promises to provide connectivity to even remote and difficult-to-reach areas.

- At India Mobile Congress 2023, HFCL Limited unveiled a suite of next-gen connectivity products and solutions, including 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) Customer Premise Equipment (CPE), IP MPLS Routers, 2 Gbps Unlicensed Band Radio, and the 1728-high fiber count IBR Optical Fiber Cable.

2. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Global Conference on Cooperation in Enforcement Matters (GCCEM) held at New Delhi, Delhi from 30th October to 1st November 2023?

A) Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the 2nd Global Conference on Cooperation in Enforcement Matters (GCCEM) with the theme of ‘Artificial intelligence and wisdom of the heart: for a fully human communication’.

B) The conference was organised by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), under Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) in consultation with World Customs Organisation (WCO), Brussels in Belgium.

C) The WCO has collaborated with Indian Customs to ensure wide participation by Member Administrations and international organisations, including WCO’s Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILOs) and senior representations from the WCO Secretariat.

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 **first** Global Conference on Cooperation in Enforcement Matters (GCCEM) was held in New Delhi, Delhi from 30th October to 1st November 2023. The conference was inaugurated by Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance (MoF). The **theme** of 1st GCCEM was **‘It takes a Network to fight a Network’**.

- The conference was **organised** by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), under Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) in consultation with World Customs Organisation (WCO), Brussels in Belgium.
- The **WCO** has **collaborated** with **Indian Customs** to ensure wide participation by Member Administrations and international organisations, including WCO’s Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILOs) and senior representations from the WCO Secretariat.

3. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the world’s 1st global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Safety Summit held in November 2023?

A) The United Kingdom (UK) Government hosted the world’s 1st global AI Safety Summit at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire (UK) on November 1-2, 2023

B) Delegates from 28 nations, including India, have signed the world’s 1st agreement known as the “Bletchley Declaration,” during the ‘AI Safety Summit 2023’ and pledged to cooperate, to promote the safe use of AI tools.

C) During the summit, UK Prime Minister (PM) Rishi Sunak launched the world’s 1st AI Safety Institute in the UK to examine, evaluate, and test new types of AI.

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 **United Kingdom (UK)** Government hosted the **world's 1st global** Artificial Intelligence (AI) Safety Summit at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire (UK) on November 1-2, 2023. This 2-day summit brought together Ministers and representatives from various countries, including the UK, the United States of America (USA), India, among others.

- This summit aimed to unite world leaders and prominent tech industry giants focussed on devising a comprehensive, collaborative strategy to mitigate risks and combat the misuse of AI technologies.
- The Summit also witnessed the signing of the Bletchley Declaration by 28 countries and the launching of the world's 1st AI Safety Institute.
- Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Union Minister of State(MoS), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship(MSDE), and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India addressed the inaugural plenary session of the 'AI Safety Summit 2023'.
- Delegates from **28 nations, including India**, the USA, China, and the European Union have signed the world's 1st agreement known as the "**Bletchley Declaration**," during the 'AI Safety Summit 2023' and pledged to cooperate, to promote the safe use of AI tools.
 - With the agreement, the 28 countries agreed to work together to address the potentially "catastrophic" risks presented by rapid advances in AI.
 - The declaration was named after the venue, Bletchley Park, where the AI Safety Summit was held in the UK.
- During the AI Safety Summit 2023, UK Prime Minister (PM) Rishi Sunak launched the **world's 1st AI Safety Institute** in the UK to examine, evaluate, and test new types of AI. The launch represents the UK's commitment to the global initiative on AI safety testing.

4. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) held in October/November 2023?

A) India hosted the 6th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi, Delhi.

B) The ISA announced that the Global Solar Facility (GSF) to stimulate investments into solar power projects, is set to receive a capital contribution of USD 35 million.

C) Peru has officially joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as its 97th member.

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

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

Explanation:

On 31st October 2023, **India** hosted the **6th** Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (**ISA**) at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi, Delhi. Union Minister Raj Kumar Singh (RK Singh) , Ministry of

Power (MOP) and Ministry of New & Renewable Energy(MNRE), President of ISA, presided over the 6th Assembly of ISA.

- Participants: Ministers from 20 countries and delegates from across 116 countries and signatory countries participated in the Assembly
- While addressing the Assembly, R.K. Singh emphasized the importance of Renewable Energy as a future source of energy by underlining the fact that:
 - Around 80% of the global population which comprises about 6 billion people resides in countries that depend on fossil fuel imports.
 - Renewable energy sources have the potential to supply 65% of the world's total electricity by 2030.
 - Renewable energy sources can decarbonise 90% of the power sector by 2050.
- During the 6th Assembly, ISA released 3 flagship reports to provide insights into the current state of solar energy, providing updates on Solar Technology, Solar Market and Solar Investments.
- The ISA announced that the Global Solar Facility (GSF), a payment guarantee fund formed by ISA to stimulate investments into solar power projects, is set to receive a capital contribution of **USD 35 million**.
- The Government of India (GoI) is considering a USD 25 million investment as a capital contribution in the GSF in addition to USD 10 million from ISA.
- The 6th Assembly of ISA has decided to increase the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for solar projects across its member countries to 35% from the existing 10%. These projects will mostly focus on the underdeveloped and developing nations of Africa and South America.
- **Chile** has officially **joined the ISA** as its **95th member**. Chile Ambassador Juan Angulo handed over the Instrument of ISA ratification to Abhishek Singh, Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy) in the Ministry of External Affairs. This marks a significant move that bolsters the global effort to advance solar energy.

5. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the 7th edition of Bengal Global Business Summit held at Kolkata in November 2023?

- A) During the summit, Mamta Bannerjee, CM of West Bengal announced that West Bengal attracted investment worth Rs3.76 Lakh crore which includes signing of 188 MoUs and Letter of Intent (LoI) in different sectors.**
- B) Reliance Industries Limited announced plans to invest Rs20000 crore in next three years in West Bengal.**
- C) World Trade Centre (WTC)-NDITA (Nabadiganta Industrial Township Authority) has signed a MoU with the World Trade Centres of Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kochi and Noida at the Urban Infrastructure Session in Summit.**

- 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 Government of West Bengal organized the [7th edition of Bengal Global Business Summit](#) which was held from November 21 to 22, 2023 in Kolkata, West Bengal.

- The summit aimed to bring together business leaders, academia, entrepreneurs and think tanks across the globe with the objective of making strategic and business alliances about the industrial ecosystem and business friendly initiatives of state.
 - Key Participants: The Summit hosted business leaders from more than 25 countries. The participating countries include The U.S., U.K., Japan, France, Australia and Germany to name a few.
- i. During the 7th edition of Bengal Global Business summit, Mamta Bannerjee (Chief Minister, West Bengal) announced that West Bengal attracted investment worth **Rs3.76 Lakh crore** which includes signing of 188 MoUs and Letter of Intent (LoI) in different sectors.
- ii. While addressing the summit, Mukesh Ambani (Chairman and Managing Director, Reliance Industries Limited) announced that his company plans to invest **Rs20000 crore** in next three years in West Bengal. Earlier, the Reliance Company invested about Rs45000 crores in West Bengal.
- iii. **World Trade Centre (WTC)-NDITA (Nabadiganta Industrial Township Authority)** has signed a MoU with the World Trade Centres of Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kochi and Noida at the Urban Infrastructure Session at Biswabanga Mela Program of Bengal Global Business Summit 2023 in Kolkata, West Bengal.

COMMITTEE AND MEETING

1. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the 1st Australia India Education and Skill Council (AIESC) meeting held in November 2023?

- A) Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship co-chaired the 1st Australia India Education and Skill Council (AIESC) meeting with Australian Ministers- Jason Clare, Education Minister and Brendan O’Connor, Skills & Training Minister.**
- B) During the 1st AIESC meeting, 5 MoUs were exchanged between Indian and Australian Higher education institutions (HEIs) to facilitate greater research collaborations.**
- C) Both country Ministers announced the opening of two Australian Universities campuses of Wollongong and Deakin University in GIFT City, Gandhinagar (Gujarat).**

- 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:

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Education (**MoE**) and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (**MSDE**) co-chaired the **1st Australia India Education and Skill Council (AIESC) meeting** with Australian Ministers- Jason Clare, Education Minister and Brendan O’Connor, Skills & Training Minister.

- The meeting was held at the Indian Institutes of Technology(IIT) Gandhinagar in Gujarat on 6th November 2023.
- During the 1st AIESC meeting, **5 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)** were exchanged between Indian and Australian Higher education institutions (HEIs) to facilitate greater research collaborations in areas like Agriculture, Water Management, Critical Minerals, Healthcare, AI, Renewable Energy and Climate Change.
- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan met Australian Education Minister Jason Clare and both countries agreed to increase research collaborations in priority areas including mines and minerals and critical minerals.
- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Australian Education Minister Jason Clare announced the opening of two Australian Universities campuses of Wollongong and Deakin University in GIFT City(Gujarat International Finance Tec-City), Gandhinagar (Gujarat).

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1. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)’s 5th edition of State Food Safety Index (SFSI 2022-2023) released by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in November 2023?

A) With the inclusion of a new parameter (Improvement in SFSI Rank) in the 2023 index, 19 out of 20 large states recorded a drop in their 2023 scores from 2019.

B) 15 out of 20 states recorded lower SFSI scores in 2022-2023 compared to 2019.

C) Uttar Pradesh has recorded the steepest fall in SFSI Score, from 74 out of 100 in 2019 to 45 in 2023, followed by Bihar.

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

Answer- 2) Only A & B

Explanation:

According to the 5th edition of [State Food Safety Index\(SFSI 2022-2023\)](#) by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), with the inclusion of a new parameter (Improvement in SFSI Rank) in the 2023 index, **19 out of 20 large states** recorded a drop in their 2023 scores from 2019.

- The index was released by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on World Food Safety Day 2023 (June 7 2023).
- Adjusting for the new parameter, **15 out of 20 states** recorded lower SFSI scores in 2022-2023 compared to 2019.
- **Maharashtra** has recorded the **steepest fall in SFSI Score**, from 74 out of 100 in 2019 to 45 in 2023, followed by Bihar(from 46 in 2019 to 20.5 in 2023), and Gujarat (from 73 in 2019 to 48.5 in 2023).

2. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Ranking: Asia 2024 released in November 2023?

A) India has 118 universities in 2023 ranking and holds the highest representation in Asia’s higher education system, surpassing China (133) and Japan (96).

B) Peking University, Beijing, China has retained the 1st position in the QS Asia Ranking 2024.

C) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) in Mumbai, Maharashtra grabbed the top spot in India with 40th position in the Asia Ranking.

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 November 8, 2023, the QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Ranking: Asia 2024 was released, showcasing 148 Indian universities which is 30 more than the last edition. With this, India now holds the highest representation in Asia’s higher education system, surpassing **China** (133) and Japan (96).

- India has **118 universities** in 2023 ranking.
- This is the 16th edition of the QS World University Ranking in this category.

i. Peking University, Beijing, China has retained the 1st position in the QS Asia Ranking 2024, while, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (**IITB**) in Mumbai, Maharashtra grabbed the top spot in India with 40th position in the Asia Ranking.

3. As per the Inclusiveness Index published by the Othering and Belonging Institute (OBI) in November 2023, India was ranked _____ out of 129 countries in the Index, while _____ (country) tops the Index for the second consecutive year.

1) 120th; Portugal

2) 117th; New Zealand

3) 120th; Netherlands

4) 117th; Portugal

5) 110th; New Zealand

Answer- 2) 117th; New Zealand

Explanation:

According to the **Inclusiveness Index** published by the Othering and Belonging Institute (OBI) at California University, United States of America(USA), **India** was ranked **117th** out of 129 countries with an overall score of 49.24.

i. India was ranked 129th in religion inclusiveness, 121st in gender, 108th in disability, 87th in race, 40th in the general population, and 39th in LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or questioning, Intersex, Asexual).

ii. The index was topped by **New Zealand** for the **second consecutive year** with an overall score of 82.08.

- It is followed by 2nd place Portugal (77.6), and the Netherlands (76.98) in 3rd place.

ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

1. In October 2023, Fincare Small Finance Bank (SFB) merged with _____ (SFB) in an All-share Deal under Section 44A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

- 1) Suryoday SFB
- 2) AU SFB
- 3) Equitas SFB
- 4) Capital SFB
- 5) Utkarsh SFB

Answer- 2) AU SFB

Explanation:

The board of AU Small Finance Bank **(SFB) Limited** and **Fincare** Small Finance Bank **(SFB) Limited** has approved an all-stock merger of AU SFB and Fincare SFB under Section 44A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. .

- AU SFB will acquire Fincare SFB in an all-stock transaction valued at **Rs 4,411 crore**.
- This merger aims to expand the AU SFB's reach in southern part of India and enter micro-finance sector.

i. The merger is subject to approval by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

ii. The amalgamation will come into effect from 1st February, 2024 or such other date as may be fixed mutually by the Transfer or Company and the Transferee Company and sanctioned by the RBI.

2. In October 2023, Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the minority investment by India Business Excellence Fund (IBEF) – IV(Acquirer), a private equity fund of Motilal Oswal Alternates (MO Alternates), in _____ (company).

- 1) IIFL Finance Limited
- 2) SK Finance Limited
- 3) Ceejay Finance Limited
- 4) Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited
- 5) Bajaj Finance Limited

Answer- 2) SK Finance Limited

Explanation:

Competition Commission of India **(CCI)** has approved the minority investment by India Business Excellence Fund **(IBEF) – IV(Acquirer)**, a private equity fund of Motilal Oswal Alternates (MO Alternates), in **SK Finance Limited** (Target), a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) registered with Reserve Bank of India(RBI).

- The investment will be in the form of a subscription to equity shares and the purchase of outstanding equity shares of SK Finance from Rajendra Kumar Setia, the promoter of SK Finance and Baring Private Equity India AIF. IBEF – IV is a Category II Alternative Investment Fund(AIF) registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India(SEBI).
- MO Alternates is a subsidiary of Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited(MOFSL).

3. In November 2023, Zurich Insurance Company acquired a _____ stake in Kotak General Insurance for Rs 4,051 crore.

- 1) 60%
- 2) 35%
- 3) 51%
- 4) 64%
- 5) 49%

Answer- **3) 51%**

Explanation:

Kotak Mahindra Bank and Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company have entered into definitive agreements with **Zurich Insurance Company Ltd**, whereby Zurich will invest approximately Rs 4,051 crore to acquire a **51% stake** in **Kotak General Insurance**.

- i. Kotak General Insurance is valued at approximately Rs 8000 crore on a post money valuation. The transaction is expected to be completed by June 30, 2024.
- ii. It is the single largest investment by a global strategic insurer in an Indian non-life insurer.

4. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the recent approval by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in November 2023?

A) CCI has approved the acquisition of 49% shareholding of Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company Limited (BALIC) by Bharti Life Ventures Private Limited (BLVPL) from AXA India Holdings (AXA) taking its total shareholding in BALIC to 100% and acquisition of BALIC’s sole control.

B) CCI has approved the acquisition of 40 shareholding of Bharti Realty Limited by Bharti Enterprises Limited (BEL) from Societe Beaujon (a subsidiary of AXA) taking its total shareholding in BMSL to 100% and acquisition of BMSL’s sole control.

C) CCI also approved the acquisition of 20.51% equity shares of Indo Rama Synthetics (India) Limited (IRSL) by Alope Lohia from Brookgrange Investment Limited and transfer of 20.51% equity shares of IRSL to Urmila Lohia by Alope Lohia.

- 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:

On November 6, 2023, the Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) has approved the following transactions:

Details of the Proposed Combination:

- Acquisition of **49%** shareholding of Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company Limited (**BALIC**) by Bharti Life Ventures Private Limited (**BLVPL**) from AXA India Holdings (**AXA**) taking its total shareholding in BALIC to 100% and acquisition of BALIC’s sole control.
- Acquisition of **48.54%** shareholding of Bharti Management Services Limited (**BMSL**) by Bharti Enterprises Limited (**BEL**) from **Societe Beaujon** (a subsidiary of AXA) taking its total shareholding in BMSL to 100% and acquisition of BMSL’s sole control.

- **CCI** has approved the acquisition of **20.51%** equity shares of Indo Rama Synthetics (India) Limited (**IRSL**) by **Aloke Lohia** from Brookgrange Investment Limited and transfer of 20.51% equity shares of IRSL to Urmila Lohia by Aloke Lohia.

Note: Aloke Lohia and Urmila Lohia are the promoters of IRSL

5. As of November 2023, which bank is set to get 7.71% equity from Jaiprakash Associates Limited (JAL) and associated trusts as Payment Obligation?

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

Answer- **5) ICICI Bank**

Explanation:

Jaiprakash Associates Limited (**JAL**) and associated trusts are set to transfer **7.71% equity** or over 18.93 crore shares to **ICICI Bank** as part of a settlement agreement between the JAL and the bank, amid loan repayment default.

i. The move is part of JAL's efforts to reduce its debt with the bank. The 7.71% stake is worth Rs 366 crore at the current market price.

ii. The trust associated with JAL includes: Gujarat Anjan Cement Limited(GACL) Trust, Jaiprakash Enterprises Limited(JEL) Trust, Jaypee Cement Limited(JCL) Trust, and Jaypee Hotels Limited (JHL) Trust.

- JAL failed to repay a loan worth Rs 4,258 crore, comprising a principal sum of Rs 1,733 crore and an interest of Rs 2,525 crore.
- These loans, involving fund-based working capital, non-fund-based working capital, term loans, and FCCB (Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds), were owed to various banks.

6. In November 2023, Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of a minority stake in _____ (company) by the Mirae Group Entities.

- 1) Bundl Technologies Private Limited
- 2) Gati Limited
- 3) Apollo LogiSolutions Limited
- 4) Shadowfax Technologies Private Limited
- 5) Zinka Logistics Solutions Private Limited

Answer- **4) Shadowfax Technologies Private Limited**

Explanation:

Fair trade regulator Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) has approved the acquisition of a minority stake in **Shadowfax Technologies** Private Limited (Target) by the **Mirae Group Entities** (Acquirers).

i. Details of the proposed combination:

- Acquisition of a minority stake in Shadowfax Technologies by Mirae Asset Late Stage Opportunities Fund (Mirae IV).
- Acquisition of a right to appoint a director on the board of Shadowfax Technologies by Mirae Asset Naver New Growth Fund I (Mirae I), Mirae Asset- GS Retail New Growth Fund I (Mirae II), Mirae Asset- Naver Asia Growth Investment Pte. Ltd (Mirae III) and Mirae IV.

7. In November 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved Hinduja Group entity IndusInd International Holdings Ltd (IIHL) to acquire _____ (company).

- 1) Reliance Capital
- 2) Reliance Home Finance
- 3) Reliance Infrastructure
- 4) Reliance Power
- 5) Reliance Communications

Answer- 1) Reliance Capital

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the resolution plan for debt-ridden Reliance Capital, and enabled **Hinduja Group** entity IndusInd International Holdings Ltd (IIHL) to acquire **Reliance Capital**.

- The Administrator of Reliance Capital received a “No objection” from the RBI on November 17, 2023.
- IIHL emerged as the highest bidder in the second round of the auction, offering Rs 9,650 crore to take over Reliance Capital.

Note- Reliance Capital is the third non-banking financial company (NBFC) against which the RBI initiated bankruptcy proceedings.

8. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has recently (in Nov '23) approved the acquisition of _____ share capital of CaratLane Trading Private Limited (CaratLane) by Titan Company Limited.

- 1) 20.19%
- 2) 24.39%
- 3) 36.23%
- 4) 40.21%
- 5) 27.18%

Answer- 5) 27.18%

Explanation:

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of **27.18% share** capital of **CaratLane Trading Private Limited** (CaratLane) by **Titan Company Limited** (Titan) on a fully diluted basis, from Mithun Padam Sacheti, Siddhartha Padam Sacheti, and Padamchand Sacheti.

i. Titan has acquired 91.90 lakh equity shares in CaratLane for a cash consideration of Rs 4621 crore.

ii. This acquisition increased Titan's stake in CaratLane to 98.28% from 71.09%.

iii. CaratLane is a subsidiary of Titan and has been in a strategic vendor relationship with Tanishq since 2010. It was founded in 2008 by Mithun Sacheti.

9. Which company has recently (in Nov '23) received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to acquire additional stake in Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company?

- 1) Bupa Global International Holdings
- 2) Fortis Healthcare Ltd
- 3) Bupa Singapore Holdings
- 4) Max Healthcare Institute Ltd
- 5) Global Health Ltd

Answer- **3) Bupa Singapore Holdings**

Explanation:

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of an additional stake in **Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company** by **Bupa Singapore Holdings**. The Proposed transaction is approved under the green channel route, adhering to Regulation 5A and Schedule III of CCI (Procedure in regard to the transaction of business relating to combinations) Regulations, 2011.

- **Acquirer-** Bupa Singapore Holdings Pte. Ltd. (Bupa Singapore)
- **Target-** Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited (Niva Bupa)

i. Following this acquisition, the shareholding of Bupa Singapore will increase to approximately 63% equity stake in Niva Bupa.

10. In November 2023, Berkshire Hathaway Inc sold its entire 2.46% stake in _____ (company) for Rs.1,371 crore in a bulk deal on the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

- 1) Paytm
- 2) PhonePe
- 3) Google Pay
- 4) PayZapp
- 5) Razorpay

Answer- **1) Paytm**

Explanation:

Berkshire Hathaway Inc, an American diversified multinational holding company led by Warren Buffett, sold its entire **2.46% stake** in One97 Communications, the parent company of fin-tech company **Paytm** for **Rs.1,371 crore** in a bulk deal on the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

i. Berkshire Hathaway Inc. through its affiliate company BH International Holdings sold over 1.56 crore shares of

Paytm at a loss of about 31% per share, leading to a loss exceeding Rs.620 crore.

ii. The sale was made through an open market transaction and the shares were bought by Ghisallo Master Fund and Copthall Mauritius Investment.

DEFENCE

1. Name the aircraft of Indian Navy (IN) that has recently (in Nov '23) decommissioned after 46 years of service to the nation at INS Hansa at Dabolim, Goa.

- 1) Ilyushin-46 Sea Dragon
- 2) MIG 29-K
- 3) Kamov-28 Sea Dragon
- 4) Ilyushin-38 Sea Dragon
- 5) Boeing P-8I

Answer- **4) Ilyushin-38 Sea Dragon**

Explanation:

On 31st October 2023, **Ilyushin (IL)-38 Sea Dragon (SD)** long-range maritime patrol aircraft of the Indian Navy(**IN**) was decommissioned after 46 years of service to the nation, at INS Hansa at Dabolim, **Goa**.

- Indian Naval Air Squadrons (INAS) 315 was commissioned on 1st October 1977 with the induction of IL-38 aircraft.
 - The aircraft, IL-38 SD, was also featured in the 2023 Republic Day Flypast at New Delhi, Delhi.
 - Two IL-38 SD aircraft will be stationed permanently at the National Maritime Heritage Museum, Lothal, Gujarat and at Nipani in Karnataka.
- i. On 31st October 2023, the Indian Air Force (**IAF**) phased out another Mig-21 fighter squadron, No. 4 squadron, known as '**OORIALS**', based at Uttarlai, Rajasthan. The squadron will be re-equipping it with Sukhoi-30 MKI (SU-30MKI) aircraft.
- No. 4 Squadron has been operating the MiG-21 since 1966.

2. Name the annual Command level exercise that has been recently (in Nov '23) conducted by the Eastern Air Command (EAC) of the Indian Air Force (IAF) from October to November 2023.

- 1) Pitch Black
- 2) Siam Bharat
- 3) Pralay Shayam
- 4) Eastern Bridge
- 5) Poorvi Akash

Answer- **5) Poorvi Akash**

Explanation:

The Shillong-headquartered Eastern Air Command (**EAC**) of the Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted its annual Command level exercise called Exercise **Poorvi Akash** from 30 October to 5 November 2023 to check its combat preparedness.

- The exercise was held in the northeastern region.
 - The day and night exercise comprised the application of Air Power in all its roles.
 - The exercise also comprises joint operations with the Eastern Command (EC) of the Indian Army(IA).
- i. The indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand also participated in the exercise.

3. Name the country that has recently (in Nov '23) signed a contract with India to supply and produce hand-held anti-aircraft missile Igla-S Man-Portable Air Defence System (MANPADS).

- 1) France
- 2) United States of America
- 3) Japan
- 4) Indonesia
- 5) Russia

Answer- **5) Russia**

Explanation:

Russia has signed a contract to supply and produce hand-held anti-aircraft missile **Igla-S** Man-Portable Air Defence System (**MANPADS**) to **India**.

- Iгла-S is designed to counter low-flying aircraft and helicopters. It has a range of 500 meters to 6000 meters and can go upto the altitude ranging from 10meters to 3500 meters.
- It works on “fire-and-forget” principle and it is exported by Russian Defense Export agency Rosoboronexport

4. In which city, the 9th edition of the joint military exercise of India and Sri Lanka, MITRA SHAKTI-2023 was commenced on 16th November 2023?

- 1) Siliguri, West Bengal
- 2) Auli, Uttarakhand
- 3) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- 4) Pune, Maharashtra
- 5) Umroi, Meghalaya

Answer- **4) Pune, Maharashtra**

Explanation:

MITRA SHAKTI-2023, the **9th edition** of the joint military exercise between the armed forces of India and Sri Lanka, commenced on 16th November 2023 at the Foreign Training Node in Aundh, **Pune, Maharashtra**. The 14-day exercise is set to conclude on 29 November 2023.

- The exercise will foster strong bilateral relations between India and Sri Lanka.
- Indian Army: Contingent of 120 personnel from India, primarily representing the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment. Sri Lankan Army: Personnel from the 53rd Infantry Division
- Additionally, 15 members from the Indian Air Force (IAF) and 5 from the Sri Lankan Air Force are also partaking in this joint exercise.

i. Objectives:

- To promote close relations between armies of both countries and enhance interoperability and sharing of best practices in Counter-Insurgency and Counter-Terrorism (CI-CT) operations.
- To collectively practise sub-conventional operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations (UN) Charter, focusing on coordinated responses during CT operations.

5. In which state, the 14th edition of the India – United States of America (USA) Joint Special Forces exercise ‘Vajra Prahar 2023’ was commenced on 21st November 2023?

- 1) West Bengal
- 2) Uttarakhand
- 3) Gujarat
- 4) Maharashtra
- 5) Meghalaya

Answer- **5) Meghalaya**

Explanation:

The 14th edition of the India – United States of America(USA) Joint Special Forces exercise, Vajra Prahar 2023, commenced at the Joint Training Node in **Umroi** Cantonment, located in Ri Bhoi district of the north eastern state of **Meghalaya**.

- The 2023 edition is a 21-day (3-week) training program happening from 21st November 2023 to 11th December 2023.
- The Indian Army (IA) contingent is led by Special Forces personnel from the Eastern Command.
- The US contingent is being represented by personnel from the 1st Special Forces Group (SFG) of US Special Forces.

6. In November 2023, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) & the Indian Navy (IN) successfully conducted the 2nd Flight test of Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Short Range (NASM-SR) from IN's _____ Maritime Helicopter.

- 1) Sikorsky SH-3
- 2) Kamov Ka-25
- 3) Hawk Mk 132
- 4) Seaking 42B
- 5) Ilyushin Il-38

Answer- 4) Seaking 42B

Explanation:

On 21st November 2023, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in cooperation with the Indian Navy (IN) successfully tested the indigenously designed & developed Guided Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Short Range (**NASM-SR**) from **IN's Seaking 42B Maritime Helicopter**.

- This marked the **2nd test of the missile**, which was first tested at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Balasore, Odisha on 18 May 2022, from an IN Seaking Mk42B helicopter.
 - The test involved the firing of the missile from a Seaking 42B helicopter, showcasing its precision guidance technology.
- i.** The NASM-SR is a helicopter-fired missile capable of destroying small boats or Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) at a maximum range of 55 kilometers while traveling at 0.8 Mach (slower than the speed of sound).
 - ii.** It is the first indigenous air-launched anti-ship missile system developed for the Indian Navy and is India's version of the Harpoon Anti-Ship Missile.

7. In November 2023, the Indian Armed Forces took part in the _____ edition of the Joint Military Exercise with Australian Army in "AUSTRAHIND-23," held in Perth, Australia.

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

Answer- 5) 2nd

Explanation:

The Indian Armed Forces takes part in the **2nd edition** of the Joint Military Exercise with Australian Army in "**AUSTRAHIND-23**," it is being held from November 22nd to December 6th, 2023, in **Perth, Australia**.

- Exercise "AUSTRAHIND" is an annual exercise that will be held alternatively in India and Australia. The 1st edition of the "AUSTRAHIND" was held in 2022 in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges (MFFR) in Mahajan, Rajasthan.
- i.** The Indian contingent includes 60 personnel from a Battalion of the Gorkha Rifles regiment of the Indian Army, One officer from the Indian Navy(IN), and 20 personnel from the Indian Air Force(IAF).
 - ii.** The Australian contingent includes 60 personnel from the 13th Brigade of the Australian Army, 20 personnel each from the Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Air Force.

8. The _____ Edition of Indo-Nepal joint training Exercise 'Surya Kiran' between India and Nepal began at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand in November 2023.

- 1) 14th
- 2) 16th
- 3) 13th
- 4) 15th
- 5) 17th

Answer- **5) 17th**

Explanation:

Surya Kiran XVII, the **17th Edition** of the Indo-Nepal joint training Exercise began at Pithoragarh, **Uttarakhand**. The exercise between Indian Army and Nepal Army will be conducted from 24th November to 7th December 2023.

- Surya Kiran XVI, 16th edition of the exercise was held at Saljhandi, Nepal in December 2022.
- The Indian Army contingent of 354 personnel is led by a Battalion from the Kumaon Regiment.
- The Nepal Army contingent of 334 personnel is represented by Tara Dal Battalion.

9. In November 2023, the 9th edition of National Level Pollution Response Exercise, 'NATPOLREX-IX' was conducted by Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in _____ (state).

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

Answer- **3) Gujarat**

Explanation:

The Indian Coast Guard (**ICG**) conducted the 9th National Level Pollution Response Exercise (**NATPOLREX-IX**) on 24-25 November 2023, off Vadinar coast, **Gujarat**, in accordance with National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP).

i. Aim: To assess the coordination and readiness of various agencies in responding to a marine oil spill.

ii. DG Rakesh Pal, Director General of the Indian Coast Guard, and the Chairman of NOSDCP reviewed the preparedness of all agencies during the exercise.

iii. Participants: Representatives of various ministries and departments of central and coastal state governments, ports, oil handling agencies, and other stakeholders along with more than 31 foreign observers and 80 delegates participated in the exercise.

iv. During the exercise, the ICG deployed surfaces as well as air platforms including Pollution Response Vessels (PRVs) and Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Which country has recently (in Oct '23) approved the world's first passenger-carrying flying taxi "EHang 216-S"?

- 1) France
- 2) Japan
- 3) United States of America
- 4) Germany
- 5) China

Answer- **5) China**

Explanation:

Chinese drone startup EHang received the type certificate for **Ehang 216-S (EH216-S)**, its electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft, from the Civil Aviation Administration of **China** (CAAC), the Chinese civil aviation authority under the Ministry of Transport.

- With this, EH216-S becomes the **1st eVTOL vehicle in the world** to be cleared for commercial use.
- i. The EH216-S air taxis are electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft capable of carrying two people or 600 pounds of cargo.
 - ii. They are propelled by 16 electric rotors and can fly at speeds of up to 80 miles per hour (mph) and a distance of up to 18 miles.

2. In October 2023, the Mumbai Division of Central Railway commissioned the Block Proving by Axle _____ (BPAC) system to enhance rail safety in the Vashind - Asangaon section of the Thane district in Maharashtra.

- 1) Control
- 2) Centre
- 3) Commission
- 4) Corporation
- 5) Counter

Answer- **5) Counter**

Explanation:

The Mumbai Division of Central Railway has commissioned the **Block Proving by Axle Counter (BPAC) system** to enhance rail safety in the Vashind-Asangaon section of the Thane district in Maharashtra.

- i. BPAC system counts the number of axles of wheels of train coaches passed in a particular section. Once it gives clearance for no leftover coaches, it allows another train to enter into that particular section. Thus, it ensures 100% safety to avoid more than 1 number of trains in a particular section between 2 stop signals.
- ii. The BPAC system is poised to transform train control in the region by strengthening safety measures and speeding up the clearance process for train operations.

3. In November 2023, Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) announced that India is set to develop Israel's Iron Dome system-like long-range surface-to-air missile (LR-SAM) system under _____ (Project).

- 1) Project Lakshya
- 2) Project Ghatak
- 3) Project Kapothaka
- 4) Project Kusha
- 5) Project Ulka

Answer- 4) Project Kusha

Explanation:

India's Defense Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) is set to develop a long-range surface-to-air missile (**LR-SAM**) system, similar to that of **Israel's Iron Dome** defence system.

- This system developed under "**Project Kusha**" will equip India with a robust air defence system which will detect and neutralise incoming threats.
- i.** The LRSAM will be capable of destroying incoming stealth fighters, aircraft, drones, cruise missiles, and precision-guided munitions within a range of up to 350 kilometres (km).
 - ii.** The system is scheduled for deployment by 2028-2029.

Note: This air defence system will be on par with the Russian S-400 Triumph system, inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF).

- Israel's Iron Dome (Kippat Barzel in Hebrew) System is a state-of-the-art rocket defence system designed to protect against incoming short-range weapons. It operates in all weather conditions.

4. In November 2023, the Indian Army conducted the inaugural test firing of 70 mm rockets and 20 mm turret guns of its Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) _____ in both day and night conditions.

- 1) Chinook
- 2) Prachand
- 3) Tejas
- 4) Rudra
- 5) Dhruv

Answer- 2) Prachand

Explanation:

The **Indian Army** conducted the inaugural test firing of **70 mm rockets** and **20 mm turret guns** of its Light Combat Helicopter (**LCH**) **Prachand** in both day and night conditions.

- It was carried out by the 1st LCH squadron from the Air Force station in Likabali in Arunachal Pradesh.
- i.** The Prachand is India's first indigenous multi-role class combat helicopter, developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). It received operational clearance in 2017.
 - The Army inducted its first LCH Prachand in October 2022.
 - ii.** Features: The 5.8-tonne twin-engine prachand can fly at a maximum speed of 268 Kilometer per hour (kmph) and has a combat radius of 550 km, which can go up to a service ceiling of 6.5 kilometers (km).
 - It is fitted with Shakti Engine, which is co-developed by HAL and France's engine-maker Safran.

iii. Capabilities: It can carry out activities such as Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR), Destruction of Enemy Air Defence (DEAD), operations against slow-moving aircraft, and Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPAs).

5. Which company has recently (in Nov '23) set up a Centre of Excellence (CoE) to provide training in railway signalling and telecommunication systems in New Delhi, Delhi?

- 1) THDC India Limited
- 2) Telecommunications Consultants India Limited
- 3) Indian Telephone Industries Limited
- 4) RailTel Corporation of India Ltd
- 5) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited

Answer- 4) RailTel Corporation of India Ltd

Explanation:

RailTel Corporation of India Limited, a Miniratna (Category-I) Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Railways, has set up a Centre of Excellence (CoE) to provide training in railway signalling and telecommunication systems in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The CoE aims to ensure the availability of competent and skilled manpower in the field of Railway Signalling and Telecommunications Training.
- i.** The CoE will offer a range of certification and diploma courses in collaboration with the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).
 - ii.** Rail Edutech Private Limited is the resource partner for the CoE for providing comprehensive railway training.
 - It is an All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) approved entity.

6. Name the institute of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) that has recently (in Nov' 23) signed an MoU with the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) to collaborate in India's aerospace and defense sectors.

- 1) National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology
- 2) National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources
- 3) North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat
- 4) Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute
- 5) National Geophysical Research Institute

Answer- 1) National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology

Explanation:

Kerala-based Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-**National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) in Bengaluru (Karnataka) to collaborate in India's aerospace and defense sectors.

- The collaboration aims to strengthen the indigenisation and import substitution program for India's aerospace and defence sectors.
- i.** The MoU involves the development of magnesium and aluminum alloy castings and related areas for the aerospace and defence sectors.
 - ii.** The MoU facilitates CSIR-NIIST to collaborate on:

- Human resource and Facility utilisation; Technology support services; Consultancy services; and collaborative research works in the field of light alloys, for the design and development of aerospace components and welding.

7. Name the centre/Institute that has recently (in Nov '23) developed a new energy-efficient technology for converting Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) to carbon monoxide (CO).

- 1) Institute of Chemical Technology Mumbai
- 2) National Centre of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilization
- 3) Indian Institute of Bio-Social Research and Development
- 4) The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
- 5) National Institute of Technology Rourkela

Answer- 2) National Centre of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilization

Explanation:

The National Centre of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilization (**NCoE-CCU**) at Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT Bombay, Mumbai**, Maharashtra has developed a new energy-efficient technology for converting Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) to carbon monoxide (CO).

- It transforms the CO under electro catalytic conditions at ambient temperatures (25-40 °C) in the presence of water.
- i. In this regard, a team of researchers led by Dr. Arnab Dutta and Dr. Vikram Vishal, alongside dedicated scholars at the NCoE-CCU, secured a patent for their CO₂ to CO conversion technology.
 - ii. This achievement is on the lines of India's commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, and has potential for application in the steel sector.
 - iii. NCoE-CCU is backed by the Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST). It is currently being scaled up through the recently established start-up, UrjanovaC Private Limited.

8. In November 2023, the Spear Corps, aviation unit of the Indian Army successfully test fired the New Generation Rocket and Turret ammunition from the first Indigenous Attack Helicopter _____.

- 1) Chinook
- 2) Prachand
- 3) Tejas
- 4) Rudra
- 5) Dhruv

Answer- 4) Rudra

Explanation:

The **Spear Corps** (the aviation unit of the Indian Army) successfully test fired the **New Generation Rocket and Turret ammunition** from the first Indigenous Attack Helicopter **Rudra**.

- It also enhances the Army's strike capability and lethality in the mountains.
- i. The Rudra is a weaponized version of the Advanced Light Dhruv helicopter of 5.8 Ton class powered by two Shakti Engines.
 - ii. It was designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to meet the requirements of the Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF).

9. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched a two-stage Black Brant 9 sounding rocket as part of INFUSE mission from the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, United States of America (USA) in November 2023

In the INFUSE Mission, what does I stand for ?

- 1) Interplanetary
- 2) Infrared
- 3) Internal
- 4) International
- 5) Integral

Answer- 5) Integral

Explanation:

On 29th October 2023, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has launched a two-stage Black Brant 9 sounding rocket as part of **Integral Field Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Experiment (INFUSE) mission** from the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, United States of America (USA).

- The mission aims to study the Cygnus Loop, a 20,000-year-old supernova remnant located 2,600 light-years away from Earth.
- The Cygnus Loop (also known as the Veil Nebula) is a supernova remnant, the detritus of the explosive death of a massive star about ten to 20,000 years ago. This massive star was about 20 times the size of the sun.
- INFUSE is an integral field spectrograph, the first instrument of its kind to fly to space.
- The INFUSE mission will collect data about the Cygnus Loop for a few minutes from an altitude of 150 miles (240 kilometres).

10. In November 2023, the Indian Army (IA) is set to induct the Hermes 900 Starliner drone a Multi-role, Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Unmanned Aircraft System(UAS) from Elbit Systems, defence company of _____ (country).

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

Answer- 5) Israel

Explanation:

The Indian Army (IA) is set to induct the **Hermes 900 Starliner drone** a Multi-role, Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Unmanned Aircraft System(UAS) from **Israel**-based defence company **Elbit Systems** to boost surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.

- The Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force(IAF) have awarded the contract to buy two MALE- UAS from Israel through the fourth tranche of emergency procurement powers granted to the forces.

- IAF inducted two Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) Heron Mark 2 drones from the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in August 2023.
- Elbit Systems in partnership with Adani Aerospace and Defence manufactures the complete carbon composite aerostructures for Hermes 900 Starliner in Hyderabad(Telangana)
- Hermes 900 Starliner is capable of carrying a maximum payload of 450 kg, attaining an altitude of 30,000 ft and it can also fly continuously for up to 36 hours.
- Hermes 900 Starliner is the first and only NATO's Standardized Agreement 4671(NATO STANAG 4671) certified MALE UAS to operate in civilian airspace.

11. Which organisation/company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) portal has been launched by Praveen Kumari Singh, Additional Secretary of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in November 2023?

- 1) NTPC Limited
- 2) Power Finance Corporation
- 3) Indian Railway Finance Corporation
- 4) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency
- 5) National Mineral Development Corporation

Answer- **4) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency**

Explanation:

Dr. **Praveen Kumari Singh**, Additional Secretary, Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) launched **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)**'s Corporate Social Responsibility (**CSR**) portal to enhance transparency in its CSR initiatives.

i. Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of IREDA, Ajay Kumar Sahani, Chief Vigilance Officer and other senior officials were present during the launch.

ii. The portal was launched on the last day of "Vigilance Awareness Week 2023" which was observed from 31st October to 5th November 2023.

12. Which company has recently (in Nov '23) became the first Indian Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) to unveil an in-house Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) engine named 'AVTR 1922'?

- 1) Hyundai Motor
- 2) Ashok Leyland
- 3) Mahindra & Mahindra
- 4) Eicher Motors
- 5) Hero MotoCorp

Answer- **2) Ashok Leyland**

Explanation:

Ashok Leyland became the **first Indian** Original Equipment Manufacturer (**OEM**) to unveil an in-house Liquefied Natural Gas (**LNG**) engine named 'AVTR 1922'.

- Ashok Leyland has delivered the first batch of 12 LNG-powered haulage trucks to Mahanagar Gas Limited in Hosur, Tamil Nadu(TN).

i. The AVTR 1922 is a customizable engine powered by a 6-cylinder H-series 'Hino' engine.

ii. The engine is compliant with Bharat Stage Six (BSVI) Stage II emission standards.

iii. It is also built on the AVTR platform, which is India's first and only fully modular truck platform.

- The engine shares many components with Ashok Leyland's current diesel trucks engines.

13. Name the ministry that has recently (in Nov '23) launched 'AANA Dashboard for Cities' portal.

- 1) Ministry of Home Affairs
- 2) Ministry of Rural Development
- 3) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- 4) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- 5) Ministry of Science and Technology

Answer- 3) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Explanation:

On 13th November 2023, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (**MoHUA**) launched '**AANA Dashboard for Cities**' portal to create a database of the key performance metrics of Urban Local Bodies (**ULB**). The portal is an initiative of MoHUA.

- The primary objectives of the AANA Dashboard are to help cities to
- Help cities see how they are doing vis-à-vis other cities,
- Inspire cities by pointing to new possibilities and areas for improvement.
- Provide cities with the opportunity to learn from and engage with frontrunning cities.

i. The ULBs submit their data, including audited accounts, and self-reported performance metrics by logging in to the dashboard's portal.

ii. The portal does not rank cities, but instead serves as a tool for comparing similarly placed cities and promoting peer learning among cities.

14. Which company, along with SpaceX has recently (in Nov '23) launched Dragon's 29th Commercial Resupply Services mission (CRS-29) to the International Space Station (ISS) through Falcon 9 Rocket from Florida, the United States of America(USA)?

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

Answer- 4) National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Explanation:

On 9th November 2023, **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** and **SpaceX** jointly launched **Dragon's 29th** Commercial Resupply Services mission (**CRS-29**) to the International Space Station (**ISS**).

- CRS-29 Dragon spacecraft was launched atop a Falcon 9 Rocket from Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center(KSC) in Florida, the United States of America(USA).

i. This is the 9th SpaceX launch under the Commercial Resupply Services-2 (CRS) contract.

ii. The spacecraft carried cargo weighing about 6,500 pounds (2948 kg) of scientific research, crew supplies, and hardware to ISS.

iii. The Falcon's first stage made a successful landing at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station's Landing Zone 1 (LZ-1). The launch marked the second flight for the stage, which previously launched Crew-7.

15. Which ministry has recently (in Nov '23) launched the "Dashboard", for real-time, prompt and effective Parliament business?

- 1) Ministry of Home Affairs
- 2) Ministry of Science & Technology
- 3) Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
- 4) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- 5) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Answer- 2) Ministry of Science & Technology

Explanation:

On 14th November 2023, Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science & Technology (**MoST**) launched the software application Department of Science and Technology (DST), "**Dashboard**", for real-time, prompt and effective **Parliament business**.

- i.** This portal streamlines real-time Parliament business, including questions, Acts, Cabinet Notes, and Gazette Notifications of the Government of India related to DST.
- ii.** It will serve as a dashboard for all activities of DST. The Minister urged the DST officials to utilize AI (Artificial Intelligence)-driven technology for analyzing Parliament Questions across various parameters.
- iii.** The MoS also laid the Foundation Stone of the new Auditorium-cum-Guest House Complex in the premises of the "Technology Bhavan" which is the headquarters of DST.

16. In November 2023, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the Ministry of Communications (MoC) granted the requisite licenses to _____ (company) and Eutelsat OneWeb.

- 1) Hughes Communications India
- 2) Tata Communications
- 3) ViaSat Inc
- 4) Jio Satellite Communications Limited
- 5) Bharti Airtel Limited

Answer- 4) Jio Satellite Communications Limited

Explanation:

The Department of Telecommunications (**DoT**) under the Ministry of Communications (MoC) has granted the requisite licenses to **Jio Satellite Communications Limited** and Bharti Enterprises-owned Eutelsat OneWeb.

- DoT allocated Internet Service Provider (ISP)-A and a Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) licence to OneWeb and ISP license to Jio.
- i.** It is a type of license that allows companies to provide internet access, bandwidth, and related services to consumers and businesses.
 - ii.** ISPs typically establish and maintain the network infrastructure, including servers, routers, and cables, essential for transmitting data over the internet.
 - iii.** They provide a range of services, including broadband internet, email hosting, website hosting, and virtual private networks (VPNs).

Note- Both Jio and OneWeb possess the Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) licence.

17. Which Institute of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has recently (in Nov '23) launched "DISHA" – Diagnostic Services in Healthcare : Availability & Geo-mapping of Laboratory services in India portal to assist the public to identify and locate nearest diagnostic health facilities?

- 1) National Institute of Pathology
- 2) National Institute of Medical Statistics
- 3) National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research
- 4) Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences
- 5) National Institute of Immunohaematology

Answer- 1) National Institute of Pathology

Explanation:

The Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) National Institute of Pathology (NIP) in New Delhi, Delhi launched "DISHA" – Diagnostic Services in Healthcare : Availability & Geo-mapping of Laboratory services in India **portal** (www.icmrdisha.in) to assist the public to identify and locate nearest diagnostic health facilities.

- The free and dynamic DISHA portal lists the diagnostic public healthcare facilities across India.
 - ICMR-NIP is gathering data on diagnostic public healthcare facilities and creating a user-friendly online map to access suitable laboratory facilities.
- i. The portal also identifies areas with an imbalance between population densities and diagnostic facilities.
 - ii. The data from the portal can help public health experts and government policymakers to empower existing labs, and create new facilities where necessary.

18. Name the 4th Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW-SWC) that was launched by the Indian Navy (IN) in Kattupalli, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- 1) Androth
- 2) Abhay
- 3) Amini
- 4) Anjadip
- 5) Andaman

Answer- 3) Amini

Explanation:

On November 16, 2023, the **Indian Navy (IN)** launched 'Amini', the 4th in a series of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW-SWC), at shipbuilding facility of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) in Kattupalli, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- It is built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (**GRSE**).

i. Features:

- Amini, a Arnala class ship, is named after Amini island in Lakshadweep due to its strategic significance.
- It is designed for anti-submarine operations in coastal waters and low intensity maritime operations (LIMO), and mine laying operations.
- It is a 77-meter ship with a 900-ton displacement, capable of reaching a maximum speed of 25 knots and covering 1,800 nautical miles.

Note- The contract for building eight ASW SWC ships was signed between the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and GRSE on April 29, 2019.

- As a part of contract, on June 13, 2023, INS (Indian Naval Ship) Anjadip, the 3rd of eight indigenously built ASW-SWC was launched.
- The first ASW-SWC namely INS Arnala was launched in December 2022 while the second one INS Androth was launched on March 21, 2023.

19. In November 2023, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched a robotic challenge program “ISRO Robotics Challenge-U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) 2024 (IRoC-U 2024)” with the cash prize of Rs _____.

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

Answer- 2) 5 Lakh

Explanation:

The Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) launched a robotic challenge program “ISRO Robotics Challenge-U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) 2024 (**IRoC-U 2024**)” with a **tagline** of “Let’s build a space robot” to build robots to compete in an extra-terrestrial-inspired arena.

- The program will help the student community to design and realise a ‘Wheeled/Legged Rover’ encompassing the development of complete hardware and software.
- The registrations for the challenge will start on November 20 and will conclude on December 15, 2023.
- The winning team will be awarded the cash prize of **Rs 5 lakhs**.

20. In November 2023, Indian Navy (IN) launched the _____ Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge, LSAM 10 (Yard 78) of the 08 x MCA Barge project, at East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh.

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

Answer- 3) 4th

Explanation:

On 20th November 2023, Indian Navy (**IN**) launched the Missile Cum Ammunition (**MCA**) Barge, LSAM 10 (**Yard 78**), the 4th vessel in the **08 x MCA Barge** project, at Guttenadeevi, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

i. The launching Ceremony was presided over by Cmde Shanmugam Sabesan, CRO (East).

ii. The barge was built by the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME) Shipyard, **M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd (SEPPL)**, Visakhapatnam(AP).

- The availability of these Barges would provide impetus to the operational commitments of IN by facilitating Transportation, Embarkation, and Disembarkation of articles/ ammunition to IN Ships both alongside jetties and at outer harbours.
- These Barges are indigenously designed and built under relevant Naval Rules and Regulations of the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).

21. In November 2023, _____ became the first firm to receive the authorisations from Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) for satellite broadband services in India.

- 1) Hughes India
- 2) Jio Satellite Communications
- 3) Tata Communications
- 4) Viasat India
- 5) OneWeb India

Answer- 5) OneWeb India

Explanation:

OneWeb India has become the **first firm to receive** the authorisations from Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (**IN-SPACE**) to launch Eutelsat OneWeb's commercial satellite broadband services in India.

- i.** With this, OneWeb India aims to extend internet services to rural and unconnected areas and territorial waters of India on a 24×7 basis using the Eutelsat OneWeb constellation.
- ii.** The authorisation valid for 5 years is subject to the assignment of the spectrum by the Department of Telecommunication (DoT), Ministry of Communication for both the gateways and user terminal operations.

22. Which company has recently (in Nov '23) signed an MoU with the University of Sydney Infectious Diseases Institute (Sydney ID) to collaborate on vaccine R&D & Infectious Diseases?

- 1) Dr. Reddy's Laboratories
- 2) Biological E Limited
- 3) Bharat Biotech International Limited
- 4) Indian Immunologicals Limited
- 5) Serum Institute of India

Answer- 3) Bharat Biotech International Limited

Explanation:

Bharat Biotech International Limited (**BBIL**), the developer of India's first indigenous Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin, inked a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the University of Sydney Infectious Diseases Institute (**Sydney ID**) to collaborate on advancing vaccine research, strengthening academic-industry partnerships, and combating infectious diseases globally.

- i.** It aims to build strong sectoral and cross-organisational collaborations to design novel methodologies to tackle future epidemics and infectious disease.
- ii.** The collaboration will utilise academia-industry strengths for advancing the science of vaccines and biotherapeutics.
- iii.** BBIL has over 145 global patents, a portfolio of over 19 vaccines and four biotherapeutics.

SPORTS

1. Who has recently (in Oct '23) won the Formula 1 (F1) Mexico City Grand Prix 2023?

- 1) Sergio Pérez
- 2) Fernando Alonso
- 3) Charles Leclerc

4) Lewis Hamilton

5) Max Verstappen

Answer- **5) Max Verstappen**

Explanation:

Max Verstappen, the Belgian-Dutch driver of Red Bull won the **Formula 1 (F1) Mexico City Grand Prix** held at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez circuit in Mexico City, Mexico from 27th to 29th October 2023.

- This marks Verstappen's third consecutive win at the Mexico City GP including his win in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

i. Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton (United Kingdom-UK) secured second place while Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc (Monaco) secured third place in the Mexico City GP.

ii. Max Verstappen leads the F1 World Championship in 2023 with 491 points in the F1 driver standings.

2. Which of the following points is "Incorrect" with respect to the Hangzhou Asian Para Games 2022 held in October 2023?

1) The Indian contingent finished 8th position in the medal tally with 122 medals (39 gold, 31 silver, and 52 bronze) in the Hangzhou Asian Para Games 2022 held in Hangzhou, China.

2) The 4th edition of the Asian Para Games (2022) marks India's record for the highest medal tally so far surpassing the previous record medal tally of 72 medals in the 2018 Asian Para Games.

3) Sumit Antil won gold in the javelin throw F64 event with a new world record of 73.29m

4) Sheetal Devi is the only current female international archer to shoot with her feet, won two gold (Women's Individual Compound & Mixed Team Compound - Open) and a silver (women's compound doubles) medal.

5) Ankur Dhama set a new record by becoming the first Indian to win two gold medals (Men's 5000m-T11 and Men's 1500m-T11) in a single edition of the Asian Para Games.

Answer- **1) The Indian contingent finished 8th position in the medal tally with 122 medals (39 gold, 31 silver, and 52 bronze) in the Hangzhou Asian Para Games 2022 held in Hangzhou, China.**

Explanation:

The Indian contingent finished 5th position in the medal tally with 111 medals (29 gold, 31 silver, and 51 bronze) in the Hangzhou Asian Para Games 2022 held in Hangzhou, China from 22nd to 28th October 2023.

- The 4th edition of the Asian Para Games (2022) marks India's record for the highest medal tally so far surpassing the previous record medal tally of 72 medals (15 gold, 24 silver, and 33 bronze) in the 2018 Asian Para Games in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- **Sumit Antil** won gold in the **javelin throw F64 event** with a new world record of **73.29m**. He broke his own previous world record of 70.83m
- Sundar Singh Gurjar set the world record in the javelin throw F46 event with a throw of 68.60m to surpass the earlier world record of 67.79m.
- Sheetal Devi is the only current female international archer to shoot with her feet. The 16-year-old Sheetal Devi won two gold [Women's Individual Compound & Mixed Team Compound - Open (along with Rakesh Kumar)] and a silver [women's compound doubles (along with Sarita)].

- Ankur Dhama set a new record by becoming the first Indian to win two gold medals (Men's 5000m-T11 and Men's 1500m-T11) in a single edition of the Asian Para Games.
- Aruna Tanwar won India's first-ever para taekwondo medal by winning bronze medal in the Women's K44 -47kg event.

3. In which Stadium, the 22-foot statue of Bharat Ratna Sachin Tendulkar was unveiled in November 2023?

- 1) M. Chinnaswamy Stadium (Bengaluru, Karnataka)
- 2) Wankhede Stadium (Mumbai, Maharashtra)
- 3) Narendra Modi Stadium (Ahmedabad, Gujarat)
- 4) Arun Jaitley Stadium (New Delhi, Delhi)
- 5) Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium (Hyderabad, Telangana)

Answer- 2) Wankhede Stadium (Mumbai, Maharashtra)

Explanation:

Maharashtra Chief Minister(CM) Eknath Shinde unveiled the **22-foot statue** of Bharat Ratna **Sachin Tendulkar** at the **Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, Maharashtra**. It serves as a tribute to his illustrious career (1989 – 2013) in his 50 years of life, commemorating his 50th birth anniversary celebrated in April 2023.

- The statue captures the legendary cricketer in the act of playing a stroke and has been placed adjacent to the Sachin Tendulkar Stand. The statue was built by the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) at the Wankhede Stadium.
- The statue has been designed by Pramod Kamble, a renowned painter and sculptor from the Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra.

i. Sachin Tendulkar is popularly known as Master Blaster and God of Cricket. Till date, he is the youngest recipient and the first-ever sports person to receive the Bharat Ratna award.

ii. Awards: Arjuna Award (1994 – Cricket); Khel Ratna (1997); Padma Shri (1999) and Padma Vibhushan (2008) for Sports; Bharat Ratna (2014).

4. India finished 2nd in the medal tally with _____ medals in the Asian Shooting Championships 2023 held in Changwon, South Korea from October to November 2023.

- 1) 39
- 2) 76
- 3) 55
- 4) 65
- 5) 45

Answer- 3) 55

Explanation:

India finished **second** in the medal tally with **55 medals** (21 Gold, 21 Silver & 13 Bronze) in the **Asian Shooting Championships 2023** held in Changwon, South Korea from 22nd October to 2nd November 2023.

i. The **15th edition** of the Asian Shooting Championships comprised both Junior and senior-level events, organised by Asian Shooting Confederation (ASC).

Medal Tally:

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	33	21	22	76
2	India	21	21	13	55
3	South Korea	16	22	19	57

i. Indian rifle shooter Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won two medals including Gold medal in the Individual men's 50m rifle 3 positions and Silver medal in 50m Rifle 3 Positions men's team event along with Akhil Sheoran and Swapnil Kusale

ii. Harmehar Singh Lally won the gold medal in the Skeet Men Junior event (Shooting) and Bhavtegh Singh Gill won the silver medal in the same event.

5. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Federation Internationale des Echecs (FIDE) Grand Swiss 2023 held from October to November 2023?

A) The Indian Grandmaster (GM) Vidit Santosh Gujrathi won the 3rd edition of FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 title by defeating GM Hikaru Nakamura (United States).

B) International Master (IM) Vaishali Rameshbabu won the 2nd edition of FIDE Women's Grand Swiss 2023 title by defeating GM Anna Muzychuk (Ukraine).

C) With this win, Vidit Gujrathi qualified for the Candidates Tournament and also became the second Indian after R. Praggnanandhaa to qualify for this tournament.

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 Indian Grandmaster **(GM) Vidit Santosh Gujrathi** won the **3rd** edition of Federation Internationale des Echecs **(FIDE) Grand Swiss 2023** title by defeating GM Hikaru Nakamura (United States).

- The FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 was held from the 23rd of October to the 6th of November 2023 in the Villa Marina, Douglas, Isle of Man.

i. International Master **(IM) Vaishali Rameshbabu** won the **2nd edition** of FIDE Women's Grand Swiss 2023 title by defeating GM Anna Muzychuk (Ukraine).

ii. With this win, **Vidit Gujrathi** qualified for the Candidates Tournament. He became the second Indian after R. Praggnanandhaa to qualify for this tournament.

- Being secured the top position Vaishali also qualified for the Candidates Tournament.

6. In November 2023, the Indian women's hockey team won the 7th edition of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy by defeating _____ (country), held in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

1) Japan

2) China

3) South Korea

4) Malaysia

5) Thailand

Answer- **1) Japan**

Explanation:

Indian women's hockey team won the Jharkhand Women's Asian Champions Trophy Ranchi 2023 title by defeating **Japan** 4-0 in the final held in **Ranchi, Jharkhand**.

- The **7th edition of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy** was held in Marang Gomke Jaypal Singh Mundha AstroTurf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi, Jharkhand, from 27th October to 5th November 2023.
- China won the bronze medal by defeating South Korea in the Bronze medal match.
- India won the Maximum Team Goals Award(27 goals).

i. The Women's Asian Champions Trophy is the biennial tournament, the first edition was held in 2010 in Kangsao, Busan, South Korea.

- Hockey India organised this tournament with support from the Asian Hockey Federation(AHF).
- India women's team won its maiden Asian Champions Trophy title in 2016 (Singapore) while Japan won in 2013 and 2021 (South Korea)editions.

7. Who has recently (in Nov' 23) won the Formula 1 (F1) Sao Paulo Grand Prix (GP) 2023?

1) Lewis Hamilton

2) Max Verstappen

3) Carlos Sainz Jr.

4) Fernando Alonso

5) Charles Leclerc

Answer- **2) Max Verstappen**

Explanation:

Max Verstappen, the Red Bull driver (Dutch-Belgian) won the Formula 1 **(F1) Sao Paulo Grand Prix (GP) 2023** title held at Autodromo Jose Carlos Pace circuit in Brazil from 03rd November 2023 to 05th November 2023.

i. McLaren driver Lando Norris (United Kingdom-UK) secured second place while Aston Martin driver Fernando Alonso (Spain) secured third place.

ii. This win also marks Verstappen's 17th win out of 20 races of the 2023 season.

- Max Verstappen broke his own record for the most F1 race victories in a single season in 2023 by winning 17 races.

iii. Max Verstappen leads the F1 World Championship in 2023 with 524 points in the F1 driver standings.

8. Name the cricket team that has recently (in Nov '23) won their 1st Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) 2023-2024 title.

1) Punjab

2) Odisha

3) Chhattisgarh

4) Gujarat

5) Baroda

Answer- **1) Punjab**

Explanation:

The Punjab cricket team won its maiden domestic Twenty20 (T20) **IDFC First Bank Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) 2023-2024** title by defeating the Baroda team in the final held in Inderjit Singh Bindra Stadium in Mohali, Punjab.

- i. The victory for the Punjab team was the first domestic title since their Ranji Trophy victory in the 1992-93 season.
- ii. The Punjab team will get a cash reward of Rs 80 lakhs each from the **BCCI** (Board of Control for Cricket in India) and the **PCA** (Punjab Cricket Association).
 - **Ashutosh Sharma** playing for Railways team scored 11-ball fifty against Arunachal Pradesh team in the group stage match. It has broken the record of Yuvraj Singh's 12-ball fifty, which he scored against England in the inaugural World T20 in 2007 in (South Africa).
 - This edition made the record of hitting the greatest number of sixes (1503) in the history of SMAT.
 - The **16th edition** of **Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy** was played from 16 October to 6 November 2023 in Ranchi (Jharkhand), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Mumbai (Maharashtra), Dehradun (Uttarakhand), and Chandigarh, Mohali (Punjab).

Note- IDFC First Bank secured the title sponsorship rights for all BCCI matches, domestic and international, for the next three years.

9. In November 2023, the Indian contingent finished second in the medal tally with _____ medals in the Asian Archery Championships 2023.

- 1) 6
- 2) 11
- 3) 7
- 4) 10
- 5) 8

Answer- 3) 7

Explanation:

The **Indian contingent** finished second in the medal tally with **7 medals** (3 Gold, 1 silver and 3 Bronze) in the **Asian Archery Championships 2023** held in Bangkok, Thailand from 3rd to 10th November 2023.

- **South Korea** secured first place in the medal tally with **11 medals** (6 Gold, 2 Silver and 3 Bronze) while Kazakhstan in third place with 3 medals (1 Gold and 2 Silver) in the 23rd edition of the Asian Archery Championship.
- i. India's **Parneet Kaur** won two gold medals in the Asian Championships including women's compound and women's compound team.
 - In the women's compound team, she won the gold medal along with Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Aditi Swami.
 - ii. **Abhishek Verma**, the Asian Games 2018 champion and silver medallist at Hangzhou 2022, won the Bronze medal in the men's compound event.

10. Name the state government that has recently (in Nov '23) signed an MoU with ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AM/NS) India to establish a High-performance center (HPC) in Kho Kho.

- 1) Odisha
- 2) West Bengal

- 3) Assam
- 4) Tamil Nadu
- 5) Maharashtra

Answer- **1) Odisha**

Explanation:

Odisha government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (**AM/NS**) **India** to **establish** a High-performance center (**HPC**) in **Kho Kho** at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha to promote Kho Kho talents.

- i.** The MoU signed in the presence of Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik, highlighted the commitment of both parties to fostering sporting excellence.
- ii.** Under the MoU, Odisha will extend infrastructure support, while AM/NS India has committed to providing experienced and dedicated coaches of Kho Kho to train talented youths.
- iii.** A cluster of HPCs have been set up by Odisha at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar and the Kho Kho HPC will be an important addition to the ecosystem.

11. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the 37th edition of the National Games held in Goa from 26th October to 9th November 2023?

- A) Maharashtra won the Raja Bhalindra Singh Trophy for the overall championship in the National Games 2023 & it is also the first time Maharashtra has topped the medal tally (228 medal) since 1994.**
- B Jyothi Yarraji (Andhra Pradesh) won the gold medal in the women’s 100m hurdles with the national games record timing of 13.22 seconds.**
- C) The 14-year-old swimmer Dhinidhi Desinghu of Karnataka won seven gold medals including her win in the 100 m freestyle event with a new national games record of 57.87 Seconds.**

- 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:

Maharashtra Finished top in the **medal tally with 228 medals** (80 gold, 69 silver, and 79 bronze) in the **37th edition** of the **National Games** held in **Goa** from October 26th to November 9th, 2023.

- Maharashtra won the **Raja Bhalindra Singh Trophy** for the overall championship in the **National Games 2023**, and it is also the first time Maharashtra has topped the medal tally since 1994.
- Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) finished in second place with 126 medals (66 gold, 27 silver, and 33 bronze) while Haryana finished in third place with 192 medals (62 gold, 55 silver, and 75 bronze).
- Beach football, roll ball, golf, sepaktakraw, sqay martial arts, kallyiarapattu, pencak silat, Yachtin gand taekwondo were added to the Goa National games.
- Best Male Athlete: Srihari Nataraj(Karnataka) won ten medals(8 golds, 1 silver and 1 bronze) in the swimming event.
- Best Female Athlete: It was jointly awarded to gymnasts Sanyukta Prasen Kale(Maharashtra) and Pranati Nayak(Odisha). Both of them won Five medals each(four golds and one silver).

- **Jyothi Yarraji(Andhra Pradesh)**, a silver medallist at the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Games, won the gold medal in the women's 100m hurdles with the national games record timing of 13.22 seconds.
- The 14-year-old swimmer **Dhinidhi Desinghu of Karnataka** won seven gold medals including her win in the 100 m freestyle event with a new national games record of 57.87 Seconds.
- Seema Punia(Haryana) won her maiden gold medal in the national games in the women's discus throw event with a national games record throw of 52.51m.
- Elakkiyadasan (Tamil Nadu) won the gold medal in both the men's 100m race event with a timing of 10.36 seconds and the men's 4x100m relay team event.
- Sneha SS(Karnataka) won the gold medal in the women's 100m race event with a timing of 11.45 seconds.
- Tejas Ashok Shirse(Maharashtra) won the gold medal in the men's 110m hurdles with a record timing of 13.71 seconds.

12. Which of the following points is 'Incorrect' with respect to the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's One Day International (ODI) Cricket World Cup(CWC) 2023 held in November 2023?

- 1) The Australian Men's cricket team led by Pat Cummins won the 15th edition of the ICC Men's ODI CWC 2023 by India and claimed their 8th ODI World Cup title.
- 2) The 2023 ODI World Cup highest run-scorer Virat Kohli has scored 765 runs and he also broke Tendulkar's (49 centuries) record of the most number of centuries in ODI matches by scoring 50th century against New Zealand in the semi-final.
- 3) Mohammed Shami became the first Indian bowler in an ODI match to take seven wickets, and also made the record for the most number of wickets for India in a single edition of the ODI World Cup with 24 wickets in the 2023 edition.
- 4) Glenn Maxwell (Australia) made the record by hitting the fastest century in ODI World Cup history where he scored 100 runs in 40 balls against the Netherlands.
- 5) England bowler David Jonathan Willey has announced retirement from all forms of international cricket at the end of the 2023 ODI World Cup.

Answer- 1) The Australian Men's cricket team led by Pat Cummins won the 15th edition of the ICC Men's ODI CWC 2023 by India and claimed their 8th ODI World Cup title.

Explanation:

The **Australian Men's cricket team** led by Pat Cummins won the [13th edition of the International Cricket Council \(ICC\) Men's One Day International \(ODI\) Cricket World Cup\(CWC\) 2023](#) by defeating Rohit Sharma led India in the finals held in Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

- The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 was hosted by India across 10 venues from 5th October to 19th November 2023.
- This win for Australia marks their **sixth ODI World Cup title** including 1987, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2015, and 2023.
- The **2023 ODI World Cup highest run-scorer Virat Kohli** has scored 765 runs, the most runs scored ever in a single edition of an ODI World Cup, and breaks Sachin Tendulkar's previous record of 673 runs set in the 2003 edition.
 - Virat Kohli also broke Tendulkar's (49 centuries) record of the most number of centuries in ODI matches, while Kohli scored his 50th century against New Zealand in the semi-final.

- Virat Kohli became the second-highest run-scorer in ODI World Cups with 1792 runs in 37 matches.
- He overtook Ricky Ponting (Australia) (1743 runs) and was behind Sachin Tendulkar (2278) in the top run-scorers in the Men's ODI World Cup list.
- **Mohammed Shami** becomes the first Indian bowler in an ODI match to take seven wickets, having achieved this feat against New Zealand in the semifinal.
 - Mohammed Shami also made the record for the most number of wickets for India in a single edition of the ODI World Cup with 24 wickets in the 2023 edition by surpassing Zaheer Khan's record of 21 wickets in the 2011 ODI World Cup edition.
 - Mohammed Shami also became the first Indian to take three five-wickets in this ODI World Cup.
- Glenn Maxwell(Australia) made the record by hitting the fastest century in ODI World Cup history where he scored 100 runs in 40 balls against the Netherlands.
- England bowler David Jonathan Willey has announced retirement from all forms of international cricket at the end of the 2023 ODI World Cup.

13. In November 2023 Rohit Sharma became the highest run-scorer as captain in a single World Cup edition with _____ runs in the Men's One Day International (ODI) Cricket World Cup(CWC) 2023.

- 1) 699
- 2) 634
- 3) 597
- 4) 342
- 5) 436

Answer- 3) 597

Explanation:

The Australian Men's cricket team led by Pat Cummins won the 13th edition of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's One Day International (ODI) Cricket World Cup(CWC) 2023 by defeating Rohit Sharma led India in the finals held in Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Key Performance by Cricket players:

- **Rohit Sharma** became the highest run-scorer as captain in a single World Cup edition with **597 runs** in the 2023 ODI World Cup while he broke New Zealand's Kane Williamson record of 578 runs, which came in the 2019 edition.
 - Rohit Sharma tops the list of the most sixes in ODI World Cups with 54 sixes, he also leads the most sixes in the 2023 ODI World Cup with 31 sixes which is also the most number of sixes smashed in a single World Cup edition.
 - Rohit Sharma becomes the fifth Indian to score 18,000 runs in international cricket, others being Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly, and Virat Kohli.
- KL Rahul also made the record of the fastest century by an Indian in the ODI World Cup when he scored a century in 62 balls against the Netherlands in the group match.
- India's Kuldeep Yadav completed 250 international wickets during the match against South Africa in the group stage of CWC 2023.
- Shubman Gill became the fastest batsman to reach 2,000 runs in ODI cricket during the World Cup group stage match against New Zealand.
 - Shubman Gill achieved this feat in 38 matches since his ODI debut in 2019.

- New Zealand batsman Rachin Ravindra(23-year-old) broke Sachin Tendulkar’s record of scoring the most runs in a single edition of the Cricket World Cup below the age of 25.
 - Ravindra scored 578 runs in the 2023 ODI world cup surpassing sachin’s record of 523 runs at the 1996 ODI World Cup.
- Angelo Mathews(Sri Lanka) became the first cricketer to be dismissed by ‘timed out’ format in an international match.

14. Who has recently (in Nov ‘23) won the Formula 1 (F1) Las Vegas Grand Prix(GP) 2023 held at Nevada, the United States of America(USA)?

- 1) Lewis Hamilton
- 2) Max Verstappen
- 3) Carlos Sainz Jr.
- 4) Fernando Alonso
- 5) Charles Leclerc

Answer- **2) Max Verstappen**

Explanation:

Red Bull’s **Max Verstappen**, the Dutch-Belgian driver, won the **Formula 1 (F1) Las Vegas Grand Prix(GP) 2023** held at Las Vegas Strip Circuit in Nevada, the United States of America(USA) from 16th November 2023 to 18th November 2023.

- Ferrari’s Charles Leclerc (Monaco) secured 2nd place while Red Bull’s Sergio Perez (Mexico) secured 3rd place.
- This win also marks Verstappen’s 18th win out of 20 races of the 2023 season.
- Max Verstappen broke his own record for the most F1 race victories in a single season in 2023 by winning 18 races.

15. In November 2023, the International Cricket Council (ICC) introduced a “stop clock” in men’s One Day International (ODI) and Twenty20 International (T20I) cricket matches. The bowling teams in men’s ODIs and T20Is will be imposed a _____ (run) penalty, if the bowler fails to bowl the next over within _____ (Time) after the completion of the previous over for the third time in an innings.

- 1) 6 run; 60 seconds
- 2) 5 run; 40 seconds
- 3) 10 run; 50 seconds
- 4) 5 run; 60 seconds
- 5) 6 run; 40 seconds

Answer- **4) 5 run; 60 seconds**

Explanation:

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has introduced a “stop clock” in men’s One Day International (ODI) and Twenty20 International (T20I) cricket matches to regulate the time taken between overs.

- This announcement was one of the decisions made at a board meeting of ICC at Ahmedabad(Gujarat) on 20th November 2023.

i. About the Stop Clock rule:

- The bowling teams in men’s ODIs and T20Is will be imposed a **five-run penalty** if the bowler fails to bowl the next over within **60 seconds** after the completion of the previous over for the third time in an innings.

- The Stop Clock will be introduced on a trial basis from December 2023 to April 2024.
- ii. ICC also announced equal match-day pay for both female and male umpires from January 2024.
- iii. According to new gender eligibility regulation, male-to-female participants who have undergone male puberty will not be eligible to compete in the international women's game, irrespective of any surgical or gender reassignment treatment they may have undertaken.
 - By the new rule, transgender players are not able to play in women's international cricket. Following this ICC decision, Australian-born transgender cricketer Danielle McGahey who played for Canada announced her retirement from international cricket.
 - Danielle McGahey was the first transgender cricketer to take part in an official international match when she played for Canada against Brazil in September 2023.

16. In November 2023, Novak Djokovic (Serbia) won his _____ Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Finals title by defeating Jannik Sinner (Italy) in the men's singles at Nitto ATP finals 2023.

- 1) 6th
- 2) 9th
- 3) 7th
- 4) 10th
- 5) 8th

Answer- 3) 7th

Explanation:

Novak Djokovic (Serbia) defeated Jannik Sinner (Italy) to win the **men's singles title** in **Nitto Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) finals 2023**, held from 12th -19th November 2023 at the Pala Alpitour stadium in Turin, Italy.

- This marks Novak Djokovic's **7th ATP finals title**, which includes 2008, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2022, and 2023. With this, Djokovic broke Roger Federer's record of six ATP Finals titles.
- Djokovic is at the top of the list of winning the most number of Grand Slams with 24 titles while Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer are in the second and third position with 22 and 20 Grand Slams respectively.
 - Rajeev Ram(United States of America-USA) and Joe Salisbury(United Kingdom-UK) won the ATP Finals men's doubles 2023 title by defeating Marcel Granollers(Spain) and Horacio Zeballos (Argentina) in the finals.
 - This marks Ram and Salisbury's pair second ATP Finals title including their win in 2022 and 2023.
 - Rohan Bopanna(India) and Matthew Ebden(Australia) pair lost to Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos in the semifinals of the ATP men's Doubles Finals.

17. Name the Tennis player who has recently (in Nov '23) won the women's singles title at the 2023 GNP Seguros Women's Tennis Association (WTA) title by defeating Jessica Pegula from the United States of America (USA).

- 1) Laura Siegemund(Germany)
- 2) Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)
- 3) Anhelina Kalinina (Ukraine)
- 4) Ellen Perez(Australia)
- 5) Iga Swiatek (Poland)

Answer- **5) Iga Swiatek (Poland)**

Explanation:

Iga Swiatek (Poland) defeated Jessica Pegula (U.S.A) to win the **women's singles title** at the 2023 **GNP Seguros Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Finals**.

- The first-time WTA Finals title winner Iga Swiatek was given the WTA Finals Billie Jean King Trophy. The 22-year-old Iga Swiatek was the youngest WTA Finals title winner since Petra Kvitova(Czech Republic) won in 2011 at the age of 21.
 - Iga Swiatek was named the year-end No. 1 ranking (Women's Singles) by WTA
- i.** Laura Siegemund (Germany) and Vera Zvonareva (Unflagged – Russia) defeated Nicole Melichar-Martinez (U.S.A) and Ellen Perez (Australia) to win the Women's Doubles title at the WTA Finals.
- The winning women's doubles pair was presented with the WTA Finals Martina Navratilova doubles trophy.
- ii.** The 2023 GNP Seguros WTA Finals was held from 29th October – 5th November 2023 in Cancun, Mexico.

18. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the World Wushu Championships held in November 2023?

A) India won three medals (one silver and two bronze) in the 16th edition of the World Wushu Championships (2023) held from 16th to 20th November 2023 in Fort Worth, Texas, United States of America(USA).

B) Naorem Roshibina Devi won the silver medal in the women's sanda 60 kg category.

C) Kushal Kumar won the bronze medal in the men's 48kg Sanda category & Chhavi Ruhela won the bronze medal in the women's 48kg Sanda 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:

India won three medals (one silver and two bronze) in the **16th edition** of the World Wushu Championships (**2023**) held from 16th to 20th November 2023 in Fort Worth, Texas, United States of America (USA).

- The Indian medalists were **Naorem Roshibina Devi (silver), Kushal Kumar (bronze), and Chhavi Ruhela (bronze)**.

Indian Medal Winners:

- Naorem Roshibina Devi won the silver medal in the women's sanda 60 kg category after she lost to Thi Thu Nguyen(Vietnam) in the finals.
 - Kushal Kumar from Punjab won the bronze medal in the men's 48kg Sanda category
 - Chhavi Ruhela from Uttar Pradesh won the bronze medal in the women's 48kg Sanda category.
- i.** The **World Wushu Championship 2023**, the biennial event is hosted by the International Wushu Federation (**IWUF**).
- The 12-member Indian contingent participated in the 2023 WWC event.
- ii.** **China finished top** in the medal tally with 15 Gold medals while Vietnam finished second with 11 medals(5 Gold, 3 Silver, and 3 Bronze).

Note- Wushu is the umbrella term for all martial art styles originating in China, including disciplines ranging from tai chi to full-contact fighting(kungfu).

19. In November 2023, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur announced the first-ever Khelo India Para Games 2023 to be held in _____ (state/UT) in December 2023.

- 1) Delhi
- 2) Goa
- 3) Jammu and Kashmir
- 4) Gujarat
- 5) Maharashtra

Answer- **1) Delhi**

Explanation:

Union Minister **Anurag Singh Thakur**, Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports, announced the **first-ever Khelo India Para Games 2023**, which will be held in New Delhi, **Delhi** from December 10 to 17, 2023.

i. The Khelo India Para Games is organised to develop para sports and to identify talented para-athletes.

ii. The games will feature seven disciplines such as para-athletics, para-shooting, para-archery, para-football, para-badminton, para-table tennis, and para-weight lifting.

iii. These games will be held at three Sports Authority of India (SAI) stadiums in Delhi namely:

- Indira Gandhi Sports Complex
- Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range
- Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium

20. The Indian Para Archery team has topped the medal tally with a total of ____ medals at the 2023 Asian Para Archery Championships and CQT (Continental Qualifying Tournament) 2024 held at Bangkok, Thailand in November 2023.

- 1) 10
- 2) 15
- 3) 9
- 4) 20
- 5) 12

Answer- **3) 9**

Explanation:

The **Indian Para Archery team** has topped the **medal tally** with a total of **9 medals** (4 gold; 4 silver; 1 bronze) at the **2023 Asian Para Archery Championships and CQT**(Continental Qualifying Tournament) **2024** in **Bangkok, Thailand**, which took place from 16 to 25 November 2023.

i. South Korea finished in 2nd place with 5 medals(3 Gold, 1 Silver & 1 Bronze), and China finished 3rd with 4 medals(2 Gold, 1 Silver & 1 Bronze).

ii. World No. 5 Rakesh Kumar, hailing from Jammu and Kashmir(J&K), who led the Indian team secured 3 Gold medals in 3 categories.

- Sheetal Devi has won a total of 3 medals, 2 gold and 1 silver during the event.
- She won the gold medals as a part of Compound Open Mixed Team and Compound Women Open Team and won the silver in Compound Women Open.

- At present, Sheetal Devi is the only female international archer to shoot with her feet.

21. Which country's tennis team has recently (in Nov '23) won the Davis Cup 2023 by defeating Australia.

- 1) Serbia
- 2) Spain
- 3) Canada
- 4) Italy
- 5) Brazil

Answer- **4) Italy**

Explanation:

On 26th November 2023, **Italian tennis team** captained by Filippo Volandri, won the **Davis Cup 2023** by defeating **Australian team captained** by Lleyton Hewitt in the finals held in Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martin Carpena in Malaga, Spain. This marks Italy's 2nd Davis Cup title.

Previously, Italy won the title in 1976. The 2023 Davis Cup is the 111th edition of the tournament.

i. Italy has become the 10th nation to hold the No. 1 ranking since the Davis Cup Nations Rankings were introduced in December 2001.

ii. The first edition of Davis Cup was held in 1900. The tournament was originally known as the International Lawn Tennis Challenge. The event was named Davis Cup after Dwight Davis's trophy, which was designed by William Durgin and crafted by Rowland Rhodes.

- The United States of America (USA) has won the most number (32) of Davis Cup titles while Australia is the 2nd most successful team with 28 titles.
- India finished as runners-up 3 times (1966, 1974, 1987), the most by any nation from Asia proper.

22. Who has recently (in Nov '23) won the 15th edition of the Formula 1 (F1) Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix (Abu Dhabi GP 2023) held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)?

- 1) Lewis Hamilton
- 2) Max Verstappen
- 3) Carlos Sainz Jr.
- 4) Fernando Alonso
- 5) Charles Leclerc

Answer- **2) Max Verstappen**

Explanation:

Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** (Belgian-Dutch driver competing under the Dutch flag) won the **15th edition** of the Formula 1 **(F1) Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix** (Abu Dhabi GP 2023), held at Yas Marina Circuit on Yas Island in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 26 November 2023.

- This also marks Max's 4th consecutive Abu Dhabi GP title and 19th title of the 2023 season.
- With this win, Verstappen became the 1st driver in history to lead 1,000 laps in a single season.
- Abu Dhabi 2023 marks the last race (22nd) of 2023 season.
- Ferrari's Charles Leclerc of Monaco finished 2nd and Mercedes' George Russell (3rd) of the United Kingdom (UK) finished 3rd.

23. Which of the following Indian badminton players were recently (in Nov '23) settled for 2nd place in the men's doubles of Li Ning China Masters 2023 held at Shenzhen, China in November 2023?

- 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:

The Indian badminton duo of **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** settled for **2nd place** in the **men's doubles of Li Ning China Masters 2023** held in Shenzhen Bay Gymnasium, **Shenzhen, China** from 21st to 26th November 2023.

i. The Indian duo lost the finals against the World No. 1 pair of Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang of China.

ii. China Masters 2023 is a Badminton World Federation (BWF) Super 750 tournament.

iii. Winners of China Masters 2023:

- Men's Singles – Kodai Naraoka (Japan)
- Women's Singles – Chen Yu Fei (China)
- Men's Doubles – Liang Wei Keng & Wang Chang (China).
- Women's Doubles – Nami Matsuyama & Chiharu Shida (Japan)
- Mixed Doubles – Zheng Si Wei & Huang Ya Qiong (China)

24. Which Team has recently (in Nov '23) won the 13th edition of Hockey India Senior Men National Championship title 2023?

- 1) Hockey Haryana
- 2) Hockey Karnataka
- 3) Hockey Gujarat
- 4) Hockey Tamil Nadu
- 5) Hockey Punjab

Answer- 5) Hockey Punjab

Explanation:

Hockey Punjab won the **13th edition of Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2023** and clinched the **gold medal** by defeating Hockey Haryana in the finals.

i. Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu clinched bronze medal and stands at third place after defeating Hockey Karnataka.

ii. The Championship was held from 17th to 28th November 2023 at Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. This marks Hockey Punjab's fourth title in the 13 editions of the tournament.