

GUPTA

CLASSES

Current Affairs

October-2023

English

Part-1



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CLASSES

Current Affairs Q&A PDF – October 2023

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the amendment of Cable Television Network (CTN) Rules of 1994 by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) in September 2023?

A) The Multi-System Operators (MSOs) will be required to submit their registration or renewal applications online through Broadcast Seva Portal of MIB.

B) The Registrations for MSOs will be approved or renewed for a duration of 5 years.

C) A processing fee of Rs. One lakh will be applicable for the renewal of registration.

1) Only A

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) All A, B & C

Answer- 4) Only A & C

Explanation:

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (**MIB**) issued a notification amending the Cable Television Network(CTN) Rules of **1994**. Moreover, a new provision has been added, enabling Cable Operators to share infrastructure with Broadband Service providers.

- This amendment introduces a formal procedure for the renewal of registrations for Multi-System Operators (MSOs). This significant change updates the rules which previously only allowed for fresh registrations.

i. Following are the amended rules:

- MSOs will be required to submit their registration or renewal applications online through Broadcast Seva Portal of MIB.
- **Registrations** for MSOs will be approved or renewed for a **duration of ten years**.
- A processing fee of Rs. One lakh will be applicable for the renewal of registration.
- Requests for the renewal of registration must be made within seven to two months prior to the expiration of the current registration.

2. In September 2023, the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, increased the interest rate on the 5-year recurring deposit scheme to _____ from 6.5% for the 3rd quarter (October-December) of 2023-2024 (Q3FY24).

1) 7.0%

2) 6.8%

3) 6.6%

4) 6.9%

5) 6.7%

Answer- 5) 6.7%

Explanation:

The **Department of Economic Affairs** (DEA-Budget Division), **Ministry of Finance**, has **increased** the interest rate on the **5-year recurring deposit scheme** by **20 basis points** to **6.7%** from 6.5% for the 3rd quarter (October-December) of 2023-2024 **i.e. Q3FY24**.

i. The rates of other small savings schemes remained unchanged. [List of Interest Rates on Small Savings Schemes for Q3FY24.](#)

ii. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, in FY23, household net financial savings rate hit a historic low at 5.1% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), down from 7.2% in FY22.

3. Which state government has recently (in September '23) inaugurated various schemes and infrastructural projects, including the installation of a panic button, Global Positioning System (GPS) services, and a bio-ethanol demonstration plant?

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

Answer- **5) Chhattisgarh**

Explanation:

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister (CM) Bhupesh Baghel virtually inaugurates various schemes and infrastructural projects worth Rs 1021.59 crore.

- The schemes include the installation of a **panic button** and Global Positioning System (GPS) services as part of the Nirbhaya project in every passenger vehicle to locate the vehicle once the panic button is pressed.
- He inaugurated **bio-ethanol demonstration plant**, Chhattisgarh Niwas, and launched Chief Minister Construction Workers Pension Assistance Scheme, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) based e-detection system.
- CM also inaugurated a state-of-the-art bio-ethanol demonstration plant in Godhi, Durg District to promote biofuel.
- The Chhattisgarh Biofuel Development Authority has prepared the technical design and drawings of the plant under the guidance of scientists from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMRI).
- The Chief Minister Construction Workers Pension Assistance Scheme was launched. Under this initiative, the pension amount of Rs 1,500 per month for life will be given to the construction workers who are registered for ten years and completed 60 years of age.

4. In September 2023, _____ became the 4th state in India to implement an e-cabinet (electronic cabinet) system to promote digital infrastructure development and digitization of government services and information.

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

5) West Bengal

Answer- **3) Tripura**

Explanation:

Tripura Chief Minister(CM) Manik Saha launched an **e-cabinet** (electronic cabinet) **system** at Agartala, (the capital of) Tripura to promote digital infrastructure development and digitization of government services and information.

- i.** With this, **Tripura** has **become the 4th state in India** (after Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Arunachal Pradesh) and 2nd state in the northeast to implement the e-cabinet system.
- ii.** It is modelled on the e-cabinet system of Uttarakhand. The move is aligned with the Digital India initiative.

5. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Women’s Reservation Bill 2023, as of September 2023?

A) President Droupadi Murmu has granted assent to the Women’s Reservation Bill 2023, which mandates a 33% reservation (one-third of total seats) for women in the Lok Sabha, State Legislative assemblies, and National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.

B) Following the President’s assent, this Bill will be recognized as the Constitution (120th Amendment) Act and commonly referred to as Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, has been introduced in the Indian Parliament.

C) The Bill introduces Article 332A, which mandates the reservation of seats for women in every state Legislative Assembly.

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

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

Explanation:

On September 29, 2023, as per the notification issued by the Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, President Droupadi Murmu has granted assent to the Women’s Reservation Bill 2023, which mandates a 33% reservation (one-third of total seats) for women in the Lok Sabha, State Legislative assemblies, and National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi. This historic decision was officially approved by the President on September 28, 2023.

- Following the President’s assent, this Bill will be recognized as the **Constitution (106th Amendment) Act**.
- The Women’s Reservation Bill 2023, officially titled as **The Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill, 2023** and commonly referred to as **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam**, has been introduced in the Indian Parliament.
- The Women’s Reservation Bill cannot be enacted into law until the year 2026. The bill can only become effective after a process known as “delimitation” is carried out in the country. Delimitation is necessary to allocate seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies in a manner that reserves a specific percentage (in this case, 33 percent) for women.
- The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam Bill, will also apply to seats reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies.

- In article 239AA of the Constitution, One-third of total Seats shall be reserved for women in the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- As per Article 330A, one-third of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election to the House of the People shall be reserved for women in the Lok Sabha.
- The Bill introduces Article 332A, which mandates the reservation of seats for women in every state Legislative Assembly.
- The New article – 334A is introduced, according to which the reservation will be effective after the census conducted after the commencement of this Bill has been published. Based on the census, delimitation will be undertaken to reserve seats for women.
- The reservation will be provided for a period of 15 years. However, it shall continue till such date as determined by a law made by Parliament.

6. In September 2023, Tripura Chief Minister (CM) Manik Saha launched “Yuba Tripura, Natun Tripura, Atmanirbhar Tripura” to _____.

- 1) Encourage youth to set up industrial and business units
- 2) Provide benefits upto Rs 5 lakhs to small, medium, and large-scale industries
- 3) Provide loan for small sector Units
- 4) Provide loans with low-interest rates to youth
- 5) Provide Monthly financial assistance of Rs. 1000 to Youth entrepreneur

Answer- 1) Encourage youth to set up industrial and business units

Explanation:

Tripura Chief Minister (CM) Manik Saha launched “Yuba Tripura, Natun Tripura, Atmanirbhar Tripura”, an initiative of the Tripura Industries Development Corporation Limited (TIDCL) to encourage youth to set up industrial and business units.

- i. The initiative is intended to provide exposure and guidance to 100 interested individuals aged 18 to 45 from each of Tripura’s eight districts, encouraging them to embark on their entrepreneurial paths.
- ii. They will be provided with insights into small, medium, and large-scale industries, followed by a presentation on government schemes, policies, and incentives by the Industries and Commerce Department of Tripura government.

7. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Arogya Manthan 2023 event hosted by the National Health Authority (NHA) in September 2023?

A) During the event, the anniversary celebrations of 5 Years of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and 2 Years of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

B) During the event, Assam tops in the Best Performing State (Large) in the “Highest Ayushman Card Creation ”category in AB PM-JAY.

C) For ABDM, Uttar Pradesh was awarded as the Top State in the Digital health records linked with ABHA per lakh population (State).

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

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

Explanation:

The National Health Authority (**NHA**) hosted the two-day Arogya Manthan event on September 25th and 26th, 2023, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The event saw the anniversary celebrations of **5 Years** of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (**AB PM-JAY**) and **2 Years** of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (**ABDM**).

i. Awards were presented to states & Union Territories (UTs) for effective implementation of AB PM-JAY and ABDM under various categories, including gender equity, service delivery, grievance redressal, and treatments.

- Among the various award categories of AB-PMJAY, the award for “Highest Ayushman Card Creation” was earned by **Assam [Best Performing State (Large)]**, Nagaland [Best Performing State (Small)], and Jammu & Kashmir [Best Performing State (UT)].
- For ABDM, **Andhra Pradesh** was awarded as the **Top State in the Digital health records linked** with ABHA per lakh population (State), followed by Karnataka.

8. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the recent launch made by the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, during the 276th Annual Day Celebrations of Defence Accounts Department (DAD) on 1st October 2023?

- A) Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched several digital initiatives of the DAD, including an integrated defence finance dashboard for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) ‘SARANSH’ (Summary of Accounts, Budget and Expenditure for Raksha Mantralaya).**
- B) He also launched BISWAS (Bill Information and Work Analysis System) and e-Raksha Awaas.**
- C) The Raksha Mantri Awards for Excellence 2023 were presented by the Union Minister to 5 teams for exhibiting exemplary initiatives.**

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

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

Explanation:

On 1st October 2023, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched several digital initiatives of the Defence Accounts Department (**DAD**) during its **276th annual day** celebrations at Delhi Cantonment(Cantt), Delhi.

i. The newly launched digital initiatives include,

- An integrated defence finance dashboard for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) ‘**SARANSH**’ (Summary of Accounts, Budget and Expenditure for Raksha Mantralaya)
- **BISWAS (Bill Information and Work Analysis System),**

- BISWAS will serve as a Dashboard for the various Principal Controller of Defence Accounts/Controller of Defence Accounts (PCsDA/CsDA) and display different infographics for the purpose of monitoring and analysing the whole process flow of bill management, including reports on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- **e-Raksha Awaas.**
- It is a centralised and comprehensive software package developed to streamline and optimize the process of generating timely rent and allied charges for rentable buildings within the Defence Services and facilitating the prompt remission of rent and allied charges to Government Accounts.

ii. The Defence Minister also distributed the Raksha Mantri Awards for Excellence for the year 2023 during the event. The 5 teams for exhibiting exemplary initiatives in implementing key department projects.

9. Name the personality who has recently (in Oct '23) launched 'Sankalp Saptaah', a unique week-long programme for Aspirational Blocks of India, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, Delhi.

- 1) Amit Shah (Union Minister of Home Affairs)
- 2) Jagdeep Dhankhar (Vice President of India)
- 3) Droupadi Murmu (President of India)
- 4) Narendra Modi (Prime Minister of India)
- 5) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar (Union Minister of External Affairs)

Answer- **4) Narendra Modi (Prime Minister of India)**

Explanation:

Prime Minister **(PM)** Narendra Modi launched '**Sankalp Saptaah**', a unique week-long programme for Aspirational Blocks of India, at Bharat Mandapam, **New Delhi, Delhi**. He also launched the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) Portal and inaugurated the exhibition showcased on the occasion.

- 'Sankalp Saptaah' is linked to the effective implementation of the ABP.
- The programme is observed from 3rd October to 9th October, 2023.

About ABP:

- i. The nationwide Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) was launched by the PM in January, 2023.
- ii. ABP is an initiative to improve governance at the block level to increase the quality of life of citizens.
- iii. ABP is based on the Aspirational District Programme (ADP) which has transformed the lives of about 25 crore people in 112 districts.

10. In which city, India's first solar roof cycling track was inaugurated in September 2023?

- 1) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- 2) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- 3) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- 4) Hyderabad, Telangana
- 5) Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Answer- **4) Hyderabad, Telangana**

Explanation:

The 23 kilometer long Healthway Cycling Track, India's first solar-roofed cycling track, was inaugurated in **Hyderabad, Telangana**, by the state municipal administration and Urban Development Minister K. T. Rama Rao.

- i. The cycling track along the Outer Ring Road is divided into two unique stretches: an 8.5-kilometer pink line from Nanakramguda to the Telangana State Police Academy and a 14.5-kilometer blue line from Kollur to Narsingi, which includes five different entry points.
- ii. Around 16,000 solar panels have been installed to generate 16 megawatts (MW) of power, which can power 32,000 streetlights or illuminate 800 kilometers of city streets.

11. According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)'s Consumer Pyramids Household Survey released in October 2023, India's unemployment rate fell to a 12-month low of _____ in September 2023.

- 1) 6.5%
- 2) 7.5%
- 3) 7.1%
- 4) 8.5%
- 5) 6.8%

Answer- **3) 7.1%**

Explanation:

According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (**CMIE**)'s Consumer Pyramids Household Survey, India's unemployment rate fell to a 12-month low of **7.1%** in **September 2023** from 8.1% in August 2023 despite the poor monsoon.

- i. In rural areas, the overall unemployment rate dropped from 7.11% in August 2023 to 6.20% in September 2023.
- ii. In urban areas, the overall unemployment rate decreased from 10.09% in August to 8.94% in September.

12. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Cabinet approval in October 2023?

- A) The Union cabinet approved a revised cost of Rs 2,430 crore for the completion of the balance works of the North Koel Reservoir Project in Bihar and Jharkhand.
- B) The Union Cabinet approved amendment to the Central Universities Act, 2009 for setting up of Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University at Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh.
- C) Cabinet approved the terms of reference to Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II (KWDT-II) under Inter State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956.

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

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

Explanation:

On October 4th, 2023, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi** has given its approval for multiple initiatives and they are as follows

- Cabinet approves Revised Cost of completion of balance works of **North Koel Reservoir Project in Bihar & Jharkhand**.
- In a recent development, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has granted its endorsement to a proposal presented by the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- This proposal aims to finalize the remaining tasks for the North Koel Reservoir Project, with an adjusted budget of Rs. 2,430.76 crore.
- Cabinet approves setting up of **Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University**
- Recently, the Union Cabinet has given its approval for introduction in Parliament, a Bill, namely, the Central Universities (Amendment), Bill, 2023.
- It aims to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009 for setting up of Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University at **Mulugu District, Telangana**.
- There would be provision of funds of Rs. 889.07 crore.
- Cabinet approves Terms of Reference to Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal-II (**KWDT-II**) under Inter State River Water Disputes (**ISRWD**) Act, 1956.
- It has been issued under section 5(1) of the ISRWD Act for its adjudication between the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- The Centre has notified the establishment of a National Turmeric Board.
- It is aimed at increasing awareness about turmeric and potentially developing new markets to bolster exports.

13. Name the state government that has recently (in Oct '23) inaugurated India's largest pumped storage project.

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

Answer- **5) Madhya Pradesh**

Explanation:

Chief Minister(CM) of **Madhya Pradesh(MP)** Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated India's largest pumped storage project in Khemla block of Neemuch district in **Madhya Pradesh**. The project is being developed by Greenko Group, India's largest energy storage company.

i. The project has a capacity of **1440 megawatt (MW)**, with storage for 7.5 hours. It is being expanded to 1920 MW with 6 hours of storage, which will increase its daily storage capacity to nearly 11 gigawatt hours (GWh).

ii. The overall investment will be Rs 11,500 crore over the next 3 years. This will generate around 4,800 jobs during construction and 200 jobs after construction.

14. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Geographical Indication (GI) tags granted by the Geographical Indications Registry in October 2023?

A) The Geographical Indications Registry has recently awarded geographical indication (GI) tags to a collective of 8 distinct products.

B) Khamti rice, Yak churpi from Tawang, and Tangsa textile from Arunachal Pradesh obtained GI Tag.

C) Udangudi Panangkarupatti, a specific type of palm jaggery originating from Telangana obtained GI Tag.

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

Answer- 2) Only A & B

Explanation:

The Geographical Indications Registry, operating under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Chennai, has recently awarded geographical indication (GI) tags to a collective of 8 distinct products. Among these, 3 originate from Arunachal Pradesh, 1 from Tamil Nadu, 2 from Jammu and Kashmir, 1 from Odisha, and 1 from Goa.

- Arunachal Pradesh has achieved a significant milestone by obtaining GI tags for 3 distinct products: Khamti rice, Yak churpi from Tawang, and Tangsa textile.
- **Udangudi Panangkarupatti**, a specific type of palm jaggery or “gur” originating from Tirunelveli District, **Tamil Nadu**.
- Basohli Pashmina, a traditional hand-spun Pashmina craft from Kathua district, J&K, obtained the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Kaladi is a popular Dogra cuisine with its origins in Udhampur district’s Ramnagar.
- Rasabali is a mouthwatering delicacy originating from the 262-year-old Baladevjew temple in Ichhapur, on the outskirts of Kendrapara town.
- Goa Cashew (Kaju Or Caju) results from the overall climatological impact of Goa and traditional farming practices followed by Goans. It is the 10th product of the state to get the coveted GI tag.

15. In October 2023, the Ministry of Civil Aviation introduced significant amendments to the Drone Rules in 2023 for drone pilots, under the authority of section 5, sub-section 2 of section 10, and sections 10A, 10B, and 12A of the Aircraft Act, _____ (year).

- 1) 1946
- 2) 1939
- 3) 1940
- 4) 1952
- 5) 1934

Answer- 5) 1934

Explanation:

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (**MoCA**), under the authority of section 5, sub-section 2 of section 10, and sections 10A, 10B, and 12A of the Aircraft Act, **1934** (22 of 1934), has introduced significant amendments to the **Drone Rules in 2023** for drone pilots. The rule is effective from the 27th of September 2023.

i. As per the **new Drone (Amendment) Rules 2023**, the mandatory requirement of a passport has been waived to further liberalise, promote and facilitate drone operations across India.

ii. After the amendment, government-issued proof of identity and address, such as Voter ID, Ration Card, or Driving License, can now be accepted to apply for a Remote Pilot Certificate if the drone pilot does not have a passport.

16. Name the State that has recently (in Oct '23) announced the formation of 3 new districts- Malpura, Sujangarh, and Kuchaman City.

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

Answer- **2) Rajasthan**

Explanation:

Rajasthan Chief Minister (CM), Ashok Gehlot, announced the formation of **3 new districts: Malpura, Sujangarh, and Kuchaman City** in Rajasthan during the Gau Seva Sammelan in Jaipur, Rajasthan. With the addition of the 3 districts, the **total number of districts** in Rajasthan has now reached **53**.

i. Kuchaman City was included in the 19 districts announced in March 2023 named Deedwana-Kuchaman.

- Formerly a part of Nagaur, the region of Deedwana-Kuchaman has been designated as a new district. Now Kuchaman City has been established as a separate district.

ii. Sujangarh, currently within Churu district and Malpura, within Tonk district, are also set to become new districts.

iii. The demarcation and establishment of these new districts will be a collaborative effort between the Ramlubhaya Committee, which recommended their formation, and the revenue department.

- Ramlubhaya Committee was constituted on 21st March 2022 to study the feasibility of new districts.

17. Which state government has recently (in Oct '23) declared the Ganges River Dolphin (Platanista gangetica) as the state aquatic animal?

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

Answer- **4) Uttar Pradesh**

Explanation:

Chief Minister (CM) of **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** Yogi Adityanath has declared the **Ganges River Dolphin (Platanista gangetica)** as the **state aquatic animal**.

About Gangetic Dolphin:

i. Gangetic dolphins live in the Ganga, Yamuna, Chambal, Ghaghra, Rapti, and Gerua rivers in UP.

ii. Gangetic dolphins are listed as Endangered in the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

iii. The Gangetic dolphin is a sensitive species that can tell us about the overall health of the Ganga ecosystem and the other species that live there.

18. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the 11th India-United Arab Emirates (UAE) high-level joint task force on investments in Abu Dhabi, UAE held in October 2023?

A) During 11th India-UAE high-level joint task force, UAE and India have signed an MoU in seven areas such as supply chain resilience, renewable energy and energy efficiency, health and life sciences, space systems, AI, Industry 4.0 and advanced technologies.

B) NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and Al Etihad Payments (AEP) entered into an agreement to implement a Domestic Card Scheme (DCS) in the UAE.

C) The 11th High-Level Joint Task Force Meeting between the UAE and India focused on reviewing the progress made on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and discussed various aspects of bilateral economic cooperation.

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 United Arab Emirates (UAE) and India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the 11th India-UAE high-level joint task force on investments in Abu Dhabi, the capital of United Arab Emirates (UAE).

i. India and the UAE have signed an MoU in seven areas such as supply chain resilience, renewable energy and energy efficiency, health and life sciences, space systems, AI, Industry 4.0 and advanced technologies, as well as standardisation and metrology.

- These MoUs align with the UAE-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which aims to strengthen the UAE’s role as a trade and logistics hub.

ii. NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and Al Etihad Payments (AEP) entered into an agreement to implement a Domestic Card Scheme (DCS) in the UAE.

- This partnership is set to revolutionize e-commerce, digital payments, and financial inclusion in the UAE, leveraging India’s expertise in secure payment systems and its widely acclaimed RuPay card network.

iii. The 11th High-Level Joint Task Force Meeting between the UAE and India focused on reviewing the progress made on the **CEPA** and discussed various aspects of bilateral economic cooperation.

19. Name the Ministry that has recently (in Oct ‘23) organised a curtain raiser event for the inaugural India Art Architecture Design Biennale (IAADB 2023) in New Delhi, Delhi.

1) Ministry of Tourism

2) Ministry of Culture

3) Ministry of Home Affairs

4) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

5) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Answer- 2) Ministry of Culture

Explanation:

The **Ministry of Culture** organised a curtain raiser event for the inaugural India Art Architecture Design Biennale (**IAADB 2023**) at the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, Delhi.

- The logo of the biennale was also launched during the event.
- i. The IAADB 2023 is set to be held from 9th to 15th December 2023, at Red Fort, with events scheduled in Delhi, Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Bengaluru (Karnataka).
- ii. Aim of Biennale: To bring traditional grassroots artists and contemporary designers, curators, architects, and thought leaders to the forefront, transcending age, gender, and genre boundaries
- iii. IAADB will serve as a precursor to India's participation in the Venice Biennale 2024, promoting dialogue among art, architecture, and design professionals.
- iv. The Biennale aligns with the vision of the Prime Minister and will mark the launch of the Development of Cultural Spaces project at the Red Fort, Delhi.

20. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the recent step taken by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI) under the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 in October 2023?

- A) Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal, launched a new initiative for issuing system-based automatic 'Status Holder' certificates under the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023.
- B) The new system eliminates the need for exporters to apply for a Status Certificate from the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR).
- C) The Export recognition is automated through the IT system using existing merchandise export data and risk parameters from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS).

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

Answer- 4) Only A & C

Explanation:

On October 9, 2023, Union Minister **Piyush Goyal**, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (**MoCI**), launched a new initiative for issuing system-based automatic '**Status Holder**' certificates under the **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023**.

- The initiative was launched during the meeting with Export Promotion Councils.

What is in the system:

- The new system **eliminates the need** for exporters to apply for a **Status Certificate** from the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)**.
- Export recognition is automated through the IT (Information Technology) system using existing merchandise export data and risk parameters from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS).

- This streamlines the process, reduces compliance burden, and promotes ease of doing business.
- Eligible exporters can modify their status online later, ensuring a simplified process without the need for manual applications or certifications.

Note: At present, there are around 14 Export Promotion Councils under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce.

21. In October 2023, South Asia's first Aircraft Recovery Training School (ARTS) has established in _____ (Airport).

- 1) Chennai International Airport
- 2) Indira Gandhi International Airport
- 3) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport
- 4) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport
- 5) Kempegowda International Airport

Answer- **5) Kempegowda International Airport**

Explanation:

Bangalore International Airport Limited (**BIAL**) has established **South Asia's first Aircraft Recovery Training School (ARTS)** on the premises of **Kempegowda International Airport** Bengaluru (KIAB/BLR Airport) in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

- i. BIAL formed a strategic partnership with KUNZ GmbH Aircraft Equipment, Germany.
- ii. BIAL is the first airport in India to acquire Code F compatible aircraft recovery equipment and assemble a proficient team of recovery managers.
- iii. The Aircraft Recovery Training School (ARTS) provides aircraft recovery hands-on training, equipped with state-of-the-art Disabled Aircraft Recovery Equipment (DARE).

22. In October 2023, _____ has become the first airport in Asia to commission a "Disabled Aircraft Recovery Kit" (DARK).

- 1) Don Mueang International Airport (Bangkok, Thailand)
- 2) Kempegowda International Airport (Karnataka, India)
- 3) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (Maharashtra, India)
- 4) Indira Gandhi International Airport (New Delhi, India)
- 5) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (Gujarat, India)

Answer- **3) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (Maharashtra, India)**

Explanation:

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (**CSMIA**) of Mumbai, **Maharashtra**, India has become the **first airport in Asia** to commission a "Disabled Aircraft Recovery Kit" (DARK), to help stranded aircraft.

- i. DARK can quickly and efficiently recover large commercial and transport aircraft that have become disabled due to runway excursions or other incidents.
- ii. DARK uses high-pressure lifting bags that are more durable and require fewer people to operate than conventional low-pressure systems.
- iii. It can recover aircraft up to 390 tonnes in weight, including the world's largest aircraft, the Boeing 777-300ER.

23. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Uttarakhand Youth Mahotsav 2023 program organized at Dehradun in October 2023?

A) Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister (CM) of Uttarakhand, launched the government-developed Rojgar Prayag Portal to provide employment opportunities in Uttarakhand on a single portal, during the Uttarakhand Youth Mahotsav 2023 program

B) CM also launched the Yuva Uttarakhand App to make the schemes run by various departments available at one place.

C) During the event, Uttarakhand’s Skill Development and Employment Department & Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee was signed an MoU to utilize the technical expertise of IIT Roorkee for the development of skill capacity of the state’s manpower.

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 October 9, 2023, Pushkar Singh Dhami, **Chief Minister (CM) of Uttarakhand**, launched the government-developed **Rojgar Prayag Portal** during the **Uttarakhand Youth Mahotsav 2023** program organized at Parade Ground in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

- The portal for youths aims to provide employment opportunities in Uttarakhand on a single portal.
- The event was organized by the Uttarakhand Skill development Society and Government of Uttarakhand on the theme ‘Uttarakhand Towards Entrepreneurship and Employment’.

i. During the event, CM Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the **Yuva Uttarakhand App** to make the schemes run by various departments available at one place.

- The app was developed by the Information Technology Development Agency (**ITDA**).

ii. During the event, three Memorandum of Understandings (**MoUs**) were signed in the presence of CM Dhami.

- An MoU was signed between Uttarakhand’s Skill Development and Employment Department and Indian Institute of Technology(**IIT) Roorkee, Uttarakhand** to utilize the technical expertise of IIT Roorkee for the development of skill capacity of the state’s manpower.
- An MOU was signed between the Skill Development and Employment Department and Microsoft.
- MoUs were signed with Envertz Consultancy to employ nursing trainees from the UK as nurses in England and Ireland; and with Generise Global to employ them as nurses in Germany.

24. In which state, a 108-foot-tall statue of 8th-century Vedic scholar and teacher Adi Guru Shankaracharya was unveiled in September 2023?

1) Bihar

2) Uttar Pradesh

3) Madhya Pradesh

4) Gujarat

5) Maharashtra

Answer- 3) Madhya Pradesh

Explanation:

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister(CM) of **Madhya Pradesh(MP)** unveiled a **108-foot-tall statue** of 8th-century Vedic scholar and teacher **Adi Guru Shankaracharya**, on the Mandhata hillock in Omkareshwar, Khargone district of MP.

- i. The statue is called the "Statue of Oneness," depicts Shankaracharya as a 12-year-old child (when he obtained knowledge); It symbolises peace and unity.
- ii. Stone sculptor Bhagwan Rampure and painter Vasudev Kamath oversaw the carving of the statue, which is installed on a 16-foot-tall stone lotus.
- iii. The statue is made of 88 percent Copper, 4 percent Zinc, and 8 percent Tin.

25. In October 2023, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoC&F) launched a web portal to provide statistical data related to the chemical sector for the benefit of all stakeholders. The web portal developed by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals along with the _____ (GoI office/Authority) .

- 1) National Informatics Centre
- 2) Indian Telephone Industries Limited
- 3) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- 4) Centre for Advanced Research & Development
- 5) Centre for Development of Telematics

Answer- 1) National Informatics Centre

Explanation:

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers(**MoC&F**) has launched a web portal (www.charak.chemicals.gov.in) to provide statistical data related to the chemical sector for the benefit of all stakeholders.

- i. The portal was launched during the Sensitization workshop on ChemIndia – Chemicals Inventory of India: An Online Data Management System in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ii. The workshop was organised by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals(**DOCP**), MoC&F and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (**FICCI**).
- iii. The web portal developed by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals along with the National Informatics Center(**NIC**).
- iv. The portal aims to provide statistical data on the chemical sector to all stakeholders.

26. Which state government has recently (in Oct '23) announced a new Tax Arrears Conciliation Scheme (Samadhan scheme) with waivers and concessions to settle the pending tax dues of about Rs.25,000 crore?

- 1) West Bengal
- 2) Karnataka
- 3) Andhra Pradesh
- 4) Tamil Nadu

5) Telangana

Answer- **4) Tamil Nadu**

Explanation:

Tamil Nadu (TN) government announced a new Tax Arrears Conciliation Scheme (**Samadhan scheme**) with waivers and concessions aimed at facilitating the settlement of the pending tax dues of about **Rs.25,000 crore**, of which a majority are under the erstwhile Tamil Nadu Value Added Tax (VAT) and other legacy tax legislations.

i. This initiative aims to address and resolve long-standing issues related to pending tax arrears, disputes, and appeals that have persisted between traders and the State Commercial Tax Department.

ii. The scheme will be in force between October 16, 2023, and February 15, 2024.

iii. The government has come out with different payment options for five categories of traders, depending on the size of their dues.

- Below Rs 50,000
- Between Rs 50,000 and Rs 10 lakh
- Between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore
- Between Rs 1 crore and Rs 10 crore
- Above Rs 10 crore.

27. As per the 'Gas 2023 Medium-Term Market Report' released by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in October 2023, India's natural gas demand is expected to rise by _____ in 2023.

- 1) 2%
- 2) 4%
- 3) 6%
- 4) 5%
- 5) 3%

Answer- **2) 4%**

Explanation:

The International Energy Agency (**IEA**) released its 'Gas 2023 Medium-Term Market Report'. As per it, **India's natural gas demand** is expected to rise by **4% in 2023** calendar year and will continue to increase at an average annual rate of about 8% till 2026.

- This growth will be driven by power, petrochemical and fertiliser sectors & India's primary gas supply rising by 2% in the first eight months of 2023.
 - After a sharp 6% drop in 2022, India's liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports rose by 8% in the first eight months of 2023 compared to the same in 2022.
- i.** Global gas demand is expected to increase by 1.6% annually from 2022 to 2026, down from the previous average of 2.5% per year from 2017 to 2021.
- Global LNG capacity is expected to expand by 25% between 2022 and 2026 & the United States (US) will retain its position as the world's largest LNG exporter.

28. In which state, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) has recently (in Oct '23) launched the 'A-HELP' (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) program?

- 1) Uttar Pradesh
- 2) Kerala
- 3) Punjab
- 4) Jharkhand
- 5) Andhra Pradesh

Answer- 4) Jharkhand

Explanation:

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (**DAHD**) under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying(MoFAHD) launched the '**A-HELP**' (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) program in **Jharkhand**.

- i.** The initiative was launched through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between DAHD and National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).
- ii.** Badal Patralek, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Co-operative, Govt. of Jharkhand was the chief guest of the launch programme.
- iii.** A-HELP to empower women by engaging them as Accredited Agents who contribute to essential tasks such as disease control, animal tagging, and livestock insurance.

Note- A-HELP has already been initiated across 6 states including Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Jharkhand, and one Union Territory (UT) Jammu and Kashmir(J&K).

29. Which state government has recently (in Oct '23) approved 'Van Mitra' Scheme, a community based forest conservation scheme?

- 1) Kerala
- 2) Odisha
- 3) Himachal Pradesh
- 4) West Bengal
- 5) Karnataka

Answer- 3) Himachal Pradesh

Explanation:

The **Himachal Pradesh** (HP) Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister (CM) Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, approved '**Van Mitra**' Scheme, a community based forest conservation scheme.

- The state cabinet has also approved various decisions across different sectors.
 - These decisions are aimed at enhancing governance, promoting welfare, and boosting infrastructure, with a focus on the betterment of Himachal Pradesh and its residents.
- i.** The Cabinet gave in-principle approval for establishing a passenger ropeway system from **Chintpurni Baba Mai Dass Bhawan Parking** to Chintpurni Temple in district Una, in a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode, with a cost of Rs. 76.50 crore, facilitating pilgrims.
 - ii.** The Cabinet allowed construction at a distance of 5 meters and 7 meters from Nallah and Khad, respectively, amending HP Town and Country Planning Rules.
 - iii.** The cabinet has also approved a special relief package for **disaster-affected families**. This special package would be granted from 24th June 2023 to 30th September 2023.
 - iv.** Amendments to the Shimla Development Plan were made, permitting residential construction in the green belt areas with no trees.

- The green belt area lies above the road from Navbhar to Ram Chandra Chowk to Machhiwali Kothi to Christ Church to Lakkar Bazar to IGMC to Sanjauli Chowk to Navbhar.

30. Name the repatriation operation that has been recently (in Oct '23) launched by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), GoI to bring back Indian citizens from Israel amid the ongoing 2023 Israel– Hamas War.

- 1) Operation Bharat
- 2) Operation Ganga
- 3) Operation Ajay
- 4) Operation Kaveri
- 5) Operation Raahat

Answer- 3) Operation Ajay

Explanation:

On 11 October 2023, the Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**), Government of India (**GoI**) launched '**Operation Ajay**', a **repatriation operation**, to bring back Indian citizens from Israel amid the ongoing 2023 Israel– Hamas War.

- This operation aims to assist Indian citizens in Israel who wish to return to India.
- 2023 Israel-Hamas War is the conflict between Israel and Palestinian militant groups led by Hamas
- The conflict started on 7th October 2023 when the Gaza-based Hamas militants invaded Israel from the Gaza Strip.
- The operation Ajay was launched after Air India and other airlines suspended all its commercial operations to and from Israel as the war began on October 7.

31. In Which city, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya has recently (in Oct '23) inaugurated new facilities at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS)?

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

Answer- 2) Bengaluru, Karnataka

Explanation:

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**) inaugurated new facilities at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (**NIMHANS**) in **Bengaluru, Karnataka** and launched the new **logo** of Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (**Tele MANAS**)

- These events happened on the occasion of 31st World Mental Health Day which was observed on 10th October 2023.
- i. NIMHANS** is a premier medical institute in India for mental health care, education, and research.
- NIMHANS came into existence in 1974 by amalgamating Mysore Government Mental Hospital and All India Institute of Mental Health.
- ii. Tele manas** is a national tele-mental health program which aims to provide mental health to all because it is a universal human right.

- It was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 and launched in October 2022 & functions under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare(MoH&FW).

32. Which of the following Ministries prepared a new standardised Protocol for Management of Malnutrition in Children (Protocol) that was launched in October 2023?

- 1) Ministry of Science and Technology
- 2) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- 3) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 2 & 3

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

Explanation:

Union Minister Smriti Zubin Irani, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) launched a new standardised Protocol for Management of Malnutrition in Children (**Protocol**) during a national event “Suposhit Bharat – Sashakt Bharat” at Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi, to fight malnutrition in children in India.

- It is the first-ever national protocol for the Management of Malnutrition in Children.
 - The Protocol has been jointly prepared by the **MoWCD** and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**).
 - This is a part of the efforts of MoWCD to reduce malnutrition through Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Nutrition 2.0.
 - The protocol aims to streamline the care of Severe Acute Malnourished (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) children, particularly those without medical complications.
- i. Instead of traditional Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers (NRCs), SAM children will be managed at Anganwadi Centers (AWC).
 - ii. It provides comprehensive guidelines to address malnutrition at the Anganwadi level, including decision-making regarding referral, nutritional management, and follow-up care.

33. In which state, Union Minister Arjun Munda, Ministry of Tribal Affairs(MoTA) has recently (in Oct '23) inaugurated “Aadi Mahotsav” – the National Tribal Festival?

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

Answer- **1) Jharkhand**

Explanation:

On 7th October 2023, Union Minister Arjun Munda, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (**MoTA**) inaugurated “**Aadi Mahotsav**” – **the National Tribal Festival**, organised by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (**TRIFED**), at Jamshedpur, **Jharkhand**.

- The event will be held from 7th to 16th October 2023 commemorating the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- Aadi Mahotsav is an annual initiative of MoTA to celebrate tribal entrepreneurship, crafts, culture, cuisine, commerce and traditional art.

- The 2023 Aadi Mahotsav will showcase the talents of 336 tribal artisans and artists, including members of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) beneficiaries.

34. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the recent cabinet approval in October 2023?

A) The Union Cabinet approved an amendment to the Second Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) for specifying royalty rates for three critical and strategic minerals: Silicon, Cesium, and Rare Earth Elements (REEs).

B) The Union Cabinet gave its approval for the creation of an autonomous organization known as “Mera Yuva Bharat” (MY Bharat).

C) The Union Cabinet also has granted approval for the signing of an MoU between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (India) and the Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty of France on cooperation in the field of Digital Technologies.

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:

In a significant development, the Union Cabinet, presided over by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi,

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, approved an amendment to the Second Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (**MMDR Act**) for specifying royalty rates for three critical and strategic minerals: **Lithium, Niobium, and Rare Earth Elements (REEs)**.
- On October 11, 2023, the Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, gave its approval for the creation of an autonomous organization known as **“Mera Yuva Bharat” (MY Bharat)**.
- The Union Cabinet has granted approval for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**India**) and the Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty of the French Republic (**France**). This landmark agreement is set to foster deeper collaboration in the realm of Digital Technologies.
- The Union Cabinet of India has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (India) and the Ministry of following countries on cooperation in the field of sharing successful Digital Solutions implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation.
 - Ministry of Information and Communications Technology of Papua New Guinea.
 - Ministry of Digital Transformation Technology of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

35. In October 2023, the Mahila thana of _____ (city) became the first women-centric police station across the entire India to be certified with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001:2015 certificate.

- 1) Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- 2) Patna, Bihar
- 3) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- 4) Berhampore, West Bengal
- 5) Thane, Maharashtra

Answer- 3) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Explanation:

The **Mahila thana** (women's police station) of **Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)** became the first women-centric police station across the entire India to be certified with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001:2015 certificate.

- The ISO certificate is issued for 3 years.
- i.** With this certification, Mahila Thana has become the 2nd ISO-certified police station in Bhopal. In May 2023, Misrod police station became the first ISO 9001:2015 certified police station of Bhopal.
 - ii.** ISO Certification specifies the requirement of an ideal Quality Management System (QMS) and provides a framework for organisations to improve efficiency, enhance customer satisfaction, and achieve continual improvement.

36. Which of the following companies has recently (in Oct '23) become the 15th & 16th Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) respectively?

- 1) Ircon International Limited (IRCON) & RITES Limited (RITES)
- 2) Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) & Ircon International Limited (IRCON)
- 3) RITES Limited (RITES) & Dredging Corporation of India (DCI)
- 4) India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) & Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)
- 5) Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) & India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)

Answer- 1) Ircon International Limited (IRCON) & RITES Limited (RITES)

Explanation:

The Department of public Enterprise (**DPE**) under the Ministry of Finance has been granted Navratna status to two Central Public Sector Enterprises (**CPSEs**) namely Ircon International Limited (**IRCON**) and **RITES Limited (RITES)** under the Ministry of Railways(MoR).

- i.** IRCON International Limited is a specialized construction company that covers the entire range of construction activities and services in the infrastructure sector. It is now the 15th company to be granted Navratna status.
- ii.** RITES Limited which is a multidisciplinary engineering and consultancy organization is the 16th Navratna amongst CPSEs.

- RITES Limited is entering its 50th year of incorporation (2024).
 - It is also the first Public sector undertakings (PSU) of Railway followed by IRCON at second.
- Both these companies were listed previously on Miniratna I CPSEs.

37. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the recent initiatives launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in October 2023?

A) The MoEF&CC launched 2 new initiatives, Green Credit Program (GCP) and the Ecomark Scheme to encourage sustainable practices rooted in tradition and conservation and promote the ideas of ‘LiFE’ – ‘Lifestyle for Environment’ movement.

B) The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) will be the administrator responsible for implementing the Green Credit Rules, 2023, notified by MoEF&CC .

C) Ecomark Scheme provides accreditation and labelling for household and consumer products that meet specific environmental criteria while maintaining quality standards as per Indian norms.

- 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 Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEF&CC**) launched 2 new initiatives, Green Credit Program (**GCP**) and the **Ecomark Scheme** to encourage sustainable practices rooted in tradition and conservation and promote the ideas of ‘LiFE’ – ‘Lifestyle for Environment’ movement.

- Green Credit Program (GCP) was notified on 12th October 2023. It is an innovative market-based mechanism designed to incentivize voluntary environmental actions across diverse sectors, by various stakeholders.
 - GCP is independent of the carbon credit provided under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023 under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
 - The MoEF&CC have made a set of rules called “**Green Credit Rules, 2023**” in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3, section 6 and section 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986).
 - Dehradun, Uttarakhand-based Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, is the **administrator of the Green Credit Rule 2023.**
- **Ecomark Scheme notified** on 11th October 2023 succeed the previous rules notified in 1991. It provides accreditation and labelling for household and consumer products that meet specific environmental criteria while maintaining quality standards as per Indian norms
 - The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) administers the Ecomark Scheme in partnership with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), which is the national body for standards and certification.

Note- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) notified the Green Hydrogen Standard for India which sets emission limits for hydrogen production to be considered ‘Green,’ indicating it comes from renewable sources.

38. Name the company that has recently (in Oct '23) partnered with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to launch the Super Power Retailer Program under the Skill India Mission.

- 1) Dabur India Limited
- 2) Coca-Cola India
- 3) Varun Beverages Limited
- 4) Orient Beverages Limited
- 5) ITC Limited

Answer- 2) Coca-Cola India

Explanation:

On October 15, 2023, the New Delhi, Delhi-based National Skill Development Corporation (**NSDC**), working under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has partnered with **Coca-Cola India** to launch the **Super Power Retailer Program** under the Skill India Mission.

- This will empower the retailer community in the states of Odisha and Uttar Pradesh (UP). The program is being piloted in Odisha.
- i. Under the partnership, NSDC will also assist Coca-Cola India in expanding the Skill India Digital (SID) program by developing industry-specific training content, recruiting trainers, and providing necessary training infrastructure for a seamless learning experience.
- ii. Super Power Retailer will empower Small and micro retailers with training to expand businesses and enhance consumer experiences.

39. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Electric Vehicle (EV)-Ready India Dashboard launched by Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy & Power Raj Kumar (RK) Singh in October 2023?

A) EV-Ready India Dashboard is a free digital platform that focus on near real-time EV adoption and forecasts, associated battery demand, charging density, and market growth trends by using data and AI.

B) It has been developed by policy and industry experts at think-tank OMI Foundation based in New Delhi, Delhi.

C) As of August 2023, The EV-Ready India dashboard has forecast a 45.5% Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) in EVs between calendar year (CY) 2022 and CY 2030.

- 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 October 16, 2023, Union Minister Raj Kumar (**RK**) Singh for the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (**MNRE**), and the Ministry of **Power** launched a new Electric Vehicle (**EV**)-Ready India **Dashboard** (evreadyindia.org) from New Delhi, Delhi.

- It is a free digital platform that focus on near real-time EV adoption and forecasts, associated battery demand, charging density, and market growth trends by using data and AI (Artificial Intelligence).

- It has been developed by policy and industry experts at think-tank OMI Foundation based in New Delhi, Delhi.
- EV-Ready India Dashboard is the only dashboard in India that compiles sales data across all (34) Vahan states and Union Territories and Telangana.
- It shows forecasts on EV adoption, and associated battery demand till 2030.
- **Key Figures by Dashboard as of August 2023:** The EV-Ready India dashboard has forecast a **45.5%** Compounded Annual Growth Rate (**CAGR**) in EVs between calendar year (CY) 2022 and CY 2030, increasing from annual sales of 6,90,550 electric two-wheelers (E2Ws) in 2022 to 1,39,36,691 E2Ws in 2030.

40. In October 2023, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with Cochin Shipyard Limited for mid-life upgrade and re-powering of the advanced guided missile frigate Indian Naval Ship (INS) _____ at a cost of Rs 313.42 crore.

- 1) INS Betwa
- 2) INS Trikand
- 3) INS Tarkash
- 4) INS Talwar
- 5) INS Beas

Answer- **5) INS Beas**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Defence (**MoD**) has signed a contract with Cochin Shipyard Limited (**CSL**)(Kochi, Kerala) for mid-life upgrade and re-powering of the advanced guided missile frigate Indian Naval Ship (**INS**) **Beas** (F37) at a cost of **Rs 313.42 crore**.

i. About the Contract: INS Beas is the first Brahmaputra Class Frigate to be re-powered from steam to diesel propulsion.

- After completing mid-life upgrade and re-powering in 2026, INS Beas will join the Indian Navy's active fleet with a modernised weapon suite and enhanced combat capability.

ii. About INS Beas: INS Beas was the third Ship of the Brahmaputra Class guided missile frigate which was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 2005, and it was originally built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)Ltd in Kolkata(West Bengal).

- It can reach speeds of more than 30 knots and go more than 4,500 nautical miles without refuelling.

41. Name the company that has recently (in Oct '23) signed a contract with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for the construction of one Training Ship for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at a cost of Rs 310 crore under the Buy Indian -Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured (IDDM) category.

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

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

Explanation:

The Ministry of Defence (**MoD**) has signed a contract for the construction of one Training Ship for the Indian Coast Guard (**ICG**) with **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL)**, Mumbai (Maharashtra) at a cost of **Rs 310 crore** under the Buy Indian -Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured (**IDDM**) category in New Delhi, Delhi.

i. Facilities: This is the first ICG's dedicated training platform with integral helicopter capabilities and modern high-tech surveillance and monitoring systems.

ii. Benefits: The training ship is set to provide basic sea training to 70 Coast Guard and other international under-trainee officers and prepare them for the multi-dimensional maritime aspects of Coast Guard life.

42. In October 2023, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) approved India's self-declaration of freedom from _____ (diseases).

- 1) Enzootic bovine leukosis Influenza
- 2) Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
- 3) Bovine ephemeral Influenza
- 4) Acute hepatopancreatic Influenza
- 5) Avian paramyxovirus Influenza

Answer- **2) Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza**

Explanation:

The World Organisation for Animal Health (**WOAH**) has approved **India's self-declaration** of freedom from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (**HPAI**), commonly known as bird flu, in certain poultry compartments (approved farms) in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh.

- This recognition by WOAHA signifies India's dedication to international biosecurity standards.
 - This recognition is composed to boost India's poultry industry by enhancing the export potential of poultry products, such as meat and eggs.
 - The self-declaration approved by WOAHA coincided with World Egg Day on 13 October 2023.
- i.** Avian Influenza (AI) is a highly contagious viral disease impacting domestic and wild birds. It can occasionally infect mammals, including humans.
- ii.** Follows a "Detect and cull" policy emphasized in the National Action Plan for Prevention, Control, and Containment of Avian Influenza (revised - 2021).

43. Which autonomous organisation of the Ministry of Education has recently (in Oct '23) developed a web portal 'Apna Chandrayaan' for school students that was launched by Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan?

- 1) National Council for Teacher Education
- 2) National Assessment and Accreditation Council
- 3) National Council of Educational Research and Training
- 4) All India Council for Technical Education
- 5) National Testing Agency

Answer- **3) National Council of Educational Research and Training**

Explanation:

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the Ministry of Education (MoE), launched a web portal 'Apna Chandrayaan' for school students in New Delhi, Delhi. The web portal was developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

- He also launched 10 special modules offering a comprehensive perspective on the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Chandrayaan-3 mission for students.
 - The modules encompass scientific, technological, and social aspects as well as the emotional journey and team spirit of the scientists involved in the mission.
- i. The portal features activity-based support material such as interactive quizzes, puzzles for school students in Foundational, Preparatory, Middle, and Secondary level on Mission Chandrayaan-3.
- ii. It also has a set of colouring books, dot-to-dot activities, picture builders, and inspiring stories in the form of graphic novels on Chandrayaan 3.

44. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has recently (in Oct '23) approved India's first-ever indigenously developed Alternating Current (AC) and Direct Current (DC) Combined Charging connector standard for Light Electric Vehicles (LEVs).

The new standard is based on _____ (company's) charging connector.

- 1) Mahindra Last Mile Mobility
- 2) Olectra Greentech
- 3) Greaves Cotton
- 4) Ather Energy
- 5) Greaves Electric Mobility

Answer- 4) Ather Energy

Explanation:

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standard Body of India, has approved IS17017 (Part 2 / Sec 7): 2023, India's first-ever indigenously developed Alternating Current (AC) and Direct Current (DC) Combined Charging connector standard for Light Electric Vehicles (LEVs).

- It is also the world's 1st charging standard that combines AC and DC charging for small EVs, such as electric scooters, motorcycles, three-wheelers, and quadricycles, and is designed and engineered in India.
 - The new standard is based on **Ather Energy's** charging connector.
- i. Collaboration:** This new standard was developed through a collaborative effort between the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), several EV makers like Ather, Hero, Ola Electric, and BIS.
- ii.** The new standard aims to benefit vehicle owners, manufacturers, and charge point operators by providing a unified charging system for EVs, especially in urban environments.

45. In October 2023, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) notified the amendment of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, which will be called as "Aircraft (First Amendment) Rules, 2023".

Under the amendment, following the revision of Rule 39C, the validity of the Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL) and Commercial Pilot License (CPL) holders has been increased from 5 years to _____ years.

- 1) 7
- 2) 10

- 3) 8
- 4) 12
- 5) 15

Answer- **2) 10**

Explanation:

On 10th October 2023, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) notified the amendment of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, which will be called as "Aircraft (First Amendment) Rules, 2023". Under this amendment, following the revision of Rule 39C, the validity of the Airline Transport Pilot License **(ATPL)** and Commercial Pilot License **(CPL) holders** has been increased from 5 years to **10 years**.

- This aims to reduce administrative burden on pilots and aviation authorities like Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), promoting a more streamlined and efficient licensing process.
- The amendment is in line with the government's efforts to further improve the ease of doing business in the aviation sector.

i. The Amendment to the Aircraft Rules, 1937, emphasizes robust industry consultations, enhancing regulatory safety, and security measures.

ii. Amendment to Aircraft Rules, 1937 introduces key changes under Rule 66, addressing concerns related to the display of "false lights" in the vicinity of an aerodrome.

46. In which state, Kati Bihu also known as Kongali bihu festival 2023 was celebrated on 18th October 2023?

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

Answer- **3) Assam**

Explanation:

Kati Bihu, also known as Kongali bihu, is the **annual Assamese festival** celebrated on the first day of the Kati Month in the Assamese calendar, which usually coincides with the mid-October.

i. Kati Bihu is celebrated during the time of relocation of the rice sapling which is observed with great enthusiasm and fervor.

ii. The **2023 Kati Bihu** was celebrated on **18th October 2023**.

47. In October 2023, the Chief Minister (CM) of Karnataka, Siddaramaiah, unveiled an emblem of Karnataka Sambrama-50 in _____ (city) to mark the golden jubilee of the renaming of Mysore State as Karnataka.

- 1) Dharwad
- 2) Bengaluru
- 3) Bijapur
- 4) Bidar
- 5) Mangaluru

Answer- **2) Bengaluru**

Explanation:

The Chief Minister(CM) of Karnataka, Siddaramaiah, unveiled an **emblem of Karnataka Sambrama-50** in a programme organised by the Department of Kannada in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka.

- i. The launch of the emblem marks the golden jubilee of the renaming of Mysore State as Karnataka on 1st November, 1973.
- ii. The renaming of Mysore State as Karnataka was made by then Chief Minister (CM) D. Devaraj Urs.
- iii. Year long Celebration: To mark 50 years of renaming the government of Karnataka decided to hold year-long celebrations from 1st November 2023 to 1st November 2024.
 - The celebration will be titled “Hesarayitu Karnataka, Usiragali Kannada.”

48. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the cabinet approval on 18th October 2023?

A) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a project on Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II – Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) for the 13 GW renewable energy project in Ladakh.

B) The Union Cabinet has granted approval for an increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated Rabi crops in the Marketing Season 2024–25, including the highest increase for Wheat, about 4.1% at Rs. 425 per quintal.

C) The Union Cabinet has approved a total Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) payout of Rs 1968.87 crore to 11.07 Lakh railway employees.

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

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

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the following proposals on 18 October, 2023:

- Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur announced that the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (**CCEA**) has approved a project on Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II – Inter-State Transmission System (**ISTS**) for the **13 GW renewable energy project** in Ladakh.
 - Scheduled completion by FY 2029-30.
 - Estimated total cost: Rs. 20,773.70 crore.
- The Union Cabinet has granted approval for an increase in the Minimum Support Prices (**MSP**) for **all mandated Rabi Crops** in the Marketing **Season 2024-25**.
 - The **highest increase in MSP** has been sanctioned for **lentils (masur)** about **7.1%** at **Rs. 425 per quintal**.
 - This adjustment in MSP is consistent with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement, which aimed to set the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times the All-India weighted average Cost of Production.
- The Union Cabinet has granted a Productivity Linked Bonus (**PLB**) **equivalent** to 78 days’ worth of wages for the financial year 2022-2023. The Government has approved a total **PLB payout** of Rs 1968.87 crore to benefit 11,07,346 (**11.07 Lakh**) railway employees.
 - Railway’s performance in FY23 was marked by a record cargo load of 1509 million tonnes and the transportation of nearly 6.5 billion passengers.

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval to release an additional installment of Dearness Allowance (DA) for Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) for pensioners, w.e.f. July 1, 2023.
 - This installment reflects a 4% increase over the existing rate. With this, the DA will be increased from 42% to 46% of Basic Pay or Pension. This increase aligns with the established formula based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.

49. Name the state government that has recently (in Oct '23) approved the constitution of the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF).

- 1) Arunachal Pradesh
- 2) Maharashtra
- 3) Andhra Pradesh
- 4) Jharkhand
- 5) Uttar Pradesh

Answer- **1) Arunachal Pradesh**

Explanation:

The **Arunachal Pradesh** (AR) Cabinet under the chairmanship of Chief Minister(CM) Pema Khandu approved the **constitution** of the Special Tiger Protection Force (**STPF**) in **three Tiger Reserves** of AR namely, Namdapha, Pakke, and Kamlang.

- i. The STPF is constituted as per the guidelines of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (**NTCA**). This decision will result in the creation of 336 regular posts in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ii. STPF is a specialized force tailored to the needs of tiger reserves, comprising one company of 112 personnel each for 3 tiger reserves. Each company is subdivided into 3 platoons and 18 sections.
- iii. The Cabinet also approved the Amendment of AR State Industrial and Investment Policy 2020 and the framing of AR Home Guard Rules 2023 along with others.

50. Which state's 1st Robotic Process Automation (RPA) Lab has recently (in Oct '23) inaugurated by S Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under the Future Skill PRIME?

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

Answer- **3) Uttar Pradesh**

Explanation:

On 16th October 2023, S Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**), inaugurated the **Robotic Process Automation (RPA) Lab** in National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), Gorakhpur in **Uttar Pradesh** (UP).

- i. This **First-of-its-kind lab in UP** was built under the **Future Skill PRIME Project** funded by MeitY to bridge the gap between Industry and Academia.
- ii. The lab was inaugurated during the 26th All India Director's Meet of NIELIT. The meet witnessed the participation of Directors from 49 NIELIT Centres across India.
- iii. Objective: To upskill/reskill manpower in emerging technology of RPA.

51. In October 2023, the Marathi film titled 'Gadkari', the biopic of Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Jairam Gadkari is set to release in October 2023.

The movie is directed by _____.

- 1) Avadhoot Gupte
- 2) Gajendra Ahire
- 3) Ravindra Jadhav
- 4) Anurag Rajan Bhusari
- 5) Sunil Sukthankar

Answer- 4) Anurag Rajan Bhusari

Explanation:

The **Marathi film titled 'Gadkari'**, the biopic of Union Minister Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (**MoRTH**), is set to release in Cinemas on 27 October 2023. The movie is **directed by Anurag Rajan Bhusari** starring Rahul Chopda as Nitin Gadkari.

- i.** The movie, presented by Abhijit Majumdar, is produced by Akshay Anant Deshmukh under the banner of Akshay Deshmukh Films. The movie is set to be dubbed in Hindi for a wider release.
- ii.** The movie is an in-depth portrayal of Nitin Gadkari's life as an influential political figure known for his contributions to road transport and highways across India.
- iii.** Nitin Gadkari has been serving as the Union Minister of MORTH since 2014. He is often referred to as the "Expressway Man of India " due to his initiation of Mumbai-Pune Expressway and contributions to the development of road infrastructure.

52. In which state/UT, Prime Minister (PM), Narendra Modi has recently (in Oct '23) inaugurated India's 1st Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Corridor?

- 1) Uttar Pradesh
- 2) Gujarat
- 3) Delhi
- 4) Maharashtra
- 5) Odisha

Answer- 1) Uttar Pradesh

Explanation:

Prime Minister (PM), **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **17 Kilometer (Km)** priority section of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (**RRTS) Corridor** at Sahibabad RapidX Station in Ghaziabad, **Uttar Pradesh** (UP).

i. He also flagged off the 'Namo Bharat' RapidX train, connecting Sahibabad to Duhai Depot (UP), which marks India's first RRTS. Additionally, 2 stretches of the east-west corridor of Bengaluru Metro were dedicated to the public.

ii. Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Corridor:

- The 17 Km priority section of Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut connects Sahibabad to Duhai Depot.
- This route features essential stations at Ghaziabad, Guldhar, and Duhai in UP.
- It is being developed at a cost of more than Rs 30,000 crore and aims to reduce the travel time between Delhi and Meerut to less than an hour.

Note: The entire 82.15 km RRTS corridor is projected to be fully operational by June 2025.

53. In October 2023, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually launched the 511 Pramod Mahajan Grameen Kaushalya Vikas Kendras (PMGKVKs) in 34 rural districts of _____ (state).

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

Answer- 3) Maharashtra

Explanation:

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually launched the 511 Pramod Mahajan Grameen Kaushalya Vikas Kendras (PMGKVKs) established across 34 rural districts of Maharashtra through video conferencing.

- i. These PMGKVKs will conduct skill development training programs across various sectors to provide employment opportunities to rural youth.
- ii. Each Kendra will train about 100 youngsters in at least two vocational courses.
- iii. The training will be provided by empanelled industry partners and agencies under the National Skill Development Council (NSDC).

54. Which Department of the GoI has recently (in Oct '23) conducted a National level meeting on 'Ghar-Ghar Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Abhiyaan'?

- 1) Department of Fisheries
- 2) Department of Health and Family Welfare
- 3) Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- 4) Department of Commerce
- 5) Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

Answer- 1) Department of Fisheries

Explanation:

The Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAH&D) conducted a National level meeting on 'Ghar-Ghar Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Abhiyaan', which means 'Door to Door KCC Campaign' for fisheries on 19th October 2023 in New Delhi, Delhi.

- i. The 'Ghar-Ghar KCC Abhiyaan' initiative aims to ensure KCC Access for Fish Farmers including fishermen and fish vendors to achieve universal financial inclusion and to avail KCC facilities for all eligible fish farmers.
- ii. Under the KCC Scheme, 1,59,903 new KCCs were issued for fish farmers with a credit worth of Rs 1746.16 Crore.

55. In October 2023, _____ became the first district in India to officially designate its official tree, flower, bird and species.

- 1) Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- 2) Kodagu, Karnataka
- 3) Anjaw, Arunachal Pradesh
- 4) Kasaragod, Kerala
- 5) Karimnagar, Telangana

Answer- 4) Kasaragod, Kerala

Explanation:

The **Kasaragod** district of **Kerala** became the **first district in India** to officially designate its official tree, flower, bird and species showcasing its rich biodiversity and natural heritage.

i. The Kasaragod district panchayat along with the state Biodiversity Management Committee made the declaration, and seeks its formalization by the Kerala State Biodiversity Board.

ii. The Officials:

- **Tree:** The district's official tree is 'Kanjiram' (Strychnos nux-vomica Linn), named after 'kasara', meaning wormwood, which is the origin of the district's name."
- **Flower:** The district's flower, 'Periya Polathali' (Malabar river lily), was declared as its official flower.
- **Bird:** 'Vellavayaran Kadal Paranthu' (White-bellied sea eagle, Haliaeetus leucogaster) is declared as the district's bird. It is seen in a 150 kilometre stretch from Mahe to Manjeshwar.
- **Creature:** "Palappoovan Aamma", also known as Beeman Aamma (Cantor's Giant Softshell Turtle), was declared the district's creature.

56. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Indian Military Heritage Festival (2023) held at New Delhi, Delhi in October 2023?

A) Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence(MoD), inaugurated the first edition of Indian Military Heritage Festival (2023), organised by the United Service Institution of India (USI) – Centre for Military History & Conflict Studies (CMHCS).

B) During the festival, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched Project Udbhav to promote the indigenous discourse through the integration of ancient strategic acumen into the military domain.

C) Project Udbhav is a joint collaboration of Indian Army (IA) and USI, aiming to integrate age-old wisdom with contemporary military pedagogy.

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

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

Explanation:

On 21st October 2023, Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence(MoD), inaugurated the first edition of **Indian Military Heritage Festival (2023)** at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.

i. The festival, **organized** by the United Service Institution of India (USI) – Centre for Military History & Conflict Studies (**CMHCS**), was held from 21st to 22nd October 2023.

- The 2-day festival celebrated the rich military culture and heritage of India through conversations, art, dance, drama, story-telling and exhibitions.

ii. During the festival, a MILFEST was organized for the military ecosystem as a platform for discussing contemporary issues relating to India and the world focusing on Security, Strategy and International Relations.

iii. On the other hand, USI Atmanirbhar Bharat Initiative (ANBI) provided a platform to designers, developers, manufacturers and security forces to share ideas for indigenization and self-reliance in defence technology.

iv. During the festival, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched **Project Udbhav** to promote the indigenous discourse through the integration of ancient strategic acumen into the military domain.

- Project Udbhav is a joint collaboration of Indian Army (IA) and USI.

The initiative aims to integrate age-old wisdom with contemporary military pedagogy

57. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Bharat Tex 2024 event?

A) India is set to host “Bharat Tex 2024”, the world’s largest Textile event in February 2024 at Bharat Mandapam & Yashobhoomi in New Delhi, Delhi.

B) The event will be organised by a Consortium of Textile Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) with the support of the Ministry of Textiles.

C) Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Textiles launched the fair logo, website and video of Bharat Tex 2023.

1) Only A

2) Only A & C

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & B

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

India is set to host **“Bharat Tex 2024”**, the world’s largest Textile event from 26th to 29th February 2024 at Bharat Mandapam & Yashobhoomi in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The event will be organised by a Consortium of Textile Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) with the support of the Ministry of Textiles. [List of 12 Consortium of Textile EPCs](#).
- This expo is the embodiment of India’s 5F vision – Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.

i. On 21st October 2023, Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Textiles presided over the **curtain raiser event of Bharat Tex 2023** at Vanijya Bhavan in New Delhi, Delhi.

ii. During the event, he launched the fair logo, website and video of Bharat Tex 2023 .

iii. The **Bharat Tex 2024** is expected to be the world’s biggest textile event with exhibitors and buyers from over 40 countries.

- On October 21, 2023, the Union Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal launched the Kasturi Cotton Bharat website (<https://kasturicotton.texprocil.org/>), a digital platform for necessary information and updates on this initiative. It is a joint initiative by the ministry of textiles, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), Trade Bodies and Industry.

58. In October 2023, Baiga became the 2nd tribal group after Kamar to get habitat rights under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006, in ____ (state).

1) Madhya Pradesh

2) West Bengal

3) Assam

4) Jharkhand

5) Chhattisgarh

Answer- **5) Chhattisgarh**

Explanation:

Baiga, classified as the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), in Chhattisgarh has received the **Habitat rights** under the Forest Rights Act(FRA) 2006. With this Baiga has **become the 2nd tribal group** after Kamar to get habitat rights in **Chhattisgarh**.

i. The habitat rights has recognised 19 villages/para/tola of Baiga community in Gaurela block in Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi (GPM).

ii. Habitat rights are given to PVTGs under section 3(1) (e) [rights including community tenures of habitat and habitation for primitive tribal groups and pre-agricultural communities] of The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 also known as the FRA.

Note: On August 9, 2023, during the occasion of World Tribal Day, the Chhattisgarh government granted habitat rights to the Kamar PVTG in 22 villages of the Magarlod block of the Dhamtari district.

59. Name the State government that has recently (in Oct '23) established an Urban Road Infrastructure Development Agency (URIDA) to implement the Chief Minister Green Road Infrastructure Development Scheme (Urban) (CM Grids Scheme).

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

Answer- **4) Uttar Pradesh**

Explanation:

The Urban Development Department of the Government of **Uttar Pradesh** has established an Urban Road Infrastructure Development Agency (**URIDA**) which will be responsible for implementing the Chief Minister Green Road Infrastructure Development Scheme (**Urban**) (**CM Grids Scheme**) on the ground.

i. In October 2023, the UP cabinet approved the CM Grids Scheme worth Rs.500 crore to construct roads of international standards in all cities.

ii. The URIDA office will be established on the premises of the Directorate of Local Bodies, Lucknow, UP.

60. In which city, India 's first Nano Di-Ammonia Phosphate (DAP-Liquid) plant was recently (in Oct '23) inaugurated by the Union Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah?

- 1) Pune, Maharashtra
- 2) Panipat, Haryana
- 3) Jaipur, Rajasthan
- 4) Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- 5) Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Answer- **4) Gandhinagar, Gujarat**

Explanation:

On October 24, 2023, **India's first Nano Di-Ammonia Phosphate (DAP-Liquid)** plant was inaugurated by the Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) at Kalol in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

- It was set up by Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) at a cost of Rs 300 crore.
- The development of the plant is on the lines of Aatmnirbhar Bharat vision of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi.
- The Union Minister also attended an event in Sanand where he launched various developmental projects worth Rs 289 crore.

Note- This is the second IFFCO plant in Gujarat. In May 2022, PM inaugurated IFFCO's world's first Nano Urea Liquid in Kalol.

61. According to the State Bank of India (SBI) research paper titled "PM SVANidhi: Strengthening the Country's Social Fabric by Empowering Grassroot Market Mavericks" in October 2023, _____ of the beneficiaries of the PM SVANidhi scheme are from the Non-General Category.

- 1) 65%
- 2) 80%
- 3) 75%
- 4) 60%
- 5) 50%

Answer- **3) 75%**

Explanation:

According to the **State Bank of India (SBI) research paper** titled "PM SVANidhi: Strengthening the Country's Social Fabric by Empowering Grassroot Market Mavericks" **75%** of the beneficiaries of the **PM SVANidhi scheme** are from the **non-general category**.

- The research was carried out by Soumya Kanti Ghosh, the Group Chief Economic Advisor of SBI.
- The report says that 75% of beneficiaries come from non-general categories with
- 44% of the beneficiaries belong to the Other Backward Class(OBC) category.
- 22% of the total disbursement of the scheme benefitted people from Scheduled Castes(SC) and Scheduled Tribes(ST).

i. Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi(PM SVANidh), is a micro-credit scheme launched by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in 2020. The scheme aims to provide working capital loans to street vendors.

62. In October, 2023, Union Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah launched the logo, website, and brochure of the newly established National Cooperative _____ Limited (NCEL).

- 1) Education
- 2) Exports
- 3) External
- 4) Expert
- 5) Energy

Answer- **2) Exports**

Explanation:

On October 23, 2023, Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (**MHA**) launched the logo, website, and brochure of the newly established **National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL)**.

- The launch was made during the National Symposium on Cooperative Exports organised by NCEL in New Delhi, Delhi.
- He also distributed membership certificates to NCEL members.

i. About National Cooperative Export Limited (NCEL):

- NCEL is an umbrella organization for cooperative sector exports in India.
- It was established by the Ministry of Cooperation under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act 2002 on January 25, 2023.

63. The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) celebrated its _____ Foundation day on 20th October 2023 and launched a new molecular biology lab for advanced research.

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

Answer- **5) 6th**

Explanation:

The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) celebrated its **6th Foundation day** on 20th October 2023 at AIIA campus, New Delhi, Delhi. A **new molecular biology lab for advanced research** at AIIA; a Manuscript Unit and Center of Excellence (CoE) Dakshya were launched during the event.

- AIIA has signed six Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with six well-known institutions such as Hindustan Salt Limited, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the Heartfulness Institute.
- The MoUs to were signed with an aim to bring new dimensions in the working culture and generate systematic evidences
- During the event, AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal unveiled the statue of the Ayurveda practitioner late Padma Vibhushan Awardee Vaidya Brihaspati Dev Triguna at the Vaidya Brihaspati Dev Triguna Auditorium in AIIA.

64. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the cabinet approval on 25th October 2023?

- A) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the PM Narendra Modi has approved inclusion of Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project of Uttar Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Board Programme (PMKSY-AIBP).**
- B) The Union Cabinet approved Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Rabi Season 2023-24 (October 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024) on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers, amounting to Rs 22,303 crore.**
- C) The Union Cabinet also approved a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India and Japan on Japan-India Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership which was signed in July 2023.**

- 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:

On October 25, 2023, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** has given its approval to the following proposals which were detailed by Union Minister, Anurag Singh Thakur, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) during a press conference in New Delhi, Delhi:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the PM Narendra Modi has approved inclusion of Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project of **Uttarakhand** under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme **(PMKSY-AIBP)** of Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
 - In this regard, CCEA has approved a funding of Rs 1,557.18 crore from the Central Government to Uttarakhand for completion of the project by March, 2028.
 - The total outlay of the project is estimated at Rs 2,584.10 crore.
- The Union Cabinet approved Nutrient Based Subsidy **(NBS)** rates for **Rabi Season 2023-24** (October 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024) on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers, amounting to Rs 22,303 crore.
- The Union Cabinet also approved a Memorandum of Cooperation **(MoC)** between **India and Japan** on Japan-India Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership which was signed in July 2023.
 - It will be effective from July 20, 2023, and will remain in force for 5 years.
 - It was signed between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.
 - With this approval, Japan has become the second Quad partner after the United States (US) to sign an agreement with India for the joint development of the semiconductor ecosystem.

65. The High-Level Committee (HLC) on One Nation, One Election (ONOE) under the chairmanship of _____ held its 2nd meeting at New Delhi, Delhi in October 2023.

- 1) Rajiv Kumar (Chief Election Commissioner of India)
- 2) Ram Nath Kovind (Former President of India)
- 3) Jagdeep Dhankhar (Vice President of India)
- 4) Droupadi Murmu (President of India)
- 5) Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu (Former Vice President of India)

Answer- 2) Ram Nath Kovind (Former President of India)

Explanation:

The High-Level Committee **(HLC)** on One Nation, One Election **(ONOE)** under the chairmanship of **Former President Ram Nath Kovind** held its 2nd meeting in New Delhi, Delhi on 25th October 2023.

- The website developed for the **“One Nation, One Election”** was launched at the meeting. This will act as a repository of all relevant information on the ONOE proposal.
- The website will also act as a platform for interaction and receiving suggestions from all stakeholders.

i. Decisions taken by the Committee:

- Budgetary provision for the HLC for the current FY -2023-24 was approved.
- Resignation of Shri Adhir Ranjan Choudhury, Leader of the single largest party in the Lok Sabha from the membership of HLC was noted.

- The committee also informed that letters have been sent to **6 National parties**, 33 State parties and 7 Registered unrecognised parties inviting their suggestions on ONOE.

66. In October 2023, Union Minister of State (MoS) of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & Information Technology(IT) Rajeev Chandrasekhar launched a project named “Heartland Tripura” to _____.

- 1) Provide IT training program to women
- 2) Provide loan for small business
- 3) Enhance the employability and skills of the youth
- 4) Provide information about Skill Development programs
- 5) Provide skill Development training to student

Answer- 3) enhance the employability and skills of the youth

Explanation:

Union Minister of State(**MoS**) Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Ministry of **Skill Development & Entrepreneurship** and Electronics & Information Technology (**IT**) launched a project named **“Heartland Tripura”** to enhance the **employability and skills of the youth** of Tripura.

i. This project was launched in partnership with Deloitte India and the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), Agartala(Tripura)and they signed an agreement in the inaugural ceremony.

ii. NIELIT (Agartala) provides skill development certification courses through the project “Heartland Tripura” which enhances career and personal development opportunities for undergraduate students in both engineering and non-engineering fields.

67. Which state government has recently (in Oct ‘23) launched the ‘Swayampurna e-bazaar’, an online platform to sell products across India made by self-help groups, local artisans, and women?

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

Answer- 5) Goa

Explanation:

Goa Chief Minister(CM) Pramod Sawant launched the **‘Swayampurna e-bazaar’**, an online platform to sell products across India made by self-help groups, local artisans, and women of Goa.

i. The **Goa** government is set to provide training at the panchayat level through Swayampurna Mitras on the packaging of items for sale through the Swayampurna e-bazaar portal.

ii. The Swayampurna e-bazaar is an extension of the successful Swayampurna Chavath e-bazaar’, an online food delivery portal integrated with the Swiggy app for delivering food products produced by local Goa people.

68. In October 2023, _____ became the first state in India to have hallmarking centers in all districts.

- 1) Tamil Nadu
- 2) Maharashtra

- 3) Karnataka
- 4) Madhya Pradesh
- 5) Kerala

Answer- **5) Kerala**

Explanation:

Kerala has become the **first state in India** to have hallmarking centers in all of its **14 districts**. This was achieved after the inauguration of a hallmarking center in Adimali, Idukki district, Kerala.

- This will make Kerala a hub of gold business and strengthen its claim to being the most reliable market in India.
- i. The gold business in Kerala is worth more than Rs 1 lakh crore with annual sales of around 250 tonnes.
 - ii. In Kerala, there are about 12,000 gold merchants and majority of them are holding Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) registration.

69. The Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme completed its _____ year in 2023.

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

Answer- **4) 6th**

Explanation:

The Regional Connectivity Scheme (**RCS**) – **UDAN** (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik i.e. let the country's common man fly) Scheme which focuses on improving unserved air routes in underserved regions of India, completes its **6th year** in 2023.

- i. The RCS-UDAN scheme was launched as part of the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016 by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) on October 21, 2016, with a 10-year vision.
 - ii. The first RCS-UDAN flight was inaugurated by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on 27th April 2017, connecting Shimla(Himachal Pradesh) to Delhi.
 - iii. RCS-UDAN is contributing to the growth of the civil aviation industry as four new & successful airlines have come up in the last 6 years.
- The scheme has helped airline operators to start up and develop a sustainable business model.

70. Name the Armed forces that has recently (in Oct '23) signed a contract with an Indian manufacturer for the procurement of automatic weather stations at 82 IAF locations.

- 1) Indian Navy
- 2) Indian Air Force
- 3) Indian Army
- 4) Indian Coast Guard
- 5) Indo-Tibetan Border Police

Answer- **2) Indian Air Force**

Explanation:

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has signed a contract with an **Indian manufacturer** for the procurement of **automatic weather stations** at **82 IAF locations**.

- This technology advancement will significantly improve aerospace safety by providing real-time weather updates throughout flight operations and training.
- i.** This procurement is especially crucial for India's strategic positions, including Daulat Beg Oldie(Ladakh), the highest airstrip at 16,700 feet, as well as Fukche and Nyoma in Ladakh, which have been approved for conversion into fully operational fighter bases.
- ii.** This procurement will also help several advanced landing grounds (ALGS) in Ladakh, including Tuting, Vijaynagar, Walong, Ziro, and Tawang, as well as various high-altitude helipads.

71. Which of the following company has recently (in October '23) launched India's 1st reference Gasoline and diesel fuels used to calibrate and test vehicles?

- 1) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
- 2) Reliance Industries Limited
- 3) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- 4) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
- 5) GAIL India Limited

Answer- 3) Indian Oil Corporation Limited

Explanation:

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) launched the India's 1st **Reference Gasoline** and **Diesel Fuels** produced by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (**IOCL**).

- With this launch, India joined the elite group of nations with domestic production of 'Reference' Petrol and Diesel and **IOCL** becomes the **4th refiner** in the world to produce 'reference' grade petrol and diesel.
- IOCL's Paradip refinery (Odisha) will produce 'reference' grade petrol; IOCL's Panipat Refinery (Haryana) will produce 'reference' quality diesel.
- The Reference fuels (gasoline and diesel) are premium high-value products that are used to calibrate and test vehicles by auto Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEMs) and testing agencies like the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) and the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI).
- The regular fuel has an octane number of 87, but premium fuel has an octane number of 91. Reference grade fuel comes with a **97 octane number**.

72. In October 2023, which ministry has collaborated with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to work together for the promotion of green energy?

- 1) Ministry of Tourism
- 2) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- 3) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- 4) Ministry of Coal
- 5) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

Answer- 4) Ministry of Coal

Explanation:

The Ministry of Coal and the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) collaborated to work together for the promotion of green energy.

- MNRE will provide technical, policy, and capacity-building assistance, while the Ministry of Coal will supply land and capital to construct solar energy, green hydrogen, and other renewable energy projects.

- MNRE is set to support the Ministry of Coal and its CPSEs for capacity-building training of engineers, technicians, and other functionaries through the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE)Gurgaon (Haryana).
- MNRE will provide knowledge partnerships through the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee (Uttarakhand), the Solar Energy Corporation of India, and its other resource agencies.

73. Which state forest department has recently (in October '23) launched the Hostile Activity Watch Kernel (HAWK) system to monitor all aspects of forest and wildlife crime?

- 1) Assam
- 2) Uttarakhand
- 3) Karnataka
- 4) Odisha
- 5) Tamil Nadu

Answer- 3) Karnataka

Explanation:

The Karnataka Forest Department, along with Wildlife Trust of India(WTI) has launched the Hostile Activity Watch Kernel (HAWK) system, a specialised software platform to monitor all aspects of forest and wildlife crime.

- The initiative is supported by **NTT DATA**, an Information technology (IT) services provider, under its Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR) programme.
- HAWK is a cloud-based information Management System designed to manage interlinked databases of **wildlife crime, wildlife criminals**, and wildlife mortality.
- HAWK has been an official system of the Kerala Forest Department since it was launched in 2019.

74. In Which airport has recently(in October '23) inaugurated an Indigenously built Air Traffic Management Automation System (ATMAS) in Odisha?

- 1) Berhampur Airport
- 2) Rourkela Airport
- 3) Jharsuguda Airport
- 4) Biju Patnaik International Airport
- 5) Savitri Jindal Airport

Answer- 4) Biju Patnaik International Airport

Explanation:

- The Indigenously built state of the art Air Traffic Management Automation System (ATMAS) at the Biju Patnaik International Airport, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
The ATMAS was jointly developed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- The ATMAS was jointly inaugurated by Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman of AAI and hanu Prakash Srivastava , Chairman and Managing Director(CMD) of BEL.
- The ATMAS will help to improve the safety, efficiency, and capacity of air traffic management in India.

75. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the 52nd GST Council Meeting, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, held at New Delhi, Delhi on 7th October 2023?

A) GST at 18% will be levied on 1% of the total amount guaranteed by the parent company or the actual consideration.

B) Reduction of GST on molasses from 28% to 5% to increase liquidity with mills & to reduce the cost of manufacturing cattle feed.

C) The GST on Job work services for processing of barley into malt has been reduced from 28% to 12%.

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 26th October 2023, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (**CBIC**) under the Ministry of Finance issued a notification stating that GST (Goods and Services Tax) will be levied on guarantees provided by corporations to their subsidiaries prospectively. The corporate guarantee would be taxable from the date of the notification.

- As per the notification, GST at **18%** will be levied on 1% of the total amount guaranteed by the **parent company** or the actual consideration, whichever is higher.
- This modification was recommended during the **52nd GST Council Meeting**, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, held on 7th October 2023 in New Delhi, Delhi.
- Reduction of **GST on molasses** from 28% to 5%. This will help to increase liquidity with mills. Further, It will help to reduce the cost of manufacturing cattle feed.
- The **GST on Job work services** for processing of barley into malt has been reduced from **18% to 5%**.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Which country has recently (in Sept '23) signed a Social Security Agreement (SSA) with India to ensure professionals and workers retain benefits?

1) France

2) Brazil

3) Spain

4) Argentina

5) Germany

Answer- 4) Argentina

Explanation:

On September 29, 2023, a Social Security Agreement (**SSA**) was signed between **India** and **Argentina** to ensure professionals and workers retain benefits and contributions made toward social security, promoting easier mobility between countries.

- i. This SSA covers Indian laws on old age, survivor's pension and permanent, total disability pension for employed persons, and includes Argentina's contributory benefits under their Social Security System.
- ii. The agreement grants temporary overseas workers and their families full rights to contributory benefits such as cash allowance for retirement or pension, rent, subsidy or lump sum payments, without reduction, modification, or suspension.

2. In October 2023, the World Health Organization(WHO) recommended R21/Matrix-M, the new malaria vaccine developed by _____.

- 1) Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology & Bharat Biotech International Ltd
- 2) Jenner Institute, Oxford University & Serum Institute of India
- 3) Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology & Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd
- 4) Jenner Institute, Oxford University & Bharat Biotech International Ltd
- 5) AstraZeneca plc & Serum Institute of India

Answer- 2) Jenner Institute, Oxford University & Serum Institute of India

Explanation:

World Health Organization (**WHO**) has recommended **R21/Matrix-M**, the new malaria vaccine developed by **Jenner Institute at Oxford University**(the United Kingdom -UK) and Serum Institute of India (SII) Private Limited leveraging Novavax's adjuvant technology, for the prevention of malaria in children.

- i. The vaccine was developed with the support of the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), the Wellcome Trust, and the European Investment Bank (EIB)
- ii. The recommendation follows advice from the WHO: Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) and the Malaria Policy Advisory Group (MPAG).
- iii. The R21 vaccine is the 2nd malaria vaccine recommended by WHO, after the RTS,S/AS01 vaccine(Mosquirix), which received a WHO recommendation in 2021. Mosquirix was manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline plc.

3. In October 2023, North America's first _____ (Personality) Museum opened in Houston, Texas, United States of America (USA).

- 1) Mother Teresa
- 2) Mahatma Gandhi
- 3) Jawaharlal Nehru
- 4) Subhas Chandra Bose
- 5) Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar

Answer- 2) Mahatma Gandhi

Explanation:

The Eternal Gandhi Museum Houston (**EGMH**), **North America's first Gandhi** (Mahatma Gandhi) Museum opened in **Houston**, Texas, United States of America (**USA**).

- i. The ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Museum was held on 2nd October on the occasion of the 154th birth anniversary of Gandhi While the museum officially opened to the public on 15th August 2023.
- ii. Dr Rajmohan Gandhi(grandson of Mahatma Gandhi), Isaac Newton Farris Jr(nephew of Martin Luther King), and Consulate General of India(CGI) Houston D Manjunath were the special guests amongst several at the event.

iii. The architecture of the 13,000-square-foot museum is inspired by Gandhi's twenty-four-spoke Chakra spinning wheel and the statue of Gandhi placed in front of the museum.

4. Name the International Organisation that has recently (in Oct '23) approved the World's 1st Green Bond Standards to avoid Greenwashing.

- 1) United Nations Environment Programme
- 2) United Nations Development Programme
- 3) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- 4) African Union
- 5) European Union

Answer- **5) European Union**

Explanation:

European Union (EU) lawmakers approved new standards for companies issuing "green" bonds to help investors by enabling them to distinguish truly sustainable companies from those engaged in greenwashing or misleading climate-friendly claims.

- i.** These standards introduce the "European Green Bond" label, representing a **first-of-its-kind** global initiative.
- ii.** Europe has emerged as a global leader in the issuance of green bonds, representing over 50% of the total volume in 2021, issuance is still only 3% to 3.5% of the overall bond market.

5. In October 2023, _____ (country) took over as Chair of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for the period 2023 to 2025, while India assumed the Vice-Chair role of IORA for 2023-25.

- 1) Maldives
- 2) Bangladesh
- 3) Indonesia
- 4) Tanzania
- 5) Sri Lanka

Answer- **5) Sri Lanka**

Explanation:

On October 11, 2023, **Sri Lanka** took over as **Chair** of Indian Ocean Rim Association (**IORA**) for the period **2023 to 2025** during the **23rd** Council of Ministers' (**COM**) **meeting** of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (**IORA**) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 11 October 2023.

- i.** Sri Lanka took over from the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the current Chair of IORA (2021 to 2023).
 - Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Ali Sabry will chair the Council, the highest decision-making body of the IORA.
- ii.** India assumed the Vice-Chair role of IORA for 2023-25. India is set to take over the chairship of IORA during 2025-27. India participated in the 23rd COM of IORA and 24th CSO meeting of IORA.
- iii.** India-Sri Lanka launch logo to mark 75th year of diplomatic ties. It was shared by Union Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

The logo is shaded with hues of the two national flags. It depicts the national emblems and captures the spirit of partnership, friendship and close ties between the two countries.

6. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s 1st first-ever global estimation of the impact of disasters on agricultural production report released in October 2023, the Global aggregate losses for the past 30 years (1991-2021) due to disaster events amounts to USD _____.

- 1) 3.2 trillion
- 2) 2.6 trillion
- 3) 3.8 trillion
- 4) 4.0 trillion
- 5) 2.8 trillion

Answer- 3) 3.8 trillion

Explanation:

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**) released a report titled 'The Impact of Disasters on Agriculture and Food Security 2023-Avoiding and reducing losses through investment in resilience' which is the **first-ever global estimation** of the impact of disasters on agricultural production focused on crops and livestock.

i. As per the report, the Global aggregate losses for the **past 30 years (1991-2021)** due to disasters events amounts to **USD 3.8 trillion**, corresponding to about USD 123 billion per year.

ii. This value is equivalent to 5% of global agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and nearly 300 million tonnes of accumulated losses per year, or the real GDP of Brazil in the year 2022.

- The disaster events include floods, droughts, insect infestations, storms, disease and war.
- The report has been prepared and jointly produced by the Statistics Division (ESS) and the Office of Emergencies and Resilience (OER) of FAO.
- Between 1991-2021, lower and lower-middle-income countries lost 10% to 15% of their agricultural GDP due to disasters. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) lost nearly 7% of their agricultural GDP.

7. Name the Military Unit of Indian Army that has recently (in Oct '23) won the gold medal at the Cambrian Patrol Competition 2023, an International Military Exercise organised in Wales, United Kingdom (UK) in October 2023.

- 1) 3/5 Rajputana Rifles
- 2) 11 Jammu & Kashmir Rifles
- 3) 3/5 Gorkha Rifles
- 4) 2 Kumaon Rifles
- 5) 11 Garhwal Rifles

Answer- 3) 3/5 Gorkha Rifles

Explanation:

The **3/5 Gorkha Rifles** (Frontier Force) team clinched a **gold medal** for the Indian Army (IA) at the **Cambrian Patrol Competition 2023**, an International Military Exercise organized in Wales, United Kingdom (UK) from October 6, 2023 to October 15, 2023.

- 67 Punjab Regiment of Pakistan Army received silver medal
- Soldiers from 1st Battalion Irish Guards (British Army) and the 13th Demi-Brigade of the French Foreign Legion (France) have become the first joint effort between a British Army and international team to complete and win Bronze in the exercise.

i. Cambrian Patrol 2023 Military Exercise was hosted by Headquarters 160th (Welsh) Brigade on behalf of Commander Field Army of the UK Army.

ii. The Cambrian Patrol Exercise is often dubbed the 'Olympics of Military Patrolling' as it is considered the ultimate test of human endurance and team spirit.

- The 2023 exercise saw a participation of 111 teams, encompassing 38 international contingents.

8. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Climate Week 2023 held in October 2023?

A) Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Climate Week 2023, took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia which precedes COP28, the UN Climate Change Conference scheduled to take place in Dubai from late November 2023.

B) The Sustainable Tourism Global Center (STGC), based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, has launched the world's first Global Solutions Hub at MENA Climate Week.

C) The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Saudi Arabia during the MENA Climate Week in Riyadh covers several key areas of energy cooperation.

- 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:

Middle East and North Africa (**MENA**) **Climate Week 2023**, took place from 8-12 October in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It is the 2nd of four Regional Climate Weeks held in 2023. MENA Climate Week is particularly significant as it precedes **COP28**, the UN Climate Change Conference scheduled to take place in **Dubai** from late November 2023.

- It is organized by key international organizations, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Bank.
- The MENA Climate Week features discussions related to the Global Stocktake (GST) of the Paris Agreement, 2015, which aims to mitigate global warming.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) signed between **India** and **Saudi Arabia** during the MENA Climate Week in Riyadh covers several key areas of energy cooperation.
- India and Saudi Arabia have reached an agreement to encourage investments in each other's countries, specifically in new and renewable energy sector.
- The Public Investment Fund (PIF) of Saudi Arabia and the Saudi Electricity Company (SEC) announced the launch of the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Company. PIF owned a 75% stake in the Company, while SEC held the remaining 25% stake.
- Saudi Awwal Bank (SAB) is one of the National champions for MENA Climate Week 2023. SAB is proud to contribute to the event, aligning with the nation's Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and sustainability objectives.
- The Sustainable Tourism Global Center (STGC), based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, has launched the world's first Global Solutions Hub at MENA Climate Week.

9. According to the “International Migration Outlook: 2023” published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in October 2023, India has retained its position as the top country of origin for new migrants to the member countries of OECD in 2021 for the _____ consecutive year.

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

Answer- 2) 2nd

Explanation:

According to the “International Migration Outlook: 2023” published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), for the **2nd consecutive year, India** has retained its position as the **top country of origin for new migrants** to the member countries of OECD in 2021.

- More than 407,000 people (excluding students) have migrated from India to OECD countries in 2021. This accounts to around 7.5% of the total migration flow. This was 86% higher than 220,000 Indians in 2020.
- China is ranked 2nd with 227,000 new migrants followed by Romania (215,000); Ukraine (189,000); and Germany(119,000).

10. In October 2023, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) secured membership in the International Competition Network (ICN) Steering Group for _____ (years).

- 1) 6
- 2) 4
- 3) 5
- 4) 2
- 5) 3

Answer- 4) 2

Explanation:

The Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) secures membership in the International Competition Network (**ICN**) **Steering Group** at the 22nd Annual Conference of the ICN, hosted by the Spanish National Markets and Competition Commission (CNMC) in Barcelona, Spain from 18 to 20 October 2023.

- This is the 1st time that CCI has become a member of the ICN’s apex body, a Steering Group and the membership is for **2 years**.
- With more than 140 member competition agencies, ICN operates under the guidance of its Steering Group, composed of 18 esteemed members worldwide.

11. In October 2023, India and the European Union(EU) conducted their first joint naval exercise in the _____(place).

- 1) Gulf of Aqaba
- 2) Gulf of Honduras
- 3) Gulf of Aden
- 4) Gulf of Bothnia
- 5) Gulf of Guinea

Answer- **5) Gulf of Guinea**

Explanation:

India and the European Union (**EU**) conducted their first joint naval exercise in the Gulf of Guinea on **24th October 2023**. The exercise was designed to uphold the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (**UNCLOS**).

- The exercise took place after the third meeting of the EU-India Maritime Security Dialogue, which was held in Brussels on October 5, 2023.
- i. The exercise involved the Indian Navy's Offshore Patrol Vessel Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sumedha
- ii. Ships of 3 EU member states (Italy, France and Spain) also participated in the exercise. They are:
 - Italian Ship Foscari – Italian Navy
 - French Ship(FS) Ventôse – French Navy
 - Spanish Ship Tornado – Spanish Navy.
- iii. The Yaoundé Architecture is a regional framework for maritime security cooperation to prevent and prosecute illicit activities in the Gulf of Guinea.

12. According to the report 'World Energy Outlook 2023' released by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in October 2023, India's growing electricity demand, with annual growth of around 5%, makes India the third-largest electricity consumer globally by _____ (year).

- 1) 2025
- 2) 2030
- 3) 2050
- 4) 2035
- 5) 2040

Answer- **3) 2050**

Explanation:

The International Energy Agency (**IEA**) has released a report, **World Energy Outlook 2023**, which presents a vision of substantial changes in the global energy system by 2030. The report highlights **India's growing electricity demand**, with annual growth of around 5%, making it the **third-largest electricity** consumer globally by **2050**, after China and the United States of America(USA).

- **Early Peak in Fossil Fuel Use:** Global use of fossil fuels is expected to peak by 2025, 2 years earlier than previously anticipated. Coal, oil, and gas are each projected to peak before 2030, driven by the rapid growth of low-carbon technologies.
- **Investment in Clean Energy:** Global investment in clean energy is nearly double that of fossil fuels, and this trend is expected to continue, with clean energy outspending fossil fuels by 2.5 times in 2030.
- Under the Stated Policies Scenario (STEPS), India's energy supply is estimated to rise from 42 exajoules (EJ) in 2022 to 53.7 EJ in 2030 and 73 EJ in 2050.
- The report emphasizes that, based on current government policies, global temperatures are still expected to rise by 2.5°C, well above the target set in the Paris Agreement of limiting global warming to 1.5°C.
- The IEA's World Energy Outlook-2023 report predicts a 30% reduction in CO2 emissions from India's industry and a 25% reduction in CO2 emissions per kilometre driven by passenger cars by 2030.

13. Name the country/Island that has recently (in Oct '23) removed from the grey list of Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

- 1) Bahrain
- 2) Yemen
- 3) Cayman Islands
- 4) Ukraine
- 5) Bulgaria

Answer- 3) Cayman Islands

Explanation:

According to the review published by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on 27th October 2023, Cayman Islands was removed from the **FATF 'grey list'** – Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring. Panama, Jordan, and Albania were also removed from FATF's Grey list while **Bulgaria** was **added** to the list.

- FATF is an inter-governmental body that sets anti-money laundering standards.
- The grey list identifies countries that are actively working with the FATF to address strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing.

GOVT SCHEMES

1. Name the state government that has recently (in Sept '23) launched the Mukhya Mantri Lok Sevak Arogya Yojana, an online medical bill reimbursement scheme for the Government employees, pensioners and their dependents.

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

Answer- 5) Assam

Explanation:

On 2 October 2023, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, **Assam** Chief Minister (CM) Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the Ayushman Asom: **Mukhya Mantri Lok Sevak Arogya Yojana**, an online **medical bill reimbursement scheme** for the Government of Assam's **employees, pensioners and their dependents**, at the event held in Sankardev Kalakshetra International Auditorium in Guwahati, Assam.

- i.** As part of the event, the CM transferred the first installment of Rs. 9,000 each to the bank accounts of 1 lakh beneficiaries under the Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) scheme.
- ii.** Objective: The primary goal of this scheme is to provide financial health coverage of Rs. 5 Lakhs (per family, per year) to all the Assam Government employees, pensioners, and their dependents.

2. Which state government has recently (in Sept '23) launched 'Mukhyamantri Sukh Ashraya Yojana' to support orphan children and other vulnerable sections of society?

- 1) Jharkhand
- 2) Uttarakhand

3) Himachal Pradesh

4) Gujarat

5) Maharashtra

Answer- **3) Himachal Pradesh**

Explanation:

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the '**Mukhyamantri Sukh Ashraya Yojana**' at the Ridge in Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) to provide comprehensive support to orphans, specially-abled children, destitute women, and elderly individuals in Himachal Pradesh.

i. With this scheme, **Himachal Pradesh** became the **first state in India** to enact a law aimed at supporting orphan children and other vulnerable sections of society.

ii. The Himachal government decided to adopt the orphans, the specially-abled children as the 'Children of the State' and work for their upliftment and well-being, including parental care.

3. Which state government has recently (in Oct '23) launched the Location Accessible Multimodal Initiative (LAccMI) Yojana to offer reliable and affordable public transit (bus service)?

1) Assam

2) Odisha

3) Jharkhand

4) West Bengal

5) Uttar Pradesh

Answer- **2) Odisha**

Explanation:

Odisha Chief Minister (CM) Naveen Patnaik launched the Location Accessible Multimodal Initiative (**LAccMI**) Yojana in **Malkangiri** district of **Odisha**. The LAccMI scheme aims to offer reliable and **affordable public transit (bus service)** throughout Odisha, with a focus on rural areas.

- LAccMI is a public transportation system connecting gram panchayats to Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha.
- In the first phase of the scheme, a fleet of 36 buses were launched and more than 1000 buses will be deployed in a phased manner.

i. CM launched the "**Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha (Our Odisha, New Odisha)**" scheme and began disbursing funds for panchayat development in Odisha. The scheme aims to boost rural infrastructure and promote Jagannath culture across Odisha.

- The State Government of Odisha approved Rs 148.50 crore for 297 gram panchayats coming under six Assembly constituencies of Keonjhar district and Rs 109 crore for 218 gram panchayats in Bhadrak district.

4. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana (PM- AJAY), as of October 2023?

A) Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana (PM- AJAY) is a merged Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented from 2021-2022 with an aim to reduce poverty of the Scheduled Caste (SC) community.

B) The 3 schemes were Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP) & Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY).

C) The scheme is implemented through the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment(MoSJ&E).

- 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:

Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana (PM- AJAY) is a **merged Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented** since 2021-2022 with an aim to reduce poverty of the Scheduled Caste (SC) community.

- The 3 schemes were Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP) & Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana(BJRCY).
- The scheme is implemented through the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment(**MoSJ&E**).

i. Objectives:

- To reduce poverty of the SC communities by generation of additional employment through skill development, income generating schemes and other initiatives.
- To improve socio-economic developmental indicators by ensuring adequate infrastructure and requisite services in the SC dominated villages.
- To increase literacy and encourage enrolment of SCs in schools and higher educational institutions and offer residential schools in the aspirational districts/ SC dominated blocks.

VISITS

1. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the visit of Uttarakhand Chief Minister (CM) Pushkar Singh Dhami to London and Birmingham, the United Kingdom (UK) in September 2023?

- A) During the Uttarakhand CM’s visit, the Uttarakhand government signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with various companies for investment proposals worth more than Rs 12,500 crore.**
- B) Uttarakhand CM participated in the Roadshow organized for the Global Investors Summit in Birmingham (UK) and held discussions with various prospective industrialists of Birmingham.**
- C) The Uttarakhand government signed an MoU worth Rs. 2,000 crore with Poma Group, a French cable car company for investment in Uttarakhand Global Investor’s Summit in London (UK).**

- 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:

Uttarakhand Chief Minister (CM) Pushkar Singh Dhama visited London and Birmingham, the United Kingdom (UK) from September 26-28, 2023 to invite Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and industrialists for the upcoming Uttarakhand Global Investor Summit to be held in Dehradun, Uttarakhand in December 2023 to achieve the goal of a strong Uttarakhand.

- During his visit, the Uttarakhand government signed Memoranda of Understanding (**MoUs**) with various companies for investment proposals worth more than **Rs 12,500 crore**.
- Uttarakhand CM participated in the Roadshow organized for the **Global Investors Summit in Birmingham (UK)** and held discussions with various prospective industrialists of Birmingham.
- The theme of the Global Investor Summit to be organized in Uttarakhand has been kept as "Peace to Prosperity".
- The Uttarakhand government signed an MoU worth Rs. 2,000 crore with **Poma Group**, a French cable car company for investment in Uttarakhand Global Investor's Summit in London (UK).
- The MoU was signed by Vinay Shankar Pandey, Secretary (industries) Uttarakhand on behalf of the Uttarakhand government.
- Uttarakhand CM Dhama Signs MoUs worth Rs 3,000 Crore with Aager Technology and Fira Barcelona
- Investment MoUs worth Rs 3,000 crore were signed by the government of Uttarakhand during Pushkar Singh Dami's 4-day visit to the UK. The MoUs were signed with 2 companies during the meeting organised for the Global Investors Summit in London, UK.
- An MoU worth Rs 2,000 crore was signed with Aager Technology and another for investment worth Rs 1,000 crore with Fira Barcelona.

2. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the visit of Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi to Madhya Pradesh(MP) and Rajasthan in October 2023?

A) In Gwalior, MP, PM laid the foundation stone and dedicated multiple development initiatives worth around Rs 19,260 crores.

B) On 2nd October 2023, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, PM Modi inaugurated the India's 1st state-of-the-art sports training facility for individuals with disabilities, known as the Atal Bihari Training Center for Divyang Sports, in Gwalior, MP

C) In Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, He laid the foundation stone and dedicated various development projects worth about Rs 7000 crore.

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

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

Explanation:

On 2nd October 2023, Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi visited Madhya Pradesh(MP) and Rajasthan.

- In Gwalior, MP, He laid the foundation stone and dedicated multiple development initiatives worth around **Rs 19,260 crores**.
- The Prime Minister dedicated the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway, developed at a cost of approximately Rs. 11,895 crores.
- Grih Pravesh of over 2.2 lakh houses built under PMAY – Gramin were initiated by the Prime Minister. He also dedicated houses constructed under PMAY – Urban at a cost of around Rs 140 crores.
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone for 9 new health centers under Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission. This aims to boost the health infrastructure in MP.
- On 2nd October 2023, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, PM Modi inaugurated the **India's 1st state-of-the-art sports training facility** for individuals with disabilities, known as the Atal Bihari Training Center for Divyang Sports, in Gwalior, MP
- In **Chittorgarh, Rajasthan**, He laid the foundation stone and dedicated various development projects worth about **Rs 7000 crore**.
- Mehsana – Bhatinda – Gurdaspur Gas Pipeline: Built at a cost of about Rs. 4,500 crores.
- Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Plant of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) at Abu Road.

3. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the visit of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi to Mahbubnagar & Nizamabad Telangana in October 2023?

A) During PM’s visit to Mahbubnagar, He laid the foundation stone for the key road projects which are a part of the Nagpur – Vijayawada Economic Corridor.

B) During his visit to Nizamabad, PM dedicated the first 800 MW Unit of Phase I of the Telangana Super Thermal Power Project in Peddapalli district.

C) PM Modi laid the foundation stone for 20 Critical Care Blocks (CCBs) under the Pradhan Mantri – Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).

1) Only A

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** visited **Telangana** on the 1st and 3rd of October 2023.

- On 1st October 2023, he laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple developmental projects worth more than Rs 13,500 crore in Mahbubnagar, Telangana.
- On 3rd October 2023, he laid the foundation stone and dedicated various development projects worth Rs 8000 crores in Nizamabad, Telangana.

i. PM’s visit to Mahbubnagar, Telangana on 1st October 2023:

- PM Modi laid the foundation stone for the key road projects which are a part of the **Nagpur – Vijayawada Economic Corridor**. These projects will be developed at a cost of around Rs 6400 crores.
- He dedicated the ‘Hassan-Cherlapalli LPG Pipeline Project’, connecting Hassan in Karnataka to Cherlapalli (a suburb of Hyderabad), was developed at a cost of about Rs 2170 crore.