

GUPTA

CLASSES

Current Affairs

October-2023

English

Part-2



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CLASSES

ii. PM's visit to Nizamabad, Telangana on 3rd October 2023:

- PM dedicated the **first 800 MW Unit of Phase I** of the Telangana Super Thermal Power Project in Peddapalli district.
 - He also announced that the upcoming second unit will raise the plant's capacity to 4,000 MW.
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone for 20 Critical Care Blocks (**CCBs**) under the Pradhan Mantri – Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (**PM-ABHIM**).

4. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the visit of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi to Rajasthan & Madhya Pradesh in October 2023?

A) PM inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple projects in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, with a total estimated value of around Rs 5000 crores.

B) During his visit to Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, a Rs.500 commemorative coin and postage stamp were released to mark the 500th birth anniversary of Veerangana Rani Durgavati.

C) The Prime Minister inaugurated more than 1000 houses constructed under the Light House Project in Indore, part of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U).

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

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

Explanation:

Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi** visited **Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh** and launched multiple development projects on October 5, 2023.

i. PM Dedicates and Lays Foundation for Rs 5000 Crore Projects in Jodhpur, Rajasthan

- On October 5, 2023, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple projects in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, with a total estimated value of around **Rs 5000 crores**. These projects span various sectors, including healthcare, education, transportation, and infrastructure.
- The PM inaugurated the development of a new state-of-the-art terminal building at Jodhpur Airport. To be built at a total cost of Rs 480 crore, the New Terminal Building will be developed in an area of about 24,000 sqm.
- The Prime Minister inaugurated the doubling of the **145 km long Degana-Rai Ka Bagh rail line** and the 58 km long Degana-Kuchaman City rail line.

ii. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, recently visited Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, where he laid the foundation stone and dedicated several development projects worth more than **Rs 12,600 crore.**

- The Prime Minister inaugurated more than 1000 houses constructed under the Light House Project in Indore, part of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (**PMAY-U**).
- The Prime Minister performed the 'bhoomi poojan' for the 'Veerangana Rani Durgavati Smarak aur Udyaan' in Jabalpur. To mark the **500th birth anniversary of Veerangana Rani Durgavati**, a Rs.500 commemorative coin and postage stamp were released.

- The PM inaugurated projects worth more than Rs 4800 crore for improving the road infrastructure in Madhya Pradesh. He laid the foundation stone of projects including the upgradation of road connecting Jharkheda– Berasia – Dholkhedi of NH 346.

5. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the visit of Union Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh to Italy and France in October 2023?

- A) During the visit of Union Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh to Rome, Italy, a defence cooperation agreement was signed between India and Italy to promote bilateral cooperation.**
- B) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited ‘VC Yeshwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial’ in Montone, Perugia province of Italy and paid tributes to Naik Yeshwant Ghadge (23) and other Indian soldiers who fought in the Italian Campaign in World War II.**
- C) During his visit to Paris, France, Union Minister Rajnath Singh conducted the 5th Annual Defence Dialogue with French Minister of Armed Forces Mr Sebastien Lecornu in Paris.**

- 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:

From October 9-12, 2023, **India’s Union Minister Rajnath Singh**, Ministry of Defence(MoD) was on an official visit to **Rome, Italy** and **Paris, France**, the details of which are as follows:

- On October 9, 2023, Union Minister Rajnath Singh visited Rome, Italy. This visit was the first in over 20 years by an Indian Defence Minister to Italy. He was received by the Indian Ambassador to Italy Dr Neena Malhotra and Italy’s Minister of Defence Guido Crosetto at Ciampino Airport, Rome. He was also given Guard of Honour at Villa Madama in Rome.
- India’s Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a meeting with his Italian counterpart i.e. Italian Defence Minister Guido Crosetto in Rome. During the meet, discussions were held on defence cooperation issues, including training, sharing of information, maritime exercises and maritime security.
- After the meeting, a **defence cooperation agreement** was signed between India and Italy to promote bilateral cooperation in areas such as security and defence policy, Research and Development (R&D), education in military field, maritime domain awareness, sharing of defence information and industrial cooperation, including co-development, co-production & setting up of joint ventures (JVs).
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited **‘VC Yeshwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial’** in Montone, Perugia province of Italy and paid tributes to Naik Yeshwant Ghadge (23) and other Indian soldiers who fought in the Italian Campaign in World War II.
- On October 10, 2023, **India’s Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** arrived in **Paris, France**. He received the Guard of Honour at the French Ministry of Defence.
- On October 11, 2023, Union Minister Rajnath Singh conducted the **5th Annual Defence Dialogue** with French Minister of Armed Forces Mr Sebastien Lecornu in Paris.

6. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the visit of President of Tanzania Samia Suluhu Hassan in October 2023?

A) During the visit of President of Tanzania Samia Suluhu Hassan, Indian & Tanzania signed six agreements including MoU between Cochin Shipyard Ltd. of India and Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL) of Tanzania on Cooperation in Maritime Industry.

B) A MoU was signed between National Sports Council of Tanzania and Sports Authority of India on cooperation in the field of sports.

C) Samia Suluhu Hassan, the first female President of Tanzania, received an honorary doctorate from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

1) Only A

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

President Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania visited India at the invitation of President Droupadi Murmu from October 8-10, 2023. The events took place at Kaushal Bhawan, New Moti Bagh in New Delhi, Delhi. She was accompanied by a high-level delegation including the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Hon. January Makamba (MP).

- She also attended the India-Tanzania Business and Investment Forum on October 10, 2023.
- The **two countries** inked **six agreements** providing for cooperation in the digital domain, culture, sports, maritime industries and white shipping information sharing.
- MoU between **Cochin Shipyard Ltd.** of India and Marine Services Company Limited (**MSCL**) of **Tanzania** on Cooperation in Maritime Industry
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between National Sports Council of Tanzania and Sports Authority of India on cooperation in the field of sports
- **Samia Suluhu Hassan**, the first female President of Tanzania, received an honorary doctorate from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

BANKING AND FINANCE

1. In September 2023, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced the approval of capital management reforms that unlocked USD _____ in fresh funding capacity over the next decades for financing projects in the Asia-Pacific region.

1) 500 billion

2) 300 billion

3) 100 billion

4) 400 billion

5) 200 billion

Answer- **3) 100 billion**

Explanation:

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced the approval of capital management reforms that are set to release approximately **USD(\$100 billion)** in fresh funding capacity over the next decades for financing projects in the Asia-Pacific region.

- People in Asia and the Pacific, especially those who are poor and vulnerable, are facing severe challenges due to escalating and interconnected crises. An estimated 155 million people, or 3.9% of the region's population, lived in extreme poverty as per the report in 2022.
- i. This funding is intended to tackle significant Asian challenges, notably climate change.
- ii. These reforms were implemented by updating the ADB's Capital Adequacy Framework (CAF).
- iii. This represents a substantial increase of approximately USD10 billion, which representing about a 40% rise in the ADB's capability to fund various projects, initiatives, infrastructure, and other essential sectors in the Asia-Pacific region.

2. In September 2023, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) extended the deadline for adding nominees to demat accounts and submitting PAN and KYC details for physical security holders until _____.

- 1) 31st March 2024
- 2) 31st December 2023
- 3) 31st January 2024
- 4) 30th November 2023
- 5) 30th April 2024

Answer- **2) 31st December 2023**

Explanation:

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) extended the **deadline for adding nominees** to demat accounts and submitting **PAN and KYC details** for physical security holders until **December 31, 2023**. SEBI also extended the nomination deadline specifically for mutual fund unit holders until January 1, 2024.

Extension Deadline for Current Demat Account Holders

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced an extension of the deadline for current demat account holders to select their nominees for an additional three months, now ending on December 31, 2023.
- SEBI has extended the deadline to another three months for mutual fund account holders to nominate a beneficiary or opt out until January 1, 2024. If investors fail to comply, their folios will be frozen with effect from January 1, 2024.

Earlier, the deadline for existing mutual fund holders to provide a choice of nomination was September 30.

3. On the occasion of the 2nd edition of NPS Diwas observed on October 1, 2023, which pension management company has launched a first-of-its-kind 'National Pension System (NPS)

Preference Index'?

- 1) Aditya Birla Sun Life Pension Management
- 2) HDFC Pension Management
- 3) ICICI Prudential Pension Fund Management
- 4) Kotak Mahindra Pension Fund Management
- 5) SBI Pension Fund Management

Answer- 2) HDFC Pension Management

Explanation:

HDFC Pension Management Company Limited has launched a first-of-its-kind '**National Pension System (NPS) Preference Index**' on the occasion of 2nd edition of NPS Diwas which was observed on 1st October 2023.

- HDFC Pension also released NPS Preference Index Study which is the industry first spotlight on NPS.
- HDFC Pension Management Company Limited, a subsidiary of HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited is one of the Pension Fund Managers (PFM's) appointed by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) in India to manage funds for the National Pension System (NPS).

i. NPS Preference Index Study 2023:

- The aim of the survey is to assess consumers' views on retirement and their awareness, interest, and contemplation of the NPS. This resulting in the framing NPS Preference Index, which can be tracked over time.

4. Which bank has recently (in Sept '23) signed an MoU with Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) to fund against e-NWRs (electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt)?

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

Answer- 5) Bank of India

Explanation:

Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (**WDRA**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the **Bank of India (BoI)** to fund against **e-NWRs** (electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt).

- i. The MoU was signed in the presence of T.K Manoj Kumar, Chairperson, WDRA, Rajneesh Karnataka, Managing director (MD) cum Chief Executive Officer (CEO), BoI.
- ii. The MoU also aims to provide information to depositors about the benefits, besides doing further outreach activities to improve agricultural pledge finance in India.

5. In September 2023, SBI Life Insurance Company Limited signed a bancassurance pact with the State Bank of _____ (state) to offer insurance solutions accessible.

- 1) Kerala
- 2) Karnataka
- 3) Sikkim
- 4) Tamil Nadu
- 5) Assam

Answer- 3) Sikkim

Explanation:

SBI Life Insurance Company Limited signed a bancassurance pact with the **State Bank of Sikkim (SBS)** to make insurance solutions accessible to the residents of Sikkim.

- i. The agreement was signed by P. Wangdi Bhutia, Managing Director, State Bank of Sikkim, and Jayant Pandey, Regional Director- Bengal region, SBI Life Insurance at the SBS's headquarters in Gangtok, Sikkim.
- ii. Bancassurance is an agreement between a bank and an insurance company, through which the insurer can sell its products to the bank's customers.

6. In September 2023, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) raised Rs _____ by issuing India's first 'AAA' rated Indian Rupee-denominated Social Bonds at a coupon rate of 7.63%.

- 1) 3,103.20 crore
- 2) 5,971.10 crore
- 3) 1,040.50 crore
- 4) 4,023.25 crore
- 5) 2,567.20 crore

Answer- **3) 1,040.50 crore**

Explanation:

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**) raised **Rs 1,040.50 crore** by issuing **India's first 'AAA' rated** Indian Rupee-denominated Social Bonds at a coupon rate of **7.63%**.

- i. **NABARD** issued bonds privately to eligible institutional investors, which were listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange (**BSE**) on **September 29, 2023**. The redemption date for the bonds is September 27, 2028 with coupon payments taking place yearly.
- ii. A social bond is a type of financial instrument issued by governments, international organisations, or corporations to raise funds for projects and initiatives that have a positive social impact on society.

7. In October 2023, the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) entered into a collaboration with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to launch its first bi-lateral fund called India-Japan Fund (IJF) of Rs _____.

- 1) 49 Billion
- 2) 35 Billion
- 3) 52 Billion
- 4) 67 Billion
- 5) 30 Billion

Answer- **1) 49 Billion**

Explanation:

The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (**NIIFL**) has entered into a collaboration with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (**JBIC**) to launch its first bi-lateral fund called India-Japan Fund (**IJF**) of **Rs 49 Billion** (USD 600 million).

- i. The Fund was established by NIIF Limited (NIIFL), a collaborative investment platform for international and Indian investors. The fund is anchored by the Government of India and JBIC.
- ii. Out of Rs 49 Billion, The Government of India (GoI) will contribute Rs 24 Billion (USD 294 million (49%)) and JBIC will fund the remaining Rs 25 Billion (USD 306 million (51%)) of the funding target.
- iii. JBIC's equity participation in the Fund is based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which was signed between JBIC and NIIFL in November 2022.

8. Name the bank that has recently (in Oct '23) collaborated with the Outlook Group to launch "Outlook Money 40After40", a retirement planning event.

- 1) ICICI Bank
- 2) IDFC FIRST Bank
- 3) IndusInd Bank
- 4) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- 5) HDFC Bank

Answer- 2) IDFC FIRST Bank

Explanation:

Outlook Group in collaboration with **IDFC FIRST Bank** launched a retirement planning event "**Outlook Money 40After40**" to spread awareness and create conversations around retirement planning.

i. "40After40" is a two-day event and expo, which will be held at Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai, Maharashtra on 23rd and 24th January, 2024.

ii. IDFC FIRST Bank will spread the need & importance of retirement planning and address the financial needs of the elderly early.

9. Which bank has recently (in Oct '23) launched INDIE, a customer centric digital mobile banking application(app)?

- 1) Indian Bank
- 2) ICICI Bank
- 3) IndusInd Bank
- 4) Bank of India
- 5) IDBI Bank

Answer- 3) IndusInd Bank

Explanation:

IndusInd Bank Limited launched **INDIE**, a customer centric digital mobile banking application(**app**), to empower customers with an all-in-one digital financial solution. This hyper-personalized financial super-app utilises the advanced analytics to provide personalized insights to its customers.

i. The app leverages advanced analytics to provide personalized insights to its customers such as smart reminders, expense tracking, and spending insights..

ii. The app offers a number of industry-first features, including ultra-flexible products that can be customized to meet specific needs of the customer.

10. Name the company that has recently (in Oct '23) merged with the North East Small Finance Bank Limited (NESFBL) to become Small Finance Bank (SFB).

- 1) Zerodha
- 2) Slice
- 3) InCred
- 4) Zeta
- 5) MoneyTap

Answer- 2) Slice

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) approved the merger of North East Small Finance Bank Limited (**NESFBL**) and Bengaluru(Karnataka) based fintech startup **Slice** (previously known as **SlicePAY**).

- i. Following this merger, Slice will become the 1st fintech firm to transform into a Small Finance Bank (SFB).
- ii. All slice entities, including its Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) licence, have been merged with the combined banking entity.

11. Name the subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that has recently (in Oct '23) collaborated with Digital India Bhashini Division to bring linguistic inclusion in the financial services space.

- 1) Reserve Bank Information Technology Private Limited
- 2) Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services
- 3) Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India
- 4) Reserve Bank Innovation Hub
- 5) Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited

Answer- **4) Reserve Bank Innovation Hub**

Explanation:

Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (**RBIH**) and the Digital India Bhashini Division (**DIBD/Bhashini**) collaborated to explore and develop innovative solutions that foster linguistic inclusivity in the financial services sector.

- i. This partnership aims to extend the reach of digital financial services to users in their native tongues, ultimately providing seamless banking experiences for everyone.
- ii. This collaboration is with respect to the memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) which was signed during the Global Fintech Fest (**GFF**) held in Mumbai, Maharashtra in September 2023.
- iii. Bhashini is a Independent Business Division under Digital India Corporation(DIC) under the aegis of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
 - Aim: To build a National Public Digital Platform for languages to develop services and products for citizens by leveraging the power of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies.

12. Name the bank that has recently (in Oct '23) launched its digital banking proposition in the Open 2023 campaign.

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

Answer- **2) Axis Bank**

Explanation:

Axis Bank Limited which is headquartered in Mumbai ,Maharashtra has launched its digital banking proposition called '**open by Axis Bank**' in its latest advertising **campaign 'Open 2023'**

- i. The Open 2023 campaign highlights the top 15 features of the bank's digital offerings.
- ii. The launch of 'open by Axis Bank' is a fulfilment of Axis bank's vision to build Axis 2.0 as a digital bank within the bank to offer a personalized, intuitive, and hassle-free digital banking experience.
- iii. 'open by Axis Bank' is a future-ready mobile application that underscores the bank's pivot towards enhanced digital offerings.

13. In October 2023, _____ became the first bank in India to issue an 'Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) Network Gift Card'.

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

Answer- 3) YES Bank

Explanation:

YES Bank Limited has become the **first bank in India** to issue an '**Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) Network Gift Card**'. The card is powered by Rupay Network.

- i.** The card is issued in partnership with the ONDC, a government-backed initiative to democratize digital commerce in India.
- ii.** This network-wide gift card will help companies with corporate gifting and employee engagement, and it will also allow consumers to shop at thousands of sellers on the network using any ONDC-compatible buyer app.

14. Which of the following points is 'Incorrect' with respect to the 4th Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy statement for FY24 released by RBI in October 2023?

- 1) The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has opted to keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.50% for the 4th time in a row.
- 2) The Reverse Repo Rate and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate are kept unchanged at 3.35% & 6.75% respectively.
- 3) The Bank Rate is kept unchanged at 6.25%.
- 4) India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is projected at 6.5 per cent for 2023-24.
- 5) RBI projects that Inflation is expected to average 5.4% in the fiscal year 2023-2024.

Answer- 3) The Bank Rate is kept unchanged at 6.25%.

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced its fourth bi-monthly monetary policy. The RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das-led Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting on October 4-6, 2023, decided to keep the rates and stance unchanged.

- Policy Repo Rate: For the 4th time in a row, the MPC has opted to keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.50%.
- The last adjustment to this rate was a 25-basis point increase to 6.50% during the February 2023 meeting.

Category	Rates
Policy Repo Rate	6.50%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%

Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate	6.75%
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate	6.25%
Bank Rate	6.75%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18%

- The MPC provided projections for real gross domestic product (GDP) growth projected at 6.5% for the fiscal year 2023-24.
- RBI projects that Inflation is expected to average 5.4% in the fiscal year 2023–2024, which remained unchanged. Additionally, the target for economic growth remains at 6.5% for the same period.

15. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the initiatives by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in October 2023?

A) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the existing limit of gold loans under the bullet repayment scheme from Rs 4 lakh to Rs 6 lakh in certain urban co-operative banks (UCBs).

B) Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das announced the extension of the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme by 2 years, until December 31, 2025.

C) RBI proposes to introduce Card-on-File Tokenisation (CoFT) creation facilities directly at the issuer bank level.

- 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:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced to double the gold loan limit under the bullet repayment scheme for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs). Monetary ceiling for gold loans under this scheme increased from **Rs. 2.00 lakh to Rs. 4.00 lakh** for UCBs that meet Priority Sector Lending (PSL) target and sub targets as on March 31, 2023.

- Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das announced the extension of the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme by 2 years, until December 31, 2025.
- RBI proposes to introduce Card-on-File Tokenisation (CoFT) creation facilities directly at the issuer bank level. Currently, Card-on-File (CoF) tokens can only be created through a merchant's application or webpage.

- RBI may consider Open Market Operations (OMO) sales of government securities as a strategy to manage liquidity in the financial system. OMO sales will be conducted through auctions and not via Negotiated Dealing System-Order Matching (NDS-OM) platform.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted permission to non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) categorized as middle layer and base-layer entities to use credit risk mitigation tools. This enables them to offset their exposure (protect themselves from financial risk) using eligible credit risk transfer instruments.
- Existing guidelines allow offsetting exposures (practice of balancing or reducing financial risks) with credit risk transfer instruments for Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFCs) in the Upper Layer (UL).

16. Name the bank/organisation that has recently (in Oct '23) approved a USD 200 million loan to strengthen flood and riverbank erosion risk management in Assam, India.

- 1) World Bank
- 2) Asian Development Bank
- 3) United Nations Environment Programme
- 4) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- 5) African Development Bank

Answer- 2) Asian Development Bank

Explanation:

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **USD 200 million loan** to strengthen flood and riverbank erosion risk management along the 650-kilometer (km) long main stem of the Brahmaputra River in **Assam, India**.

i. The Project activities will be led, managed, and coordinated by the Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of the Assam Government.

ii. The Water Resources Department of the Government of Assam will implement the works and the Assam Agroforestry Development Board will use nature-based solutions.

iii. The Brahmaputra Board, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, and the Assam Inland Water Transport Development Society will be partner agencies of the project.

17. Which company has recently (in Oct '23) launched a mobile app for 54EC Bonds Investors?

- 1) REC Limited
- 2) Power Grid Corporation of India
- 3) Indian Railway Finance Corporation
- 4) Power Finance Corporation Limited
- 5) Indian Oil Corporation Limited

Answer- 1) REC Limited

Explanation:

REC Limited (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited) launched **SUGAM REC**, a mobile app for its current and future investors in **REC's 54EC Capital Gain Tax Exemption Bonds**.

- REC Limited is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Power.

i. SUGAM REC offers the ability to view complete details of their investment in REC 54EC Bonds, including the investment amount, interest rate, and maturity date.

ii. Section 54EC bonds, also known as Capital gain bonds, are fixed income instruments which provide capital gains tax exemption.

18. Name the bank that has recently (in Oct '23) launched a Mobile Handheld Device to provide banking services to financial inclusion customers.

- 1) Bank of Baroda
- 2) ICICI Bank
- 3) State Bank of India
- 4) HDFC Bank
- 5) Bank of India

Answer- **3) State Bank of India**

Explanation:

The State Bank of India (**SBI**) has launched a “**mobile handheld device**” for its financial inclusion customers including senior citizens, differently-abled and the infirm. The device is designed to enhance accessibility and convenience for customers who live in remote areas or have difficulty visiting SBI branches.

i. The device will initially offer five core banking services which account for approximately 75 percent of the total transactions that SBI's CSPs conduct.

- Cash withdrawal
- Cash deposit
- Fund transfer
- Balance inquiry
- Mini statements

19. Name the insurance company that has recently (in Oct '23) introduced surrogacy cover and oocyte donor cover to its women-centric policy.

- 1) Care Health Insurance
- 2) Star Health and Allied Insurance
- 3) Aditya Birla Health Insurance
- 4) Niva Bupa Health Insurance
- 5) Manipal Cigna Health Insurance

Answer- **2) Star Health and Allied Insurance**

Explanation:

On October 9, 2023, **Star Health and Allied Insurance** introduced **surrogacy cover and oocyte donor cover** to its **women-centric policy** namely Star Women Care Insurance Policy at no extra charge for policyholders.

i. This inclusion will address the demand in assisted reproduction treatment, and extend health insurance coverage to surrogate mothers and oocyte donors.

ii. The Surrogate Mother & Oocyte Donor Cover is applicable for adults 25 to 35 years. The sum insured under this is available up to Rs. 1 Crore.

20. Which bank has recently (in Oct '23) partnered with Social Worth Technologies Private Limited (Fibe) to launch India's first-ever numberless credit card?

- 1) Axis Bank
- 2) YES Bank

- 3) HDFC Bank
- 4) ICICI Bank
- 5) IndusInd Bank

Answer- **1) Axis Bank**

Explanation:

Axis Bank Limited and Social Worth Technologies Private Limited (**Fibe**) (formely known as EarlySalary) have partnered to launch **India's first-ever numberless credit card** called Fibe Axis Bank Credit Card.

- i. The card, powered by Rupay, also allows the customer to link this credit card to Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- ii. The Fibe Axis Bank Credit Card offers financial solutions by targeting tech-savvy Generation Z (people born between 1996 and 2010) of India.
- iii. The card does not have any card number, expiry date, or Card Verification Value (CVV) printed on it.
 - The cardholders can access their card details in Fibe mobile application (App).

21. Which company has recently (in Oct '23) received the first installment of investment of Rs. 300 crore from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) for its Electric Vehicle (EV) division?

- 1) Kinetic Green
- 2) Euler Motors
- 3) Mahindra Last Mile Mobility
- 4) Piaggio Vehicles
- 5) Atul Auto

Answer- **3) Mahindra Last Mile Mobility**

Explanation:

Mahindra Last Mile Mobility (**MLMML**), a subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) received the **first installment** of investment of **Rs. 300 crore** from the International Finance Corporation (**IFC**) for its Electric Vehicle (**EV**) **division**. This investment is IFC's first in an EV maker in India.

- i. With this transaction, MLMML has ceased to be a wholly owned subsidiary of Mahindra with effect from 9th October 2023, while it continues to be a subsidiary of the company.
- ii. In March 2023, IFC committed to investing Rs. 600 Crore (in one or more installments) at a valuation of up to Rs. 6020 Crore, in a new company housing the last mile mobility division of Mahindra Group.

22. Which bank has recently (in Oct '23) extended the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) integration for Non-Residential External (NRE) clients?

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

Answer- **5) Federal Bank**

Explanation:

Kerala based **Federal Bank Limited** has extended the Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) integration for Non-Residential External (**NRE**) clients through its mobile banking platform, FedMobile, to enhance banking convenience for its Non-Residential Indian (NRI) clients.

- i. With the integration of UPI, NRI clients can now make payments seamlessly using their NRE accounts in regions where traditional payment methods may be limited.
- ii. The plan has been approved by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for NRIs from countries including Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, the United States of America(USA), Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates(UAE), and the United Kingdom(UK).

23. Name the Payment Aggregator that has recently (in Oct '23) received ISO/IEC 27001: 2022 certification.

- 1) Phi Commerce Private Limited
- 2) Infibeam Avenues Limited
- 3) Worldline ePayments India
- 4) Paysharp Private Limited
- 5) Pine Labs Private Limited

Answer- **4) Paysharp Private Limited**

Explanation:

Chennai (Tamil Nadu)-based **Paysharp Private Limited** (Paysharp), a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in-principle licence-approved **Payment Aggregator**, gets ISO/IEC 27001: 2022 certification, the world's best-known standard for Information Security Management Systems (ISMS).

- i. Paysharp, a fintech startup founded in 2019, is focusing on non-card-based payments like Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments. It offers both Business-to-business (B2B) and Business-to-consumer (B2C) businesses, offering a range of UPI collection solutions.
- ii. ISO/IEC 27001 helps organisations become risk-aware and proactively identify and address weaknesses. It promotes a comprehensive approach to information security.

24. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the step made by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in October 2023?

- A) RBI has decided to extend the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework to all deposit taking government NBFCs and non-deposit taking government NBFCs in middle, upper and top Layers (excluding base layer) with effect from October 1, 2024.
- B) RBI under section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, has ordered Bank of Baroda to immediately suspend the process of adding more customers to the 'bob World' mobile application.
- C) As per the RBI's monetary policy report, the Personal loans /Retail loans form the biggest component of bank credit at 32.1 percent of outstanding credit, as of March 2023.

- 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 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to extend the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework to all deposit taking government NBFCs and non-deposit taking government NBFCs in middle, upper and top Layers (excluding base layer) with effect from **October 1, 2024**.

- Major government-owned NBFCs that will be subject to the PCA Framework include entities like Power Finance Corporation (PFC), Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), and Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI).
- i. The Reserve Bank of India, under section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, has ordered Bank of Baroda to immediately suspend the process of adding more customers to the 'bob World' mobile application.
- ii. As per the RBI's monetary policy report, bank lending has changed significantly, with more credit now directed towards services and retail loans compared to industries.
- Personal loans now form the biggest component of bank credit (at 32.1% of outstanding credit), followed by services (28.4%), industry (26.2%) and agriculture (13.3%).

25. Name the Payments Bank that has recently (in Oct '23) received a monetary penalty of Rs 5.39 crore by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- 1) Paytm Payments Bank
- 2) Jio Payments Bank
- 3) India Post Payments Bank
- 4) Fino Payments Bank
- 5) Airtel Payment Bank

Answer- **1) Paytm Payments Bank**

Explanation:

On October 12, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 5.39 Crore** on Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) in exercise of its powers conferred under the provisions of Section 47A(1)(c) read with Section 46(4)(i) of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949.

- i. This penalty will not affect any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.
- ii. The penalty was imposed due to non-compliance with certain provisions of,
- Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016
 - RBI Guidelines for Licensing of Payments Banks' read with 'Enhancement of maximum balance at end of the day.

26. In October 2023, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the Certificate of Registration (CoR) of _____ (Housing Finance Company) w.e.f. 21st September, 2023.

- 1) Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited
- 2) Ind Bank Housing Limited
- 3) PNB Housing Finance Limited
- 4) LIC Housing Finance Limited
- 5) Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited

Answer- **2) Ind Bank Housing Limited**

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the Certificate of Registration (CoR) Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN) based **Ind Bank Housing Ltd**, a Housing Finance Company (HFC) w.e.f. September 21, 2023.

- In this regard, it cannot transact the business of a Housing Finance Institution and a Non-Banking Financial Institution (NBFC) as defined in National Housing Bank (NHB) Act, 1987 and RBI Act, 1934, respectively.
- This decision has been taken by RBI in exercise of its powers conferred on it under Section 29A (6) of the NHB Act, 1987.

Note: Set up in 1991, Ind Bank Housing Ltd major shareholders were Indian Bank and HUDCO (Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd) with 51% and 25% stake, respectively.

27. Which Payments Bank has recently (in Oct '23) signed an agreement with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to extend financial & other support services to MSMEs (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) in rural and remote areas?

- 1) Paytm Payments Bank
- 2) Jio Payments Bank
- 3) India Post Payments Bank
- 4) Fino Payments Bank
- 5) Airtel Payment Bank

Answer- 3) India Post Payments Bank

Explanation:

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has signed an agreement with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to extend financial and other support services to **MSMEs** (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) in rural and remote areas.

- i. SIDBI provides credit to small businesses, while IPPB provides banking transaction services.
- ii. It should be noted that Payments banks are not allowed to provide credit but can partner with other institutions for distribution.

28. Name the bank that has recently (in Oct '23) launched 'iFinance' to get a consolidated view of customers' savings and current accounts across banks in a single place.

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

Answer- 1) ICICI Bank

Explanation:

ICICI Bank Limited has launched a new feature called **iFinance**, which allows customers-retail and sole proprietors, to get a consolidated view of their savings and current accounts across banks in a single place. This facility is also extended to customers of other banks.

- i. ICICI bank leverages the Account Aggregator(AA) **ecosystem** to enable users to link their accounts.
- ii. This feature is available on ICICI Bank's digital platforms, namely iMobile Pay application, Retail Internet Banking (RIB), Corporate Internet Banking (CIB) and InstaBIZ(Business Banking Mobile Application).

iii. 'iFinance' provides a single-view dashboard of all accounts, offering a facility to get a summary of their income and category wise information of their expenditure.

29. Which organisation has recently (in Oct '23) approved a USD 181 million loan to build quality infrastructure and services toward improving urban livability and mobility in the peri-urban areas of Ahmedabad, Gujarat?

- 1) United Nations Development Programme
- 2) International Monetary Fund
- 3) World Bank
- 4) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- 5) Asian Development Bank

Answer- **5) Asian Development Bank**

Explanation:

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan worth **USD 181 million** to build quality infrastructure and services in the peri-urban areas of Ahmedabad, Gujarat to control urban sprawl.

i. Scenario in Ahmedabad:

- Ahmedabad is expanding horizontally to adjoining areas (peri-urban areas) due to rapid industrial growth.
- Since peri-urban areas are unplanned smaller urban local bodies (ULBs), it can't accommodate the high population due to urbanisation.
- Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA) which is responsible for planning of those areas, identified five growth centers surrounding Ahmedabad city.
- Ahmedabad Peri-urban Livability Improvement Project was created with an aim to provide basic infrastructure in these growth centres.

30. In October 2023, _____ became the first Russian bank to register with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as a foreign portfolio investor (FPI) for a Category I FPI License.

- 1) Gazprombank
- 2) Sberbank
- 3) Alfa Bank
- 4) VTB Bank
- 5) Promsvyazbank

Answer- **2) Sberbank**

Explanation:

Russian State-owned **Sberbank** has become the **first Russian bank** to register with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) as a foreign portfolio investor (**FPI**) for a **Category I FPI license**.

i. Foreign portfolio investment (FPI) involves an investor purchasing foreign financial assets to access equities, bonds, derivatives, mutual funds, and guaranteed investment certificates among others.

ii. Category I FPI license is only given to government or government related foreign investors or regulated entities such as banks, sovereign wealth funds, investments trusts, pension funds, asset management companies.

31. Name the company that has recently (in Oct '23) partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to introduce the option of Equated Monthly Instalment(EMI) on RuPay credit cards.

- 1) Razorpay Software Private Limited
- 2) Amazon Pay India Private Limited
- 3) Cashfree Payments Limited
- 4) PhonePe Private Limited
- 5) BharatPe Limited

Answer- 2) Amazon Pay India Private Limited

Explanation:

Amazon Pay India Private Limited (**APIPL**) in partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) has introduced the option of Equated Monthly Instalment (**EMI**) on RuPay credit cards in Amazon Pay.

- The service will be available across eight prominent issuing banks.

i. The Great Indian Festival was announced on Amazon.in from 08th October 2023 to 15th October 2023 with the theme of 'Dibbe khulenge, khulegi khushiyaan' which means 'unboxing happiness'.

ii. EMI payments in Amazon.in are facilitated by Amazon Seller Services Private Limited (ASSPL) & no Cost EMI facility is funded by participating sellers and brands.

32. In October 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) initiated a pilot program for the wholesale segment namely 'Digital Rupee-Wholesale (e-W)' of its Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in the interbank call money market.

Which of the following banks is not part of the wholesale CBDC in government securities pilot program?

- 1) IDFC First Bank
- 2) City Union Bank
- 3) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- 4) Union Bank of India
- 5) State Bank of India

Answer- 2) City Union Bank

Explanation:

On October 17, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) initiated a pilot program for the wholesale segment namely '**Digital Rupee-Wholesale (e-W)**' of its Central Bank Digital Currency (**CBDC**) in the interbank call money market.

- e-rupee call money pilot is the second test of wholesale CBDC, after the government securities market in November 2022.

i. 9 banks: State Bank of India(SBI), Bank of Baroda(BoB), Union Bank of India(UBI), HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Yes Bank, IDFC First Bank and HSBC were part of the wholesale CBDC in government securities pilot program.

ii. Most participating banks remain the same from the wholesale e-rupee pilot for the government securities market with Federal Bank replacing HSBC in the call money pilot.

33. In October 2023, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) mandated all general insurers with motor insurance business to provide an inbuilt feature in the Third Party policy (TP) to cover employees travelling in an employer's vehicle under IMT. _____ of the Indian Motor Tariff _____.

- 1) 29; 2002
- 2) 25; 2004
- 3) 29; 2000
- 4) 25; 2002
- 5) 39' 2000

Answer- **1) 29; 2002**

Explanation:

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**) has mandated all **general insurers** with motor insurance business to provide an inbuilt feature in the **Third Party policy (TP)** to cover to employees travelling in an employer's vehicle (including paid driver, if applicable) under **IMT. 29** of the Indian Motor Tariff **2002**.

- The compulsory cover of IMT-29 should be provided as an in-built coverage under the Compulsory Motor Third Party(TP) Liability Section of Private Car Package/ Bundled Policies and under standalone policies ensuring Compulsory Motor Third Party Liability.

IRDAI also stated that no additional premium will be charged until further directions.

34. In October 2023, Google partnered with the Fintech Association for Consumer _____ (FACE) to take down illegal digital lending apps on Play Store in India.

- 1) Encryption
- 2) Enduser
- 3) Ethernet
- 4) Emulator
- 5) Empowerment

Answer- **5) Empowerment**

Explanation:

Google has partnered with the Fintech Association for Consumer **Empowerment (FACE)** to take down illegal digital lending apps on Play Store in India.

- This partnership was announced during the 9th annual Google for India (2023) event held on 19th October 2023 in New Delhi, Delhi.
 - FACE is an industry association and self-regulatory organization for digital lenders.
- i.** Under this partnership, FACE will supply Google with market intelligence to identify and take action against non-compliant predatory personal loan apps in India that are non-compliant with Play Store's policies.
 - ii.** This collaboration supports Google's safety initiative, DigiKavach, aimed at protecting people from online financial scams.
 - iii.** Google Lens introduced Visual Skin Condition Search, allowing users to find visual matches for skin issues, after uploading photos.

35. Name the Insurance company that has recently (in Oct '23) launched Optima Secure, a health insurance policy.

- 1) Star Health and Allied Insurance
- 2) Aditya Birla Health Insurance
- 3) HDFC ERGO General Insurance
- 4) Niva Bupa Health Insurance
- 5) Max Life Insurance

Answer- **3) HDFC ERGO General Insurance**

Explanation:

HDFC ERGO General Insurance launched **Optima Secure**, a health insurance policy that offers four times the coverage at no extra cost. The policy covers medical expenses incurred within India and comes with an optional global health cover.

i. Health insurance is a financial arrangement that provides coverage for medical expenses and healthcare services.

ii. About Optima Secure:

• **Eligibility & Policy Option:**

- One can buy this policy until 65 years. Policy covers Insured Persons in the age group of 91 days and above.
- Families and individuals can choose coverage from Rs 5 lakhs to RS 2 crore, with different options available.
- This policy can be issued upto 3 years.

36. In October 2023, the United States(U.S.) International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) offered an External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) loan of USD 30 million to _____ (company) to fund the establishment of a greenfield recycling facility in Nashik, Maharashtra.

- 1) Tatva Global Environment Ltd
- 2) Dalmia Polypro Industries Private Ltd
- 3) Vermigold Ecotech Private Ltd
- 4) Greenobin Recycling Private Ltd
- 5) Attero Private Ltd

Answer- **2) Dalmia Polypro Industries Private Ltd**

Explanation:

The United States **(U.S.)** International Development Finance Corporation **(DFC)** has offered an External Commercial Borrowing **(ECB) loan of USD 30 million** to **Dalmia Polypro Industries Private Ltd** to fund the establishment of a greenfield recycling facility in Nashik, Maharashtra.

i. The new plant is well-positioned to meet the growing demand for premium recycled plastic, including food-grade materials, contributing to the realisation of a circular plastic waste value chain.

ii. The facility also set to process 171,000 metric tons of plastic annually the facility will focus on producing top-notch recycled Polyethylene Terephthalate(rPET), Recycled polypropylene (rPP), and recycled High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) flakes and granules.

37. Which bank has recently (in Oct '23) developed 'XpressWay,' a digital banking platform to offer a range of financial products and services?

- 1) Axis Bank
- 2) YES Bank

- 3) HDFC Bank
- 4) IndusInd Bank
- 5) ICICI Bank

Answer- **3) HDFC Bank**

Explanation:

HDFC Bank has developed '**XpressWay**,' a digital banking platform that offers a range of **financial products** and **services**, providing customers with a fast and convenient banking experience.

i. XpressWay provides a variety of services such as Xpress Personal Loans, Xpress Business Loans, Xpress Car Loans, Xpress Home Loans, Xpress Loan on Cards, Xpress Credit Card, and Xpress Savings Accounts.

ii. XpressWay is a part of HDFC Bank's 'NOW,' a brand that covers the bank's digital products and services.

38. Name the Bank that has recently (in Oct '23) partnered with NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBP) to launch its services under the Business-to-Business (B2B) category.

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

Answer- **5) Axis Bank**

Explanation:

NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (**NBBP**) has partnered with **Axis Bank** to launch its services under the Business-to-Business (**B2B**) category to provide businesses value-added services like flexible invoice presentation, complaint management, Management Information System(MIS), etc.

- NBBP's B2B Category Payments went live for the first time on e MyJio app for Arzooo, a B2B Retail Tech platform, with Axis Bank as the Biller Operating Unit (BOU).

i. With the first B2B Category payment,

- MyJio became the 1st app to go live with the B2B Category Payments.
- Arzooo became the first biller in this category with support from Jio Payments Bank.
- Axis Bank became the first BOU enabling B2B payments.

Note- NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited(NBBP) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

39. Which organisation has recently (in Oct '23) examined Metro rail works in Agra, Kanpur and Lucknow that are being constructed under Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation(UPMRC)?

- 1) African Development Bank
- 2) World Bank
- 3) European Investment Bank
- 4) Asian Development Bank
- 5) Japan International Cooperation Agency

Answer- **3) European Investment Bank**

Explanation:

A three-member delegation from the European Investment Bank (EIB) examined Metro rail works in **Agra, Kanpur and Lucknow** which are being constructed under Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation (UPMRC). EIB had funded these metro rail projects. These projects are in par with the international quality and safety standards.

i. Agra Metro Rail Project is being built at the total cost of EUR 908 million. The European Investment Bank (EIB) is providing EUR 450 million in funding for this project.

- EIB will finance the acquisition of rolling stock and the development of two metro rail corridors with elevated sections, totaling to 32.4 km with 31 stations. The project was initiated in 2020 by UPMRC.
- Out of the total estimated cost of EUR 1354 million EIB will contribute about EUR 650 million.
- The Lucknow metro project aims to construct a 23km metro line and purchase a fleet of about 80 metro cars in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- The project is of total value EUR 914 million; EIB is contributing EUR 450 million.

40. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the ‘HARBINGER 2023 – Innovation for Transformation’ event in October 2023?

A) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced the 3rd edition of its global hackathon, “HARBINGER 2023 – Innovation for Transformation” with the theme of Digital Banking and regulations transactions.

B) Ezetap Mobile Solutions Pvt Ltd, India has announced as the winner under the Innovative, easy-to-use, digital banking services for differently abled (Divyaang).

C) WeavAir, Singapore has announced as the winner under the RegTech solutions to facilitate more efficient compliance for Regulated Entities (REs).

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

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

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced second edition of its global hackathon, “HARBINGER 2023 – Innovation for Transformation”

- **Theme:** Inclusive Digital Services. This event was announced on February 14, 2023.

i. The hackathon is hosted on Application Programming Interface Exchange (APIX) platform.

Participants can register for the hackathon and submit their proposals by clicking on the provided link (<https://hackolosseum.apixplatform.com/h1/harbinger2023link>)

Sl. No.	Problem Statement	Results	
1	Innovative, easy-to-use, digital banking services for differently abled (Divyaang).	Winner	Ezetap Mobile Solutions Pvt Ltd (Now acquired by Razorpay), India

2	RegTech solutions to facilitate more efficient compliance for Regulated Entities (REs)	Winner	WeavAir, Singapore
3	Exploring use cases/solutions for Central Bank Digital Currency -Retail (CBDC-R) transactions, including transactions in offline mode	Winner	Dygnify Ventures Private Limited, India
4	Increasing Transactions Per Second (TPS)/ throughput and scalability of blockchains.*	Winner	Fortis Net Ltd., UK

41. Name the organisation/bank that has recently (in Oct '23) approved a USD 175 million loan for 'India : Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience of the Madhya Pradesh Road Network Project'.

- 1) African Development Bank
- 2) World Bank
- 3) European Investment Bank
- 4) Asian Development Bank
- 5) Japan International Cooperation Agency

Answer- 4) Asian Development Bank

Explanation:

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a **USD 175 million loan** for 'India : Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience of the **Madhya Pradesh Road Network Project**'.

i. The project aims to upgrade about 500 kilometers of state highways and major district roads to a standard two-lane feature in Madhya Pradesh (MP).

- The project was initially proposed by ADB in September 2023.

ii. The project will build better, safer, and more climate-resistant roads in MP to connect rural areas to growth centres and industrial corridors.

iii. ADB is partnering with Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation Limited (MPRDC), to build the capacity of MPRDC in climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster resilience, and road safety.

iii. ADB along with MPRDC, to formulate a gender equality and social inclusion strategy.

42. In October, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in consultation with the Government of India (GoI), has expanded the range of products offered through RBI Retail Direct portal by allowing retail investors to subscribe to Floating Rate Savings Bonds , 2020 (Taxable)- FRSB 2020 (T).

The subscription of bonds will be in the form of cash, up to Rs _____.

- 1) 30,000
- 2) 10,000
- 3) 15,000
- 4) 25,000
- 5) 20,000

Answer- 5) 20,000

Explanation:

On October 23, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) in consultation with the Government of India (GoI), has expanded the range of products offered through **RBI Retail Direct portal** by allowing retail investors to subscribe to Floating Rate Savings Bonds , 2020 (Taxable)- FRSB 2020 (T).

- Previously, the retail investors were allowed to invest in central government securities, treasury bills, state government securities and sovereign gold bonds through this portal.
- The subscription of bonds will be in the form of cash (**up to Rs 20,000 only**)/drafts/cheques or any electronic mode.

i. The Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi launched the scheme on November 12, 2021, allowing individual investors to open a Retail Direct Gilt (RDG) account with the Reserve Bank of India via an online portal (<https://rbiretaildirect.org.in>). This account facilitates investments in government securities in both primary and secondary markets.

ii. FRSB 2020 (T) are interest bearing, non-tradeable bonds, issued by the GoI, mature after seven years from the issue date.

43. How many entities are recently (in Oct '23) empanelled by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to provide digital forensic services?

- 1) 22
- 2) 12
- 3) 10
- 4) 20
- 5) 15

Answer- **2) 12**

Explanation:

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has empanelled **12** entities, including Ernst & Young LLP (EY), KPMG Assurance and Consulting Services LLP, to provide **digital forensic services** to its search team for onsite data acquisition during search and seizure operations.

i. This empanelment will be valid for 2 years.

ii. Other empanelled entities:

- Baker Tilly Business Advisory Services,
- Cybermate Forensics & Data Security Solutions,
- Cyint Technologies,
- ECS Info Tech,
- Innefu Labs,
- Mahen Technologies,
- Nangia & Co LLP,
- Netrika Consulting India,
- Pelorus Technologies, and
- Systools Software.

44. Name the bank that has recently (in Oct '23) entered into a partnership with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to issue its inaugural electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG).

- 1) YES Bank
- 2) ICICI Bank
- 3) Kotak Mahindra Bank

4) HDFC Bank

5) Axis Bank

Answer- **3) Kotak Mahindra Bank**

Explanation:

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) has entered into a partnership with National E-Governance Services Limited (**NeSL**) to issue its inaugural electronic Bank Guarantee (**e-BG**) through the platform of KMBL.

i. This partnership will enable KMBL to digitize the entire process of issuing and managing Bank Guarantees, which will significantly reduce the turnaround time (TAT) and eliminate the need for paper-based documentation.

ii. NeSL's Digital Documents Execution (DDE) technology will give real-time access to e-BG.

45. Which organisation/bank has recently (in Oct '23) approved USD 400 million policy-based loan to India to enhance the infrastructure quality and provide assured public services and efficient governance systems?

1) United Nations Development Programme

2) International Monetary Fund

3) World Bank

4) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

5) Asian Development Bank

Answer- **5) Asian Development Bank**

Explanation:

The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) has approved **USD 400 million** policy-based loan to India to enhance the infrastructure quality and provide assured public services and efficient governance systems. The loan will be under Sub-programme 2 of ADB's Sustainable Urban Development and Service Delivery Programme.

i. Subprogram 2 will support investment planning and reform actions at the state and urban local body (ULB) levels.

ii. It will be implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoH&UA) with guidance from ADB.

46. Which company has recently (in Oct '23) launched its maiden mutual fund schemes- Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index Fund and ELSS Tax Saver Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index Fund?

1) Nippon India Mutual Fund

2) Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund

3) ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund

4) Zerodha Fund House

5) DSP Mutual Fund

Answer- **4) Zerodha Fund House**

Explanation:

Zerodha Fund House (ZFH), a joint venture between Zerodha Broking Limited and smallcase Technologies Private Limited, launched its **maiden mutual fund schemes**: Zerodha Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index Fund and Zerodha ELSS Tax Saver Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index Fund.

- Both schemes are open-ended, passive, index-equity mutual fund schemes.

- The New Fund Offering (**NFO**) opened on 20th October 2023 and will remain open till 3rd November 2023.

i. Both the launched funds are benchmarked against the Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index total returns index (TRI).

ii. The index fund will replicate the Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index, while the ELSS scheme will be an open-ended passive equity-linked savings scheme with a statutory lock-in period of three years.

iii. The tax benefit replicates the Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index.

47. Which company has recently (in Oct '23) received in-principle authorization to operate as an online payment aggregator (PA)?

- 1) Zaakpay
- 2) PaymentCloud
- 3) Clover
- 4) Payline Data
- 5) Payment Depot

Answer- **1) Zaakpay**

Explanation:

Reserve Bank of India(**RBI**) has granted in-principle authorization to MobiKwik's payment gateway arm **Zaakpay** to operate as an online payment aggregator (**PA**).

- This will enable Zaakpay to onboard new merchants onto its platform for processing online payments and scale the number of merchants associated with the startup.

i. RBI Guidelines: In March 2020, RBI issued Guidelines on Regulation of Payment Aggregators and Payment Gateways and introduced various measures for payment aggregators operating in India.

ii. Capital Requirements for Payment Aggregators(PAs):

- Existing PAs: PAs should achieve a net-worth of Rs 15 crore by March 31, 2021 and a net-worth of Rs 25 crore by the end of the third financial year(March 31, 2023).
- New PAs: PAs shall have a minimum net-worth of Rs 15 crore at the time of application and shall attain a net-worth of Rs 25 crore by the end of third financial year of grant of authorisation.

Note- The net-worth of Rs 25 crore shall be maintained at all times thereafter.

48. Which bank has recently (in Oct '23) launched a lifetime zero-balance savings account?

- 1) Bank of Maharashtra
- 2) Bank of India
- 3) Union Bank of India
- 4) Bank of Baroda
- 5) Canara Bank

Answer- **4) Bank of Baroda**

Explanation:

Bank of Baroda (BoB) launched a **lifetime zero-balance savings** account called the Bob LITE Savings Account as a part of "BOB Ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang" festive campaign.

i. The **Bob LITE Savings Account** comes with a lifetime-free RuPay Platinum debit card (subject to maintaining a quarterly average balance (QAB)).

- The account can be opened by any resident individual, including minors (**above 10 years**).

ii. In September 2023, BoB launched the “BOB Ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang” festive campaign. The campaign will run up to 31st December 2023.

49. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with “Master Direction – Reserve Bank of India [Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)– Scale Based Regulation(SBR)] Directions, 2023”?

A) It replaces the Non-Banking Financial Company–Non-Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016, and the Non-Banking Financial Company–Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking Company and Deposit taking Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016.

B) Under this regulatory framework, NBFCs are categorized into 4 layers based on their size, activities, and perceived risk including NBFCs-Base Layer, NBFCs-Middle Layer, NBFCs-Upper Layer and NBFCs-Top Layer.

C) Following the April 2023 Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies, the Reserve Bank of India is mandating Credit Information Companies (CICs) and Credit Institutions (CIs) to enhance customer service and grievance redress mechanisms, pursuant to Section 11(1) of the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005

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:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently published a new set of guidelines called the “**Master Direction – Reserve Bank of India [Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)– Scale Based Regulation(SBR)] Directions, 2023**”.

- It replaces the Non-Banking Financial Company–Non-Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016, and the Non-Banking Financial Company–Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking Company and Deposit taking Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016.
- Under this regulatory framework, NBFCs are categorized into 4 layers based on their size, activities, and perceived risk including NBFCs-Base Layer, NBFCs-Middle Layer, NBFCs-Upper Layer and NBFCs-Top Layer.
- Following the April 2023 Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies, the Reserve Bank of India is mandating Credit Information Companies (CICs) and Credit Institutions (CIs) to enhance customer service and grievance redress mechanisms, pursuant to Section 11(1) of the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005.

50. Which of the following bank has recently (in October ‘23) launched GO Savings Account, a zero-balance digital banking product?

1) IDBI Bank

2) RBL Bank

3) YES Bank

4) Karur Vysya Bank

5) South Indian Bank

Answer- **2) RBL Bank**

Explanation:

RBL Bank, formerly known as Ratnakar Bank, has launched the **GO Savings Account**, a zero-balance digital banking product. The account has a subscription-based model means it will **replace minimum balance requirement**, thus, finishing the hassle of maintaining a minimum balance.

- The subscription fee is Rs 1999 (plus taxes) for the first year, and an annual renewal fee of Rs 599 (+taxes).
- GO Savings Account Features include Competitive interest rates of up to 7.5% per annum, a premium debit card, Comprehensive cyber insurance cover, accident and travel insurance up to Rs 1 crore, and a free CIBIL report.

51. In October 2023, Which Small Finance Bank(SFB) has launched its first Green Fixed Deposit (FD) 'Planet First – AU Green Fixed Deposit' with an interest rate of up to 8.50%?

1) Suryoday SFB

2) Equitas SFB

3) ESAF SFB

4) AU SFB

5) Ujjivan SFB

Answer-**4) AU SFB**

Explanation:

AU Small Finance Bank (**AU SFB**) Limited launched its **first Green Fixed Deposit (FD)** namely **Planet First – AU Green Fixed Deposit** with an interest rate of up to 8.50%. This launch represents bank's commitment towards climate action, and also allows customers to contribute to sustainability by dedicating proceeds to green projects.

- The Green FD was launched on 25th October 2023, last Wednesday of October, which is celebrated as the Sustainability Day.
- Features of Planet First-AU Green Fixed Deposit include an Interest rate of up to 8.50%, Minimum investment of Rs. 5,000, Tenure options from two to five years and Interest payment options including monthly, quarterly, and cumulative
- A green fixed deposit (FD) is an interest-bearing deposit that funds projects with environmental benefits. Green FDs are also known as environmentally friendly fixed deposits

52. Which escrow platform has recently (in October '23) has secured India's 1st digital escrow regulatory fintech authorisation from the International Financial Services Centres Authority of GIFT City in Gujarat?

1) Castler

2) Shieldpay

3) Escrowpay

4) Tazapay

5) Uniscrow

Answer- **3) Escrowpay**

Explanation:

Escrowpay, a leading digital escrow platform, has secured **India's 1st digital escrow regulatory fintech authorisation** from International Financial Services Centres Authority (**IFSCA**), Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- The authorization will provide secured and efficient financial solutions to 70 million Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in India.
- The authorization will also enable Escrowpay to further expand its suite of offerings and commence cross-border transactions in over 14 world currencies.
- **Escrow** is a financial arrangement in which a third party, known as an escrow agent, holds money or property on behalf of two other parties that are in the process of completing a transaction.

53. Which bank has recently (in Oct '23) collaborated with the Viamerica Corporation to offer digital inward remittance services to Non Resident Indians (NRIs) in the United States of America (USA)?

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

Answer- **2) IndusInd Bank**

Explanation:

IndusInd Bank Limited has announced a strategic **collaboration** with **Viamerica Corporation** to offer digital inward remittance services to Non Resident Indians (**NRIs**) in the United States of America (**USA**).

- This collaboration will enable NRIs to send money to their beneficiaries in India through IndusInd Bank's digital remittance platform Indus Fast Remit (**IFR**).
 - i. The Indus Fast Remit platform will allow NRIs to send money to India either through auto debit payment mode (Automated clearing House – ACH) and through the overseas Bank account.
 - ii. Through the IndusInd Bank Vostro relationship, Viamerica Corporation will credit the beneficiary's account in India using the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Rupee Drawing Arrangement (RDA) scheme.
- Indus Fast Remit is a first-of-its-kind multi-partner digital platform facilitating remittances to India especially by Non Resident Indians (NRI).

ECONOMY AND BUSINESS

1. Name the company that has recently (in Oct '23) approved for joint ventures with EverEnviro Resource Management Pvt Ltd and GPS Renewables Pvt Ltd for setting up compressed biogas (CBG) plants.

- 1) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
- 2) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- 3) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
- 4) Oil India Limited

5) Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited

Answer- **2) Indian Oil Corporation Limited**

Explanation:

The board of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (**IOCL**), a public sector Enterprise under the Maharatna category approved joint ventures with **EverEnviro Resource Management Pvt Ltd** and **GPS Renewables Pvt Ltd** for setting up compressed biogas (**CBG**) plants.

- i. The two joint ventures will be formed with IOCL or one of its subsidiaries and the two partner companies will have an equal stake of 50 % each in the newly formed joint ventures.
- ii. This aligns with the government's plans to establish 5,000 commercial CBG plants by 2024-25 under the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transport (SATAT) scheme which was launched in 2018.

2. According to India Development Update (IDU) October 2023 released by World Bank (WB) in October 2023, India's Gross Domestic Products (GDP) growth is retained at _____ for the Financial Year (FY) 2023-24.

- 1) 6.7%
- 2) 6.9%
- 3) 6.5%
- 4) 6.3%
- 5) 6.0%

Answer- **4) 6.3%**

Explanation:

According to India Development Update (**IDU**) **October 2023** released by World Bank (**WB**), India's Gross Domestic Products (**GDP**) growth for the Financial Year 2023-24 (**FY23/24**) is retained at **6.3%** and for FY 24/25 the growth rate will be at 6.4%.

- i. India was one of the fastest-growing major economies in FY 22/23 at the rate of 7.2%. India's growth rate was the 2nd highest among G20 countries.
- ii. The report states that **India's headline inflation** is expected to average **5.9%** in FY 23/24. IDU April 2023 projected India's headline inflation to decline to an average of 5.2% in FY 23/24.
- iii. Bad weather has caused inflation to increase, with headline inflation reaching 7.8% in July 2023 due to higher food prices.

Note- The India Development Update (**IDU**) is a companion to the South Asia Development Update (**SADU**). IDU is a flagship biannual report of the World Bank on Indian economy.

3. According to the Controller General of Accounts(CGA) data released in October 2023, India's fiscal deficit for the tenure April to August of the financial year 2023-24 (FY24) is at Rs _____ , 36% of the FY24 target.

- 1) 4.90 trillion
- 2) 6.42 trillion
- 3) 4.62 trillion
- 4) 5.89 trillion
- 5) 5.24 trillion

Answer- **2) 6.42 trillion**

Explanation:

According to the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), India's fiscal deficit for the tenure April to August of the financial year **2023-24 (FY24)** is at **Rs 6.42 trillion**. This is 36% of the full-year target of Rs 17.87 trillion.

- In the same period of FY 2022-23, the fiscal deficit was Rs 5.42 trillion, or 32.6% of the FY23 target Rs16.61 trillion.
- i. The fiscal deficit widened mainly because the government spent more on capital expenditure (due to lower tax devolution to state governments) and government's increase in non-tax revenues.
- ii. The government aims to reduce the fiscal deficit to 5.9% of the gross domestic product (GDP) for fiscal year 2024.

4. Which Company/Financial Institutions has recently (in Oct '23) sanctioned loans worth Rs 8,800 crore for airports and civil aviation infrastructure development in India?

- 1) Industrial Finance Corporation of India
- 2) Infrastructure Development Finance Company
- 3) Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited
- 4) National Bank For Financing Infrastructure And Development
- 5) India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited

Answer- **5) India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited**

Explanation:

India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) has sanctioned loans worth **Rs 8,800 crore** for airports and civil aviation infrastructure development in India.

- The IIFCL has already sanctioned loans of around Rs 4,000 crore.

Funding:

- i. IIFCL is one of India's major airport financiers and has supported airports with a total project outlay of about Rs 74,000 crore.
- ii. IIFCL along with the Government of India will continue to support the development of world-class airport infrastructure in India under the Public-Private-Partnership(PPP) model.
 - It will also explore opportunities to fund greenfield airport projects and Maintenance, Repairs and Overhaul (MRO) facilities.

5. According to the 19th Quarterly Bulletin (QB) of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for April-June 2023 (Q1FY24) released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in October 2023, India's urban unemployment rate (UR) in Current Weekly Status (CWS) terms for persons aged 15 years and above declined to _____ during Q1FY24.

- 1) 6.3%
- 2) 6.6%
- 3) 6.9%
- 4) 6.7%
- 5) 6.2%

Answer- **2) 6.6%**

Explanation:

On October 9, 2023, the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released its 19th Quarterly Bulletin(QB) of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for April-June 2023 (Q1FY24).

As per it, **India's urban unemployment rate (UR)** in Current Weekly Status (**CWS**) terms for persons aged 15 years and above declined to **6.6%** during **Q1FY24** from 6.8% during Q4FY23. It was 7.6% in April-June 2022 (Q1FY23).

- The UR for Q1FY24 is lower than the URs observed in the quarters covered in the pre-pandemic period.
- A total number of 5,639 FSUs- First Stage Unit (UFS- Urban Frame Survey blocks) have been surveyed during Q1FY24. The number of urban households surveyed was 44,190 and the number of persons surveyed was 1,67,916 in urban areas.
- UR in CWS among male population declined to 5.9% as compared to 7.1 in Q1FY23.
- At all India levels, the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in CWS increased to 48.8% from 47.5% in April-June 2022 (Q1FY23).
- Worker Population Ratio (WPR- in %) in CWS increased to 45.5% from 43.9% in Q1FY23.

6. According to World Economic Outlook (WEO)-Navigating Global Divergences' released in October 2023, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast to _____ for 2023.

- 1) 6.5%
- 2) 6.7%
- 3) 6.3%
- 4) 6.1%
- 5) 6.5%

Answer- **3) 6.3%**

Explanation:

According to World Economic Outlook (**WEO**), October **2023** -Navigating Global Divergences' the International Monetary Fund (**IMF**) has raised India's Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) **growth** forecast to **6.3%** in **2023** from July 2023 estimate of 6.1% due to 7.8% growth during the June quarter.

- India will also grow at 6.3% in 2024 while remaining the world's fastest growing major economy in 2023 and 2024.
- The IMF's 2023 growth forecast for India is the same as the World Bank's (WB) projection in its India Development Update(IDU) October 2023.

i. Global economic growth will slow to 3% in 2023 from 3.5% in 2022, a fall by 50 basis points. It will be 2.9% in 2024.

ii. Global inflation will decline steadily to 6.9% in 2023 from 8.7% in 2022. It will be 5.8% in 2024.

7. According to the 6th Annual Report 'Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) [July, 2022 – June, 2023]' released by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in October 2023, the Unemployment rate (UR) at 6-year low of _____ in 2022-23 under the Usual Status (ps+ss).

- 1) 5.2%
- 2) 3.2%
- 3) 5.3%
- 4) 4.5%
- 5) 3.9%

Answer- **2) 3.2%**

Explanation:

On October 9, 2023, the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the **6th Annual Report 'Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) [July, 2022 – June, 2023]** stating Unemployment rate (UR) at **6-year low** of **3.2%** in **2022-23** under the Usual Status (ps+ss). It was 6% in 2017-18.

- The UR in Current Weekly Status (CWS) decreased to 5.1% in 2022-23. It was 8.7% in 2017-18.
- The UR under the Usual Status during the one-year period declined for the 5th consecutive year since it was launched in April 2017 while under CWS it decreased for the 3rd consecutive year since April 2017.
- At all India level, UR decreased to 3.2% in 2022-23 from 4.1% in 2021-22
- At the all India level, the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) increased to 57.9% in 2022-23 from 55.2% in 2021-22.
- At the all India level, Worker Population Ratio (WPR) increased to 51.8% from 48.3% in 2021-22.

8. Which company has recently (in Oct '23) signed 2 MoU with two France-based Space firms Promethee Earth Intelligence and ConnectSAT to launch satellites on Vikram-I Rocket?

- 1) Garuda Aerospace
- 2) Tata Elxsi
- 3) Agnikul Cosmos
- 4) Dhruva Space
- 5) Skyroot Aerospace

Answer- **5) Skyroot Aerospace**

Explanation:

Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited, a Hyderabad (Telangana) -based space startup, has signed two memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with two France-based Space firms **Promethee Earth Intelligence** and **ConnectSAT**.

- The satellites of the French space firms are set to be launched on Vikram-I of the Skyroot.
- i. Skyroot signed an MoU with Promethee to launch its Japetus earth observation constellation onboard Skyroot's Vikram rockets.
 - The MoU was signed by Olivier Piepsz, Co-Founder and CEO of Prométhée, and Co-Founders of Skyroot Aerospace, Pawan Chandana and Bharath Daka.
 - ii. Skyroot signed a trilateral MoU with ConnectSAT and Expleo to launch ConnectSAT's OSIRIS satellite constellation onboard Skyroot's Vikram rockets.

As part of the MoU, Expleo provides reconfigurable software for ConnectSAT's Internet of Things (IoT) satellite.

9. In October 2023, Bharti Group entered into a binding agreement with its Joint Venture(JV) partner AXA to acquire its _____ stake in Bharti AXA Life Insurance.

- 1) 45%
- 2) 51%
- 3) 35%
- 4) 49%
- 5) 64%

Answer- **4) 49%**

Explanation:

Bharti Group, through its holding company Bharti Life Ventures Private Limited (**BLVPL**) has entered into a binding agreement with its Joint Venture (JV) partner AXA to acquire its **49%** stake in **Bharti AXA Life Insurance**.

- i. Through this acquisition, BLVPL will own 100% stake in the Bharti AXA Life Insurance.
- ii. The transaction is expected to be completed by December 2023, subject to regulatory approvals.
- iii. Bharti Group set up the ventures with Paris based 'AXA' (a French multinational insurance firm) in 2006 and held 74% stake in both – Bharti AXA General Insurance and Bharti AXA Life Insurance .

10. In October 2023, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) announced a plan to invest Rs _____ as equity in IndianOil NTPC Green Energy Pvt Ltd for setting up renewable power plants.

- 1) 1,660.15 crore
- 2) 3,789.28 crore
- 3) 2,589.34 crore
- 4) 1,986.80 crore
- 5) 4,765.01 crore

Answer- **1) 1,660.15 crore**

Explanation:

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (**IOCL**), a state-owned Maharatna company, is set to invest Rs **1,660.15 crore** as equity in IndianOil NTPC Green Energy Pvt Ltd for setting up renewable power plants.

- i. **IndianOil NTPC Green Energy Pvt Ltd** is a joint venture (JV) company with a 50:50 share between IOCL and NTPC Green Energy Ltd, (a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC Limited) formed in June 2023.
- ii. The new JV was formed to set up renewable energy projects (**Solar photovoltaics (PV) wind**, any other renewable energy, energy storage, or any combination of the same) with a minimum generation of 650 megawatt (MW), to meet 24X7 power requirements of refineries of the IOCL.

11. According to the Economic Outlook Survey released by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) in October 2023, India's annual median Gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate is projected at _____ for the financial year 2023-24 (FY 2023-24).

- 1) 6.9%
- 2) 6.2%
- 3) 6.0%
- 4) 6.5%
- 5) 6.3%

Answer- **5) 6.3%**

Explanation:

According to **Economic Outlook Survey** released by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (**FICCI**), India's annual median Gross domestic product (**GDP**) **growth rate** for the financial year 2023-24 (**FY 2023-24**) is projected at **6.3%** with a minimum and maximum growth estimate of 6% and 6.6%, respectively.

i. Sectorswise Prediction:

- The expected growth rate for agriculture and allied activities in FY23-24 is 2.7%, which is lower than the 4.0% growth rate reported in FY22-23.

- This is due to the El Niño effect, which has affected the spatial distribution of rainfall during the monsoon season.
- The industry and services sectors are expected to grow by 5.6% and 7.3%, respectively, in the FY23-24.

12. According to Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) released by the Standard & Poor (S&P) Global Market Intelligence in October 2023, India will become Asia's second-largest economy by _____ (year) with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD 7.3 trillion.

- 1) 2026
- 2) 2028
- 3) 2027
- 4) 2025
- 5) 2030

Answer- **5) 2030**

Explanation:

According to **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** data of Standard & Poor (**S&P**) **Global Market Intelligence**, **India** will become **Asia's second-largest economy** by **2030** with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD 7.3 trillion. India will also become the world's third-largest economy.

- PMI also forecasted that India's GDP will grow at 6.2-6.3% in the financial year 2023-24 (FY23-24).

i. Top Economies(of the world):

- The United States of America(USA) is the world's largest economy with a GDP of USD 25.5 trillion.
- This is followed by China, Japan, and Germany in second, third, and fourth respectively (largest economy) with a GDP of USD 18 Trillion, USD 4.2 trillion, and USD 4 trillion respectively.

ii. Fifth Largest Economy:

- India overtook the United Kingdom(UK) and became the fifth-largest economy in the world with a GDP of USD 3.7 trillion.
- India is also Asia's third largest economy after China and Japan.

13. In October 2023, Neyveli Lignite Corporation(NLC) India Limited incorporated a wholly owned subsidiary _____ to focus on Renewable energy initiatives.

- 1) NLC Videsh Limited
- 2) Coal Lignite Urja Vikas Private Limited
- 3) NLC Tamil Nadu Power Limited
- 4) NLC India Green Energy Limited
- 5) Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Limited

Answer- **4) NLC India Green Energy Limited**

Explanation:

Neyveli Lignite Corporation (**NLC**) **India** Limited incorporated a wholly owned subsidiary **NLC India Green Energy Limited** (NIGEL) to focus on Renewable energy initiatives.

i. NIGEL's logo was unveiled along with the appointment of key managerial positions at the first Board meeting of the company.

ii. NLC's green arm NIGEL is expected to establish Renewable energy projects to the capacity of **5 Gigawatt (GW)** by **2030**.

- NLC is already developing Projects to the tune of 2 GW in various parts of India.

14. Which company has recently (in Oct '23) received its 2nd Type certification from Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for its agricultural drones?

- 1) Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd
- 2) Paras Aerospace Private Limited
- 3) Dhaksha Unmanned Systems Pvt. Ltd
- 4) Thanos Technologies Pvt. Ltd
- 5) TechEagle Pvt. Ltd

Answer- 2) Paras Aerospace Private Limited

Explanation:

Mumbai(Maharashtra)-based **Paras Aerospace Private Limited**, a subsidiary of Paras Defence & Space Technologies Limited, has received its **2nd Type certification** from Directorate General of Civil Aviation (**DGCA**) for its agricultural drones – “Paras-Agricopter V2.1”. The certification is issued for the MEDIUM Drone Category.

- This will allow Paras Aerospace to honour its existing contracts for “Paras-Agricopter V2.1”.
- This will also enable Paras to explore new opportunities in the agricultural drone industry.
- Previously in April 2023, Paras Aerospace received a “Type Certificate” from DGCA for its Agri Drone “Paras-Agricopter”.

MoU's AND AGREEMENTS

1. Name the organisation/Agency that has recently (in Oct '23) signed an MoU with World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to collaborate on clean, drug-free sport.

- 1) International Testing Agency
- 2) National Anti-Doping Agency, India
- 3) South Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organisation
- 4) World Health Organisation
- 5) Athletics Integrity Unit

Answer- 4) World Health Organisation

Explanation:

World Anti-Doping Agency (**WADA**) and World Health Organisation (**WHO**) have recently inked a four-year Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) that enables experts from both global organisations to work together and exchange information concerning areas where the realms of anti-doping and public health intersect.

- i. The MoU was signed in Geneva, Switzerland, between WADA president Witold Banka and WHO Director-General Tedros Ghebreyesus.
- ii. The agreement will run until 1 October 2027 and provides a framework of cooperation between WHO and WADA to further their goals.

2. Name the University/Institute that has recently (in Oct '23) signed an MoU with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to advance Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti (PMGS) National Master Plan (NMP).

- 1) Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya
- 2) Institute of Urban Transport India
- 3) Rashtriya Raksha University
- 4) Navrachana University
- 5) Central University of Andhra Pradesh

Answer- **1) Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya**

Explanation:

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (**GSV**), Gujarat based central university, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to advance Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti (**PMGS**) National Master Plan (**NMP**).

i. The MoU aims to advance India's infrastructure and logistics sectors.

- Under this MoU, GSV will be the nodal agency across India to design, develop and deliver courses and curriculum related to PMGS NMP and National Logistics Policy (NLP) at various centers in different States.
- PMGS approach will lead to reduced logistics costs, greater efficiency, and a more competitive business ecosystem.

3. Which country has recently (in Oct '23) signed two MoUs with India in ocean sciences and medical product regulation?

- 1) France
- 2) Dominican Republic
- 3) Brazil
- 4) Ecuador
- 5) Peru

Answer- **2) Dominican Republic**

Explanation:

India and **Dominican Republic** have signed two Memorandum of Understandings (**MoUs**) in ocean sciences and medical product regulation.

i. The 2 MoUs were signed between,

- Central Drug Control Organization of India (CDSCO) and the General Directorate of Medicines, Food, and Health Products of the Dominican Republic (DIGEMAPS).
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, National Institute of Oceanography of India (CSIR-NIO) and the National Authority for Maritime Affairs of the Dominican Republic (ANAMAR).

ii. The MoUs were signed during a high level political dialogue between Raquel Pena Rodriguez, the Vice President of the Dominican Republic, and India's Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar in New Delhi, Delhi.

iii. The meeting was a part of the 3 day official visit of Raquel Peña Rodríguez to India from 3rd to 5th October 2023.

4. Which Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has recently (in Oct '23) signed an MoU with the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) to set up a Digital Twin Center for Emerging Automotive Systems?

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

Answer- 3) IIT Guwahati

Explanation:

The Automotive Research Association of India (**ARAI**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT**) **Guwahati**(Assam) for establishing a Common Engineering Facility Center (CEFC) titled "Digital Twin Center for Emerging Automotive Systems" in the Hub and Spoke model.

- i.** This CEFC was established under the Capital Goods Scheme Phase II of the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) by ARAI in collaboration with industry partner Micelio Mobility Private Limited.
- ii.** The CEFC will enable "Smart Advanced Manufacturing and Rapid Transformation Hub (SAMARTH) Udyog Bharat 4.0," to benefit the industry, particularly Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and startups, by creating digital twins for the different systems across industries.

Note- ARAI, the leading automotive R&D organization in India is an autonomous body under the aegis of the MHI.

5. Which state's skill, employment & entrepreneurship department has recently (in Oct '23) signed an MoU with the Indian Army (Headquarters 51 Sub Area) for upskilling ex-servicemen and their dependents?

- 1) Sikkim
- 2) Assam
- 3) Manipur
- 4) Arunachal Pradesh
- 5) Uttarakhand

Answer- 2) Assam

Explanation:

Assam Skill Development Mission (**ASDM**) under the Skill, Employment & Entrepreneurship Department, Government of Assam and the **Indian Army** (Headquarters 51 Sub Area) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) for upskilling ex-servicemen and their dependents.

- This MoU between Indian Army and ASDM will empower ex-servicemen and their dependents to get remunerative employment and self-employment.
 - The MoU was signed in the presence of Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief minister(CM) of Assam and general officer commanding-in-chief (GOC-in-C). of Eastern Command, Lieutenant General Rana Pratap Kalita.
- i.** The Assam CM also unveiled a statue of Lachit Borphukan, a medieval-era Ahom army commander, and a Swahid Smarak (Martyr's Column) at Bir Lachit Borphukan Park inside Narengi Military Station in Guwahati, Assam.
 - These 2 structures were conceptualised by Major General (Retd.) R.K. Jha, former General Officer Commanding of 51 Sub Area of the Indian Army in Narengi.

- These structures were funded by the Government of Assam.

6. Name the Institute that has recently (in Oct '23) signed an MoU with the National Institute of Communication Finance (NICF) to promote the exchange of knowledge and resources.

- 1) Indian Institutes of Technology Bombay
- 2) Indian Institute of Management Calcutta
- 3) Indian Institutes of Technology Delhi
- 4) Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs
- 5) Indian Institute of Management Bangalore

Answer- **4) Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs**

Explanation:

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (**IICA**) and National Institute of Communication Finance (**NICF**) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to promote the exchange of knowledge and resources between these institutions for conducting research, training capacity building and advocacy.

- i. The MoU covers a wide range of topics, including finance, restructuring, turnaround, competition law, corporate law, corporate governance, Insolvency and Bankruptcy law, leadership, organisational effectiveness, telecommunication policies, and spectrum auction.
- ii. The collaboration also aims to develop the skills and knowledge of Indian Posts and Telecom Accounts and Finance Service (IP&TAFS) officers.

7. Name the Department of GoI has recently (in Oct '23) signed an MoU with the National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC) to monitor Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY 2.0) using geo-spatial applications.

- 1) Department of Scientific and Industrial Research
- 2) Department of Defence Research & Development
- 3) Department of Land Resources
- 4) Department of Telecommunications
- 5) Department of Science and Technology

Answer- **3) Department of Land Resources**

Explanation:

The Department of Land Resources (**DOLR**) and the National Remote Sensing Center (**NRSC**) have signed an Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to monitor Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (**WDC-PMKSY 2.0**) using geo-spatial applications.

- i. The event also witnessed the launch of mobile application DRISHTI 2.0 and web-portal SRISHTI 2.0 for WDC-PMKSY 2.0.
- ii. NRSC will provide DOLR with
 - High-resolution satellite data for all the WDC 2.0 projects (across India).
 - Customized software tools on Bhuvan for monitoring, online image comparison and visualization of project reports.
 - Customized Bhuvan web page Srishti for WDC-PMKSY 2.0.
 - Customized mobile application Drishti for field data collection and data transfer to Bhuvan.

8. Name the company that has recently (in Oct '23) signed an MoUs with IndiaAI – Digital India Corporation, India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) & Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to advance and accelerate innovation in AI, Semiconductor, and quantum technology in India.

- 1) Wipro Limited
- 2) Infosys Limited
- 3) IBM
- 4) Microsoft India
- 5) Tata Consultancy Services

Answer- 3) IBM

Explanation:

IBM(International Business Machines Corporation) signed **3** Memoranda of Understanding (**MoUs**) with **3 entities (Organisations)** under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to advance and accelerate innovation in Artificial intelligence (AI), Semiconductor, and quantum technology in India.

i. The 3 MoUs were signed with **IndiaAI – Digital India Corporation**, India Semiconductor Mission (**ISM**), and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (**C-DAC**).

- IBM and IndiaAI – Digital India Corporation collaborate to establish a world-class national AI Innovation Platform (AIIP) for India.
- IBM is set to become India Semiconductor Mission's (ISM) knowledge partner for a semiconductor research center.
- Through this MoU, IBM and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) are set to work together to advance India's National Quantum Mission in the following ways: Building expertise in computing technology, developing applications in areas of national interest, creating a skilled quantum workforce & Supporting the development of industries, startups, and Research and development (R&D).

9. Which state's Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) has recently (in Oct '23) signed an MoU with National Cadet Corps (NCC) to enroll NCC students as Youth Red Cross(YRC) Volunteers?

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

Answer- 3) Andhra Pradesh

Explanation:

The Indian Red Cross Society (**IRCS**), Andhra Pradesh(**AP**), has signed a first of its kind Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the National Cadet Corps (**NCC**) to enroll NCC students as Youth Red Cross(**YRC**) **Volunteers** in Andhra Pradesh(**AP**).

i. Under this MoU, the IRSC AP will instruct NCC cadets in first aid, CPR, and disaster relief. NCC Cadets will be encouraged to donate blood in times of need and to participate in environmental activities to combat climate change.

ii. As a YRC Volunteer, NCC students will extend services during emergencies in AP.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1. Name the Param Vir Chakra(PVC) Awardee who has been recently (in Sept' 23) nominated as the ambassador for the "War Against Waste" in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

- 1) Captain Naik Karam Singh
- 2) Captain Somnath Sharma
- 3) Captain Yogendra Singh Yadav
- 4) Captain Sanjay Kumar
- 5) Captain Bana Singh

Answer- **5) Captain Bana Singh**

Explanation:

The Directorate of Rural Sanitation, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir(J&K) has nominated Param Vir Chakra(PVC) Awardee **Captain Bana Singh** as the **ambassador** for the "**War Against Waste**", initiative to tackle sanitation challenges in rural areas of J&K.

- The "War Against Waste" campaign attempts to resolve waste management and environmental conservation challenges in rural J&K.
- Charandeep Singh, Director of Rural Sanitation of J&K announced the nomination of ambassador at Captain Bana Singh Stadium, R. S. Pura, Jammu during the Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS 2023) campaign.
- Captain Bana Singh served in the 8th Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry (JAK LI).
- He played a key role in 'Operation Rajiv' in which Indian armed forces' recaptured 'Quaid Post' in Siachen Glacier at an altitude of 21,000 feet, from Pakistani soldiers in June 1987.
- The recaptured post was renamed as the 'Bana Top' in his honour.
- He was awarded India's highest wartime gallantry medal "Param Vir Chakra" in 1988.

2. In October 2023, Mohamed Muizzu was elected as the New President of _____ (country).

- 1) Libya
- 2) South Sudan
- 3) Kenya
- 4) Maldives
- 5) Seychelles

Answer- **4) Maldives**

Explanation:

Mohamed Muizzu of the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) was elected as the New **President of Maldives**. He is set to be sworn in on 17th November 2023.

i. He defeated the incumbent President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih (2018 to 2023) of the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) by securing 54% of the votes.

ii. The 45-year-old Mohamed Muizzu is currently serving as the mayor of the capital Male since 2021, and he is the first mayor of Male to be elected by the people.

iii. He had served as the minister of housing and environment from 2012 to 2018 under the-Maldives president Abdulla Yameen.

3. Name the personality who has recently (in Sept '23) elected as the Chairman of the Press Trust of India (PTI) for the one-year term.

- 1) Vineet Jain
- 2) Mahendra Mohan Gupta
- 3) K.N. Shanth Kumar
- 4) Aveek Kumar Sarkar
- 5) Riyad Mathew

Answer- 3) K.N. Shanth Kumar

Explanation:

K.N. Shanth Kumar of Deccan Herald was elected as the **Chairman** of the Press Trust of India (**PTI**) for the one-year term and Praveen Someshwar, the Chief Executive Officer of Hindustan Times, was elected as the Vice-Chairman.

- i.** Shanth Kumar succeeds Aveek Kumar Sarkar, who had served as Chairman of PTI for 2 consecutive terms (2020 – 2023). Shanth Kumar has previously held the Chairmanship of PTI from 2013 to 2014.
- ii.** The election took place at a meeting of PTI's Board of Directors following their Annual General Meeting at the headquarters of PTI in New Delhi, Delhi.

4. In September 2023, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the extension of Amit Agrawal's tenure as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) for a period of ____ year.

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

Answer- 4) 1

Explanation:

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**) has approved the extension of **Amit Agrawal's** tenure as the Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of the Unique Identification Authority of India (**UIDAI**) for a period of **one year** starting from November 2, 2023 up to November 2, 2024, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

- i.** Amit Agrawal assumed charge as the CEO of UIDAI in June 2023 following the retirement of Saurabh Garg.
- ii.** At present, Amit Agrawal also serves as the Chairman of the National Digital Communications Policy Committee.

5. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the re-appointment of Nitin Gupta as the chairman of the _____ (statutory authority) for a tenure of 9-months.

- 1) Central Bureau of Narcotics
- 2) Central Board of Direct Taxes
- 3) Central Board of Excise and Customs
- 4) Central Bureau of Investigation
- 5) National Investigation Agency

Answer- 2) Central Board of Direct Taxes

Explanation:

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**) has approved the re-appointment of Nitin Gupta as the chairman of the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** for a tenure of 9-month with effect from 1st October 2023.

- He was re-appointment on a contract basis till 30th June 2024, or until further orders, whichever is earlier, in relaxation of the recruitment rules, on usual terms and conditions applicable to re-employed central government officers.
- In June 2022, he was appointed as the Chairperson of CBDT following the superannuation of Sangeeta Singh, a 1986-batch IRS officer.
- His 1st tenure as Chairperson of CBDT was from 27th June 2022 to 30th September 2023.

6. Name the personality who is set to take additional charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) in October 2023.

- 1) Akash Tripathi
- 2) Shobhendra Bahadur
- 3) Surya Kant
- 4) Aniruddha Bose
- 5) S. Ravindra Bhat

Answer- **1) Akash Tripathi**

Explanation:

Akash Tripathi, chief executive officer (CEO) of India's citizen engagement platform **MyGov**, is set to become the **CEO of India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** as **additional charge** from 9th October 2023.

- i. Akash Tripathi will succeed Amitesh Kumar Sinha whose tenure ends on 4th October 2023.
- ii. Akash Tripathi was also MeitY's nodal officer for social media content takedowns under Section 69 of the IT Act.
- iii. ISM was established in 2021 with a financial commitment of USD 10 billion (Rs. 76,000 crores) under the Digital India Corporation of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

7. Who has been recently (in Oct '23) named as the 'Global Ambassador' for the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's Cricket One Day International (ODI) World Cup 2023?

- 1) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- 2) Ravi Shastri
- 3) Sachin Tendulkar
- 4) Sourav Ganguly
- 5) Kapil Dev

Answer- **3) Sachin Tendulkar**

Explanation:

Former Indian cricket Player **Sachin Tendulkar** was named as the '**Global Ambassador**' for the International Cricket Council (**ICC**) **Men's Cricket One Day International (ODI) World Cup 2023**.

- i. Sachin unveils the World Cup trophy before the inaugural match between England and New Zealand on 5th October 2023.
- ii. Sachin has played six ODI World Cups including 1989, 1992, 1996, 2003, 2007, and 2011.

iii. The 13th edition of the Men's ODI World Cup is set to be held from 5th October to 19th November 2023, comprising 48 matches across 10 venues in India. Both the inaugural and final matches are set to be held in Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

iv. Mascot: ICC announces two mascots including 'Blaze'(female mascot- Bowler) and 'Tonk' (male mascot – Batsmen).

8. Who has been recently (in Oct '23) promoted as the global Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PayU Global Payment Organisation (GPO)?

- 1) Ajay Kumar
- 2) Anirban Mukherjee
- 3) Reeru Dutta
- 4) Akash Sinha
- 5) Praveen Sharma

Answer- **2) Anirban Mukherjee**

Explanation:

Anirban Mukherjee has been **promoted** as the global Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of **PayU** Global Payment Organisation (GPO), a payments and fintech business of Prosu. Currently, he is a part of the PayU global leadership team and serves as the CEO of PayU India.

i. He replaces Laurent Le Moal, the incumbent global CEO of PayU GPO, who steps back from the operational management of the day-to-day business. Le Moal will remain with Prosus and PayU in an advisory capacity.

9. In October 2023, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet(ACC) extended the tenure of Dinesh Kumar Khara as the Chairman of the _____ (Bank) until 28th August 2024.

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

Answer- **5) State Bank of India**

Explanation:

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**) has extended the tenure of the **Chairman** of the **State Bank of India (SBI) Dinesh Kumar Khara** till **28th August 2024** or till he attains the age of 63 years, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

i. He has been serving as the chairman of SBI since 7th October 2020. His 3 year tenure ended on 6th October 2023.

ii. ACC has also extended the tenure of Ashwini Kumar Tewari as the Managing Director(MD) of SBI for 2 years beyond January 27, 2024.

Note: Currently, the retirement age for the SBI chairman is capped at 63. Khara will turn 63 in August 2024.

10. Name the personality who has recently (in Oct '23) appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director(CMD) of General Insurance Corporation of India Limited (GIC Re).

- 1) Atanu Kumar Das
- 2) Ramaswamy Narayanan

3) Bishnu Charan Patnaik

4) Devesh Srivastava

5) Neerja Kapur

Answer- **2) Ramaswamy Narayanan**

Explanation:

Ministry of Finance has appointed **Ramaswamy Narayanan** as Chairman and Managing Director (**CMD**) to General Insurance Corporation of India Limited (**GIC Re**) with effect from 1st October, 2023 and up to the date of his superannuation (i.e. 30th September 2025) or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

i. He succeeds Devesh Srivastava, who retired from the post on 30th September 2023. He has been serving as CMD since December 2019.

ii. Prior to this appointment he was serving as the General Manager of GIC Re.

iii. He was appointed based on the recommendation of the Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB) to the Ministry of Finance in June 2023.

11. In October 2023, India was re-elected as President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference (GC) for the _____ successive term.

1) 2nd

2) 5th

3) 3rd

4) 6th

5) 4th

Answer- **3) 3rd**

Explanation:

India has been re-elected as President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (**AIBD**) General Conference (**GC**) for the **3rd** successive term. Previously India served as President of AIBD GC in 2018-2021 and 2021 to 2023.

- India is set to lead the international organisation and will leverage itself as the broadcasting and media hub across the Asia Pacific.
- Mayank Kumar Agrawal, Director General, Doordarshan is the president of AIBD GC.
- The AIBD GC and its Associated Meetings is the annual official gathering of AIBD.
- The GC is open to member countries, affiliates, partners, observers, and leading broadcasters by invitation only.
- The 48th Annual Gathering / 21st AIBD General Conference and Associated Meetings 2023, was held at Balaclava, Mauritius from 2nd to 4th October 2023.

12. In October 2023, Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud announced that the Supreme Court of India has allowed the appointment of a _____ to help Hearing-Impaired Lawyers.

1) Sign-language Interpreter

2) Audiovisual Technician

3) Audiologist

4) Paralegalist

5) Counsellor

Answer- **1) Sign-language Interpreter**

Explanation:

Chief Justice of India (CJI) **D Y Chandrachud** announced that the **Supreme Court of India** has allowed the appointment of a **sign-language interpreter**. This will ensure that hearing-impaired lawyers and litigants can fully comprehend and participate in judicial proceedings.

- i. On 22 September 2023, the CJI presided over a bench hearing with the hearing-impaired lawyer Sarah Sunny through sign-language interpreter Saurav Roy Chowdhury in a case related to the rights of persons with disabilities (PwD).
- ii. Sarah Sunny had earlier filed an application before the Supreme Court Registry requesting a court-appointed Indian Sign Language (ISL) interpreter to assist her.

13. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet’s (ACC) approval to appoint the Executive Directors (EDs) of various Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in October 2023?

A) The ACC chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the appointment of 12 Chief General Managers (CGMs) and General Managers (GMs) as Executive Directors (EDs) of various Public Sector Banks (PSBs).

B) Lal Singh, CGM of Punjab National Bank has been appointed as the ED of Bank of India for a period of 3 years with effect from the date of assumption of office.

C) Brajesh Kumar Singh, CGM of BoB has been appointed as the ED of Indian Bank for a period of 3 years effective from March 2024.

- 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 7, 2023, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, approved the appointment of **12 Chief General Managers (CGMs)** and General Managers (GMs) as Executive Directors (EDs) of various Public Sector Banks (PSBs).

i. Lal Singh, CGM of Union Bank of India (UBI) has been appointed as the **ED of Bank of Baroda (BoB)** for a period of **3 years** with effect from the date of assumption of office.

- It is noted that he shall be eligible for an extension of the term of office, after a review of his performance, till attaining the age of superannuation (i.e., 31.01.2027), or until further orders.

ii. Brajesh Kumar Singh, CGM of BoB has been appointed as the **ED of Indian Bank** for a period of 3 years effective from March 2024.

iii. Rohit Rishi, CGM of Indian Bank has been appointed as ED of Bank of Maharashtra (BOM) for a period of 3 years effective from November 2023. [List of officials promoted from CGM or GM to ED.](#)

14. In October 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted a 9 member external Working Group chaired by _____ to suggest Expected Credit Loss (ECL) framework for provisioning by banks.

- 1) Raghuram G. Rajan
- 2) R. Narayanaswamy
- 3) B. P. Kanungo

4) Muneesh Kapur

5) Urjit R. Patel

Answer- **2) R. Narayanaswamy**

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a **9 member external Working Group** chaired by Prof. **R. Narayanaswamy** to suggest Expected Credit Loss (ECL) framework for provisioning by banks.

i. R Narayanaswamy is a retired Indian accountant and former Professor of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Note- RBI has appointed **Muneesh Kapur** as Executive Director (**ED**) with effect from October 3, 2023.

- As executive director, Muneesh Kapur will monitor the Department of Economic and Policy Research.

15. Which organisation has recently (in Oct '23) re-elected Nandini Azad as a member for the 2nd term?

1) Universal Postal Union

2) Inter-Parliamentary Union

3) International Trade Union Confederation

4) International Telecommunication Union

5) International Raiffeisen Union

Answer- **5) International Raiffeisen Union**

Explanation:

Nandini Azad, President of the Indian Cooperative Network for Women (**ICNW**) and the Working Women's Forum (**WWF**) (**India**), has been re-elected as a **member** of the International Raiffeisen Union (**IRU**) **Board** for the **2nd term**.

i. In 2018, she was elected to the IRU Board becoming the first Indian and first woman to be appointed to the post.

ii. At Present, she is also serving as the Chairperson of the International Cooperative Alliance(ICA) – Asia Pacific(AP) Committee on Women.

iii. Other Noted appointment:

- Guy Hoffmann from Banque Raiffeisen Luxembourg has been elected as the new IRU President, succeeding Franky Depickere from Cera.
- National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) President Dileepbhai Sanghani has been re-elected unopposed as the director on the board of IRU.

16. Who has been recently (in Oct '23) elected as the Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)?

1) Ajay Sharma

2) Navneet Munot

3) N.S.Venkatesh

4) Anthony Heredia

5) Jayanth Kumar

Answer- **2) Navneet Munot**

Explanation:

Navneet Munot, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HDFC Asset Management Co. Ltd (AMC), has been elected as the Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).

i. He will take charge as chairman on 16th October 2023, succeeding A Balasubramanian, MD & CEO of Aditya Birla Sun Life Asset Management Co. Ltd.

Note: The election took place at the 28th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of AMFI in September 2023.

i. Anthony Heredia, MD, and CEO of Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund, was elected as Vice Chairman of AMFI.

- He will take charge on 16th October 2023, succeeding Radhika Gupta, MD & CEO of Edelweiss Asset Management Ltd.

17. Name the cricketer who has been recently (in Oct '23) appointed as the new Chair of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)'s World Cricket Committee(WCC).

- 1) Andrew Balbirnie (Ireland)
- 2) Kraigg Brathwaite (West Indies)
- 3) Pat Cummins (Australia)
- 4) Jos Buttler (England)
- 5) Kumar Chokshanada Sangakkara (Sri Lanka)

Answer- **5) Kumar Chokshanada Sangakkara (Sri Lanka)**

Explanation:

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) has appointed former Sri Lankan Cricket Captain **Kumar Chokshanada Sangakkara** as the new Chair of MCC's World Cricket Committee (WCC).

i. He will succeed former England captain Mike Gatting, who has held the post since 2017.

ii. Kumar Sangakkara is currently the Director of Cricket and the Head Coach of the Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

- He was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Club in 2011.
- He served as the President of the MCC from 2019-21; He became the 1st non-British President of MCC.
- Former England Cricketer Mark Charles Jefford Nicholas will serve as the new President of MCC. He was elected to MCC membership in 1981.

18. In October 2023, _____, Deputy Chief Minister (Dy CM) of Maharashtra, resigned as a Director of the Pune District Central Cooperative Bank Ltd (PDCC).

- 1) Gopinath Munde
- 2) Devendra Fadnavis
- 3) Chhagan Bhujbal
- 4) Ajit Pawar
- 5) R. R. Patil

Answer- **4) Ajit Pawar**

Explanation:

Ajit Pawar, Deputy Chief Minister (Dy CM) of Maharashtra, has resigned as a Director of the Pune District Central Cooperative Bank Ltd (PDCC) citing increase in workload after becoming Dy CM of Maharashtra.

i. Digambar Durgade, the President of PDCC has accepted Ajit Pawar's resignation. Ajit Pawar has been a director of PDCC for 32 years since 1991.

- He served as one of the directors on the board of 19 directors of PDCC.

ii. In July 2023, he was sworn in as the 9th Dy CM of Maharashtra for an unprecedented 5th time (November 2010-September 2012; October 2012-September 2014; November 23-26, 2019; December 2019-June 2022; June 2023-present).

19. In October 2023, Daniel Noboa became the youngest President elect of _____ (country).

- 1) Venezuela
- 2) Ecuador
- 3) Brazil
- 4) El Salvador
- 5) Chile

Answer- **2) Ecuador**

Explanation:

Daniel Noboa, a 35-year-old businessman and a member of National Democratic Action, won the 2023 General Election of **Ecuador** defeating Luisa González of the Citizen Revolution Movement.

i. With this victory, Daniel Noboa **becomes** the **youngest ever** President elect of **Ecuador**.

ii. Daniel Noboa is scheduled to be sworn in on 25 November 2023 succeeding the outgoing President Guillermo Lasso.

iii. He will serve out the term of Guillermo Lasso, which will end in May 2025.

Note- Normally, the presidential term in Ecuador is 4 years long.

20. Who has been recently (in Oct '23) elected as the 42nd Prime Minister (PM) of New Zealand?

- 1) Helen Clark
- 2) Dame Jacinda Ardern
- 3) Sir John Key
- 4) Christopher Luxon
- 5) Dame Jenny Shipley

Answer- **4) Christopher Luxon**

Explanation:

Christopher Luxon has been elected as the **42nd** Prime Minister (**PM**) of **New Zealand**. He belongs to (and the leader of) the central-right National Party of New Zealand.

i. He will succeed Labour Party's Chris Hipkins who was appointed the 41st PM of New Zealand in January 2023.

ii. New Zealanders went to the polls on October 14, 2023, to elect the 54th Parliament.

21. Name the Indian Cricketer who has recently (in Oct '23) appointed as the brand ambassador of Puma India.

- 1) Ravindra Jadeja
- 2) Shubman Gill
- 3) Mohammed Shami Ahmed
- 4) Ravichandran Ashwin
- 5) Surya Kumar Yadav

Answer- **3) Mohammed Shami Ahmed**

Explanation:

Puma India has roped in Indian right-arm fast bowler fast bowler **Mohammed Shami Ahmed** as its **brand ambassador**.

- i. As part of this partnership, Shami will promote Puma's shoes, clothing, and accessories through various activities and campaigns.
- ii. Mohammed Shami Ahmed made his international debut in a One Day International (ODI) against Pakistan in January 2013, bowling four maiden overs.

22. Name the personality from India who has been recently (in Oct '23) appointed as the next Ambassador/Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations (UN).

- 1) Saurabh Kumar
- 2) Arindam Bagchi
- 3) Sanjay Verma
- 4) Ausaf Sayeed
- 5) Vinay Kwatra

Answer- **2) Arindam Bagchi**

Explanation:

Arindam Bagchi, Additional Secretary [External Publicity(XP)] and Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has been **appointed** the **next Ambassador/Permanent Representative of India** to the United Nations (UN) and other international organisations in Geneva, Switzerland.

- i. Arindam Bagchi is set to take over the post from Indra Mani Pandey, the incumbent Indian envoy to the UN in Geneva. Pandey has been holding the position since September 2020. and is now set to return to New Delhi, Delhi after a three-year term.
- ii. Earlier, he served as Ambassador to Croatia from 2018 to 2020 and Deputy High Commissioner to Sri Lanka.

23. Who has been recently (in Oct '23) appointed as the Chief Justice (CJ) of Manipur High Court?

- 1) Satish Chandra Sharma
- 2) Sandeep Mehta
- 3) Siddharth Mridul
- 4) Sunita Agarwal
- 5) Kotiswar Singh

Answer- **3) Siddharth Mridul**

Explanation:

Delhi High Court judge **Siddharth Mridul** was appointed Chief Justice (**CJ**) of **Manipur High Court** by the union government based on the recommendation of the Supreme Court Collegium in July 2023.

- i. Justice Siddharth Mridul is set to replace Justice Muralidharan who has been serving as the Acting Chief Justice(ACJ) of the Manipur High Court since February 2023.
- ii. Justice Siddharth Mridul was appointed as the additional Judge of the High Court of Delhi in March 2008 and He has been serving as Delhi HC Judge since May 2009.

24. In October 2023, Droupadi Murmu, President of India, appointed Raghubar Das as the 26th Governor of _____ (state) and IndraSena Reddy Nallu as _____ Governor of Tripura.

- 1) Telangana; 24th
- 2) Jharkhand; 20th
- 3) Odisha; 23rd
- 4) Jharkhand; 24th
- 5) Odisha; 20th

Answer- 5) Odisha; 20th

Explanation:

Droupadi Murmu, President of India, has appointed former Chief Minister(CM) of Jharkhand, **Raghubar Das** (68 years old), as the **26th Governor of Odisha** and Telangana Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader **IndraSena Reddy Nallu**(73) as **20th Governor of Tripura** with effect from the date they assume charge.

- i. Raghubar Das will succeed Ganeshi Lal who has been serving as the Governor of Odisha since 2018.
- ii. Indra Sena Reddy Nallu will succeed Satyadeo Narain Arya who has been serving as the Governor of Tripura since 2021.

Note: Raghubar Das is currently serving as the national vice-president of the BJP. He also served as the 6th Chief Minister of Jharkhand from 2014 to 2019.

25. In October 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of Ashok Vaswani as the next Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of _____ Bank for a period of 3 years.

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

Answer- 2) Kotak Mahindra Bank

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has approved the appointment of **Ashok Vaswani** as the next Managing Director (**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMB)** for a period of 3 years. The appointment is with effect from the date of taking charge, which shall not be later than January 1, 2024.

- i. Ashok Vaswani will replace Uday Kotak who stepped down from the post in September 2023. He resigned 4 months ahead of the end of his current tenure, which is December 31, 2023.
- ii. Ashok Vaswani will succeed Dipak Gupta, the Joint MD of KMB, who is serving as the interim MD & CEO of KMB until December 31, 2023.
- iii. Ashok Vaswani is currently the president of Pagaya Technologies Ltd, the United States of America (US)-Israel Artificial intelligence (AI) fintech firm.

26. Who has been recently (in Oct '23) appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)?

- 1) Sanjay Kumar Jain
- 2) Vinay Kumar Sharma
- 3) Devendra Pal Bharti

4) Kamlesh Kumar Mishra

5) Lokiah Ravi Kumar

Answer- **1) Sanjay Kumar Jain**

Explanation:

Sanjay Kumar Jain has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (**CMD**) of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (**IRCTC**).

i. His appointment has been approved after the recommendation of Serach-Cum-Selection Committee (SCSC).

ii. The post was vacant since January 2021 after the retirement of Mahendra Pratap Maal.

iii. From June 2023, Seema Kumar who is the Additional Member (Tourism & Catering) is acting as CMD (Additional Charge).

27. Name the personality who has been recently (in Oct '23) appointed as the senior vice president (SVP) and Managing Director (MD) of HP's India market.

1) Gurpreet Singh

2) Ketan Patel

3) Ipsita Dasgupta

4) Jayanth Kumar

5) Praveen Gupta

Answer- **3) Ipsita Dasgupta**

Explanation:

HP Inc. (known as Hewlett-Packard Company), has appointed former Apple executive **Ipsita Dasgupta** as senior vice president (**SVP**) and Managing Director (**MD**) of **HP's India market**.

i. She will take over the new position with effect from 30th October 2023 succeeding Gurpreet Singh Brar, who has been serving as the Interim MD since November 2022.

ii. As the SVP and MD, she will be responsible for all the aspects of HP's strategy and Profit and Loss (P&L) in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

iii. She will be reporting to David McQuarrie, Chief Commercial Officer(CCO) of HP.

28. Name the Indian Cricket Player who has been recently (in Oct '23) appointed as the brand ambassador of Lay's.

1) Virat Kohli

2) Suresh Raina

3) Mahendra Singh Dhoni

4) Shubman Gill

5) Rishabh Pant

Answer- **3) Mahendra Singh Dhoni**

Explanation:

Mahendra Singh Dhoni (MS Dhoni), Former captain of the Indian Cricket Team, has been appointed as the **brand ambassador** of PepsiCo India's potato chips brand **Lay's**.

i. As the brand ambassador, he will feature on the 'No Lay's, No Game' campaign of Lay's and promote the match-viewing experience with Lay's chips.

ii. The 'No Lay's No Game' is a global campaign associated with football icons Thierry Henry(France) and Lionel Messi(Argentina).

29. Who has recently (in Oct '23) appointed as the Vice Chairman (VC) of Mirae Asset Investment Managers (India) Private Limited?

- 1) Anshul Mittal
- 2) Swarup Anand Mohanty
- 3) Manish Jain
- 4) Arun Chaudhry
- 5) Madhusudan Warriar

Answer- **2) Swarup Anand Mohanty**

Explanation:

South Korea-based **Mirae Asset Financial Group** has appointed **Swarup Anand Mohanty** as the Vice Chairman (VC) of Mirae Asset Investment Managers (India) Private Limited (**Mirae AMC**) with effect from 24th October 2023.

- i.** Prior to the appointment he was serving as the Director and Key Personnel of AMC. he has been serving as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the AMC since 2016.
- ii.** With this, Mohanty becomes the first Non-Korean person to be appointed as the VC within Mirae Asset Financial Group.
- iii.** He has over 2 decades of experience in the field of financial services including more than 17 years of experience in Asset Management Sales. He is overall responsible for the India AMC.

30. Which country has recently (in Oct '23) appointed Robert Fico as the Prime Minister?

- 1) Moldova
- 2) Hungary
- 3) Slovakia
- 4) Estonia
- 5) Bulgaria

Answer- **3) Slovakia**

Explanation:

On 25th October 2023, Zuzana Čaputová, President of Slovakia, formally appointed **Robert Fico** as the Prime Minister (**PM**) of **Slovakia**. He will succeed Ľudovít Ódor who has been serving as the Interim PM of Slovakia since 15 May 2023 after the resignation of Eduard Heger as PM.

- i.** This is the 3rd time Robert Fico will serve as the PM of Slovakia, after having served from 2006 to 2010 and from 2012 to 2018.
- ii.** He is the head of the current ruling pro-Russian party Slovak Social Democracy (SMER-SD).

31. In October 2023, the Ministry of Steel has extended the tenure of Amitava Mukherjee, Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of the _____ (company) for a further period of 1 year.

- 1) GAIL (India)
- 2) National Aluminium Company
- 3) NTPC Limited
- 4) Steel Authority of India
- 5) National Mineral Development Corporation

Answer- **5) National Mineral Development Corporation**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Steel has Extended the tenure of **Amitava Mukherjee**, Chairman-cum-Managing Director (**CMD**) of the National Mineral Development Corporation (**NMDC**) for a further period of **1 year** with effect from 20th November 2023 up to 19th November 2024 or till the appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders.

- i.** He is the Director (Finance) of NMDC who has been holding additional charge as the CMD since March 2023.
- ii.** This is the 2nd extension given to Mukherjee on his additional charge. Earlier the Government extended his tenure in July 2023 till November 19, 2023.

32. In October 2023, His Royal Highness (HRH) Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar was elected as the 17th King of _____ (country) for a term of 5 years.

- 1) Oman
- 2) Malaysia
- 3) Morocco
- 4) Kuwait
- 5) Jordan

Answer- **2) Malaysia**

Explanation:

His Royal Highness (HRH) **Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar**, the Ruler of the southern Malaysian state of Johor, was elected as the **17th King of Malaysia**, also known as Yang di-Pertuan Agong (YDPA) XVII, for a **term of 5 years**, which will begin on 31st January 2024.

- i.** He was elected by the Conference of Rulers during its 263rd (Special) meeting held at the National Palace (Istana Negara) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- ii.** He will replace incumbent Sovereign Al-Sultan Abdullah ibni Sultan Ahmad Shah, Ruler of Pahang state, who has been serving as the 16th King since 2019. His tenure is set to end on 30th January 2024.
- iii.** Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah, will be appointed deputy king for 5 years from 31 January 2024.

33. Name the Consulting company that has been recently (in Oct '23) appointed by the government of India to help prepare India's Vision 2047 document.

- 1) Deloitte Consulting Group
- 2) OC&C Strategy Consultants
- 3) L.E.K. Consulting
- 4) EY-Parthenon
- 5) Boston Consulting Group

Answer- **5) Boston Consulting Group**

Explanation:

The **government of India** has appointed the Boston Consulting Group (**BCG**), a global consulting firm, to help prepare the **Vision 2047 document**, outlining India's medium-term objectives for becoming a developed economy in the **next 25 years**.

- The document will emphasise strategic measures to elevate India to a middle-income country.