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CLASSES

Current Affairs

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English

Part-3



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- i. The Vision 2047 document will emphasise leveraging India's expertise in the industry, services, agriculture, trade, and human capital, along with a focus on enhancing governance systems and public goods accessibility.
- ii. Ensuring inclusive economic growth will be a pivotal component of this Vision 2047 document.

34. The three Indian technology experts namely Amandeep Singh Gill, Nazneen Rajani, and Sharad Sharma named in the list of 39-member _____ High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence?

- 1) World Intellectual Property Organization
- 2) European Union
- 3) World Trade Organization
- 4) United Nations
- 5) International Telecommunication Union

Answer- **4) United Nations**

Explanation:

The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General (SG) **António Guterres** revealed the formation of a 39-member **High-Level Multistakeholder Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence (AI)** in New York, the United States of America (USA).

- The list featured **3 Indian technology experts** namely **Amandeep Singh Gill**, UN SG's Envoy on Technology(since 2022); **Nazneen Rajani**, Lead Researcher at Hugging Face; and **Sharad Sharma**, Co-founder of iSPIRT Foundation.
- The Board will support the international community's efforts to govern AI and its members' list comprises experts from the government, private sector, research community, civil society, and academia.
- It will help bridge other existing and emerging initiatives on AI governance and issue preliminary recommendations by the end of 2023, with final recommendations by summer 2024, ahead of the Summit of the Future.

35. Which Bollywood actor has recently (in October 2023) named as the 'National Icon' for voter awareness and education by the Election Commission of India(ECI)?

- 1) Anupam Kher
- 2) Rajkummar Rao
- 3) Hrithik Roshan
- 4) Amitabh Bachchan
- 5) Akshay Kumar

Answer- **2) Rajkummar Rao**

Explanation:

Bollywood Actor **Rajkummar Rao** was named as the '**National Icon**' for voter awareness and education by the Election Commission of India(ECI).

- Rajkummar Rao and ECI entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) for a period of 3 years at the event held in New Delhi, Delhi, in the presence of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Rajiv Kumar, and Election Commissioners Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel.
- Through this collaboration, Rajkummar Rao will promote voter awareness in various TV talk shows/ programs and digital campaigns about the importance of voting and strengthening the roots of democracy by fostering a more engaged and informed electorate.

- Rajkumar Rao won the best actor award in the 2014 National Film Awards for acting in 'Shahid' movie which was a real life story of Shahid Azmi, slain lawyer and human rights activist from Mumbai, Maharashtra State of India.

36. Which of the following person from India has recently (in October 2023) elected as the one of the Vice Chairman of the World Steel Association?

- 1) Amarendu Prakash
- 2) Thachath Viswanath Narendran
- 3) Vishambhar Saran
- 4) Sajjan Jindal
- 5) Atul Bhatt

Answer- 2) **Thachath Viswanath Narendran**

Explanation:

Leon J. Topalian, President and Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Nucor Corporation (the United States of America-USA), was elected as the **45th Chairman** of the **World Steel Association(worldsteel)**, the international industry association for the iron and steel sector.

- India's Thachath Viswanath(**TV**) **Narendran**, CEO & Managing Director(MD) of **Tata Steel Limited** and Choi Jeong-Woo, CEO of POSCO Holdings were elected as the Vice Chairman of Worldsteel.
- Worldsteel was founded as the International Iron and Steel Institute on 10 July **1967** and renamed as Worldsteel in **2008**.
- Worldsteel represents steel producers, national and regional steel industry associations, and steel research institutes. Its Members represent around **85%** of global steel production.

37. Name the bank that has recently (in Oct '23) appointed Mahendra Singh Dhoni (MS Dhoni) as its official brand ambassador.

- 1) State Bank of India
- 2) Axis Bank
- 3) Union Bank of India
- 4) ICICI Bank
- 5) Bank of India

Answer- 1) **State Bank of India**

Explanation:

State Bank of India (**SBI**) has roped in former Indian Cricketer and former Captain of Indian Men's cricket team Mahendra Singh Dhoni (**MS Dhoni**) as its official **brand ambassador**.

i. Under this partnership, Dhoni will play a major role in the marketing and promotional campaigns of SBI.

ii. This partnership of SBI aims to reiterate its commitment to serve the nation and its customers with trust, integrity and dedication.

Note: Other noted brands endorsed by Dhoni include, PepsiCo India's Lay's; Reliance Industries Limited(RIL)'s JioMart; Oreo, India Cements, Dream11, Garuda aerospace, TVS Motors, Reebok, etc.

38. Who has been recently (in Oct '23) appointed as the Global Brand Ambassador for Rado?

- 1) Anushka Sharma
- 2) Deepika Padukone

- 3) Alia Bhatt
- 4) Katrina Kaif
- 5) Priyanka Chopra

Answer- **4) Katrina Kaif**

Explanation:

Katrina Kaif, a British-Indian actress, who works in Hindi-language films, was appointed as the **Global Brand Ambassador** for **Rado**, a Switzerland-based luxury watch manufacturer.

- She is featured in Rado's campaign emphasizing its dedication to crafting timepieces that combine timeless materials with enduring style.
- She is the founder of "Kay Beauty", India's 1st celebrity-owned beauty company.
- Other noted brands endorsed by Katrina include Japanese casual wear brand Uniqlo's.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1. In September 2023, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu presented the National Service Scheme Awards for the year 2021-2022 to _____ persons at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, Delhi.

- 1) 70
- 2) 49
- 3) 38
- 4) 52
- 5) 40

Answer- **4) 52**

Explanation:

On 29 September 2023, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu presented the [National Service Scheme Awards for the year 2021-2022](#) at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, Delhi. The award was given to **52 persons** to recognize their outstanding contributions towards voluntary community social services.

i. The awards included 3 categories namely Universities/+ 2 Council (2 Awards); NSS units and their Programme Officers (10 NSS Units + 10 Programme Officers); and NSS volunteers (30 Awards).

2. As of September 2023, Who will receive the Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA) Ramanujan Prize for 2023?

- 1) Ruixiang Zhang (China)
- 2) Shai Evra (United States of America)
- 3) Will Sawin (Spain)
- 4) Yunqing Tang (United States of America)
- 5) Adam Harper (Russia)

Answer- **1) Ruixiang Zhang (China)**

Explanation:

The Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (**SASTRA**) **Ramanujan Prize for 2023** will be awarded to **Ruixiang Zhang of China**, Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, the United States of America(USA) for his contribution to Mathematics from analytic number theory, combinatorics, Euclidean harmonic analysis to geometry.

i. The Prize will be conferred at the International Conference on Number Theory, which will be held from 20 to 22 December 2023 at SASTRA University in Kumbakonam (birthplace of Ramanujan) of Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu.

ii. The SASTRA Ramanujan Prize, instituted by the **SASTRA University** in **2005** with a cash prize of USD 10,000 & the award is given annually to a mathematician not exceeding the age of 32 for outstanding contributions in an area of Mathematics.

iii. The 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize Committee comprised:

- Krishnaswami Alladi -Chair (University of Florida, USA),
- Don Blasius (University of California, Los Angeles, USA)
- Sergei Konyagin (Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia)
- Jonathan Pila (Oxford University, United Kingdom)
- Bjorn Poonen (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA)
- Zeev Rudnick (Tel Aviv University, Israel), and
- Wadim Zudilin (Radboud University, The Netherlands)

3. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the winners of the Inaugural IOC Climate Action Awards announced by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in September 2023?

A) Marcus Mepstead (fencing, United Kingdom) under the Athlete Category for developing an annual travel plan that reduces emissions.

B) Paloma Schmidt (Sailing, Peru) under Athlete Category For implementing a number of waste-reduction measures as a member of the organising committee of the International Laser Class Association (ILCA) European Championships.

C) Ben Blankenship, a middle-distance athlete from the United States of America (USA) won the Athlete Advocacy Award for his work in promoting sustainability through the Endless Mileage Project.

1) Only A

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

The International Olympic Committee (**IOC**) announced the **winners** of the **inaugural IOC Climate Action Awards**, which recognise athletes, International Federations (IFs), and National Olympic Committees (NOCs) for their efforts to combat climate change.

- IOC Climate Action Awards 2023 were awarded under 3 categories: sustainable travel, innovation, and athlete advocacy.

Winners of 2023 IOC Climate Action Awards:

Sustainable Travel Award:

- The Airbnb supported Climate Action x Sustainable Travel Award acknowledges effective initiatives and campaigns to travel more sustainably within the sports calendar.
- **Marcus Mepstead Fencing, United Kingdom (UK)** under the Athlete Category for developing an annual travel plan that reduces emissions.

Innovation Award:

- The Deloitte supported Climate Action x Innovation Award recognises the unique and innovative ideas presented by athletes, IFs, and NOCs to help promote climate action.
- **Paloma Schmidt (Sailing, Peru)** under Athlete Category For implementing a number of waste-reduction measures as a member of the organising committee of the International Laser Class Association (ILCA) European Championships in Andora, Italy.

Athlete Advocacy Award:

- P&G supported Climate Action x Athlete Advocacy Award recognises athletes who actively engage individuals and communities in the campaign against climate change.
- **Ben Blankenship**, a middle-distance athlete from the United States of America (USA) won the Athlete Advocacy Award for his work in promoting sustainability through the Endless Mileage Project.

4. Which of the following personalities has/have recently (in Oct '23) awarded with the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2023 by the Royal Swedish Academy of Science?

- 1) Svante Pääbo (Sweden)
- 2) Katalin Karikó (Hungary)
- 3) Drew Weissman (United States of America)
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 2 & 3

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

Explanation:

Katalin Karikó of Hungary and **Drew Weissman** of the United States of America (**USA**) were jointly awarded the **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2023** by the Royal Swedish Academy of Science.

i. The Nobel Prize is awarded for their discovery concerning nucleoside base modifications that enabled the development of effective mRNA vaccines against COVID-19.

- The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine is awarded at the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Biochemist Katalin Karikó is currently working as a professor at the University of Szeged in Hungary as well as an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania (USA).
- Katalin Karikó is the 13th woman to win the Nobel Prize in medicine or physiology.
- Immunologist Drew Weissman is currently working as a professor at the University of Pennsylvania (USA).
- Presently, Weissman's team is working on using RNA to develop a single-injection gene therapy to overcome the defect that causes sickle cell anemia.

Note- The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded 114 times to 227 Medicine laureates including 13 women laureates, 32 Youngest laureates, and 87 Oldest laureates.

5. Name the Indian Personality who has recently (in Oct '23) became the first woman to be honoured the Global Indian Award by the Canada India Foundation (CIF).

- 1) Falguni Nayar
- 2) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw
- 3) Sudha Murty

- 4) Aditi Gupta
- 5) Divya Gokulnath

Answer- **3) Sudha Murty**

Explanation:

The renowned author and philanthropist **Sudha Murty**, chairperson of the Infosys Foundation, became the **first woman** to be honoured the Global Indian Award by the Canada India Foundation (**CIF**) at an Indo-Canadian gala event held in Toronto, Canada.

- The award is presented to her by Indian High Commissioner to Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma.

About CIF Global Indian Award:

- i. The CIF Global Indian Award is the most prestigious Indo-Canadian event.
- ii. Given to an outstanding individual who has helped India become a global economic and political power.
- iii. The award winner receives USD 50,000 to donate to a charity of their choice.

6. Which of the following personalities has/have been recently (in Oct '23) awarded with the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences?

- 1) Anne L'Huillier, France
- 2) Ferenc Krausz, Hungary
- 3) Pierre Agostini, France
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) All 1, 2 & 3

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

Explanation:

Anne L'Huillier of France, **Pierre Agostini** of France, and **Ferenc Krausz** of Hungary were awarded the [2023 Nobel Prize in Physics](#) "for experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electron dynamics in matter."

- i. The Nobel Prize in Physics is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden.
- ii. Anne L'Huillier is the **fifth woman** to receive the Nobel Prize in Physics.

Note- The Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded 117 times to 225 laureates between 1901-2023.

7. Which of the following personalities has/have been awarded with the 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in October 2023?

- 1) Morten P. Meldal, United States of America
- 2) Louis Eugene Brus, United States of America
- 3) Alexey Ivanovich Ekimov, Russia
- 4) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Both 2 & 3

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

Explanation:

Alexey Ivanovich Ekimov of Russia, **Louis Eugene Brus** of the United States of America (USA), and **Moungi Gabriel Bawendi** of France were awarded the **2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry** "for the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots".

- The Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden.

- Alexei I. Ekimov served as Chief Scientist at Nanocrystals Technology Incorporation, New York, NY, USA.
- Louis E. Brus is currently working as a Professor at Columbia University, New York, USA.
- Mounji G. Bawendi is currently working as a Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.

Note- Totally 8 women chemistry laureates were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry out of 192 individuals.

- Only 2 of these 8 women, Marie Curie and Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin, were awarded unshared chemistry prizes.

8. Name the personality who has recently (in Oct '23) been awarded with the Nobel Prize in Literature 2023.

- 1) Peter Handke (Austria)
- 2) Annie Ernaux (France)
- 3) Abdulrazak Gurnah (Tanzania)
- 4) Louise Glück (United States of America)
- 5) Jon Olav Fosse (Norway)

Answer- 5) Jon Olav Fosse (Norway)

Explanation:

Jon Olav Fosse of Norway was awarded the **Nobel Prize in Literature 2023** “for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable”. Fosse is the **4th Norwegian** writer to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

- The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden.

i. Jon Olav Fosse writes in Nynorsk, one of the two official written versions of the Norwegian language, the other being Bokmaal. Fosse was the first Nynorsk writer in nearly a century to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

ii. Indian Nobel Prize laureates in literature: In 1913, Rabindranath Tagore, a renowned Indian poet, musician, and painter, became the first Indian and the first Asian to win the Nobel Prize. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature 1913.

Note- The other Norwegian winners of Nobel Prize in Literature are Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson (1903), Knut Hamsun(1920) and Sigrid Undset (1928).

9. Who has been recently (in Oct '23) awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize 2023?

- 1) Abiy Ahmed (Ethiopia)
- 2) Dmitry Muratov (Russia)
- 3) Ales Bialiatski (Belorussia)
- 4) Narges Mohammadi (Iran)
- 5) Maria Ressa (Philippines)

Answer- 4) Narges Mohammadi (Iran)

Explanation:

On October 6, 2023, **Nobel Peace Prize 2023** was awarded to 51-year-old **Narges Mohammadi from Iran** “for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all”.

- i. With this win, she became the 2nd Iranian woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize after Shirin Ebadi (also the first Muslim woman) who won the award in 2003.
- ii. Notably, Narges Mohammadi is currently serving a 10-year, 9-month jail sentence in Evin Prison in Tehran on various charges, including spreading propaganda against the state.
- iii. The winner was announced by the chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee 2023, Berit Reiss-Andersen.

Note- From 1901 to 2023, the Peace Prize has been awarded 104 times to 141 laureates, including 111 individuals and 30 organisations.

10. Who has been recently (in Oct '23) awarded with the 2023 Nobel Economics Prize by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences?

- 1) Douglas Diamond (United States of America)
- 2) Bengt Holmström (Finland)
- 3) Claudia Goldin (United States of America)
- 4) Philip H. Dybvig (United Kingdom)
- 5) David Card (Canada)

Answer- **3) Claudia Goldin (United States of America)**

Explanation:

Professor **Claudia Goldin** of Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, the United States of America (**USA**) won the **2023 Nobel Economics Prize**, formally known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, for her research contributions to the understanding of women's roles and outcomes in the labour market.

- i. The Prize in Economic Sciences is awarded by the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**, Stockholm, Sweden, it shares the same principles as the Nobel Prizes, which have been awarded since 1901.
- ii. Claudia Goldin is the **55th recipient** of the Economic Science Prize since its inception in 1969.
- iii. She is the **3rd woman** to receive the award after Elinor Ostrom (USA) in 2009 and Esther Duflo (French-American) in 2019. She is also the first woman to win the prize solo.
 - In 2009, Elinor Ostrom became the 1st woman to win the Economics prize. She shared the award with Oliver E Williamson. Esther Duflo shared the 2019 award with her husband Abhijit Banerjee, and Michael Kremer.

11. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the 360 One Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2023 released in October 2023?

- A) **Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Industries limited(RIL) tops the 360 One Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2023 followed by Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group.**
- B) **Radha Vembu, product manager of Zoho, overtakes Falguni Nayar of Nykaa to become the richest self-made Indian woman with a net worth of Rs 36,000 crore.**
- C) **Manish Kejriwal of Kedaara Capital becomes the first Indian private equity fund manager on the list with Rs 3,000 crore net worth.**

- 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:

“**360 One Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2023**”, the 12th-anniversary edition of Hurun India Rich List released in association with 360 One Wealth, is topped by Mukesh Ambani(66), Chairman of Reliance Industries limited(RIL).

- **Mukesh Ambani** has regained the title as India’s richest man with a wealth of Rs 8,08,700 crore.
- Gautam Adani(61), Chairman of the Adani Group, is ranked 2nd with a wealth of Rs 474800 crore. In 2022 Adani topped the list, he was ahead of Ambani by a wealth gap of Rs 3 lakh crore & with a wealth of Rs 2,78,500 crore, Cyrus Poonawalla (82) retained the third position in the list.
- India has added 38 billionaires to its rich list, taking the total tally to 259.

i. Manish Kejriwal of Kedaara Capital becomes the **first Indian private equity fund** manager on the list with Rs 3,000 crore net worth.

ii. With 328 individuals, Mumbai, Maharashtra tops 360 One Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2023, followed by New Delhi, Delhi (199) and Bengaluru, Karnataka (100).

iii. Radha Vembu(50), product manager of Zoho, overtakes Falguni Nayar (60) of Nykaa to become the richest self-made Indian woman with a net worth of Rs 36,000 crore.

- She is ranked 40th on the list while Falguni Nayar ranked 86th with a net worth of Rs 22,500 crore.

iv. According to the 360 One Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2023, with 12.6 million followers on Twitter, Ratan Tata (84) is the most followed entrepreneur on Indian social media.

12. In October 2023, General Manoj Pande, the Chief of Army Staff presented the ‘President’s Colours’(represented by a flag) to the 3rd Battalion of the _____ (Regiment).

- 1) Dogra Regiment
- 2) Punjab Regiment
- 3) Naga Regiment
- 4) Sikh Regiment
- 5) Rajput Regiment

Answer- **3) Naga Regiment**

Explanation:

General Manoj Pande, the Chief of Army Staff presented the ‘**President’s Colours**’(represented by a flag) to the **3rd Battalion** of the **Naga Regiment** during the Colour presentation parade held at Kumaon Regimental Centre, Ranikhet, Uttarakhand. It was received by Col Lalit Chandra Kandpal, the Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion of the Naga Regiment.

- The President’s Colour, also called ‘Nishan’, is bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the country, both in peace and in war.
- The Naga regiment’s 3rd battalion was created on October 1, 2009, in Haldwani, situated in the Kumaon Hills, which were home to the Kumaon and Naga regiments. The first battalion of the Naga Regiment was raised in Ranikhet in 1970.

i. The Naga regiment’s 3rd battalion has received one Vishisht Seva Medal, 11 COAS (chief of Army Staff) commendation cards, 12 VCOAS (vice-head of Army Staff) commendation cards, 37 GOC-in-C commendation cards, and one force commander (UN Mission) commendation card since its formation.

13. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Forbes India’s 100 Richest 2023 List released in October 2023?

A) Mukesh Ambani, the Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Ltd. topped the Forbes India’s 100 Richest 2023 List with USD 92 Billion followed by Gautam Adani of Adani Enterprises with a net worth of USD 68 Billion.

B) Rekha Jhunjhunwala of Titan Company Limited is India’s richest woman with a net worth of USD 24 billion & ranked 4th in the list.

C) Nikhil Kamath, co-founder of the trading platform Zerodha, is the youngest billionaire at the age of 37 & ranked at 40th position along with his Brother Nithin(44 years old) with a net worth of USD 5.5 Billion.

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:

Mukesh Ambani, the Chairman and Managing Director of **Reliance Industries Ltd.** topped the **Forbes India’s 100 Richest 2023 List** with **USD 92 Billion**. Mukesh Ambani regains the ‘Richest Indian’ title after he slipped to second spot in 2022.

- With a net worth of USD 68 Billion, Gautam Adani of Adani Enterprises slipped to the second rank from the first in 2022 and Shiv Nadar of HCL Technologies ranked 3rd with a net worth of USD 29.3 Billion.
- **Savitri Jindal** of the **O.P. Jindal Group** is **India’s richest woman** with a net worth of USD 24 billion. She ranked 4th in the list with a net worth of USD 24 Billion.
- Nikhil Kamath, co-founder of the trading platform Zerodha, is the youngest billionaire at the age of 37. He ranked at 40th position along with his Brother Nithin(44 years old) with a net worth of USD 5.5 Billion.
- **NTPC Limited**, formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation ranked 261st out of the top 700 companies in the Forbes “World’s Best Employers 2023” list and it is the only Indian Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) featured in the list.

14. Who has been recently (in Oct ‘23) awarded with “Best Central Bank Award 2023” for being ranked ‘A+’ in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023?

1) Mario Marcel (Chile)

2) Victoria Rodriguez (México)

3) Margarita Delgado (Spain)

4) Mark Carney (England)

5) Shaktikanta Das (India)

Answer- **5) Shaktikanta Das (India)**

Explanation:

Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) Governor **Shaktikanta Das** was awarded the “**Best Central Bank Award 2023**” for being ranked ‘A+’ in the **Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023**. The award was presented during the 30th annual World’s Best Banks Awards ceremony held at Marakesh, Morocco.

- i. Thomas J. Jordan, the Governor of Swiss National Bank (SNB) and Nguyen Thi Hong, the Governor of State Bank of Vietnam(SBV) were also rated A+ in Central Banker Report Cards 2023.
- ii. The Central Banker Report Cards is an annual publication by Global Finance magazine that grades the central bank governors of 101 key countries, territories, and districts.

15. Name the actor who will receive the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa in November 2023.

- 1) Bernardo Bertolucci
- 2) Martin Scorsese
- 3) Wong Kar-wai
- 4) Michael Douglas
- 5) Krzysztof Zanussi

Answer- **4) Michael Douglas**

Explanation:

American actor and producer **Michael Douglas** will be honoured with the **Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award** at the **54th** International Film Festival of India (**IFFI**) to be held in Goa from 20th to 28th November, 2023.

i. The announcement was made by Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).

ii. **Awards:**

- He has received several awards including 2 Academy Awards(Oscars) and a Primetime Emmy Award.
- He won the Academy Award 1988 and a Golden Globe 1988 for his role in Wall Street.
- As the producer of the movie 'One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest', he won Academy Award 1975.
- He won The Emmy Award: Outstanding Lead Actor In A Miniseries Or A Movie for 'Behind the Candelabra' in 2013.

Note- The Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to individuals for their outstanding contribution to the growth and development of World cinema. It was instituted in 1999 at the 30th IFFI which was held in Hyderabad (Telangana).

16. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the IndiaSkills 2023-24 launched in October 2023?

A) Union Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan, launched the IndiaSkills 2023-24, India's most significant National Skill Competition program.

B) The Union Minister also felicitated the winners of the 46th WorldSkills Competition (WSC 2022 Special Edition – WSC2022SE), which was held between 7th September and 26th November 2022 across 15 countries.

C) India secured 5th position in the WSC2022SE, with 2 Silver Medals, 3 Bronze Medals, and 13 Medallions for Excellence, while Chinese Taipei secured the 1st position.

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

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

Explanation:

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (**MSDE**) launched the **IndiaSkills 2023-24**, India's most significant National Skill Competition program.

- He also **felicited** the winners of the **46th WorldSkills Competition (WSC 2022 Special Edition – WSC2022SE)**, which was held between 7th September and 26th November 2022 across 15 countries.
- India secured **11th** position in the **WSC2022SE**, with 2 Silver Medals, 3 Bronze Medals, and 13 **Medallions for Excellence**. In 2019, India held the 13th position.
- **WSC2022SE** was the official replacement for WorldSkills Shanghai 2022, cancelled in May 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- China secured the 1st position followed by South Korea in the 2nd and Chinese Taipei in the 3rd position in the WorldSkills 2022 Special Edition.

17. Who, along with the Iranian women protest movement has recently (in Oct '23) named as the winners of Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought 2023 (Sakharov Prize) by Roberta Metsola, President of European Parliament?

- 1) Mana Shooshtari
- 2) Mohtaram Eskandari
- 3) Jina Mahsa Amini
- 4) Mahnaz Parakand
- 5) Narges Mohammadi

Answer- **3) Jina Mahsa Amini**

Explanation:

On October 19, 2023, Roberta Metsola, President of European Parliament named **Jina Mahsa Amini** and Iranian women protest movement as the **winners of Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought 2023 (Sakharov Prize)**, the European Union's (EU) top human rights prize.

- The prize will be given at a ceremony in the European Parliament's hemicycle in Strasbourg, France on December 13, 2023.
- Jina Mahsa Amini, the 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian woman, was arrested for allegedly violating Iran's mandatory hijab (headscarf) law in September 2022. She died 3 days after arrest.
- The women are protesting under the slogan 'Woman, Life, Freedom' i.e. Iranian Women Protest Movement against the hijab law and other discriminatory laws.

i. The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought was established in 1988 by the European Parliament, honors individuals and groups defending human rights.

- The award is named after Soviet physicist and political dissident and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrei Sakharov.

18. According to 'The On-Time Performance Monthly Reports – Airports for September 2023' released by the Cirium in October 2023, which Indian airport has been recognised as the world's most punctual Airport for the past 3 consecutive months (July, August, and September 2023)?

- 1) Indira Gandhi International Airport
- 2) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport
- 3) Chennai International Airport
- 4) Kempegowda International Airport

5) Sardar VallabhBhai Patel International Airport

Answer- **4) Kempegowda International Airport**

Explanation:

According to 'The On-Time Performance Monthly Reports – Airports for September 2023' published by aviation analytics firm **Cirium**, **Kempegowda International Airport (KIA)** in Bengaluru (Karnataka) has secured the top position as the **world's most punctual Airport** for the **past 3 consecutive months**(July, August, and September 2023).

i. KIA maintained an on-time departure experience for passengers, with 87.51% punctuality in July, 89.66% in August, and 88.51% in September.

ii. As per the report, on-time departure ranking measures the percentage of flights that departed within 15 minutes of the scheduled time.

19. Name the village of India that has recently (in Oct '23) featured in the 3rd edition of Best Tourism Villages 2023 list released by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

1) Bankheddi, Madhya Pradesh

2) Gandikota, Andhra Pradesh

3) Madla village, Maharashtra

4) Kumbalangi, Kerala

5) Dhordo village, Gujarat

Answer- **5) Dhordo village, Gujarat**

Explanation:

On October 19, 2023, the **Dhordo village** in Kutch district of **Gujarat**, India was named in the **3rd edition of Best Tourism Villages 2023 list** released by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (**UNWTO**).

i. While, Madla village from Madhya Pradesh's Panna district has been picked for the UNWTO's Best Tourism Villages Upgrade Programme

ii. The announcement was made during the UNWTO General Assembly in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

iii. About Best Tourism Villages Awards by UNWTO:

- Launched in 2021, the Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO is part of the UNWTO Tourism for Rural Development Programme which fosters development and inclusion in rural areas, combat depopulation, advance innovation and value chain integration through tourism and sustainable practices.
- The award recognizes outstanding rural tourism destinations with accredited cultural and natural assets. [Click Here for full list of Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO 2023](#)

20. Which Military Station in India has recently (in Oct '23) bagged with the 'Best Green Military Station' award?

1) Sarsawa Military Station (Uttar Pradesh)

2) Udampur Military Station (Jammu and Kashmir)

3) Chandigarh Military Station (Chandigarh)

4) Faridabad Military Station (Haryana)

5) Adampur Military Station (Punjab)

Answer- **2) Udampur Military Station (Jammu and Kashmir)**

Explanation:

Udhampur Military Station in the Indian Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (**J&K**) bagged the '**Best Green Military Station**' award. The award recognises the station's environmental efforts and highlights the commitment of the Indian Army to strive for excellence.

- i.** The award was presented by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Manoj Pande, during the 2nd edition of Army Commanders' Conference (ACC 2023) held from 16th to 20th October 2023 in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ii.** During the award ceremony, the Dehradun Military Station (Uttarakhand) was acknowledged for securing the title of the "Second Best."¹¹¹
- iii.** The Bikaner Military Station (Rajasthan) was honoured with the "Best Transformative Station" trophy.

21. Name the personality who will be conferred with the Harmony Foundation's 19th Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice in November 2023.

- 1) Mana Shooshtari
- 2) Mohtaram Eskandari
- 3) Jina Mahsa Amini
- 4) Mahnaz Parakand
- 5) Narges Mohammadi

Answer- **5) Narges Mohammadi**

Explanation:

Narges Mohammadi, Iranian women's rights campaigner and the **2023 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate**, will be conferred with the Harmony Foundation's **Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice 2023**.

- i.** The announcement was by Abraham Mathai, the founder-chairman of Harmony Foundation, a Mumbai(Maharashtra)-based Non-governmental Organisation NGO.
- ii.** The 19th Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice Award (2023) Ceremony is scheduled for November 26, 2023, in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- iii.** Awards: In 2023, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all.
 - In 2023, she was also awarded the Olof Palme Prize, the PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award, and the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.

22. Name the regulator body in India that has been recently (in Oct '23) awarded with the ISAR Honours 2023 by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) working group on International Standards for Accounting and Reporting (ISAR).

- 1) Competition Commission of India
- 2) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
- 3) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- 4) Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
- 5) Bureau of Indian Standards

Answer- **4) Institute of Chartered Accountants of India**

Explanation:

The **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** has been awarded the ISAR Honours 2023, 6th edition of ISAR Honours, by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) working group on International Standards for Accounting and Reporting (ISAR).

i. The award was presented during the 8th World Investment Forum (WIF) held from October 16-20, 2023 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) on the theme 'Investing in Sustainable Development'.

Note- Guidance the Investment Promotion Agency (IPA under the Department of Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce, Government of Tamil Nadu (TN), was honored with the 2023 United Nations (UN) Promotion Award for Excellence in Scaling Up Energy Transition Investments during the 8th WIF.

23. Name the personality who has been recently (in Oct '23) felicitated with the '2022 Center on the Legal Profession(CLP) Award for Global Leadership' by The Harvard Law School Center of Harvard University, Massachusetts, United States of America(USA).

- 1) Sanjay Kishan Kaul
- 2) Hemant Gupta
- 3) Indira Banerjee
- 4) Uday Umesh Lalit
- 5) Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud

Answer- **5) Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud**

Explanation:

The Chief Justice of India(CJI) Dhananjay Yeshwant(**DY) Chandrachud** has been felicitated with the '**2022 Center on the Legal Profession(CLP) Award for Global Leadership**' by The Harvard Law School Center of Harvard University, Massachusetts, United States of America(USA).

i. He was announced as the recipient of the award in December 2022.

ii. He was awarded in recognition of his lifetime service to the legal profession in India and around the world.

iii. About the award:

- The Center on the Legal Profession Award for Global Leadership is the highest professional distinction of Harvard Law School.
- Dana Remus who is the Former White House Counsel is announced as the recipient of the award for the year 2023.

24. Which of the following Indo American scientists have recently (in Oct '23) honoured with the National Medal of Science & National Medal of Technology and Innovation Award respectively from Joe Biden, the President of the United States of America?

- 1) Subra Suresh & Subir Kumar Banerjee
- 2) Jogesh Pati & Ashok Gadgil
- 3) Subir Kumar Banerjee & Gopal Balakrishnan
- 4) Subra Suresh & Ashok Gadgil
- 5) Jogesh Pati & Gopal Balakrishnan

Answer- **4) Subra Suresh & Ashok Gadgil**

Explanation:

On October 24, 2023, Joe Biden (Joseph Robinette Biden Jr.) the President of the United States of America honoured the **21 innovators**, including 2 Indo American scientists: **Subra Suresh and**

Ashok Gadgil, with **National Medal of Science** (9) and **National Medal of Technology and Innovation** (12), the USA's highest Award for Science and Technology.

i. Subra Suresh (hailing from Mumbai, Maharashtra), Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Brown University, was honoured with the National Medal of Science for his pioneering research across engineering, physical sciences and life sciences, and particularly for advancing the study of material science and its application to other disciplines.

ii. Ashok Gadgil (born in Mumbai, Maharashtra), University of California, Berkeley, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory(LBNL), was honoured with the National Medal of Technology and Innovation for providing life-sustaining resources to communities around the world.

- His technologies are innovative and inexpensive to improve access to clean water, energy efficiency, and sanitation in developing countries.

iii. The award ceremony was held at the East Room of the White House in Washington DC, USA.

25. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the recent step taken by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoP&PW) in October 2023?

A) The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoP&PW) hosted the Anubhav Awards 2023, where 4 individuals from 8 different ministries, departments, and organizations were honored with Anubhav Awards, and 9 jury certificates were also awarded.

B) During the event, Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the National Digital Life Certificate (DLC) Portal for the Nation-wide DLC Campaign 2.0.

C) Punjab National Bank (PNB) and State Bank of India have seamlessly integrated their pension portals into the Integrated Pensioners' Portal, a significant development.

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

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

Explanation:

The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (**DoP&PW**) hosted the [Anubhav Awards 2023 Ceremony](#) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on October 23.

- After evaluation, 4 individuals from 8 different ministries, departments, and organizations were honored with Anubhav Awards, and 9 jury certificates were also awarded for the first time to foster broader participation.
- During the event, Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the National Digital Life Certificate (**DLC**) Portal for the **Nation-wide DLC Campaign 2.0**. This significant initiative, led by the Secretary of the DoP&PW, Shri V. Srinivas, was announced.
 - The campaign, scheduled for November 2023, aims to facilitate the submission of life certificates for 70 lakh Central Government pensioners. To achieve this goal, DLC camps will be set up in 500 locations across 100 cities, and 17 banks will collaborate in this effort.
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** and **Bank of Baroda** have seamlessly integrated their pension portals into the Integrated Pensioners' Portal, a significant development.
 - This initiative was launched by Dr. Jitendra Singh on October 18, 2022, at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

26. Which company has recently (in Oct '23) won the Mahatma Awards 2023 for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Excellence in Community Initiatives?

- 1) Innowise
- 2) Genpact
- 3) UST
- 4) InData Labs
- 5) Eleviant

Answer- 3) UST

Explanation:

UST, a leading digital transformation solutions company, has been recognized by the **2023 Mahatma Awards** for Corporate Social Responsibility (**CSR**) **Excellence** in Community Initiatives, for sustainable and impactful contributions to CSR in areas such as education, health, livelihood, environment, and disaster relief.

i. The Mahatma Awards serve to highlight individuals and organisations addressing complex global challenges including poverty, hunger, education, climate change, and healthcare accessibility.

ii. The Mahatma Award 2023 consolidates UST's profound commitment to community welfare and global impact.

iii. UST's impactful CSR initiative, the Adopt-a-School program, has significantly influenced the lives of more than 32,000 students across India and Mexico.

SUMMITS, CONFERENCES

1. Name the union minister who has recently (in Sept '23) launched the Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav and inaugurated the two-day Technology & Bharatiya Bhasha summit in New Delhi, Delhi.

- 1) Anurag Singh Thakur (Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting & Youth Affairs and Sports)
- 2) Amit Shah (Union Minister of Home Affairs & Cooperation)
- 3) G. Kishan Reddy (Union Minister of Culture, Tourism & Development of North Eastern Region)
- 4) Dharmendra Pradhan (Union Minister of Education & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship)
- 5) Ashwini Vaishnaw (Union Minister of Railways, Communications & Electronics and IT)

Answer- 4) Dharmendra Pradhan (Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship)

Explanation:

On 30th September 2023, Union Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan**, the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), launched the **Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav** and inaugurated the two-day Technology & **Bharatiya Bhasha summit** in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The 2-day summit, held from 30th September to 1st October 2023, was organised as a part of the 75-day Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav that commenced on 28 September 2023 and will conclude on 11 December 2023.
- An exhibition was also set up to showcase Bharatiya Bhasha technology products, and their applications by the industries, government organizations, and start-ups.
- The summit was organised by the MoE, MSDE, and their constituent institutions such as the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), University Grants Commission (UGC), National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE),

National Centre for Vocational & Technical Education (NCVTE), National Council for Teachers Education (NCTE), Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti (BBS) and others.

- During the two-day summit, a road map for achieving the vision of education in Bharatiya Languages was prepared for implementation by all stakeholders in the field of education.

2. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the 2nd edition of annual Indian Space Conclave (ISC 2023) held at New Delhi, Delhi in October 2023?

A) The 2nd edition of annual Indian Space Conclave (ISC 2023) was organized by Indian Space Association (ISpA) with the theme of ‘Bhumandal se Brahaman Tak’ (From Earth to the Entire Universe)’.

B) ISpA and GIFAS (Groupement des Industries Françaises Aéronautiques et Spatiales) signed an MoU to enhance the understanding of space industry capabilities and increase awareness of business opportunities in France & India.

C) IBM in collaboration with Data Security Council of India and ISpA launched ‘Exploring opportunities for Indian downstream spacetech’ report which stated Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) as a booster to India’s space tech sector.

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

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

Explanation:

From October 9 to 11, 2023, the 2nd edition of annual Indian Space Conclave (**ISC 2023**) was held at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi, Delhi. The conclave was organized by Indian Space Association (ISpA).

- It was co-hosted by Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (**IN-SPACE**), an autonomous agency in the Department of Space (DOS).
- The **theme of ISC 2023** is ‘**Bhumandal se Brahaman Tak**’ (From Earth to the Entire Universe)’. France was the special guest at the Indian Space Conclave 2023.

i. On the first day of ISC 2023, **ISpA** and **GIFAS** (Groupement des Industries Françaises Aéronautiques et Spatiales) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) during the Indo-French Space Synergy plenary session.

- ISpA is an apex non-profit industry body, set up exclusively for the successful collaborative development of the Private Space Industry in India.
- **Aim of the MoU:** To enhance the understanding of space industry capabilities and increase awareness of business opportunities in France and India

ii. During ISC 2023, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP (**Deloitte**) in collaboration with **NASSCOM** (National Association of Software and Service Companies) , and **ISpA** launched a report titled ‘Exploring opportunities for Indian downstream spacetech’ stating Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) as a booster to India’s spacetech sector and positioning it as a global leader.

3. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the 9th Group20 (G20) Parliamentary Speakers’ Summit (P20) held in October 2023?

A) Narendra Modi, Prime Minister(PM) of India inaugurated the 9th Group20 (G20) Parliamentary Speakers’ Summit (P20) at the India International Convention and Expo Centre(IICC) – Yashobhoomi at Dwarka, New Delhi, Delhi.

B) The summit was preceded by the Parliamentary Forum on Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) to deliberate upon initiatives towards a greener and sustainable future.

C) The theme of the forum was ‘Parliaments for One Earth, One Family, One Future’.

- 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 **9th Group20 (G20) Parliamentary Speakers’ Summit (P20)** was held at the India International Convention and Expo Centre(IICC) – Yashobhoomi at Dwarka, New Delhi, Delhi from 13th to 14th October 2023.

- This was the first P20 summit hosted by India in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) under the broader framework of India’s G20 Presidency.
- The P20 Summit was inaugurated by Narendra Modi, Prime Minister(PM) of India at IICC on 13th October 2023.
- The summit was preceded by the **Parliamentary Forum** on Lifestyle for Environment (**LiFE**) on 12 October 2023 to deliberate upon initiatives towards a greener and sustainable future.
- The **theme** of the forum was ‘Parliaments for One Earth, One Family, One Future’.
- On the first day of the 9th P20 Summit (13th October 2023), the Presiding officers unanimously adopted a Joint Statement under the Chairmanship of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

4. Which of the following points is “Incorrect” with respect to the Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS) 2023 at Mumbai, Maharashtra in October 2023?

- 1) Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 3rd edition of the Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS) 2023 & hosted by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.
- 2) During the event, the Prime Minister unveiled “Amrit Kaal Vision 2047—blueprint for Indian Maritime blue economy.”
- 3) PM Modi laid the foundation for multiple projects, aiming to unlock Rs. 80 lakh crores of investment for maritime sector development.
- 4) The GMIS 2023 saw the signing of 360 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with investment commitments totaling Rs. 8.35 lakh crores.
- 5) DHL Group and the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) signed a significant MoU valued at Rs. 20,000 crore and is intended for the development of the Hajira port.

Answer- **5) DHL Group and the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) signed a significant MoU valued at Rs. 20,000 crore and is intended for the development of the Hajira port.**

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 3rd edition of the Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS) 2023 held from October 17 to 19, 2023 at the MMRDA Grounds in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

During the event, the Prime Minister unveiled “Amrit Kaal Vision 2047—blueprint for Indian Maritime blue economy.” This visionary blueprint sets the stage for various maritime projects worth over Rs 23,000 crores.

- Hosted by: Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways and draws participants from over 70 countries & Organised by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Indian Ports Association & Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- PM Modi laid the foundation for multiple projects, aiming to unlock Rs. 80 lakh crores of investment for maritime sector development.
- The GMIS 2023 saw the signing of 360 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with investment commitments totaling Rs. 8.35 lakh crores.
- The summit’s inaugural day witnessed the laying of the foundation stones for 21 projects worth INR18,800 crores, including the Haridaspur-Paradip Rail Line, a project worth Rs 3,200 crore, aimed at reducing congestion and benefiting the people of Kendrapara.
- **DP World**, a global logistics operator, and the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (**JNPA**) signed a significant MoU valued at Rs. 20,000 crore and is intended for the development of the **Vadhvan port**, a highly anticipated project located north of Mumbai along the Arabian coast.
- PM Modi also laid the foundation stone for the Tuna Tekra all-weather deep draft terminal, a project set to cost more than Rs 4,500 crore at the Deendayal Port Authority in Gujarat.
- The Transport Corporation of India Ltd. (TCI Group) was honored with the prestigious Maritime Excellence Award in the ‘Shipping – Promoting Multimodality’ category during GMIS 2023, an event presented by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways on October 19, 2023.

COMMITTEE AND MEETING

1. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) held in New York City, United States of America (USA), in September 2023?

A) During the UNGA Summit held in New York, Union Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar and Japanese counterpart Yōko Kamikawa reaffirmed their commitment to enhance economic cooperation.

B) the I2U2 Group, consisting of India, the United States of America (USA), Iran, and the United Kingdom, launched a Private Enterprise Partnership.

C) The United Nations – India (UN India) signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to collaborate on various initiatives.

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

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

Explanation:

The **78th session** of the United Nations General Assembly (**UNGA**) was held at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York City, USA, from September 18 to September 26, 2023. The world leaders, Heads of State and Governments, foreign ministers, diplomats, and representatives from member states, often called the 'Oscars of Diplomacy', attended the annual high-level week.

- The theme for this event was "Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability for all. "
- On the sidelines of the 78th UNGA session, the **I2U2 Group**, consisting of **India, the United States of America (USA), Israel, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, launched a Private Enterprise Partnership to increase awareness of its initiative in business communities and fund projects aligning with its objectives.
- During the UNGA Summit held in New York, EAM S. Jaishankar and Japanese counterpart Yōko Kamikawa, on September 22, 2023, reaffirmed their commitment to enhance economic cooperation.
- On the sidelines of 78th UNGA, The United Nations – India (**UN India**) signed a Letter of Intent (**LOI**) with the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** to collaborate on various initiatives, which includes food security, global health, climate change and initiating a new partnership to enhance Indian South-South Cooperation.

The 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report(GSDR), "Times of Crisis, Times of Change: Science for Accelerating Transformations to Sustainable Development", is the second edition.It will be published every four years.

2. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the 51st meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) held in October 2023?

A) During the 51st Meeting of the EC of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) approved 7 projects worth around Rs. 285 crore, including 3 projects for sewerage management in West Bengal (2) and Uttarakhand (1).

B) The EC also approved the extension of the Composite Ecological Task Force (Ganga Task Force (GTF)) to continue assisting in the rejuvenation of River Ganga.

C) EC also approved the proposal expecting for the effective management of 3 wetlands in Odisha namely Kalewala Jheel Numaiya Dahi Jheel (Kheduva Taal), and Dahtal Reoti wetland (DRW).

1) Only A

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) All A, B & C

Answer- 2) Only A & B

Explanation:

The Executive Committee (EC) of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (**NMCG**) during its 51st meeting approved 7 projects worth around Rs. 285 crore. The meeting was held on 12th October 2023 under the chairmanship of G. Asok Kumar, Director General (DG) of NMCG.

- The committee has approved **3 projects** for sewerage management: **2 in West Bengal** and **1 in Uttarakhand**.

- The project in West Bengal includes a 13.8 Minimal Liquid Discharge (MLD) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) with co-treatment of 18.52 Kilo Litres per Day (KLD) septage and associated works at an estimated cost of Rs 92.83 crore.
- The project aims to prevent the untreated discharge into River Jalangi in Krishnanagar Municipal Town of West Bengal.
- The other project aims to integrate Septage Management for Bansberia Municipality by creating a 15 KLD capacity Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP).
- For Uttarakhand, an FSTP of 50 KLD was approved in Bahadrabad, Haridwar at a total cost of Rs. 12.65 crore.
- The EC also approved the extension of the Composite Ecological Task Force (Ganga Task Force (GTF)) to continue assisting in the rejuvenation of River Ganga.
- The EC also approved one company of Territorial Army to GTF to facilitate the rejuvenation of River Gomti, a vital tributary of the Ganga.
- EC also approved the proposal expecting for the effective management of **3 wetlands in Uttar Pradesh (UP)** namely Kalewala Jheel in Muzaffarnagar, Numaiya Dahi Jheel (Kheduva Taal) in Prayagraj, and Dahtal Reoti wetland (DRW) in Ballia District.

3. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the fourth G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) held in October 2023?

A) The fourth and last gathering of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) during India’s presidency occurred in Marrakech, Morocco in October 2023.

B) FMCBG adopted a roadmap proposed in the Synthesis Paper, designating it as the G20 Roadmap on Crypto Assets.

C) During this gathering, the G20 FMCBGs collectively approved the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communique.

- 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 **fourth and last gathering** of **G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG)** during India’s presidency occurred in **Marrakech, Morocco**, from October 12 to 13, 2023. Over 370 attendees, including Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors from G20 member countries, Invitee Countries, and Heads of International Organizations, participated in the event.

- The current meeting is being followed by previous meetings that took place in Bengaluru (Karnataka), Washington DC (United States of America), and Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- During this gathering, the G20 FMCBGs collectively approved the **G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communique**.
- The FMCBG communique draws its direction from the G20 New Delhi Leaders Declaration (NDLD) and has benefited substantially from the consensus achieved at the Leaders’ Summit.
- Volume 2 of the IEG’s Report, presented during this meeting following Volume 1 in July 2023, has been well-received. The efforts of the G20 Independent Expert Group (IEG) in crafting Volume 2 of their Report are greatly appreciated.

- **FMCBG** adopted a **roadmap proposed** in the **Synthesis Paper**, designating it as the G20 Roadmap on Crypto Assets.

INDEX

1. What is India's rank in the 16th edition of the Global Innovation Index (2023) published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in September 2023?

- 1) 15th
- 2) 40th
- 3) 50th
- 4) 30th
- 5) 25th

Answer- **2) 40th**

Explanation:

The World Intellectual Property Organization (**WIPO**), an agency of the United Nations, published the **16th edition** of the Global Innovation Index (**2023**). India retains **40th** rank among 132 economies.

- While **Switzerland** secured the **top spot** in the rankings, with Sweden and the United States of America (USA) following closely.
- Notably, India has made significant progress, climbing 26 places from its 2013 ranking when it stood at 66th place. India was at 81st place in 2015.
- NITI Aayog, in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and WIPO, has hosted the virtual India Launch of Global Innovation Index (GII) on September 29, 2023.
- Published annually, It reveals the ranking of this year's most innovative economies in the world amongst 132 economies and localizes the top 100 science and technology innovation clusters.

2. As per the Ookla's Speedtest Global Index (August 2023 edition) released in October 2023, India has jumped 72 places and attained _____ rank in 'median mobile network speeds' in the index.

- 1) 59th
- 2) 62nd
- 3) 50th
- 4) 42nd
- 5) 47th

Answer- **5) 47th**

Explanation:

According to **Ookla's Speedtest Global Index** (August 2023 edition), **India** has jumped 72 places and attained **47th rank** (among 145 countries) with median download speed of 50.21 Mbps in '**median mobile network speeds**' in the index.

i. The list is **topped** by the United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) with the median download speeds of 210.89 Mbps. Qatar and Kuwait stand at second and third rank with the download speed of 192.71Mbps and 153.86Mbps respectively.

- India was ranked 119 in Speedtest Global Index 2022.
- India's massive growth in the ranking is due to the roll out of 5th Generation (5G) internet led by telecom operators Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel across India in October 2022.

- In the 'fixed broadband speeds' category of the index India attained 86th rank with the download speed of 54.17Mbps.

With the download speed of 254.65 Mbps Singapore tops the category followed by Hong Kong (243.59 Mbps) and Chile (240.43 Mbps).

3. What is India's rank in the Global Hunger Index(GHI) 2023, released in October 2023?

- 1) 101st
- 2) 107th
- 3) 120th
- 4) 111th
- 5) 125th

Answer- **4) 111th**

Explanation:

India ranks **111th** out of the 125 countries with a score of 28.7 in [Global Hunger Index\(GHI\) 2023](#). India slipped 4 positions as compared to previous GHI ranking.

- In 2022, India ranked 107 out of 121 countries. In 2021, it was placed at 101 out of 116 countries.
- In GHI 2023, 20 countries with 2023 GHI scores of less than 5 are not assigned individual ranks, They are collectively ranked 1–20. These 20 countries are:
 - Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Chile, China, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates(UAE), and Uruguay.
 - As per the GHI Severity of Hunger Scale, the country's score in the range of 20.0 -- 34.9 indicates that it has a serious level of hunger. So with a score of 28.7, India has a level of hunger that is serious.
 - The global score of GHI 2023 is 18.3 which is 0.8 less compared to 19.1 in 2015 and the global hunger level is considered as 'moderate'

4. According to the 15th annual Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index (MCGPI 2023) released in October 2023, India is ranked _____ out of 47 countries, while _____ (country) tops the list.

- 1) 40th; Iceland
- 2) 45th; Netherlands
- 3) 43rd; Denmark
- 4) 45th; Iceland
- 5) 43rd; Netherlands

Answer- **2) 45th; Netherlands**

Explanation:

According to the **15th annual** Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index (**MCGPI 2023**), India is ranked **45th** out of 47 countries. The overall index value of India increased from 44.5 in 2022 to 45.9 in 2023. India was ranked 41st out of 44 in 2022.

- The 2023 Index is **topped** by the **Netherlands** with overall index value of 85.0, followed by Iceland (83.5) and Denmark (81.3).
 - With the lowest index value of 42.3, Argentina is ranked 47th in MCGPI 2023.
- The MCGPI 2023 compares 47 retirement income systems across the globe and covers 64% of the world's population.

ii. The Global Pension Index uses the weighted average of the sub-indices of adequacy, sustainability and integrity to measure each retirement system against more than 50 indicators.

ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

1. In September 2023, International Finance Corporation(IFC) received approval from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to acquire upto 9.7% of the paid-up share capital of _____ (Bank).

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

Answer- **2) Federal Bank**

Explanation:

International Finance Corporation (IFC) has received approval from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to acquire upto **9.7%** of the paid-up share capital or voting rights of the in **Federal Bank** Limited (subject to the conditions specified therein).

i. The approval has been granted by RBI with reference to the application made by IFC.

ii. The approval granted by RBI is subject to the compliance with the relevant provisions of the

- Banking Regulation **(BR) Act, 1949.**
- RBI's Master Direction and Guidelines on Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies dated January 16, 2023 (as amended from time to time).
- Foreign Exchange Management Act **(FEMA) 1999.**
- Regulation 30 of Securities and Exchange Board of India **(SEBI)** (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.
- Any other guidelines, regulations and statutes as applicable.

2. Which company has recently (in Sept '23) acquired India's first Airbus A350-900 aircraft through a finance lease transaction with HSBC via the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)?

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

Answer- **3) Air India**

Explanation:

On September 29, 2023, Tata Group owned **Air India** successfully acquired **India's first Airbus A350-900 aircraft** by way of finance lease transaction with **HSBC** through AI Fleet Services Limited (AIFS), a 100% subsidiary of Air India, and a Gujarat International Finance Tec-City **(GIFT City)** International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)-registered finance company.

- Air India is India's first scheduled carrier to have acquired an aircraft from an entity registered in GIFT City.

- It is also its first financing transaction from its orders for 470 aircraft that were made earlier in 2023.

i. Air India has placed orders for six A350-900 planes and five of them are scheduled for delivery through March 2024.

ii. Air India had signed purchase agreements to acquire these aircraft with Airbus and Boeing on the sidelines of the Paris Air Show held in June 2023.

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

A) CCI has approved the acquisition of approximately 1.74% of the issued share capital on a fully diluted basis of Lenskart Solutions Private Limited (Target) by Kedaara Capital Fund III LLP (Acquirer).

B) CCI approved the acquisition of the majority shareholding of Indira IVF Hospital Private Limited (Indira IVF) by Zonnebaars Netherlands B.V. and the amalgamation of Spaceway Wellness Private Limited with and into Indira IVF.

C) CCI has approved the proposed acquisition of 100% shareholding of Lanco Amarkantak Power Limited by PFC Projects Limited, REC Limited, SJVN Limited and Damodar Valley Corporation.

1) Only A

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the following acquisitions on 3rd October 2023,

- CCI has approved the acquisition of approximately **1.74%** of the issued share capital on a fully diluted basis of Lenskart Solutions Private Limited (**Target**) by Kedaara Capital Fund III LLP(**Acquirer**).
- CCI approved the acquisition of the majority shareholding of Indira IVF Hospital Private Limited (**Indira IVF**) by Zonnebaars Netherlands B.V. (**Zonnebaars**) and the amalgamation of Spaceway Wellness Private Limited (**Spaceway**) with and into Indira IVF.

CCI has approved the proposed acquisition of **100%** shareholding of **Lanco Amarkantak Power Limited** by PFC Projects Limited, REC Limited, SJVN Limited and Damodar Valley Corporation.

4. In October 2023, SBI Funds Management Limited (SBIFML) received the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s approval to acquire up to a 9.99% paid-up share capital in _____ (Bank).

1) IDFC FIRST Bank

2) IndusInd Bank

3) Karnataka Bank

4) RBL Bank

5) YES Bank

Answer- **2) IndusInd Bank**

Explanation:

SBI Funds Management Limited (**SBIFML**) has received the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**)'s approval to acquire up to a **9.99%** paid-up share capital in **IndusInd Bank Limited**.

- This acquisition will allow the company to also hold 9.99% voting rights in the bank.
- The approval has been granted with reference to the application made by SBIFML to RBI.

i. The holding of SBIFML in IndusInd Bank should not exceed 9.99 % of the paid-up share capital or voting rights of the Bank at all times.

ii. The RBI has given SBIFML one year time (till 10th October, 2024) to buy the shares of IndusInd Bank.

5. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the acquisition involving Hitachi Astemo Limited (HAL) that has approved by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in October 2023?

A) CCI approved the acquisition of 20% voting rights in HAL by JICC-01 Limited Partnership, along with certain control rights, board representation, and other rights.

B) CCI approved the acquisition of an additional 6.6% voting stake in HAL by Honda Motor Company Limited (HMCL).

C) CCI approved the acquisition of 49% stake in Hitachi Astemo Electric Motor Systems (HAEMS) by HAL.

1) Only A

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only A & C

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

The Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) has approved the following acquisition involving Hitachi Astemo Limited (**HAL**), a Japanese public limited company that manufactures auto parts for automobiles and two-wheeled motor vehicles in India.

- HAL was formed in 2021 by the merger of four Hitachi Automotive companies.

i. CCI approved the acquisition of 20% **voting rights in HAL** by **JICC-01 Limited Partnership**, along with certain control rights, board representation, and other rights.

- The JICC-01 Limited Partnership, managed by JICC G.K., is a wholly owned subsidiary of JIC Capital, Ltd.

ii. CCI approved the acquisition of an **additional 6.6% voting stake in HAL** by **Honda Motor Company Limited (HMCL)**. With this, 40% of the voting rights in HAL is held by HMCL.

iii. CCI approved the acquisition of **49% stake** in Hitachi Astemo Electric Motor Systems (**HAEMS**) by HAL. With this HAL holds the 100% shareholdings of HAEMS.

6. In October 2023, Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the Scheme of Amalgamation of IDFC Limited (IDFCL) with _____ (Subsidiaries).

1) IDFC Asset Management

2) IDFC Financial Holding

3) IDFC FIRST Bank

4) IDFC Project Equity

5) IDFC IEH Conservative Fund

Answer- **3) IDFC FIRST Bank**

Explanation:

Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) has approved the Scheme of Amalgamation of IDFC Limited(**IDFCL**) with **IDFC FIRST Bank**.

- i.** The approval was granted under the Green Channel Route, which is a fast-track route for mergers and acquisitions that are unlikely to have any adverse impact on competition..
- ii.** IDFCL is a development finance institution(DFI) and the parent company of IDFC FIRST Bank.
- iii.** The merger was granted according to **Section 6(2)** of the **Competition Act, 2002** read with Regulations 5 and SA of the Competition Commission of India (Procedure in regard to the transactions of business relating to combinations) Regulations, 2011.
 - The amalgamation will be completed within FY23-24.

7. Name the bank that has recently (in Oct '23) received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to acquire 100% of the issued and paid up capital in Sonata Finance Private Limited (SFPL) for Rs 537 crore.

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

Answer- **1) Kotak Mahindra Bank**

Explanation:

Kotak Mahindra Bank (**KMB**) got approval from the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) to acquire **100%** of the issued and paid up capital in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) based Sonata Finance Private Limited (**SFPL**) for **Rs 537 crore**.

- i.** Sonata Finance will act as a wholly-owned business correspondent (BC) subsidiary of KMB after the completion of the transaction.
- ii.** Sonata Finance, established in 2006, is a Microfinance company registered as Non-Banking Finance Company(NBFC)-Microfinance institutions(MFI) (Non-Deposit taking).

8. In October 2023, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the re-balancing of the existing cross-shareholdings between Renault S.A. (Renault) and _____ (company).

- 1) Ashok Leyland Ltd.
- 2) Eicher Motors Co. Ltd.
- 3) Nissan Motor Co. Ltd.
- 4) Tata Motors Co. Ltd.
- 5) Hindustan Motors Co. Ltd.

Answer- **3) Nissan Motor Co. Ltd.**

Explanation:

The Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) has approved the re-balancing of the existing cross-shareholdings between **Renault S.A. (Renault)** and **Nissan Motor Co. Ltd.** (Nissan)(Rebalancing).

- i.** This also relates to the changes to the shareholding of 2 of their joint ventures(JV) Renault Nissan Automotive India Private Limited (RNAIPL) and Renault Nissan Technology & Business Centre India Private Limited (RNTBCI) in India.

9. Name the bank that has recently (in Oct '23) acquired additional shares of J.C. Flowers Asset Reconstruction Private Limited to reinstate its equity share capital proportion to 9.9%.

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

Answer- **2) YES Bank**

Explanation:

YES Bank Limited had acquired additional shares of J.C. Flowers Asset Reconstruction Private Limited ("**JC Flowers ARC**") to reinstate its **equity share capital** proportion to **9.9%** in accordance with share subscription and purchase agreement.

- This represents the acquisition of 24,643,558 equity shares of JC Flowers ARC at Rs 29.68 per share.

i. In September 2022, Yes Bank signed a share subscription and purchase agreement with JCF ARC LLC and JC Flowers ARC along with a shareholders agreement with CF ARC LLC, JC Flowers ARC, and Emso Asset Management.

10. In October 2023, REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL) handed over the project-specific SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) for construction of 'Ramgarh II Transmission Limited' transmission project, to _____ (company).

- 1) NTPC Limited
- 2) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- 3) Indian Railway Finance Corporation
- 4) Power Finance Corporation Limited
- 5) Power Grid Corporation of India

Answer- **5) Power Grid Corporation of India**

Explanation:

REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (**RECPDCL**) handed over the **project-specific SPV** (Special Purpose Vehicle) formed for the construction of '**Ramgarh II Transmission Limited**' transmission project, to Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (**PGCIL**).

- Rajesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of RECPDCL handed over the SPV to Pankaj Pandey, Executive Director of PGCIL.

i. RECPDCL is a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited).

- So far, RECPDCL has successfully handed over 54 transmission projects costing around Rs. 75,000 crore.

ii. The SPV involved in the implementation of a 765/400kV(kilovolt) & 2×500 MVA(Mega Volt Amp) 400/220 kV pooling station at Ramgarh along with 765kV Direct Current(DC) line (Ramgarh PS to Bhadla-3 PS) in Rajasthan.

iii. The project is set to be completed in 18 months. This will help in evacuation of renewable energy from Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) in Rajasthan.

DEFENCE

1. Which country, along with India, has commenced the 11th edition of annual joint military exercise, SAMPRITI-XI 2023 in Umroi, Meghalaya on 3rd October 2023?

- 1) Japan
- 2) Sri Lanka
- 3) Bangladesh
- 4) Indonesia
- 5) France

Answer- 3) Bangladesh

Explanation:

Exercise SAMPRITI-XI 2023, an annual joint military exercise between **India** and **Bangladesh** is held in Umroi, Meghalaya, for 14 days from 3rd October to 16th October 2023.

- i.** This is the 11th edition of the Exercise, which strengthens India-Bangladesh defence cooperation by promoting stronger bilateral connections, cultural understanding, and reciprocal benefits from shared experiences.
- ii.** Ex SAMPRITI-XI will include a Command Post Exercise (CPX), a Field Training Exercise (FTX), and a Validation Exercise based on the conduct of Sub-Conventional Operations as per Chapter VII of the UN mandate.

2. Which of the following points is "Incorrect" with respect to the Swavlamban 2023 held in October 2023?

- 1) Union Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh launched Swavlamban 2023 (Swavlamban 2.0), the 2nd edition of the Indian Navy's Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) seminar in New Delhi, Delhi.
- 2) During the seminar 5th Positive Indigenisation List (5th PIL) of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), MoD comprising 98 items was released.
- 3) The Defense Minister launched 76 challenges for the industry under DISC 10 & DISC 10 PRIME of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) to celebrate the 76th year of India's independence.
- 4) The BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd has handed over the first twin-seater Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH-DHRUV) to the Indian Air Force, in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- 5) The Indian navy unveiled the Autonomous Weaponized Boat Swarms and the Autonomous Vessel Underwater (AUV) during the Swavlamban 2.0.

Answer- 4) The BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd has handed over the first twin-seater Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH-DHRUV) to the Indian Air Force, in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Explanation:

On 4th October 2023, Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (**MoD**), launched Swavlamban 2023 (**Swavlamban 2.0**), the **2nd edition** of the Indian Navy's Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (**NIIO**) seminar, in New Delhi, Delhi. The 2-day seminar was held from 4th to 5th October 2023.

- During the seminar 5th Positive Indigenisation List (5th PIL) of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), MoD comprising 98 items was released.
- These items will be procured from indigenous sources as per provisions given in Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 in the staggered timeline.

- The Defense Minister launched 76 challenges for the industry under DISC 10 & DISC 10 PRIME of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) to celebrate the 76th year of India's independence.
- These challenges encompass problem statements from the three Services, the Indian Coast Guard, DPSUs, Border Roads Organisation(BRO), and Mission DefSpace.
- Additionally, 5 challenges were introduced under the iDEX for Fauji (i4F) scheme.
- During the seminar, the Defence Minister also launched Two India-United States Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS X) challenges under 'INDUS-X Mutual Promotion of Advanced Collaborative Technologies' (IMPACT) finalised by iDEX and the United States Department of Defense (US DoD).
- The **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has recently handed over the first twin-seater Light Combat Aircraft (**LCA**) **Tejas** to the **Indian Air Force**, in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The Indian navy unveiled the Autonomous Weaponized Boat Swarms and the Autonomous Vessel Underwater (AUV) during the Swavlamban 2.0.

3. In which state, the 2023 edition of the Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise (AJHE) – “CHAKRAVAT 2023” has conducted by the Indian Navy (IN) in October 2023?

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

Answer- **3) Goa**

Explanation:

The 2023 edition of the Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise (AJHE) – “**CHAKRAVAT 2023**” was conducted by the **Indian Navy (IN)** at **Goa** from 09th to 11th October 2023.

- i. AJHE is the result of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's preference conveyed during the Combined Commanders' Conference in 2015.
- ii. To address the challenges posed by climate change in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), the Indian armed forces conduct HADR operations as part of India's Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) initiative.
- iii. This exercise evolved the Indian armed forces's assistance in disaster times as a collaborative government approach that enhanced India's preparedness and response to natural disasters.

4. Name the two-day comprehensive Coastal Security Exercise that has been recently (in Oct '23) conducted in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry to assess the efficacy and robustness of the coastal security system.

- 1) VARUNA 2023
- 2) Sea Vigil 2023
- 3) Exercise La Perouse 2023
- 4) East Coast Sagar Kavach 02-23
- 5) Passage Exercise 2023

Answer- **4) East Coast Sagar Kavach 02-23**

Explanation:

East Coast Sagar Kavach 02-23, a two-day comprehensive **Coastal Security Exercise** was conducted in Andhra Pradesh (**AP**), Tamil Nadu (**TN**) and Puducherry (**PY**) from 11-12 October 2023 to assess the efficacy and robustness of the coastal security system in responds to unconventional threats from the sea.

- About 2500 personnel including from the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, State and Union Territory Administration, Marine Police, Fisheries, Customs, International Agencies, LightHouses, Ports Forest etc were engaged in the exercise.
- The Joint Operations Centre (East) in Visakhapatnam(AP) is the nodal hub to monitor all coastal security operations and exercises in area of operations.

5. Name the Security Exercise that has recently (in Oct '23) conducted by the Indian Navy (IN) in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- 1) Sea Vigil 2023
- 2) Prasthan 2023
- 3) Passage 2023
- 4) Sagar Kavach 2023
- 5) La Perouse 2023

Answer- **2) Prasthan 2023**

Explanation:

The Security Exercise **Prasthan 2023** was carried out by Commodore Rajneesh Sharma Naval Officer-in-Charge (NOIC), Andhra Pradesh under the aegis of Eastern Naval Command, Indian Navy (IN) in **Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh (AP)**.

- The exercise was conducted on the Rig ship Platinum Explorer of ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation) and RG Fixed Oil Platform of Vedanta Ltd.

i. Participation:

- It involved around 2,500 personnel from the following organizations:
- IN, Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Oil operators, Port authorities, State fisheries department, Marine police, State and union territory administration, Fisheries, Customs, Intelligence agencies, Lighthouses, Forest.
- IN comprised INS (Indian Naval Ship) Kora, INS Tihayu, four Immediate Support Vessels, Marine Commandoes, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team and Helicopters.
- ICG Ship Kanaklata Barua also participated in the exercise.

ii. IN is all set to host nine-day mega naval exercise namely 'Milan' from February 19 to 27, 2024 in the Arabian Sea, It will see the see participation of over 50 countries including United States (US), Japan, Australia, France, Bangladesh, South Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia will participate in this exercise.

6. In which state, Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023, the two-week Indo-Malaysia joint military exercise between the Indian Army (IA) and the Malaysian Army, commenced in October 2023?

- 1) Arunachal Pradesh
- 2) Assam
- 3) Meghalaya
- 4) West Bengal
- 5) Uttarakhand

Answer- 3) Meghalaya

Explanation:

On October 23, 2023, **Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023**, the two-week Indo-Malaysia joint military exercise between the **Indian Army (IA)** and the **Malaysian Army**, commenced at the Umroi cantonment, located in Ri Bhoi district of the northeastern state of **Meghalaya**. The exercise is scheduled till November 5, 2023.

- i. Harimau Shakti, the Indo-Malaysia joint exercise, has been conducted annually since 2012 to foster the bilateral relations between the two nations.
- ii. The last edition of the exercise, Harimau Shakti 2022, was conducted in Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia in November 2022.
- iii. Harimau Shakti 2023 aims to strengthen military ties between India and Malaysia & to enhance military capability for the conduct of Multi Domain Operations in a sub-conventional scenario.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. In September 2023, the Union Minister of State (MoS) of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the _____ Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0 Public Grievance portal and Automated Analysis in Tree Dashboard portal of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

- 1) Inquiry
- 2) Integrated
- 3) India
- 4) Integrity
- 5) Intelligent

Answer- 5) Intelligent

Explanation:

On September 29, 2023, the Union Minister of State (**MoS**) Dr Jitendra Singh, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, launched the Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (**IGMS**) 2.0 **Public Grievance portal** and **Automated Analysis in Tree Dashboard portal** of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

- He also launched the Swachhata Special Campaign 3.0 and released the Precedent Book (e-book) prepared by DARPG, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- i. IGMS 2.0 dashboard has been implemented by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh (UP) following a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DARPG on December 14, 2021 for upgrading Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) with Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities.
 - ii. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh also launched the Swachhata Special Campaign 3.0 w.e.f. October 2, 2023 i.e. on the occasion of Birth Anniversary of Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, till 31st October, 2023.
 - It is a sequel of the Special campaigns conducted in the last two years.
 - DARPG is the Nodal Department for implementation of Special Campaign 3.0.

2. In September 2023, the Indian Air Force (IAF) inducted the first of six new Dornier Do-228 , 19 seater aircraft, manufactured by _____ (company).

- 1) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- 2) Bharat Electronics Limited
- 3) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- 4) Bharat Dynamics Limited
- 5) Defence Research and Development Organisation

Answer- 3) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

Explanation:

The Indian Air Force (IAF) inducted the first of **six new Dornier Do-228, 19 seater aircraft**, manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a Public Sector Undertaking(PSU) under the Ministry of Defence(MoD).

About Dornier Do-228:

- i. In March 2023, the MoD signed an agreement with HAL to manufacture these aircraft with a budget of Rs 667 crore.
- ii. Dornier Do-228 aircraft has enhanced fuel efficiency engines, five-bladed composite propellers, advanced avionics, and a modern glass cockpit.

3. Name the University that has partnered with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to launch the soft launch of an online platform “Universalisation of Traditional Indian Knowledge System (UTIKS) Portal”.

- 1) Savitribai Phule Pune University
- 2) University of Mumbai
- 3) Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University
- 4) University of Delhi
- 5) Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University

Answer- 1) Savitribai Phule Pune University

Explanation:

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in **partnership** with Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU), formerly known as the University of Pune, in Maharashtra organised the soft launch of an online platform “Universalisation of Traditional Indian Knowledge System (UTIKS) Portal” at Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal, Karnataka.

- i. The portal was soft-launched by Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President, ICCR.
- ii. UTIKS, an initiative of the ICCR, with a mission to introduce Indian culture to a worldwide audience and present its rich civilization and culture in a learner-friendly manner.

4. Name the space agency/company that has recently (in Oct '23) launched the first two prototype satellites, KuiperSat-1 and KuiperSat-2, by United Launch Alliance’s (ULA) Atlas V rocket to low Earth orbit (LEO) for Project Kuiper Satellite System.

- 1) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
- 2) Neuralink Corp
- 3) SpaceX
- 4) Amazon.com, Inc
- 5) Virgin Galactic

Answer- 4) Amazon.com, Inc

Explanation:

Amazon.com, Inc.(AMZN.O) has launched the first two prototype satellites **KuiperSat-1** and **KuiperSat-2** to low Earth orbit (**LEO**) at the height of 500 kilometers (311 miles) as part of “Protoflight” mission of **Project Kuiper**.

- i. The satellite was launched by United Launch Alliance’s (ULA) Atlas V rocket from Space Launch Complex-41 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida, United States of America (USA).
- ii. Project Kuiper satellite system is a network of satellites in LEO. The Kuiper System will operate at altitudes between 590 and 630 kilometers (roughly 367 to 391 miles).
 - To launch the satellite Amazon has signed contracts with three commercial space companies namely Arianespace, Blue Origin, and United Launch Alliance.

5. Which company has recently (in Oct ‘23) handed over the first Integrated Air Drop Test - Crew Module (IADT-CM) structure to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for the Gaganyaan spacecraft?

- 1) Elgi Equipments
- 2) Bharat Heavy Electricals
- 3) Engineers India
- 4) Isgec Heavy Engineering
- 5) KCP Heavy Engineering

Answer- **5) KCP Heavy Engineering**

Explanation:

The Chennai-based **KCP Heavy Engineering** (KCP HE) hands over the first Integrated Air Drop Test - Crew Module (**IADT-CM**) structure to the Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) for the purpose of assessing technology readiness for the Gaganyaan spacecraft.

- i. ISRO designed the IADT-CM structure, which was built in **Thiruvotriyur, Chennai**, by KCP-Heavy Engineering Unit for heavy casting, machining, and fabrication.
- ii. This was the first IADT-CM out of two orders by ISRO to KCP while the second IADT-CM is set to be delivered by March 2024.
- iii. The IADT-CM system will be tested using an Indian Air Force helicopter at an altitude of 3.6 to 4 kilometres to assess the performance of the deceleration system (parachute and pyro’s).

6. Name the company that has recently (in Oct ‘23) launched the first private suborbital European rocket ‘MIURA 1 SN1’.

- 1) Skyrora Space
- 2) Orbital Express
- 3) PLD Space
- 4) Astra Express
- 5) Isar Aerospace

Answer- **3) PLD Space**

Explanation:

The first private suborbital European rocket **MIURA 1 SN1** was launched by Spanish space company **PLD Space**.

- The reusable rocket was launched from El Arenosillo Experimentation Centre (CEDEA) of Spanish National Institute for Aerospace Technology (INTA) in Huelva, Spain.

- i. The rocket is of 12.5 meters in length with a propellant system of Kerosene and Cryogenic liquid oxygen(KeroLOX)
- ii. The rocket has TEPREL-B Liquid Bi-propellant engine developed by PLD Space.
 - In 2021, it became the first KeroLOX rocket engine developed in Europe for space flights.
- iii. The first flight of the MIURA 1 SN1 technology demonstrator aims to collect data about the flight performance of the rocket and its systems.
- iv. The launch also tested a technological device from the German Centre for Applied Space Technology and Microgravity (ZARM) under microgravity conditions.

7. In October 2023, the BrahMos Missile Regiment of the Indian Army tested a land-attack variant of the extended-range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile (BrahMos ER) from the _____ (State/UT).

- 1) Maharashtra
- 2) Odisha
- 3) West Bengal
- 4) Karnataka
- 5) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Answer- 5) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Explanation:

The BrahMos Missile Regiment of the Indian Army tested a land-attack variant of the extended-range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile (**BrahMos ER**) from the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.

- The missile is not yet in service with the Indian Army, and its induction will depend on the results of further testing.
- i. The BrahMos ER is developed by **BrahMos Aerospace**. It is a joint venture between Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPO Mash) and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
 - ii. BrahMos ER is an improved variant of the basic BrahMos missile, with a range of around 450 to 500 kilometers, compared to 290 kilometers for the baseline version.
- Note-** Indian Air Force(IAF) also successfully test fired its Surface to Surface version of the BrahMos missile in the vicinity of the Eastern Seaboard Archipelago. The test mission accomplished all the predefined objectives.

8. Which company has recently (in October '23) signed an MoU with the Space Applications Centre (SAC) under the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to use light-based high-speed communication for satellite communication in space?

- 1) Sehaj Synergy Technologies Pvt. Ltd
- 2) Alethea Communications Technologies Pvt. Ltd
- 3) Fimo Technologies and Services Pvt. Ltd
- 4) Nav Wireless Technologies Pvt Ltd
- 5) BigCat Wireless Pvt. Ltd

Answer- 4) Nav Wireless Technologies Pvt Ltd

Explanation:

The Ahmedabad (Gujarat) based Space Applications Centre (**SAC**), under Indian Space Research Organization (**ISRO**), has signed a **3-year** Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Ahmedabad-based **Nav Wireless Technologies Pvt Ltd** (NavTech), a leading pioneer in Light Fidelity (**LiFi**) **technology**, to use light-based high-speed communication for satellite communication in space.

- The partnership was recommended by the Department of Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communication.
- NavTech is the 1st company in India to provide LiFi technology to SAC (ISRO).

i. SAC, a major center of ISRO in partnership with **NavTech** aims to facilitate high-speed secure quantum key communication from base stations to satellites in space and terrestrial communication.

ii. Using the LiFi technology, SAC/ISRO will facilitate Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) and Pointing Acquisition and Tracking (PAT) in satellite-to-satellite communications during ISRO's upcoming space exploration missions.

9. In October 2023, Indian Army (Siachen Warriors) in collaboration with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) installed the first-ever BSNL Base Transceiver Station (BTS) on the world's highest battlefield, 'Siachen Glacier' in _____ (state/UT).

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

Answer- **3) Ladakh**

Explanation:

The **Indian Army** (Siachen Warriors) in collaboration with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (**BSNL**) has installed the first-ever BSNL Base Transceiver Station (**BTS**) on the world's highest battlefield, '**Siachen Glacier**' in **Ladakh**.

- i.** The tower was inaugurated on 6th October 2023 and will provide mobile communication services to soldiers at an altitude of over 15,500 feet.
- ii.** A radio transceiver that links mobile devices to a cellular network is known as a base transceiver station(BTS).
- iii.** The Indian Army also conducted demining operations in three areas(Phobrang, Yourgo, and Lukung village) along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Leh district of Ladakh and destroyed 175 mines.

10. Which company has recently (in Oct '23) signed an MoU with National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICSI) for various Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Digital Transformation Services?

- 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:

The **REC Limited** (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (**NICSI**) for various Information and Communications Technology (**ICT**) and **Digital Transformation Services**.

- i. This MoU will support the REC ecosystem by fostering the development of cutting-edge technologies in areas like the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Analytics, Blockchain, and Cyber Security.
- ii. The collaboration with NICS I will allow REC to provide end-to-end NIC/NICS I Software product deployment, hosting, core roll-out, technical support, security, services, and system administration.

11. Name the spacecraft that has been recently (in Oct '23) launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to an interplanetary transfer orbit by using the SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket from Florida, United States of America (USA).

- 1) Lander spacecraft
- 2) Orbiter spacecraft
- 3) Rover spacecraft
- 4) Flyby Spacecraft
- 5) Psyche Spacecraft

Answer- **5) Psyche Spacecraft**

Explanation:

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) has launched a **Psyche Spacecraft** to an **interplanetary transfer orbit** by using **SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket** from Launch Complex 39a (LC-39a) at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, United States of America (**USA**) on 13th October 2023.

- i. After escaping Earth's gravity, Psyche Spacecraft will use solar electric propulsion to accomplish its six-year journey to the asteroid called 'Psyche' which is orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.
- ii. This is NASA's first mission to study an asteroid that has more metal than rock or ice.
- iii. The Psyche mission will also test a new communication technology called Deep Space Optical Communication (DSOC).

12. Name the third Stealth Destroyer of Project 15B Class Guided Missile Destroyer that has been delivered to the Indian Navy (IN) in October 2023.

- 1) Yard 12707 (Surat)
- 2) Yard 12706 (Imphal)
- 3) Yard 12708 (Nilgiri)
- 4) Yard 12704 (Visakhapatnam)
- 5) Yard 12703 (Mormugao)

Answer- **2) Yard 12706 (Imphal)**

Explanation:

Yard 12706 (Imphal), the **third Stealth** Destroyer of Project 15B Class Guided Missile Destroyer built at the **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited** (MDL) was delivered to the Indian Navy (**IN**). The ship was designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau (**WDB**).

- i. The acceptance document was signed by Sanjeev Singhal, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of MDL and Rear Admiral Sanjay Sadhu, Chief Staff Officer(CSO) (Technical) Western Naval Command (WNC).
- ii. The INS Imphal's keel was laid on 19 May, 2017 and it was launched into water on 20 April, 2019. Imphal, constructed using Indigenous Steel DMR 249A, is one of the largest Destroyers constructed in India, with an overall length of 164 meters and displacement of over 7500 Tons.

Note- The four ships of the Project are named after major cities from all four corners of the country, such as Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Mormugao(Goa), Imphal(Manipur) and Surat(Gujarat).

13. In October 2023, S Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), launched the indigenous technology of “2KW DC Portable Charger” designed to meet the new safety standard IEC 60950-11.

Which company, along with the Centre of Excellence (CoE) at Indian Institute Of Technology (IIT) Madras Research Park in Chennai, Tamil Nadu has developed the Portable Charger?

- 1) Cell Life Innovations Private Limited
- 2) Blue Smart Technologies
- 3) Jpw Technology Private Limited
- 4) Reliable Accessories Private Limited
- 5) Flowtrik Technologies

Answer- 5) Flowtrik Technologies

Explanation:

On October 20, 2023, S Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (**MeitY**), launched the indigenous(Made in India) technology of “**2KW DC Portable Charger**” designed to meet the new **safety standard IEC 60950-11**.

- i.** It envisages boosting electric vehicle (**EV**) **adoption in India** by encouraging the development of indigenous technology.
- ii.** It was developed by the Centre of Excellence (**CoE**) at Indian Institute Of Technology (**IIT**) **Madras Research Park in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)** in collaboration with **Flowtrik Technologies**.
 - It is funded by **MeitY**.
- iii.** IEC 60950 is a safety standard for information technology equipment (ITE) that is published by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

14. In October 2023, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the first flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1) of _____ (Mission) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh(AP).

- 1) SPADEX
- 2) Shukrayaan 1
- 3) Mangalyaan 2
- 4) NISAR
- 5) Gaganyaan

Answer- 5) Gaganyaan

Explanation:

On 21st October 2023, Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) successfully launched **Gaganyaan’s first** flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (**TV-D1**) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh(AP).

- i. Mission Definition:** “In-flight Abort Demonstration of Crew Escape System (CES)” at Mach number 1.2 with the newly developed Test Vehicle followed by Crew Module(CM) separation & safe recovery.
- ii. Mission Objective:**
 - Test all the systems of the Test Vehicle to make sure they are working properly.
 - Test the CES to make sure it can safely separate the Crew Module from the Test Vehicle in the event of an emergency.

- Test the CM's ability to fly and land safely at higher altitudes.

iii. Test Vehicle Demonstration 1(TV-D1) is a low cost liquid propelled single stage rocket which is developed specifically for test missions.

- TV-D1 uses a modified VIKAS(VIKram Ambalal Sarabhai) engine with CM and CES mounted at its fore end.

15. In October 2022, the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully tested the air-launched version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from _____ fighter jet in an airbase in Bay of Bengal.

- 1) Dassault Mirage 2000
- 2) Mikoyan MiG-31
- 3) HAL Tejas
- 4) Sukhoi-30 MKI
- 5) Mirage 2000D

Answer- **4) Sukhoi-30 MKI**

Explanation:

Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully tested the air launch version of **BrahMos supersonic cruise** missile.

i. The missile was launched from a **Sukhoi Su-30 Modernizirovannyi Kommercheskiy Indiski (MKI)** fighter jet in an airbase in **Bay of Bengal**.

ii. This is a long range version of supersonic weapon system with a range of about 1500km.

iii. The BrahMos missile can be launched from a range of platforms, including fighter jets, submarines, ships, and land-based systems.

- It is **developed** by **BrahMos Aerospace** which is a joint venture between Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPO Mash) and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

16. In October 2023, _____ became the first country in the world to test-fired a medium-caliber maritime electromagnetic railgun from an offshore platform.

- 1) Russia
- 2) United States of America
- 3) China
- 4) Japan
- 5) United Kingdom

Answer- **4) Japan**

Explanation:

The Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (**JMSDF**), along with the Acquisition Technology & Logistics Agency (ATLA), which comes under the Ministry of Defense of Japan, has successfully **test-fired** a medium-caliber maritime **electromagnetic railgun** from an offshore platform .

- With this, **Japan** became the **first country in the world** to successfully test-fire a maritime railgun from an offshore platform.
- Japan Railgun is a medium-sized electromagnetic railgun.
- It can shoot a 320g (or 0.7lb) 40mm steel round bullet at a speed of around 2,230 m/s (Mach 6.5).
- These railguns will be inducted into Japan's defense system in the second half of the 2020s(after 2025) after conducting several rounds of testing.

17. Which country's army has recently (in Oct '23) conducted a training launch of the Ghauri Weapon System to test the operational and technical readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command (ASFC)?

- 1) Japan
- 2) Bangladesh
- 3) United Arab Emirates
- 4) Iran
- 5) Pakistan

Answer- 5) Pakistan

Explanation:

Pakistan Army successfully conducted a training launch of the **Ghauri Weapon System**, a medium-range, road-mobile, ballistic missile system indigenously developed by Pakistan, to test the operational and technical readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command (**ASFC**).

- The launch was witnessed by Lieutenant General Muhammad Shahbaz Khan Commander ASFC, senior officers from the strategic forces, scientists, and engineers of the strategic organisation.
- The Ghauri Weapon System is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads and has a reported range of approximately 1,300 to 1,500 kilometers.
- The missile system aims to strengthen deterrence and enhance strategic stability in the region through “the operationalization of Full Spectrum Deterrence in the overall construct of Credible Minimum Deterrence”.
- The test aimed to revalidate the design and technical parameters of the system including the advanced post-separation attitude correction system for anti- ballistic missile defense (BMD) and an advanced terminal and mid-course navigation system.

18. In which state/UT Indian Army's 1st Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT) has been recently (in Oct '23) inaugurated at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) by General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)?

- 1) Jammu and Kashmir
- 2) Himachal Pradesh
- 3) Assam
- 4) West Bengal
- 5) Haryana

Answer- 2) Himachal Pradesh

Explanation:

General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff (**COAS**), virtually inaugurated the **Indian Army's 1st Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT)** at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) at Bakloh, **Himachal Pradesh** (HP) to train the special forces and refine the Combat Freefall (CFF) skills of armed forces personnel.

- The state-of-the-art wind tunnel provides a controlled environment for military trainees. It enhances the Combat Free Fall (CFF) skills of armed forces personnel.
- The facility simulates real-life free-fall conditions, allowing trainees to experience various CFF scenarios.

i. A Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT) is a wind tunnel that moves air up in a vertical column. These tunnels are often used for aerodynamic research and modern human flight.

ii. Wind tunnels that are built specifically for humans to fly in are often referred to as skydiving simulators, indoor skydiving tunnels, or simply wind tunnels.

19. Which country has recently (in Oct '23) launched its 30th flight mission Shenzhou 17 along with three astronauts to the Tiangong Space Station?

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

Answer- **5) China**

Explanation:

China's Chinese Manned Space Agency (**CMSA**) has launched its **30th flight mission Shenzhou 17** (also known as "Divine Vessel") along with three astronauts to the **Tiangong Space Station**.

i. The spacecraft lifted off atop a **Long March-2F Y17** carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China.

- This is the sixth manned mission of China to its space station since 2021.
- The crew is led by former air force pilot **Tang Hongbo** (48).
- He is making his second spaceflight.
- He belongs to China's second batch of astronauts in 2010.

ii. The other two members of the crew: Tang Shengjie (33) and Jiang Xinlin (35), are both travelling to space for the first time.

20. Name the company that has recently (in Oct '23) unveiled 'Vikram-I' orbital space launch vehicle from GMR Aerospace and Industrial Park in South Hyderabad, Telangana.

- 1) Garuda Aerospace Private Limited
- 2) Bellatrix Aerospace Private Limited
- 3) Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited
- 4) Dhruva Space Private Limited
- 5) AgniKul Cosmos Private Limited

Answer- **3) Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited**

Explanation:

Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited unveiled '**Vikram-I**' orbital space launch vehicle at the newly inaugurated headquarters '**The MAX-Q Campus**' located at the GMR Aerospace and Industrial Park in **South Hyderabad, Telangana**.

- The event was attended by Union Minister of State(MoS) Jitendra Singh, Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST) who also unveiled a simulation of Vikram 1.
- The **Vikram-I rocket** is capable of carrying a load of up to 480 Kilograms (kg) into 500 Kilometre (km) the Low Earth orbit (LEO) and a load of 290 kg into a 500 km Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSPO).
- Vikram 1 is the all-carbon-fibre bodied rocket that can place multiple satellites in orbit and features 3D printed liquid engines.

21. In which state, Scientists under the Bioenergy Group at the Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) have recently (in Oct '23) identified a New Genus of anaerobic lignocellulose-degrading bacteria 'Sporanaerobium hydrogeniformans'?

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

Answer- 1) Maharashtra

Explanation:

Scientists under the Bioenergy Group at the Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) in Maharashtra, identified a New Genus of anaerobic lignocellulose-degrading bacteria called Sporanaerobium hydrogeniformans in the hot spring of Aravali, located in Ratnagiri district (**Maharashtra**).

- This bacteria has a remarkable ability to produce hydrogen gas as a byproduct of its metabolic processes.
- i.** The hydrogen generated by this bacteria could be a source of clean and Renewable Energy. The findings are published in the journal Archives of Microbiology.
 - ii.** Sporanaerobium hydrogeniformans is part of the Lachnospiraceae family, renowned for its polysaccharide degradation capabilities to synthesise free or complicated hydrolytic enzymes.

22. Which company has recently (in October '23) signed a memorandum of understanding with France's Safran Aircraft Engines to develop industrial cooperation in ring forging manufacturing for commercial engines?

- 1) Bharat Dynamics Limited
- 2) Antrix Corporation Limited
- 3) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- 4) Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited
- 5) Indian Space Research Organisation

Answer- 3) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

Explanation:

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Safran Aircraft Engines, a French aerospace engine manufacturer, to develop industrial cooperation in ring forging manufacturing for commercial engines.

- HAL will produce LEAP (Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion) engine forgings at its foundry and forge facility in Bengaluru. LEAP powers the Airbus A320 Neo family and Boeing 737 Max.
- MoU was signed by **Mihir Kanti Mishra**, CEO (Bangalore Complex) of HAL, and **Dominique Dupuy**, Senior Vice-President (Purchasing) of Safran Aircraft Engines during a ceremony at Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- HAL is a Navaratna Status Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

23. In October 2023, Commodore Sunil Kaushik, Warship Production Superintendent, (Mumbai) launched the 25T Bollard Pull (BP) Tug, _____ (yard) at M/s Shoft Shipyard Private Limited (SSPL) in Bharuch, Gujarat.

- 1) Yard 305 – Balram
- 2) Yard 305 – Mahabali
- 3) Yard 305 – Anjan
- 4) Yard 305 – Bahadur
- 5) Yard 305 – Balshil

Answer- 2) Yard 305 – Mahabali

Explanation:

On 28th October 2023, Commodore Sunil Kaushik, Warship Production Superintendent(WPS) (Mumbai) launched the **25T Bollard Pull (BP) Tug, 'Yard 305 – Mahabali'**, at M/s Shoft Shipyard Private Limited (**SSPL**) in Bharuch, Gujarat.

- i.** These Tugs are built under the classification rules of Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).
- ii.** These tugs will improve the operational commitments of the Indian Navy (IN) by facilitating assistance to Naval ships and submarines during berthing and unberthing, turning and manoeuvring in confined waters.
- iii.** This will also provide afloat firefighting assistance to ships and will have capability to conduct limited Search and Rescue Operations.

24. In which city, Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson has recently (in Oct '23) announced to set up a 6G Research and Development(R&D) centre?

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

Answer- 1) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Explanation:

Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson, commonly known as Ericsson, Swedish telecommunication company, has announced setting up a **6G Research and Development (R&D) centre in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)**.

- Ericsson is also looking to partner with premier engineering institutes in India for 6G-related research. The 6G R&D centre in India will be the 3rd such centre of Ericsson. The other 2 are in Sweden and the United States of America (USA).
- At Present, Ericsson has R&D centres at Chennai, Bengaluru(Karnataka) and Gurugram(Haryana). Ericsson was started by Lars Magnus Ericsson in 1876 and it has been present in India since 1903.

Note: On 5th October 2023, Nokia established a 6G Lab at its Global R&D centre in Bengaluru.

SPORTS

1. Name the Indian badminton player who has recently (in Oct '23) won the bronze medal in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Junior Championships 2023 held in Spokane, United States of America (USA).

- 1) Aditya Sharma
- 2) Gaurav Kumar Singh
- 3) Ayush Shetty
- 4) Sankar Muthusamy
- 5) Arpit Panda

Answer- **3) Ayush Shetty**

Explanation:

India's **Ayush Shetty** won the bronze medal in the Badminton World Federation (**BWF**) **World Junior Championships 2023** held from 25th September to 8th October 2023 in Spokane, United States of America (**USA**).

- i. Alwi Farhan of Indonesia won the gold medal by defeating Hu Zhe An of China (Silver) in the 23rd edition of the BWF World Junior Championships finals.
- ii. The 18-year-old Ayush Shetty's bronze medal was India's 11th medal including 1 Gold, 4 Silver, and 6 Bronze at the junior badminton world championships since 1992.
- iii. Saina Nehwal won the gold medal in 2008 (India's best) and silver in 2006 while India's Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian won silver in 2022 in Spain.

2. Which of the following points is "Incorrect" with respect to the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Games (19th edition of Asian games) held from September to October 2023?

- 1) India finished fourth in the medal tally of the Hangzhou Asian Games 2022 with 107 medals (28 gold, 38 silver, and 41 bronze), which is India's highest medal tally at the Asian Games.
- 2) Tarundeep Rai became the first Indian archer to win three gold medals (men's individual, men's compound team and mixed team event) in the Asian Games.
- 3) Neeraj Chopra won his second consecutive gold medal in the men's Javelin throw in the Asian games with a best throw of 88.88 metres.
- 4) Parul Chaudhary won two medals including gold medal in the women's 5000m race and the silver medal in the 3000m women's steeplechase.
- 5) Avinash Sable was the first Indian to win the gold medal in the 3000m men's steeplechase event in any Asian Games.

Answer- **2) Tarundeep Rai became the first Indian archer to win three gold medals (men's individual, men's compound team and mixed team event) in the Asian Games.**

Explanation:

India **finished Fourth** in the medal tally of the [Hangzhou Asian Games 2022](#) with 107 medals (28 gold, 38 silver and 41 bronze).

- The People's Republic of China tops the medal tally with 383 medals (201 gold, 111 silver and 71 bronze) followed by Japan with a total 188 medals (52 gold, 67 silver and 69 bronze).
- The 19th edition of the Asian Games marks **India's record for the highest medal tally** so far, surpassing the previous record medal tally of 70 medals (16 gold, 23 silver, and 31 bronze) at the Jakarta Asian Games 2018.

- India won the highest number of medals in the Shooting event with 22 medals (7 Gold, 9 Silver, and 6 Bronze).
- It was followed by Athletics 29 medals (6 Gold, 14 Silver, and 9 Bronze) and Archery 9 medals (5 Gold, 2 Silver, and 2 Bronze).
- Nagpur's (Maharashtra) **Ojas Pravin Deotale** won **three gold medals** in Archery including **men's individual, men's compound team event** along with Abhishek Verma and Prathamesh Jawkar, **mixed team event** along with Jyothi Surekha Vennam
- He was the **first Indian archer to win three gold medals** in the Asian Games so far.
- Neeraj Chopra won his second consecutive gold medal in the men's Javelin throw in the Asian games with a best throw of 88.88 metres, while Annu Rani from India won the gold medal in the women's Javelin throw with the best throw of 62.92m.
- India's Kishore Kumar Jena won the silver medal with the best throw of 87.54 metres in the men's Javelin throw.
- Parul Chaudhary won two medals including gold medal in the women's 5000m race and the silver medal in the 3000m women's steeplechase. He also holds the national record for the 5000m with a time of 15:10.35.
- Avinash Sable was the first Indian to win the gold medal in the 3000m men's steeplechase event in any Asian Games. Avinash also won the silver medal in the men's 5000m race.
- Avinash finished the race in 8:19.50 minutes, breaking the previous Asian Games record of 8:22.79 minutes by Iran's Hossein Keyhani in 2018.
- Sable's medal was India's first in the men's 5000m since Raj Kumar's bronze medal in 1982.

3. Name the non-profit organisation that has recently (in Oct '23) signed a new cooperation agreement with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) & Olympic Museum to promote the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) in India.

- 1) Paani Foundation
- 2) Reliance Foundation
- 3) Smile Foundation
- 4) Infosys Foundation
- 5) Akshaya Patra Foundation

Answer- **2) Reliance Foundation**

Explanation:

The International Olympic Committee (**IOC**) with the **Olympic Museum** along with Reliance Foundation signed a **new cooperation agreement** to expand and promote the Olympic Values Education Programme (**OVEP**) in India.

- i. The agreement was signed by IOC President Thomas Bach and Nita Ambani, IOC Member in India and Reliance Foundation Founder Chairperson, during a visit to the Reliance Foundation Young Champs (RFYC) football academy in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ii. Through the agreement, Reliance Foundation has joined as an OVEP implementation partner.
- iii. The programme will be first implemented in Mumbai and later it will expand to the rest of Maharashtra.

4. Who has recently (in Oct '23) won the Qatar GP 2023 to win the 3rd Formula One (F1) World Championship Title?

- 1) Max Verstappen
- 2) Carlos Sainz
- 3) Charles Leclerc
- 4) Lewis Hamilton
- 5) Sergio Pérez

Answer- **1) Max Verstappen**

Explanation:

Max Verstappen, the Belgian- Dutch driver of Red Bull added his name to the list of Formula **One (F1) triple champions**.

- i.** Max Verstappen achieved this feat by securing 2nd place in Qatar Grand Prix 2023 sprint race, Australian driver of McLaren Oscar Piastri won the Sprint race.
- ii.** Later on, Max Verstappen won the 2023 Qatar Grand Prix main race event, followed by Australian driver of McLaren, Oscar Piastri and British driver of McLaren, Lando Norris.
- iii.** With this win Max has won the consecutive F1 World Championship in (2023, 2022 & 2021).
- iv.** Max became a part of the three time Champions that includes Brazilians Ayrton Senna and Nelson Piquet, Austrian Niki Lauda, Britain's Jackie Stewart, and Australian Jack Brabham.

5. In October 2023, Italian tennis player _____ won the China Open 2023 men's single title against Daniil Medvedev (Russia) for the first time, while Iga Swiatek from _____ (country) won the China Open 2023 women's single title.

- 1) Matteo Berrettini; Poland
- 2) Fabio Fognini; Spain
- 3) Jannik Sinner; Poland
- 4) Fabio Fognini; Croatia
- 5) Jannik Sinner; Spain

Answer- **3) Jannik Sinner; Poland**

Explanation:

Jannik Sinner of Italy won the **China Open 2023 men's single title** against Daniil Medvedev (Russia) for the first time. It was held at the Beijing Olympic Green Tennis Center, Beijing, China from September 28 – October 04 2023.

- Sinner defeated World No. 2 and top seed Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) in the semi-finals. It was the 22nd edition of the China Open (1993 to 2023).
- i. Iga Swiatek (Poland) won the China Open 2023 women's single title**, beating her opponent Liudmila Samsonova (Russia) & she won her fifth title of the season 2023 with a 6-2 6-2 victory against Liudmila Samsonova.
- Ivan Dodig (Croatia) and Austin Krajicek (United States) clinched their fifth tour-level title of the season (2023) at the China Open 2023 by defeating Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands) and Neal Skupski (United Kingdom).
 - Marie Bouzková (Czechia) and Sara Sorribes Tormo (Spain) defeated Chan Hao-ching (Taiwan) and Giuliana Olmos (Mexico) in the final

6. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Federation Internationale des Echecs/International Chess Federation (FIDE) World Junior Under 20(U-20) Rapid & Blitz Championships 2023?

A) The Inaugural edition of the FIDE World Junior Under 20(U-20) Rapid & Blitz Championships 2023 was in Pula (Sardinia), Italy in October 2023.

B) India’s GrandMaster (GM) Raunak Sadhwani won the FIDE World Junior Rapid Chess Championship 2023 title in the open category & Govhar Beydullayeva from Azerbaijan won the FIDE World Junior Girls U20 Rapid Chess Championship 2023 title.

C) GM Mahammad Muradli of Azerbaijan won the FIDE World Junior Blitz Championship title and India’s Raunak Sadhwani won the silver medal in the Open category.

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

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

Explanation:

India’s GrandMaster (GM) **Raunak Sadhwani** won the **FIDE World Junior Rapid Chess Championship 2023 title** in the open category. He also secured second place(Silver Medal) in the FIDE World Junior Blitz Championship 2023 in the open category.

- The **inaugural edition** of the Federation Internationale des Echecs/International Chess Federation (**FIDE**) World Junior Under 20 (U-20) **Rapid & Blitz Championships 2023** was held from 9th to 16th October 2023 in Pula(Sardinia), Italy.
- The 17-year-old **Raunak Sadhwani from Nagpur(Maharashtra)** won the World Junior Rapid Chess Championship 2023 title(Gold)- Open Category.
 - He became a Grandmaster at the age of 13 years 9 months 28 days .He was the 9th youngest player and 4th Indian to achive GM at the youngest age.
- Woman Grandmaster (WGM) **Govhar Beydullayeva** of Azerbaijan won the FIDE World Junior Girls U20 Rapid Chess Championship 2023 title.
 - Previously, She had won the World Junior U20 Championship title 2022 in Italy.
- **GM Mahammad Muradli of Azerbaijan** won the FIDE World Junior Blitz Championship title and **India’s Raunak Sadhwani won the silver medal.**
- WIM Xeniya Balabayeva of Kazakhstan won the FIDE World Junior Girls U20 Blitz Championship title.
 - WIM Amina Kairbekova (Kazakhstan) won the silver medal and WIM Govhar Beydullayeva (Azerbaijan) won the bronze medal.

7. In October 2023, the Indian team won the 3rd Intercontinental Online Chess Championship for Prisoners in the youth section by defeating _____ (country) in the final.

- 1) Serbia
- 2) England
- 3) Mongolia
- 4) Philippines
- 5) Brazil

Answer- **1) Serbia**

Explanation:

The **Indian team** won the **3rd** Intercontinental Online Chess Championship for Prisoners in the youth section by defeating the defending champions **Serbia** in the final.

- The team from Serbia won the silver medal while Ecuador's team won the bronze medal.
- i.** The team from Mongolia won the Intercontinental Online Chess Championship for Prisoners title in the women's section. This marks Mongolia's second consecutive title in the women's section including their win in 2022.
- The England team won the silver medal while El Salvador and the Philippines jointly won the bronze medal.
- ii.** The Intercontinental Online Chess Championship for Prisoners aims to popularize chess as an efficient tool for reintegrating incarcerated people.
- The 3rd edition was held from 11th to 13th October 2023 in online mode, and 13th October 2023 marks the International Day of Education in Prison.

8. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the 141st Session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) held in October 2023?

A) The 141st Session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was hosted by India in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

B) The 141st session of IOC approved the proposal of Los Angeles 2028 Organising Committee of Olympics and Paralympic Games for the inclusion of 5 additional sports including Cricket (T20-Twenty20), Softball/Baseball, flag football, lacrosse (sixes) and squash.

C) IOC has suspended the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) for violating the Olympic charter with immediate effect and until further notice after it incorporated Ukrainian sports bodies.

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

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

Explanation:

The **141st Session** of the International Olympic Committee (**IOC**) was hosted by **India** from October 15-17, 2023, in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**. The IOC's Executive Board met during the session. The session facilitated interaction and the exchange of knowledge among diverse stakeholders in the sports arena.

- The 141st session of IOC was inaugurated by the Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi.
- This is the 2nd IOC Session hosted by India after 40 years. India hosted the 86th IOC session in New Delhi, Delhi in 1983.
- IOC has suspended the **Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) for violating the Olympic charter** with "immediate effect and until further notice" after it incorporated sports bodies from 4 territories annexed from Ukraine (Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia) as its member.
- This violates the territorial integrity of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of Ukraine, as recognized by the IOC in accordance with the Olympic Charter.

- The **141st session** of IOC approved the proposal of **Los Angeles 2028** Organising Committee of Olympics and Paralympic Games for the inclusion of **5 additional sports** including Cricket (T20-Twenty20), Softball/Baseball, flag football, lacrosse (sixes) and squash.
- During in a ceremony held on the final day of the 141st IOC Session, IOC awarded the following four personalities or IOC members with Olympic Orders acknowledging their outstanding contribution to sport and Olympism: Beatrice Allen (Gambia), Craig Reedie (Britain/UK), Ung Chang (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), Andrzej Kraśnicki (Poland).
- The 141st IOC session unanimously approved the principle of a double allocation of two successive Olympic Winter Games and Paralympics in 2030 and 2034 due to climate change threat.

9. Who has recently (in Oct '23) won Formula 1 (F1) United States Grand Prix 2023 and claimed his 50th career win in the F1?

- 1) Max Verstappen
- 2) Carlos Sainz
- 3) Charles Leclerc
- 4) Lewis Hamilton
- 5) Sergio Pérez

Answer- **1) Max Verstappen**

Explanation:

Max Verstappen, the Belgian-Dutch driver of Red Bull won the **Formula 1 (F1) United States Grand Prix 2023** held at the Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas, The United States of America(USA) from 20- 22 October 2023.

- This marks Max Verstappen's **50th career win** in the F1 and he joins Lewis Hamilton(103), Michael Schumacher(91)(Germany), Sebastian Vettel(53))(Germany) and Alain Prost (51)(France) in the 50-win club.
- This also marks Verstappen's 15th win out of 17 races of the 2023 season, in this 15 he won 11 races in a row.

i. McLaren Driver Lando Norris of the United Kingdom (UK) finished second place while Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz (Spain) finished third place in the podium.

10. In October 2023, Mads Christophersen from _____ (country) won the men's singles title in the Abu Dhabi Masters 2023, while _____ from India won the women's singles title.

- 1) Denmark; Ashmita Chaliha
- 2) Netherlands; Ashwini Ponnappa
- 3) Denmark; Unnati Hooda
- 4) Netherlands Ashmita Chaliha
- 5) Singapore; Ashwini Ponnappa

Answer- **3) Denmark; Unnati Hooda**

Explanation:

India's **Unnati Hooda** won the **women's singles title** in the **Abu Dhabi Masters 2023** badminton tournament held at the ADNEC Marina Hall, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 17 - 22 October 2023.

i. The tournament was organized by UAE Badminton Federation with sanctions from the Badminton World Federation (BWF).

- Men's Single:**Mads Christophersen(Denmark)** won the **men's singles title** by defeating Mark Caljouw(the Netherlands) in the finals.
- Men's Doubles:Malaysian pair Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin Rumsani won the men's doubles title by defeating Thailand's Pharanyu Kaosamaang and Worrapol Thongsanga in the finals.
- Women's Doubles:Indian Pair Ashwini Ponappa and Tanisha Crasto won the Women's singles title by defeating Denmark's Julie Finne-Ipsen and Mai Surov in the final.
- Mixed Doubles:Mads Vestergaard and Christine Busch of Denmark won the mixed doubles title by defeating Terry Hee Yong Kai and Jessica Tan Wei Han of Singapore.

11. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Qatar Masters Open 2023 held at Lusail Sports Arena, Qatar in October 2023?

A) The GrandMaster (GM) Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzbekistan) won the Qatar Masters Open 2023 Title, GM Nodirbek Abdussatorov (Uzbekistan) & GM S L Narayanan (India) secured second & third place respectively.

B) International Master (IM) Vaishali Rameshbabu (India) secured the women's champion title.

C) GM Karthikeyan Murali defeated Magnus Carlsen (FIDE RANK -1) in the seventh round of the Qatar Master Open 2023 tournament, making him the third Indian to defeat Carlsen in classical chess after Harikrishna and Viswanathan Anand.

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

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

Explanation:

The GrandMaster(GM) **Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzbekistan)** won the **Qatar Masters Open 2023** Title held at Lusail Sports Arena, Qatar from 11th to 20th October 2023.

- The Qatar Masters Open 2023 was held in two sections including Qatar Masters Open 2023 (main event)and Qatar Masters Open 2023 section B.

i. GM Nodirbek Abdussatorov (Uzbekistan) secured second place while GM S L Narayanan(India) secured third place in the Qatar Masters Open 2023.

- Indians securing the top 10 positions in the Qatar Masters Open 2023 are GM Erigaisi Arjun(6th), GM Gukesh D(8th), and GM Karthikeyan Murali(10th).

ii. International Master (IM) Vaishali Rameshbabu (India) secured the women's champion title while IM Divya Deshmukh(India) and Woman International Master (WIM) Alua Nurmanova (Kazakhstan) secured second and third highest ranks among women players.

iii. GM Karthikeyan Murali becomes the third Indian to defeat GM Magnus Carlsen in Classical Chess after Harikrishna and Viswanathan Anand by defeating Magnus Carlsen (FIDE RANK -1) in the seventh round of the Qatar master open 2023 tournament.

iv. FIDE Master(FM) Rustum Tolentino (Philippines) won the Qatar Masters Open 2023 section B title.

- Majumder Shrayan(India) secured the second position while FM Sedrani Ammar (United Arab Emirates -UAE) secured third place in the Qatar Masters Open 2023 section B.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1. Who has recently (in Sept '23) released four Books revolving around the success of India's Group 20 (G20) presidency?

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

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

Explanation:

Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** released four Books revolving around the success of India's Group 20 **(G20) presidency** at the G20 University Connect Finale programme held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi.

i. These 4 books are available on the G20 India website and on its application in ebook format.

About released books:

i. The Grand Success of G20 Bharat Presidency: Visionary Leadership, Inclusive Approach.

ii. G20 University Connect Programme: Engaging Young Mind.

- These 2 books are published by New Delhi(Delhi)-based autonomous policy research institute Research and Information System for Developing Countries(RIS).

iii. India's G20 Presidency: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – One Earth, One family, One Future.

- The book features important event held at G20 under India's Presidency

iv. Showcasing Indian Culture at G20.

2. Who are the co authors of the book "The Professionals' Handbook to ChatGPT", that was released by Palanivel Thiaga Rajan (PTR), Minister of Information Technology and Digital Services, Government of Tamil Nadu in October 2023?

- 1) Dungar Chand U Jain & Pattabhi Ram V
- 2) Sabyasachee Dash & Suman Bery
- 3) Dungar Chand U Jain & Sabyasachee Dash
- 4) Pattabhi Ram V & Suman Bery
- 5) Anoop Sasikumar & Sabyasachee Dash

Answer- 1) Dungar Chand U Jain & Pattabhi Ram V

Explanation:

Palanivel Thiaga Rajan **(PTR)**, Minister of Information Technology and Digital Services, Government of Tamil Nadu **(TN)** released **"The Professionals' Handbook to ChatGPT"**, a book on ChatGPT for professionals in various fields.

- The book authored by **Pattabhi Ram V** and **Dungar Chand U Jain** was published by ReadWrite Productions.
- The book covering around 27work areas will benefit finance professionals.
- It provides practical advice on how to use ChatGPT to improve productivity and efficiency in the workplace.

- i. ChatGPT(Generative Pre-trained Transformer) is an Artificial Intelligence (AI) -powered language model developed by OpenAI and launched in November 2022.
- ii. This is an AI chatbot that uses natural language processing to create humanlike conversational dialogue.

3. Which Foundation/company has recently (in Oct '23) launched 'Igniting Collective Goodness: MKB@100', a book on Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's monthly radio programme Mann ki Baat?

- 1) BlueKraft Digital Foundation
- 2) Pan Macmillan India
- 3) Hay House India
- 4) Asian Educational Services
- 5) National Book Trust India

Answer- **1) BlueKraft Digital Foundation**

Explanation:

BlueKraft Digital Foundation has launched a book on Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's monthly radio programme **Mann ki Baat**. The book has been titled 'Igniting Collective Goodness: Mann Ki Baat @ 100'.

- i. The book captures the journey of Prime Minister Modi's 100 episodes of Mann Ki Baat and its impact on Indian society.
- ii. The book is published by Westland Publications Limited.
- iii. This is the third book of Westland Publications in the series, which captures the journey of Mann ki Baat.

4. Who authored the book, "The Reverse Swing: Colonialism to Cooperation" that was launched by the Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri in October 2023?

- 1) Ashok Kumar Tandon
- 2) Narayan Bareth
- 3) Sanjaya Baru
- 4) Pratap Bhanu Mehta
- 5) Partha Chatterjee

Answer- **1) Ashok Kumar Tandon**

Explanation:

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (**MoPNG**) launched a book titled "**The Reverse Swing: Colonialism to Cooperation**" authored by **Ashok Kumar Tandon**, a veteran journalist and political commentator.

- i. The book, **published** by **Prabhat Prakashan**, features stories on the relationship between India and the United Kingdom (UK), India's colonial past and its resurgence and the current journey through the Amrit Kaal.
- ii. Ashok Tandon has worked as Press Trust of India limited (PTI) Bureau Chief in London and Diplomatic Editor of the PTI in New Delhi, Delhi.

5. Who co authored, along with W.V. Raman, the book titled 'The Lords of the Wankhede – Tales Between Two Titles' in October 2023?

- 1) Shiv Aroor
- 2) Rajat Sharma
- 3) Shoma Chaudhury
- 4) R. Kaushik
- 5) Vikram Chandra

Answer- **4) R. Kaushik**

Explanation:

The book titled '**The Lords of the Wankhede – Tales Between Two Titles**' Co-authored by Indian cricketer W.V. Raman and senior journalist **R. Kaushik** was launched in Bengaluru, Karnataka and it was published by Rupa Publications.

- i. The book describes the changes that occurred in Indian cricket between 1983 and 2023, and reflects on the events that influenced the growth of cricket in India.
- ii. Woorkeri Venkat Raman represented the Indian cricket team between 1988 and 1997, also played for Tamil Nadu in domestic cricket and his first book 'The Winning Sixer' was launched in 2020.

6. Who co-authored, Raghuram Rajan, Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) along with the book, "Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future" in October 2023?

- 1) Rohit Lamba
- 2) Anoop Sasikumar
- 3) Arvind Panagariya
- 4) Shankkar Aiyar
- 5) Amiya Kumar Bagchi

Answer- **1) Rohit Lamba**

Explanation:

Raghuram Rajan, Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**), and Economist **Rohit Lamba** has authored a new book titled "Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future".

- The book, published by Penguin Business, an imprint of Penguin Random House India (**PRHI**), is set to be released in **December 2023**.

About the book:

- i. Through this book, the authors provide an idea about the economic future of India.
- ii. The book examines crucial policy choices relevant to every Indian, offering valuable insights on economic development.
- iii. The book seeks to delve into some of the critical questions surrounding India's economic trajectory.

7. Who is the author of the following books 'Ashtadhyayi Bhashya', 'Ramanandacharya Charitam', and 'Bhagwan Shri Krishna ki Rashtraleela' which has been recently (in October '23) released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Madhya Pradesh?

- 1) Baba Ramdev
- 2) Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
- 3) Jagadguru Rambhadracharya
- 4) Mātā Amritānandamayī