

# **GUPTA**

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# **CLASSES**

## **Current Affairs**

**August 2024**

**English**

**Part-1**



**GUPTA**

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**CLASSES**

# Current Affairs Q&A PDF – August 2024

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# NATIONAL AFFAIRS

**1. Recently, the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) celebrated its 18th Foundation Day on \_\_\_\_\_ at its headquarters in Prithvi Bhavan, New Delhi.**

- 1) 5th June 2024
- 2) 1st May 2024
- 3) 27th July 2024
- 4) 19th April 2024
- 5) 25th March 2024

**Answer- 3) 27th July 2024**

## **Explanation:**

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (**MoES**) celebrated its **18th** Foundation Day on 27th July, 2024 at its headquarters in Prithvi Bhavan, New Delhi, marking nearly **20 years** of significant contributions made by MoES across all earth system sciences such as: air(**atmosphere**), water (**hydrosphere**), land (**lithosphere**), solid earth(cryosphere), life (**biosphere**) and their interactions, shows its commitment towards scientific and technological progress.

- The Department of Ocean Development (DOD), was created in July 1981 as a part of the Cabinet Secretariat directly under the charge of the Prime Minister(PM) of India. It came into existence as a separate department in March 1982.
- In February 2006, the government of India notified DOD as the Ministry of Ocean Development.
- In July 2006, the Ministry of Ocean Development was reorganized as Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) through the Presidential notification.
- The MoES launched 4 important publications for public utility and benefit on the occasion of its 18th Foundation Day:

## **Option Revision:**

**1.Covered in June 2024: 5th June 2024**

Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), celebrated its 33rd Foundation Day on 5th June 2024 at a special event held in New Delhi, Delhi.

**2.Covered in May 2024: 1st May 2024**

On May 1, 2024, the Army Dental Centre of Research & Referral (ADC R&R), Delhi, a specialist dental care raised on May 1, 1999, commemorated its 25th anniversary (Silver Jubilee). During the event, a Special Postal Cover by the Army Postal Service was unveiled by Lieutenant General MK Katiyar, General Officer Commanding in Chief (GoC-in-C), Western Command.

**4.Covered in April 2024: 19th April 2024**

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), the statutory body of insurance companies and intermediaries in India, marked the celebration of its Silver Jubilee(25 year) on 19th April 2024. IRDAI was formed as a statutory body under the IRDAI Act, 1999 and was incorporated on 19th April 2000.

## Dear Aspirants,

We have introduced a new explanation section called “Option Revision” Exclusively on our Daily CA App Quiz. It will help aspirants to revise last 4 months CA via options. The news theme, relevant topic, and importance are taken into consideration when choosing an option.

Question No. 1 gives you preview about option revision., Aspirants can get option revision for rest of questions on our Daily CA App Quiz(Explanation part)

We would like to notify you that all kind of Question & Answer (Q&A) PDF for paid subscribers will be discontinued from December 31 2024. Subscribers can attend the Quiz as Usual!!!

**2. The Ministry of Power has recently (in July 24) inaugurated the National Feeder Monitoring System (NFMS) Control Centre on REC Limited’s 55th Foundation Day at \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- 2) Gurugram, Haryana
- 3) Pune, Maharashtra
- 4) Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh
- 5) Mumbai, Maharashtra

**Answer- 2) Gurugram, Haryana**

### **Explanation:**

On July 25 2024, Union Minister **Manohar Lal**, Ministry of Power (MOP) and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) inaugurated the **National Feeder Monitoring System (NFMS) Control Centre on REC Limited’s 55th Foundation Day** at Gurugram, Haryana.

**i.** NFMS is a flagship initiative of the MoP, provides **real-time access** to complete information on power supply hours, outages, and overall health of about **2.5 lakh feeders** (11 Kilovolts (KV) outgoing) across India.

**ii.** It will allow stakeholders to make informed and actionable decisions, increasing transparency, efficiency, and accountability in Distribution Companies (DISCOMS), ultimately enhancing the quality and reliability of power supply to end users.

**3. In July 2024, Uttar Pradesh (UP) Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna presented a supplementary budget of \_\_\_\_\_ for the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25).**

- 1) Rs16,582.45 crore
- 2) Rs 14,264.68 crore
- 3) Rs 11,481.27 crore
- 4) Rs 12,909.93 crore
- 5) Rs 17,694.35 crore

**Answer- 4) Rs 12,909.93 crore**

**Explanation:**

On July 30, 2024, the Finance Minister of Uttar Pradesh (UP) **Suresh Kumar Khanna** presented a supplementary budget of **Rs 12,909.93 crore** for the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25), which is **1.66%** of the original Budget (of Rs 7.36 lakh crore) presented in [February 2024](#).

- Aim: To bolster key sectors such as industrial development, energy, and education.
- The supplementary budget includes an expenditure of **Rs 4,227.94 crore** on the revenue account and **Rs 7,981.99 crore** on the capital account.
- Rs 7,500.18 crore allocated to drive growth and infrastructure improvements in the industrial sector.
- Rs 2,000 crore budgeted for the energy department to enhance the state's energy resources and infrastructure.

**4. In July 2024, the Karnataka government has approved the proposal of renaming the Ramanagara district as \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) Bengaluru North district
- 2) Bengaluru West district
- 3) Bengaluru East district
- 4) Bengaluru Central district
- 5) Bengaluru South district

Answer- **5) Bengaluru South district**

**Explanation:**

On 26th July 2024, The **Karnataka** government has approved the proposal of renaming the **Ramanagara district** as '**Bengaluru South district**'. The renaming was proposed in response to the local demand for association with 'Brand Bengaluru'.

**i.**The district includes Ramanagara, Magadi, Kanakapura, Channapatna and Harohalli taluks.

**ii.**Ramanagara town, 50 kilometres (km) from Bengaluru, would continue serve as the district headquarters.

**5. Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia recently (in August '24) inaugurated the Network Operations Centre (NOC) at \_\_\_\_\_ in New Delhi, Delhi.**

- 1) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing(C-DAC)
- 2) National Informatics Centre (NIC)
- 3) Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)
- 4) National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)
- 5) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)

Answer- **3) Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister **Jyotiraditya M Scindia**, Ministry of Communications (MoC) and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) along with the Union Minister of State(MoS)Dr **Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar**, MoC and Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has inaugurated the **Network Operations Centre (NOC)** at the Centre for Development of Telematics (**C-DOT**), New Delhi, Delhi.

- The NOC hosts indigenously developed security infrastructure for the purpose of identifying and tracking **cyber threats** in the **telecom network** in India.

- **M Scindia** also made a pilot **5G**(the fifth-generation technology) **call** on the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (**BSNL**) live network, where this 5G call was made using the indigenously designed 5G radio and 5G core Non-Stand Alone(NSA).

**6. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released revised standards of quality of service for access and broadband services with effect from \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) 1st January 2025
- 2) 1st October 2024
- 3) 1st December 2024
- 4) 1st November 2024
- 5) 1st April 2025

Answer- **2) 1st October 2024**

**Explanation:**

On 2nd August 2024, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (**TRAI**) released revised regulations namely, '[The Standards of Quality of Service of Access \(Wirelines and Wireless\) Service Regulations, 2024 \(06 of 2024\)](#)'. These revised regulations are applicable for access (fixed and mobile) and **broadband services**.

- These regulations will come into effect on **1st October 2024**.
- It has mandated the service providers to display technology (**2G/3G/4G/5G**) wise mobile coverage maps on their website to enable users or consumers to make informed decisions.
- TRAI has decided to collect performance against certain parameters such as: **network availability**, call drop, voice packet drop rate in uplink and downlink, among others on cell level. [Click here to read more](#)

**7. In August 2024, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved 8 National High-Speed Road Corridor projects, with a length of 936 kilo meters (km) for \_\_\_\_\_ across India.**

- 1) Rs 19,744 crore
- 2) Rs 86,000 crore
- 3) Rs 50,655 crore
- 4) Rs 70,163 crore
- 5) Rs 32,000 crore

Answer- **3) Rs. 50,655 crore**

**Explanation:**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (**CCEA**) chaired by the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved **8** National High-Speed Road Corridor projects with a length of **936** kilometers (**km**) for **Rs. 50,655 crore** across India.

- The implementation of these projects is likely to create an estimated 4.42 crore man-days of direct and indirect employment.
- The **Union Cabinet** has approved a series of significant **amendments to banking laws**, including the **increase** in the number of **nominees** per **deposit account** up to **4**, and the introduction of "successive and simultaneous" nominations to allow joint account holders and the heirs to access funds after an account holder's death.
- Shareholders with holdings up to Rs 2 crore will now be considered to have substantial interest, up from the previous Rs 5 lakh limit. [Click here to read more](#)

**8. According to the recent (August '24) notification from the Government of India(GoI), Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), Public Sector Banks (PSBs), and Financial Institutions (FIs) are required to increase their public shareholding to at least \_\_\_\_\_ by August 1, 2026.**

- 1) 10%
- 2) 30%
- 3) 15%
- 4) 25%
- 5) 18%

Answer- **4) 25%**

**Explanation:**

The government has **extended** the **deadline** for the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), Public Sector Banks (PSBs), and Financial Institutions (FIs) to adhere to the Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) norms until **August 2026**. This extension allows CPSEs, PSBs, and FIs to **increase** their **public shareholding** to at least **25%** by **1 August 2026**.

- The Ministry of Finance (MoF) issued a memorandum granting this exemption in the public interest. As per the earlier order, the two-year exemption was to end on **August 1, 2024**.
- As of March 31, 2024, 7 out of 12 PSBs are compliant with the MPS norm, including State Bank of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB), **Canara Bank**, Bank of Baroda, Indian Bank, Union Bank of India (UBI), and Bank of India (BoI).
- State-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has been given until May 16, 2027, to achieve a 10% public shareholding.

**9. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the budget presented by the Puducherry Chief Minister(CM) N Rangasamy for the fiscal year 2024-2025 (FY25) on 2nd August 2024?**

**A) Puducherry CM N Rangasamy presented a tax-free budget of Rs 12,700 crore for the fiscal year 2024-2025 (FY25).**

**B) Central assistance, including the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF), is estimated at Rs 3,268.98 crore.**

**C) Revenue expenditure is allocated Rs 10,969.80 crore, while capital expenditure is Rs 1,730.20 crore.**

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

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

**Explanation:**

i. On August 2, 2024, Puducherry Chief Minister Natesan Krishnasamy Rangasamy (N Rangasamy), who also holds the Finance portfolio, presented a tax-free budget of Rs 12,700 crore for the fiscal year

2024-2025 (FY25) at the 15th Legislative Assembly in White Town, Puducherry. This marked his fourth budget.

ii. Central assistance, including the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF), is estimated at **Rs 3,268.98 crore**.

iii. Revenue expenditure is allocated **Rs 10,969.80 crore**, while capital expenditure is **Rs 1,730.20 crore**.

iv. The Central road fund is estimated at Rs 20 crore, with Centrally-sponsored schemes allocated **Rs 430 crore**. [Click here to read more](#)

**10. Which Indian ministry has recently (in August '24) introduced new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to facilitate the seamless transportation of human organs by air, road, rail, and waterways?**

- 1) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- 2) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- 3) Ministry of Railways
- 4) Ministry of Civil Aviation
- 5) Ministry of Home Affairs

**Answer- 2) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**) has introduced Standard Operating Procedures (**SOPs**) for the seamless transportation of human organs via air, road, rail, and waterways.

- The primary goal is to expedite the transport of live organs between hospitals or cities, addressing the critical need for timely delivery due to the organ's limited shelf life and the complexity of coordinating multiple agencies.

The SOPs provide guidelines for transporting organs when donors and recipients are in different locations, including priority measures for air travel, such as special arrangements for medical personnel and "**green corridors**" for ambulances.

**11. In August 2024, the Government of India (GoI) declared Adichunchanagiri in \_\_\_\_\_ as Peacock Sanctuary.**

- 1) Uttar Pradesh
- 2) Maharashtra
- 3) Uttarakhand
- 4) Karnataka
- 5) Kerala

**Answer- 4) Karnataka**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav**, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), announced that the central government has declared the **Choolannuar** in **Kerala** and

**Adichunchanagiri** in **Karnataka** as **Peacock Sanctuaries**.

- Breeding and conservation centers have been established by the MoEF&CC to protect Peacocks, the National Bird of India, since 1963.
- In **1963**, the peafowl was declared the **national bird of India** because of its rich religious and legendary involvement in Indian traditions.
- It is fully protected under the Indian Wildlife Protection) Act, 1972.



**12. Who is the current (as of August '24) chairperson of the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)?**

- 1) K. Radhakrishnan
- 2) Annpurna Devi
- 3) Vijay Kumar Saraswat
- 4) Soumya Swaminathan
- 5) Apurva Chandra

Answer- **2) Annpurna Devi**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Women and Child Development (**MWCD**), Government of India (GoI) has **reconstituted** the Executive Council (**EC**) and General Body (**GB**) of the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (**NIPCCD**) after more than 50 years.

- The **reconstitution** was **approved** during a meeting of the EC and a special meeting of the GB of NIPCCD held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi, under the **chairpersonship** of **Union Minister Annpurna Devi, MWCD**.
- The NIPCCD is an autonomous institute under the MWCD. It is erstwhile known as the Central Institute of Research and Training in Public Cooperation, under the aegis of the Planning Commission.
- The GB now has 22 members, down from 94, and the EC has 13 members, down from 21.
- Union Minister Annpurna Devi is the the President of the GB and Chairperson of EC.

**13. Which of the following does not belong to the four pillars of the newly introduced Quality Council of India's (QCI) Surajya Recognition & Ranking Framework??**

- 1) Shiksha
- 2) Swasthya
- 3) Samriddhi
- 4) Sushasan
- 5) Kisan

Answer- **5) Kisan**

**Explanation:**

The Quality Council of India (**QCI**), an autonomous body set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), is introducing the **QCI Surajya Recognition & Ranking Framework**, designed to drive excellence among states to improve citizens' quality of life for Viksit Bharat.

- This framework is categorised under 4 pillars namely, **Shiksha** (*Education*), **Swasthya** (*Health*), **Samriddhi** (*Prosperity*), and **Sushasan** (*Governance*).
- The Surajya Recognition acknowledges the outstanding performance and commitment to quality by states and organisations in these 4 vital areas. [Click here to read more](#)

**14. Which Programme/ scheme has recently (in August '24) launched the 'Million Designers, Billion Dreams' initiative in collaboration with Leap Designs?**

- 1) Aspirational Blocks Programme
- 2) PM Mahila Shakti Kendra scheme
- 3) Mahila Samridhi Yojana
- 4) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission
- 5) One Stop Centre (OSC) scheme

#### Answer- 4) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission

##### Explanation:

On 6th August 2024, the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (**DAY-NRLM**) launched the ‘**Million Designers, Billion Dreams**’ initiative in collaboration with **Leap Designs**. This initiative aims to empower individuals across India with systems design know-how to tackle complex societal challenges.

- The launch event was chaired by **Charanjit Singh**, Additional Secretary, Rural Livelihoods (RL), Ministry of Rural Development (**MoRD**).

#### 15. In August 2024, Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 24×7 Water Supply Project at \_\_\_\_\_ under the Smart City Mission (SCM).

- 1) Manimajra, Chandigarh
- 2) Guwahati, Assam
- 3) Durg, Chhattisgarh
- 4) Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh
- 5) Nagpur, Maharashtra

##### Answer-1) Manimajra, Chandigarh

##### Explanation:

On 4th August 2024, Union Minister **Amit Shah**, Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) inaugurated 24×7 Water Supply Project at **Manimajra**, in the Union Territory (UT) of Chandigarh under the Smart City Mission (**SCM**). Gulab Chand Kataria, Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh was among the dignitaries present on the occasion.

- The project was completed at a cost of about Rs 75 crore and Rs 85 crore has been assigned for its maintenance for 15 years.
- The project aims to ensure better water quality, reliability, and effective supply-demand management.

#### 16. Name the self-regulatory body that was recently (in August 2024) established by the Indian gold sector for the first time.

- 1) Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council
- 2) Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association
- 3) Jewellers Association of India
- 4) Indian Association for Gold Excellence and Standards
- 5) All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council

##### Answer- 4) Indian Association for Gold Excellence and Standards

##### Explanation:

The Indian Gold sector with the support of the World Gold Council (**WGC**) established 1st self-regulatory body named, the Indian Association for Gold Excellence and Standards (**IAGES**) in order to boost consumer trust.

- **Aim:** To promote fair, transparent and sustainable practices in the bullion industry.
- IAGES will cover the whole value chain of gold industry i.e. from bullion trade, refinery, and trading to manufacturing, retailing, and digital platforms.

**17. In August 2024, the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC)'s first ever "IACC-MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) Centre of Excellence (CoE)" was inaugurated at**

- 1) Pune, Maharashtra
- 2) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- 3) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- 4) New Delhi, Delhi
- 5) Hyderabad, Telangana

**Answer- 3) Ahmedabad, Gujarat**

**Explanation:**

On August 8, 2024, Bhupendra Patel, Chief Minister (CM) of Gujarat, inaugurated Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC)'s first ever "IACC-MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) Centre of Excellence (CoE)" at the KCG auditorium, i-HUB campus in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

- The CoE aims to upgrade and strengthen MSMEs in making them at par with global export markets.
- The centre will strengthen the industrial relation between India-the United States of America(USA).
- The IACC-CoE is designed to provide MSMEs with essential skills and knowledge to navigate global markets and enhance their export capabilities.

**18. In which state, the Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve is located?**

- 1) Assam
- 2) Uttarakhand
- 3) Chhattisgarh
- 4) Kerala
- 5) Odisha

**Answer- 3) Chhattisgarh**

**Explanation:**

The **Chhattisgarh** government has announced the establishment of the new tiger reserve named 'Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve', marking it as the **fourth Tiger reserve** in Chhattisgarh.

- Indravati Tiger Reserve(Bijapur), Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve (Gariaband) and Achanakmar Tiger Reserve (Mungeli) are the other three tiger reserves in Chhattisgarh.
- The reserve will include areas of the **Guru Ghasidas National Park** and the **Tamor Pingla sanctuary**, covering an expansive area of 2,829.387 square kilometers(sq km) across the districts of Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, Koriya, Surajpur, and Balrampur.

**19. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the recent cabinet approvals on August 8, 2024?**

**A) Modification of the Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana, extending its implementation timeline by 5 years, until 2029-30 (FY30).**

**B) Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) during FY25 to FY29 with a total outlay of Rs. 3,06,137 crore.**

**C) Clean Plant Programme (CPP) proposed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) with an outlay of Rs 1,765.67 crore.**

1) Only A & B

2) Only A & C

3) Only B & C

4) Only A

5) All A, B & C

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

**Explanation:**

i. On August 9, 2024, the Union Cabinet chaired by **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister (PM) of India**, has approved,

- Modification of the Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana, extending its implementation timeline by 5 years, until 2028-29 (FY29).
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (**PMAY-U**) **2.0** to provide financial assistance for affordable housing to **1 crore** urban poor and middle-class families over the next **5 years i.e. FY25 to FY29**.
- Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (**PMAY-G**) during **FY25 to FY29**, aiming to construct 2 crore additional houses in rural areas, with a total outlay of **Rs. 3,06,137 crore**.
- Clean Plant Programme (**CPP**) proposed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (**MoAFW**) with an outlay of **Rs 1,765.67 crore**. [Click here to read more](#)

**20. Which state has recently (in August 2024) launched India's first round-the-clock grain ATM, 'Annapurthi', in partnership with the United Nations (UN) World Food Programme (WFP)?**

1) Uttarakhand

2) Odisha

3) Kerala

4) Rajasthan

5) Andhra Pradesh

Answer- **2) Odisha**

**Explanation:**

The **Odisha** Government has partnered with United Nations (**UN**) **World Food Programme (WFP)** to launch '**Grain Automated Teller Machine (ATM)**' also known as **Annapurthi**, India's first round-the-clock grain ATM in Bhubaneswar (Odisha).

- Odisha becomes the **first state** in India to provide access to the Public Distribution System (**PDS**) beneficiaries **24/7**.
- The Grain ATM was recognized as one of the WFP's top 5 innovative solutions for disrupting hunger at the WFP Innovation Awards in 2022.

- It can dispense grains weighing up to **50 kilogram(kg)** in five minutes, with an error rate of **0.01%**, reducing 70% waiting time.

**21. In August 2024, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi released 109 new varieties of 61 crops developed by \_\_\_\_\_ in New Delhi, Delhi.**

- 1) Punjab Agricultural University
- 2) Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- 3) Krishi Vigyan Kendra
- 4) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority
- 5) Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

**Answer- 2) Indian Council of Agricultural Research**

**Explanation:**

On 11th August 2024, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, released **109 new varieties of 61 crops** developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Pusa, New Delhi, Delhi.

- The high yielding, climate resilient and biofortified varieties of the 61 crops includes **34 field crops** and **27 horticultural crops**.
- These varieties are nutritionally rich and adaptable to environmental changes.

**22. By which year is the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) set to eliminate lymphatic Filariasis (LF)?**

- 1) 2030
- 2) 2029
- 3) 2028
- 4) 2025
- 5) 2027

**Answer-5) 2027**

**Explanation:**

Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge, IC) Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), virtually launched the 2nd phase of the bi-annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign 2024 to eliminate **Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)** by **2027**. LF is commonly known as **elephantiasis(Haaitipaon)**, a priority mosquito-borne disease.

- The launch included the release of the '**Revised Guideline on Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis**' and Information, Education, and Communication (**IEC**) material for LF elimination.
- The campaign focuses on 63 endemic districts in Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Odisha, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh(UP).

**23. Which department has recently (in August '24) notified the guidelines for the Nationwide Digital Life Certificate (DLC) Campaign 3.0?**

- 1) Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare
- 2) Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances
- 3) Department of Financial Services
- 4) Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare
- 5) Department of Personnel and Training

**Answer- 4) Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare**

**Explanation:**

The Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare (**DoPPW**) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions (MoPP&P) has notified the guidelines for the Nationwide Digital Life Certificate (**DLC**) **campaign 3.0**, scheduled from November 1-30, 2024, in 800 cities/districts across India.

- Pensioners must submit their **Life Certificate annually in November** to continue receiving their pension.
- The campaign will be monitored on a real-time basis through the DLC campaign portal, with PDBs formulating detailed plans and coordinating with the PWAs.

**24. Which of the following are the three Indian Ocean geographical structures named by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO?**

**A) Ashoka seamount**

**B) Chandragupt ridge**

**C) Kalpataru ridge**

1) Only A & B

2) Only A & C

3) Only B & C

4) Only A

5) All A, B & C

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

**Explanation:**

The International Hydrographic Organization (**IHO**) and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (**IOC**) of **UNESCO** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), have named **three underwater geographical structures** located in the Indian Ocean as **Ashoka seamount**, the **Chandragupt ridge**, and **Kalpataru ridge**.

- The names of the structure were **proposed** by **India** to IHO and IOC.
- Ashoka seamount and the Chandragupt ridge are named after the **Mauryan** dynasty rulers Ashoka and Chandragupta Maurya, respectively.

**i.** These three structures were discovered by **oceanographers** from the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (**NCPOR**), Goa.

**ii.** These structures, located along the **Southwest Indian Ridge area** of the **Indian Ocean**, were discovered during the *Indian Southern Ocean Research Programme*. [click here to read more](#)

**25. The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) has recently (in August '24) granted approval for the Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) to invest an additional equity capital of up to \_\_\_\_\_ in ONGC Petro additions Limited (OPaL).**

1) Rs 4,958 crore

2) Rs 10,501 crore

3) Rs 4,630 crore

4) Rs 7453 crore

5) Rs 8754 crore

Answer-**2) Rs 10,501 crore**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (**MoPNG**), Government of India (GoI) has granted an approval letter to Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (**ONGC**), a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the MoPNG, to invest an additional equity capital of up to **Rs 10,501 crore** in ONGC Petro additions Limited (**OPaL**), Vadodara (Gujarat).

- The OPaL is a Joint Venture (JV) between the ONGC, the Gas Authority of India (GAIL), and the Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPC).
- The GoI has also approved the conversion of back-stopped Compulsorily Convertible Debentures (CCDs) worth Rs 7,778 crore and a balance payment of Rs 86 crore related to share warrants, totaling Rs 18,365 crore.
- This will increase the status of OPaL into a subsidiary of ONGC with a 95.69% equity stake from 49.36% equity stake.

**26. Which of the following wetlands has been recently (in August '24) designated as Ramsar Sites?**

**A) Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary**

**B) Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary**

**C) Tawa Reservoir**

1) Only A & B

2) Only A & C

3) Only B & C

4) Only A

5) All A, B & C

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

**Explanation:**

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEF&CC**) announced that **3 wetlands** from India namely **Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary** and **Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary** in Tamil Nadu (**TN**) and **Tawa Reservoir** in Madhya Pradesh (**MP**) were designated as Wetlands of International Importance, also known as **Ramsar Sites**.

- With this addition, the number of Ramsar sites in India becomes **85**, covering an area of 1,358,068 hectares (ha).
- TN has the highest number of Ramsar sites (18) followed by Uttar Pradesh (UP) (10). [Click here to read more](#)

**27. According to the newly introduced Offshore Areas Mineral Trust Rules, 2024, the production leaseholders of offshore mines must contribute \_\_\_\_\_ of their royalty payments to the Trust.**

1) 15%

2) 10%

3) 25%

4) 5%

5) 20%

Answer-**2) 10%**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Mines, Government of India (GoI) has introduced the **Offshore Areas Mineral Trust Rules, 2024**, establishing the **first-ever framework** to oversee mineral exploration and production in India's offshore areas.

- Under the new rules, the production leaseholders of offshore mines must contribute **10%** of their **royalty payments** to the Trust.
- This sum will be deposited in the Public Account of India (PAI), strengthening the Trust's financial foundation.
- The Trust aims to promote sustainable exploration while ensuring environmental conservation and community welfare.
- The Ministry of Mines has identified 10 offshore mineral blocks for potential auction, with inter-ministerial consultations currently underway.

**28. What percentage premium has the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) approved over the regulated Administered Price Mechanism (APM) price for natural gas produced from new wells or well interventions in nominated fields of ONGC and Oil India Limited?**

- 1) 50%
- 2) 27%
- 3) 35%
- 4) 32%
- 5) 20%

Answer-5) **20%**

**Explanation:**

On 12th August 2024, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has approved a **20%** premium over the regulated or Administered Price Mechanism (APM) price for any natural gas produced from new wells or well interventions in the nominated fields of state-owned companies: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), New Delhi (Delhi) and Oil India Limited (OIL), Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

- This move will help the firms to make new gas development projects more viable and help to boost the domestic production of natural gas from nominated fields.
- As per the notification, the gas produced from nominated fields of ONGC and OIL will get premium a total of 12% of Indian crude basket price, as under the current policy, linked to crude price.

**29. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the 78th Independence Day celebrations organized by the Government of India?**

**A) Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi addressed the nation and delivered his 11th consecutive Independence Day speech.**

**B) The President of India Droupadi Murmu approved 103 Gallantry awards (including 9 posthumous) to the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel.**

**C) The Punjab Regiment Military band played the National Anthem during the flag unfurling under Subedar Major Rajinder Singh.**

- 1) Only A & B
- 2) Only A & C



3) Only B & C

4) Only A

5) All A, B & C

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

**Explanation:**

**i.**The Government of India has organized the 78th Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort in New Delhi, Delhi. Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi addressed the nation and delivered his 11th consecutive Independence Day speech.

- 2024 Independence Day signified the theme '**Viksit Bharat@2047**' i.e. transforming India into a developed nation by 2047.
- It was his **first address** of his third term.

**ii.**The Guard of Honour for the PM consisted of officer and 24 personnel from the Indian Army (IA), Indian Navy (IN), Indian Air Force (IAF), and Delhi Police. The **IN** is the **coordinating service** in 2024.

**iii.**The President of India **Droupadi Murmu** approved 103 Gallantry awards (including 9 posthumous) to Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel.

**iv.**The **Punjab Regiment Military** band played the National Anthem during the flag unfurling under **Subedar Major Rajinder Singh**. [Click here to read more](#)

**30. Which ministry has recently (in August 2024) launched the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Green Tug Transition Program (GTTP)?**

1) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

2) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

3) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

4) Ministry of Heavy Industries

5) Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways

Answer- **5) Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (**MoPSW**), officially launched the Standard Operating Procedure (**SOP**) for the Green Tug Transition Program (**GTTP**), in New Delhi, Delhi.

- This initiative aims to replace conventional fuel-based tugs with eco-friendly alternatives in major Indian ports, supporting India's commitment to environmental sustainability.
- The GTTP is designed to phase out conventional fuel-based harbour tugs operating in Indian ports and replace them with green tugs powered by cleaner and more sustainable alternate fuels.
- **Phase 1** of the GTTP (1 October 2024 – 31 December 2027) involves **4 Major Ports**, each procuring or chartering at least 2 green tugs.

**31. Which state has recently (in August '24) declared Petroglyphs and Geoglyphs (rock arts) in Ratnagiri as 'Protected Monuments'?**

1) Uttarakhand

2) Uttar Pradesh

3) Madhya Pradesh

4) Maharashtra

5) Karnataka

**Answer- 4) Maharashtra**

**Explanation:**

The **Maharashtra** Government has declared **Petroglyphs** and **Geoglyphs** (rock arts) in Ratnagiri as '**Protected Monuments**' under the Maharashtra Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960.

- Geoglyphs and Petroglyphs are the different types of ancient art forms which includes the creation of images or designs on the earth's surface or rock surfaces.
- Ratnagiri has almost **1,500 such artworks** spread across **70 sites**, seven of which are on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**)'s tentative World Heritage List(WHL).
- Petroglyphs are found in Deud, Ratnagiri (**Maharashtra**) which dates back to the Mesolithic age (approximately 20,000-10,000 years ago).
- Geoglyphs is located along the **900 kilometre(km)** Konkan coast in **Maharashtra** and **Goa**.

**32. Which of the following points is /are 'correct' with respect to the proposals approved by the Union Cabinet on 16th August 2024?**

**A) The union cabinet approved the extension of Pune Metro Phase-1 project from Swargate to Katraj spanning 5.46 kilometer (km).**

**B) It approved for the critical road connectivity for Vadhvan Port in Maharashtra to National Highway (NH)-48**

**C) It also approved the development of two new civil enclaves at Bagdogra Airport in Bihar and Bihta Airport in West Bengal.**

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

**Answer- 1) Only A & B**

**Explanation:**

On 16th August 2024, the Union Cabinet chaired by **Narendra Modi**, Prime Minister (**PM**) of India has approved the series of high-impact metro rail projects and infrastructure projects:

**i.**Extension of **Pune Metro Phase-1 project** from Swargate to Katraj spanning 5.46 kilometer (km).

**ii.**Development of **Thane Integral Ring Metro Rail Project** in Maharashtra

**iii.**Two Corridors of **Bengaluru Metro Rail Phase-3 Project** for 44.65 km with 31 stations.

**iv.**The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (**CCEA**) chaired by PM Modi also approved the development of two new civil enclaves at Bagdogra Airport in West Bengal (WB) and Bihta Airport in Bihar.

**v.**Critical Road Connectivity for Vadhvan Port in Maharashtra to National Highway (**NH**)-48.[Click here to read more](#)

**33. What was the denomination of the coin that was recently (in August '24) released to mark the birth centenary of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister (CM) Kalamangal Muthuvel Karunanidhi?**

- 1) Rs.75
- 2) Rs.250

3) Rs.100

4) Rs.150

5) Rs. 90

Answer- **3) Rs. 100**

**Explanation:**

On 18th August 2024, Union Minister **Rajnath Singh**, Ministry of Defence (MoD), released a commemorative **Rs. 100 coin** to mark the **birth centenary** of former Chief Minister (CM) of Tamil Nadu (TN) **Kalaignar Muthuvel Karunanidhi**.

- The coin was released at the event organised by the Government of Tamil Nadu in Kalaivanar Arangam, in Chennai (TN).
- The reverse side of the coin features a portrait of Karunanidhi and Tamil slogan 'Tamil Vellum' (Tamil win) along with the text "Birth Centenary of Kalaignar Karunanidhi" in Hindi and English.
- The Rs 100 denomination coin weigh 35 grams, have a diameter of 44 millimeters, with 200 serrations on its edge.
- It will be composed of an alloy comprising 50% silver, 40% copper, 5% nickel, and 5% zinc.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated Indian Coast Guard (ICG) 's new Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (**MRCC**) in Chennai, TN.

- He also virtually launched the Regional Marine Pollution Response Centre (**RMPRC**) in Chennai and Coast Guard Air Enclave (**CGAE**) in **Puducherry**.

**34. Which organisation has recently(In August '24) partnered with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to launch the Climate Smart Agritech cohort of the India-Australia Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion (RISE) Accelerator program?**

1) Small Industries Development Bank of India

2) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

3) Atal Innovation Mission

4) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority

5) Indian Council of Agricultural Research

Answer- **3) Atal Innovation Mission**

**Explanation:**

On 19th August 2024, the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)'s backed- Atal Innovation Mission (**AIM**) in collaboration with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (**CSIRO**), an arm of the Government of Australia launched the **Climate Smart Agritech** cohort of the India-Australia Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion (**RISE**) Accelerator program and has invited applications from startups and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**) for the program.

- **Aim:** To harness cutting-edge technologies and digital solutions to address climate challenges in agriculture and promote cross-border innovation.
- The cohort is designed specifically to provide support to startups and MSMEs working with technologies and solutions that improve agricultural productivity and resilience.

**35. Which company has recently (in August '24) partnered with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MOCAF&PD) and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to transform Fair Price Shops (FPSs) into Jan Poshan Kendras (JPK)?**

- 1) Amazon
- 2) JioMart
- 3) Flipkart
- 4) Udaan
- 5) IndiaMART

**Answer- 4) Udaan**

**Explanation:**

**Udaan**, a B2B (Business to Business) e-commerce company, has partnered with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (**MOCAF&PD**), and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**) to transform Fair Price Shops (**FPSs**) into Jan Poshan Kendras (JPK).

- This partnership aims to enhance the income of FPS dealers and improve the portfolio of products offered by these shops.
- The pilot has been launched across 60 selected FPSs from **Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh (UP), Telangana, and Gujarat**.
- Under this partnership, Jan Poshan Kendras will receive credit facilities from SIDBI to purchase food grains and Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (**FMCG**) products, and access to over 3,500 products through Udaan's eB2B platform.
- The initiative aims to eventually modernize 1.3 lakh shops, with a long-term goal of converting all **5.38 lakh ration shops** into JPK.

**36. In August 2024, the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited(NEHHDC) secured Oeko-Tex certification for its \_\_\_\_\_ (Product).**

- 1) Rignai
- 2) Gamsa
- 3) Jwmgra
- 4) Wangkhei Phee
- 5) Eri Silk

**Answer- 5) Eri Silk**

**Explanation:**

Guwahati (Assam) based North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited (**NEHHDC**) under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (**MDoNER**) has secured **Oeko-Tex certification** directly from Germany for the **Eri Silk of Assam**.

- The Oeko-Tex certification standard 100 ensures textiles are tested for harmful substances and produced in eco-friendly conditions.
- Eri Silk is renowned as the world's **only vegan silk** due to its ethical manufacturing process. This eco-friendly process makes Eri Silk, a symbol of compassion and sustainability in the textile industry.
- This achievement further strengthens the silk's status as an Assam Geographical Indication (**GI**) **product**, emphasising its authenticity and regional relevance.

**37. Which ministry has recently (in August '24) created new divisions, namely the Household Survey Division and the Enterprise Survey Division??**

- 1) Ministry of Finance
- 2) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- 3) Ministry of Law and Justice
- 4) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- 5) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

**Answer- 5) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**

**Explanation:**

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has restructured its working and created **two survey-wise verticals**, aiming to increase the frequency of various surveys such as the Periodic Labour Force Survey (**PLFS**) and **reduce time lags** in their release.

- In order to make sure that globally recognized standards are adhered to in every survey exercise, it has separated state and international cooperation units from its existing Intra, Inter, and International Coordination (**II & IC**) **Unit** in addition to creating divisions for household and enterprise surveys.

**38. Which company has recently (in August '24) announced to invest Rs 36,238 crore for India's 1st Green Ammonia Plant in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu (TN)?**

- 1) Sembcorp Industries
- 2) Gas Authority of India Limited
- 3) HHP Five Private Limited
- 4) Reliance Industries Limited
- 5) Vedanta Limited

**Answer- 1) Sembcorp Industries**

**Explanation:**

Singapore-based **Sembcorp** Industries will invest **Rs 36,238 crore** for India's 1st Green Ammonia Plant in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu (TN).

- TN will be the **first state in India** to roll out commercial production of large scale green hydrogen molecules.
- The foundation stone for the unit was laid by TN Chief Minister (CM) M.K. Stalin (Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin) during the **Tamil Nadu Investment Conclave 2024** held on 21st August 2024, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

**39. Which country has recently (in August '24) partnered with the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Indian Institute of Technology – Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU) to launch a Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers (SLCR) Project in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh?**

- 1) Japan
- 2) Denmark
- 3) Azerbaijan
- 4) Israel
- 5) Singapore

**Answer- 2) Denmark**

**Explanation:**

New Delhi(Delhi) based National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh(UP) based Indian Institute of Technology – Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU), and the Government of **Denmark** have launched a Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers (**SLCR**) **Project** in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

- This initiative is part of the **Green Strategic Partnership** between India and Denmark, which aims to **rejuvenate small rivers** through innovative and sustainable approaches.
- **Aim:** The SLCR project aims to rejuvenate the **Varuna River** by leveraging cutting-edge technology and international expertise.
- The SLCR Secretariat would receive **Rs. 16.80 crore** in initial funding from the Ministry of Jal Shakti (**MoJS**), as well as **Rs. 5 crore** grant from Denmark to enhance long-term sustainability and project development.[Click here to read more](#)

**40. In August 2024, the Government of India (GoI) launched the “Bharat Zero Emission Trucking (ZET) Policy Advisory” document with the aim of achieving 100% ZET sales penetration by \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) 2045
- 2) 2040
- 3) 2050
- 4) 2060
- 5) 2055

Answer- **3) 2050**

**Explanation:**

On 21st August 2024, Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India (GoI), launched the [“Bharat Zero Emission Trucking \(ZET\) Policy Advisory”](#) document at the Vigyan Bhawan Annexe in New Delhi, Delhi.

- This advisory outlines a comprehensive approach to achieving **100% ZET sales penetration by 2050**, crucial for India’s Net Zero 2070 target.
- The development of the advisory was guided by a Policy Advisory Panel (**PAP**) chaired by **Dr. Preeti Banzal**, Adviser, Office of PSA; and vice-chaired by **Prof. Karthick Athmanathan**, PSA Fellow with contributions from various industry and academic leaders.
- A Project Management Unit was established at Centre of Excellence for Zero Emission Trucking (**CoEZET**), Indian Institutes of Technology (**IIT**) Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu to draft the policy advisory document under the guidance of the PAP.

**41. Which of the following points is/are ‘correct’ with respect to the sustainable launched initiatives by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) in Jawaharlal Nehru (JN) Port in Navi Mumbai?**

- A) Three newly rejuvenated freshwater lakes named in the honour of famous saints of Maharashtra, Saint Dyaneshwar Maharaj, Saint Eknath Maharaj, and Saint Namdeo Maharaj, were inaugurated.**
- B) Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), Vadhvan Port and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) signed a MoU for the disbursement of loans to support various infrastructure projects.**
- C) JNPA and Gateway Terminal India (GTI) signed a MoU to boost the sustainable effort by shoring up power supply for vessels of the port.**

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

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

**Explanation:**

On 22nd August 2024, Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (**MoPSW**) launched major sustainable initiatives after he inaugurated three newly rejuvenated freshwater lakes at Jawaharlal Nehru (**JN**) **Port** in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- The lakes, named in the honour of famous saints of Maharashtra, **Saint Dyaneshwar Maharaj, Saint Eknath Maharaj, and Saint Namdeo Maharaj**, will serve as important reservoirs for rainwater harvesting and habitat restoration.
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (**JNPA**), **Vadhvan Port** and Rural Electrification Corporation (**REC**) signed a MoU for the disbursement of loans to support various infrastructure projects.
- JNPA and Gateway Terminal India (**GTI**) signed a MoU to boost the sustainable effort by shoring up power supply for vessels of the port.
- Union Minister Sonowal launched the **Smart Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** project at a ceremony held at JN Port in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- JNPA announced the successful expansion of its liquid cargo handling capacity with the introduction of Additional Liquid Cargo Berths (**ALCB**) i.e. Liquid Berth-3(LB3) and Berth-4 (LB4).[Click here to read more](#)

**42. Recently, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman released a postal stamp to commemorate the 165th Income Tax Day which was observed on \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) 24 August 2024
- 2) 24 April 2024
- 3) 24 July 2024
- 4) 24 May 2024
- 5) 24 June 2024

Answer- **3) 24 July 2024**

**Explanation:**

On 21st August 2024, Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance (MoF) released '**My Stamp – 165th Income Tax Day**' to commemorate 165 years of income tax in India, in New Delhi, Delhi. The stamp was released during the event organised by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to commemorate the 165th anniversary of Income Tax Day.

- India annually celebrates **Income Tax Day** on **24th July** commemorates the introduction of income tax in India by Sir James Wilson in 1860. **24th July 2024** marks the 165th Income Tax Day.
- During the event, Union Minister Sitharaman presented the 'CBDT Certificate of Excellence' to the Income Tax Department team that made the highest-ever cash seizure of about Rs 352 crore in India in a 2023 raid against a distillery group in Odisha.

**43. Which of the following points is/are correct with respect to the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) approved by the Union Cabinet on 24th August 2024?**

**A) As per UPS, the central government employees will contribute 10% of their salary while the central government will contribute 14%.**

**B) Under the UPS, all central government employees who have served for a minimum 25 years, will receive 50% of their last drawn salary from the past 12 months before superannuation as pension.**

**C) The UPS was recommended by a committee headed by T.V. Somanathan, former finance secretary in April 2023.**

1) Only A & B

2) Only A & C

3) Only B & C

4) Only A

5) All A, B & C

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

**Explanation:**

The Union Cabinet led by PM Narendra Modi has approved the Unified Pension Scheme (**UPS**) for central government employees. The UPS combines the benefits of existing National Pension Scheme (**NPS**) and Old Pension Scheme (**OPS**).

- The scheme will come into effect on **1st April, 2025**. The benefits of the UPS will apply to those who are retired or retiring under the NPS till March 31, 2025.
- The **Maharashtra** government became the first state to implement Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) for its government employees with effective from March 2024.
- The UPS was recommended by a committee headed by **T.V. Somanathan**, former finance secretary in April, 2023.
- As per UPS, the central government employees will continue to contribute **10%** of their salary, as in current National Pension Scheme (NPS). While, the central government has increased its contribution from 14% (currently under NPS) to **18.5%**.
- **Assured Pension:** Under the UPS, all central government employees who have served for minimum **25 years**, will receive **50%** of their last drawn salary from the past 12 months before superannuation as pension.
- **Assured minimum pension:** The scheme has a unique feature of assured minimum pension for those employees who have served for **at least 10 years**, will be entitled to receive a minimum pension benefit of **Rs 10,000 per month** on superannuation.

**i.**The Union Cabinet chaired by **Narendra Modi**, Prime Minister (PM) of India has also approved:

**ii.** On 24th August 2024, the Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of **3** umbrella schemes under a new unified central sector scheme, "**Vigyan Dhara**" of the Department of Science and Technology (**DST**), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T).

- The estimated budget for the implementation of the scheme is **Rs 10, 579.84 crore** during the 15th Finance Commission i.e. from Financial Year of 2021-22 (FY22) to FY26.

**iii.**The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment (**BioE3**) policy which aimed at fostering high-performance bio-manufacturing of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T).



- The **BioE3 Policy** outlines **three implementation strategies**: discovery and integrated research networks, bridging existing gaps, and establishing bio-enabler hubs. [Click here to read more](#)

**44. Which of the following is 'not' one of the five districts that were newly created in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh?**

- 1) Zaskar
- 2) Drass
- 3) Nubra
- 4) Changthang
- 5) Hemis

Answer- **5) Hemis**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Home Affairs (**MHA**), announced the creation of **5 new districts** in the Union Territory (**UT**) of **Ladakh**, namely, **Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang**. With the formation of the new districts, Ladakh's total number of districts has increased to **7**.

- The MHA also instructed the Ladakh administration to establish a committee to evaluate aspects such as headquarters, boundaries, and the structure of the new districts and submit its report within 3 months.
- Currently, Ladakh has only 2 districts, **Leh and Kargil**, both managed by its autonomous district council.
- Ladakh has been demanding inclusion in the sixth schedule of the Indian Constitution to protect its tribal identity, culture, land, and resources.

**45. Which organization has recently (in August 2024) received the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001:2015 certification, the global benchmark for environmental management systems (EMS)?**

- 1) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation
- 2) Infosys
- 3) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- 4) Gas Authority of India Limited
- 5) RailTel Corporation of India Limited

Answer- **5) RailTel Corporation of India Limited**

**Explanation:**

New Delhi (Delhi) based RailTel Corporation of India Limited (**RailTel**), a Mini-Ratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Railways (MoR) has been awarded the International Organization for Standardization (**ISO**) **14001:2015** certification, a globally recognized standard for Environmental Management Systems (**EMS**).

**i.** This certification encompasses RailTel's administration and management of a nationwide broadband telecom and multimedia network to support the growth of national telecom infrastructure, the internet, digital India, and Information Technology (IT) – enabled value-added services in all parts of India, including rural areas.

**ii.** RailTel has demonstrated its commitment to not only meeting regulatory requirements, but also emphasising environmental protection.

**46. Which of the following is/are 'correct' with respect to the proposals approved by the Union Cabinet on 28th August 2024?**

**A) The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal for 3rd batch of ascending e-auctions to establish 730 Private FM (Frequency Modulation) radio channels across 234 new cities, with a reserve price of Rs 784.87 crore under Private FM Radio Phase III Policy.**

**B) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved 3 railway projects viz. two new lines and one multi-tracking project with a total estimated cost of Rs 6,456 crore.**

**C) CCEA has approved 10 new industrial nodes/cities under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) with an estimated investment of Rs 25,602 crore.**

1) Only A & B

2) Only B & C

3) Only A & C

4) Only A

5) All A, B & C

**Answer- 1) Only A & B**

**Explanation:**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved the following proposals:

**i.**The Union Cabinet approved the progressive expansion of the Central Sector Scheme under the **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)**. The expansion aims to make the scheme more attractive, impactful, and inclusive by broadening eligible projects and adding supportive measures.

**ii.**The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal for 3rd batch of ascending e-auctions to establish **730 Private FM (Frequency Modulation) radio channels across 234 new cities**, with a reserve price of **Rs 784.87 crore** under **Private FM Radio Phase III Policy**.

**iii.**The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal from the Ministry of Power to provide Central Financial Assistance (**CFA**) to State Governments in the North Eastern Region (NER) for equity participation in Hydro Electric Projects.

**iv.**The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (**CCEA**) has approved **3 railway projects** viz. two new lines and one multi-tracking project with a total estimated cost of **Rs 6,456 crore**. These projects aim to improve connectivity, ease travel, reduce logistics costs, and lower CO2 emissions across India.

**v.**CCEA has approved 12 new industrial nodes/cities under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (**NICDP**) with an estimated investment of **Rs 28,602 crore**. [Click here to read more](#)

**47. According to the recently (in August '24) launched Vehicle Scrapping Policy or Voluntary Vehicle Modernization Program (VVMP), state governments will offer a concession on motor vehicle tax of up to \_\_\_\_\_ for non-transport vehicles.**

1) 50%

2) 6%

3) 28%

4) 25 %

5) 12%

**Answer- 4) 25 %**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (**MoRTH**) has launched the **Vehicle Scrapping Policy** or Voluntary Vehicle Modernization Program (**VVMP**) to create an ecosystem for phasing out unfit polluting vehicles across India.

This policy will be implemented through a network of Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (**RVSFs**) and Automated Testing Stations (**ATSS**).

The policy notified state governments to offer a concession on motor vehicle tax of up to 25 % for non-transport vehicles, and up to 15 % on transport vehicles. Now, MoRTH has added a waiver on any pending liabilities that the vehicle to be scrapped may have. The manufacturers of Commercial and Passenger Vehicle have agreed to offer discounts for a limited period against a Certificate of Deposit (**Scrappage Certificate**). Currently, over 60 RVSFs across 17 States and more than seventy-five ATs in 12 States are operational in India.

**48. Which organisation has recently (in August 2024) integrated DigiLocker with its recruitment portal, allowing aspirants to link their digital documents?**

- 1) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- 2) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- 3) Staff Selection Commission
- 4) Indian Railways
- 5) Institute of Banking Personnel Selection

Answer- **4) Indian Railways**

**Explanation:**

The Indian Railways (**IR**) has integrated its recruitment portal with **DigiLocker**, to reduce the recruitment process duration **from 18-24 months to less than 6 months**.

**DigiLocker**, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (**MeitY**) under the Digital India program is a digital document wallet offering access to authentic digital documents.

The integration will streamline document verification, and minimise the chances of fake document submissions.

## **GOVT SCHEMES**

**1. In July 2024, the Ministry of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched an enhanced 'Model Skill Loan Scheme' with an increased maximum loan limit to \_\_\_\_\_ from Rs 1.5 lakh.**

- 1) Rs 8 lakh
- 2) Rs 29.6 lakh
- 3) Rs 7.5 lakh
- 4) Rs 5 lakh
- 5) Rs 17.4 lakh

Answer- **3) Rs 7.5 lakh**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister of State(MoS) **Jayant Chaudhary**(Independent Charge/IC), Ministry of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship(MSDE) has launched an enhanced '**Model Skill Loan Scheme**' for skill development courses with an increased maximum loan limit to **Rs 7.5 lakh** from Rs 1.5 lakh.

- It was announced in the **Union Budget 2024-2025**, the revised scheme aims to benefit **25,000 students** annually.
- **Aim:** To bridge that gap by ensuring that ambitious candidates receive the financial support they require to pursue their skill training.
- Model Skill Loan Scheme builds upon the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Skill Development (**CGFSSD**), launched in **2015** faced multiple challenges.

**2. Which of the following points is/are 'correct with respect to the recent(in July '24) renaming of the welfare schemes by the Andhra Pradesh(AP) Government?**

**A) Talliki Vandanam:** The scheme formerly known as 'Jagananna Amma Vodi', offers financial aid to mothers for their children's education.

**B) Dokka Seethamma Madhyahana Badi Bojanam:** The scheme formerly known as 'Jagananna Gorumudda', is a mid-day meal scheme for public school students.

**C) Mana Badi-Mana Bhavishyaktu:** The scheme formerly known as 'Mana Badi Nadu Nedu' focuses on school renovation.

1) Only A & B

2) Only A & C

3) Only B & C

4) Only B

5) All A, B & C

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

**Explanation:**

The Education Department of the **Andhra Pradesh(AP)** Government has **renamed 6 student welfare schemes**, previously named after former Chief Minister (CM) of AP, Yeduguri Sandinti (YS) Jagan Mohan Reddy, with the names of eminent personalities in the field of education, reflecting significant contributions to education.

- AP's ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government has replaced these names with the name of notable personalities, including **Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**, Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen (APJ) **Abdul Kalam**, and **Dokka Seethamma**.
- **Talliki Vandanam:** The scheme formerly known as 'Jagananna Amma Vodi', offers financial aid to mothers for their children's education.
- **SarvepalliRadhakrishnan Vidya Mitra:** The scheme formerly known as 'Jagananna Vidya Kanuka', provides education kits including school bags and books.
- **Dokka Seethamma Madhyahana Badi Bojanam:** The scheme formerly known as 'Jagananna Gorumudda', is a mid-day meal scheme for public school students.
- **Mana Badi-Mana Bhavishyaktu:** The scheme formerly known as 'Mana Badi Nadu Nedu' focuses on school renovation.
- **Balika Raksha:** The scheme formerly known as 'Sweccha', provides free sanitary napkins for female students.
- **Abdul Kalam Prathiba Puraskaram:** The scheme formerly known as 'Jagananna Animutyalu' provide financial rewards to government school students who topped examination.

**3. Which state has recently (in August '24) launched the monthly financial assistance scheme named 'Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina Asoni (MMNMA)' to combat child marriage by 2026?**

1) Assam

2) Bihar

3) West Bengal

4) Telangana

5) Odisha

Answer-**1) Assam**

**Explanation:**

**Assam** Chief Minister (CM) Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the **Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina Asoni** (MMNMA), a monthly financial assistance scheme, aimed at **combating child marriage** in Assam by 2026, during a program at Lok Sewa Bhawan in Guwahati, Assam.

- The scheme is expected to cost the exchequer around Rs.300 crore in the first year and **Rs.1500 crore** over 5 years.
- Under this scheme, 10 lakh girls (one million) will be supported with financial grants as admission incentives to pursue higher education.
- The MMNMA scheme launched to increase **girls' enrollment** in Government and Venture Educational Institutions (VEIs) in Higher Secondary (HS) 1st year, Graduation (1st year), and Post Graduation (PG) 1st year, excluding those enrolled in Private Education Institutions (PEIs).

**4. How much funding did the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) recently (in August '24) allocate for the implementation of the 'Model Solar Village' scheme under the 'Prime Minister (PM)-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana'?**

- 1) Rs 750 crore
- 2) Rs 800 crore
- 3) Rs 850 crore
- 4) Rs. 778 crore
- 5) Rs 700 crore

**Answer-2) Rs 800 crore**

**Explanation:**

On 9th August 2024, the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (**MNRE**) has issued the operational guidelines for implementing the 'Model Solar Village' scheme under the 'Prime Minister (**PM**)-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana'.

- Under the scheme component, emphasis has been laid on establishing one Model Solar Village per district across India in order to promote solar energy adoption and enable village communities to become self-reliant in energy needs.
- **Budget Allocation:** The MNRE has allocated **Rs 800 crore** for the implementation of the scheme, providing central financial assistance of Rs 1 crore per village.
- **Eligibility Criteria for Village:** As per the guidelines for scheme, a village will be considered under the competition mode. Also, a village must be a revenue village with a population size above 5,000 (or 2,000 for special category states).

**5. In August 2024, the Himachal Pradesh (HP) government launched the 'HIM-UNNATI' initiative to promote \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) Road Safety
- 2) Natural Farming
- 3) Cybersecurity
- 4) Rural Hygiene
- 5) Skill Development

**Answer- 2) Natural Farming**

**Explanation:**

The Himachal Pradesh (**HP**) Government has launched a new initiative, '**HIM-UNNATI**', aimed at promoting **natural farming** across the state. The scheme represents the third phase of the Rajiv Gandhi Start-up Yojana, further incentivising natural farming practices.

- The HP government has allocated **Rs 150 crore** for the **HIM-UNNATI Scheme**. It will bolster the efforts of approximately 1.92 lakh farmers already practising chemical-free farming on over 32,149 hectares of land.
- It will focus on making the agriculture sector commercially viable through a **cluster-based development model** by promoting natural farming.

**6. Which state has recently (in August '24) launched the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA) scheme to boost entrepreneurship among youth?**

- 1) Haryana
- 2) Rajasthan
- 3) Uttar Pradesh
- 4) Maharashtra
- 5) Bihar

Answer-3) **Uttar Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

On 15th August 2024 (78th Independence day), **Yogi Adityanath**, the Chief Minister (**CM**) of Uttar Pradesh (**UP**), has announced the launch of Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan (**MYUVA**) **scheme** aimed at empowering the youth of UP.

- MYUVA Scheme aims to prepare **one lakh young entrepreneurs** every year by providing **interest-free loans** for projects of up to **Rs 5 lakh**.
- The government has allotted **Rs 1,000 crore** in the 2024-25 budget to support this initiative.
- It is designed to empower educated and skilled youth throughout UP by promoting self-employment opportunities and encouraging the formation of one million Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**).

**7. Which state has recently (in August '24) launched the "Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana" (JMMSY) to provide financial assistance of Rs 1000 per month to women?**

- 1) Punjab
- 2) Rajasthan
- 3) Uttar Pradesh
- 4) Bihar
- 5) Jharkhand

Answer- 5) **Jharkhand**

**Explanation:**

On 18th August 2024, Jharkhand Chief Minister(CM) **Hemant Soren** launched the "**Jharkhand Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana**" (JMMSY) to empower the women of the state by making them financially strong at Pakur, Jharkhand.

- He transferred the first installment of **Rs.1000** each to the bank accounts of 57,120 women beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- Women whose families' annual income is **less than Rs 8 Lakhs** and **aged from 21 to 50 years** will receive financial assistance of Rs.1000 per month.

- The Maharashtra government has also launched an app called '**Nari Shakti Dhoot**', through which women eligible for the scheme can easily apply online.
- Jharkhand government has also started a healthcare scheme '**Mukhyamantri Abua Swasthya Suraksha Yojana**', under which health insurance of **Rs 15 lakh** per family per year will be provided to the beneficiaries.

**8. Which state government has recently (in August '24) launched Mukhyamantri Bal Paushtik Aahar Yojana(MBPAY) to provide nutritious food to children in government-run schools?**

- 1) Uttarakhand
- 2) Goa
- 3) Himachal Pradesh
- 4) Karnataka
- 5) Bihar

Answer-3) **Himachal Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

On 18th August 2024, Himachal Pradesh(**HP**) Chief Minister(**CM**) Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the **Mukhyamantri Bal Paushtik Aahar Yojana(MBPAY)** to provide **nutritious food** to children in government-run schools.

i. The state government has allocated an additional **Rs 12.75 crore** for the scheme in the current fiscal (FY25)

ii. This scheme provides nutrition to 5.34 lakh school children, who are benefitting from the midday meal scheme.

**9. Which state has recently (in August '24) launched the Subhadra scheme to offer financial assistance of Rs 10,000 annually to women?**

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

Answer- 3) **Odisha**

**Explanation:**

**Mohan Charan Majhi**, the Chief Minister (CM) of Odisha has announced the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the **Subhadra scheme** which grants financial assistance of **Rs 10,000** annually to over 1 crore women in Odisha.

- The Scheme was approved by the Cabinet for implementation from the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY 25) to Financial Year 2028-29 (FY29) with an allocated budget of **Rs 55,825 crore**.
- The women aged between **21 and 60 years** will be eligible for Subhadra assistance.
- A total of Rs. 10,000 each year will be paid in two instalments of Rs.5000 on Rakhi Purnima Day and International Women's Day (March 8). Thus a total of Rs. 50,000 will be received in five years.
- The beneficiary will also get a '**Subhadra**' debit card.
- The **Subhadra Samiti**, a society will be established by the Women and Child Development Department to monitor this scheme.

**10. Which state has recently (in August '24) launched 'Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana' to provide financial assistance to widows, destitute women, divorced women, and disabled parents?**

- 1) Maharashtra
- 2) Himachal Pradesh
- 3) Telangana
- 4) Bihar
- 5) Uttar Pradesh

**Answer- 2) Himachal Pradesh**

**Explanation:**

The Himachal Pradesh (HP) government has launched '**Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana**' with an annual allocation of **Rs. 53.21** crores to provide **financial assistance** to widows, destitute women, divorced women and disabled parents to support the education and well-being of their children.

- The scheme targets to assist two specific age groups. The children under the age of 18, eligible women and parents with disabilities would get a monthly grant of **Rs. 1000** to cover their educational, health, and nutritional expenses.
- The scheme also grants financial assistance to children for higher education, including Undergraduate (UG), Postgraduate (PG), Diploma, and vocational courses, covering course fees and hostel expenses.
- The eligible children and women families with an annual income not exceeding **Rs 1 lakh** will benefit from the scheme.

**11. In Which year, the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi?**

- 1) 2015
- 2) 2020
- 3) 2019
- 4) 2016
- 5) 2018

**Answer- 3) 2019**

**Explanation:**

**15th August 2024** marks the **5th Anniversary** of the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM): Har Ghar Jal**, the flagship scheme of Government of India implemented by the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (**DDWS**), Ministry of Jal Shakti (**MoJS**), in partnership with States.

- The Jal Jeevan Mission was launched by **Narendra Modi**, the Prime Minister (PM) of India, on **15 August 2019** (73rd Independence Day of India) at the Red Fort in New Delhi, Delhi.
- The scheme aims to provide tap water supply to every rural Households (HHs) in India by 2024.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that the JJM will save over 5.5 crore hours daily, mainly for women, by reducing the time spent collecting water.
- WHO projects that providing safe drinking water across India could prevent nearly 400,000 deaths from diarrheal diseases and save 14 million Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs).
- As of 12th August 2024, JJM has successfully provided tap water connections to 11.82 crore additional rural households. The total coverage has increased to 15.07 crore households, accounting **77.98%** of all rural households in India.



- 188 districts, 1,838 blocks, 1,09,996 Gram Panchayats and 2,33,209 villages have reported to achieve 'Har Ghar Jal' status as of 14th August 2024.[Click here to read more](#)

**12. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)?**

**A) The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched on 28th August 2014 by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi.**

**B) RuPay Debit card with in-built accident insurance cover of Rs. 2 lakh is provided to promote digital transactions.**

**C) PMJDY has brought 53.13 crore people into the formal banking system as of August 14, 2024.**

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

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

**Explanation:**

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (**PMJDY**), a National Mission for Financial Inclusion, launched on August 28, 2014 by the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, **completed 10 years** (decade) of successful implementation.

- It is implemented by the Department of Financial Services (**DFS**), Ministry of Finance (MoF).
- PMJDY is the National **Mission for Financial Inclusion (FI)** to ensure access to financial services. The aim of PMJDY is to promote the Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) scheme of the Union Government.
- The slogan of PMJDY is "Mera Khaata, Bhagya Vidhata" (My account, fortune maker).
- There is **no age restriction** for opening a PMJDY account and accounts are opened with a **zero balance**.
- RuPay Debit card with in-built accident insurance cover of **Rs. 2 lakh** is provided to promote digital transactions.
- An overdraft (OD) facility up to **Rs. 10,000** to eligible account holders.
- **Widespread Financial Inclusion:** PMJDY has brought 53.13 crore people into the formal banking system as of August 14, 2024, with **55.6%** (29.56 crore) of Jan-Dhan account holders being women and **66.6%** (35.37 crore) of accounts in rural or semi-urban areas.
- **Deposit Growth:** Total deposits in PMJDY accounts have reached **Rs 2,31,236 crore**, reflecting a 15-fold increase since 2015.[Click here to read more](#)

**13. Which organization has recently (in August '24) launched a scheme called SPICED – "Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative, and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development"?**

- 1) Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- 2) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
- 3) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority
- 4) Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture
- 5) Spices Board of India

**Answer- 5) Spices Board of India**

**Explanation:**

The **Spices Board of India**, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry(**MoCI**), has launched a transformative scheme called **SPICED** – “Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative, and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development”, with a budget of **Rs 422.30 crore**.

- Programmes launched under the SPICED will be implemented during the remaining period of the **15th Finance Commission Cycle** (till **FY 2025-26**).
- **Aim:** To significantly boost spice exports, enhance productivity, and upgrade the post-harvest quality of spices.
- This will facilitate value-addition and drive innovation and sustainability in the spice sector by introducing sub-components like Mission Value Addition, Mission Clean and Safe Spices, promotion of GI (Geographical Indication) spices.

**14. What is the approximate amount of grant each start-up receives under the ‘Grant for Research & Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT)’ scheme of the Ministry of Textiles?**

- 1) Rs 20 Lakhs
- 2) Rs 60 Lakhs
- 3) Rs 30 Lakhs
- 4) Rs 80 Lakhs
- 5) Rs 50 Lakhs

Answer- **5) Rs 50 Lakhs**

**Explanation:**

Rachna Shah, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles (**MoT**) **chaired** the **8th** Empowered Programme Committee (**EPC**) meeting under the National Technical Textiles Mission (**NTTM**), at Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi. The committee has approved 4 Start-Ups with a grant of approximately **Rs 50 Lakhs each**, under the ‘Grant for Research & Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (**GREAT**)’ scheme.

The committee has also approved a grant of approximately Rs 20 crores to 5 education institutes including the National Institutes of Technology (**NITs**) to introduce courses in Technical Textiles (**TTs**) under the ‘General Guidelines for Enabling of Academic Institutes in Technical Textiles’.

The approved startups are focused on key strategic areas of composites, sustainable textiles, and smart textiles.

## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**1. Which organization has recently(in July ‘24) issued its first-ever joint ministerial declaration to enhance the taxation of ultra-high-net-worth individuals?**

- 1) G7 or Group of 7
- 2) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- 3) United Nations (UN)
- 4) World Trade Organization (WTO)
- 5) G20 or Group of 20

Answer- **5) G20 or Group of 20**

**Explanation:**

The Group of Twenty (**G20**) finance ministers and central bankers issued the first-ever joint ministerial declaration on taxation, **The Rio de Janeiro G20 Ministerial Declaration on International Tax Cooperation**, committing to effective taxation of “ultra-high-net-worth individuals.”

- It was adopted during the Communiqué of the **3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting** held in Rio de Janeiro, **Brazil**. This declaration emphasized cooperative engagement while respecting tax sovereignty.
- **Brazil**, holding the **G20 Presidency** proposed a **2%** minimum tax on the worlds richest billionaires, making it a top priority for the upcoming G20 summit from November 18 to 19, 2024 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**2. Which country has recently (in July 2024) become an associate member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)?**

- 1) Dominican Republic
- 2) Jamaica
- 3) Belize
- 4) Benin
- 5) Curacao

Answer- **5) Curacao**

**Explanation:**

**Curaçao** has become the **6th Associate Member** of the Caribbean Community (**CARICOM**), the oldest surviving integration movement in the developing world.

- The agreement was signed by Chairman of CARICOM Dickon Mitchell, (Prime Minister (PM) of Grenada) and Gilmar Simon Pisas, PM of Curaçao, during the opening ceremony of the 47th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government held in St. George’s, Grenada.
- With this, CARICOM now consists of **15 full member** countries and **6 associate members**.

**3. Which country has recently (in August 2024) joined the United Nations Command (UNC) in South Korea as its 18th Member State?**

- 1) India
- 2) Philippines
- 3) Germany
- 4) Canada
- 5) Poland

Answer- **3) Germany**

**Explanation:**

On 2nd August 2024, the Federal Republic of **Germany (FRG)** officially joined the United States of America (**USA**) led-United Nations Command (**UNC**) at Pyeongtaek, south of Seoul in **South Korea**.

- Germany became the **18th** member state of UNC, a group that helps police the heavily fortified border with North Korea and has committed to defend the South in the event of war.
- This marks the 1st UNC expansion since Italy was reinstated in **2013**.

- UNC was established on 7th July, 1950, after UN recognised the aggression of North Korea against South Korea.

**4. Which airline has recently (in August '24) named as the Best Airline in India / South Asia 2024 at the Skytrax's World Airline Awards 2024?**

- 1) Air India
- 2) IndiGo
- 3) Vistara
- 4) SpiceJet
- 5) Fly91

Answer- **3) Vistara**

**Explanation:**

**Skytrax's World Airline Awards 2024** has honoured Indian airline **Vistara** (Tata SIA Airlines Limited) as the **Best Airline in India / South Asia 2024**. It receives the honour for the fourth consecutive time since 2021. Vistara is ranked **16th** in the World's Best Airline ranking and **8th** in Asia's Best Airlines ranking.

- **Qatar Airways** has been voted the **World's Best Airline** for the 8th time. **Singapore Airlines**, which topped the 2023 list, is ranked 2nd followed by the **Emirates** at 3rd position.
- Vistara has won total 8 awards at the 2024 World Airline Awards. It has won the Best Business Class Airline in India and South Asia for the 3rd consecutive year.
- Air India won the "Most Improved Airline in Asia" award. It has improved its ranking from 103rd (in 2023) to 90th spot (in 2024) and entered the top 100 airline list.
- Skytrax is a London, the United Kingdom-based consultancy that runs airline and airport review website. [Click here to read more](#)

**5. Which flowering shrub has been recently (in August 2024) added to the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of threatened species under the Vulnerable category?**

- 1) *Strobilanthes kunthiana*
- 2) *Petrocosmea arunachalense*
- 3) *Emblica chakrabartyi*
- 4) *Phlogacanthus Sudhansusekharii*
- 5) *Melanochlamys droupadi*

Answer- **1) Strobilanthes kunthiana**

**Explanation:**

The **Neelakurinji** (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*), a purplish flowering shrub predominantly found in the Western Ghat (Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu), has been added to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) **Red List of threatened species**.

- The species has been categorised as "**Vulnerable**" under IUCN Criteria A2c, indicating a significant threat to its survival.
- This marks the **first-ever global assessment** of Neelakurinji of the southwest Indian montane grasslands.
- Neelakurinji, or Kurunji, or Kurinji blooms between mid-July and October, once every 12 years.

**6. Which country has recently (in August '24) collaborated with BRICS partners to launch a Centre for Industrial Competences in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)?**

- 1) United Arab Emirates
- 2) Australia
- 3) Mauritius
- 4) Saudi Arabia
- 5) Sri Lanka

**Answer- 1) United Arab Emirates**

**Explanation:**

The Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (**MoIAT**) of the United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) has joined with **BRICS** (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) partners to launch a **Centre for Industrial Competences** in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (**UNIDO**) to support the development of Industrial skills and capabilities.

**i.** The declaration was made at the 8th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting chaired by **Russia** under the theme '**Strengthening Multilateralism for Equitable Global Development and Security**' in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia.

**ii.** The BRICS members also committed to cooperating on industrial policy to support the United Nations (UN)'s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly **SDG 9** on industry, innovation, and infrastructure.

**iii.** The declaration recognizes the **PartNIR** (Partnership on New Industrial Revolution) Innovation Centre's role in policy coordination, personnel training, and project development.

**7. In August 2024, India handed over the first payment for hybrid power projects on the Delft, Nainativu, and Analaitivu islands of \_\_\_\_\_ (Country).**

- 1) Mauritius
- 2) Sri Lanka
- 3) Fiji
- 4) Seychelles
- 5) Maldives

**Answer- 2) Sri Lanka**

**Explanation:**

On August 29, 2024, Indian High Commissioner **Santosh Jha** handed over the **first payment for hybrid power projects** on **three Sri Lankan islands** (Delft, Nainativu and Analaitivu islands) to Dr Sulakshana Jayawardena, Secretary of the Minister of Power and Energy, Government of Sri Lanka and Ranjith Sepala, Chairman of Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA) at a ceremony held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

- This latest development follows a series of diplomatic engagements by High Commissioner Jha across Sri Lanka.
- The project is being implemented under grant assistance of **USD 11 million** from the Government of India.

## VISITS

**1. In July 2024, India extended two Lines of Credit (LoC) totaling \_\_\_\_\_ to Vietnam to strengthen its maritime security during the Indian visit of Vietnam Prime Minister (PM) Pham Minh Chinh.**

- 1) USD 50 million
- 2) USD 500 million
- 3) USD 135 million
- 4) USD 300 million
- 5) USD 210 million

Answer- **4) USD 300 million**

### Explanation:

The Prime Minister (PM) of Vietnam **H.E. Pham Minh Chinh** paid a **State Visit to India** from 30 July to 1 August 2024, at the invitation of Narendra Modi PM of India to deepen comprehensive strategic partnership and enhance cooperation between the two countries.

- In a sign of their growing strategic partnership, India has extended two Lines of Credit (**LoC**) amounting to **USD 300 million to Vietnam** to bolster the country's maritime security.
- India and Vietnam agreed on a **new plan of action**, which will be implemented over the next five years (**2024-2028**) to strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation.
- India and Vietnam joined hands to **Preserve Maritime History** with National Multifamily Housing Council (**NMHC**) in **Lothal, Gujarat**.
- PM Modi and Vietnam PM Pham Minh Chinh virtually inaugurated the **Army Software Park** in the Telecommunications University in Nha Trang, Vietnam. [Click here to read more](#)

**2. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to President Droupadi Murmu's visit to Fiji, New Zealand, and Timor Leste in August 2024?**

- A) President Droupadi Murmu was honoured with the Companion of the Order of Fiji, the highest civilian honour of Fiji.**
- B) India and Fiji signed the bilateral customs co-operation arrangement agreement, to ease trade between the two countries.**
- C) President Droupadi Murmu was honoured with the Grand Collar of Order of Timor Leste**

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

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

### Explanation:

**Droupadi Murmu**, The President of India, was on a 3-nation visit to **Fiji, New Zealand** and **Timor Leste** from 5th August to 10th August 2024.

- President Droupadi Murmu was honoured with the **Companion of the Order of Fiji**, highest civilian honour of Fiji.
- India and New Zealand signed the bilateral **customs co-operation arrangement** agreement, to ease trade between the two countries.

- New Zealand has ratified the International Solar Alliance (**ISA**) which paves the way for enhanced opportunities for joint research and development in the field of solar energy.
- President Droupadi Murmu addressed the New Zealand International Conference held in Wellington, New Zealand, where **India** was the '**Country Honour**' for year 2024.
- President Droupadi Murmu was honoured with the **Grand Collar of Order of Timor Leste**, the country's highest civilian honour, presented by President Horta at ceremony held in Dili, Timor Leste.[Click here to read more](#)

**3. Which country recently (on August 24) signed an MoU with the Indian government to introduce the Unified Payments Interface (UPI)?**

- 1) Ivory Coast
- 2) Azerbaijan
- 3) Maldives
- 4) Paraguay
- 5) Timor Leste

Answer- **3) Maldives**

**Explanation:**

**Union Minister Dr. Subrahmanya Jaishankar**, Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**) undertook an official visit to **Maldives** for 3 days from **August 9 to 11, 2024**, followed the recent visit of **H. E. Dr. Mohamed Muizzu**, the President of Maldives to India in June 2024, to strengthen India-Maldives relations and review ongoing projects.

- **India** and the **Maldives** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to introduce the Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) in the Maldives.
- He inaugurated the water and sanitation project, the Addu Reclamation Project, Addu Shore Protection Project and 6 High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) in Maldives.
- He signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) on capacity building of an additional 1000 Maldivian civil servants in India and the introduction of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Maldives were exchanged.
- He reviewed India-assisted Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) site, which will connect Malé with the adjoining islands of Villingili, Gulhifalhu, and Thilafushi.[Click here to read more](#)

**4. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the Indian visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim from 19th to 21st August 2024?**

**A) MoU signed between International Financial Services Authority (IFSCA) with Labuan Financial Services Authority (LFSA), Malaysia with mutual cooperation.**

**B) Malaysia has decided to join the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) as its founding member.**

**C) PM Narendra Modi announced that India plans to integrate the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with Malaysia's national payment network, PayU.**

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

5) All A, B & C

Answer- **1) Only A & B**

**Explanation:**

The Prime Minister (**PM**) of Malaysia H.E. **Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim** was on a 3-day state visit to India from 19th August to 21st August 2024, at the invitation of the Prime Minister (PM) of India, **Narendra Modi** to strengthen comprehensive strategic partnership and enhance cooperation between the two countries.

- This marks the 1st-ever visit of Malaysian PM Anwar bin Ibrahim to India as well as to the South Asia region ever since he became the PM of Malaysia in **2022**.
- The bilateral trade between the two countries reached a record high of USD **19.5 billion**.
- Malaysia has decided to join the International Big Cat Alliance (**IBCA**) as its founding member.
- The Government of India (GoI) has allowed the special allocation of **2 lakh Metric Tons (MT)** of non-basmati white rice to Malaysia through National Cooperative Exports Limited (**NCEL**).
- PM Narendra Modi announced that India plans to integrate Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) with Malaysia's national payment network, **PayNet**.
- The GoI and Government of Malaysia (**GoM**) have signed several Memorandum of Understandings (**MoUs**) and Agreements in various fields of cooperation such as: Recruitment, Employment and Repatriation of Workers; Ayurveda and other Traditional Systems of Medicine; Digital technologies; Culture, Arts, and Heritage, among others.
- MoU signed between International Financial Services Authority (IFSCA) with Labuan Financial Services Authority (LFSA), Malaysia in relation to mutual cooperation.

**5. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Poland and Ukraine in August 2024?**

**A) India and Poland have decided to upgrade the India-Poland bilateral relations as a "Strategic Partnership, a five-year Joint Action Plan for 2024-2028.**

**B) India and Ukraine agreed to utilise the Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC), which is set to be held by the end of 2024.**

**C) PM Modi presented four Bharat Health Initiatives for Sahyog Hita and Maitri (BHISHM Cubes) to the Government of Ukraine.**

1) Only A & B

2) Only A & C

3) Only B & C

4) Only A

5) All A, B & C

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

**Explanation:**

**Narendra Modi**, Prime Minister (PM) of India, visited **Poland** from **21st to 22nd August 2024** at the invitation of **Donald Tusk**, PM of Poland. He also visited **Ukraine** on **23rd August 2024** at the invitation of **Volodymyr Zelenskyy**, President of Ukraine.

- This marks the first visit by an Indian PM to Poland in the past 45 years since Morarji Desai in 1979.



- Modi's visit to Ukraine marks the first visit of an Indian PM to the country since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1992.
- India and Poland have decided to upgrade the India-Poland bilateral relations as a **"Strategic Partnership"** to strengthen the cooperation across various sectors.
- To implement the Strategic Partnership, both India and Poland have agreed to a **five-year [Joint Action Plan for 2024-2028](#)**.
- Indian PM Narendra Modi and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy have formalised four key agreements focusing on agriculture, medicine, culture & humanitarian assistance.
- PM Modi presented four **Bharat Health Initiatives for Sahyog Hita and Maitri (BHISHM Cubes)** to the Government of Ukraine. [Click here to read more](#)

**6. Which of the following is/are 'correct' with respect to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Maharashtra and Rajasthan on 25th August 2024?**

- A) PM Modi addressed Lakhpati Didi Sammelan in Jalgaon, Maharashtra. During the event, he gave certificates and felicitated 11 lakh new Lakhpati Didis.**
- B) He also released a Revolving Fund i.e. Community Investment Fund of Rs 2,500 crore which aims to benefit about 48 lakh members of 4.3 lakh Self-Help Groups (SHGs).**
- C) PM Narendra Modi addressed the concluding ceremony of the Golden Jubilee (50 years) of the Rajasthan High Court in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.**

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

**Answer- 1) Only A & B**

**Explanation:**

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi visited Maharashtra and Rajasthan on 25th August, 2024.

**i.** PM Modi addressed **Lakhpati Didi Sammelan** in Jalgaon, Maharashtra. During the event, he gave certificates and felicitated **11 lakh** new Lakhpati Didis, who have achieved the mark of Lakhpati during the 3rd term of PM Modi-led National Democratic Alliance (**NDA**) government.

**ii.** He also released a Revolving Fund i.e. **Community Investment Fund** of Rs 2,500 crore which aims to benefit about 48 lakh members of 4.3 lakh Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

**iii.** PM Narendra Modi addressed the concluding ceremony of the Platinum Jubilee (**75 years**) of the Rajasthan High Court in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. He was invited at the ceremony as a Chief Guest. [click here to read more](#)

**7. India has recently (in August '24) become the 18th Security of Supplies Arrangement (SOSA) partner of \_\_\_\_\_ (Country).**

- 1) United States of America
- 2) France
- 3) Singapore
- 4) Vietnam
- 5) Belarus

**Answer- 1) United States of America**

**Explanation:**

The Union Minister **Rajnath Singh**, Ministry of Defence (**MoD**), was on an **official visit** to Washington D.C., the United States of America (USA) from 23rd to 26th August 2024 at the invitation of the **Lloyd Austin**, United States Secretary of Defense.

- Rajnath Singh and Lloyd Austin also highlighted the conclusion of the bilateral, non-binding Security of Supplies Arrangement (SOSA) between India and US, which was signed on 22nd August 2024. India is the 18th SOSA partner of the USA.
- India and the USA signed two significant agreements during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit to Washington DC, USA. A **Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)** was signed between India and the USA for the deployment of Liaison Officers.
- The USA has approved the Foreign Military Sale of Sonobuoys and related gears to India at an estimated cost of USD 52.8 million. This aims to enhance India's anti-submarine warfare capabilities, particularly for its MH-60R helicopters. The principal contractors are **Spartan Corporation and Undersea Sensor Systems Inc.**
- India and the USA agreed to advance co-production projects, including the GE F-414 engine for Tejas Mk-2 aircraft and Stryker armoured infantry combat vehicles.
- MoD Minister Rajnath Singh visited the William B. Morgan Large Cavitation Channel (LCC) in Memphis, Tennessee, where the USA Navy tests submarines and naval surface ships. [Click here to read more](#)

## **BANKING AND FINANCE**

**1. Which bank has recently (in July '24) signed a USD 200 million loan agreement with the Government of India (GoI) to enhance solid waste management and sanitation in 100 cities across 8 states in India?**

- 1) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- 2) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- 3) International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- 4) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- 5) Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

**Answer- 4) Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

**Explanation:**

The Government of India (**GoI**) has signed a **USD 200 million** loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) to enhance solid waste management and sanitation in **100 cities** across **8 states** in India.

- The loan agreement is part of the Swachh Bharat Mission(SBM) 2.0 - Comprehensive Municipal Waste Management in Indian Cities Program.
- This loan arrangement will support the objectives of **Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission- Urban 2.0**, is an initiative led by GoI which aims to make all Indian cities to be garbage free **by 2026**, by enhancing sanitation and solid waste management infrastructure including waste segregation, collection and disposal.

**2. Which organisation reported the increase in the Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) to 445.5 at the end of March 2024, reflecting a 12.6% year-on-year growth?**

- 1) Reserve Bank of India
- 2) Mirae Asset Investment Managers (India) Pvt. Ltd
- 3) NSE Indices Limited
- 4) MSCI Inc
- 5) International Financial Services Centres Authority

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

**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s **Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI)** increased to **445.5** at the end of **March 2024**, marking a **12.6%** Year-on-Year (**Y-o-Y**) increase compared to March 2023 across all parameters. It was **418.77** in September 2023 and **395.57** in March 2023.

- RBI-DPI measures the adoption and extent of online transactions across India.
- The current showcases a continuous rise in digital payment adoption.
- The RBI introduced the RBI-DPI in January 2021, with March 2018 as the base year, to estimate the digitization of payments across India.

**3. Which organisation/Bank has recently (in July 2024) entered into a co-lending partnership with C2treds and UGRO Capital to facilitate loans to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector?**

- 1) State Bank of India
- 2) Receivables Exchange of India Limited
- 3) Small Industries Development Bank of India
- 4) National Small Industries Corporation Limited
- 5) Axis Bank

**Answer- 3) Small Industries Development Bank of India**

**Explanation:**

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**) has entered into a co-lending partnership with **C2treds**, a strategic initiative by C2FO, the world's on-demand working capital platform, and **UGRO Capital**, a data technology Non-Banking Financial Company (**NBFC**), to facilitate loans to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**) sector.

- These partnerships are established under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) co-lending framework, designed to leverage the strengths of banks and NBFCs to boost priority sector lending.
- **SIDBI** has onboarded **C2treds**, an **RBI-approved** Trade Receivables Discounting System (**TReDS**) platform by **C2FO**. This collaboration aims to improve liquidity for MSMEs at competitive interest rates.

**4. Which organisation has recently (in July 2024) collaborated with the Bank of India (BOI) to facilitate easy financing for rooftop solar installations and the establishment of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations?**

- 1) Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)
- 2) Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL)
- 3) AmpIn Energy Transition Private Limited
- 4) JSW Neo Energy Limited (JSW Neo)

5) Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL)

Answer- **5) Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL)**

**Explanation:**

On 26th July 2024, Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (**TPSSL**), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (**TPREL**), announced that it has collaborated with Bank of India (**BOI**), Indian Public Sector Bank (**PSB**) to facilitate easy financing for rooftop solar installations and establishment of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations.

- For installations up to 3KW: Under Pradhan Mantri (PM) Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, residential customers can avail loan up to Rs 2 lakh at an annual interest rate of 7.10%, with a margin money requirement of 5%.
- For installations from 3KW to 10KW: Eligible applicants can avail loans up to Rs 6 lakh with margin money requirement of 5%. Interest rate ranges from 8.3% to 10.25% per annum, and these are also collateral-free with tenure of up to 10 years.
- All UDYAM-registered MSME customers can avail a loan of **up to Rs 30 crore** at an interest of **9.35%** per annum, with margin money requirement of 15%.

**5. Which of the following points is/are 'correct with respect to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Report on Currency and Finance(RCF) for 2023-24?**

**A) India's digital economy is currently at 10% of the Gross domestic product (GDP) and is expected to double to 20% by 2026.**

**B) Digital payments have seen a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 40% in volume and 20% in value terms in the last seven years (between 2017-18 and 2023-24).**

**C) The theme for the RCF 2023-24 report is "India's Digital Revolution".**

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

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

**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released its ['Report on Currency and Finance \(RCF\) for 2023-24'](#) on 29th July 2024. The report highlights the challenges that an economy faces by the rapid adoption of digital technologies in the financial sector.

- The theme for the RCF 2023-24 report is "**India's Digital Revolution**".

**i.** According to the RCF 2023-24, India's **digital economy** currently at **10%** of the Gross domestic product (GDP) and is expected to double to **20% by 2026**.

**ii.** Digital payments have seen a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of **50%** in volume and **10%** in value terms in the last seven years (between 2017-18 and 2023-24).

**iii.** India is expected to be the world's leading supplier of labour, which will increase the remittances to around **USD 160 billion** in **2029** from USD 115 billion in 2023. [Click here to read more](#)

**6. In July 2024, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman Madhabi Puri Buch launched India's first website for passive funds at \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) Indian Energy Exchange Limited
- 2) India International Bullion Exchange IFSC Limited

- 3) National Stock Exchange
- 4) BSE Limited
- 5) Receivables Exchange of India Limited

Answer- **3) National Stock Exchange**

**Explanation:**

On 30th July 2024, **Madhabi Puri Buch**, Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) launched **India's first [website for passive funds](#)** at the National Stock Exchange (**NSE**), to facilitate a comprehensive platform for retail investors and enable them to easily access information and understand the Indian passive industry.

- Apart from launch of website for passive funds, she also unveiled **report** on the capital markets titled "**Indian Capital Markets: Transformative shifts achieved through technology and reforms**".
- The report is developed by **NSE Data Analytics**, which covered major technological advancements and regulatory reforms that have impacted the Indian capital markets. [Click here to read more](#)

**7. Which company has recently (in July '24) received the composite insurance broking licence from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)?**

- 1) Muthoot Microfin Limited
- 2) Covrzy
- 3) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited
- 4) InsuranceDekho
- 5) Paisabazaar

Answer- **4) InsuranceDekho**

**Explanation:**

InsuranceDekho, Gurugram(Haryana) based insurance marketplace, has received the **composite insurance broking licence** from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**).

- This licence allows the firm to offer reinsurance broking services alongside its existing insurance broking offerings.
- By entering the reinsurance broking sector, InsuranceDekho aims to enhance insurance penetration in India through deep distribution networks, digitization, diversification into new product lines, and support for insurer partners.

**8. Which bank has recently (in August '24) in partnership with GOQii launched the Smart Vital Plus smartwatch for contactless payment?**

- 1) ICICI Bank
- 2) State Bank of India
- 3) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- 4) HDFC Bank
- 5) Axis Bank

Answer- **3) Kotak Mahindra Bank**

**Explanation:**

On 1st August 2024, Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (**KMBL**), a leading Indian private sector bank in partnership with smart-tech-enabled preventive healthcare platform **GOQii** has announced the launch

of " **Kotak-GOQii Smart Vital Plus smartwatch**" , a wearable and contactless RuPay On-The-Go payment solution, powered by National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**).

- The **Kotak-GOQii Smart Vital Plus** will enable its customers to make contactless payments as well as enable them to monitor some of the health parameters.
- The introductory price of this wearable device is at **Rs 3,499**.
- The smartwatch is recognised as a medical device by New Delhi(Delhi) based Central Drugs and Standard Control Organisation (**CDSCO**) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**).

**9. Which has recently (in July '24) become the 1st private sector bank to launch the RuPay Credit card with both Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) features?**

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

Answer- **2) RBL Bank**

**Explanation:**

**RBL Bank** (formerly known as Ratnakar Bank Limited), a leading Indian private sector bank has launched a new **RuPay Credit card**, integrating it with Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) and National Common Mobility Card (**NCMC**) features.

- With this, RBL becomes the **1st private sector bank** to offer these comprehensive features of payment capabilities in a single card.
- The integration will enable the credit cardholders to make instant and secure payments through UPI and can travel hassle-free with the NCMC features.

**10. Which bank has recently (in July '24) partnered with the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT) to launch an artificial intelligence (AI)-driven pilot to help combat payments fraud occurring in cross-border payments?**

- 1) Axis Bank
- 2) HDFC Bank
- 3) Punjab and Sind Bank
- 4) Federal Bank
- 5) ICICI Bank

Answer- **1) Axis Bank**

**Explanation:**

The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (**SWIFT**) has partnered with **Axis Bank**, a leading Indian Private Sector Bank (PSB) to launch an Artificial Intelligence (**AI**)-driven **pilot**, to prevent the payments frauds occurring in cross-border payments.

- The AI-driven pilot is expected to provide a secure infrastructure that will allow financial institutions to exchange important information with strong privacy-preserving models.
- The initiative involves global banks such as Bank of New York Mellon Corporation (BNY Mellon) (USA), Deutsche Bank AG (Germany), De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB) (Norway),

HSBC Holdings plc (United Kingdom-UK), Intesa Sanpaolo (Italy) and Standard Bank (South Africa), utilizing secure data collaboration and federated learning technologies.

- The pilot will use AI algorithms to examine historical **transaction data** and will detect any sort of anomaly that indicates fraud.

**11. Which fintech company recently (in July '24) launched India's first Near Field Communication (NFC) Card Sound Box in July 2024, integrating NFC card payment technology with mobile QR payments?**

- 1) BharatPe
- 2) Razorpay
- 3) Paytm
- 4) PayU
- 5) PhonePe

Answer- **3) Paytm**

**Explanation:**

Noida-based (Uttar Pradesh, UP) One 97 Communications Limited (OCL), **Paytm's** parent company launched **India's first** Near Field Communication (**NFC**) **Card Sound Box**, a two-in-one mobile Quick Response(QR) payment device which combines NFC card payment technology with **mobile QR payments**.

- The Paytm NFC Card Sound Box will provide a **cost-effective** solution for offline merchants and allows customers to make payments by tapping a debit or credit card or scanning a QR code.
- It features an **instant audio confirmation** and a display screen for transaction amounts and long-lasting battery life of up to **10 days**.
- The merchants can accept NFC-based debit and credit cards and receive mobile payments from any UPI app with a **single device**.

**12. Which of the following regulated entities (REs) were covered by the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Master Directions on Fraud Risk Management issued in July 2024?**

**A) Non-Banking Finance Companies(NBFCs) (including Housing Finance Companies(HFCs))**

**B) Cooperative Banks (Urban Cooperative Banks(UCBs) / State Cooperative Banks(StCBs) / Central Cooperative Banks(CCBs))**

**C) Commercial Banks(CBs)[including Regional Rural Banks(RRBs) and All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs)]**

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

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

**Explanation:**

On July 15, 2024, the Reserve Bank of India(**RBI**) issued **3 Master Directions(MD) on Fraud Risk Management for the Regulated Entities(RE)** such as commercial banks including regional rural banks and All India Financial Institutions; urban, state and central cooperative banks; and non-

banking finance firms and housing finance companies to replace the previous guidelines and consolidating 36 existing circulars.

- **Aim:** To provide a robust framework for the prevention, early detection, and timely reporting of frauds in REs.
- The directions mandate REs to comply with principles of natural justice in a time-bound manner before classifying persons/entities as fraud, taking into account the March 2023 Supreme Court(SC) Judgement on State Bank of India(**SBI**) **versus Rajesh Agarwal**.

#### **The RBI released MD on Fraud Risk Management in**

- Non-Banking Finance Companies(NBFCs) (including Housing Finance Companies(HFCs))
- Cooperative Banks (Urban Cooperative Banks(UCBs) / State Cooperative Banks(StCBs) / Central Cooperative Banks(CCBs))
- Commercial Banks(CBs)[including Regional Rural Banks(RRBs) and All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs)][Click here to read more](#)

**13. The Government of India (GoI) and the World Bank (WB) has recently (in August '24) signed a \_\_\_\_\_ agreement to construct the Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP).**

- 1) USD 60 million
- 2) USD 500 million
- 3) USD 200 million
- 4) USD 50 million
- 5) USD 100 million

Answer- **2) USD 500 million**

#### **Explanation:**

On 1st August 2024, Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari**, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) announced that the Government of India (**GoI**) and the **World Bank (WB)** have signed a **USD 500 million agreement** to construct the Green National Highway Corridors Project (**GNHCP**).

- The project aims to deploy a safe and green highway using green technologies and climate resilience methodology.
- MoRTH also informed that the scheduled date for the final completion of the GNHCP project is **May 2026**.
- The World Bank will support the project by providing a loan assistance of USD 500 million, contributing to the total project cost of **USD 1288.24 million** (which is equivalent to Rs 7,662.47 crore).

**14. Which of the following entities has recently (in August '24) received 'Fit & Proper' certificate from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the acquisition of the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) Limited?**

- A) Emirates NBD Bank
- B) State Bank of India
- C) Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited

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



5) All A, B & C

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

**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has issued 'Fit & Proper' certificates to 3 potential suitors for Industrial Development Bank of India (**IDBI**) Limited, thus paving the way for possible acquisition of the bank.

- The potential suitors are **Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited**, Toronto(Canada); **Emirates NBD Bank**, Dubai(the United Arab Emirates(UAE)) and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (**KMBL**), Mumbai(Maharashtra).
- IDBI has received final approval from RBI for the 'Fit & Proper' criteria for privatization, and potential bidders for the strategic sale are expected to begin the process of due diligence early August, 2024.
- The Government of India (**GoI**) and the Life Insurance Corporation of India (**LIC**) jointly holds around 94% stake in IDBI Bank. LIC as a promoter of IDBI Bank holds 49.24% while, the GoI as co-promoter holds 45.48% stake in IDBI Bank.

**15. Which Indian firm has recently (in August '24) partnered with Vested Finance Inc. to offer access to global investing for Indians and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)?**

- 1) Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited
- 2) Axis Securities Limited
- 3) ECL Finance Company Limited
- 4) Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company Limited
- 5) HDFC Securities Limited

Answer- **5) HDFC Securities Limited**

**Explanation:**

**HDFC Securities Limited**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of HDFC Bank Limited has partnered with **Vested Finance Inc.**, a United States of America (USA)-based investment platform, to democratize global investing for **Indians** and Non-Resident Indians (**NRIs**) through **Global Investing 2.0**.

- With Global Investing 2.0, HDFC securities will empower investors with the tools and access needed to expand their investments.
- This partnership will provide investors with augmented protection, innovative features, and deep portfolio diversification.
- Adherence to the USA regulations and Reserve Bank of India's(RBI's) Liberalized Remittance Scheme, enabling Indian residents to invest up to USD 250,000 annually.

**16. In July 2024, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted \_\_\_\_\_ license to 3 merchant payment companies namely IndiaIdeas.com Limited (BillDesk), Amazon Pay (India) Private Limited, and global payments major Adyen India Technology Services Private Limited.**

- 1) Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs)
- 2) Third-Party App Provider (TPAP)
- 3) Certificate of Registration(CoR)
- 4) Payment Aggregator- Cross Border(PA-CB)
- 5) Corporate Agent(CR)

Answer- **4) Payment Aggregator- Cross Border(PA-CB)**

**Explanation:**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted Payment- Aggregator- Cross Border (PA-CB) license to 3 merchant payment companies namely **IndiaIdeas.com Limited (BillDesk)**, **Amazon Pay (India) Private Limited**, and global payments major **Adyen India Technology Services Private Limited (Adyen)**.

- BillDesk received the licence for both **exports and imports (PA-CB-E&I)** and Amazon Pay and Adyen received the licence for **only import(PA-CB-I)**.
- This PA-CB license allows these companies to offer payment services for international trade and domestic merchant payment services.
- The PA-CB license enables payment companies to offer payment services in the export-import space, particularly for international remittances and payments for freelancers working with global companies from India.[Click here to read more](#)

**17. Which types of co-operative banks are covered under the Reserve Bank of India's revised instructions on Bad and Doubtful Debt Reserve (BDDR) to ensure uniformity?**

**A) Urban Co-operative Banks**

**B) State Cooperative Banks**

**C) Primary Agricultural Credit Societies**

1) Only A

2) Only B

3) Only A & C

4) Only A & B

5) All A, B & C

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

**Explanation:**

On 2nd August 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued revised instructions on Bad and Doubtful Debt Reserve (BDDR) for co-operative banks to ensure **uniformity** in the treatment of this reserve for prudential purposes.

- These revised instructions will be applicable to Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs), State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) and Central Cooperative Banks (CCBs), come into force with immediate effect.
- The revised instructions will act as a one-time measure, with a view to provide rectification and smoother transition to an AS-compliant approach.
- Banks have been mandated to **identify and quantify the BDDR balances** as of **31st March 2024** which were created by appropriating net profits instead of recognizing them as expenses.
- The appropriation should be made directly ('below the line') from the P&L account or General Reserves to make provisions for NPAs by **31st March, 2025**.

**18. Which state has recently(in August '24) become the first state in India to implement a Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solution (DRTPS) by signing a MoU with State Bank of India (SBI) General Insurance Company Limited?**

1) Assam

2) Nagaland

3) Kerala

4) Uttarakhand

5) Himachal Pradesh

Answer- **2) Nagaland**

**Explanation:**

On 2nd August 2024, the **Government of Nagaland** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with State Bank of India (**SBI**) **General Insurance Company Limited** for Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solution (**DRTPS**). With this, Nagaland becomes the **1st state** in India to implement a disaster risk management insurance solution.

- The MoU was signed for a period of **3 years** (2024 to 2027) with immediate effect.
- DRTPS, a parametric multi-year risk transfer solution will help in protecting the **critical infrastructure** of Nagaland and will mitigate economic losses due to a disaster.
- The insurance covers the entire Nagaland and also the government of Nagaland will pay the insurance premium. In case a disaster happens, the insurer will come to the rescue for **3 years**.

**19. With which organisation did the Thomas Cook (India) Limited partner to launch the RuPay AED (United Arab Emirates Dirham) Forex Card for Indian travelers visiting the United Arab Emirates (UAE)?**

1) American Express

2) MasterCard

3) Visa

4) National Payments Corporation of India

5) Diners Club

Answer- **4) National Payments Corporation of India**

**Explanation:**

Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **Thomas Cook (India) Limited (TCIL)** has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) to launch **RuPay AED (United Arab Emirates Dirham) Forex Card**, first RuPay Prepaid Forex Card for Indian travellers visiting the United Arab Emirates (**UAE**). The card, powered by NPCI's technology partner CARD91.

- This innovative Made in India initiative is a first-of-its-kind partnership with an Indian non-banking entity.
- The travellers can use Thomas Cook's RuPay(AED) card for transactions and ATM withdrawals across the UAE.

**20. Which institute has recently (in July '24) partnered with the Industrial Development Bank of India Limited (IDBI) to establish the cybersecurity lab?**

1) IIT Hyderabad

2) IIT Kharagpur

3) IIT Madras

4) IIT Kanpur

5) IIT Bombay

Answer- **3) IIT Madras**

**Explanation:**

The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IITM), Chennai, Tamil Nadu, has partnered with the Industrial Development Bank of India Limited (IDBI) to establish the 'IDBI - IITM Secure Systems Lab' (I2SSL) to develop and deploy security solutions in healthcare, fintech and aerospace.

- i. This state-of-the-art cybersecurity laboratory focuses on creating market-ready IPs in **cybersecurity**, productisation and commercialisation of research work, especially for mobile technologies.
- ii. It will undertake experimental evaluation and assessment exercises, develop test cases, conduct research, and devise hardening guidelines to help enterprises manage cybersecurity risks in real time.

**21. Which insurance firm has recently (in August '24) launched four new products, including Yuva Term/Digi Term and Yuva Credit Life/Digi Credit Life?**

- 1) HDFC Life Insurance Company
- 2) TATA AIG General Insurance Company
- 3) Life Insurance Corporation of India
- 4) State Bank of India Life Insurance Company
- 5) Star Health and Allied Insurance Company

Answer- **3) Life Insurance Corporation of India**

**Explanation:**

On August 5, 2024, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched four new products for the youth of India, including **LIC's Yuva Term/Digi Term, and LIC's Yuva Credit Life/Digi Credit Life**, which are available offline and online for sale from August 6, 2024.

i. **LIC's Yuva Term** plan is available **offline**. This Plan can be purchased offline through licensed agents, corporate agents, brokers and insurance marketing firms. While the **LIC's Digi Term** plan is available **online** through LIC's website. The benefits payable on death are guaranteed.

- These Non-Par, Non-Linked, Life, Individual, Pure Risk Plans are designed for young individuals seeking early term insurance, offering the flexibility to purchase either offline or online.

ii. LIC has introduced products to **cover loan liabilities** through term insurance: LIC's Yuva Credit Life, available **offline** through intermediaries, and LIC's Digi Credit Life, available only **online** through LIC's website.

- These are Non-Par, Non-Linked, Life, Individual, Pure Risk Plans where the death benefit decreases over the policy term.

**22. In August 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) directed \_\_\_\_\_ to value their investment in the Additional Tier-1 (AT-1) bonds issued by banks on a Yield-to-Call (YTC) basis.**

- 1) Portfolio Management Services (PMS)
- 2) Mutual Funds (MFs)
- 3) Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)
- 4) Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)
- 5) Social Stock Exchange (SSE)

Answer- **2) Mutual Funds (MFs)**