

GUPTA

CLASSES

Current Affairs

September 2024

English

Part-2



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CLASSES

- Paysharp has received the **in-principal PA licence** in December 2022. It holds the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 27001:2022 and System and Organization Controls (SOC) 2 accreditations.

18. In August 2024, the Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited has rebranded itself as _____.

- 1) Scott Kotak General Insurance Company (India) Limited
- 2) Bern Kotak General Insurance Company (India) Limited
- 3) Zurich Kotak General Insurance Company (India) Limited
- 4) HSBC Kotak General Insurance Company (India) Limited
- 5) Natwest Kotak General Insurance Company (India) Limited

Answer- 3) Zurich Kotak General Insurance Company (India) Limited

Explanation:

Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based **Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited** has **rebranded** itself as **Zurich Kotak General Insurance Company (India) Limited**, following Zurich Insurance Group's 70% acquisition of Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited in June 2024. The brand symbolises a commitment to trust, innovation, integrity, and customer excellence.

- Zurich Kotak General Insurance Company (India) Limited, a **70:30 Joint Venture (JV)** between **Zurich Insurance Group** and **Kotak Mahindra Bank**, is the youngest and one of the fastest-growing non-life insurance franchises in India.
- In line with its rebranding, the company has also reconstituted its board of directors, including Suresh Agarwal as Managing Director (**MD**) & Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**), Srinivas Injeti as Chairman and Independent Director (**ID**).

19. Who is the chairperson of the recently (In September '24) formed 22-member advisory committee by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to streamline the rules for listing obligations and disclosures?

- 1) Rajeev Kher
- 2) Abhaya Prasad Hota
- 3) Rama Subramaniam Gandhi
- 4) Sunil Mehta
- 5) Sanjay Nayar

Answer- 3) Rama Subramaniam Gandhi

Explanation:

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has set up a **22-member advisory committee** to streamline the rules for **listing obligations** and **disclosures**.

- The [Advisory Committee on Listing Obligations and Disclosures](#) (ACLOD) will be chaired by Rama Subramaniam Gandhi, a former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The committee will provide advice to SEBI on disclosure requirements, listing and post-listing obligations, harmonisation, and corporate governance.
- In June 2024, SEBI proposed 50 amendments to streamline disclosure and listing obligations, based on proposals from a separate expert committee of 21 members chaired by SK Mohanty, a former SEBI whole-time member.

20. Which Mutual fund company has recently (in September '24) launched India's first Nifty 500 Momentum 50 Index Fund?

- 1) Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund
- 2) Mirae Asset Mutual Fund
- 3) HDFC Mutual Fund
- 4) Groww Mutual Fund
- 5) SBI Mutual Fund

Answer- **1) Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund**

Explanation:

Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund (MOMF) has launched its New Fund Offer (NFO), the '**Motilal Oswal Nifty 500 Momentum 50 Index Fund**'. This is India's first 500 Momentum 50 Index fund.

- This NFO began on **September 2, 2024** and will end on **September 16, 2024**.
- The objective of this **open-ended index fund** is to capture the Nifty 500 index's high-momentum stock performance.
- The Nifty 500 Momentum 50 Index tracks the performance of fifty stocks chosen from the Nifty 500 index according to their normalised momentum score.
- It is designed to replicate the performance of the Nifty 500 Momentum 50 **Total Return Index (TRI)**.

21. Which organisation has recently (in August '24) introduced India's first Android-Based Cash Recycling Machine (CRM) Automated Teller Machine (ATM), in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)?

- 1) Mindgrove Technologies Private Limited
- 2) Cashfree Payments India Private Limited
- 3) Adani International Ports Holdings Private Limited
- 4) Hitachi Payment Services Private Limited
- 5) SpacePixxel Technologies Private Limited

Answer- **4) Hitachi Payment Services Private Limited**

Explanation:

Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **Hitachi Payment Services Private Limited** has introduced **India's first Android-Based Cash Recycling Machine (CRM) Automated Teller Machine (ATM)**, in collaboration with Mumbai based National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) at the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2024 in Mumbai.

- This CRM is designated as **HPDx-BU01** and works as a Digital Banking Unit (DBU), offering one-stop services in a modern digital banking environment.
- It permits banks to offer a range of banking and non-banking services according to their business needs and local market requirements, including Quick-Response (QR)-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) cash withdrawal, account creation, credit card issuance, personal and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) loans, and insurance.

22. Which bank has recently (in September 2024) partnered with BharatPe to launch its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) TPAP (Third Party Application Provider) service for easier digital payments?

- 1) Bank of India
- 2) Unity Small Finance Bank Limited

- 3) Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited
- 4) Karnataka Bank Limited
- 5) Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited

Answer- **2) Unity Small Finance Bank Limited**

Explanation:

India's leading Fintech Company, **BharatPe** has announced its partnership with Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Unity Small Finance Bank Limited (**Unity Bank**), to launch its Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) **TPAP** (Third Party Application Provider) service for easier digital payments.

- It has also rebranded now-pay-later application (app) postpe (app) to BharatPe platform.
- The app also includes **UPI Lite**, which permits the customers to preload an online wallet and make transactions of maximum Rs 500 for both Peer-to-Peer (**P2P**) and Peer-to-Merchant (**P2M**) payments without any requirement of UPI Personal Identification Number (PIN).

23. Which organisation has recently (in September '24) announced the establishment of a multi-donor trust fund partnered with International Solar Alliance (ISA)?

- 1) Asian Development Bank
- 2) International Finance Corporation
- 3) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- 4) International Atomic Energy Agency
- 5) Japan International Cooperation Agency

Answer- **3) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency**

Explanation:

The United States of America (USA)-based Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (**MIGA**), a member of the World Bank Group (**WBG**) and the International Solar Alliance (**ISA**), announced the establishment of a multi-donor trust fund named '**MIGA-ISA Solar Facility**'.

- The facility, initiated with the support from the Government of India (GoI), aims to expand access to support renewable energy globally.
- Through this initiative, ISA will be an important partner of the program in collaboration with the WB and African Development Bank (AfDB) to achieve **300 million** new electricity connections in **Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030**.

24. Which organisation has recently (in September '24) launched an online tool 'Daava Sookhak' that allows depositors to track the status of their claims by entering their registered mobile number?

- 1) Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation
- 2) Clearing Corporation of India Limited
- 3) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- 4) Competition Commission of India
- 5) National Payments Corporation of India

Answer- **1) Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation**

Explanation:

The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (**DICGC**), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has launched '**Daava Sookhak**' or **Claim Status Tracking** which is an online tool that allows depositors to track the status of their claims by entering their registered mobile number on the DICGC website.

- Daava Soochak enables depositors to check the status of claims for banks placed under All Inclusive Directions (AID) after **April 1, 2024**.
- The corporation is responsible for reimbursing insured amounts to depositors of failed banks. The insurance limit was raised to **Rs 5,00,000 per depositor** in February 2020.

25. Which company has recently (in August '24) become the first Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) to launch the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)'s Electronic-Know Your Customer (e-KYC) Setu System?

- 1) Star Finserv India Limited
- 2) Housing Development Board Financial Services Limited
- 3) Arka Fincap Limited
- 4) Poonawalla Fincorp Limited
- 5) Epifi Technologies Private Limited

Answer- **2) Housing Development Board Financial Services Limited**

Explanation:

Ahmedabad (Gujarat) based Housing Development Board Financial Services Limited (**HDBFS**) has become the **first** Non-Banking Financial Company (**NBFC**) to launch the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)'s Electronic-Know Your Customer (**e-KYC**) **Setu System**.

- This system is built in collaboration between the **NPCI** and the Unique Identification Authority of India (**UIDAI**)
- It aims to streamline the account opening process, providing customers a faster, simpler, and more secure way to access financial services.
- The HDBFS customers can now easily **open loan accounts** without the need to upload documents or visit a branch.

26. Which payment firm has recently (in September '24) partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL) to launch its BBPS-B2B platform?

- 1) PayMate
- 2) SBlePay
- 3) SabPaisa
- 4) PayPal
- 5) eBay

Answer- **1) PayMate**

Explanation:

Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **PayMate**, the Business-To-Business (B2B) payments company, has partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) Bharat BillPay Limited (**NBBL**) to launch the '**PayMate BBPS-B2B**' platform.

- It aims to serve **634 lakh** Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**) and **16.6 lakh** corporate entities across India.
- This platform will facilitate large-scale standardisation and digitization of commercial operations such as invoicing, payments, and collections across India and also promotes an interoperable ecosystem of buyers and suppliers.

27. Which of the following has recently (in September '24) become the first major Indian bank to join the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF)?

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

Answer- 2) Union Bank of India

Explanation:

On September 9, 2024, Union Bank of India (UBI) became the first major Indian bank to join the **Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF)**, which aims to help financial institutions measure and report greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from their investments and loans.

- This move aligns with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s new draft disclosure framework on climate-related financial risks, which requires banks to report by April 2025 and meet specific climate targets by **April 2027**.
- Union Bank aims to disclose its portfolio's GHG emissions by FY2027-28 using PCAF's methodology.

28. Which bank has recently (in September '24) launched MTS RuPay National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) prepaid card?

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

Answer- 2) State Bank of India

Explanation:

The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched three new offerings namely **MTS RuPay NCMC prepaid card**, the **OneView mobile Application (App)**, and an advanced design for the **SBI FASTag** to enhance convenience, security, and efficiency for the daily commuters.

- MTS RuPay NCMC prepaid card, **India's first of its kind**, was created to provide a seamless, offline payment solution for National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) – enabled transport systems, including metro rails, buses, ferries, tolls, and parking.
- OneView mobile App is designed to handle SBI's NCMC Prepaid Cards, allowing customers to top-up, track, and manage their cards from a single platform.
- The SBI has introduced an advanced design for its FASTag in the Vehicle Class **(VC-04)** category such as Car, Jeep, Van, etc.

29. Which company has recently (in September '24) launched its Signature Increasing Income Plan to offer a growing income stream for retirees?

- 1) Shriram Life Insurance Company Limited
- 2) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited
- 3) Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited
- 4) Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited
- 5) Aviva Life Insurance Company India Limited

Answer- 5) Aviva Life Insurance Company India Limited

Explanation:

Aviva Life Insurance Company India Limited (**Aviva India**) has launched '**Aviva Signature Increasing Income Plan**', a non-linked, non-participating life insurance savings plan to offer a growing **income** stream for **retirees**.

- This plan is designed to help customers maintain their purchasing power in retirement and keep up with **inflation**.
- Aviva Signature Increasing Income Plan provides a **15% increase** in every third policy year to address inflation and rising living expenses.
- It guarantees whole-life income to the policyholder and also provides financial security until the **age of 100**.

30. Which small finance bank has recently (in September '24) partnered with United India Insurance Company Limited (UIIC) to offer a wide range of general insurance solutions to its customers?

- 1) AU Small Finance Bank Limited
- 2) Capital Small Finance Bank Limited
- 3) Jana Small Finance Bank
- 4) Shivalik Small Finance Bank
- 5) Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited

Answer- 1) AU Small Finance Bank Limited

Explanation:

Jaipur (Rajasthan) based AU Small Finance Bank Limited (**AU SFB**) has partnered with Chennai (Tamil Nadu, TN) based United India Insurance Company Limited (**UIIC**) to offer a wide range of **general insurance solutions** to AU SFB's customers.

- The partnership aims to provide reliable insurance options in various categories, leveraging UIIC's broad network and AU SFB's increasing infrastructure.
- It includes motor insurance, personal accident insurance, crop insurance, property insurance, shopkeeper insurance, cyber incident insurance.

31. Which insurance company has recently (in September '24) entered a bancassurance partnership with CSB Bank Limited to offer a wide range of life insurance products?

- 1) Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited
- 2) United India Insurance Company Limited
- 3) Zurich Insurance Company Limited
- 4) TATA AIG General Insurance Company Limited
- 5) Max Life Insurance Company Limited

Answer- 5) Max Life Insurance Company Limited

Explanation:

Gurugram (Haryana) based **Max Life Insurance Company Limited** has entered a **bancassurance partnership** with Thrissur (Kerala) based **CSB Bank Limited** (formerly The Catholic Syrian Bank Limited) to offer a wide range of life **insurance products**.

- Bancassurance is a partnership between a bank and an insurance company allowing the insurance company to sell its products to the bank's client base.

- The partnership aims to provide a range of savings, protection, retirement, and group life insurance options to over **2.5 million CSB customers**.

32. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently (in September '24) reported that small savings plans grew by ____ up to February 2024, reaching Rs 18.1 lakh crore.

- 1) 12.6%
- 2) 13.8%
- 3) 14.6%
- 4) 15.8%
- 5) 16.3%

Answer- **2) 13.8%**

Explanation:

According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, **small savings schemes grew by 13.8%** up to February 2024, reaching **Rs 18.1 lakh crore**. These schemes, designed to finance government expenditure and promote saving habits, have shown consistent growth, particularly driven by the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (**SSY**) and the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (**SCSS**).

- Seven small savings schemes, including Post Office Savings Scheme (PSS) and Post Office Recurring Deposits (PORD), recorded growth between 9% and 11%, with interest rates ranging from 4% to 9%.
- **SSY** and **SCSS** have seen the **highest growth** among all schemes. SSY saw a 41% growth, with the outstanding balance rising from Rs 77,472 crore in February 2023 to **Rs 1 lakh crore** in February 2024. SCSS recorded a 28% growth, with its outstanding balance rising from Rs 1.3 lakh crore to **Rs 1.7 lakh crore** during the same period.
- The outstanding balance of small savings schemes increased from Rs 6.2 lakh crore in 2015 to **Rs 18.1 lakh crore** in February 2024, with a 13.8% growth in February 2023.
- The formula to arrive at the interest rates for small savings schemes was given by the **Shyamala Gopinath Committee** in January 2023.
- The Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (**SSY**) was launched by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on January 22, 2015 as part of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) campaign to promote girl child education.
- The Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (**SCSS**) was launched in 2004 to provide retirement stability and a steady income. [Click here to read more.](#)

33. Which bank has recently (in September '24) announced a strategic partnership with DMI Finance Private Limited to offer co-branded credit cards to DMI Finance's existing customers?

- 1) Asian Development Bank
- 2) Axis Bank Limited
- 3) Karnataka Bank Limited
- 4) RBL Bank Limited
- 5) HDFC Bank

Answer- **4) RBL Bank Limited**

Explanation:

RBL Bank Limited, one of India's leading private sector banks and **DMI Finance Private Limited**, a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) and part of the DMI Group, announced a strategic

partnership to offer co-branded credit cards '**RBL Bank DMI Finance Credit Card**' to DMI Finance's existing customers.

- This partnership aims to broaden credit card access to customers across metro and non-metro cities in India by combining RBL Bank's expertise in credit cards with DMI's focus on digital financial inclusion.
- The **RBL Bank DMI Finance Credit Card** comes with a membership fee of **Rs 499** (excluding Goods and Services Tax (GST)) will be offered by the RBL Bank in a co-branding partnership with DMI Finance.
- The credit card will include a range of consumer-friendly benefits like Accelerated reward points, No-cost Equated Monthly Installment (EMI) options and Discounts at top merchants.
- RBL Bank offers up to 2,000 reward points as a '*welcome benefit*' to the card members.

34. Which company has recently (in September 2024) received final authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as an Online Payment Aggregator (PA-O)?

- 1) Cashfree Payments India Private Limited
- 2) PayGlocal Technologies Private Limited
- 3) SabPaisa
- 4) Worldline ePayments India Private Limited
- 5) Fiserv india private limited

Answer- 2) PayGlocal Technologies Private Limited

Explanation:

Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based **PayGlocal Technologies Private Limited**, a cross-border payment solutions provider, has received final authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as an **Online Payment Aggregator (PA-O)**.

- With this authorisation, PayGlocal can officially onboard merchants, offering secure, efficient, and seamless payment processing for businesses.
- PayGlocal will offer a comprehensive suite of payment solutions for various businesses, reflecting its dedication to providing robust and compliant payment solutions.

35. Which ministry has recently (in September '24) relaxed norms for expenditure exceeding Rs 500 crore to boost the capital expenditure (capex) that is estimated at Rs 11.11 lakh crore for the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25)?

- 1) Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
- 2) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- 3) Ministry of Home Affairs
- 4) Ministry of Finance
- 5) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Answer- 4) Ministry of Finance

Explanation:

The Union Ministry of Finance (**MoF**) has relaxed norms for expenditure **exceeding Rs 500 crore** in order to accelerate the capital expenditure (capex) that is estimated at **Rs 11.11 lakh crore** for the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25).

- This will give a boost to the government spending which suffered a slowdown in early months of FY25 due to general elections.
- The relaxation allowed is subject to strict compliance by all ministries and departments.

- Bulk expenditures items having value of **more than Rs 2,000 crore** were to be timed during the 2nd fortnight in the last month of quarter to avail of direct tax receipts inflow. Now such conditions have been waived off as per the new rules.

36. In September 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) clarified that Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cardholders are now eligible for _____ (loan) from Indian banks, as long as they are residing in India.

- 1) Personal Loan
- 2) Education Loan
- 3) Policy Loan
- 4) Business Loan
- 5) Home Loan

Answer- **2) Education Loan**

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has clarified that Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cardholders are now eligible for education loans from Indian banks to study abroad, provided they are residing in India.

- It has also clarified that the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** imposes no restriction on the remittance of domestically borrowed funds for present account transactions, including those for education purposes.
- As per existing provisions of LRS, all resident individuals, including minors, are permitted to freely remit a maximum **USD 250,000** per financial year (April-March) for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.
- The loan will cover various expenses related to education abroad such as: tuition fees, accommodation, travel, among others.
- At present, some of the leading Indian banks like: **State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank Limited, ICICI Bank Limited**, among others, are providing education loan services to residents of OCI.

37. Bharti Airtel has recently (in September '24) launched a fixed deposits service under its digital finance arm Airtel Finance by offering interest rates of up to ____ per annum.

- 1) 6.8%
- 2) 7.25%
- 3) 7.75%
- 4) 8%
- 5) 9.1%

Answer- **5) 9.1%**

Explanation:

Bharti Airtel, a leading Indian telecommunications provider, introduced a Fixed Deposit (FD) marketplace under its digital arm, **Airtel Finance**. This new platform, accessible via the **Airtel Thanks App**, offers interest rates of up to **9.1%** per annum. Airtel Finance provides an assured return and fixed-income investment option on the digital platform.

- Airtel Finance will offer the FD service by partnering with several Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Small Finance Banks (SFBs) in India, including Utkarsh Small Finance Bank (USFB), Shriram Finance Limited (SFL), etc.

- Customers can book and manage FDs via the Airtel Thanks App, with a minimum investment of Rs 1,000, eliminating the need to open a new bank account.

38. With which housing finance company did the United States (US) International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) sign a USD 50 million loan agreement to expand mortgage and home lending in India?

- 1) Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited
- 2) LIC Housing Finance Limited
- 3) Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited
- 4) Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited
- 5) PNB Housing Finance Limited

Answer- 4) Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited

Explanation:

The United States (US) International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has announced an investment of **USD 70 million** in India's private sector to strengthen key priorities of both governments.

- It was announced by **Nisha Biswal**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (DCEO) of DFC, during his visit to India from September 10-14, 2024.
- During the visit, a ceremonial commitment for a **USD 20 million loan** was signed with **Panacea Biotec Limited** to expand production of its hexavalent vaccine, which protects children against **six diseases** viz. diphtheria, tetanus, polio, pertussis, hepatitis B, and Haemophilus influenzae type B.
- A **USD 50 million** loan agreement was also signed with **Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited** to expand mortgage and home lending in India.

39. In September 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of _____ on Axis Bank Limited for violating certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act.

- 1) Rs 1 crore
- 2) Rs 2.5 crore
- 3) Rs 1.91 crore
- 4) Rs 2 crore
- 5) Rs 3.27 crore

Answer- 3) Rs 1.91 crore

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty totalling **Rs 2.91 Crore** on Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **Axis Bank Limited** and Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **HDFC Bank Limited** for certain deficiencies in statutory and regulatory compliance.

i. Axis Bank has been fined **Rs 1.91 crore** for violating certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, as well as failing to comply with certain directions on Interest Rate on Deposits, Know Your Customer (KYC), and Credit Flow to Agriculture-Collateral-free agricultural loans.

ii. HDFC Bank has been fined **Rs 1 crore** for failing to comply with certain directions on Interest rates on deposits, recovery agents engaged by banks, and customer service in banks.

40. Which company has recently (in September '24) secured Rs 7.2 billion funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for electric bus services expansion in India?

- 1) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- 2) JBM ECOLIFE Mobility Private Limited
- 3) Ather Energy Private Limited
- 4) Olectra Greentech Limited
- 5) Erisha E Mobility Private Limited

Answer- 2) JBM ECOLIFE Mobility Private Limited

Explanation:

Gurugram(Haryana) based **JBM ECOLIFE Mobility Private Limited**, a subsidiary of JBM Auto Limited, has secured **Rs 7.2 billion** in funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to enhance electric bus services in India under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model.

- This funding will support the procurement of up to **650 electric buses**, along with associated costs for operations, maintenance, depots, and charging infrastructure in Haryana and Odisha.
- ADB led the arrangement of the **Rs 7.2 billion** debt package, with AIIB contributing **Rs 3.6 billion** (approximately USD 43.2 million).
- The funding aligns with the recently announced Prime Minister (PM) **E-drive scheme**, which aims to subsidize 14,000 electric buses as part of a **Rs 10,900 crore** green energy initiative.

41. Which bank has recently (in September '24) launched the generative AI-powered virtual relationship manager 'Aditi'?

- 1) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- 2) State Bank of India
- 3) Axis Bank
- 4) Yes Bank
- 5) Bank of Baroda

Answer- 5) Bank of Baroda

Explanation:

Bank of Baroda (**BoB**) has launched **three** Generative Artificial Intelligence (**AI**)-powered solutions, aimed at improving customer service and employee efficiency. These include a virtual relationship manager, '**Aditi**'; a knowledge management platform for its employees, **Gyan Sahay.AI**; and a chatbot **ADI** for digital customer experience.

- BoB has introduced '**Aditi**,' a generative AI-powered virtual relationship manager to offer enhanced digital customer services.
- Aditi is accessible via BoB's web portal and supports audio, video, and chat-based assistance with 24x7 multilingual support.
- BoB launched '**GyanSahay.AI**,' a GenAI-enabled knowledge management platform to aid employees with instant and accurate responses.
- The platform is trained in the bank's product policies and processes, allowing employees to handle customer queries more efficiently

- BoB also introduced 'ADI,' a GenAI-powered chatbot to assist customers in resolving their queries digitally.

42. Which payment firm has recently (in September '24) partnered with Liquid Group to enable Indian travelers to make Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments at various merchants in Singapore?

- 1) Paytm
- 2) Amazon Pay
- 3) PayU
- 4) PhonePe
- 5) Jio Pay

Answer- **4) PhonePe**

Explanation:

Bengaluru(Karnataka) based **PhonePe** has partnered with the Singapore based **Liquid Group**, a fintech leader in digital cross-border payment solutions, to enable Indian travellers to make Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) payments at various merchants in Singapore.

- This would allow travellers to easily scan and pay with their PhonePe app at Liquid Group's wide merchant base in Singapore.
- This collaboration is facilitated through Liquid Group's partnership with NPCI International Payments Limited (**NIPL**).
- The transactions would be processed in **Indian Rupees** (INR), ensuring transparency and ease of usage.
- PhonePe users can receive **international remittances** via UPI using the **PayNow**-UPI real-time remittance corridor, which fastens the process of transferring money thereby eliminating the need to share details such as bank account numbers and Indian Financial System Code (IFSC) codes.

43. Which organisation has recently (in September 2024) introduced a new framework to streamline bonus share trading?

- 1) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- 2) National Securities Depository Limited
- 3) Association of Mutual Funds in India
- 4) National Stock Exchange of India Limited
- 5) Central Depository Services Limited

Answer- **1) Securities and Exchange Board of India**

Explanation:

On 16th September 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has introduced a new framework to streamline bonus share trading, through a circular issued in exercise of powers given under section 11 read with section 11A of the **SEBI Act, 1992**.

- The new framework has reduced the time taken for credit of bonus shares and their eligibility for trading from about two weeks to **2 days** (T+2 days) from the record date, which is the cut-off date for shareholders to be eligible for a bonus issue under the **SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements, ICDR) Regulations, 2018**.
- The circular will be applicable to all bond issues announced on or after **1st October, 2024**.

- The new framework has eliminated the previous condition which required bonus shares to be credited in a temporary International Securities Identification Numbering System (**ISIN**).

44. Which bank has recently (in September '24) partnered with Paisabazaar to launch its PaisaSave Credit Card?

- 1) Yes Bank
- 2) World Bank
- 3) Axis Bank
- 4) HDFC Bank
- 5) Asian Development Bank

Answer- **1) Yes Bank**

Explanation:

Paisabazaar, India's largest marketplace for consumer credit and free credit score platform, has partnered with **Yes Bank Limited** to launch their co-branded credit card named '**YES BANK Paisabazaar PaisaSave Credit Card**'.

- The PaisaSave Credit Card is designed to reward frequent customers by providing significant cashback on everyday purchases, both online and offline, making it a must-have for the value-conscious customers.
- The customers can apply for a virtual **Yes Bank Rupay Credit Card**, which allows them to make Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments smoothly and expands the card's utility.
- The card provides cashback of **3%** on online purchases across platforms like Amazon, Myntra, Flipkart, Nykaa, Swiggy, Zomato, Tata Cliq, and Ajo.
- The users will continue to earn **1.5%** cash back on further online purchases after reaching a monthly cashback limit of Rs 5,000 on online transactions.

45. Which small finance bank has recently (in September '24) launched its "Liquid Plus" Fixed Deposit (FD) with an interest rate of 6.75% per annum?

- 1) Jana Small Finance Bank Limited
- 2) ESAF Small Finance Bank
- 3) Capital Small Finance Bank Limited
- 4) AU Small Finance Bank
- 5) Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited

Answer- **1) Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

Explanation:

Jana Small Finance Bank Limited has recently launched its new "Liquid Plus" Fixed Deposit (FD), offering an interest rate of **6.75% per annum**. This innovative product is designed to cater to customers seeking a reliable investment option that balances return with liquidity, making it an appealing choice for both new and existing clients.

- The launch aligns with Jana Small Finance Bank's commitment to providing innovative financial solutions that meet the evolving needs of its customers.
- The Liquid Plus is designed to cater to the needs of individuals, High-Net-Worth Individuals (HNIs) and corporates seeking short term investments options with safety, liquidity and assured returns.
- To open this FD, customers need to invest a minimum of **Rs 10 Lakhs** for retail deposits, with maximum up to **Rs 3 crores**.

46. Which bank has recently (in September '24) launched two new credit cards - 'Ashva' and 'Mayura' under the premium credit card segment?

- 1) Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited
- 2) Federal Bank Limited
- 3) Axis Bank Limited
- 4) Karnataka Bank Limited
- 5) IDFC First Bank Limited

Answer- 5) IDFC First Bank Limited

Explanation:

IDFC First Bank, a leader in innovative financial solutions, has launched two new credit cards – '**Ashva**' and '**Mayura**', under the premium credit card segment. IDFC First Ashva credit card focuses on mid-tier customers and IDFC First Mayura credit card focuses on the affluent segment.

- IDFC First **Ashva** credit card is a premiere metal credit card, powered by **Visa** network. This credit card is designed specifically to cater not just the financial needs of affluent customers but to elevate the luxury experiences of their customers.
- The cardholders will get reimbursement of **up to Rs 25,000** annually for non-refundable flight and hotel cancellations.
- IDFC First **Mayura** credit card is exclusively designed to combine modern travel benefits with a design inspired by the rich Indian heritage, specifically Mayura (**the peacock**).
- The cardholders will get reimbursement of **up to Rs 50,000** annually for non-refundable flight and hotel cancellations.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of **V. Vaidyanathan** as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IDFC First Bank Limited for a period of 3 years effective from 19th December, 2024 to 18th December, 2027. [Click here to read more.](#)

47. Which organisation/bank has recently (in September 2024) approved a USD 50 million loan for 'Climate-Adaptative Community-Based Water-Harvesting Project' to enhance water resource management and strengthen climate resilience in Meghalaya?

- 1) Japan Bank for International Cooperation
- 2) World Bank
- 3) International Finance Corporation
- 4) Asian Development Bank
- 5) International Development Association

Answer- 4) Asian Development Bank

Explanation:

The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) has approved a **USD 50 million loan** for an initiative namely, '**Climate-Adaptative Community-Based Water-Harvesting Project**' to enhance water resource management and strengthen climate resilience in Meghalaya, India.

- The project focuses on improving water access and supporting communities in adapting to climate change through sustainable Water-Harvesting System (WHS).
- The project supports the **Meghalaya State Water Policy 2019**.
- The project will involve the construction of **532 water-storage facilities** across **12 districts**, designed for climate resilience.

- Micro-irrigation systems will be introduced in the **Garo, Jaintia**, and **Khasi** regions, and pilot tests of renewable energy micro hydropower will be done.

48. According to the new amendment that was recently (in September '24) passed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the requirement of _____ is eliminated for disclosure of Non-Convertible Securities (NCS).

- 1) Aadhar
- 2) Biometric
- 3) PAN
- 4) KYC
- 5) All of the above

Answer- **3) PAN**

Explanation:

On 18th September 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) amended the SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021 in exercise of powers given under **sub-section 30** of the SEBI Act, 1992(15 of 1992).

- As per new rules, SEBI has reduced the time period for seeking public comments on the draft offer documents from 7 working days to **1 day** for issuers whose specified securities are already listed on exchanges with nationwide terminals and **5 days** for other issuers.
- SEBI's new rules have simplified disclosure requirements for Non-Convertible Securities (NCS) in offer documents by eliminating the requirement for Permanent Account Number (**PAN**) and personal address disclosure of promoters in offer documents.

49. Which bank has recently (in September 2024) sanctioned a loan facility of Rs 10,050 crores to Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) to develop an Ultra Super Critical Thermal Power Project (USCTPP) in Koderma, Jharkhand?

- 1) HDFC Bank
- 2) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- 3) Bank of Baroda
- 4) State Bank of India
- 5) Indian Bank

Answer- **4) State Bank of India**

Explanation:

The State Bank of India (**SBI**), a Public Sector Bank (PSB), has sanctioned a Rupee term loan facility of **Rs 10,050 crores** to Damodar Valley Corporation (**DVC**) to develop an Ultra Super Critical Thermal Power Project (**USCTPP**) with a capacity of **1600 Megawatt (MW)**, in **Koderma**, Jharkhand.

- The 1,600 MW project involves the construction of 2 units of 800MW each and has been identified by the Ministry of Power (MoP) as one of the projects for capacity addition by 2030, aligning with India's long-term energy goals.

50. Which bank/financial institution has recently (in September '24) invested USD 34 million loan in iBUS Network and Infrastructure Private Limited for Global expansion?

- 1) Asian Development Bank
- 2) World Bank
- 3) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

4) International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes

5) International Finance Corporation

Answer- **5) International Finance Corporation**

Explanation:

Bengaluru (Karnataka) based **iBUS Network and Infrastructure Private Limited**, a leading digital infrastructure solutions provider, has secured an investment of **Rs 280 crore (USD 34 million)** from the International Finance Corporation (**IFC**), a member of the World Bank Group (WBG) for a minority stake in the company.

- This investment will aid iBUS in strengthening its market position and expanding both domestically and globally.
- IFC's expertise will help iBUS scale its operations and enter new markets, focusing on solutions like in-building connectivity, outdoor small cells (a radio access point), managed Wireless Fidelity (Wi-Fi) services, and intelligent Internet of Things (IoT).

51. Which state has recently (in September '24) started a Rs 530 crore water supply project funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve drinking water infrastructure?

1) Tripura

2) Telangana

3) Maharashtra

4) Meghalaya

5) Kerala

Answer- **1) Tripura**

Explanation:

Manik Saha, the Chief Minister (**CM**) of **Tripura** laid the foundation for the Manila (Philippines)-based Asian Development Bank (**ADB**)-funded **Rs 530 crores** water supply project in Udaipur, Tripura.

- It is an initiative under the **Mukhyamantri Nagar Unnayan Prakalpa** (CM Urban Development Scheme) for the modern management of **drinking water supply in 12 cities of Tripura**. The project has already received Rs 330 crore in funding from the ADB.
- The project ensures clean drinking water supply to every urban household in 12 cities namely Khowai, Mohanpur, Ranirbazar, Bishramganj, Melaghar, Udaipur, Amarpur, Belonia, Kumarghat, Dharmanagar, Kailashahar, and Ambassa.
- The project aims to minimise water wastage and address the issue of water loss through leaks and inefficient systems, by implementing modern technology.

52. Which Public Sector Bank (PSB) has recently (in September '24) partnered with EaseMyTrip.com to launch India's first co-branded travel debit card?

1) Bank of India

2) Punjab National Bank

3) Union Bank of India

4) Indian Bank

5) Bank of Baroda

Answer- **5) Bank of Baroda**

Explanation:

Bank Of Baroda (**BOB**), one of the leading commercial banks in India, in collaboration with **EaseMyTrip.com**, India's one of largest online travel platforms, launched a co-branded travel debit card named '**Bank of Baroda EaseMyTrip Debit Card**' for frequent travellers and those spending on entertainment and lifestyle.

- This is the **1st co-branded travel debit card** introduced by a Public Sector Bank (PSB) in India and EaseMyTrip is the 1st Online Travel Agency (OTA) in India to be partnered with the PSB for a debit card.
- The card offers discounts on travel and hotel stays, complimentary annual membership to Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms, along with vouchers and discounts on the electronic commerce (e-commerce) site.
- Travel Discounts: 10% instant discounts on domestic and international flight bookings. 15% instant discounts on domestic and international hotel bookings. 10% instant discounts on bus and airport transfers/outstation cab bookings.

53. Which insurance company has recently (in September '24) partnered with BLS E-Services to offer a range of insurance products directly to customers across India?

- 1) Edelweiss Life Insurance Company Limited
- 2) Ageas Federal Life Insurance Company Limited
- 3) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited
- 4) SBI General Insurance Company Limited
- 5) Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited

Answer- **4) SBI General Insurance Company Limited**

Explanation:

SBI General Insurance Company Limited, a leading general insurance company in India, has partnered with **BLS E-Services Limited** (Erstwhile known as BLS E-services Private Limited), a leading integrated technology-enabled digital service provider, to offer a range of insurance products directly to customers across India.

- The collaboration aims to provide key insurance solutions, including Hospicash, a flexible income protection plans offering daily hospitalization benefits; vehicle insurance; personal accident insurance; and shop insurance.
- This partnership has enabled BLS E-Services' to leverage its strong presence in the Electronic-Governance (E-Governance) sector, where it has already benefited over 40,000 customers.

54. Which insurance company has recently (in September '24) launched a comprehensive health insurance plan 'Health Super Top-Up policy'?

- 1) Edelweiss Life Insurance Company Limited
- 2) Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited
- 3) Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited
- 4) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited
- 5) SBI General Insurance Company Limited

Answer- **5) SBI General Insurance Company Limited**

Explanation:

State Bank of India (SBI) General Insurance Company Limited has launched 'SBIG Health Super Top-Up' plan, which is a health insurance **add-on** plan designed to enhance the existing basic health insurance coverage (corporate or personal loan) in an economical and affordable way.

- The main aim of this policy is to provide comprehensive support during unexpected medical emergencies that are often not covered by standard health plans.
- Flexible annual and long-term aggregate deductible offers two options with sum insured ranging from **Rs.5 lakhs to Rs.4 crores**, with deductibles between **Rs.2 lakhs to Rs.2 crores**.
- Consists of long-term policy options that are available for up to **three** years.
- Affordable premiums starting at **Rs. 3,377** for individuals aged **18-35** years are provided.
- To encourage early adoption, SBI General Insurance is offering a one-time welcome discount of **5%** on all policies purchased within **5 days** of receiving a quote from the company.

55. Which bank has recently (in September 2024) launched a suite of 8 innovative digital payment products and solutions to enhance the financial ecosystems for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and retail customers at the Global Fintech Fest (GFF 2024)?

- 1) Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited
- 2) ICICI Bank Limited
- 3) Karnataka Bank Limited
- 4) City Union Bank Limited
- 5) IDBI Bank Limited

Answer- 4) City Union Bank Limited

Explanation:

City Union Bank Limited (CUB), a leading scheduled commercial bank in the private sector, has launched a suite of **8 innovative digital payment products** and solutions to enhance the financial ecosystems for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and retail customers.

- These products were launched during the 5th edition of Global Fintech Fest (**GFF 2024**) held from 28th to 30th August 2024 at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The new digital payment products launched include Delegate payments, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) **lite auto topup**, National Common Mobility Card (NCMC), Credit line on UPI, RuPay credit card on UPI, and Loan against securities (Mutual Fund).
- Additionally, 2 innovative services: Open Network Digital Commerce (**ONDC**) for MSMEs and **ONDC for Retail**, designed specifically to cater the needs of MSME and retail sectors, were launched.

56. Axis Bank Limited and Mastercard have collaborated to launch _____, a business credit card designed for sole proprietors and Small-and-Medium Enterprises (SME) business owners.

- 1) PRIMUS
- 2) Mybiz
- 3) ETERNA
- 4) PIXEL
- 5) Mycard

Answer- **2) Mybiz**

Explanation:

Axis Bank Limited and **Mastercard**, an American multinational payment card services corporation, have collaborated to launch **Mybiz**, a business **credit card** designed for sole proprietors and Small-and-Medium Enterprises (SME) business owners.

- This credit card, a part of the **World Mastercard category**, combines a range of business and travel benefits to meet the needs of SME owners.
- MyBiz credit card will provide an end-to-end digital offering that simplifies small business clients' experience.
- The card includes travel benefits like airport lounge access and travel insurance.
- This also offers business-related services such as marketing, productivity tools, online readiness, security-related services and services related to compliance through **Mastercard Easy Savings Special**.
- Cardholders will also have access to exclusive experiences such as culinary arts, wellness and sports through **priceless.com**

57. Which company has recently (in September '24) launched "CRISIL-IBX AAA NBFC Index-Jun 2027 Fund", an open-ended Target Maturity Index Fund?

- 1) Muthoot Capital Services Limited
- 2) L&T Mutual Fund Trustee Limited
- 3) Tata Asset Management Private Limited
- 4) Axis Asset Management Company Limited
- 5) ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund

Answer- **4) Axis Asset Management Company Limited**

Explanation:

Axis Asset Management Company Limited (**Axis AMC**) launched "**AXIS CRISIL-IBX AAA NBFC Index-Jun 2027 Fund**", An open-ended Target Maturity Index Fund investing in constituents of CRISIL-IBX AAA NBFC Index – Jun 2027.

- This is the **1st** Non-Banking Financial Company (**NBFC**) sector-based target maturity mutual fund scheme in India.
- The minimum investment amount required for the scheme is **Rs 5,000** and in multiples of Re 1 thereafter.
- The new fund will offer exposure to high-quality, **AAA-rated** NBFCs through a passive investment strategy by monitoring an index.
- The scheme will allocate **95% to 100%** of its assets to fixed-income instruments attached to the index, with a small portion reserved for liquidity through debt and money market instruments.
- The fund will follow a '**Buy-and-hold**' investment strategy which means that debt instruments issued by NBFCs will be held until maturity unless sold to meet redemptions or for rebalancing purposes.

ECONOMY AND BUSINESS

1. In August 2024, Moody's Ratings projected India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to grow at _____ for Calendar Year (CY) 2024.

- 1) 7.2%
- 2) 7%
- 3) 6.9%
- 4) 7.5%
- 5) 6.8%

Answer- **1) 7.2%**

Explanation:

On 29th August 2024, Global Rating Agency, **Moody's Ratings** announced that it has raised India's Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) growth forecast to **7.2%** for Calendar Year (CY) 2024 from its previous estimate of 6.8% and to **6.6% for CY25**, against its previous estimates of 6.5%. This estimation was part of their August update for the '**Global Macro Outlook for 2024-25**'.

- It has cited these projections reflect strong, broad-based growth, which is mainly attributed by resilient private consumption and improved business conditions.
- According to Moody's Ratings, the Indian economy showed a Year-over-Year (Y-o-Y) growth of **7.8%** in the 1st Quarter (Q1: April-June) of 2024, despite the challenges posed by strict monetary policies and ongoing efforts towards fiscal consolidation.
- Moody's projected that global growth is likely to decrease to **2.7%** in 2024 and **2.5%** in 2025, from 3.0% in 2023, though trends may vary from country to country.
- Moody's has lowered India's Consumer Price Index (**CPI**) inflation in 2024 by 20 basis points (bps) from 5.2% to **5.0%**. [Click here to read more](#)

2. According to the National Statistical Office's (NSO) Quarterly Estimates (QE), India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was estimated to be _____ for the 1st Quarter of the Financial Year 2024-25.

- 1) 7.1%
- 2) 6.7%
- 3) 7.5%
- 4) 6.9%
- 5) 6.8%

Answer- **2) 6.7%**

Explanation:

On 30th August 2024, the National Statistical Office (**NSO**), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**), released the **Estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) For the First Quarter (April- June) of 2024-25**, along with its expenditure components both at Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices.

- According to the NSO data, India's Real GDP slowed to a 15-month low of **6.7%** in Q1 of FY25 as compared to the growth rate of 8.2% in Q1 of FY24 (2023-24), mainly due to poor performance of the agriculture and services sector.

- Real Gross Value Added (GVA) registered a growth of **6.8%** (in Q1 of FY25) over the growth rate of 8.3% (in Q1 of FY24). It is estimated at Rs 40.73 lakh crore in Q1 of FY25, against Rs 38.12 lakh crore in Q1 of FY24.
- Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices in Q1 of 2024-25 is estimated at **Rs 43.64 lakh crore** in Q1 of FY25 against Rs 40.91 lakh crore in Q1 of FY24.
- As per NSO data, agriculture and its allied sector, a key component of the Indian economy saw a modest growth of 2.0%, down from 3.7% (in Q1 FY24). [Click here to read more](#)

3. According to Nomura Holdings Inc.'s recent (in August '24) projection, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is set to grow at _____ for the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25).

- 1) 7%
- 2) 6.6%
- 3) 7.2%
- 4) 6.7%
- 5) 6.9%

Answer- **4) 6.7%**

Explanation:

Japanese brokerage firm **Nomura Holdings Inc.** has lowered its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) projection for India for the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25) to **6.7%** Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) from its previous estimate of **6.9%**.

- It has lowered India's GDP forecast for FY25 following the National Statistical Office (NSO) officially released data on 30th August 2024, which showed India's GDP grew by **6.7%**, slower than expected on an annual basis in the 1st Quarter (Q1: April-June) of FY25 against the growth rate of 8.2% in Q1 of FY24 (2023-24).
- It estimated India's retail inflation to reduce further to **3%** Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) in August 2024, and average at 3.6% in July to September, both these figures are lower than the RBI's inflation target of 4% in FY25.

4. According to the World Bank's recently released (in September '24) India Development Update (IDU), India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was estimated to be _____ for the Financial Year 2024-25.

- 1) 6.5%
- 2) 6.8%
- 3) 7%
- 4) 7.2%
- 5) 8%

Answer- **3) 7%**

Explanation:

On September 3, 2024, the World Bank (WB) in its '[India Development Update \(IDU\)- India's trade opportunities in a changing global context](#)' upgraded India's growth estimate to 7% from 6.6% for Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25). Despite global challenges and the fading effects of post-pandemic recovery, India's medium-term outlook remains **positive**.

- The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is projected at **6.7%** for FY26 and FY27.
- The urban labour market improved gradually since the peak of the pandemic although youth unemployment remained elevated at around **17%**.

- The Fiscal Deficit(FD) is anticipated to reduce from 5.6% of GDP in FY24 to 4.9% in FY25, further narrowing to 4.5% by FY26.
- The **debt-to-GDP ratio** is expected to decline from 83.9% in FY24 to **82%** by FY27, aided by strong revenue growth and fiscal consolidation.

5. Which organisation has recently (in September '24) reported that India's Current Account Balance (CAB) is expected to increase 1% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the 2nd Quarter of Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25)?

- 1) National Statistical Office
- 2) National Council of Applied Economic Research
- 3) India Ratings and Research
- 4) International Monetary Fund
- 5) National Institute of Public Finance and Policy

Answer- **3) India Ratings and Research**

Explanation:

According to the **India Ratings and Research** (Ind-Ra) latest report, India's Current Account Balance (CAB) is expected to increase **1%** of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the 2nd Quarter (**Q2: July-September**) of Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25).

- The report has estimated a deficit of nearly **USD 8 billion**, equivalent to 0.8% of GDP in the **Q1 of FY25**, which is a reversal from the surplus of USD 5.7 billion (0.6% of GDP) in the previous quarter.
- As per the report, India's merchandise exports grew by **6%** Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) in Q1 of FY25 to USD 110.1 billion and imports in Q1FY25 increased by **7.6%** Y-o-Y, to USD 172.2 billion.
- Ind-Ra report has estimated that the services trade surplus to increase by **10.6%** Y-o-Y to USD 44 billion in Q2FY25.
- As per the report, global trade in Q1FY25 saw a **14.1%** Y-o-Y growth, the fastest pace of growth in six quarters.[click here to read more.](#)

6. Which company has recently (in September '24) won the order from NTPC Green Energy Limited(NGEL) for India's largest wind energy order of 1166 Mega Watt (MW)?

- 1) Greenko Group
- 2) NHPC Limited
- 3) Suzlon Group
- 4) Tata Power Solar Systems
- 5) Hitachi Energy

Answer- **3) Suzlon Group**

Explanation:

Suzlon Group, India's largest renewable energy solutions provider, has won the order from NTPC Green Energy Limited(NGEL), the renewables arm of NTPC Limited) for **India 's largest** wind energy order of **1166 Mega Watt (MW)**.

- The project will be executed across **3 sites** – at two projects of NTPC Renewable Energy Limited, a subsidiary of NGEL, and one project of IndianOil NTPC Green Energy Pvt. Ltd, a group company of NGEL- in **Gujarat**.
- This will be the first of its kind of project in India to be undertaken by any Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) and will significantly increase NGEL's wind portfolio.

7. Which company was recently (in September '24) selected to be part of NASA's USD 476 million Commercial SmallSat Data Acquisition Program On-Ramp1 Multiple Award?

- 1) Capella Space
- 2) Dhruva Space Private Limited
- 3) Pixxel
- 4) Agnikul Cosmos
- 5) Astrapi Corporation

Answer- **3) Pixxel**

Explanation:

Bengaluru(Karnataka)-based **Pixxel**, a spacetechnology startup, was selected to be part of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**)'s USD 476 million Commercial SmallSat Data Acquisition(CSDA) Program On-Ramp1 Multiple Award. It is one of the 8 companies to bag this contract.

- Pixxel is selected for this award to provide Earth Observation Data (EOD) and related services for NASA.
- Under this contract, Pixxel will provide NASA and the United States of America (USA) government and academic partners with hyperspectral EOD.

8. Which company has recently (in September '24) become the 6th Indian startup to achieve unicorn status in 2024?

- 1) Jai Kisan
- 2) Moneyview
- 3) TechFini
- 4) Covrzy
- 5) Jupiter Money

Answer- **2) Moneyview**

Explanation:

Moneyview, a Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based Financial technology (fintech) lending platform operated by **WhizDM Innovations Private Limited**, has turned **Unicorn** after securing Rs 38.6 crore (USD 4.6 million) in equity funding from Accel India and Nexus Venture Partners.

- Moneyview becomes the **6th Indian startup** to achieve the **unicorn** status in **2024** after Krutrim, Perfios, Porter, Rapido, and Ather.
- Through the deal, Moneyview was valued at around **Rs 10,086 crore** (approximately **USD 1.2 billion**), thereby attaining Unicorn status.
- The shares have been issued at Rs 64.15 each with the intent to raise around USD 4.65 million.

9. Which company has recently (in September '24) secured a Rs 850 crore order from Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) to supply indigenous Multi-Function Radar in the X Band?

- 1) Signaltron Systems Private Limited
- 2) Bharat Electronics Limited
- 3) Adani Defence & Aerospace
- 4) GalaxEye Space Solutions Private Limited
- 5) Bharat Forge Limited

Answer- **2) Bharat Electronics Limited**

Explanation:

Bengaluru (Karnataka) based **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, a public sector company has secured an order worth **Rs 850 crore** from Cochin Shipyard Limited (**CSL**) to supply indigenous **Multi-Function Radar** in the X Band.

- The multi-function radar is designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) and manufactured by BEL.
- The radar is designed to detect, acquire, and track airborne targets, providing defence for naval vessels.
- BEL also received a **Rs 305 crore** order to manufacture ship navigational systems, thermal imagers, communication equipment, fire and gun control systems, spares, and service.

10. Which company has recently (in September '24) collaborated with Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL) to launch India's first domestically produced semiconductor chips by 2026?

- 1) Zero-Error Systems Private Limited
- 2) Signaltron Systems Private Limited
- 3) Infosys
- 4) Tata Consultancy Services
- 5) Cognizant Technology Solutions

Answer- **4) Tata Consultancy Services**

Explanation:

Tata Consultancy Services (**TCS**) is collaborating with Tata Electronics Private limited (**TEPL**) to launch **India's first** domestically produced **semiconductor chips** by **2026**.

- Tata Electronics is leading the initiative, with TCS providing expertise in chip design, engineering, and intellectual property (IP)-based solutions.
- This initiative aligns with the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)**, which has approved the establishment of three semiconductor manufacturing facilities in India.

11. In September 2024, Moody's projected India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to grow at ____ for Calendar Year (CY) 2024.

- 1) 7%
- 2) 7.2%
- 3) 7.1%
- 4) 7.5%
- 5) 6.8%

Answer- **3) 7.1%**

Explanation:

Moody's, a subsidiary of Moody's Corporation, has raised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast to **7.1%** for Calendar Year 2024 (CY24), from its previous estimate of 6.8% made in June 2024. It noted that the Indian economy will continue to be resilient amid global uncertainties.

- However, it has maintained its India's economic growth forecast for CY25 at 6.5% and has projected a faster growth of 6.6% in CY26 in its new Asia Pacific outlook.
- The Global Ratings agency has predicted better inflation outcomes for India as it reduced India's inflation forecast to **4.7%** from the 5% predicted earlier.
- Moody's has also raised the 2025 forecast for the Asia-Pacific region by 10 basis point (bps) i.e. from 3.9% to 4%.

12. Which organisation has recently (in September' 24) raised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast to 6.7% for the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25)?

- 1) India Ratings & Research
- 2) Goldman Sachs Group Inc.
- 3) International Monetary Fund
- 4) World Bank
- 5) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Answer- **5) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development**

Explanation:

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has raised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast by **10 basis points** (bps) to **6.7%** for Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25), from its previous estimate of 6.6%. This projection was announced by OECD in its latest ['OECD Economic Outlook, Interim Report September 2024: Turning the Corner'](#) released on 25th September, 2024.

- It has also increased India's economic growth forecast for FY26 by 20 bps, to 6.8% from its previous estimate made in May 2024.
- OECD's report has also raised India's headline **inflation** forecast by 20 bps, from 4.3% (projected in May 2024) to **4.5% for FY25**. This projection is in alignment with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s forecast of headline inflation for FY25.
- As per the report, the **global growth** will remain stable at **3.2%** in both 2024 and 2025, due to moderate inflation. It noted that the growth has been relatively robust in many of the Group-20 (G20) countries, including the United States of America (USA), Brazil, India, Indonesia and the United Kingdom (UK).

13. According to the 'Asian Development Outlook (ADO) update of September' released by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), India's growth forecast for the Financial Year 2026 (FY26) has been projected at _____

- 1) 7.2%
- 2) 7.5%
- 3) 7%
- 4) 6.8%
- 5) 7.1%

Answer- **1) 7.2%**

Explanation:

According to the 'Asian Development Outlook (ADO) update of September' released by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), India's growth forecast for the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25) has been projected at **7%** and **FY26 at 7.2%**

- The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth slowed to **6.7%** in the first quarter (April-June) of FY24, it is expected to accelerate in the coming quarters with increased agricultural performance and a large improvement in industry and services.
- As per the report, the government debt is projected to decrease from 58.2% of GDP in FY24 to 56.8% in FY25.
- Consumer inflation is anticipated to rise to **4.7% in FY24** due to elevated food prices, despite higher agriculture output expectations.

14. Name the first Schedule airline to launch from Uttar Pradesh (UP) that has recently (in September '24) received the No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).

- 1) Vistara
- 2) Vietjet Air
- 3) Shankh Air
- 4) Akasa Air
- 5) Air India

Answer- 3) Shankh Air

Explanation:

Shankh Air, owned by Shankh Aviation Private Limited, has received the No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) valid for **3 years**. Shankh Air will be the **1st Schedule airline** to launch from Uttar Pradesh (UP).

- It is yet to receive clearance from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to begin operations.
- Shankh Air will hub over Lucknow and Noida to enable connections to all major cities in India.
- The airline aims to connect major cities across India by offering both interstate and intrastate routes and focusing on areas with high demand and restricted direct flight options.

MoU's AND AGREEMENTS

1. Which organisation has recently (in August '24) signed an MoU with Visa Inc. to upskill youths in tourism-relevant skills?

- 1) Tripadvisor
- 2) Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council
- 3) India Tourism Development Corporation
- 4) MakeMyTrip
- 5) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation

Answer- 2) Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council

Explanation:

The Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council (THSC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Visa Inc.** to upskill at least **20,000 Indian youths** in tourism-relevant skills.

- It is a **three-year** partnership worth up to **USD 1 million**.
- This partnership builds upon Visa's ongoing collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) and aims to train young people in **ten states** which includes Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh (HP), and West Bengal (WB) in order to improve the tourism service experience for tourists.

2. Which country has recently (in August 2024) signed a MoU with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) to enhance bilateral cooperation and exchange expertise in the field of public sector auditing?

- 1) Gambia
- 2) Australia
- 3) Saudi Arabia
- 4) Nepal
- 5) Republic of the Marshall Islands

Answer- 3) Saudi Arabia

Explanation:

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (**CAG**) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the General Court of Audit, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (**Saudi Arabia**) to enhance bilateral cooperation and exchange expertise in the field of **public sector auditing**.

- The MoU was signed by **Girish Chandra Murmu**, the CAG of India and **Hussam Al-Angari**, President of the Saudi General Court of Audit during a bilateral meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- The key areas of cooperation include joint training programs for financial, performance, and compliance audits, as well as the exchange of audit manuals and methodology.

3. Which shipbuilding firm has recently (in August '24) signed a MoU with the National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) for the supply of Double-Lane (DL) Class 70 Modular Steel and Bailey bridges?

- 1) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- 2) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited
- 3) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- 4) Goa Shipyard Limited
- 5) Shipping Corporation of India

Answer-2) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited

Explanation:

The Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (**GRSE**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (**NHIDCL**) for the fabrication, supply, and launching of **Double-Lane (DL) Class 70 Modular Steel and Bailey bridges**. The MoU was signed between Dr. Krishan Kumar, Managing Director (MD), NHIDCL; and Commodore PR Hari, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), GRSE.

- GRSE will construct and deliver Class 70R Double-Lane Bridges. This will enhance connectivity in critical forward areas along India's borders, facilitating troop and equipment deployment.
- GRSE's Double-Lane Steel Bridge is described as the only indigenous solution of its kind, aligning with India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (Self-Reliant India Campaign).

4. Which organisation has recently (in August '24) signed a tripartite MoU with the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) for drone surveys to combat land encroachments in New Delhi, Delhi?

- 1) National Sample Survey Office
- 2) Indian Institute of Surveying and Mapping

- 3) Survey Of India
- 4) Forest Survey of India
- 5) Geological Survey of India

Answer- **3) Survey Of India**

Explanation:

A **tripartite** Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) was signed between the Delhi Development Authority (**DDA**), the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (**MCD**), and the Survey Of India (**SOI**) to facilitate drone surveys to determine the status of encroachments on government-owned lands in New Delhi (Delhi).

- The MoU aims to generate comprehensive geospatial data resources through survey and mapping activities. It creates a foundation for data integration by the DDA, MCD, and various government departments of the Delhi government.
- It maximises resource utilisation and ensures comprehensive coverage of areas under their jurisdictions.

5. With which country did India sign the working plan on cooperation in the field of emergency management for 2025-2026?

- 1) Nepal
- 2) Ghana
- 3) Russia
- 4) Sri Lanka
- 5) Australia

Answer- **3) Russia**

Explanation:

On 28th August 2024, the **2nd** meeting of the joint Russian-Indian Commission on the Cooperation in the Field of Emergency Management was held in Moscow, the capital city of Russia.

- The Indian delegation was led by Minister of State (MoS) Nityanand Rai, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India (GoI) at the meeting.
- During the meeting, India and Russia signed the working plan of joint Russian-Indian Commission on the Cooperation in the field of Emergency Management for 2025-26.
- **India** will host the **3rd** meeting of Indo-Russian Joint Commission on the Cooperation in the Field of Emergency Management in 2026.

6. Which of the following countries did not recently (in August '24) sign a Charter and a MoU for the establishment of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Secretariat in Colombo, Sri Lanka?

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

Answer- **5) Seychelles**

Explanation:

Ajit Kumar Doval, National Security Adviser (NSA) to the Prime Minister (PM) of India, visited **Colombo**, Sri Lanka from 29-30 August 2024, for the signing of the **Founding Documents** of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC), a regional security grouping.

- On 30th August 2024, **India**, the **Maldives**, **Mauritius**, and **Sri Lanka** signed a **Charter** and a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) for the establishment of the **CSC Secretariat** in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- The Colombo Security Conclave aims to address traditional, non-traditional, and emerging hybrid security challenges and has worked on capacity building in sectors such as Counter-Terrorism (CT), police, law enforcement, and cyber-security.
- CSC is a regional security initiative established in 2020 as a trilateral effort among India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. [Click here to read more](#)

7. In August 2024, The Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) Nepal signed a contract valued at _____ with the Transrail Lighting Limited (TLL) of India to construct an 18-kilometre (km) cross-border electricity transmission line.

- 1) USD 2.50 million
- 2) USD 12.36 million
- 3) USD 18 million
- 4) USD 19.6 million
- 5) USD 50 million

Answer- **2) USD 12.36 million**

Explanation:

The Millennium Challenge Account (**MCA**) **Nepal** has signed a contract valued at **USD 12.36 million** with the Transrail Lighting Limited (**TLL**) of **India** to construct a 18 kilometre (km) cross-border electricity transmission line from the **400 kilovolts** (kV) New Butwal Substation in Nawalparasi Bardaghat Susta West to the Nepal-India border.

- The contract was signed under the Millennium Challenge Corporation (**MCC**) **Nepal Compact** and it was jointly funded by the government of Nepal and the United States of America (USA).
- This milestone, commemorating the **one-year anniversary** of the Compact's Entry-Into-Force, highlights the strong commitment of all stakeholders to boost regional energy trade between Nepal and India.

8. Which organisation has recently (in September '24) signed a MoU with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency to promote energy efficiency in India?

- 1) ReNew Energy Global PLC
- 2) TotalEnergies
- 3) National Test House
- 4) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
- 5) Bureau of Indian Standards

Answer- **3) National Test House**

Explanation:

National Test House (**NTH**) under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD), and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (**BEE**), a

statutory body under the Ministry of Power (MoP), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to strengthen the Standards & Labelling (S&L) Program, promoting energy efficiency across India.

- The MoU aims to promote sustainable development in India through energy conservation by saving electricity.
- BEE will recognise NTH as a referral laboratory for technical disputes regarding the test results.
- NTH, formerly known as the Government Test House, is India's largest multi-location multidisciplinary industrial central government testing laboratory and a premier scientific and technical institution of India.

9. Which country's navy has recently (in September '24) signed an Implementing Agreement (IA) with the Indian Navy to enhance cooperation on submarine rescue support?

- 1) Japan
- 2) South Africa
- 3) Philippines
- 4) Mongolia
- 5) Pakistan

Answer- **2) South Africa**

Explanation:

The Indian Navy (**IN**) and the South African (**SA**) Navy has signed an Implementing Agreement (**IA**) to strengthen cooperation on **submarine rescue support** in order to ensure the **safety** of the South African Navy's submarine crew in times of distress or accident.

- The IA was signed by Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) of the IN, and Vice Admiral Monde Lobese, Chief of the SA Navy in New Delhi (Delhi).
- The **12th India-South Africa Navy Staff Talks** were held on August 27-28 2024 in New Delhi, Delhi to further enhance Navy-to-Navy collaboration between India and South Africa.
- As per the IA agreement, the IN will enhance the collaborative ties between the two navies by providing assistance through the deployment of its Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (**DSRV**) when required.
- The DSRV is a type of deep-submergence vehicle used for rescue of downed submarines and secret missions.

10. Which country has recently (in September '24) signed MoU with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) to strengthen Public Sector Audit Cooperation?

- 1) Netherlands
- 2) Thailand
- 3) Singapore
- 4) Iran
- 5) United Arab Emirates

Answer- **5) United Arab Emirates**

Explanation:

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (**CAG**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) **Accountability Authority** to strengthen cooperation between the two institutions in **public sector audits**.

- The MoU was signed by **Girish Chandra Murmu**, the CAG of India, and **Humaid Obaid Khalifa Obaid Abushibs**, the President of the UAE Accountability Authority during a bilateral meeting in Abu Dhabi, **UAE**.
- The MoU aims to promote and deepen collaboration between the two Supreme Audit Institutions (**SAIs**) in order to boost each institution's professional ability and improve techniques in the field of Public Sector Auditing (PSA).

11. Which organisation has recently (in September '24) signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) to collaborate on strengthening systems and engaging communities for social change?

- 1) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- 2) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- 3) United Nations Children's Fund
- 4) United Nations Development Programme
- 5) World Health Organisation

Answer- **3) United Nations Children's Fund**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (**MoPR**) and United Nations Children's Fund (**UNICEF**) has signed a Letter of Intent (**LoI**) to collaborate on strengthening systems and engaging communities for social change.

- The partnership aims to establish and institutionalise systems for effective communication among the Ministry, Elected Representatives, Field Functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions, and Rural Communities.
- It will empower rural communities to make informed decisions, improve service delivery, and boost **governance transparency**, contributing to a more inclusive and connected rural India.

12. Which university has recently (in September '24) signed a MoU with the Indian Army (IA) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) to enhance the logistics capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces?

- 1) Visva Bharati
- 2) Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya
- 3) Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya
- 4) Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya
- 5) Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya

Answer- **4) Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya**

Explanation:

The **Indian Army (IA)** and the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)** to enhance the **logistics capabilities** of the Indian Armed Forces.

- Vadodara (Gujarat) based **GSV**, formerly known as the National Road Transport Institute (NRTI) is **India's first University** in the **Transportation** and Logistics sectors, which was established through an Act of Parliament in 2022.
- The MoU aims to strengthen the logistics expertise of the IA and IAF by ensuring the development of in-house knowledge and skills essential to modern logistics operations.
- It is in line with national development strategies such as the National Logistics Policy (**NLP**) **2022** and the Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti National Master Plan (**PMGS-NMP**) **2021**.

13. Which country has recently (in September '24) partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras Research Park (IITMRP) to work in 4 broad areas, Solar energy (SE), Green Hydrogen (GH), Electric Vehicles (EVs), and Batteries, and Green Buildings (GBs)?

- 1) Australia
- 2) United States of America
- 3) France
- 4) Netherlands
- 5) United Kingdom

Answer- 2) United States of America

Explanation:

The Government of the United States of America (USA) and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras Research Park (IITMRP) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN) will partner to work in 4 broad areas namely, Solar energy (SE), Green Hydrogen (GH), Electric Vehicles (EVs), and Batteries, and Green Buildings (GBs).

- The partnership aims to bring together researchers, academia, and industry from both countries to build an ecosystem in these 4 areas.
- The USA will assist TN in cleaning the Cooum River, leveraging expertise from San Antonio (Chennai's sister city).

14. Which company has recently (in September '24) signed a MoU with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and launched a skill development initiative?

- 1) Swiggy
- 2) Flipkart
- 3) Porter
- 4) Amazon
- 5) Zomato

Answer- 1) Swiggy

Explanation:

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Swiggy Limited and launched 'Swiggy Skills', an initiative which offers employment opportunities within Swiggy's food delivery and quick commerce network.

- The initiative was launched by Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge, IC), MSDE in New Delhi (Delhi). It aligns with the Government's vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- Swiggy's partner platform will be integrated into Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) as part of the initiative, providing access to online skill development courses, certifications, and training modules to Swiggy's workforce.
- It will benefit **2.4 lakh delivery partners** and restaurant employees linked with Swiggy.

15. Which Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) has recently (in September '24) signed a MoU with National Health Authority (NHA) to develop a digital public goods for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the healthcare sector?

- 1) IIT Kanpur
- 2) IIT Delhi
- 3) IIT Hyderabad
- 4) IIT Bombay

5) IIT Pune

Answer- **1) IIT Kanpur**

Explanation:

The National Health Authority (**NHA**) and Indian Institutes of Technology Kanpur (**IITK**), Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh (UP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to develop a digital public goods for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the healthcare sector.

- Under this MoU, IIT Kanpur will develop a quality-preserving database, an open platform for comparing and validating AI models, a consent management system for research under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (**ABDM**), and also develop a learning platform across a variety of machine learning model pipelines.
- This partnership helps the researchers to access the high-quality data and to collaborate with other health ecosystem players.
- It will also accelerate the development of AI-powered health solutions that address critical health issues.

16. Which company has recently (in September '24) has signed a MoU with SJVN Limited and GMR Energy Limited for the development and implementation of the 900 Megawatt (MW) Upper Karnali hydro-electric project in Nepal?

- 1) National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Private Limited
- 2) Green Power Corporation
- 3) Gas Authority of India Limited
- 4) Adani Green Energy Limited
- 5) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited

Answer- **5) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited**

Explanation:

New Delhi (Delhi) based Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (**IREDA**) has signed a Memorandum of understanding (**MoU**) with **SJVN Limited** (formerly known as Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam) and **GMR Energy Limited** for the development and implementation of the **900 Megawatt (MW) Upper Karnali hydro-electric project in Nepal.**

- The Board of Directors (BoD) of IREDA has granted in-principle approval for the project during their meeting on 16th July, 2024.
- The initiative aims at enhancing regional **energy security** by developing renewable energy infrastructure.

It also aims to boost cross-border clean energy projects, maximise Nepal's hydropower potential, and foster cross-border cooperation in the renewable energy sector.

17. Which company has recently (in September '24) signed a 500 million Pounds Grant Funding Agreement with the United Kingdom (UK) Government for its 1.25 billion Pounds green steel project in Wales, UK?

- 1) Arjas Steel Private Limited
- 2) Steel Authority of India
- 3) Jindal Steel & Power Limited
- 4) Sanyo Special Steel Manufacturing India Private Limited
- 5) Tata Steel UK Limited

Answer- **5) Tata Steel UK Limited**

Explanation:

Tata Steel UK Limited, a subsidiary of India based Tata Steel Limited (TSL), has signed a **500 million Pounds Grant Funding Agreement** with the **United Kingdom** (UK) Government for its 1.25 billion Pounds green steel project at Port Talbot steelworks in Wales, the UK. This agreement is the largest investment in the UK steel sector in decades.

- It also sets the stage for the installation of a state-of-the-art Electric Arc Furnace (**EAF**) at its steelworks in Wales and also saves 5,000 jobs. The EAF is expected to be operational within three years.
- The EAF technology will significantly reduce carbon emissions, lowering the UK's total industrial emissions by **8%** and Port Talbot's emissions by **90%**.
- The facility will be set up at a cost of **750 million Pounds** by Tata Steel in addition to the 500 million Pounds already funded. It is expected to be operational by the end of **2027**.

18. Which company has recently (in September '24) signed an agreement with Italy-based global operator Telecom Italia Sparkle S.p.A. to enhance connectivity between Asia and Europe?

- 1) Idea
- 2) Jio
- 3) BSNL
- 4) Vodafone Idea
- 5) Airtel Business

Answer- **5) Airtel Business**

Explanation:

New Delhi (Delhi) based **Airtel Business**, the Business-to-Business (B2B) arm of telecom Bharti Airtel, has inked a pact with Italy-based global operator **Telecom Italia Sparkle S.p.A.** to enhance **connectivity between Asia and Europe**.

- As part of the agreement, Airtel would acquire capacity from Sparkle on the **Blue-Raman Submarine Cable Systems**, which will connect **India and Italy**.
- With this, Airtel aims to expand its global network through several international submarine cable systems to provide data services in India and neighbouring countries.

19. With which country, India has recently (in September '24) signed an extended Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on maritime time issues?

- 1) Nepal
- 2) Bangladesh
- 3) Peru
- 4) Denmark
- 5) Spain

Answer- **4) Denmark**

Explanation:

On 18th September 2024, **India and Denmark** signed an extended Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) on maritime time issues. Under the **India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership**, the collaboration between India and Denmark has been expanded across key areas like Quality shipping, Cooperation on Port State Control, Maritime training and education, research and development, Piracy, Green maritime technology, shipbuilding and green shipping.

- The MoU between India and Denmark was originally signed in 2019 and was later revised in 2022. Now, scope of the MoU has been expanded by inserting a dedicated clause for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence (**CoE**) in India.
- Both nations are focusing on decarbonization efforts, with joint projects aimed to develop hydrogen and ammonia-based fuels for ships, supporting India's Maritime **Amrit Kaal Vision 2047** to decarbonize its ports.
- As part of the Joint Action Plan on Green Strategic Partnership (**2021-26**), both India and Denmark agreed to continue their collaboration on port modernization, maritime digitalization, green fuel development, and advanced seafarer training.

20. Which organisation has recently (in September '24) signed 2 MoUs on Defence Industry Cooperation with the Emirates Defence Companies Council (EDCC), and EDGE Group of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)?

- 1) Indian Air Force
- 2) Defence Research and Development Organisation
- 3) Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers
- 4) Indian Coast Guard
- 5) Defence Public Sector Undertakings

Answer- 3) Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers

Explanation:

On September 18 2024, the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (**SIDM**), India's only Defence Industry association signed 2 Memorandums of Understanding (**MoUs**) on Defence Industry Cooperation with the Emirates Defence Companies Council (**EDCC**), and **EDGE Group** of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), one of the world's leading advanced technology groups, to enhance defence cooperation.

- This occurred during the inaugural **India-UAE Defence Industries Cooperation Forum**, co-organised by the EDCC and the SIDM, in **Abu Dhabi, the UAE**.
- The forum, organised by the Embassy of India under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), in coordination with the UAE MoD, brought together the defence industries of both nations.
- The MoUs aim to strengthen cooperation in key areas such as defence industries, technology transfer, and joint projects between UAE and Indian companies.
- The India-UAE defence relationship has significantly deepened since 2014, bolstered by high-level exchanges, joint exercises, and strategic dialogues.

21. Which University has recently (in September '24) signed an MoU with Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to promote Hindi and India-related studies?

- 1) Utah State University
- 2) University of Tokyo
- 3) University of Saskatchewan
- 4) American University of the Middle East
- 5) Gulf University for Science and Technology

Answer- 5) Gulf University for Science and Technology

Explanation:

New Delhi(Delhi) based Indian Council for Cultural Relations (**ICCR**) and the Gulf University for Science and Technology (**GUST**) in Kuwait signed an MoU to establish **ICCR's first Chair of Indian Studies in Kuwait**, focusing on Hindi language teaching.

- The agreement was signed by Ambassador of India to Kuwait **Dr. Adarsh Swaika** and GUST President **Professor Bassam Alameddine**.
- In April 2024, a weekly Hindi radio broadcast was launched on Kuwait National Radio.

22. Which organisation has recently (in September 2024) signed an MoU with the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) to enhance Space Situational Awareness (SSA)?

- 1) Bharat Dynamics Limited
- 2) Bharat Electronics Limited
- 3) Central Electronics Limited
- 4) Power Finance Corporation Limited
- 5) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

Answer- **2) Bharat Electronics Limited**

Explanation:

On 21st September 2024, Nainital (Uttarakhand)-based **Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)**, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology (DST) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, a 'Navratna' Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Defence (MoD), to enhance space technologies, particularly focusing on Space Situational Awareness (**SSA**).

- Under this partnership, the organisations will develop advanced image processing techniques, data analytics software, and new instruments to monitor space objects, particularly near-Earth objects and artificial satellites, which will ensure the safety of satellites and their users

23. Which organisation has recently (in September '24) signed an MoU with the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to enhance the reach and marketability of "Brand Khadi"?

- 1) National Institute of Fashion Technology
- 2) Department of Posts
- 3) Confederation of Indian Textile Industry
- 4) Ministry of Textiles
- 5) Fashion Design Council of India

Answer- **1) National Institute of Fashion Technology**

Explanation:

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (**KVIC**) under the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME), and the National Institute of Fashion Technology (**NIFT**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) under the 'Centre of Excellence for Khadi-2.0(**CoEK-2.0**)', to enhance the reach and marketability of "**Brand Khadi**" domestically and internationally, in Rajghat, New Delhi (Delhi).

- The MoU focuses on design innovation and capacity building. NIFT will assist Khadi institutions with training, designing Khadi garments, renovating Khadi Bhavans, and developing new high-quality Khadi products.

- KVIC will invest **Rs 25.17 crore** through CoEK over the next 3 years to strengthen the quality and brand power of Khadi.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1. Who has been recently (in August '24) re-appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL)?

- 1) Dileep Sanghani
- 2) Gurcharan Singh
- 3) Nehal Vora
- 4) Tapan Kumar Deka
- 5) Naveen Chandra Jha

Answer- **3) Nehal Vora**

Explanation:

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has approved the re-appointment of **Nehal Vora** as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (**MD & CEO**) of the Central Depository Services (India) Limited (**CDSL**).

- He was appointed as MD & CEO of CDSL in September 2019 for a five-year term till September 17, 2024.

2. Who has been recently (in August '24) appointed as the Director General (DG) of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)?

- 1) Anish Dayal Singh
- 2) Rajwinder Singh Bhatti
- 3) Bharat Lal
- 4) Robert Jerard Ravi
- 5) Sanjaya Kumar Mishra

Answer- **2) Rajwinder Singh Bhatti**

Explanation:

On 28th August 2024, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Rajwinder Singh Bhatti**, 1990-batch Indian Police Service (**IPS**) officer of Bihar cadre, as the Director General (**DG**) of the Central Industrial Security Force (**CISF**) with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post.

- He will hold the post for a tenure up to the date of his superannuation on September 30, 2025 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- He will succeed **Anish Dayal Singh**, DG of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), who has been holding **additional charge as DG of CISF** since August 2024.

3. Who has been recently (in August 2024) appointed as the Chief Secretary of Delhi?

- 1) Dharmendra
- 2) Manoj Kumar Singh
- 3) Manoj Ahuja
- 4) Pramod Kumar Mishra
- 5) Naresh Kumar

Answer- **1) Dharmendra**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Home Affairs (**MHA**) has appointed **Dharmendra**, a 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre, as the new **Chief Secretary** (CS) of National Capital Territory (NCT) of **Delhi**.

- He succeeds **Naresh Kumar**, whose tenure as Delhi's CS was ended on August 31 2024 after being extended twice by the Centre.
- Prior to this, he served as the CS of Arunachal Pradesh (AR) and took over the new charge with effect from **September 1, 2024** or from the date of his joining, whichever is later.

4. Who has been recently (in August '24) appointed as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS) of the Indian Air Force?

- 1) Dinesh Kumar Tripathi
- 2) Vivek Ram Chaudhari
- 3) Ashutosh Dixit
- 4) Kamal Kishore Soan
- 5) Tejinder Singh

Answer- **5) Tejinder Singh**

Explanation:

On September 1 2024, **Air Marshal Tejinder Singh** took over as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (**DCAS**) of the Indian Air Force (**IAF**) at Vayu Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi.

- He replaced **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit**, who was appointed as DCAS in May 2023.
- Prior to this appointment, he served as the Senior Air Staff Officer (SASO), the Headquarters (HQ) Eastern Air Command of the IAF at Shillong, Meghalaya.
- He has been awarded the Vayu Sena Medal (**VM**) in 2007 and the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (**AVSM**) in 2022 by the President of India, in recognition of his meritorious service.
- On September 1 2024, **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** took over as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (**AOC-in-C**) of Central Air Command (**CAC**) of the IAF.

5. Who has been recently (in September '24) appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (additional charge) of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)?

- 1) Satyanarayan Goel
- 2) D K Sunil
- 3) Akhil Gupta
- 4) Atanu Chakraborty
- 5) Ananthkrishnan

Answer- **2) D K Sunil**

Explanation:

Dr **D K Sunil** has taken charge as the Chairman and Managing Director (**CMD**) (Additional charge) of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (**HAL**) with effect from **1st September 2024**.

- He will succeed **CB Ananthkrishnan**, who retired from the post on 31st August 2024.
- He is currently serving as the **Director** (Engineering, Research and Development) of HAL.

6. Who has been recently (in August '24) appointed as Chief Secretary of Bihar?

- 1) Ravi Kota
- 2) Amrit Lal Meena
- 3) Sujata Saunik
- 4) Neerabh Kumar Prasad
- 5) Brijesh Mehrotra

Answer- **2) Amrit Lal Meena**

Explanation:

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Amrit Lal Meena**, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1989-batch Bihar Cadre, as the new **Chief Secretary of Bihar, succeeding Brijesh Mehrotra**, who got retired on 31 August 2024.

- Before this, he was a Secretary of the Ministry of Coal (MoC), during his central deputation.
- He also held the charge of Special Secretary (Logistics) in the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoC&I).

7. Who was recently (in August '24) appointed as Managing Director (MD) of NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS)?

- 1) Y Haragopal
- 2) Govind Singh
- 3) Ajith Kumar KK
- 4) Dileep Sanghani
- 5) Nemkumar H

Answer- **1) Y Haragopal**

Explanation:

Y Haragopal has been appointed as the Managing Director (**MD**) of the NABARD Consultancy Services (**NABCONS**). Prior to this appointment he served as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of NABCONS.

- He joined NABARD in 1996 as a Direct Recruit Officer and held various positions for 14 years in the Refinance Department, Mumbai (Maharashtra) and at various regional offices in Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.
- He served as the General Manager (GM) of NABARD's Telangana Regional Office in Hyderabad (Telangana) before joining NABCONS.

8. Who has recently (in August '24) become the first Indian to be officially named as the Foundation Ambassador of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Foundation?

- 1) Sreeja Akula
- 2) Sharath Kamal Achanta
- 3) Harmeet Desai
- 4) Sumit Nagal
- 5) Manika Batra

Answer- **2) Sharath Kamal Achanta**

Explanation:

Indian Table Tennis (TT) Player **Sharath Kamal Achanta** has been officially named as the **Foundation Ambassador** of the International Table Tennis Federation (**ITTF**) **Foundation**, a non-profit organization that promotes peace and development through table tennis. He became the **First Indian** to be named the ambassador of ITTF Foundation.

- The announcement was made during the celebration of ITTF Foundation's TT4 Health Programme during the **5th season of Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT 2024)** being held in Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN) from 22nd August 2024 to 7th September 2024.
- He was the 1st Indian TT player to win a gold medal in the Commonwealth Games (CWG). He won **Gold Medals** in the Men's Singles and Men's Team event at the 2006 CWG in Melbourne, Australia.
- He has been honoured with the **Arjuna Award** (2004), **Padma Shri** for Sports (2019), and **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award** (2022).

9. Who has been recently (in September 2024) appointed as the New Prime Minister of France?

- 1) Michel Barnier
- 2) Jeremiah Manele
- 3) Halla Tómasdóttir
- 4) Keir Starmer
- 5) Gabriel Attal

Answer- **1) Michel Barnier**

Explanation:

On 5th September 2024, Emmanuel Macron, President of France, appointed **Michel Barnier** (73 years old), Former Brexit negotiator, as the new **Prime Minister (PM) of France**. At 73, Barnier is the **oldest** of the 26 prime ministers that have served modern France's **Fifth Republic**.

- Michel Barnier will take charge from the outgoing PM **Gabriel Attal**, who has been serving as the caretaker PM of France following the 2024 Election results.
- He is a veteran conservative politician from the right winged Republicans party (LR).
- He had received numerous honors, including France's Chevalier of the Légion d'honneur and Commander of the Ordre du Mérite Maritime, and international awards like the Medal of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and the Grand Cross of the Order of Prince Henry (Portugal), and Order of the Star of Romania.

10. Who was recently (in September 2024) recommended for the position of Managing Director (MD) of State Bank of India (SBI) by the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)?

- 1) Rama Mohan Rao Amara
- 2) Atanu Chakraborty
- 3) Naveen Chandra Jha
- 4) Krishnan Venkat Subramanian
- 5) Shanti Lal Jain

Answer- **1) Rama Mohan Rao Amara**

Explanation:

The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (**FSIB**) has recommended **Rama Mohan Rao Amara** for the position of **Managing Director (MD)** of State Bank of India (**SBI**) to fill the vacancy created by the elevation of Challa Sreenivasulu (**CS**) Setty as the **Chairman** of SBI.

- Rama Mohan Rao Amara is currently serving as the **Deputy MD of SBI** (since July 2023).
- The final decision on the recommendation will be made by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**), led by Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi.
- Amara will become the 4th MD of the SBI' which is led by a Chairman and 4 MDs.

- Prior to his appointment as Deputy MD of SBI, He served as the **MD** and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of **SBI Cards and Payment Services** since January 2021.

11. Who was recently (in August '24) named as the Member of the Board of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)?

- 1) Jagjit Pavadia
- 2) Arun Kumar Bansal
- 3) Manoj Govil
- 4) Deepti Gaur Mukherjee
- 5) Subhransu Sekhar Acharya

Answer- **4) Deepti Gaur Mukherjee**

Explanation:

The Government of India (GoI) has named **Deepti Gaur Mukherjee**, **Secretary** of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (**MCA**), as a Member of the Board of Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**).

- Mukherjee has replaced erstwhile MCA Secretary Manoj Govil, who recently was posted as Expenditure Secretary in the Ministry of Finance (MoF).
- Prior to this, she served as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Health Authority (NHA), New Delhi (Delhi).

12. Who was the first Indian to be elected as the President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) in September 2024?

- 1) Dr. Mallika Nadda
- 2) Justice Najmi Waziri
- 3) Adille Sumariwalla
- 4) Raja Randhir Singh
- 5) Jay Shah

Answer- **4) Raja Randhir Singh**

Explanation:

On 8th September 2024, **Raja Randhir Singh** (aged 77), a former Indian shooter and veteran sports administrator, was elected as the **President** of the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)** for a tenure of four-year (from 2024 to 2028). He became the **first Indian** to serve as President of OCA.

- Raja Randhir Singh had been serving as the **Acting President of OCA** since **2021**, following the 15-year ban of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah from Kuwait.
- He represented India in shooting at the Olympic Games (Tokyo 1964 (Reserve Shooter), Mexico 1968, Munich 1972, Montreal 1976, Moscow 1980 and Los Angeles 1984).
- He was the first **Indian shooter** to win gold in the Asian Games (1978). He also won a bronze in 1982 and a team silver in 1986.
- In 1979, Government of India honoured him with the **Arjuna Award** (shooting) and the Government of Punjab honoured him with the **Maharaja Ranjit Singh Award**.
- He has also received the **OCA Award of Merit** (2005), and **Olympic Order, Silver** (2014).

13. Who has been recently (in September '24) re-elected as the President of Algeria for the 2nd term (2024-2029)?

- 1) Abdelmadjid Tebboune
- 2) Nicolás Maduro Moros

3) Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa

4) Edward Kieswetter

5) Abdelaziz Bouteflika

Answer- **1) Abdelmadjid Tebboune**

Explanation:

Abdelmadjid Tebboune has been re-elected as the **President of Algeria** for the **2nd term** (2024-2029). He has been serving as the President of Algeria since 2019.

- According to the National Independent Authority for Elections (NIAE), as an Independent candidate, Abdelmadjid Tebboune won the presidential election by securing **94.7%** of the votes. The turnout of the election was 48%.
- Abdelmadjid Tebboune was appointed as the President of Algeria in 2019 replacing interim President Abdelkader Bensalah.

14. Who has been recently (in September '24) appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company Limited (ITGI)?

1) Rushabh Gandhi

2) Manimekhalai

3) Ajith Kumar

4) Govind Singh

5) Subrata Mondal

Answer- **5) Subrata Mondal**

Explanation:

Subrata Mondal has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (**MD & CEO**) of IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company Limited (**ITGI**).

- He replaced **H O Suri**, who has been serving as the MD & CEO of ITGI since October 2021.
- Prior to this position, he served as the Chief Underwriter at ITGI overseeing underwriting across multiple business lines.
- IFFCO-Tokio General Insurance Company Limited is a 51:49 Joint Venture (JV) between the Indian Farmers Fertilisers Co-operative (IFFCO) and Japan's Tokio Marine Holdings, Inc.

15. Who has been recently (in September '24) appointed as the Finance Secretary of the Ministry of Finance (MoF)?

1) N. Kalaiselvi

2) Tuhin Kanta Pandey

3) Ajit Kumar Doval

4) Atul Kumar Chaudhary

5) T V Somanathan

Answer- **2) Tuhin Kanta Pandey**

Explanation:

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**) has approved the appointment of **Tuhin Kanta Pandey**, a 1987-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Odisha cadre as the **Finance Secretary**, Ministry of Finance (MoF).

- He replaced **T V Somanathan**, who was appointed as the new cabinet secretary on August 30 2024.

- He is currently serving in MoF as Secretary of the two departments, the Departments of Public Enterprises (DPE), and Departments of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).

16. Who has been recently (in September '24) appointed as the Controller of Personnel Services (CPS) in the Indian Navy (IN)?

- 1) Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan
- 2) Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla
- 3) Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi
- 4) Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty
- 5) Admiral Ravi Kumar Dhingra

Answer- **4) Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty**

Explanation:

Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty, a serving Flag officer, assumed charge as the **Controller of Personnel Services (CPS)** in the Indian Navy (**IN**). Before this, he served as the **Commandant** of the Indian Naval Academy (**INA**). He was commissioned into the IN on 1st July 1989.

Vineet McCarty served as Training Commander at the Naval Academy, and Command Plans Officer at the Headquarters of Eastern Naval Command (ENC) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

- He also served as Directing Staff at the Naval and Maritime Academy, Sri Lanka, and was India's Defence Adviser to Singapore with concurrent accreditation to the Philippines.

17. Who has been recently (in September 2024) elected as the Chairperson of the Committee of Parliament on Official Language?

- 1) Amit Shah
- 2) Rajnath Singh
- 3) Nirmala Sitharaman
- 4) Jaishankar
- 5) Arvind Kejriwal

Answer- **1) Amit Shah**

Explanation:

Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (**MHA**) was unanimously **re-elected** as the **Chairperson** of the **Committee of Parliament on Official Language**.

- Amit Shah has been holding the position of Chairperson of the Committee from 2019 to 2024.
- **2024** marks the **75th year** since **Hindi** was accepted as the official language.
- The Constituent Assembly accepted **Hindi**, written in the Devnagari Script as the **Official Language** of the Union of India based on the Munshi-Ayyangar formula, on 14 September **1949**.

18. Who has been recently (in September '24) appointed as the Chief Secretary of Arunachal Pradesh?

- 1) Sujata Saunik
- 2) Manish Kumar Gupta
- 3) Neerabh Kumar Prasad
- 4) Manoj Ahuja
- 5) Nitin Kareer

Answer- **2) Manish Kumar Gupta**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Home Affairs (**MHA**) has appointed **Manish Kumar Gupta**, a 1991 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Arunachal Pradesh (AR), Goa, Mizoram and other Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre, as the new **Chief Secretary** (CS) of **AR** with immediate effect.

- He replaced CS **Dharmendra**, who has been appointed as Chief Secretary (CS) of Delhi.
- He has served as the Principal Secretary of MHA and as the Additional CS in the Delhi administration.

19. Who is set to be re-elected as the President of Fédération Internationale de Hockey (FIH - International Hockey Federation) for a 2nd term?

- 1) Klaus Schwab
- 2) Mohammad Tayyab Ikram
- 3) Harsh Pati Singhanian
- 4) Mark Rutte
- 5) René Fasel

Answer- **2) Mohammad Tayyab Ikram**

Explanation:

Mohammad Tayyab Ikram is set to become the **President** of Fédération Internationale de Hockey (**FIH- International Hockey Federation**) for the **second term**. He has been serving as the 13th President of FIH since 2022.

- For the first time in the history of FIH, Ikram is set to be re-elected as the President of FIH unopposed.
- The election for the post of FIH President; FIH Ordinary Executive Board Member female and male will be elected during the **49th FIH Statutory Congress** in Muscat, **Oman** on 9th November 2024.
- Prior to becoming President of FIH in 2022, He has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Asian Hockey Federation. He has been a member of FIH Executive Board since 2016.
- He has also served as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Olympic Solidarity Commission.
- He was awarded a prestigious title of Dato' from Malaysia (2010), FIH President's Award (2002) and Performance Medal by Governo de Macau (1998).

20. Which of the following persons is "not" one of the six senior advocates who were recently (in September '24) appointed by The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) to serve as Additional Solicitor Generals (ASGs) in the Supreme Court (SC) of India?

- 1) S. Dwarakanath
- 2) Archana Pathak Dave
- 3) Satya Darshi
- 4) Sanjay Brijender Chahar
- 5) Tushar Mehta

Answer- **5) Tushar Mehta**

Explanation:

On 9th September 2024, The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**) approved the appointment of **six senior advocates** as Additional Solicitor Generals (**ASGs**) in the Supreme Court (**SC**) of India.

- The newly appointed ASGs are S. Dwarakanath, Archana Pathak Dave, Satya Darshi, Sanjay Brijender Chahar, Raghavendra P. Shankar and Rajkumar Bhaskar Thakare (Raja Thakare).
- These appointments were made for a period of **3 years** with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the office, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- **Tushar Mehta** has been serving as the Solicitor General of India since 2018 (re-appointed in 2023).

21. Who has been recently (in September '24) appointed as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Galaxy Health Insurance?

- 1) Arun Kumar Bansal
- 2) Gopalan Srinivasan
- 3) Sandeep Batra
- 4) Rizwan Koita
- 5) Anuj Gulati

Answer- **2) Gopalan Srinivasan**

Explanation:

Gopalan Srinivasan has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (**MD & CEO**) of **Galaxy Health Insurance Company Limited** (formerly known as Galaxy Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited).

- He was the former Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of New India Assurance Company Limited (NIA).
- He has also served on the boards of various insurance and financial institutions, including General Insurance Corporation of India Limited (GIC Re) and the General Insurance Council(GIC).

22. Name the Indian Cricketer who has recently (in September '24) onboard as Brand Ambassador of Shriram Finance Limited.

- 1) Rahul Sharad Dravid
- 2) Gautam Gambhir
- 3) Virat Kohli
- 4) Shikhar Dhawan
- 5) Sunil Gavaskar

Answer- **1) Rahul Sharad Dravid**

Explanation:

Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **Shriram Finance Limited**, the flagship company of the Shriram Group has announced the onboarding of **Rahul Sharad Dravid**, former captain and head coach of the Indian cricket team, as its **brand ambassador**.

- Rahul Sharad Dravid has been honoured with the Arjuna Award by the Government of India (GoI) in 1998 for achievements in cricket, Padma Shri in 2004 and Padma Bhushan in 2013.

23. Who has been recently (in September '24) appointed as the new Prime Minister (PM) of Jordan?

- 1) Bisher Khasawneh
- 2) Paetongtarn Shinawatra
- 3) Jafar Hassan
- 4) Keir Starmer
- 5) Muhammad Yunus

Answer- **3) Jafar Hassan**

Explanation:

On 15th September 2024, Jordan's King **Abdullah II** has appointed **Jafar Hassan** as the new Prime Minister (PM) of **Jordan** replacing the outgoing PM **Bisher Khasawneh**, who has been serving as the PM of Jordan since October 2020.

- **Bishr Khasawneh** resigned from the post in accordance with the constitutional norms after the 2024 parliamentary elections.
- He was awarded Japan's **Order of the Rising Sun** in **2020** for strengthening bilateral relations.
- He is also the author of a book on **Jordan's political economy**, published in Arabic in 2020.

24. Who has been recently (in September '24) appointed as the Brand ambassador for the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)?

- 1) Sheetal Devi
- 2) Neeraj Chopra
- 3) Sunil Chhetri
- 4) Virat Kohli
- 5) Manu Bhaker

Answer- **5) Manu Bhaker**

Explanation:

On September 17 2024, **Manu Bhaker**, a double Olympic medal winner, was appointed as the **Brand Ambassador** for the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (**MoPSW**).

- The appointment was announced by Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**, MoPSW at the **4th Harnessing of the Nari Shakti for the Development of the Nation event** held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu(TN).
- The event was organised by the Chennai Port Authority (CPA) in collaboration with Kamarajar Port Authority.

Bhiwandi(Maharashtra) based **Golden Bullet**, a tools company, has announced the appointment of **Manu Bhaker** as their Brand Ambassador.

25. Which of the following para-athletes have been recently (in September '24) named the Election Commission of India's (ECI) National Icons for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) for voter awareness?

- A) Sheetal Devi
- B) Avani Lekhara
- C) Rakesh Kumar

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

3) Only A & C

4) Only A

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

Indian para-archers **Sheetal Devi** and **Rakesh Kumar** of the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), have been named the Election Commission of India's (ECI) **National Icons** for Persons with Disabilities (**PwDs**) for voter awareness, during an event organised by the ECI at Nirvachan Sadan in New Delhi, Delhi.

- During the event, Rajiv Kumar, the Chief Election Commissioner of India (CEC) along with Election Commissioners (ECs) Gyanesh Kumar and Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, felicitated Arjuna Awardee and ECI's national PwD icons are present at the event.
- Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar secured the **bronze** medal in Archery's Mixed Team Compound Open event at the 2024 Paralympics, held in Paris, France. They set a new Paralympic record with a combined score of 1399.
- Sheetal Devi was previously announced as an ECI National Icon before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. She became India's youngest Paralympic medalist at 17.

26. Who has been recently (in September 2024) elected as the President of the 68th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)?

1) Robert Keith Rae

2) Sang Wook Ham

3) Roberta Metsola

4) Philemon Yang

5) Rafael Mariano Grossi

Answer- **2) Sang Wook Ham**

Explanation:

Sang Wook Ham, South Korea's ambassador to Austria, has been elected as the **President** of the **68th General Conference** of the International Atomic Energy Agency (**IAEA**), an international organisation within the United Nations (**UN**).

- Sang Wook Ham will hold the office during the IAEA conference, held from **16 to 20 September 2024** at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) in Vienna, Austria.
- He was appointed as the Republic of Korea's (ROK) Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna in 2022.
- He has served as a Chair of the Missile Technology Control Regime in 2016, and Chair of the International Trust Fund (ITF) for Enhancing Human Security for 2023-24.
- He served as the Chair of the IAEA Board of Governors in 2022.
- He was awarded the Presidential Citation in 2012 and an Order of Service Merit with Red Stripes in 2015.

27. Who has been recently (in September 2024) appointed as the Director General (DG) of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)?

1) Amrit Mohan Prasad

2) Daljit Singh Chawdhary

3) Soumya Swaminathan

4) Tapan Kumar Deka

5) Sujoy Lal Thaosan

Answer- **1) Amrit Mohan Prasad**

Explanation:

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Amrit Mohan Prasad** as the Director General (DG) of the **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** (Level -17 in the Pay Matrix), for a tenure up to the date of his superannuation on 31 August **2025** or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

- Amrit Mohan Prasad succeeded **Daljit Singh Chawdhary**, who handed over the customary baton to Amrit Mohan Prasad at the SSB Headquarters, in New Delhi, Delhi.
- He was a 1989 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Odisha cadre, was appointed as SDG (Level-16 of the Pay Matrix) of the CRPF in August 2024.
- Before this, he served as DG of Prisons and Director of Correctional Services (DCS) of Odisha. He also served as the SDG of the Human Rights Protection Cell (HRPC) of Odisha Police.
- The Sashastra Seema Bal (**SSB**) was raised as a Special Service Body in **1963**, in the aftermath of the Chinese aggression (in 1962).
- In **1966** it was renamed as **Special Service Bureau** and on 15 December **2003**, it was again renamed as **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**.

28. Who has been recently (in September '24) appointed as the Director General (DG) of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)?

1) Satya Narayan Pradhan

2) Ajit Kumar Doval

3) Vijaya Bharathi Sayani

4) Anurag Garg

5) Gurcharan Singh

Answer- **4) Anurag Garg**

Explanation:

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**) has approved the appointment of **Anurag Garg** as the new Director General (**DG**) of the Narcotics Control Bureau (**NCB**).

- Anurag Garg is a 1993-batch Indian Police Service (**IPS**) officer of the Himachal Pradesh (HP) cadre.
- He will hold the position with effect from the date of assumption of charge till May 23, 2026 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- He succeeds **Anish Dayal Singh**, who held the Additional Charge as DG of NCB following the retirement of Satya Narayan Pradhan in August 2024.

29. Who has been recently (in September 2024) appointed as the Director General (DG) of the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), the autonomous body under the Ministry of Defence (MoD)?

1) Sindhu Gangadharan

2) Dr. B.N. Gangadhar

3) Jitendra J Jadhav

4) Vijaya Bharathi Sayani

5) Vikram Dev Dutt

Answer- **3) Jitendra J Jadhav**

Explanation:

Jitendra J Jadhav assumed charge as the Director General (**DG**) of the Aeronautical Development Agency (**ADA**). He has been holding additional Charge of Program Director (Combat Aircraft) and Director of the ADA since September 2022.

- He joined ADA in 1999 as a Scientist/Engineer 'E' and has about 37 years of experience in combat aircraft design and development.
- He served as Director of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research -National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL), Bengaluru, Karnataka from 2016-2022.

30. Who was Sworn-in as 8th Chief Minister of Delhi in September 2024?

1) Atishi

2) Sheel Nagu

3) Preeti Sudan

4) Sujata Saunik

5) Soumya Swaminathan

Answer- **1) Atishi**

Explanation:

Atishi, a senior leader of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) took oath as the **8th** Chief Minister (**CM**) of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of **Delhi**. She was appointed by the President Droupadi Murmu. Lieutenant-Governor (**LG**) **Vinai Kumar Saxena** administered the oath of office and secrecy to Atishi at a ceremony held at Raj Niwas in New Delhi (Delhi). 5 AAP ministers also took oath during the ceremony.

- She replaced **Arvind Kejriwal**, the 7th CM of Delhi since February 2015, who resigned from his role in September 2024.
- Atishi is the **3rd woman CM of Delhi** after Sheila Dikshit (1998 to 2013) of the Indian National Congress (INC) and Sushma Swaraj (1998) of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- She became the youngest of all 3 to hold the CM Office (CMO) in the Union Territory (UT) of Delhi at 43.

31. Who has been recently (in September 2024) elected as the President of Sri Lanka?

1) Anura Kumara Dissanayake

2) Kamel Madouri

3) Kristen Michal

4) Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo

5) Ranil Wickremesinghe

Answer- **1) Anura Kumara Dissanayake**

Explanation:

On 23rd September 2024, **Anura Kumara Dissanayake** (55 years old), Leader of Marxist-Leninist party – Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (**JVP**), sworn-in as **9th President of Sri Lanka** after winning the 2024 Presidential election.

- He was sworn in by Chief Justice of Sri Lanka, **Jayantha Jayasuriya** at the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

- Dissanayake won the presidency with 42.31% of the vote. Opposition leader Sajith Premadasa took 2nd place with 32.76%.

32. Who was appointed as the next Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) in the Indian Air force (IAF) with effect from September 30,2024?

- 1) Upendra Dwivedi
- 2) Manoj Pande
- 3) Vivek Ram Chaudhari
- 4) Ashutosh Dixit
- 5) Amar Preet Singh

Answer- **5) Amar Preet Singh**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has appointed **Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh** as the next Chief of the Air Staff (**CAS**) in the Indian Air force (IAF), in the rank of Air Chief Marshal, with effect from September 30, 2024.

- He will succeed the incumbent **Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari**, who retires upon superannuation.
- He is a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (**PVSM**) and the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (**AVSM**).

33. Who has been recently (in September '24) appointed as the Director of the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) with immediate effect?

- 1) Satish Kumar
- 2) Vivek Gogia
- 3) Ravi Agrawal
- 4) Bharat Lal
- 5) Alok Ranjan

Answer- **5) Alok Ranjan**

Explanation:

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**) approved the appointments of the Senior Indian Police Service (**IPS**) officers **Alok Ranjan** as **Director** of the National Crime Record Bureau (**NCRB**) and **Amit Garg** as Director of Hyderabad (Telangana)-based Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (**SVPNPA**) with immediate effect.

- Alok Ranjan has been appointed for a tenure up to his superannuation on 30 June 2026. He **replaces Vivek Gogia**, who has been repatriated to Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre.
- Amit Garg has been appointed for a term up to his retirement on 31 October 2027.
- **Praveen Ranjan** has been appointed as the Special Director General (SDG) of the Central Industrial Security Force (**CISF**).
- **Vitul Kumar** has been appointed as SDG of the Central Reserve Police Force (**CRPF**) and he will hold the post till the date of his superannuation on 31 August 2028.
- **R Prasad Meena** has been appointed as SDG of the Border Security Force (**BSF**) and he will hold the post till the date of his superannuation on 31 July 2025.

- The ACC also approved the appointments of 4 senior IPS officers, all from the 1993 batch. They were promoted to the post of Special Director (SD) in the Intelligence Bureau (IB). [Click here to read more.](#)

34. Who has been recently (in September 2024) chosen as the next Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) by the Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB)?

- 1) Raj Kumar Chaudhary
- 2) Sindhu Gangadharan
- 3) Brijendra Pratap Singh
- 4) Robert Jerard Ravi
- 5) Tapan Kumar Chand

Answer- **3) Brijendra Pratap Singh**

Explanation:

The Public Enterprise Selection Board (**PESB**), a key body set up by the Government of India (GoI), has appointed **Brijendra Pratap Singh** as the next Chairman-cum-Managing Director (**CMD**) of the National Aluminium Company Limited (**NALCO**), a Navratna Schedule 'A' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Mines (MoM).

- Brijendra Pratap Singh is expected to take over from the incumbent CMD, Sridhar Patra on 1st November 2024.
- **Sridhar Patra**, who has been serving as the CMD of NALCO since 2019 is set to retire on 31st October 2024.

35. Who has been recently (in September 2024) appointed as the 16th Prime Minister of Sri Lanka by the Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake?

- 1) Paetongtarn Shinawatra
- 2) Nicolás Maduro Moros
- 3) Harini Amarasuriya
- 4) Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo
- 5) Dinesh Gunawardena

Answer- **3) Harini Amarasuriya**

Explanation:

On 24th September 2024, **Harini Amarasuriya** (54 years old), leader of National People's Power (NPP), officially sworn-in as **16th** Prime Minister (PM) of Sri Lanka. She has replaced **Dinesh Gunawardene** who resigned from PM office after the result of recently held Sri Lanka Presidential election.

- She took her oath of office administered by Anura Kumar Dissanayake, President of Sri Lanka at the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- She became the 3rd woman PM after Sirimavo Bandaranaike and Chandrika Kumaratunga.
- President Anura Kumar Dissanayake has also appointed his new cabinet comprising 4 members, including himself. Other 3 cabinet members are NPP parliamentarians, Harini Amarasuriya, Vijitha Herath and Laxman Nipunarachchi.
- This new cabinet will serve as the caretaker government till the next parliamentary election, which would take place on 14th November, 2024.