

GUPTA

CLASSES

Current Affairs

August 2024

English

Part-3



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- Assam Rifles was established in 1835 as the “Cachar Levy.” It is fondly called ‘**Friends of the North East People**’.

9. Who has been recently (in August 2024) appointed as the ambassador of South Africa’s premier T20 cricket League (SA20 League)?

- 1) Virat Kohli
- 2) Sachin Tendulkar
- 3) Dinesh Karthik
- 4) Shahid Afridi
- 5) Kedar Jadhav

Answer-**3) Dinesh Karthik**

Explanation:

Krishnakumar Dinesh Karthik, an Indian commentator and former India wicket keeper has been appointed as the **league ambassador** of South Africa’s premier T20 cricket League (**SA20 League**) ahead of the 2025 edition of the tournament. He became the **first Indian player** to be associated with the South African tournament.

i.Karthik will join his former Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Delhi Daredevils teammate **AB de Villiers** as one of the league’s ambassadors.

ii.Karthik has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket in June 2024.

iii.He played for India in 26 Tests, 94 One Day International (ODI), and 60 T20Is. He was also a part of the Indian team that won the 2007 T20 World Cup South Africa.

iv.He has signed to join **Paarl Royals** as an overseas player ahead of the 2025 season, becoming the first Indian player to feature in the SA20.

10. Who was recently (in August 2024) named as the chief adviser of the Bangladesh interim government by President Mohammed Shahabuddin?

- 1) Muhammad Yunus
- 2) Sheikh Hasina
- 3) José Raúl Mulino
- 4) Allamaye Halina
- 5) Khaleda Zia

Answer- **1) Muhammad Yunus**

Explanation:

On 6th August 2024, Nobel Peace Prize winner **Muhammad Yunus**, a Bangladeshi Banker, has been appointed as the **chief adviser** of **Bangladesh’s interim government** by the Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin.

- Muhammad Yunus and his Grameen Bank won the Nobel Peace Prize for 2006 for their work to “create economic and social development from below”
- The appointment comes a day after Bangladesh Prime Minister(PM) **Sheikh Hasina resigned** and fled Bangladesh following a violent crackdown on a student-led uprising.
- Sheikh Hasina was the longest serving PM in Bangladeshi history, until her resignation on 5 August 2024. She served as 1st term as PM from 1996 to 2001 and again from January 2009 to August 2024.

11. Who has been recently (in August '24) appointed as the Chairman of the State Bank of India(SBI)?

- 1) Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh
- 2) Ajith Kumar KK
- 3) Challa Sreenivasulu Setty
- 4) Amitabh Singh Chaudhry
- 5) Manoj Mittal

Answer- **3) Challa Sreenivasulu Setty**

Explanation:

On 6th August 2024, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**) approved the appointment of **Challa Sreenivasulu Setty** (CS Setty)(59 years old) as new Chairman of the State Bank of India (**SBI**), India's largest Public Sector Bank (**PSB**), for a **3 year** term with effect from the date he assumes office, on or after **28th August 2024**.

- He is currently serving as one of the Managing Directors (MDs) of SBI.
- He will succeed the current chairman **Dinesh Khara**, whose term is set to retire on 28th August 2024 on attaining the age of 63 (the upper age limit for the post of SBI's chairman).
- The ACC has also approved the appointment of **Rana Ashutosh Kumar** Singh as the MD of SBI. He is currently serving as the Deputy MD (Retail-Personal Banking and Real Estate), SBI.

12. Who has been recently (in August '24) appointed as the Prime Minister of Tunisia, succeeding Ahmed Hachani?

- 1) Ousmane Sonko
- 2) Judith Suminwa Tuluka
- 3) Bjarni Benediktsson
- 4) Kamel Madouri
- 5) Kais Saied

Answer-**4) Kamel Madouri**

Explanation:

Kais Saied, President of Tunisia, has appointed **Kamel Madouri** as the New **Prime Minister (PM)** of **Tunisia** succeeding **Ahmed Hachani**, who was dismissed by the President without explanation on 7th August 2024.

- Kamel Madouri has been serving as the Minister of Social Affairs since May 2024.
- Ahmed Hachani took office as PM in August 2023 by replacing Najla Bouden (PM 2021-23), who was also dismissed by President Saied.

13. Who is set to succeed Piyush Gupta as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Director of DBS Group in March 2025?

- 1) Tan Su Shan
- 2) Alain Noudéhou
- 3) Astrid Schomaker
- 4) Philemon Yang
- 5) Noel Quinn

Answer-**1) Tan Su Shan**

Explanation:

Piyush Gupta, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Director of **DBS Group** is set to **step down** on **March 28 2025**. He has held the position since 2009.

- Prior to joining DBS, Piyush had a 27 year career at Citigroup Inc. In 2020, he was awarded the **Public Service Star** by Singapore's President.
- He will be succeeded by **Tan Su Shan**, who become the **first woman** to lead Singapore's and Southeast Asia's biggest bank.

14. Who has been recently (in August '24) appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX)?

- 1) Harsh Pati Singhania
- 2) Rushabh Gandhi
- 3) Rajeev Singhal
- 4) Praveena Rai
- 5) Ashishkumar Chauhan

Answer- **4) Praveena Rai**

Explanation:

On 8th August 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) approved the appointment of **Praveena Rai** as new Managing Director (**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (**MCX**), India's largest commodity exchange.

- The post of MD & CEO at MCX has remained vacant since **Padala Subbi Reddy** (P.S. Reddy) stepped down on 9th May 2024 after completing his 5 year term.
- The appointment is subjected to acceptance of the offer made to her and approval from the shareholders of MCX.

15. Who has been recently (in August 2024) appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NHPC Limited?

- 1) B.C. Pathak
- 2) Sushil Sharma
- 3) Atanu Chakraborty
- 4) Raj Kumar Chaudhary
- 5) Manoj Jain

Answer- **4) Raj Kumar Chaudhary**

Explanation:

On August 7 2024, **Raj Kumar Chaudhary** took charge as the Chairman and Managing Director (**CMD**) of **NHPC Limited**. His appointment is effective from the date he assumes charge until his superannuation on **June 30, 2025**, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

- The post of CMD is lying vacant after Abhay Kumar Singh retired on August 31, 2022. NHPC Director Finance **Rajendra Prasad Goyal** was given additional charge in place of Singh.
- NHPC Limited (National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Private Limited) is a Mini-Ratna Category-I Enterprise of the Government of India (GoI), headquartered at Faridabad, Haryana.

16. Who has been recently (in August 2024) elected as the youngest Prime Minister(PM) of Thailand?

- 1) Paetongtarn Shinawatra
- 2) Mikhail Vladimirovich Mishustin
- 3) Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno
- 4) Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo
- 5) Phumtham Wechayachai

Answer- **1) Paetongtarn Shinawatra**

Explanation:

On 16th August 2024, **Paetongtarn Shinawatra** (37years old), was elected as youngest-ever and second female Prime Minister (**PM**) of **Thailand** by the Parliament.

- She succeeds **Phumtham Wechayachai**, who served as Acting PM of Thailand for two days from 14th August 2024 following the removal of PM Srettha Thavisin.
- She is the daughter of **Thaksin Shinawatra**, who served as PM from 2001 to 2006.

17. Who has been recently (in August '24) appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited (TMB)?

- 1) Kadambelil Paul Thomas
- 2) Ratan Kumar Kesh
- 3) Krishnan Venkat Subramanian
- 4) Salee Sukumaran Nair
- 5) Atul Kumar Goel

Answer- **4) Salee Sukumaran Nair**

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) approved the appointment of **Salee Sukumaran Nair** as the Managing Director (**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited (**TMB**), for 3 years, from the date of assuming charge.

- Salee Sukumaran Nair will **succeed Krishnan Sankarasubramaniam**, who assumed charge as MD and CEO of TMB in 2022 and resigned in September 2023.

18. Who has been recently (in August 2024) appointed as the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations(UN) in New York, United States of America (USA)?

- 1) Jethabhai Bharvad
- 2) Jyoti Vij
- 3) Parvathaneni Harish
- 4) Sujata Saunik
- 5) Ruchira Kamboj

Answer- **3) Parvathaneni Harish**

Explanation:

The Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**) has appointed **Parvathaneni Harish** as the **Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations(UN)** at New York, United States of America (USA).

- He is succeeding **Ruchira Kamboj** who retired from the post in June 2024. She was the **first woman** to become the Indian Ambassador to the UN.
- He is currently serving as **India's ambassador to Germany**(since November 2021).
- Parvathaneni Harish is a 1990 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer.

19. Who has recently (in August 2024) taken charge as the Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)?

- 1) Atul Kumar Chaudhary
- 2) Ashok Kumar Singh
- 3) Tapan Kumar Deka
- 4) Robert Jerard Ravi
- 5) Kamal Kishore Soan

Answer- **2) Ashok Kumar Singh**

Explanation:

On 19th August 2024, **Ashok Kumar Singh**, a 1999 batch Indian Administrative Service (**IAS**) officer of Kerala cadre, took over as the Director General (**DG**) of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (**ESIC**) under the Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoL&E), Government of India at its headquarters in New Delhi, Delhi.

- He took over from **Kamal Kishore Soan** who has been holding **additional charge** as DG of ESIC since May 2024.

20. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to recent (in August '24) appointments approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)?

A) Punya Salila Srivastava is appointed as Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Welfare (DoHFW).

B) Katikithala Srinivas is appointed as Secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

C) Deepti Gaur Mukerjee is appointed as Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA).

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

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

Explanation:

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**) headed by the Prime Minister of India, **Narendra Modi**, approved a [series of postings](#) in various departments and ministries.

- **Dr. Vivek Joshi**, a 1989-batch IAS official of the Haryana cadre, appointed as **Secretary**, Department of Personnel and Training (**DoPT**), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (**MoPPG&P**).
- **Punya Salila Srivastava**, a 1993-batch IAS officer of the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, Union Territory (**AGMUT**) cadre, is appointed as **Secretary** of the Department of Health and Family Welfare (**DoHFW**), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- **Katikithala Srinivas**, 1989-batch IAS Officer of Gujarat cadre, is appointed as **Secretary** of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (**MoHUA**).
- **Chandra Sekhar Kumar**, a 1992 batch IAS officer of the Odisha cadre, is appointed as **Secretary** of the Ministry of Minority Affairs (**MoMA**)
- **Neelam Shammi Rao**, a 1992 batch IAS officer of the MP cadre, is appointed as **Secretary** of the National Commission for Minorities (**NCM**).

- **Deepti Gaur Mukerjee**, a 1993 batch IAS officer of the MP cadre, is appointed as **Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA)**.[Click here to read more](#)

21. Who has been recently (in August '24) appointed as the secretary general of the Indian Ocean Rim Association secretariat for a 3-year term starting from January 2025?

- 1) Emmanuelle Soubeyran
- 2) Tapan Kumar Deka
- 3) Sanjiv Ranjan
- 4) Edward Kieswetter
- 5) Salman Al Farisi

Answer- **3) Sanjiv Ranjan**

Explanation:

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the proposal of the Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**) to enable **Sanjiv Ranjan** to take up the assignment as the Secretary-General (**SG**) of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (**IORA**) **Secretariat** in Mauritius for a **3-year tenure** with effect from **1st January 2025**.

- This includes his period up to his superannuation (31st January 2026), or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- He will succeed Salman Al Farisi (Indonesia), the incumbent SG of IORA Secretariat, who took charge in January 2022 for a 3 year term (till 2024).

22. Who has been recently (in August '24) appointed as the President Designate of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) succeeding Debjani Ghosh, whose term ends in November 2024?

- 1) Rajesh Nambiar
- 2) Challa Sreenivasulu Setty
- 3) Ajith Kumar KK
- 4) Rizwan Koita
- 5) Krithivasan

Answer- **1) Rajesh Nambiar**

Explanation:

Rajesh Nambiar, Chairman and Managing Director (**CMD**) of **Cognizant India** (Cognizant Technology Solutions India Private Limited), has been appointed as the **president-designate** of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (**NASSCOM**), India's apex Technology industry association.

- He will succeed **Debjani Ghosh** upon the completion of her term in November 2024.
- **Rajesh Nambiar** has announced that he will step down from his role as CMD of Cognizant India with effect from September 2024.
- Rajesh Nambiar has been serving as the Chairperson of NASSCOM since 2023. He has also serves as a member of the NASSCOM Executive Council.

23. Who has been recently (in August 2024) appointed as the Interim Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) as an additional charge?

- 1) Sanjaya Kumar Mishra
- 2) Vijaya Bharathi Sayani

- 3) M Suresh
- 4) Ravi Agrawal
- 5) Sanjeev Kumar

Answer- **3) M Suresh**

Explanation:

On 20th August 2024, **M Suresh** has been appointed as the interim **Chairman** of the Airports Authority of India (**AAI**) as an additional charge. He is currently serving as the Member of **Air Navigation Services(ANS)** at the AAI.

- He is succeeding **Sanjeev Kumar** who has been appointed as Secretary, Department of Defence Production(DPP), Ministry of Defence(MoD). He is a 1993 batch IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre.

24. Who has been recently (in August 2024) appointed as the Chairperson of the National Association of Software and Service Companies(NASSCOM) with immediate effect succeeding Rajesh Nambiar?

- 1) Mallika Nadda
- 2) Hima Kohli
- 3) D.K. Murali
- 4) Ajay Vij
- 5) Sindhu Gangadharan

Answer- **5) Sindhu Gangadharan**

Explanation:

On August 26 2024, **Sindhu Gangadharan**, the Managing Director (MD) of SAP Labs India Private Limited(SLI) has been named as the **Chairperson** of National Association of Software and Service Companies (**NASSCOM**) with immediate effect.

- Sindhu will succeed **Rajesh Nambiar**, who was appointed as the Chairperson of NASSCOM in September 2023.Rajesh Nambiar has been named as the President Designate for NASSCOM.
- Sindhu Gangadharan was the **first woman** to lead SAP Labs India and will still continue to hold her position as the Head of Customer Innovation Services in the company.

25. Who has been recently (in August '24) elected unopposed as the next Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) with effect from 1st December 2024?

- 1) Shashank Manohar
- 2) Jay Shah
- 3) N Srinivasan
- 4) Roger Binny
- 5) Sourav Ganguly

Answer- **2) Jay Shah**

Explanation:

Jay Shah, Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), has been elected unopposed as the next **Chairman** of the International Cricket Council (**ICC**) with effect from 1st December 2024. At **35**, Shah has become the **youngest-ever chairman** in the history of the ICC.

- He will **succeed** incumbent chairman **Greg Barclay** of New Zealand, who decided not to seek a 3rd consecutive 2-year term after the conclusion of his tenure in November 2024.

- Shah will leave his current position as BCCI secretary, during the Board's Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held at the end of September 2024 or in October 2024.
- He became the **5th Indian** to assume a role at the ICC and **3rd Indian** to assume the role of ICC Chair.

26. Who has been recently (in August 2024) appointed as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Railway Board?

- 1) Subhransu Sekhar Acharya
- 2) B.N. Gangadhar
- 3) Vijaya Bharathi Sayani
- 4) Jaya Varma Sinha
- 5) Satish Kumar

Answer- **5) Satish Kumar**

Explanation:

On August 27 2024, The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of **Satish Kumar**, Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS) officer, as the **Chairman** and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of the **Indian Railway Board (IRB)** under the Ministry of Railways (MoR). Kumar is the **first person** from the Scheduled Castes(SC) or Dalit community to hold this position in the IRB history.

- Satish assumes charge with effect from **September 1 2024**, till the date of his superannuation and his re-employment on contract basis, from January 1 till August 31, 2025, on usual terms and conditions, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- He succeeds **Jaya Varma Sinha**, who is set to superannuate on August 31 2024. He will join the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) as an administrative member after her retirement.

27. Who has been recently (in August '24) appointed as the Chairman of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) as an Additional Charge?

- 1) Rajendra Prasad Goyal
- 2) Ravi Agrawal
- 3) Satish Kumar Vaduguri
- 4) Satyanarayan Goel
- 5) Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

Answer- **3) Satish Kumar Vaduguri**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (**MoPNG**), Government of India (**GoI**) assigned **Satish Kumar Vaduguri** with the **Additional Charge** of **Chairman** of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (**IOCL**). He will replace **Shrikant Madhav Vaidya**, the incumbent Chairman, who is set to retire on 31 August 2024.

- The MoPNG also appointed **Rajneesh Narang** with the **Additional Charge** of Chairman and Managing Director (**CMD**) of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (**HPCL**). He will **replace** the incumbent CMD **Pushp Kumar Joshi**, who is scheduled to retire on 31 August 2024.
- Both have been given the additional charge for 3 months with effect from **1 September 2024** or till the appointment of a regular incumbent to the post or until further orders, whichever is earliest.

- Satish Kumar Vaduguri is currently serving as the Director (Marketing) of the IOCL.
- Rajneesh Narang is currently serving as the Director (Finance) of the HPCL.

28. Who has been recently (in August '24) appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Shriram Capital Private Limited(SCPL)?

- 1) Atul Mehra
- 2) Hitesh Kumar Sethia
- 3) Sameer Bansal
- 4) Subhasri Sriram
- 5) Mallika Nadda

Answer- **4) Subhasri Sriram**

Explanation:

Subhasri Sriram has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (**MD & CEO**) of **Shriram Capital Private Limited(SCPL)** with effect from **September 1 2024**.

- Currently, Subhasri is serving as the Joint MD in Shriram Capital Private Limited.
- She joined Shriram Group in 1991 and played a key role in its growth and expansion of the company, and also held positions like Executive Director (ED) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Shriram City Union Finance (now Shriram Finance).

29. Who has been recently (in August 2024) appointed as the New Director General (DG) of the National Security Guard (NSG)?

- 1) Sanjiv Puri
- 2) Kamal Kishore Soan
- 3) B. Srinivasan
- 4) Soumya Swaminathan
- 5) Nalin Prabhat

Answer- **3) B. Srinivasan**

Explanation:

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**), chaired by the Prime Minister(PM) of India Narendra Modi, has approved the appointment of **B Srinivasan** as the Director General (**DG**) of the National Security Guard (**NSG**) with effect from his date of joining the post until his superannuation on 31 August 2027, or until further orders.

B Srinivasan, a 1992 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Bihar cadre, is currently serving as the Director of Bihar Police Academy, Rajgir, Bihar.

He will succeed the **Anish Dayal Singh**, who has been serving as DG (additional charge) of NSG since 15th August 2024.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1. With which organisation did the Ministry of Defence recently (in July '24) sign a MoU to facilitate capital market access to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)?

- 1) Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)
- 2) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- 3) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- 4) National Stock Exchange (NSE)
- 5) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

Answer- 4) National Stock Exchange (NSE)

Explanation:

On 29th July 2024, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), under the chairmanship of Union Minister **Rajnath Singh**, Ministry of Defence (MoD), Government of India (GoI) has approved various **capital acquisition proposals** to enhance the capabilities of the Indian Army(IA) and the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

i.The DAC has accorded Acceptance of Necessity (**AoN**) for the procurement of the Advanced Land Navigation System (ALNS) for Armoured Fighting Vehicles (**AFVs**) for Indian Army and **22 Interceptor Boats** for Indian Coast Guard (**ICG**).

ii.The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) under the chairmanship of Rajnath Singh has reviewed and approved the amendments to the deal for **31 MQ-9B**, High Altitude Long Endurance (**HALE**) Unmanned Vehicles (**UAVs**) from General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (**GA-ASI**) of the United States of America (**USA**).

iii.The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with National Stock Exchange (**NSE**) to facilitate capital market access to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). [Click here to read more](#)

2. With which organisation did the Innovations for Defence Excellence-Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO) recently (in July '24) sign a MoU for the launch of Medical Innovations and Research Advancement (MIRA)?

- 1) Defence Research and Development Organisation
- 2) National Medical Commission
- 3) Atal Innovation Mission
- 4) Central Armed Police Forces Institute of Medical Sciences
- 5) Armed Forces Medical Services

Answer- 5) Armed Forces Medical Services

Explanation:

On July 30, 2024, The Innovations for Defence Excellence-Defence Innovation Organisation (**iDEX-DIO**), the flagship initiative of Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Armed Forces Medical Services (**AFMS**) for the launch of Medical Innovations and Research Advancement (**MIRA**).

- The MoU aims to promote innovation and research in developing novel medical technologies and their integration into the Armed Forces.
- The initiative will be driven forward by the launch of the Defence India Start-up Challenge (**DISC**) edition **MIRA**, addressing the critical medical challenges faced by the Armed Forces.
- iDEX was established by the DIO under the Department of Defence Production (DDP), launched in 2018 with an objective to provide the platform of co-creation and co-development in the defence sector.

3. With which state, did the Ministry of Defence signed a MoU to establish three advanced testing facilities for Mechanical & Material (M&M), Communications , and Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)under the Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS)?

- 1) Maharashtra
- 2) Uttar Pradesh
- 3) Gujarat

4) Madhya Pradesh

5) Rajasthan

Answer- **2) Uttar Pradesh**

Explanation:

On 30th July 2024, the Ministry of Defence (**MoD**), Government of India (GoI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (**UPEIDA**) under the Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (**DTIS**) in New Delhi, Delhi, to establish **3** state-of-the-art testing facilities in Uttar Pradesh (UP).

- These facilities will be established in the domains of Unmanned Aerial System (**UAS**), Mechanical & Material (**M&M**) and Communications under the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (**UPDIC**).
- So far, GoI has approved **7** testing facilities i.e. 4 in Tamil Nadu (**TN**) and 3 in Uttar Pradesh (**UP**).
- The DTIS was launched by the Union Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh in May 2020, with total budget outlay of **Rs 400 crore**.

4. With which country did India recently (in July '24) sign the Technology Security Initiative (TSI) to boost economic growth and strengthen the collaboration between the two countries?

1) United Kingdom

2) France

3) Brazil

4) United States of America

5) Sweden

Answer- **1) United Kingdom**

Explanation:

David Lammy MP, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, the **United Kingdom (UK)** paid an official visit to India from 24th to 25th July 2024 at the invitation of Union Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar**, Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**), Government of India (GoI). India and the UK launched a new Technology Security Initiative (**TSI**) which aims to boost economic growth and strengthen the collaboration between two countries. The initiative was spearheaded and agreed by the National Security Advisors (**NSAs**) of India and the UK.

- The TSI will be based on the ambitious cooperation agenda set out in India-UK Roadmap 2030.
- The TSI will help to expand collaboration between two countries in Critical and Emerging Technologies (**CET**) across priority sectors such as: telecom, critical minerals, semiconductors, Artificial Intelligence (AI), quantum, biotech and advanced materials.
- Apart from the launch of TSI, a [Fact Sheet](#) was also launched which focus mainly on specific technologies and areas of cooperation.

5. In July 2024, the Ministry of Ayush and the World Health Organisation (WHO) signed a _____ donor agreement to support the operations of the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC) at Jamnagar, Gujarat.

1) USD 200 million

2) USD 50 million

3) USD 170 million

- 4) USD 85 million
- 5) USD 125 million

Answer- **4) USD 85 million**

Explanation:

On July 31 2024, The **Ministry of Ayush** (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homoeopathy), Government of India (GoI) and the **World Health Organization** (WHO) have signed a **donor agreement** during an event in Geneva, Switzerland.

- i. This donor agreement is part of a **USD250 million investment from India** in support of the establishment of the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (**GTMC**) in 2022
- ii. Under this agreement, **India** will donate **USD 85 million** over a period of 10 years (2022-2032) to support the operations of the WHO GTMC at Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- iii. The GTMC was officially established on **March 25, 2022** with the signing of a Host Country Agreement, making it the first and only global out-posted centre for traditional medicine

6. Which Indian firm has recently (in July '24) signed a MoU with France-based aerospace leader Thales to advance the growth and innovation in India's drone ecosystem?

- 1) BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited
- 2) Garuda Aerospace Private Limited
- 3) Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace Technologies Private Limited
- 4) Ikran Aerospace and Technologies Private Limited
- 5) Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited

Answer- **2) Garuda Aerospace Private Limited**

Explanation:

Thales, a global aerospace leader headquartered in Paris, France, and **Garuda Aerospace Private Limited**, India's leading Drone technology start-up, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to advance the growth and innovation in India's drone ecosystem.

- This collaboration aims to foster innovation and advance technological solutions for safe, secure drone operations and applications.
- The MoU which comes into effect in August 2024, aims to provide a platform for a strategic collaboration to develop the drone ecosystem in India.
- The collaboration aligns with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) vision, aiming to make India a global hub for drones by 2030.

7. Which country has recently (in August '24) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India to enhance cooperation in the sports field?

- 1) Zimbabwe
- 2) Timor-Leste
- 3) Tunisia
- 4) Saint Kitts and Nevis
- 5) Trinidad and Tobago

Answer- **4) Saint Kitts and Nevis**

Explanation:

On August 5 2024, the Union Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya**, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) of the Government of India (GoI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with

the **Denzil Llewellyn Douglas**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saint Kitts and Nevis(SKN) in New Delhi(Delhi) to enhance cooperation in various **sport matters**.

- The MoU was signed during Denzil Douglas's official visit to India from August 4th to 9th, 2024.
- **Aim:** To improve both countries' sporting capacities by promoting a collaborative approach to sports development, sharing expertise, and mutual growth among athletic disciplines.

8. Which educational institution has recently (in August '24) signed a MoU with Global Education Outreach Mauritius for educational collaboration during the India-Mauritius Trade Conference 2024 held in Port Louis, Mauritius?

- 1) Aditya Group of Institutions
- 2) Bharath Group of Institutions
- 3) Surya Group of Institutions
- 4) Gandhi Group of Institutions
- 5) Nehru Group of Institutions

Answer- **5) Nehru Group of Institutions**

Explanation:

Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)-based **Nehru Group of Institutions** and **Global Education Outreach Mauritius** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) for educational collaboration during the India-Mauritius Trade Conference 2024 held in Port Louis, Mauritius.

- The MoU strengthen the commitment of the Nehru group to exchange of Technology in Education concerning Education 4.0.
- The India-Mauritius Trade Conference 2024 was organised by the Indian Economic Trade Organization in association with the India Africa Trade Council (IETC).
- The **motto** of the 2024 conference was "Promoting Investment and Growth in partnership with the Mauritius business houses".

9. Which institute has been recently (in July '24) granted Special Consultative Status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC)?

- 1) Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi
- 2) Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Tamil Nadu
- 3) Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- 4) Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Odisha
- 5) Jadavpur University, West Bengal

Answer- **4) Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Odisha**

Explanation:

Bhubaneswar, Odisha-based Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (**KIIT**) Deemed to be a University (**DU**) has been granted **Special Consultative Status** by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (**UN ECOSOC**). This acknowledgment highlights KIIT's dedication to the Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**), and UN's **Agenda 2030**.

- This acknowledgement was made during the UN ECOSOC Management Segment Meeting held on July 23, 2024, at the UN Headquarters in **New York**, the United States of America (USA).
- This status allows engagement with ECOSOC, its subsidiary bodies, UN human rights mechanisms, small arms processes, and special events by the General Assembly President.

- KIIT has signed a **MoU** with UN Volunteers (**UNV**), offering students opportunities to work with various UN agencies.
- Under this, students from KIIT DU can serve as '**National University UN Volunteers**' in numerous development initiatives within UN agencies.

10. Name the CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) scientist who has been recently (in July '24) inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC) in London, the United Kingdom (UK).

- 1) Shrinivas Ramchandra Kulkarni
- 2) Sundergopal Sridhar
- 3) Alok Shukla
- 4) Gagandeep Kang
- 5) Srivari Chandrasekhar

Answer- **2) Sundergopal Sridhar**

Explanation:

Hyderabad (Telangana)-based Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (**CSIR**)-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (**IICT**) chief scientist and engineer **Dr. Sundergopal Sridhar** has been inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (**FRSC**) in London, the United Kingdom (**UK**).

- He is recognized for his exceptional work or research in the area of membrane technology.
- His notable innovations include: a affordable system to produce medical-grade ultrapure water which is used in the dialysis of **over 2 lakh** patients suffering from chronic kidney diseases.

11. Which organisation has recently (in July '24) awarded the GEEF Global WaterTech Award under the category 'Water Department of the Year' at the Global Water Tech Summit 2024?

- 1) Jal Jeevan Mission
- 2) National Mission for Clean Ganga
- 3) Central Ground Water Board
- 4) National Institute of Hydrology
- 5) Central Water Commission

Answer- **5) Central Water Commission**

Explanation:

The Central Water Commission (**CWC**) has been awarded the **GEEF Global WaterTech Award** under the category '**Water Department of the Year**' at the **Global Water Tech Summit 2024**, organised by the Global Energy and Environment Foundation (GEEF) at New Delhi, Delhi.

- The award is given in recognition of the CWC's role in hydro-meteorological data collection, flood forecasting, reservoir storage and water quality monitoring, coastal area management, monitoring of water resources projects, and resolving inter-state water issues.
- The GEEF recognised CWC's interactions with the Water Resources (WR)/ Irrigation/ Jal Shakti Departments of all the States/ Union Territories (UT) to **enhance synergy** in the works being done by CWC.
- The GEEF Global WaterTech Awards are presented at the Global WaterTech Summit, the business conference for the water industry.

12. Which Indian airport has recently (in August '24) received the Pollution Control Waste Recycling Excellence Award by the Greentech Foundation?

- 1) Maharishi Valmiki International Airport
- 2) Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport
- 3) Thiruvananthapuram International Airport
- 4) Manohar International Airport
- 5) Indira Gandhi International Airport

Answer- 3) Thiruvananthapuram International Airport

Explanation:

Thiruvananthapuram International Airport Limited (**TIAL**) has received the prestigious '**Pollution Control Waste Management & Recycling (PCWR) Award 2024**' by **Greentech Foundation** in the field of waste management and processing.

- The airport authorities received the award during the **Greentech PCWR 2024 Summit, Awards and Expo** held in Guwahati, Assam.
- The award recognises the airports excellence in '**zero waste to landfill**' implementation undertaken by the TIAL.
- The airport processes **100% of plastic and solid waste**.

13. Which institute has been recently (in August '24) awarded with an Accreditation Certificate with a 'Utkrisht' 3-star rating?

- 1) Indian Institute of Mass Communication
- 2) National Institute for MSME
- 3) National Institute of Information Technology
- 4) Institute of Public Administration
- 5) National Institute of Mental Health

Answer-2) National Institute for MSME

Explanation:

The National Institute for MSME (**NI-MSME**) has been awarded with an **Accreditation Certificate** with a '**Utkrisht**' **3-star** rating on completion of National Standards for Civil Services Training Institutions (**NSCSTI**) process in recognition of excellent services in the field of promotion and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

- **Dr. Sunchu Glory Swarupa**, the Director General (DG) of NI-MSME has received the Accreditation Certificate from Union Minister of State (MoS – Independent Charge, IC) **Jitendra Singh**, Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T) during CSTI Convention at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi.
- It has received a 3-star rating following a comprehensive assessment by the Capacity Building Commission (CBC) and Integrity, Customer-First, Accountability, Respect and Excellence (ICARE).

14. Which airport has recently (in August '24) became the 1st Indian airport to achieve the status of "Net Zero Carbon Emission" (NZCE) (Level 5 certification) of the Airport Council International (ACI)?

- 1) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
- 2) Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi
- 3) Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhya

4) Manohar International Airport, Goa

5) Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi

Answer- **2) Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi**

Explanation:

i. Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (**IGIA**) became the **1st airport in India** to achieve the status of "**Net Zero Carbon Emission**" (NZCE) (**Level 5 certification**) under the Airport Carbon Accreditation (**ACA**) program of the Airport Council International (**ACI**).

ii. This certification recognises IGIA's commitment to reaching and maintaining a net zero carbon balance for emissions under its control (Scope 1 and 2), while also addressing all other emissions (Scope 3).

iii. Kempegowda International Airport (**KIA**) in Bengaluru, Karnataka, became the **1st airport in Asia** to receive the Airports Council International's (**ACI**) highest **Level 5 accreditation**.

iv. The ACA is the only institutionally endorsed, global carbon management certification program for airports. [Click here to read more](#)

15. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the 70th National Film Awards?

A) The Malayalam film Aattam (The Play) directed by Anand Ekarshi was awarded the Best Non-Feature Film.

B) "Kishore Kumar: The Ultimate Biography", the biography of Kishore Kumar, Indian playback singer and musician authored by Anirudha Bhattacharjee & Parthiv Dhar has been awarded the Best Book on Cinema.

C) Rishab Shetty won the award for Best Actor in Leading Role for his performance in the movie Kantara.

1) Only A & C

2) Only A & B

3) Only B & C

4) Only B

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

On 16th August 2024, the Jury panel of the **70th National Film Awards** announced the list of winners of the **National Award for the year 2022** at the event held at the National Media Centre, New Delhi, Delhi. The list of winners was presented to Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (**MIB**) in the presence of Vrunda Desai, Joint Secretary (Films), MIB.

i. The Malayalam film **Aattam** (The Play) directed by Anand Ekarshi was awarded the Best Feature Film award.

ii. The Hindi/Urdu film **Ayena** (Mirror) directed by Siddhant Sarin has bagged the award for Best Non-Feature Film.

iii. The Kannada film **Kantara** won the Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment.

iv. Tamil Film **Ponniyin Selvan: I** directed by Mani Ratnam won a total of 4 awards – Best Cinematography, Best Sound Design, Best Music Direction and Best Feature Film in Tamil.

v. **Rishab Shetty** won the award for **Best Actor in Leading Role** for his performance in the movie **Kantara**.

vi. **Nithya Menon** won the award for **Best Actress in a Leading Role** for her performance in the film **Thiruchitrambalam**.

16. Who has been recently (in August '24) awarded the National Geoscience Award 2023 for Lifetime Achievement?

- 1) Ashutosh Pandey
- 2) Brijesh Nambiar
- 3) Siddesh Sakore
- 4) Soumya Swaminathan
- 5) Dhiraj Mohan Banerjee

Answer- **5) Dhiraj Mohan Banerjee**

Explanation:

On August 20, 2024, the President of India **Droupadi Murmu** conferred the [National Geoscience Awards \(NGA\) for 2023](#) of the **Ministry of Mines** on 21 Geoscientists during a ceremony organized at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.

- A total of **12 awards to 21 Geoscientists**, including academicians and professionals from across the country, were honoured under **three categories**: National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement, National Geoscience Award, and National Young Geoscientist Award.
- National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement was bestowed upon **Prof. Dhiraj Mohan Banerjee**, an Emeritus Scientist at the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi (Delhi) for his pioneering research on phosphorites, isotope geology, and organic geochemistry of Precambrian sedimentary rocks in India.
- National Young Geoscientist Award was awarded to Dr. Ashutosh Pandey, Assistant Professor at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. [Click here to read more](#)

17. Who has been recently (in August 2024) honoured as the 'Ambassador of Indian Arts and Culture' during the 15th edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM 2024) held in Melbourne, Australia?

- 1) Shah Rukh Khan
- 2) Ram Charan
- 3) Anasuya Sengupta
- 4) Sudarsan Pattnaik
- 5) Amitabh Bachchan

Answer- **2) Ram Charan**

Explanation:

Indian actor Konidela Ram Charan Tej, who works predominantly in Telugu cinema, was honoured with the prestigious title of "**Ambassador of Indian Arts and Culture**" during the 15th edition of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (**IFFM 2024**) held at the Palais Theatre in St. Kilda, Melbourne (Australia).

I.IFFM 2024 was held from 15 to 25 August 2024 backed and presented by the Victorian Government in Australia.

ii.In addition to being the Guest of Honour, Ram Charan also hoisted the Indian national flag at Melbourne's iconic Federation Square during the IFFM 2024.

18. Who has been recently (in August '24) rated "A+" for the 2nd consecutive year in the 'Central Banker Report Cards 2024' by the Global Finance magazine?

- 1) Atul Kumar Goel
- 2) Dinesh Kumar Khara
- 3) Michael Patra
- 4) Shaktikanta Das
- 5) Shanti Lal Jain

Answer- 4) Shaktikanta Das

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor, **Shaktikanta Das** has been rated "A+" for 2nd consecutive year in the '[Central Banker Report Cards 2024](#)' by the United States of America (USA) based Global Finance magazine .

- Other than Shaktikanta Das, **Christian Kettel Thomson**, Royal Governor of the Bank of Denmark (Denmark) and **Thomas Jordan**, Chairperson of the Swiss National Bank (Switzerland) have been received the "A+" rating.
- The grades are based on an "A+" to "F" scale with A representing "excellent performance" and F representing "outright failure".
- The performance of the central bank governors are rated based on 4 criteria: controlling inflation, managing interest rates, promoting economic growth, and maintaining stability in the domestic currency's exchange rate.
- It is an annual report, published by the Global Finance magazine since **1994**.

19. Which bank has been recently (in August '24) honoured with Best Small Finance Bank (India) award at the 2nd ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards (2024)?

- 1) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited
- 2) Jana Small Finance Bank
- 3) AU Small Finance Bank
- 4) ESAF Small Finance Bank
- 5) Equitas Small Finance Bank

Answer- 2) Jana Small Finance Bank

Explanation:

Bengaluru (Karnataka) based **Jana Small Finance Bank (SFB) Limited** was honoured with **4 awards**: Best Small Finance Bank (India), Best Performance on Profitability (Runners-up), Best Performance on Asset Quality, and Best Performance on Risk Management, at the [2nd ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards \(2024\)](#), organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) on 22nd and 23rd August 2024 in New Delhi, Delhi.

- During the event, **Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited (J&K Bank)** has won the "Best Performance on Profitability" award in the category of **Private Sector Bank (Mid-Size)**.
- J&K Bank recorded its highest-ever net profit of Rs 1767 crore for the financial year 2024, thereby registering the record profit consecutively for the 2nd year.
- The 2024 conclave brought together regulators, banking professionals, etc. from across the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (**BIMSTEC**) region. [Click here to read more](#)

20. Which of the points is/are 'correct' with respect to the presentation of the 24th Handicrafts Export Awards to Indian handicraft exporters held in New Delhi, Delhi?

A) Veteran exporter, Muzafar Hussain from Jammu and Kashmir won the Lifetime Achievement Award.

B) Ajay Gupta's CL Gupta Exports Limited (Uttar Pradesh) received the Top All Handicrafts Award for both 2019-20 and 2020-21.

C) A total of 123 awards were conferred to 62 winners of 2019-20 and 61 winners of 2020-21, along with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

1) Only A & B

2) Only B & C

3) Only A & C

4) Only A

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

Union Minister Giriraj Singh, Ministry of Textiles (MoT), presented the **24th Handicrafts Export Awards** to Indian handicraft exporters during a ceremony organised by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (**EPCH**) at the Convention Hall – The Ashok Hotel, in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The ceremony recognised Indian handicraft exporters for their exceptional performance in **2019-20** and **2020-21** and they were felicitated with trophies and merit certificates in various categories.
- A total of **123** awards were conferred to **62** winners of **2019-20** and **61** winners of **2020-21**, along with a **Lifetime Achievement Award**.
- Ajay Gupta's **CL Gupta Exports Limited** (Uttar Pradesh) received the Top All Handicrafts Award for both **2019-20** and **2020-21**.
- Veteran exporter, **Muzafar Hussain** from **Jammu and Kashmir** won the **Lifetime Achievement Award**.

21. Who has topped the Hurun India Rich List 2024 with a net worth of Rs 1,161,800 Crore?

1) Mukesh Ambani

2) Shiv Nadar

3) Cyrus S Poonawalla

4) Gautam Adani

5) Dilip Shanghvi

Answer- **4) Gautam Adani**

Explanation:

The Hurun India Rich List 2024, the **13th** edition of Hurun India Rich List was released which is topped by **Gautam Adani**, Chairman of the Adani Group with a net worth of **Rs 1,161,800 Crore** (Cr), a 95% increase in wealth.

- **Mukesh Ambani**, Chairman of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) at 2nd with **Rs 1,014,700 Cr** and **Shiv Nadar & Family** of HCL Technologies ranked 3rd with a wealth of **Rs 314,000 crore**.
- **Radha Vembu** of **Zoho** is the **wealthiest self-made woman** with Rs 47,500 crore.
- **Mumbai** (Maharashtra), the billionaire capital of Asia, has topped the the list as the preferred city among the billionaires in India. [Click here to read more](#)

Top 5 in the Hurun India Rich List 2024:

Rank	Individual	Company	Wealth Estimate (Rs)
1	Gautam Adani	Adani Group	1,161,800 Cr
2	Mukesh Ambani	RIL	1,014,700 Cr
3	Shiv Nadar & Family	HCL Technologies	314,000 Cr
4	Cyrus S Poonawalla & Family	Serum Institute of India	2,89,800 Cr
5	Dilip Shanghvi	Sun Pharmaceutical Industries	2,49,900 Cr

22. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the National Awards to Teachers (NAT) 2024 announced for the teachers in the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Polytechnic?

- A) The Department of Higher Education (DoHE) selected 16 teachers in the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Polytechnic for National Awards to Teachers (NAT) 2024.**
- B) The awardees will receive a silver medal and a certificate worth Rs 25,000.**
- C) The nominations for NAT, 2024 were invited online through the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal.**

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

Answer- 5) All A, B & C

Explanation:

The Department of Higher Education (**DoHE**), Ministry of Education (MoE) has selected **16 teachers** in the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Polytechnic for National Awards to Teachers (**NAT**) **2024**.

- The selected teachers will be felicitated by the President Draupadi Murmu on the occasion of **National Teachers' Day 2024** on September 5 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi.
- The awardees will receive a silver medal and a certificate worth **Rs 50,000**.
- The nominations for NAT, 2024 were invited online through the **Rashtriya Puraskar Portal**.

List of NAT 2024 Awardees:

Sl.No	Name of Awardee	Institution
1	Gandhimathi A	Thiagarajar Polytechnic College, Salem, Tamil Nadu (TN)
2	Parmar Ranjit Kumar Khimjibhai	Government Polytechnic Khadiya, Bilkha Road, Junagadh, Gujarat

3	Nidhi Jain	Indian Institute of Technology(IIT)Delhi, New Delhi
4	Smiline Girija	Saveetha Dental College and Hospitals, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMAT), Saveetha University, Chennai, TN
5	Birinchi Kumar Sarma	Department of Mycology and Plant Pathology, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University(BHU), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (UP)
6	Srinivas Hotha	Indian Institute of Science Education and Research(IISER) Pune, Maharashtra
7	S R Keshava	Department of Economics, Bangalore University, Bengaluru, Karnataka
8	Shilpa Gauri Prasad Ganpule	Pune District Education Association's Prof. Ramkrishna More Arts, Commerce and Science College, Pune, Maharashtra
9	Chayapuram Jaya Sankar Babu	Pondicherry University, Puducherry
10	Nilabh Tiwari	Central Sanskrit University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh (MP)
11	Vinay Sharma	Indian Institute of Technology(IIT) Roorkee, Uttarakhand
12	Nandavaram Mrudul	Government Degree College for Women, Hyderabad, Telangana
13	Shimi S L	Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh, Punjab
14	Kapil Ahuja	Indian Institute of Technology(IIT) Indore, MP
15	Anitha Suseelan	School of Architecture, Kengeri Campus, Bengaluru, Karnataka
16	Shahanaz Ayub	Bundelkhand Institute of Engineering and Technology(BIET), Jhansi, UP

23. Which of the following points is/are 'correct with respect to the Anubhav Awards presented by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW)?

A) DoPPW conferred the 5 Anubhav Awards and 10 Jury Certificates to the personnel from 9 different ministries in 7th Anubhav Awards ceremony.

B) The winners of Anubhav awards received a medal, certificate and an incentive of Rs 50,000.

C) An online platform "Anubhav" was launched in March 2015 for retiring and retired government employees to share their valuable experiences and suggestions.

- 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:

On 28th August 2024, V. Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (**DoPPW**) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (**MoPPG&P**) conferred the **5 Anubhav Awards** and **10 Jury Certificates** to the personnel from 9 different ministries in **7th Anubhav Awards** ceremony held in the Plenary Hall of Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi(Delhi).

i.Out of 15 awardees, 5(33%) are women, which is the highest ever in the history of 'Anubhav' awards since its inception in 2015.

ii.DoPPW organised the **55th Pre-Retirement Counselling (PRC) Workshop** for the benefit of Central Government employees, who are set to retire on 31st March 2025, was held in the Plenary Hall of Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi (Delhi).

iii.The winners of Anubhav awards received a medal, certificate and an incentive of **Rs 10,000**.

iv. An online platform "**Anubhav**" was launched in March 2015 for retiring and retired government employees to share their valuable experiences and suggestions.

SUMMITS, CONFERENCES

1. In Which city hosted the first STI (Science Technology & Innovation) Conclave on 'Traditional Knowledge for Sustainable Livelihoods' from 29th to 31st July 2024?

1) Bengaluru, Karnataka

2) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

3) Mumbai, Maharashtra

4) New Delhi, Delhi

5) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Answer- **4) New Delhi, Delhi**

Explanation:

The **first STI (Science Technology & Innovation) Conclave** on 'Traditional Knowledge for Sustainable Livelihoods' was held in **New Delhi, Delhi** from July 29-31, 2024. The event was inaugurated by **Dr. N. Kalaiselvi**, Director General (DG) of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

- It was organized by the International Science, Technology, and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation (**ISTIC**) under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**); and CSIR constituents, including the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library Unit (**CSIR-TKDL**), New Delhi(Delhi) and CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (**CSIR-IICT**) in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- **Aim** : To educate the youth on the importance and value of ancestral knowledge and practices.

2. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC) in New Delhi, Delhi in July 2024?

A) The 46th session of WHC inscribed 26 new World Heritage Sites viz. 19 cultural, 4 natural, and 1 mixed property and 2 Significant modifications to existing boundaries.

B) PM Narendra Modi announced a USD 10 million grant to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

C) The Government of India (GoI) and the Government of the USA signed the first ever 'Cultural Property Agreement' to prevent and curb the illicit trafficking of antiquities from India to the USA.

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

Answer- 2) Only A & C

Explanation:

The **46th session** of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) **World Heritage Committee** (WHC), hosted by **India** for the **first** time, was held at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi (India) from 21st to 31st July 2024.

i.The 46th session of WHC inscribed 26 new World Heritage Sites viz. 19 cultural, 4 natural, and 1 mixed property and 2 Significant modifications to existing boundaries.

ii.PM Narendra Modi announced a USD 1 million grant to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. This funding will support capacity building, technical assistance, and the conservation of world heritage sites.

iii.The Government of India (**GoI**) and the **Government of the USA** signed the **first** ever '**Cultural Property Agreement**' to prevent and curb the illicit trafficking of antiquities from India to the USA.

iv.Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurated the **Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site Museum** in New Delhi, Delhi. [click here to read more](#)

3. Which city has recently (in August '24) hosted the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE 2024)?

- 1) New Delhi, Delhi
- 2) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 3) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- 4) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- 5) Kolkata, West Bengal

Answer- 1) New Delhi, Delhi

Explanation:

On 3rd August 2024, **Narendra Modi**, Prime Minister(PM) of India inaugurated the **32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE 2024)** at the National Agricultural Science Centre (**NASC**) Complex in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The triennial conference is taking place in India after 65 years. The conference is set to culminate on **7th August 2024**.
- The theme of **ICAE 2024** is "**Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems**".
- India previously hosted the conference in 1958 in Mysore (now Mysuru), Karnataka.

4. Which ministry organised the 28th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO) held in New Delhi, Delhi from 12th to 13th August 2024?

- 1) Ministry of Education
- 2) Ministry of Science and Technology
- 3) Ministry of Communication

4) Ministry of Defence

5) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

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

Explanation:

28th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (**COCSSO**), organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**), was held at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi, Delhi from 12th to 13th August 2024.

- The conference was inaugurated by Union Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge) Rao Inderjit Singh, MOSPI.
- The **theme** of discussion of the conference was **“Use of Data for Decision Making: Strengthening State Statistical Systems”**.
- **“[Women and Men in India, 2023](#)”**, the **25th issue** of the annual publication ‘Women and Men in India’ by MoSPI, was released during the conference. [Click here to read more](#)

5. In Which city, the Third Japan-India 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting was held?

1) Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

2) Hyderabad, Telangana

3) Mumbai, Maharashtra

4) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

5) New Delhi, Delhi

Answer- **5) New Delhi, Delhi**

Explanation:

On 20th August 2024, Union Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India; Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Minister of Defence (MoD) of India; and Kamikawa Yoko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and Kihara Minoru, Ministry of Defence of Japan held the **Third Japan-India 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting** was held in **New Delhi**, Delhi.

i.The dialogue emphasised the importance of a free, open, and rules-based **Indo-Pacific region**, with both countries confirming their commitment to strengthening their partnership.

ii.The meeting further deepens the defence cooperation and brings greater depth to the **‘Special Strategic and Global Partnership (SGSP)’** between India and Japan.

6. Which department has recently (in August ‘24) organised the conference on ‘Experience Sharing and Capacity Building in Disaster Management’ in collaboration with the National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation, and Training (NTIPRIT) and License Service Areas (LSA)?

1) Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

2) Department of Telecommunications

3) Department of Health and Family Welfare

4) Department of Revenue

5) Department of Rural Development

Answer- **2) Department of Telecommunications**

Explanation:

The Disaster Management (DM) Division of the Department of Telecommunications (**DoT**), Ministry of Communications (MoC), in collaboration with the National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation, and Training (**NTIPRIT**) and License Service Areas (**LSA**), **Delhi** organised the conference on **‘Experience Sharing and Capacity Building in Disaster Management’**, at enhancing disaster preparedness and resilience in India.

It was jointly inaugurated by **Madhu Arora**, Member (Technology) , DoT, and **Rajendra Ratnoo**, Executive Director (ED) of the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM). The session on '**Preparedness Measures in Disaster Handling**', which was chaired by Rajendra Ratnoo, focused on strategies and best practices for boosting preparedness at the local and national levels.

The session on 'Information and Communication Technology (**ICT**) in Disaster Management' was chaired by Amit Prothi, DG of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (**CDRI**).

COMMITTEE AND MEETING

1. In July 2024, India was elected as vice-chair of the _____ of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).

- 1) Economic Advisory Panel
- 2) Clean Economy Investor Forum
- 3) Supply Chain Council
- 4) Economic and Social Council
- 5) Trade Advisory Panel

Answer- **3) Supply Chain Council(SCC)**

Explanation:

India has been elected as **vice-chair** of the **Supply Chain Council(SCC)**, one of the three supply chain bodies set up by the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (**IPEF**) partners pursuant to the **Supply Chain Resilience Agreement**.

- The United States of America (**USA**) was elected as the **Chair of SCC**.
- SCC was established to pursue targeted, action-oriented work to strengthen the supply chains for those sectors and goods most critical to national security, public health, and economic well-being.
- The chair and vice chair of the SCC were elected during the **inaugural virtual meetings** of the **3 supply chain bodies: SCC**; the Crisis Response Network (**CRN**); and Labor Rights Advisory Board (**LRAB**) held on 30th July 2024.[Click here to read more](#)

2. In August 2024, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) constituted a 5-member committee headed by _____ to monitor the current situation on the Indo-Bangladesh Border (IBB).

- 1) Sunil Mehta
- 2) Biswanath Goldar
- 3) Ravi Gandhi
- 4) Usha Thorat
- 5) Rajiv Gauba

Answer- **3) Ravi Gandhi**

Explanation:

On 9th August 2024, the Ministry of Home Affairs (**MoHA**) has constituted 5-member committee headed by **Ravi Gandhi**, Additional Director General (ADG), Border Security Force (BSF) and Eastern Command of the Indian Army(IA) to **monitor the current situation** on Indo-Bangladesh Border (**IBB**).

- The committee is entrusted with responsibility to maintain communication channels with their respective counterpart authorities in Bangladesh to ensure the safety and security of Indian nationals, hindus and other minority communities living in the strife-torn country.
- The committee is formed after the several reports of hindu community and its temples were targeted ever since **Sheikh Hasina stepped down** from the post of Bangladesh Prime Minister **(PM)** and escaped to India (on 5th August, 2024) and violence erupted across Bangladesh.

3. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the recently constituted six new Parliamentary Committees for 2024-25 by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla?

A) The Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) will be chaired by Ganesh Singh, a BJP MP from Satna, Madhya Pradesh(MP).

B) The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will be chaired by K.C. Venugopal, a Member of Parliament (MP), Rajasthan.

C) The Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) will be chaired by Baijyant Panda, BJP Lok Sabha MP from Mandla, Madhya Pradesh(MP).

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

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

Explanation:

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla constituted **6 new Parliamentary Committees** for 2024-25, including the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Committee on Estimates(CoE) , Committee on Public Undertakings(CoPU) and committees focused on the welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

- All the committees formed in the 18th Lok Sabha have a tenure of 1 year and have members from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
- The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will be chaired by **K.C. Venugopal**, a senior Indian National Congress (INC) leader and a Member of Parliament (MP), Rajasthan.
- The PAC is crucial for monitoring government expenditures and reviewing Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports.
- The Committee on Public Undertakings will be chaired by **Baijyant Panda**, a BJP Lok Sabha MP from Kendrapara, Odisha.
- The Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) will be chaired by **Ganesh Singh**, a BJP MP from Satna, Madhya Pradesh(MP).
- The Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) will be chaired by **Dr Faggan Singh Kulaste**, BJP Lok Sabha MP from Mandla, MP.

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1. Name the highest-ranked (86th) Indian firm on the Fortune Global 500 list for 2024.

- 1) Life Insurance Corporation of India
- 2) State Bank of India
- 3) Reliance Industries Limited
- 4) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
- 5) Indian Oil Corporation Limited

Answer- **3) Reliance Industries Limited**

Explanation:

According to the **Fortune Global 500 list for 2024**, India's Reliance Industries Limited (**RIL**), led by Mukesh Ambani, has improved its ranking to 86th (2024) from 88th (2023) while retaining its position as the **highest-ranked Indian firm** for the 21st consecutive year.

i. The United States of America (USA)-based retail and wholesale company, Walmart Inc. has topped the list as the largest company by revenue for the 11th consecutive year. Walmart's consolidated revenue stood at USD 648.1 billion.

ii. USA based e-commerce company, **Amazon.com, Inc** and Chinese state-owned electric utility, **State Grid Corporation of China** have secured the 2nd and 3rd positions respectively. [Click here to read more](#)

2. Which organization has recently (in August '24) released the World Development Report (WDR) 2024, highlighting that India would take approximately 75 years to reach one-quarter of the United States' income per capita?

- 1) United Nations Development Programme
- 2) World Economic Forum
- 3) World Trade Organization
- 4) World Bank
- 5) International Monetary Fund

Answer- **4) World Bank**

Explanation:

The World Bank (WB) has released its report titled '[World Development Report\(WDR\) 2024: The Middle Income Trap](#)', highlighting the challenges faced by middle-income countries in achieving high-income status.

- As per the report, **India** would take nearly **75 years** to reach one-quarter of the United States of America(**USA**) **income per capita**, while China would take more than 10 years, and Indonesia nearly 70 years.
- At the end of 2023, there are **108 middle-income countries** with annual GDP per capita between USD 1,136 and USD 13,845, responsible for 40% of the world's total economic output, nearly two-thirds of global carbon emissions, and three-quarters of the global population.
- These countries are home to **6 billion people** – 75% of the global population – and 2 out of every three people living in extreme poverty.

3. According to the World Trade Organization's (WTO) report titled "World Trade Statistical Review 2023," India was ranked ____ in global agriculture exports in 2023, with an export value of USD 51 billion.

- 1) 2nd
- 2) 8th
- 3) 10th
- 4) 6th
- 5) 4th

Answer-2) 8th

Explanation:

According to the World Trade Organization(WTO)'s report titled "[World Trade Statistical Review 2023](#)", India has retained its position as the world's 8th largest exporter of agricultural products in 2023, despite a decline in its export from USD 55 billion in 2022 to USD 51 billion in 2023.

- The European Union(EU) ranked 1st with export value of USD 836 billion followed by the United States of America (USA) at 2nd (198 billion) and Brazil at 3rd (USD 157 billion).
- It is a new interactive tool which presents the key data and trends for international merchandise and commercial services trade in 2023.
- Top 10 Exporters of Agricultural Products includes China (USD 95 billion); Canada (USD 88 billion); Indonesia (USD 59 billion); Thailand (USD 53 billion); India (USD 51 billion); Mexico (USD 50 billion) and Australia (USD 50 billion).

4. Which organisation released the 'Global Employment Trends (GET) for Youth 2024' report, highlighting that the Global Youth Unemployment Rate (YUR) in 2023 decreased to 13%, representing a 15-year low?

- 1) Employees' Provident Fund Organisation
- 2) United Nations Development Programme
- 3) Reserve Bank of India
- 4) World Bank
- 5) International Labour Organisation

Answer- 5) International Labour Organisation

Explanation:

According to International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s report titled "[Global Employment Trends \(GET\) for Youth 2024: Decent work, brighter futures](#)", Global Youth Unemployment Rate (YUR) in 2023 decreased to 13% which represents a 15-year low and a fall from the pre-pandemic rate of 13.8% in 2019.

- Globally, a total 64.9 million young people were unemployed in 2023, the lowest since the start of the millennium.
- The global YUR is expected to further decrease to 12.8% in 2024 and 2025.
- The 2024 report marks the 12th edition of the GET for Youth report which was first issued in 2004. This also marks the 20th anniversary of the publication of GET for Youth.[Click here to read more](#)

5. Which institution was ranked first in the overall category according to the 9th edition of India Rankings (2024) based on the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)?

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

Answer- **2) IIT Madras**

Explanation:

Union Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan**, Ministry of Education(MoE) has released the [9th edition of India Rankings \(2024\)](#) based on the parameters identified and defined in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

i.According to the India Rankings 2024, **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras**, Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN) bagged the top spot as the best educational institution in the country overall category for the **6th** consecutive time.It is followed by **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**, Karnataka at the 2nd spot and **IIT Bombay**, Mumbai, Maharashtra at the 3rd spot respectively.

ii.For the year 2024, the framework provides a comprehensive “Overall” rank, alongside distinct rankings in the categories of Universities, Research Institutions, Degree Colleges, Innovation, and discipline-specific rankings in Engineering, Management, Pharmacy, Law, Medical, Dental, Architecture & Planning, and Agriculture & Allied Sectors.[Click here to read more](#)

6. Which organisation's recent(August '24) report stated that India lost 33.9 million hectares (ha) of crops due to excess rains and an additional 35 million ha due to drought during 2015 to 2021?

- 1) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- 2) United Nations Environment Programme
- 3) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- 4) World Economic Forum
- 5) Food and Agriculture Organisation

Answer- **4) World Economic Forum**

Explanation:

According to the World Economic Forum (**WEF**), **India lost 33.9 million hectares (ha) of crops** due to excess rains and an additional 35 million ha due to drought during **2015 to 2021**.

i.India has seen unparalleled growth and development in recent decades, but this growth is expected to hinder due to increased exposure to climate extremities including heat waves, floods and earthquakes.

ii.The report highlighted that extreme climate events in India has impacted every aspect of its economy and society, but is more pronounced in particularly exposed sectors such as: **agriculture**, which comprises 15% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employs 40% of its population, of which 70% are rural households.

iii.Several Indian sectors including, agriculture suffered economic losses of nearly **USD 160 billion** in 2021 due to lost working hours from extreme climate impacts.

7. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Quarterly Bulletin released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the Unemployment Rate (UR) in urban areas among persons aged 15 years and above was ____ (%) in April-June quarter of FY25.

- 1) 6.2%
- 2) 6.0%
- 3) 6.8%
- 4) 6.6%
- 5) 6.4%

Answer- **4) 6.6%**

Explanation:

According to the [Periodic Labour Force Survey \(PLFS\) Quarterly Bulletin \(April – June 2024\)](#), released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI), the Unemployment Rate (UR) in urban areas among persons aged 15 years and above decreased to **6.6%** in **April-June** quarter of **FY25** (1st quarter of 2024-2025), from 6.7% in January-March quarter of FY24.

- UR among **males** aged **15 years** and above decreased to **5.8%** in April – June, 2024 from 6.1% during January – March, 2024.
- UR among **females** aged 15 years and above **increased** to **9%** in April – June, 2024 from 8.5% in January – March 2024.
- The UR in CWS among the urban youth aged 15-29, also declined to 16.8% in the 1st quarter of FY25 from 17% in the January to March, 2024 period. [Click here to read more](#)

8. Which Indian company is ranked 70th in the Forbes Cloud 100 2024 List?

- 1) TerraPay
- 2) PhonePe
- 3) Paytm
- 4) Razorpay
- 5) Google Pay

Answer- **4) Razorpay**

Explanation:

Razorpay Software Private Limited (RSPL), a Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based Payments software company ranked **70th** (last year Razorpay ranked 49th) on the [Forbes Cloud 100 2024 List](#), the **9th** annual ranking of the **world's top private cloud computing companies**. This marks Razorpay's 3rd consecutive appearance on the list, acknowledging its innovation and leadership in cloud technology.

- Razorpay is the **only Indian company** featured on the list, with nearly 3,300 employees, and has raised close to **USD 742 million** in funding.
- San Francisco, California, the United States of America (USA)-based **OpenAI** and **Databricks, Inc.** ranked **1st** and **2nd** respectively followed by the dual-headquartered Financial Infrastructure company, **Stripe, Inc.** in San Francisco, California (USA), and Dublin (Ireland) at 3rd place in the list. [Click here to read more](#)

9. Which family was ranked 1st in the Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses list in 2024?

- 1) Bajaj Family
- 2) Birla Family

- 3) Ambani Family
- 4) Jindal Family
- 5) Nadar Family

Answer- **3) Ambani Family**

Explanation:

According to [2024 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses](#), **Ambani Family** headed by Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), is **ranked 1st** with a value of Rs 2,575,100 Crore.

- **Bajaj family** led by Niraj Bajaj, Directors of the Bajaj Group, ranks **2nd** with a value of Rs 712,700 crore and **Birla family**, led by Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairperson of the Aditya Birla Group, ranks **3rd** with a value of Rs 538,500 crore.
- **Roshni Nadar Malhotra**, representing the Nadar family, is **India's most influential woman leading a family-owned business**. The Nadar family is ranked **5th** with a value of Rs 430,600 crore.
- This is the inaugural edition of the report compiled by the Hurun Research Institute to celebrate and recognize India's foremost family-run enterprises. [Click here to read more](#)

10. Which organisation has recently (in August '24) released an annual report stating that India's overall tele-density increased from 84.51% at the end of March 2023 to 85.69% at the end of March 2024?

- 1) Telecommunications Industry Association
- 2) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- 3) Centre for Development of Telematics
- 4) Tata Communications Limited
- 5) Cellular Operators Association of India

Answer- **2) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**

Explanation:

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (**TRAI**)'s annual report for the Financial Year 2023-24 (FY24) revealed that the teledensity of India grew from 84.51% in March 2023 to **85.69%** in March 2024, marking a 1.39% annual growth.

- The report is backed by data from service providers and the Ministry of Telecommunications.
- **Internet Subscribers:** Increased from 88.1 crore in March 2023 to **95.4 crore** by March 2024, a growth of 8.30%, adding 7.3 crore subscribers.
- **Broadband Subscribers:** Grew from 84.6 crore March 2023 to **92.4 crore** in March 2024, marking a 9.15% growth and adding 7.8 crore subscribers.
- **Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR):** Increased from Rs 2,49,908 crore in FY23 to Rs 2,70,504 crore in FY24, showing an 8.24% growth.

11. According to Brand Finance's Food and Drink 2024 report, _____ has emerged as the world's strongest food and dairy brand with an AAA+ rating.

- 1) Parle
- 2) Nestlé
- 3) Lay's
- 4) AMUL

5) Coca-Cola

Answer- **4) AMUL**

Explanation:

According to the [Brand Finance's Food & Drink 2024 report](#), Anand Milk Union Limited (**AMUL**) has emerged as the **world's strongest food and dairy brand** with an **AAA+** rating for the 4th consecutive year. The brand value of AMUL has increased by **11%** to **USD 3.3 billion**, with a Brand Strength Index (**BSI**) score of 91 out of 100.

- AMUL has improved its ranking from **29th** position (2023) to **22nd** (2024) position on the list of world's most valuable and strongest food brands.
- **Switzerland's Nestlé** emerged as the world's most valuable food brand, valued at **USD 20.8 billion**, despite a 7% decline compared to 2023, followed by the United States of America (USA)-based **Lay's** and **China's Yili** at the **2nd** and **3rd** position respectively.
- As per the Brand Finance Food & Drink 2024 report, **Coca-Cola** has retained its title as the world's most valuable and strongest non-alcoholic drinks brand, with brand value increased by 5% to USD 35 billion.
- **Yili** has retained the title of the world's **most valuable dairy brand** for the **5th** consecutive year. [Click here to read more](#)

12. Which Indian city ranked 2nd in annual price rise of prime residential properties during the 2nd Quarter of 2024 Calendar Year(CY24), according to the "Prime Global Cities Index (PGCI) Q2 2024" by Knight Frank?

- 1) New Delhi
- 2) Mumbai
- 3) Bengaluru
- 4) Chennai
- 5) Kolkata

Answer- **2) Mumbai**

Explanation:

According to the ["Prime Global Cities Index \(PGCI\) Q2 2024"](#) published by an international property consultant **Knight Frank**, Mumbai (Maharashtra) and New Delhi (Delhi) have secured the **2nd** and **3rd** positions respectively, among **44 cities** globally in annual price rise of prime residential properties during the 2nd Quarter (Q2: April-June) of 2024 Calendar Year(CY24).

- As per the report, Mumbai, India's financial capital city saw a Year-on-Year (**Y-o-Y**) price rise of **13%** in prime residences, recorded the 2nd highest (Y-o-Y) growth in prime residential prices in Q2 2024, up from **6th** position in Q2 2023.
- New Delhi, Delhi placed 3rd with **10.6%** Y-o-Y increase in prime residential property prices. While, **Bengaluru** with Y-o-Y price growth of **3.7%**, has remained at 15th spot in Q2 2024.
- **Manila**, the capital city of Philippines has topped the Knight PGCI Q2 2024, with a **26%** annual increase during the June quarter. **Wellington**, New Zealand ranked last on the list. [Click here to read more](#)

ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

1. Which of the following points is/are correct with respect to the recent (in July '24) approvals by the Competition Commission of India (CCI)?

A) CCI has approved the proposed amalgamation of Mangalore Chemicals & Fertilizers (MCFL) with Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL).

B) CCI also approved the acquisition of MCFL's equity shares by Zuari Maroc Phosphates Private Limited (ZMPPL).

C) CCI approves the acquisition of 100% share capital of Viterra Limited by Bunge Global SA.

1) Only A & B

2) Only A & C

3) Only B & C

4) Only B

5) All A, B & C

Answer- 5) All A, B & C

Explanation:

i. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed **amalgamation** of Mangalore Chemicals & Fertilizers (MCFL) with Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) and the **acquisition** of MCFL's equity shares by Zuari Maroc Phosphates Private Limited (ZMPPL).

ii. The CCI approves the **acquisition** of **100% share** capital of Viterra Limited (Viterra) (Target) by Bunge Global SA (Bunge) (Acquirer). Viterra's 3 main shareholders are Glencore PLC (Glencore), Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPP Investments), and the British Columbia Investment Management Corporation (BCI).

2. In August 2024, Carlyle Group Inc., through its affiliate Quality Investment Holdings PCC, sold a 12.8% stake in _____ for Rs 2,578.09 crore through open market transactions.

1) L&T Finance Limited

2) Piramal Finance Limited

3) IIFL Finance Limited

4) Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited

5) PNB Housing Finance Limited

Answer- 5) PNB Housing Finance Limited

Explanation:

The United States of America (USA)-based global investment firm **Carlyle Group Inc.** through its affiliate **Quality Investment Holdings PCC**, sold a **3,32,60,000 shares**, amounting to 12.8% stake in the **PNB Housing Finance Limited**, a subsidiary of Punjab National Bank (PNB), for Rs 2,578.09 crore through open market transactions.

- The shares were disposed of in the price range of Rs 775.02-775.25 apiece.
- Following the stake sale, Carlyle group's stakeholding in PNB Housing Finance has declined to **19.88% from 32.68%**.

3. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the recent(in August '24) proposals approved by the Competition Commission of India (CCI)?

A) CCI has approved the acquisition by 360 ONE Private Equity Fund in Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited

B) CCI has approved the acquisition of 100% equity, management and control stake in PNC Infratech Limited and PNC Infra Holdings's 12 Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) by Highway Infrastructure Trust.

C) CCI approved the acquisition of 100% of the share capital of ATC Telecom Infrastructure Private Limited (ATC India) by Data Infrastructure Trust (DIT).

1) Only A & B

2) Only A & C

3) Only B & C

4) Only A

5) All A, B & C

Answer- 5) All A, B & C

Explanation:

On August 7, 2024, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the following proposals:

i.CCI approved the acquisition of 100% of the share capital of ATC Telecom Infrastructure Private Limited (ATC India) by Data Infrastructure Trust (DIT) and certain inter-connected transactions.

ii.CCI approved the restructuring of **Re Sustainability Limited (ReSL)** business, its subsidiaries, and joint ventures through demerger of the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Business and Waste to Energy (WTE) business (Demerged Businesses) to **Ramky Sustainability Solutions Private Limited (RSSPL)**, a newly incorporated entity.

iii.CCI has approved the acquisition of 100% equity, management and control stake in PNC Infratech Limited and PNC Infra Holdings's **12 Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)** by Highway Infrastructure Trust (Acquirer Trust).

iv.CCI has approved acquisition by 360 ONE Private Equity Fund in **Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited (VHFCL)**. The acquisition is a secondary purchase of equity shares in the VHFCL through various schemes and affiliates.

4. Which bank's wholly-owned subsidiaries, Sonata Finance Private Limited and BSS Microfinance Limited, have recently (in August 2024) approved a scheme of amalgamation at their respective board meetings?

1) Punjab National Bank

2) Axis Bank

3) Kotak Mahindra Bank

4) HDFC Bank

5) the State Bank of India

Answer- 3) Kotak Mahindra Bank

Explanation:

Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited(**KMBL**) has announced the **Amalgamation** of Sonata Finance Private Limited(**SFPL**),Lucknow(Uttar Pradesh, UP) and BSS Microfinance Limited(**BML**),Bengaluru(Karnataka), both its wholly owned subsidiaries.

- The Board of Directors (BoD) of both companies has approved a Scheme of Amalgamation under Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013.

- According to the merger scheme, BSS will issue and allot 1,931 shares of face value Rs 10 for every 10,000 shares of face value Rs 10 held by Sonata.

5. In August 2024, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the Acquisition of 60% shareholding in each of Invesco Asset Management (India) Private Limited and Invesco Trustee Private Limited by _____.

- 1) BAG Holdings Private Limited
- 2) International Finance Corporation
- 3) Piramal Alternatives Trust Fund
- 4) Shriram LI Holdings Private Limited
- 5) IndusInd International Holdings Limited

Answer- 5) IndusInd International Holdings Limited

Explanation:

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the following proposals on **20 August 2024**.

- i. Acquisition of 60% shareholding in each of Invesco Asset Management (India) Private Limited (Invesco AMC) and Invesco Trustee Private Limited (Invesco Trustee) by IndusInd International Holdings Limited (IIHL).
- ii. Acquisition of a shareholding in Shriram Housing Finance Limited by Mango Crest Investment Ltd.
- iii. Acquisition by Advent International, L.P. (Advent) through Rasmeli Limited (Rasmeli) in Apollo Healthco Limited (AHL/ Apollo Healthco), the acquisition by AHL/Apollo Healthco in Keimed Private Limited (Keimed), and the merger of Keimed into AHL/Apollo Healthco.

6. Which of the following firms is 'not' involved in the combination approved by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) with respect to the merger of Reliance Industries Limited's (RIL) media assets with Walt Disney?

- 1) Viacom18 Media Private Limited
- 2) Reliance Industries Limited
- 3) Star India Private Limited
- 4) Star Television Productions Limited
- 5) Zee Media Corporation

Answer- 5) Zee Media Corporation

Explanation:

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposed combination involving Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), Viacom18 Media Private Limited (Viacom18), Digital18 Media Limited, Star India Private Limited (SIPL), and Star Television Productions Limited (STPL).

The transaction aims to **merge** the entertainment businesses of **Viacom18**, part of the **RIL group**, with **SIPL**, a wholly owned entity of **The Walt Disney Company** (TWDC).

As a result of the transaction, SIPL, currently a wholly owned entity of TWDC through its subsidiaries, will become a Joint Venture (JV) jointly held by RIL, Viacom18, and existing TWDC subsidiaries.

DEFENCE

1. Which organisation has recently (in August 2024) received clearance from the Indian Air Force (IAF) to produce 200 Astra Mark-1 (Mk-1) air-to-air missiles?

- 1) Bharat Dynamics Limited
- 2) BrahMos Aerospace
- 3) Adani Defence & Aerospace
- 4) Mahindra Defence Systems Limited
- 5) Thales Air Defence Limited

Answer- 1) Bharat Dynamics Limited

Explanation:

Indian Air Force (IAF) has granted clearance to the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Hyderabad (Telangana)-based Indian Public Sector Unit (PSU) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for the production of **200 Astra Mark-1 (Mk-1) Air-to-Air Missiles (AAM)**.

- Astra Mk-1 is an indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range (BVR), AAM system. It is a part of Astra program, which aims to improve the aerial combat capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces.
- It has strike range from 80 to 110 kilometer (km) and 20 km altitude. It has maximum speed of **Mach 4.5**.
- It was developed by the DRDO and manufactured by BDL.

2. Name India's first multinational air exercise that recently (in August 2024) began at the Sulur Air Base in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu (TN).

- 1) Tarkash 2024
- 2) Gagan Shakti 2024
- 3) Tarang Shakti 2024
- 4) Bharat Shakti 2024
- 5) Yudh Abhyas 2024

Answer- 3) Tarang Shakti 2024

Explanation:

On August 6, 2024, '**Tarang Shakti (Wave of Power) 2024**', largest multilateral air exercise began at the **Sulur Air Base in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu (TN)**.

- It is the first multinational air exercise to be conducted on India soil after **61 years**.
- The Tarang Shakti 2024 exercise is being conducted in two phases. The first phase being held in Sular, **Tamil Nadu (TN)** from August 6 to 14, 2024 and the second phase to be held in Jodhpur, **Rajasthan** from August 29 to September 14.
- Around **30 countries**, including the United States of America (USA), Germany, France, Australia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the United Kingdom (UK), and Singapore, will showcase their fighter jets. 10 countries which will participate with their assets, and 18 countries as observers.

3. Name the large-scale strike corps exercise conducted by the Indian Army in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh in August 2024.

- 1) Poorvi Lehar
- 2) Parvat Prahaar
- 3) Gagan Strike-II
- 4) Cyber Suraksha
- 5) Red Flag

Answer- **2) Parvat Prahaar**

Explanation:

The **Indian Army** conducted 'Parvat Prahaar' (*Mountain Strike*), a large-scale **strike corps exercise**, in the Union Territory (UT) of **Ladakh**. The strategic military exercise focused on high-altitude warfare and operations, involving various military units and equipment to maintain readiness near the India-China border.

- The exercise assisted the Indian Army to validate new warfighting concepts and technology integration. The Strike Corps, attached to the Northern Command, is focused on developing high-altitude warfare and operations.
- This fortnight's exercise emphasises mountainous and rugged terrains, such as those found in regions like Eastern Ladakh.

4. Name the bilateral air exercise conducted between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) from 5th to 9th August 2024 in Kuantan, Malaysia.

- 1) Nomadic Elephant 2024
- 2) Garuda Shakti 2024
- 3) Shakti 2024
- 4) Udara Shakti 2024
- 5) Varuna Shakti 2024

Answer- **4) Udara Shakti 2024**

Explanation:

The Indian Air Force (**IAF**) contingent participated in the **Exercise Udara Shakti 2024** (EX US24), bilateral air exercise with the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) from August 5 to 9, 2024 at RMAF Base Station in Kuantan, **Malaysia**

- **Aim:** To bolster the operational efficiency, technical experts of both Air Forces engaged in sharing of their maintenance practices.
- The exercise was based on two different concepts such as: Field Training Exercise (**FTX**) and Subject Matter Expert Exchange (**SMEE**).
- The exercise saw the participation of **7 Sukhoi-30** fighter jets from both the RMAF and the IAF.
- The exercise also included **HOP Exercise** (HOP EX), during which the pilots of both the Air Forces exchanged their Sukhoi fighter jets i.e. Indian pilot flew Su-30 MKM fighter jet of RMAF and vice versa.

5. Name the 10th edition of the joint military exercise conducted between the armies of India and Sri Lanka, which commenced on 12th August 2024 in Sri Lanka.

- 1) Tarkash 2024
- 2) JIMEX 2024

3) Mitra Shakti 2024

4) MAITREE 2024

5) Surya Kiran 2024

Answer- **3) Mitra Shakti 2024**

Explanation:

On 12th August 2024, **Exercise Mitra Shakti 2024**, the **10th edition** of the joint military exercise between the Army of **India** and **Sri Lanka** commenced at Army Training School, Maduru Oya, **Sri Lanka**.

- The combat training exercise is set to conclude on 25th August 2024.
- The annual Mitra Shakti exercise was started in **2012** and is held alternately in India and Sri Lanka.
- Mitra Shakti 2023, the **9th edition** of the exercise was held in 2023 in Pune, Maharashtra.

6. Which company has recently (in August '24) received approval from the Indian Navy (IN) to construct six advanced submarines in partnership with Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) under the 'Project 75 India (P75I)' initiative?

1) Jindal Steel & Power Limited

2) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited

3) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers

4) SECON Engineering Projects Private Limited

5) Cochin Shipyard Limited

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

Explanation:

The Indian Navy (IN) has authorized Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (**MDL**) to construct **six advanced submarines** in partnership with **Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS)** under the **'Project 75 India (P75I)'** initiative.

- The project, valued at approximately **Rs 60,000 crore**, is pivotal in strengthening India's naval capabilities in the Indian Ocean, particularly in response to the growing presence of China and Pakistan.
- MDL's selection followed successful trials of submarines equipped with **Air Independent Propulsion (AIP)** systems, enabling them to remain submerged for up to two weeks without surfacing for battery recharging.
- The submarines will be diesel-electric with AIP technology will offer superior endurance and capabilities over previous models.

7. India is scheduled to commence full-scale production of the 4.5-generation plus Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mark 2 fighter jets from _____.

1) 2028

2) 2026

3) 2030

4) 2029

5) 2027

Answer- **4) 2029**

Explanation:

The 4.5 generation plus Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) **Mark 2 fighter jets** are scheduled to start flying by March 2026, with full-scale production expected to begin by **2029**. It was announced during a high-level review meeting of the LCA MK-II Development programme held at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi(Delhi).

- The meeting was headed by **Dr Samir V Kamat**, Chairman of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit**, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS), Indian Air Force (IAF)
- In addition, the mass production of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (**AMCA**), a 5th-generation fighter, is anticipated to start by **2035**.

8. Name the Long Range Glide Bomb (LRGB) that recently (in August '24) underwent a successful maiden flight test conducted by the DRDO.

- 1) Zorawar
- 2) SMART
- 3) ABHYAS
- 4) GAURAV
- 5) Sudarshan

Answer- **4) GAURAV**

Explanation:

i.The Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**), the Research and Development (**R&D**) wing of the Ministry of Defence (**MoD**), and the Indian Army successfully conducted the test-firing of the indigenously developed Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (**MP-ATGM**).

- The test was conducted at Pokhran Field Firing Range (PFFR) in **Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**.
- It has an operational range of 200 to 300 meters at the minimum and up to 4 km at the maximum.

ii.The **DRDO** has successfully conducted the **maiden flight test** of the Long Range Glide Bomb (**LRGB**) named '**GAURAV**', from an Indian Air Force (**IAF**) platform **Su-30 MK-I** off the coast of **Odisha**.

- GAURAV has been designed and developed indigenously by the Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Gaurav is an air-launched 1,000-kg class glide bomb capable of hitting targets at long distances.
- It utilises a hybrid navigation system combining the Inertial Navigation System (INS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) data for precise target acquisition.[Click here to read more](#)

9. Which company has recently (in August '24) partnered with AI Engineering Services Limited (AIESL) to provide in-country maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services for the twelve Boeing P-8I (Poseidon Eight India) of the Indian Navy (IN)?

- 1) Airbus
- 2) Azista BST Aerospace Private Limited
- 3) Boeing
- 4) Ikran Aerospace and Technologies Private Limited
- 5) Honeywell International

Answer- **3) Boeing**

Explanation:

On 13th August 2024, American aerospace manufacturing company, **Boeing** has partnered with with AI Engineering Services Limited (**AIESL**) to provide in-country maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services for Indian Navy (IN)'s fleet of **twelve Boeing P-8I (Poseidon Eight India)**, maritime surveillance aircrafts.

- This partnership recently achieved a significant milestone with the completion of the 1st ever in-country landing gear overhaul at naval base Indian Naval Ship (**INS**) **Rajali** in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).
- This partnership is part of the Boeing India Repair Development and Sustainment (**BIRDS**) hub programme, which aims to build a robust MRO ecosystem for defence and commercial aircraft in India.
- It is a multi-role long-range maritime reconnaissance anti-submarine warfare (LRMR ASW) aircraft.

10. In August 2024, the Indian Army transferred the technology of _____ , an Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV) to a private Indian company for mass production.

- 1) Agniastra
- 2) Nagastra
- 3) Xploder
- 4) Vidyut Rakshak
- 5) Prahasta

Answer- **3) Xploder**

Explanation:

The **Indian Army** has **transferred** the **technology** for the mass production of 2 indigenously developed cutting-edge technologies, namely the **Xploder** and **Agniastra**, developed by the innovator officers of the Army Design Bureau (**ADB**), to private Indian firms.

- The Transfer of Technology (**ToT**) ceremony was presided over by Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani, Vice Chief Of Army Staff (VCOAS).
- The ToT process is facilitated by the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (**FITT**) at the Indian Institutes of Technology Delhi (**IIT Delhi**) in New Delhi, Delhi.
- The Xploder, an advanced Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV), is a versatile system designed for a range of combat and operational roles.
- Equipped with all-terrain capabilities, the Xploder can conduct unmanned reconnaissance, precisely deliver explosive payloads, and safely dispose of remote Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).
- The Agniastra is a Multi-Target Portable Detonation System, revolutionising remote detonation technology.
- Agniastra is capable of simultaneously targeting multiple locations over extended ranges and can be manually placed or delivered via UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles)/UGVs.

11. Name the 2nd indigenous nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine commissioned into the Indian Navy on 29th August 2024 at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- 1) INS Arighaat
- 2) INS Shivalik
- 3) INS Visakhapatnam

4) INS Sindhukesari

5) INS Sindhughosh

Answer- **1) INS Arighaat**

Explanation:

On 29th August 2024, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Arighaat, the 2nd Arihant-Class SSBN (Ship, Submersible, Ballistic, Nuclear), was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP) in the presence of Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD).

- It is India's 2nd indigenous nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, after **INS Arihant** which was commissioned into service in August 2016. Arihant is a Sanskrit word which means '**Destroyer of the Enemy**'.
- INS Arighaat retains the same reactor and dimensions of INS Arihant such as: displacement of 6,000 tonnes and is powered by an 83 MegaWatt (MW) pressurized light-water reactor with enriched Uranium (**U**), but has several technological upgrades.
- It can attain speeds up to 24 knots (44 km/hr) when submerged and about 12-15 knots (22-28 km/hr) on surface level.
- It has 4 missile launch tubes. Each tube can carry up to three K-15 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (**SLBM**) with a range of 750 km, or one K-4 SLBM, that has a range of 3,500 km. Both are capable of carrying nuclear warheads

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Which country is set to build the world's nuclear power plant based on molten thorium salt?

1) South Korea

2) Finland

3) China

4) Russia

5) India

Answer- **3) China**

Explanation:

China plans to build the **world's 1st** Nuclear Power Plant (**NPP**) that will be fuelled by liquid fuel based on **molten thorium salt** in the **Gobi Desert**, China. The construction of the plant will begin in 2025 with the aim of developing safer and more environmentally friendly nuclear energy.

- Since the reactor uses liquid salt and carbon dioxide to transfer heat and generate electricity, it does not require water for cooling.
- It will use fuel enriched with less than 20% Uranium-235 (U-235) and approximately 50 kilogram (kg) of thorium.
- It will use FLiBe, a mixture of lithium fluoride and beryllium fluoride, containing 99.95% lithium-7 and the fuel will consist of uranium tetrafluoride (UF₄).

2. Name the high-orbit internet-services satellite that was recently (in August '24) launched by China onboard the Long March 3B rocket from its Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan Province.

1) EarthCARE

2) Weixing Hulanwan Gaogui-02

3) PakSAT-MM1

4) TSAT-1A

5) ChinaSat-26

Answer- **2) Weixing Hulianwan Gaogui-02**

Explanation:

On 1st August 2024, **China** launched a new high-orbit internet-services satellite – **Weixing Hulianwan Gaogui-02** (WHG-02) into space from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center (**XSLC**), also known as “Xichang Satellite City” in southwest China’s Sichuan Province.

- The satellite was launched aboard a **Long March-3B** (LM-3B) carrier rocket and entered its preset orbit successfully.
- This launch marks the 529th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.
- The satellite WHG-02 was developed by CAST (China Academy of Space Technology).

3. Which of the following Indians was recently (in August '24) selected as the crew members for the Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission to the International Space Station (ISS)?

A) Shubhanshu Shukla

B) Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair

C) Ajit Krishnan

1) Only A & B

2) Only A & C

3) Only B & C

4) Only A

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

On 2nd August 2024, the Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) announced that National Mission Assignment Board has selected Indian astronauts Group Captain **Shubhanshu Shukla** and Group Captain **Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair**, as crew members for the **Axiom-4** (Ax-4) mission to the International Space Station (**ISS**).

- Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla has been assigned as **Prime mission pilot** while Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair will be his back-up.
- Axiom Space Inc announced the crew for Ax-4, its 4th private mission to the ISS.
- Astronauts **Sławosz Uznański of Poland** and **Tibor Kapu of Hungary (Mission Specialist)** will fly alongside an Indian astronaut on Axiom.

4. Which organisation has recently (in August '24) launched its first batch of 18 satellites for the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) communications megaconstellation named “Qianfan (“Thousand Sails Constellation”)?

1) Blue Origin Enterprises

2) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

3) Space Exploration Technologies Corporation

4) Shanghai Spacecom Satellite Technology

5) Lockheed Martin

Answer- **4) Shanghai Spacecom Satellite Technology**

Explanation:

On 5th August 2024, **Shanghai Spacecom Satellite Technology (SSST)**, a Chinese state-owned enterprise, launched the first batch of **18 Satellites** for the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) communications megaconstellation named "**Qianfan ("Thousand Sails Constellation")**", formerly known as **G60 Project**.

- The satellites were launched from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre (**TSLC**) in the Northern Province of Shanxi, China.
- This launch is a part of SSST's '**G60 Project**' which was initiated in 2023 with the goal of deploying **1296** LEO satellites by 2030.
- The plan includes launching **108** satellites in 2024 and **648** satellites by the end of 2025, aiming for global network coverage by 2027.

5. Which institute has recently (in August '24) partnered with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to develop energy-harvesting shoes with Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking?

- 1) IIT Indore
- 2) IIT Bombay
- 3) IIT Kanpur
- 4) IIT Hyderabad
- 5) IIT Madras

Answer- **1) IIT Indore**

Explanation:

The Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT**) **Indore**, Madhya Pradesh(MP) in partnership with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) under the Ministry of Defence (MoD), has developed energy-harvesting shoes with Global Positioning System (**GPS**) tracking.

- These shoes are specifically designed for soldiers which are equipped with a technology that can generate electricity and can track the real-time location of the wearer.
- The 1st batch of 10 pairs of these shoes was already supplied by IIT Indore to the units of DRDO.
- These shoes are made under the guidance of **Professor IA Palani**, faculty at IIT Indore. It is based on Tribo-Electric Nanogenerator (**TENG**) technology that can generate electricity with every step.

6. Which company has recently (in August '24) collaborated with Singapore-based Zero-Error Systems (ZES) Private Limited to enhance its On-Board computer (OBC) subsystem for upcoming satellite missions?

- 1) Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited
- 2) AgniKul Cosmos Private Limited
- 3) Dhruva Space Private Limited
- 4) Paras Defence And Space Technologies Limited
- 5) Ideaforge Technology Private Limited

Answer- **3) Dhruva Space Private Limited**

Explanation:

Dhruva Space Private Limited, an Indian full-stack Space Engineering solutions provider, collaborated with Singapore-based **Zero-Error Systems (ZES) Private Limited**, a leading Space

semiconductor manufacturer, to enhance its On-Board computer (**OBC**) **subsystem** for upcoming satellite missions.

- The collaboration was consolidated during the **38th Annual Small Satellite Conference**, (also known as '**SmallSat**') held at Utah State University (USU) in Logan, Utah, the United States of America (USA).
- The collaboration will **integrate ZES' LDAP-IC-ZES100** into **Dhruva's OBC**, protecting the Commercial-off-the-Shelf (COTS) electronics from radiation-induced micro-SEL/SEL (Single Event Latchup).
- ZES provides high-reliability semiconductor Integrated circuits (ICs) and solutions, enhancing radiation hardening in Space, Aerospace, and Automotive industries.

7. Name the ISRO's launch vehicle carrying the Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-08), which was successfully launched on 16th August 2024.

- 1) Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3)
- 2) Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D3)
- 3) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)
- 4) Reusable Launch Vehicle(RLV)
- 5) Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark II(GSLV)

Answer- **2) Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D3)**

Explanation:

On 16th August 2024, the Indian Space Research and Organisation (**ISRO**) successfully launched its **3rd** and final developmental flight of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (**SSLV-D3**) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP). This achievement marks the completion of ISRO's SSLV Development Project.

- It carried two satellites namely- Earth Observation Satellite (**EOS-08**) developed by **U R Rao Satellite Centre(URSC)**, Bengaluru(Karnataka) and the passenger satellite, **SR-0 DEMOSAT**, 1st satellite from Chennai(Tamil Nadu (TN))-based startup, Space Rickshaw and successfully placed them into a 450 kilometer (km) circular orbit around the earth.
- The SSLV-D3-EOS-08 mission is expected to boost commercial satellite launch operations of NewSpace India Limited (**NSIL**), commercial arm of ISRO.[Click here to read more](#)

8. Which company has recently (in August '24) launched Swadeshi Kamikaze Drones with a 1,000-kilometre range?

- 1) Zen Technologies Limited
- 2) General Atomics Aeronautical
- 3) Kadet Defence Systems Limited
- 4) Garuda Aerospace Limited
- 5) National Aerospace Laboratories

Answer- **5) National Aerospace Laboratories**

Explanation:

The National Aerospace Laboratories (**NAL**) has launched Swadeshi (indigenous) **Kamikaze Drones**, do-and-die Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) with home-built engines that can power them to fly up to **1,000 kilometres** (km).

- It is also known as **loitering munitions** which have been extensively used by Ukrainian forces to target Russian infantry and armoured vehicles.

- It will be around 2.8 metres(m) long with a wingspan of 3.5 m, weigh about 120 kilogram (kg) and be equipped with a 25 kg explosive charge.
- It will be powered by 30-horsepower (hp) **Wankel Engine** which is designed and developed by the NAL which can fly continuously with a maximum speed of 180 kilometres per hour (km/h).

9. Which country successfully launched its first Low Earth Orbit (LEO) Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellite in August 2024?

- 1) Nepal
- 2) Hungary
- 3) Taiwan
- 4) Ukraine
- 5) United Arab Emirates

Answer- **5) United Arab Emirates**

Explanation:

On 16th August 2024, **Bayanat AI PLC** and Al Yah Satellite Communications Company PJSC (**Yahsat**), in partnership with **ICEYE Ltd**, successfully launched the United Arab Emirates (UAE)'s **first** Low Earth Orbit (**LEO**) Synthetic Aperture Radar (**SAR**) satellite.

- The satellite, owned by Bayanat, was launched via integrator Exolaunch aboard SpaceX's Transporter 11 from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, United States of America (USA).
- Bayanat AI PLC, UAE-based leading provider of AI(Artificial intelligence)-powered geospatial solutions.
- Yahsat based in Abu Dhabi is the UAE's flagship satellite solutions provider.
- This SAR satellite is a part of the UAE's **Earth Observation Space Program** which will enable **high-resolution**, persistent monitoring with the ability to capture images day and night, regardless of weather.

10. Name SpaceX's 1st human spaceflight mission which is set to fly over the Earth's polar regions for the 1st time.

- 1) TÜRKSAT-6A
- 2) Fram2
- 3) TRISHNA
- 4) PREFIRE
- 5) EarthCARE

Answer- **2) Fram2**

Explanation:

Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (**SpaceX**) is set to launch "Fram2", the **1st human spaceflight mission** to explore Earth from a polar orbit and fly over the Earth's polar regions for the 1st time.

- The **Fram2**, the 6th commercial astronaut mission of **Dragon spacecraft**, will be launched onboard **Falcon 9** from Florida's Space Coast, the United States of America (USA).
- The mission is named after the Norwegian polar research ship Fram, which helped explorers first reach Earth's Arctic and Antarctic regions.

- **Crew:** Fram2 mission comprised 4 astronauts, **Commanded** by Malta's **Chun Wang**; Norway's Jannicke Mikkelsen, Vehicle Commander; Australia's Eric Philips, Vehicle Pilot; and Germany's Rabea Rogge, Mission Specialist.
- Throughout the 3-to-5-day mission, the crew will study Earth's polar regions through Dragon's cupola at an altitude of 425-450 kilometres (km), and conduct research on the effects of spaceflight on the human body, including capturing the **1st human X-ray images** in space.

11. Which institute has recently (in August '24), in partnership with Guhan Industries and Manufacturing Solutions (GIMS), developed India's first abrasive waterjet machine to cut combustible materials without generating heat?

- 1) IIT Kanpur
- 2) IIT Hyderabad
- 3) IIT Madras
- 4) IIT Bombay
- 5) IIT Mandi

Answer- **3) IIT Madras**

Explanation:

Guhan Industries and Manufacturing Solutions (GIMS), Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Madras (Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN))-backed startup, has designed and developed India's first Abrasive Waterjet machine, which can be used for cutting combustible materials without generating heat.

- This will play a major role in the semiconductor, aviation, defence and diamond industries.
- The machine was unveiled by V Kamakoti, Director of IIT-M

12. Name India's 1st reusable hybrid rocket that was recently (in August '24) launched successfully by Space Zone India (SZI).

- 1) RHUMI-1
- 2) New Shepard
- 3) ULA Atlas V
- 4) H3 rocket
- 5) Agnibaan

Answer- **1) RHUMI-1**

Explanation:

On 24th August 2024, India successfully launched its 1st reusable hybrid rocket named "**RHUMI-1**", developed by Space Zone India (SZI), Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN) – based start-up, in partnership with **Martin Group**.

- The rocket was lifted off from a mobile launchpad on East Coast Road (ECR), Thiruvadanthai in Chennai, TN.
- It was carrying **3** Cube Satellites and **50** PICO Satellites and deployed them into a suborbital trajectory using a mobile launcher.
- The Cube satellites will monitor and collect atmospheric conditions like: cosmic radiation intensity, Ultra Violet (**UV**) radiation intensity, and air quality.
- It comprises RHUMI series of rockets, including RHUMI-1, RHUMI-2, and RHUMI-3 which are designed specifically to cover a range of altitudes from 1 kilometre (km) to **500 km**.

13. Name the hyperspectral satellite that was recently (in August '24) launched by the Planet Labs PBC into orbit through the Rideshare mission 'Transporter-11' of SpaceX.

- 1) Gaofen-11
- 2) FLEX
- 3) Ariane
- 4) Chang'e-6
- 5) Tanager-1

Answer- **5) Tanager-1**

Explanation:

Planet Labs PBC, a leading provider of daily Earth data and insights, has successfully launched its first hyperspectral satellite, '**Tanager-1**', along with **36 SuperDoves** (Flock 4BE), into orbit from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, the United States of America (USA). This satellite launch is part of Transporter-11 Rideshare mission of SpaceX.

- Tanager-1 expected to remain operational until **2029**.
- Named after the vibrant tanager bird native to Central and South America, the satellite is part of a larger constellation designed to monitor and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions on a global scale.
- Tanager-1 is developed by the **Carbon Mapper Coalition**, a philanthropically-funded efforts aimed at detecting and tracking methane(CH₄) and carbon dioxide(CO₂) super-emitters at a level of granularity needed to support direct mitigation action.
- The satellite will use imaging spectrometer technology developed at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory(JPL), California, the USA. It can measure point-source emissions globally, scanning 130,000 square kilometers(km²) of Earth's surface per day.

14. Which space firm has recently (in August 2024) partnered with Nokia to integrate 4G/LTE connectivity into spacesuits for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s Artemis III Lunar mission?

- 1) GalaxEye Space
- 2) Axiom Space
- 3) SpaceX
- 4) Thales Group
- 5) Lockheed Martin

Answer- **2) Axiom Space**

Explanation:

Texas(The United States of America- USA)-based **Axiom Space, Inc.** has partnered with Finland based **Nokia Corporation** to integrate advanced **4G/LTE** (Long-Term Evolution) communication technology into their next-generation spacesuits which will be used for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s **Artemis III lunar mission**.

- High-speed cellular-network capabilities will be incorporated in the Axiom Extravehicular Mobility Unit (AxEMU) Spacesuit. This will enhance space exploration by allowing crew-to-crew contact and the transmission of **real-time High-Definition (HD)** video from the lunar surface to the Earth.
- The integration of 4G/LTE will serve as a link between astronauts and mission control, allowing essential data transmission over long distances on the Moon.

- Nokia plans to build the first cellular network on the Moon as part of Intuitive Machines' **(IM)-2 mission**, which is set to arrive at the launch site in 2024.

15. Which organisation successfully demonstrated a technique to study ocean and soil Parameters by using satellite-based sensor Global Navigation Satellite System Reflectometry(GNSS-R)?

- 1) National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- 2) China National Space Administration
- 3) Indian Space Research Organisation
- 4) European Space Agency
- 5) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

Answer- **3) Indian Space Research Organisation**

Explanation:

The Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) has successfully demonstrated a technique to collect data on soil moisture, surface inundation, and ocean surface wind and wave measurements, by using satellite-based sensor Global Navigation Satellite System Reflectometry(**GNSS-R**) that is 475 kilometer (km) above the earth.

- GNSS-R instrument is developed by the ISRO's Space Application Centre (SAC) and it is India's 1st space-borne precision receiver.
- The raw data collected by the GNSS-R instrument is being processed at the ISRO'S National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) in Shadnagar, Hyderabad.
- On 16th August 2024, ISRO had successfully launched the Earth Observation Satellite i.e. EOS-08, on board the 3rd developmental flight of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (**SSLV-D3**).[Click here to read more](#)

16. In August 2024, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) placed an order worth Rs 837 crore for the import of an additional 73,000 SIG-716 semi-automatic assault rifles for the Indian Army (IA) from SiG Sauer Inc. of _____(country).

- 1) Sweden
- 2) Russia
- 3) Germany
- 4) Israel
- 5) United States of America

Answer- **5) United States of America**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Defence (**MoD**), Government of India (GoI) announced that it has placed a order worth **Rs 837 crore** for the import of an additional **73,000 SIG-716** of 7.62×51 millimeter (mm) semi-automatic assault rifles for the Indian Army (IA) from the United States of America (USA)-based small-arms manufacturing company, **SiG Sauer Inc.**

The contract for this order was signed in June 2024 and, the delivery of these assault rifles is within **18 months** of the contract. This is India's second procurement order to Sig Sauer in 5 years. This additional order of 73,000 assault rifles will increase the total number of these rifles in the IA to approximately **1.45 lakh**.

SPORTS

1. Which Indian tennis player recently won the Men's Doubles title at the 56th Swiss Open Gstaad in July 2024, partnering with France's Albano Olivetti?

- 1) Sumit Nagal
- 2) Sathiyam Gnanasekaran
- 3) Yuki Bhambri
- 4) Rohan Bopanna
- 5) Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan

Answer- 3) Yuki Bhambri

Explanation:

Indian tennis player **Yuki Bhambri** and his **French** partner **Albano Olivetti** won the Men's Doubles title at the **56th Swiss Open Gstaad**, an Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) 250 tennis tournament held at the Roy Emerson Arena in Gstaad, Switzerland from 15–21 July 2024.

i.The Indo-French pair defeated the all-French duo Ugo Humbert – Fabrice Martin, 3-6, 6-3, 10-6 in the final event.

ii.This is the **2nd ATP Tour title** of the year for the **Indo-French pair**. Bhambri and Olivetti also won the BMW Open (previously Bavarian International Tennis Championships), a 250-series event held in Munich, Germany, in April 2024.

iii.This victory marks the overall **3rd victory of Yuki Bhambri**, who won his maiden ATP title with Lloyd Harris (South Africa) at the 2023 Mallorca Championships, in Santa Ponsa, Spain.

2. Which country is set to host the 2025 Men's Asia Cup cricket tournament in the Twenty20 (T20) format?

- 1) India
- 2) Uzbekistan
- 3) Brazil
- 4) Bangladesh
- 5) Sri Lanka

Answer- 1) India

Explanation:

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has officially declared **India** as the host of the **2025 Men's Asia Cup** cricket tournament in the Twenty20 (**T20**) format and Bangladesh as the host of the **2027 Asia Cup tournament** in the One Day International (**ODI**) format.

- This announcement was made by the ACC in its Invitation for Expression of Interest (IEOI).
- According to the IEOI for the sponsorship rights document issued by the ACC, both the Asia Cup tournaments in India and Bangladesh will feature 13 games each, totaling 26 matches.

3. Which of the following points is/are 'correct with respect to the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics held from 26th July to 11th August 2024?

A) Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh won the bronze in the Mixed 10-metre Air Pistol team event.

B) Skateboarding has made its debut as an Olympic sport in Paris 2024.

C) Swapnil Kusale won the bronze medal in the Men's 50-meter rifle three-position(3P) event.

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

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

Explanation:

The **2024 Summer Olympics**, officially the Games of the **XXXIII(33rd) Olympiad**, is taking place in Paris, France from **26th July to 11th August 2024**. The opening ceremony of the 2024 Olympics, branded as "**Paris 2024**", was held on the **Seine River** in Paris, France, on 26th July 2024.

- The Official Musical Theme of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games is entitled "**Parade**" composed by **Victor le Masne**, a French Composer.
- Breakdancing, professionally known as **Breaking**, has made its **debut** as an **Olympic sport** in Paris 2024.
- **Manu Bhaker** won the bronze in the Women's 10 Metre Air Pistol event and became the **first Indian woman** to win a medal in Shooting.
- **Manu Bhaker** and **Sarabjot Singh** won the bronze in the Mixed 10-metre Air Pistol team event.
- **Swapnil Kusale** won the bronze medal in Men's 50-meter rifle three-position(3P) event.
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, **Filippo Grandi**, received the **Olympic Laurel** at the Opening Ceremony of the Olympics 2024 in Paris, France.[Click here to read more](#)

4. Which jersey number has Hockey India officially retired from the national senior men's team in honour of former Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh?

- 1) No.12
- 2) No.16
- 3) No.18
- 4) No.14
- 5) No.10

Answer- **2) No.16**

Explanation:

Hockey India has officially retired the **No. 16 jersey** from the national senior men's team in honour of **Parattu Raveendran (PR) Sreejesh**, the goalkeeper who announced his retire after the Paris Olympics 2024.

- He is regarded as the '**God of Indian Modern History**' and popularly known as "The Wall of India".
- Hockey India also appointed him as the **coach** for the **Junior Men's Hockey Team**.
- he has competed in **four Olympic Games** since 2012, captained the team at the Rio 2016 Olympics, and secured **two Olympic bronze medals** (Tokyo 2020, Paris 2024).
- He received the **Arjuna Award (hockey) in 2015** and he was awarded with **4th highest civilian award Padma Shri(sports) in 2017**.
- He was honored with the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award** in 2021.
- He became the **second Indian athlete** to be named **World Games Athlete of the Year** in 2021 after Indian women's hockey captain **Rani Rampal** in 2020.

5. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the 2024 Summer Olympics held in Paris (France) from 26th July to 11th August 2024?

A) India was ranked 71st in the medal tally with 5 Medals (1 Silver & 4 Bronze) and ranked 71st.

B) The Indian men's hockey team won the bronze medal under the captaincy of Harmanpreet Singh.

C) Indian wrestler Aman Sehrawat (Haryana) won a bronze medal in the 57 kg freestyle wrestling.

1) Only A & B

2) Only A & C

3) Only B & C

4) Only A

5) All A, B & C

Answer- 3) Only B & C

Explanation:

The **2024 Summer Olympics**, officially the Games of the XXXIII(33rd) Olympiad, was held in Paris, France from 26th July to 11th August 2024.

- **India** was ranked 71st in the medal tally with **6 Medals (1 Silver & 5 Bronze)** and ranked **71st**.
- **The United States of America (USA) topped** the medals tally with **126 Medals** (40 Gold, 44 Silver, 42 Bronze) followed by **China** with 91 medals (40 Gold, 27 silver and 24 bronze) and **Japan** with 45 medals (20 Gold, 12 Silver and 13 Bronze).
- **Neeraj Chopra** (Haryana) won the **Silver medal** in the Javelin throw event with an **89.45-meter(m)** throw. This marks his **second Olympic medal**. With this, he becomes the 5th Indian to win two Olympic medals.
- The Indian men's hockey team **won the bronze medal** under the **captaincy of Harmanpreet Singh**. India **defeated Spain** with a score of **2-1** in the bronze medal match.
- Indian wrestler **Aman Sehrawat** (Haryana) won a **bronze medal in the 57 kg freestyle wrestling** by defeating Darian Toi Cruz from Puerto Rico with a score of 13-5 in the bronze medal match.[Click here to read more](#)

6. Name the Indian Athlete who has recently (in August 2024) finished 2nd in the Javelin throw event at the 2024 Lausanne Diamond League held in Lausanne, Switzerland.

1) Sumit Antil

2) Neeraj Chopra

3) Devarakeshavi Prakasha Manu

4) Nayana James

5) Devendra Jhajharia

Answer- 2) Neeraj Chopra

Explanation:

Indian javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** finished **2nd** at the **Lausanne Diamond League 2024** (also known as **Athletissima**) with his season's best throw of 89.49 meter.

- Lausanne Diamond League 2024, organised by **World Athletics**, was held from the 21st to 22nd August 2024 at Pontaise Olympic Stadium in **Lausanne, Switzerland**.