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Current Affairs

October 2024

English

Part-3



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- Prior to this, KAP Sinha served as special chief secretary in the departments of Revenue, Rehabilitation and disaster management; agriculture and farmer welfare; horticulture; and soil and water conservation.

23. Who has recently (in October' 24) been appointed as the 9th Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) with immediate effect?

- 1) Praveena Rai
- 2) Archana Majumdar
- 3) Amrit Lal Meena
- 4) Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar
- 5) Lalitha Kumaramangalam

Answer- **4) Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar**

Explanation:

Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar has been appointed as the **9th Chairperson** of the National Commission for Women (**NCW**) with immediate effect. She succeeded **Rekha Sharma**, whose tenure as NCW chief ended on August 6, 2024.

- Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar appointment was made under Section 3 of the NCW Act, 1990. Her tenure is for three years or until she reaches the age of 65, whichever comes first.
- Dr. Archana Majumdar has been designated as a member of the commission for a three-year term.
- Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar served as the chairperson of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women from 2016 to 2021.
- She has led initiatives such as **Sakshama** (support for acid attack survivors), **Prajwala** (linking self-help groups to government schemes), and **Suhita** (a 24/7 helpline for women).
- Her accolades include the National Law Award and the Savitribai Phule Award from the National Literary Council.

24. Who has recently (in October '24) been elected as President of Vietnam?

- 1) Shigeru Ishiba
- 2) Luong Cuong
- 3) Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian
- 4) Paul Kagame
- 5) To Lam

Answer- **2) Luong Cuong**

Explanation:

On 21st October 2024, Vietnam's National Assembly elected General **Luong Cuong(67-year-old)** as the 14th president of Vietnam, during a session held in **Hanoi**, Vietnam.

- He replaced **To Lam**, who served as the 13th President of Vietnam from May 2024 to October 2024. To Lam was appointed as the general secretary of the ruling Communist Party in August 2024.
- He joined the army in 1975 and rose through the ranks, becoming a Major General by 2006. He also served as the Chief of the General Department of Politics under the Vietnam People's Army.
- He has been serving as a **Permanent member** of the Party Central Committee's Secretariat since May 2024.

25. Who has recently (in October' 24) been appointed as the president-elect of the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO)?

- 1) Ruchira Kamboj
- 2) Shubha Tole
- 3) Soumya Swaminathan
- 4) Sindhu Gangadharan
- 5) Amrit Mahotsav

Answer- **2) Shubha Tole**

Explanation:

Indian neuroscientist **Shubha Tole** has been appointed as the **president-elect** of the International Brain Research Organisation (**IBRO**), marking her as the first scientist from a developing country to attain this prestigious position. She will replace **Tracy Bale**.

- **Shubha Tole** will join the IBRO advisory board on January 1, 2025 for one-year term and will assume her role as president on January 1, 2026. Her tenure will end on December 31, 2028, after which she will also serve a two-year term on the IBRO advisory board as past president.
- She currently serves as the dean of graduate studies at Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR).
- Paris (France) based the IBRO is a global federation of neuroscience organisations that promotes and supports neuroscience worldwide through training, education, collaborative research, advocacy, and outreach initiatives.

26. Who was recently (in October' 24) appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of AI Assets Holding Limited (AIAHL) by the Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB)?

- 1) Rajesh Dhankhar
- 2) Salee Sukumaran Nair
- 3) Rajneesh Narang
- 4) Tejinder Singh
- 5) Amit Kumar

Answer- **5) Amit Kumar**

Explanation:

The Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) appointed **Amit Kumar** as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Air India Assets Holding Limited (AIAHL), a Schedule 'B' Central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU).

- His appointment awaits clearance and approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- He currently serves as the Executive Director and Asset Manager at Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) in Jorhat.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1. Who has been recently (in September '24) awarded the 2024 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize by the Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA)?

- 1) V. Srinivas
- 2) Alexander Dunn
- 3) Prince Harry
- 4) Gina Justus
- 5) Ruixiang Zhang

Answer- 2) Alexander Dunn

Explanation:

Alexander Dunn, a prominent mathematician from Georgia Institute of Technology, the United States of America (USA), has been awarded the **2024 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize** instituted by the Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA), a private deemed university in **Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu (TN)**.

- He is recognized for his significant work in analytic number theory, especially his collaboration with Maksym Radziwill in solving the **Kummer-Patterson Conjecture**, which pertains to bias in cubic Gauss sums.
- Alexander Dunn has made notable strides in mathematics, particularly in analytic number theory. His work is characterized by its depth and innovation, contributing to solving long standing problems in the field.
- SASTRA Ramanujan Prize was established in 2005 by SASTRA University to honour young mathematicians who have made significant contributions to areas influenced by the works of legendary Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- The recipient receives a cash award of **USD 10,000**.

2. Which veteran actor will be honoured with the 54th Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award at the 70th National Film Awards ceremony?

- 1) Konidela Ram Charan Teja
- 2) Shah Rukh Khan
- 3) Mithun Chakraborty
- 4) Akshay Kumar
- 5) Anil Kapoor

Answer- 3) Mithun Chakraborty

Explanation:

Veteran Indian Actor-Turned-Politician and Padma Bhushan Awardee **Mithun Chakraborty** will be honoured with the prestigious **Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award** for his lifetime contribution to Indian cinema for the year 2022. He will be the **54th** recipient of this award. It was announced by Union minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Minister of Information and Broadcasting(MoI&B).

- He will be presented with the Dada Saheb Phalke award at the **70th National Film Awards** ceremony scheduled to be held on 8th October, 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi.
- Mithun Chakraborty, also known as **Mithun Da**, was born on 16th June, 1950 in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB). During his long career in the film industry, he has acted in more than 350 films including, Bengali, Hindi, Odia, Bhojpuri, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, among others.

- He holds a world record in the Limca Book of Records for releasing most films in a single year i.e. 19 films were released in 1989, a record which is still unbroken.
- In **2024**, He was honoured with the **Padma Bhushna**, India's 3rd highest civilian award in the category of Arts, presented by President Draupadi Murmu during a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi.
- Dada Saheb Phalke award was instituted in **1969** by the Government of India (GoI) to commemorate the contribution of **Dhudiraj Govind Phalke** (Dada Saheb Phalke) to Indian cinema.

3. Who was jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2024 with American developmental biologist Victor Ambros for the discovery of microRNA?

- 1) Joseph E. Murray
- 2) E. Donnall Thomas
- 3) Gary Bruce Ruvkun
- 4) Rigoberta Menchú Tum
- 5) Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo

Answer- **3) Gary Bruce Ruvkun**

Explanation:

Victor Ambros, an American developmental biologist, and **Gary Bruce Ruvkun**, an American molecular biologist, were jointly awarded the **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2024** by the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.

- They were honoured "**for the discovery of microRNA and its role in post-transcriptional gene regulation**".
- The award was announced by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences on 7th October 2024.
- Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun discovered microRNA, a new class of tiny RNA molecules that play a crucial role in gene regulation.
- MicroRNAs and their mode of gene regulation remained completely unknown until the discovery by Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun in **1993**.
- The **2023 Nobel Prize** in Physiology or Medicine was shared between **Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman** "for their discoveries concerning nucleoside base modifications that enabled the development of effective mRNA vaccines against COVID-19".
- The Nobel Prize is an international award administered by the **Nobel Foundation** in Stockholm, Sweden, that recognises discoveries and achievements that benefit humanity.
- The award is based on the fortune of **Alfred Nobel**, a Swedish inventor and entrepreneur.
[Click here to read more.](#)

4. Who was jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics 2024 with British-Canadian Computer scientist Geoffrey E. Hinton for foundational discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks?

- 1) Muhammad Yunus
- 2) Tsung-Dao Lee
- 3) Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo
- 4) John J. Hopfield
- 5) Henri Becquerel

Answer- **4) John J. Hopfield**

Explanation:

American physicist **John J. Hopfield** and British-Canadian Computer scientist **Geoffrey E. Hinton** were jointly awarded the **Nobel Prize in Physics 2024** by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, Sweden on 8th October 2024.

- They were awarded “for foundational discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks”.
- Prize amount: **11 million Swedish kronor** will be shared equally between the laureates.
- John J. Hopfield created a structure that can store and reconstruct information.
- Geoffrey E. Hinton invented a method that can independently discover properties in data which has become important for the large neural networks now in use. [Click here to read more.](#)

5. Who among the following were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2024 by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, Sweden?

A) David Baker

B) Demis Hassabis

C) John Jumper

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:

American biochemist **David Baker**, **Demis Hassabis**, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DeepMind Technologies Limited, a subsidiary of Google, and American chemist **John Jumper** were jointly awarded the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2024** by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, Sweden on 9th October 2024.

- The Nobel Prize is awarded to David Baker “**for computational protein design**” and to Demis Hassabis and John Jumper “**for protein structure prediction**”.
- Prize amount, **11 million** Swedish kronor, with one half to David Baker and the other half jointly to Demis Hassabis and John Jumper.
- David Baker achieved the feat of building entirely new proteins.
- Demis Hassabis & John Jumper developed an Artificial Intelligence (AI) model to solve a 50-year-old challenge: predicting the complex three-dimensional structures of proteins.
- A total of 116 Nobel Prizes in Chemistry have been awarded to 197 laureates between 1901 and 2024.
- Venkatraman “Venki” Ramakrishnan, an Indian-American biologist, won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2009 “for studies of the structure and function of the ribosome”. [Click here to read more.](#)

6. Han Kang from South Korea won the Nobel Prize 2024 in which category?

1) Physics

2) Chemistry

3) Peace

4) Literature

5) Physiology or Medicine

Answer- **4) Literature**

Explanation:

South Korean writer & novelist **Han Kang** won the **Nobel Prize in Literature 2024** "for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life."

- She became the **first South Korean** to win a **Nobel prize in literature** and the **2nd Nobel laureate from South Korea** after Former South Korean President **Kim Dae Jung**, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2000.
- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, Sweden announced the award on 10th October 2024.
- Winners of the Nobel Prize will receive a medal, a personal diploma, and a cash award. Prize amount is **11 million** Swedish kronor.
- 'The Vegetarian', her first novel to be translated into English, won the **2016 Man Booker International Prize** (renamed as International Booker Prize in 2019).
- A total of 117 Nobel Prizes in Literature have been awarded to 121 laureates between 1901 and 2024.
- **Rabindranath Tagore** was the first person from India and also the first Asian to win the Nobel Prize. He received the prize for Literature in 1913. [Click here to read more.](#)

7. Who is the only Indian Police Service (IPS) officer selected for the '2024 IACP 40 Under 40' award?

1) Pritpal Kaur

2) Rahaab Allana

3) Vikas Lakhera

4) Sunita Gupta

5) Anu Beniwal Jakhar

Answer- **1) Pritpal Kaur**

Explanation:

The United States of America(USA) based **International Association of Chiefs of Police(IACP)** selected an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer **Pritpal Kaur**, Superintendent of Police (SP) of the Phek district(Nagaland) for '**2024 IACP 40 Under 40' award**. She is the only Indian selected for this year's award.

- Pritpal Kaur is among 40 police officers selected from 6 countries around the world for the award.
- She has been invited to Boston, Massachusetts (the USA) to receive the '2024 IACP 40 Under 40' award on October 22, 2024.
- She has won several awards, including International Inspiration Women Award (2023), Skoch Gold Award (2023), Director General of Police(DGP) Disc Award, Women Power India Award (2023), and Global Women Leader Award (2024).

8. Who has been recently (in October 2024) honoured with the Lifetime Achievement award by the Asia Human Resource Development (Asia HRD) Academy?

1) Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin

2) Dr Jitendra Singh

- 3) Nar Singh
- 4) Subbiah Nallamuthu
- 5) R. N. Ravi

Answer- 1) **Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin**

Explanation:

Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin (**MK Stalin**), Chief Minister (**CM**) of Tamil Nadu (**TN**), was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement award by the Asia Human Resource Development (Asia HRD) Academy in recognition of his exceptional contributions to Human Resource (HR) management.

- The award was presented by **Fahmi Jowder**, Former Minister of Bahrain and Chairman of Asia HRD Award Committee and **Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik**, Vice Chairman of Asia HRD Awards Committee, and former President of Maldives, at the Chief Secretariat in Chennai, TN.

9. Which Airport has recently (in September '24) won the Platinum Award under Facility Category at the Society of Energy Engineers and Managers (SEEM) Awards in New Delhi, Delhi?

- 1) Thiruvananthapuram International Airport
- 2) Indira Gandhi International Airport
- 3) Kempegowda International Airport
- 4) Raja Bhoj International Airport
- 5) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport

Answer- 5) **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport**

Explanation:

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (**SVPI**) **Airport** in Ahmedabad(**Gujarat**), managed by Adani Airport Holdings Limited (**AAHL**), a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises, has won the **Platinum Award** in the Airport Sector under Facility Category at the Society of Energy Engineers and Managers (**SEEM**) **Awards** held in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The award highlights the airport's dedication towards creating a greener and more sustainable airport facility.
- SVPI airport won the award for its sustainable and energy-efficient initiatives like installing an efficient centrifugal chiller, resulting in 30% energy saving.

10. Which country's Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2024?

- 1) Brazil
- 2) Peru
- 3) Japan
- 4) Azerbaijan
- 5) China

Answer- 3) **Japan**

Explanation:

Japanese Non-Governmental Organization (**NGO**) **Nihon Hidankyo**, a grassroots movement of Hibakusha- the atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, has been awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize for 2024** by the **Norwegian Nobel Committee** in Oslo, Norway.

- The award recognised their efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again.

- Prize Amount is **11 million** Swedish Kronor.
- The medal was designed by Swedish Sculptor and engraver Erik Lindberg.
- Tokyo, Japan-based Nihon Hidankyo was founded in 1956. The **motto** of the organisation is “**No more Hibakusha**”.
- **Mother Teresa** won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her work for bringing help to suffering humanity. [Click here to read more.](#)

11. Who among the following is the winner of Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2024?

A) Daron Acemoglu

B) Simon Johnson

C) James A. Robinson

1) Only A & B

2) Only A & C

3) Only B & C

4) Only C

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has honoured Turkish-American economist, **Daron Acemoglu**; British American economist, **Simon Johnson**; and British economist and political scientist, **James A. Robinson** with the **Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2024** on 14th October 2024.

- They were awarded “for studies of how institutions are formed and affect prosperity”.
- Prize amount is **11 million** Swedish kronor, to be shared equally between the laureates.
- The Medal of the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences was designed by Swedish artist Gunvor Svensson-Lundqvist.
- In 1968, Sveriges Riksbank (Sweden’s central bank) established the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.
- The first prize in economic sciences was awarded to **Ragnar Frisch** of Norway and **Jan Tinbergen** of the Netherlands in 1969.
- **Amartya Sen**, the Indian economist and philosopher hailing from Santiniketan, West Bengal, won The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel in 1998 “for his contributions to welfare economics”. He was affiliated with Trinity College, Cambridge, the UK at the time of the award. [Click here to read more.](#)

12. Who has been recently (in October ‘24) honoured with the 2024 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Nansen Refugee Award’s Global Laureate?

1) Dr. S. Sridhar

2) Abhinav Bindra

3) Vellayan Subbiah

4) Sister Rosita Milesi

5) Eleanor Roosevelt

Answer- **4) Sister Rosita Milesi**

Explanation:

Sister Rosita Milesi (79), Brazilian nun, lawyer and social worker was honoured with the 2024 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (**UNHCR**) Nansen Refugee Award's **Global Laureate** for championing the rights and dignity of refugees and migrants of different nationalities in Brazil for nearly four decades.

- The award was presented at a ceremony held in Geneva, Switzerland on 14th October, 2024.
- She becomes the 2nd Brazilian, who will be honoured with this award, after **Dom Paulo Evaristo Arns**, former Sao Paulo Archbishop won the award in 1985.
- UNHCR has also named 4 other women as the winners of 2024 Regional winners of the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award, in recognition of their exceptional work with refugees, internally displaced, and stateless people.
- The winners are **Maimouna Ba** from Africa, **Jin Davod** from Europe, **Nada Fadol** from Middle East and North Africa and **Deepti Gurung** from Asia-Pacific.
- The award was established in **1954** in the honour of **Fridtjof Nansen**, a Norwegian explorer, scientist, diplomat and Nobel Laureate who became the 1st High Commissioner for Refugees (1920-1930) for the League of Nations (predecessor of UN).
- Global laureate of the award receives a commemorative medal and a monetary prize of **USD 100,000** donated by the governments of Norway and Switzerland. [Click here to read more.](#)

13. Who has recently (in October' 24) been conferred with 48th Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Literary Award (2024) for his novel 'Kattoorkadavu'?

- 1) Prasanthi Ram
- 2) Ashokan Charuvil
- 3) Anirudha Bhattacharjee
- 4) Parthiv Dhar
- 5) Sreekumaran Thampi

Answer- **2) Ashokan Charuvil**

Explanation:

The Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Trust has conferred the **48th Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Literary Award (2024)** to **Ashokan Charuvil**, an Indian short writer in Malayalam-language, for his novel '**Kattoorkadavu**'.

- 'Kattoorkadavu' explores themes of life, revival and the national movement set against the backdrop of a village devastated by the Great Flood.
- The award includes a cash prize of **1 lakh rupees** and a bronze sculpture, which was designed by renowned artist Kanai Kunhiraman.
- The award will be presented on October 27 2024, the death anniversary of the eminent Indian poet and lyricist in Malayalam, **Vayalar Ramavarma**.
- Ashokan Charuvil was born in 1957 in Kattoor, Trichur district of Kerala. He is a recipient of several awards including the **Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award and the Muttathu Varkey Award**.

14. Which state has recently (in October' 24) bagged the first prize in the category of Best State in the 5th National Water Awards?

- 1) Gujarat
- 2) Karnataka

- 3) Kerala
- 4) Uttar Pradesh
- 5) Odisha

Answer- **5) Odisha**

Explanation:

On 22nd October 2024, the President of India **Droupadi Murmu** has conferred the [5th National Water Awards \(NWAs\) for the year 2023](#) on **38** winners including joint winners across **9** different categories such as: Best Village Panchayat, Best Urban Local Body (ULB), Best Industry, Best Water User Association, Best Institution (other than school or college), and Best Civil Society.

- **Odisha** won the 1st prize in the category of **Best State**, while Uttar Pradesh (UP) secured the **2nd** position, and **Gujarat** and **Puducherry**, Union Territory (**UT**) with state legislature, jointly secured the **3rd** position in this category.
- Jhajjar(Haryana)-based Aravali Power Company Private Limited (**APCPL**) honoured with the Best Industry award for 2023.
- Pentakli Project Union Water User Association in Budhana district, Maharashtra won 1st Prize in the category of Best Water User Association (WUA).
- The Best district awards were given across 6 different zones in India, demonstrating exceptional efforts in water management and conservation. For instance: **Visakhapatnam** district from Andhra Pradesh (AP) won from the South zone.
- The NWAs were launched in 2018 by the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation (**DoWR, RD & GR**), Ministry of Jal Shakti(MoJS). These awards are part of the ongoing nationwide drive of a “Jal Samridh Bharat” or “Water Prosperous India”.
[Click here to read more.](#)

15. Who became the 2nd woman from India and the 10th Indian to be inducted into the International Cricket Council (ICC)’s Hall of Fame in October 2024?

- 1) Mithali Raj
- 2) Diana Fram Edulji
- 3) Shantha Rangaswamy
- 4) Neetu Lawrence David
- 5) Jhulan Goswami

Answer- **4) Neetu Lawrence David**

Explanation:

Former Indian spinner **Neetu Lawrence David**, along with South Africa’s legendary cricketer **Abraham Benjamin de Villiers** and former England Cricket Team Captain **Sir Alastair Nathan Cook** were inducted into the International Cricket Council (ICC)’s Hall of Fame as the Class of 2024.

- With this, Alastair Cook, Neetu David and AB de Villiers became **113rd, 114th** and **115th** inductee in the long list of cricket legends in the Hall of Fame.
- The Class of 2024 will be held in Dubai, the United Arab of Emirates (UAE), which will coincide with the conclusion of the Women’s T20 World Cup 2024.
- Neetu Lawrence David became the 2nd woman from India and 10th Indian to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame following the induction of **Diana Fram Edulji** in 2023.
- She played her 1st international match for the Indian cricket team at the age of 17 in a Test match against New Zealand in 1995.

- She is the 2nd highest wicket-taker for India in women's ODI cricket with 141 wickets and was also the 1st female Indian cricketer to claim 100 ODI wickets. [Click here to read more.](#)

16. Who among the following has recently (in October '24) received an 'A+' grade in Central Bank Report Cards 2024?

A) Christian Kettel Thomsen

B) Thomas Jordan

C) Shaktikanta Das

1) Only A & B

2) Only A & C

3) Only B & C

4) Only C

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

On 26th October 2024, **Shaktikanta Das**, the Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) received an 'A+' grade in [Central Bank Report Cards 2024](#) for the **second** consecutive year during an event in Washington D.C., the United States of America (USA).

- The USA based **Global Finance Magazine** presented the award to Shaktikanta Das, appreciating the RBI Governor's excellent performance and effective leadership in guiding and regulating India's central bank through complex economic challenges.
- Denmark's **Christian Kettel Thomsen**, and Switzerland's **Thomas Jordan** have also been ranked under the 'A+' category of central bankers.

SUMMITS, CONFERENCES

1. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the Global Renewable Energy Investor's Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST) 2024 held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 16th to 18th September 2024?

A) REC Limited, formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, has signed a Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with renewable energy (RE) developers to fund projects worth around Rs.1.12 lakh crore.

B) During the Global RE-INVEST 2024, Rajasthan topped in overall 'renewable energy capacity achieved' and 'wind power capacity achieved' categories.

C) Gujarat Chief Minister (CM) Bhupendra Patel launched the 'Mission 100 GW of renewable energy in Gujarat' and released 'Gujarat Energy Vision 2047' during Global RE-INVEST 2024.

1) Only A & B

2) Only A & C

3) Only B & C

4) Only C

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

Global Renewable Energy Investor's Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST) 2024, the 4th edition of the flagship event by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), was held at the Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition Centre, Gandhinagar, **Gujarat** from 16th to 18th September 2024.

- The 3-day summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on 16th September 2024.
- Global RE-INVEST 2024 was organised in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- **REC Limited**, formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, has signed a Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with **renewable energy (RE)** developers to fund projects worth around **Rs.1.12 lakh crore**.
- During Global RE-INVEST 2024, **Gujarat** has won numerous awards for its renewable energy achievements. Gujarat was ranked among the top 3 in overall renewable energy capacity, solar power capacity and wind power capacity.
- Gujarat **topped** the **overall renewable energy capacity achieved** and **overall wind power capacity achieved** categories.
- Gujarat was ranked **2nd** under **overall solar power capacity** achieved as **Rajasthan** claimed the top spot.
- **Gujarat** has received the **highest achiever** award with a capacity of **28,220** Megawatt (MW) in the field of renewable energy. **Rajasthan** secured the second position with overall solar power capacity with 22,031 MW.
- Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, MNRE, stated that the 4th Global RE-INVEST drew investment commitments worth **Rs 32.45 lakh crore** in the form of Shapath Patra by 2030. [Click here to read more.](#)

2. Who has recently (in September '24) inaugurated the National Conference on the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) in New Delhi, Delhi?

- 1) S.P. Singh Baghel
- 2) Narendra Modi
- 3) Dr. Vijay Kumar Saraswat
- 4) Dr. Jitendra Singh
- 5) Amit Shah

Answer- **1) S.P. Singh Baghel**

Explanation:

On 26th September 2024, Union Minister of State (MoS) **Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel**, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (**MoPR**) inaugurated and addressed the National **Conference** on the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (**PESA**) at Dr. Ambedkar International Central in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The conference witnessed the **launch** of **PESA – GPDP** (Gram Panchayat Development Plan) **portal** and **seven** action-oriented **Specialized Training Modules** aimed to enhance the effectiveness of GPDPs and training initiatives.
- The conference witnessed the discussion on transformative steps if GoI such as Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (**PM JANMAN**) Yojana, and Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (**PMJUGA**).

- The MoPR also introduced initiatives like the Functional Activity Mapping Dashboard for monitoring State actions on the 29 Subjects outlined in the 11th Schedule of the Constitution, the PESA Training Manual for Vth Schedule Areas, and the PESA-GPDP Portal to facilitate village-based development planning.
- The key beneficiaries under PM JANMAN yojana are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), comprising **75** communities located in 18 states and the Union Territory (UT) of **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- On 18th September 2024, the Union Cabinet approved PM JUGA with budgetary allocation of **Rs 79,156 crore**, of which Centre government will provide Rs 56,333 crore and state governments will provide Rs 22, 823 crores. [Click here to read more.](#)

3. Which ministry has recently (in September '24) organised the 8th edition of India Water Week (IWW 2024) from 17th to 20th September 2024 in New Delhi, Delhi?

- 1) Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways
- 2) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- 3) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- 4) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- 5) Ministry of Jal Shakti

Answer- **5) Ministry of Jal Shakti**

Explanation:

The 8th edition of India Water Week (**IWW 2024**), organised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), was conducted from **17th** to **20th** September 2024 at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The event was inaugurated by **Droupadi Murmu**, President of India, along with Union Minister C. R. Paatil, MoJS and Minister of State(MoS), Raj Bhushan Choudhary, MoJS.
- The **theme** for IWW 2024 was "**Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management**".
- **Woman Water Warriors – Ujiaro Bai** from Madhya Pradesh and **Lakemen Nongkhlaw** from Meghalaya were honoured for their grassroots efforts in water conservation in the event.
- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), MoJS, organised the International **WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene)** Conference on the sidelines of the IWW 2024 held between 17th to 19th September 2024, in New Delhi, Delhi.
- The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj(MoPR)** has participated as a Partner Ministry in IWW 2024.
- The **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD)** participated in the IWW 2024 exhibition. [Click here to read more.](#)

4. Which of the following points is/are correct with respect to the 79th Session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79) held from 10th to 30th September 2024 in New York, the United States of America (USA)?

- A) During UNGA 79, the State of Palestine, a non-member observer state of the UNGA, was given a seat in the General Assembly Hall among the UN member States.**
- B) The Science Summit 2024 was organised by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and its partners from 10th to 27th September 2024.**

C) India has signed an agreement called the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, or the “Treaty of the High Seas” at UNGA.

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

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

Explanation:

The **79th session** of the United Nations General Assembly (**UNGA 79**) was held from **10th to 30th September 2024** at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York, the United States of America (**USA**).

- **Philemon Yang**, the former Prime Minister of Cameroon, was the **President** of the **79th session of UNGA**.
- During UNGA 79, the State of **Palestine**, a non-member observer state of the UNGA, was given a seat in the General Assembly Hall among the UN member States.
- A resolution was adopted to recognise the reconsideration of Palestine’s UN membership in the UN Security Council(UNSC) and the granting of additional rights to Palestine, which holds observer status.
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (**CSIR**), organised the “CSIR for Connect, Collaborate, Converge and Convert (**5C**) for **Global Sustainable Development**” on **18th** and **19th** September 2024 at the 9th edition of the Science Summit (2024) at the UNGA 79.
- The Science Summit 2024 was organised by the **International Science Council (ISC)** and its partners from 10th to 27th September 2024.
- India has signed an agreement called the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (**BBNJ**) Agreement, or the “**Treaty of the High Seas**” at UNGA. [Click here to read more.](#)

5. Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance (MoF) attended the 9th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank) held in _____ from 25th to 26th September 2024.

- 1) Delhi, India
- 2) Samarkand, Uzbekistan
- 3) Port Louis, Mauritius
- 4) Washington, D.C., United States of America
- 5) Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

Answer- **2) Samarkand, Uzbekistan**

Explanation:

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance (MoF) was on an official visit to Uzbekistan from 24th to 28th September 2024 and led the Indian delegations of officials from MoF.

- During her visit, she attended the **9th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of AIIB** (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank) held in Samarkand from 25th to 26th September 2024. The theme was “**Building Resilient Infrastructure for All**”.
- A Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) between India and Uzbekistan was signed by Indian Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** and Uzbekistan’s Deputy Prime Minister (PM)

Khodjayev Jamshid Abdulkhakimovich in Tashkent to provide essential protections for investors from both nations.

- She also held important **bilateral meetings** with Jin Liqun, President of AIIB, and her counterparts from Uzbekistan, Qatar, and China.
- She held discussions with Uzbekistan **President Shavkat Mirziyoyev** to discuss strengthening bilateral ties in fintech specially **cross-border real-time payments system**, renewable energy, and climate action. [Click here to read more.](#)

6. What is the theme of the 12th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Bioenergy Summit held in New Delhi, Delhi on 14th October 2024?

- 1) Fueling the Future - Securing India's Green Growth Goals
- 2) Viksit Bharat: Secure And Sustainable e-Service Delivery
- 3) Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems
- 4) Use of Data for Decision Making: Strengthening State Statistical Systems
- 5) Energy Transition- Solution for a Sustainable Tomorrow

Answer- 1) Fueling the Future - Securing India's Green Growth Goals

Explanation:

On 14th October 2024, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways(MoRTH), addressed the **12th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Bioenergy Summit** held in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The summit highlighted India's efforts towards achieving bioenergy, with a special focus on ethanol blending and sustainable energy innovations.
- The theme of the summit was "**Fueling the Future – Securing India's Green Growth Goals**".
- Ethanol blending in petrol has increased from 1.53% in 2014 to 15% in 2024, with a target to reach **20%** by **2025**.
- India's ethanol ecosystem includes **400 ethanol pumps** by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) in **4** states (Karnataka, Tamil Nadu(TN), Uttar Pradesh(UP), and Maharashtra).
- The aim is to reduce India's annual fossil fuel import worth **Rs.22 lakh crore** and expand the role of farmers through promotion of the biofuel sector.

7. Who headed the Indian Parliamentary Delegation (IPD) at the 149th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly, held from 13th to 17th October 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland?

- 1) Girish Chandra Murmu
- 2) Narendra Modi
- 3) Santosh Jha
- 4) Om Birla
- 5) Martin Chungong

Answer- 4) Om Birla

Explanation:

The **149th** Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly was held from **13th to 17th October** 2024 in **Geneva, Switzerland**. Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** headed the Indian Parliamentary Delegation(IPD) at the IPU Assembly.

- The overall theme of the 149th IPU Assembly was "**Harnessing science, technology and innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future**".

- Om Birla highlighted India's efforts to boost multilateralism and the importance of parliamentary dialogue in controlling global challenges.
- He mentioned India's initiative of **One Sun, One World, One Grid** in relation to climate change.
- The Assembly adopted a resolution on the emergency item titled – **Response by Parliamentarians to the urgent plea by the UN Secretary-General to recommit to multilateralism for global peace, justice, and sustainability.**
- The IPU welcomed back the Parliament of **Jamaica** as its **181st** Member Parliament at the 149th IPU Assembly. [Click here to read more.](#)

COMMITTEE AND MEETING

1. Who has recently (in September '24) chaired the 1st meeting of the Country Programme Advisory Committee (CPAC) to review the implementation of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2023-27 in New Delhi, Delhi?

- 1) Devesh Chaturvedi
- 2) Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- 3) Amit Shah
- 4) Charanjit Singh
- 5) Narendra Modi

Answer- 1) Devesh Chaturvedi

Explanation:

On 26th September 2024, **Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi**, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DoA&FW) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW), chaired the **1st meeting** of the Country Programme Advisory Committee (**CPAC**) to review the implementation of the CSP 2023-2027 with representatives of the United Nations World Food Programme (**UN WFP**) in New Delhi, Delhi.

- CPAC has been constituted under the chairperson **Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi** and its members include joint secretaries of concerned ministries and National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog).
- During the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the DoA&FW and the UN WFP, aimed **to address the national priorities in food security and nutrition** through capacity building and technical support.

2. Who has been recently (in October '24) elected as the Chairperson of the 77th Session of World Health Organisation (WHO) Southeast Asia Region (SEARO) Regional Committee (RC77)?

- 1) Jagat Prakash Nadda
- 2) Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- 3) Dr. Jitendra Singh
- 4) Pralhad Joshi
- 5) Amit Shah

Answer- 1) Jagat Prakash Nadda

Explanation:

On 7th October 2024, Union Minister **Jagat Prakash Nadda**, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoH&FW**), addressed the **77th** session of World Health Organisation (**WHO**) Southeast Asia Region (**SEARO**), one of the 6 WHO regions, in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The 77th session of the Regional Committee (**RC77**) for Southeast Asia was held from 7th to 9th October, 2024.
- Union Minister JP Nadda underscored that the health system of India embraces a “**whole of government**” and “**whole of society**” approach to achieve Universal Health Coverage (**UHC**), with emphasis on strengthening primary health care and essential services.
- Government of India (GoI) launched the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri-Jan Arogya Yojana (**AB PM-JAY**), world’s largest publicly funded health assurance scheme, which is in line with its commitment to provide health cover for all.
- India has been implementing the **National Programme for Prevention and Control of NCDs** since 2010 to address NCDs like: hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases.
- **Bangladesh** became the 1st country in SE Asian Region to eliminate Kala-Azar and was also validated for the eradication of lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem. [Click here to read more.](#)

3. Who has recently (in October ‘24) chaired the 194th meeting of the Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) in New Delhi, Delhi?

- 1) Narendra Modi
- 2) Amit Shah
- 3) Nirmala Sitharaman
- 4) Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra
- 5) Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya

Answer- **5) Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**

Explanation:

Union Minister **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, Ministry of Labour & Employment (**MoL&E**), chaired the **194th meeting** of the Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (**ESIC**) at its headquarters in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The meeting focused on improving medical care services, administration, financial matters, and reviewing ongoing construction projects.
- Union Minister announced several key decisions of ESIC to strengthen the infrastructure and medical facilities of ESIC
- To enhance medical education, the ESIC approved the establishment of **10 new medical colleges** across various states.
- The unemployment allowance scheme for insured persons has been extended from **1st July 2024 to 30th June 2026** to provide continued support during job searches.
- Provision of Medical Care to ESIC Beneficiaries under convergence program of ESIC with Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) on pan India basis.
- ESI Corporation has approved for the adoption of recruitment for the post of Nursing Officer, in line with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (**AIIMS**) recruitment policy, for conducting the recruitment of Nursing Officers through National Online Registration for Nursing Entrance Test (**NORCET**) organized by AIIMS. [Click here to read more.](#)

4. Where was the 23rd Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) held on 16th October 2024?

- 1) Islamabad, Pakistan
- 2) Moscow, Russia
- 3) Cuiabá, Brazil
- 4) Naples, Italy
- 5) Delhi, India

Answer- **1) Islamabad, Pakistan**

Explanation:

The **23rd** Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (**SCO**) Council of Heads of Government (**CHG**) was held on **16th** October 2024, in **Islamabad, Pakistan** under the leadership of the Pakistan Prime Minister (PM) **Shehbaz Sharif**.

- The summit focused on regional security, trade, economic collaboration, and the fight against terrorism.
- Union Minister **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar**, Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**), Government of India (GoI), addressed the 23rd SCO CHG in Islamabad. He became the first Indian foreign minister to visit Pakistan in nearly a decade.
- S Jaishankar during his address, raised concerns about the issue of **terrorism** that hinders trade, energy flows, connectivity and people-to-people exchanges.
- He also raised the issue of **violation** of Indian sovereignty because of the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor** (CPEC) project.
- He signed **8 outcome documents** during the summit, highlighting India's positive and constructive contributions during the 23rd SCO SHG. [Click here to read more.](#)

INDEX

1. According to the National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates for India 2021-22, the share of Government Health Expenditure (GHE) in the overall GDP of India has increased to _____ in 2021-22 from 1.13% in 2014-15.

- 1) 1.34%
- 2) 1.84%
- 3) 2.48%
- 4) 3.54%
- 5) 2.86%

Answer- **2) 1.84%**

Explanation:

On 25th September 2024, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**) released the National Health Accounts (**NHA**) Estimates for India **2020-21** and **2021-22**. These estimates are **8th** and **9th** editions of reports released annually by the MoHFW.

- As per these latest NHA estimates, the Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (**OOPE**) out of the Total Health Expenditure has decreased significantly from 64.2% (in 2013-14) to **39.4%** (in 2021-22) which shows a positive indicator in the health sector.

- As per the NHA, the share of Government Health Expenditure (**GHE**) in the overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country has increased from 1.13% (in 2014-15) to **1.84%** (in 2021-22).
- In per capita terms, GHE has increased **3 times** from Rs 1,108 to **Rs 3,169** between 2014-15 and 2021-22. The NHA estimate reveals that the government spending on health between 2019-20 and 2020-21 has increased by 16.6%.
- The share of GHE in the Total Health Expenditure (**THE**) of the country has increased from **29%** (in 2014-15) to **48%** (in 2021-22).
- The report highlighted that India's current health expenditure which includes only recurrent expenditures for healthcare purposes, was nearly **Rs 7.89 lakh crore**. [Click here to read more.](#)

2. Which country topped in the 'Asia Power Index 2024 Edition' released by Lowy institute in September 2024?

- 1) China
- 2) India
- 3) Japan
- 4) Australia
- 5) United States of America

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

Explanation:

According to the '[Asia Power Index 2024 Edition](#)' released by **Lowy institute**, based in Sydney, Australia, India is ranked 3rd with score of **39.1** out of 100 surpassing Japan amid strong post-COVID 19 economic growths.

- The 2024 index is topped by the **United States of America (USA)** with a score of 81.7, followed by **China** at 2nd place (72.7). **Papua New Guinea**, ranked last at 27th with a score of 4.2.
- **India's** rank i.e. comprehensive power ranking rose by 1 in 2024, with a 2.8-point (+8%) score increase. This marks the **first edition** of the Asia Power Index where India has raised its power score, though still below 2018-2019 levels.
- The Asia Power Index annually measures resources and influence to assess state power in Asia since **2018**. The index consists of **8** measures of power, **30** thematic sub-measures and **131** indicators.
- It ranks **27 countries and territories** based on their resources and how they use them. [Click here to read more.](#)

3. Which country has topped in the recently (in September '24) released Global Innovation Index 2024 by the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO)?

- 1) Ireland
- 2) Singapore
- 3) Iceland
- 4) Germany
- 5) Switzerland

Answer- **5) Switzerland**

Explanation:

According to the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) report titled **17th** edition of the '[Global Innovation Index \(GII - 2024\)- Unlocking the Promise of Social Entrepreneurship](#)', **India** secured the **39th** position out of a total of **133 economies** with a score of **38.3**. In **GII 2023**, India's rank was 40th with a score of 38.1.

- The index has been topped by **Switzerland** for the **14th** consecutive year. It is followed by **Sweden** at **2nd** rank and the United States of America (**USA**) at **3rd**.
- The **GII** has been co-published annually since 2007 by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), INSEAD (Paris, France), Cornell University (New York, the United States of America, USA).
- It ranks the world economies according to their innovation capabilities on the basis of **80 indicators**.
- It uses **7 criteria**: Institutions, Human Capital and Research, Infrastructure, Market Sophistication, Business Sophistication, Knowledge and Technology Outputs, and Creative Outputs.
- The **GII** has **two sub-indices**: The Innovation Input Sub-Index (5 pillars) and the Innovation Output Sub-Index (2 pillars).
- China, India, Indonesia, Iran, the Philippines, Turkey, Vietnam, and Morocco are the middle-income countries in the top 70 of the **GII** that have made the most significant progress in the rankings since 2013. [Click here to read more.](#)

4. According to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent (in September '24) report, the dominance of fossil fuels in India's electricity generation will end by _____.

- 1) 2027
- 2) 2047
- 3) 2026
- 4) 2025
- 5) 2030

Answer- **5) 2030**

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**), in its latest report, forecasts that the dominance of **fossil fuels** in India's electricity generation will end by **2030**, with renewable energy expected to surpass **50% of global electricity generation**.

- This transition is seen as critical for achieving sustainability goals and addressing climate challenges.
- The rise of cleaner power generation will address "**hard-to-abate**" sectors like steelmaking and aviation, where low-carbon alternatives are still emerging.
- Tripling renewable energy capacity by **2030** is crucial to meeting global net-zero emission targets by mid-century.
- A fully decarbonized global energy system by 2050 is estimated to cost **USD 215 trillion**.

5. Who is topped in the "2024 Hurun India under 35s" list released by the Hurun India in September 2024?

- 1) Neethish Sarda
- 2) Ankush Sachdeva

- 3) Isha Ambani
- 4) Akshit Jain
- 5) Ghazal Alagh

Answer- **2) Ankush Sachdeva**

Explanation:

According to the Hurun India's latest inaugural edition of the "[2024 Hurun India under 35s](#)", Isha Ambani, Non-Executive Director, Reliance Retail, Parita Parekh, co-founder of **Toddle**, an online platform for educators, **Ghazal Alagh**, founder of Mamaearth are among the top young entrepreneurs featured on the list.

- The list is topped by **Ankush Sachdeva** (31 years old) an Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur Graduate, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), ShareChat and Moj, India's leading social media applications (app). He is also the youngest entrepreneur featured on the list.
- **Neetish Sharda** (31 years old), Smart works ranked at **2nd** position on the list, followed by **Akshit Jain**, Director of Goldmedal Electricals Private Limited, India's leading manufacturer company of electrical and electronic products, Chaitanya **Rathi**, co-founder of Bijnis, ranked at **3rd** and **4th** spot respectively.
- As per the report, **82%** (123) of the total entrepreneurs featured on the list are the 1st-generation leaders, with an average age of 33 years.
- There are **7** young women entrepreneurs are on the list, of which **4** are continuing their family business legacy such as Aneri Patel (33), Director of Ganesh Housing Corporation; Aneesha Tiwari (33), Director of USV Private Limited and Anjali Merchant (34), Director, Encore Healthcare Private Limited. [Click here to read more.](#)

6. Which organisation has recently (in September '24) released the report, 'World Social Protection Report 2024-26: Regional companion report for Asia and the Pacific', highlights significant challenges in extending unemployment benefits in Asia-Pacific?

- 1) World Economic Forum
- 2) World Trade Organization
- 3) Reserve Bank of India
- 4) International Labour Organisation
- 5) Asian Development Bank

Answer- **4) International Labour Organisation**

Explanation:

The International Labour Organisation's (ILO) report, '[World Social Protection Report 2024-26 : Regional companion report for Asia and the Pacific](#)', highlights significant challenges in extending unemployment benefits in Asia-Pacific.

- The Asia-Pacific region has achieved a **53.6% coverage**, for the first time, of its population by at least one social protection benefit, but it spends only **11.8%** of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on social protection, below the global average of 19.3%.
- About **2.1 billion people** remain unprotected from lifecycle and socio-economic risks, with uneven progress in social protection.
- In India, the child food program covers **51.9%** of children, contributing to higher effective coverage in southern Asia.

7. What is India's position at the recently (in September '24) released 'World Talent Ranking 2024' by the Institute for Management Development (IMD)?

- 1) 82nd
- 2) 116th
- 3) 63rd
- 4) 39th
- 5) 58th

Answer- **5) 58th**

Explanation:

According to Switzerland based Institute for Management Development (IMD)'s '[World Talent Ranking \(WTR\) 2024: The Socio-Economic Implications of AI in the Workplace](#)', Switzerland has topped the list as the world's most competitive country for the **11th** consecutive year, with overall score of **100**.

- As per the report, **India's** ranking at 2024 IMD WTR has dropped by 2 places, from 56th position (in 2023) to **58th position** (in 2024), with an overall score of **40.7**.
- Singapore has been ranked at 2nd position with an overall score of 85.65, followed by Luxembourg, Sweden and Denmark, ranked at 3rd, 4th and 5th position respectively.
- It is the **11th** edition of IMD WTR and has covered **67** economies. It is published by the IMD World Competitiveness Center (**WCC**).
- The 2024 WTR showed a mixed performance for India compared to previous years as the overall rank of India has dropped from 52nd (in 2022) to 58th (in 2024).
- India has secured 12th position among Asia-Pacific countries in 2024 IMD WTR. [Click here to read more.](#)

8. What is the position of India at the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2024 with a score of 27.3?

- 1) 72nd
- 2) 33rd
- 3) 84th
- 4) 98th
- 5) 105th

Answer- **5) 105th**

Explanation:

According to the 19th edition of '[Global Hunger Index \(GHI 2024\): How Gender Justice Can Advance Climate Resilience and Zero Hunger](#)', **India** has been ranked at **105th** position among 127 countries with an overall score of **27.3**. India has improved its ranking by 6 places, from 111th (2023).

- As per the report, India is among **42** countries that have been placed under the "**serious**" category for hunger levels, alongside Pakistan (109th) and Afghanistan (116th).
- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool used by international humanitarian agencies to measure and track hunger levels with GHI scores based on under-nourishment and child mortality indicators across **127** countries.
- As per the report, around **733 million people** face hunger each day due to lack of access to a sufficient amount of food, while about 2.8 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet.
- The 2024 GHI score for the world is **18.3**, which is considered moderate, has decreased marginally from the 2016 GHI score of 18.8.

- **Top 5 worst performing countries** are Somalia (127th), Yemen (126th), Chad (125th), Madagascar (124th), Democratic Republic of Congo (123rd).
- **Africa South of the Sahara** is the world with the **highest** and most concerning hunger levels. [Click here to read more.](#)

9. Who has topped in Fortune's recent (in October '24) report '2024 100 Most Powerful Women (MPW) in Business'?

- 1) Roshni Nadar Malhotra
- 2) Karen S. Lynch
- 3) Emma Walmsley
- 4) Jane Fraser
- 5) Mary Barra

Answer- **5) Mary Barra**

Explanation:

On 2nd October 2024, Fortune, an American global business magazine, released the latest list of '[2024 100 Most Powerful Women \(MPW\) in Business](#)', which has featured 100 leading business women across various sectors of business such as: finance, technology, health care, telecommunication, retail, energy, and other industries.

- **Mary Barra**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the United States of America (USA)-based General Motors (GM) has topped the 2024 MPW in Business list and has featured on the list for the **13th** time.
- **Karen S. Lynch**, President and CEO of Customer Value Store (CVS) Health Corporation, a leading health solution company in the USA, has been ranked at 2nd position globally.
- **Jane Fraser**, CEO of Citigroup Inc., a multinational investment bank and financial services company based in New York City, the USA, **Julie Sweet**, Chair and CEO of Accenture Plc (the USA) ranked at 3rd and 4th position respectively.
- 2024 MPW in Business is the **27th** edition of the Fortune MPW in business, and has featured women from 6 continents, 19 countries and territories, and 14 different industries.
- This year's ranking includes 20 women business leaders (up from 16 in 2023) from the Asia-Pacific region; these women have appeared on **Fortune's inaugural edition of MPW Asia list**.
- The list includes 53 CEOs, 26 Chairpersons, and 11 Chief Financial Officers(CFOs) and the list is topped by **Grace Wang**, Chairwoman and CEO, Luxshare Precision Industry, China. [Click here to read more.](#)

10. Which ministry/Department has recently (in October' 24) released the 'Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey (CAMS): July 2022- June 2023' as part of the 79th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS)?

- 1) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- 2) Ministry of Home Affairs
- 3) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- 4) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- 5) Department of Economic Affairs

Answer- **1) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**) released the '[Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey \(CAMS\) : July 2022- June 2023](#)'. This survey was conducted as part of the **79th** round of the National Sample Survey (**NSS**), conducted from July 2022 to June 2023. The survey is not conducted in some of the villages in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- The main purpose of CAMS was to collect data to create indicators on important areas like education, medical expenses paid directly by people, mobile and internet use, access to financial services, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills, and ownership of assets.
- The CAMS, a yearly survey, is introduced and designed to collect information required to generate some important Socio-Economic indicators that are not available from any other source.
- It is conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (**NSSO**) under the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI).
- In rural areas, approximately **96.5%** of individuals aged 15-24 years can read and write simple statements in their everyday lives and perform **basic arithmetic calculations**. In urban areas, this figure is around 97.9%.
- The survey reveals significant insights into literacy, education, and infrastructure across rural and urban India. [Click here to read more.](#)

11. Which organisation has recently (in October '24) released the 15th edition of its biennial assessment '2024 Living Planet Report- A system in Peril'?

- 1) International Union for Conservation of Nature
- 2) World Organisation for Animal Health
- 3) Botanical Survey of India
- 4) World Wide Fund for Nature
- 5) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Answer- **4) World Wide Fund for Nature**

Explanation:

The World Wide Fund for Nature (**WWF**) released the **15th edition** of its biennial assessment '[2024 Living Planet Report- A system in Peril](#)' stating that the average size of monitored wildlife populations has decreased by 73% in just 50 years (1970-2020).

- The WWF uses the **Living Planet Index (LPI)**, provided by **ZSL** (Zoological Society of London), to track wildlife population trends, covering nearly **35,000 populations** of 5,495 species from 1970 to 2020.
- The report emphasizes that urgent action is needed **over the next 5 years** to address the serious climate and nature crises as the Earth nears critical tipping points that threaten humanity.
- The steepest declines in wildlife populations are in **Latin America and the Caribbean (95%)**, Africa (76%), and Asia-Pacific (60%).
- In India, populations of three vulture species have drastically declined: the **white-rumped vulture** by 67%, the **Indian vulture** by 48%, and the **slender-billed vulture** by 89% since 2002.

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) recently conducted the first **Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India** (SPAI), estimating the population at 718 across 70% of their potential range. [Click here to read more.](#)

12. Name the Indian industrialist who has topped the Forbes' India's 100 Richest 2024 list published in October 2024.

- 1) Mukesh Ambani
- 2) Gautam Adani
- 3) Sundar Pichai
- 4) Roshni Nadar Malhotra
- 5) Savitri Jindal

Answer- **1) Mukesh Ambani**

Explanation:

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), has retained the top spot on [Forbes India's 100 Richest 2024 List](#) with an estimated net worth of **USD 119.5 billion** across diversified assets, up by USD 27.5 billion compared to USD 92 billion in 2023.

- **Gautam Adani**, Chairman of Adani Group, was ranked 2nd on the list with an estimated net worth of USD 116 billion.
- He is followed by **Savitri Jindal**, the matriarch of the OP Jindal Group, jumped by 1 place to **3rd** position on the list for the 1st time with a net worth of USD 43.7 billion, up by USD 19.7 billion from 2023.
- According to Forbes, the combined wealth of India's top 100 Richest tycoons breached the mark of USD 1 trillion for the 1st time as the total wealth of these individuals increased significantly by **40%**.
- **Nikhil Kamath** (38 years old), co-founder of the trading platform **Zerodha** has again emerged as the youngest billionaire on the list, ranked at **33rd** position on the list with net worth of **USD 8.4 billion**.
- As per the Forbes list, 5 Indian billionaires returned to the list after a hiatus, among them the most prominent name is: **Irfan Razak & Siblings**, whose Bangalore (Karnataka)-based developer Projects has made significant progress in the real estate market of Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was ranked at **49th** spot with a net worth of USD 6 billion. [Click here to read more.](#)

13. Which organisation/ministry has recently (in October' 24) released the report 'The All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey for 2021-22'?

- 1) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- 2) NITI Aayog
- 3) National Sample Survey Office
- 4) Ministry of Finance
- 5) Ministry of Rural Development

Answer- **1) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development**

Explanation:

On 9th October 2024, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**) has released the results of its 2nd ['NABARD All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey \(NAFIS\) for](#)

2021-22', which provides primary data based on a survey of **1 lakh rural households**, covering various economic and financial aspects in the post-COVID period.

- The key findings of NAFIS 2021-22 provide deep insights on how rural economic and financial indicators have evolved since 2016-17.
- The inaugural NAFIS was conducted by NABARD for the agricultural year (July-June) 2016-17, and was released in August 2018.
- It is a national-level survey conducted by the Department of Economic Analysis & Research (**DEAR**), NABARD based in Mumbai(Maharashtra).
- It provides a comprehensive overview of the status of rural population in terms of two different, yet interconnected themes i.e. livelihood and financial inclusion. [Click here to read more.](#)

14. Which organisation has recently (in October '24) revealed that India has 129 million citizens living in extreme poverty in the report 'Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet Report 2024-Pathways Out of the Polycrisis'?

- 1) Asian Development Bank
- 2) World Bank
- 3) National Sample Survey Office
- 4) International Labour Organisation
- 5) Geological Survey of India

Answer- **2) World Bank**

Explanation:

The World Bank (WB)'s **'Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet Report 2024-Pathways Out of the Polycrisis'** reveals that India has **129 million citizens** living in extreme poverty as they are surviving on **less than Rs 180** (USD 2.15) per day.

- Individuals are classified as extremely poor if they earn less than Rs 180 (USD 2.15) daily.
- Extreme poverty in India is expected to drop below **3%** by the end of the decade, indicating a potential decline in India's share of global extreme poverty.
- A significant decrease of **38 million** individuals in poverty was noted in 2021 after a surge in previous years, attributed to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita growth.

15. Which organisation has recently (in October '24) released the "Renewable Energy and Jobs Annual Review 2024" in collaboration with International Labour Organisation (ILO)?

- 1) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited
- 2) International Energy Agency
- 3) International Renewable Energy Agency
- 4) Suzlon Group
- 5) National Solar Energy Federation of India

Answer- **3) International Renewable Energy Agency**

Explanation:

According to the report titled **"Renewable Energy and Jobs Annual Review 2024"** released by the International Renewable Energy Agency (**IRENA**) in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (**ILO**), **347 GigaWatts** (GW) of photovoltaic (PV) capacity were added to power generation globally in 2023. This marks an increase of 74% compared to 2022.

- This makes the year 2023 as a record-breaking year for solar power generation.

- As per the report, China constituted **63%** (216.9 GW) of the new PV capacities added in the year 2023.
- 2023 witnessed the largest ever increase in jobs in the renewable energy (RE) sector i.e. from 13.7 million (in 2022) to **16.2 million (in 2023)**.
- After Solar PV, **Liquid Biofuels** with 2.8 million jobs, emerged as the **2nd** largest employer in the RE sector globally in 2023, followed by **Hydropower** (2.3 million) and **Wind Power sector** (1.5 million).
- India has employed about **3,18,600 people** in the solar PV sector, including both on-grid and off-grid systems. [Click here to read more.](#)

16. According to MaxVal, a global Intellectual Property (IP) management firm, India has been ranked _____ with 188 6G-related patents.

- 1) 6th
- 2) 3rd
- 3) 5th
- 4) 2nd
- 5) 7th

Answer- **1) 6th**

Explanation:

According to various studies, **India** ranks among the **top 6 countries** globally in **filing patents related to 6G technology**, indicating the potential influence of India on the 6G standard-setting process.

- This progress made by India is in alignment with the Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi's** vision to make India a front-line contributor in the design, development and deployment of 6G technology by **2030**.
- According to the official data from **MaxVal**, a global Intellectual Property (IP) management firm, **India** has been ranked at **6th** spot with **188** 6G-related patents, based on the Government of India (GoI)'s data.
- **China** emerged as the top player in global patent filings with **6,001** 6G-related patents, followed by the United States of America (**USA**) (3,909 patents); **South Korea** (1,417 patents); **Japan** (584 patents); and the European Union (EU) (214).
- Currently, the Government of India (GoI) is evaluating **470** proposals on "Accelerated Research on 6G Ecosystem" under "**Bharat 6G Vision**".

17. Which religion has the highest unemployment rate among religious minorities in India in 2023-24 according to the "Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) July 2023- June 2024)" by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)?

- 1) Sikhs
- 2) Muslims
- 3) Christians
- 4) Hindus
- 5) Jains

Answer- **1) Sikhs**

Explanation:

The National Sample Survey Office (**NSSO**) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme

Implementation (**MoSPI**) has released the “[Periodic Labour Force Survey \(PLFS\) July 2023- June 2024](#)”, which indicates unemployment rates among India’s **religious minorities** in India increased in 2023-24 (1 July 2023 to 30 June, 2024).

- While the national average unemployment rate remained unchanged at **3.2%** for the first time in 5 years, joblessness among minorities, particularly Sikhs and Muslims, saw notable increases.
- The PLFS provides valuable estimates of key employment and unemployment indicators, including the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), and Unemployment Rate (UR).
- According to the survey, **Sikhs** faced the highest unemployment rate among religious minorities, rising from **5.1%** in 2022-23 to **5.8%** in 2023-24.
- The **MoSPI** also reports labor force participation rates (**LFPR**) which have shown growth across various communities since 2017-18, Muslims and Sikhs still lag behind the national average.
- The overall Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in India rose from **36.9%** in 2017-18 to **45.1%** in 2023-24. [Click here to read more.](#)

18. According to the recent (in October’ 24) Worldline’s report “India Digital Payments Report for 1H 2024,” the total number of _____ transactions increased to 78.97 billion in the 1st Half of 2024.

- 1) Immediate Payment Service
- 2) Real Time Gross Settlement
- 3) National Electronic Funds Transfer
- 4) Unified Payments Interface
- 5) Mobile wallets

Answer- **4) Unified Payments Interface**

Explanation:

According to the Worldline’s report titled “[India Digital Payments Report for 1H 2024](#)”, UPI (Unified Payments Interface) has maintained its dominant position with the total number of transactions grew by **52%** Year-on-Year (YoY) in 1st Half of 2024 (1H 2024 : from Jan to June), has increased from **51.9 billion (in 1H 2023)** to **78.97 billion (in 1H 2024)**.

- The report noted that the surge in UPI transactions, particularly in Person-to-Merchant (**P2M**) transactions, consolidates UPI’s status as the preferred option for micro-transactions.
- The value of these UPI transactions increased by **40%** from Rs 83.16 trillion (1H 2023) to Rs 116.63 trillion (1H 2024).
- As of June 2024, **PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm** dominate the market, collectively accounting for **94.83%** of all transactions by volume against 95.68% a year prior.
- The report highlighted that Electronic commerce(E-commerce), gaming utilities, government services, and financial services accounted for nearly **81%** of the overall transaction volume and 74% of the transaction value.
- The top 5 States and Union Territories(UT) with the highest number of transactions at physical touch points in 2024 were **Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Delhi**. [Click here to read more.](#)

19. Which country is the largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India, according to the report 'Census on Foreign Liabilities and Assets of Indian Direct Investment Entities for 2023-24' by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- 1) United States of America
- 2) Mauritius
- 3) Singapore
- 4) United Kingdom
- 5) Russia

Answer- 1) United States of America

Explanation:

According to the annual [Census on Foreign Liabilities and Assets of Indian Direct Investment Entities for 2023-24](#) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the United States of America (USA) continued to be the largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India, followed by **Mauritius**, **Singapore** and the **United Kingdom (UK)**.

- The latest census has covered a **total 41,653 entities**, of which, 37,407 reported FDI and/or Overseas Direct Investment (ODI) in their balance sheets for March 2024.
- As per the RBI census, Non-Financial Companies(NFC) constituted for approximately **90%** of the total FDI equity at face value.
- The data from RBI census showed that unlisted entities registered a growth of **17.5%** in FDI at market value during the year. Among the listed entities, the corresponding growth was higher at **29.8%**.
- **Manufacturing** sector accounted for over 50% of the total FDI equity capital at market value while it had approximately **40%** of the total share when calculated at face value. [Click here to read more.](#)

20. Which institution has recently (in October '24) released its study that states cancer cases, deaths, and their effects on life quality in BRICS countries, showing that cancer cases and deaths are likely to rise sharply in India and South Africa between 2022 and 2045?

- 1) National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)
- 2) ICMR-National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (NCDIR)
- 3) Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management
- 4) Tata Memorial Centre
- 5) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)

Answer- 2) ICMR-National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (NCDIR)

Explanation:

According to the Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based Indian Council of Medical Research(ICMR)-National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (**NCDIR**)'s latest study, cancer cases and deaths are expected to surge between **2022** and **2045** in India and South Africa.

- The study has mainly examined cancer cases, deaths and the impact on the quality of life in the **BRICS countries** – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- The study reported a **12.8%** increase in the incidence of cancer cases in India in 2025 compared to 2020.

21. Which Organisation has recently (in October' 24) said in its report, over 11.5 lakh children across the 27 states and 7 Union Territories (UTs) of India were found to be "vulnerable" to child marriage in 2023-24?

- 1) National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
- 2) Law Commission of India
- 3) NITI Aayog
- 4) United Nations Children's Fund
- 5) National Commission for Women

Answer- 1) National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

Explanation:

According to the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)'s latest report, **over 11.5 lakh** children across the 27 states and 7 Union Territories (UTs) of India were found to be "vulnerable" to child marriage in 2023-24.

- The report underscored the efforts taken by the NCPCR under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006, through partnership with Child Marriage Prohibition officers (CMPOs), district authorities, and other stakeholders.
- As per the report, Uttar Pradesh (UP) with **over 5 lakh** vulnerable children, topped among the states, followed by Assam with 1.5 lakh children and Madhya Pradesh (MP) has nearly 1 lakh such children.
- While, UTs like Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands has identified no children vulnerable to child marriage.
- The report highlighted that many districts did not conduct the exercise, and Goa and Ladakh did not share data.
- The report mentioned that **over 1.2 crore** People were reached through the various awareness campaigns against child marriage, with states like: UP, Tamil Nadu (TN), and Andhra Pradesh (AP) are leading in the fight against child marriage.
- In March 2024, a child marriage awareness campaign was launched, which resulted in states mapping **over 6 lakh schools** covering around **3 lakh villages** and blocks across 34 states/UTs. [Click here to read more.](#)

22. Which Organisation has recently (in October '24) released its flagship report titled 'World Energy Outlook (WEO 2024)', states that India is on track to become the third-largest economy in the world by 2028?

- 1) Confederation of Indian Industry- Green Business Centre
- 2) World Trade Organization
- 3) International Energy Agency
- 4) World Bank
- 5) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Answer- 3) International Energy Agency

Explanation:

The **International Energy Agency's** (IEA) has released its flagship report titled '[World Energy Outlook \(WEO 2024\)](#)'. It states that **India** is on track to become the **third-largest economy** in the world by 2028.

- The WEO, which has been published as an annual report since **1998**. It provides a global source of energy analysis and projections.

- The WEO 2024 highlighted that the global energy system is weak and heightened by regional conflicts and geopolitical tensions.
- According to the report, excess supply of oil and natural gas in the latter half of this decade could reduce price pressures and provide opportunities for clean energy investments.
- The report emphasized that the world is entering the **Age of Electricity**, with increased growth in global power demand, especially in China, where solar power generation could exceed the total electricity demand of the United States of America (USA) by the early **2030s**.
- Global electricity demand is on track to double by **2050**, mainly due to China's large scale energy transition, according to the **Carbon Tracker's statement** on the IEA's WEO 2024.
- According to the WEO 2024, **India** is going to face a higher increase in energy **demand** than any other country over the next decade mainly because of its size and the scale of rising demand from all sectors.
- India became the fastest growing economy with output increasing by **7.8%** and is expected to become the **third**-largest economy in the world by **2028**.
- By **2035**, India's carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions will amount to **2.5 billion tonnes** in **2035** which is **25%** below the level in the Stated Energy Policy Scenarios (STEPS). [Click here to read more.](#)

23. Which organisation has recently (in October '24) conducted the 'ICMR-India Diabetes 'INDIAB' survey to assess the prevalence of Diabetes in India in collaboration with the ICMR and the Department of Health Research?

- 1) Anusandhan National Research Foundation
- 2) Madras Diabetes Research Foundation
- 3) MS Swaminathan Research Foundation
- 4) World Health Organization
- 5) All India Institute of Medical Sciences

Answer- 2) Madras Diabetes Research Foundation

Explanation:

On 20th October 2024, Union Minister, **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Ministry of Science & Technology (**MoST**), released '**ICMR-India Diabetes 'INDIAB'**', Jammu related data of the 'first of its kind' world's largest survey to assess the prevalence of Diabetes in India, including Jammu & Kashmir (**J&K**), during the event held in Jammu, J&K.

- The study was conducted by the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation(MDRF) with the collaboration of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Department of Health Research, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW).
- The findings of the study will help to assess the health burden due to Diabetes, prediabetes and metabolic **Non-Communicable Diseases** (NCDs).
- The total participants screened for diabetes and other metabolic disorders in all the phases of the study were **1,21,077**, which makes it one of the largest epidemiological studies on diabetes on a global scale.
- As per the survey, the overall prevalence of **hypertension, generalized obesity and abdominal obesity** in Jammu came out to be **27.1 %**, **41.7 %** and **62.7 %** respectively.
- According to the ICMR-INDIAB study, **10.8%** of the population in Jammu region is affected by **prediabetes**, showing that there is an urgent need for action against the growing burden of NCDs in the region.

24. Which country has recently (in October' 24) regained the title as World's Largest Freest Economy in the "Economic Freedom of the World (EFW) 2024 Annual Report" by Fraser Institute?

- 1) United States of America
- 2) New Zealand
- 3) Switzerland
- 4) Hong Kong
- 5) Singapore

Answer- 4) Hong Kong

Explanation:

According to the Vancouver (Canada)-based public policy research organisation **Fraser Institute's** latest report titled "[Economic Freedom of the World \(EFW\) 2024 Annual Report](#), Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), People's Republic of China, with ratings of **8.58**, has reclaimed title as the world's largest freest economy from **Singapore**, which has been ranked at **2nd** position with overall score of 8.55.

- In EFW 2023, Hong Kong dropped from 1st position to 2nd position for the 1st time since the inception of the EFW index in 1970.
- **India** has improved its ranking by 3 places, from 87th (in EFW 2023) to **84th** (in EFW 2024) with an overall rating of 6.58.
- **Switzerland** ranked at **3rd** position with an overall score of 8.43, followed by New Zealand (with ratings of 8.39), the United States of America (USA) (with ratings of 8.09), ranked at 4th and 5th position respectively.
- This latest edition of EFW index is based on data from 2022, the most recent year with comparable statistics across **165** jurisdictions.
- According to the report, the global average economic freedom ratings for all jurisdictions increased **from 6.19 to 6.80** between 2000 and 2019. However, the global economic freedom had decreased to 6.56 in 2022, reversing more than a decade of progress. [Click here to read more.](#)

ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

1. Which company has recently (in September 2024) received Competition Commission of India (CCI)'s approval to acquire a stake in Dream11's parent company Dream Sports Inc.?

- 1) Ultra Tech Cement Limited
- 2) Carlyle Group Inc.
- 3) TIGA Investments
- 4) Reliance Industries Limited
- 5) LetsVenture

Answer- 3) TIGA Investments

Explanation:

TIGA Investments, a Singapore-based investment firm, has received approval from the **Competition Commission of India** (CCI) to acquire a stake in Dream11's parent company, **Dream Sports Inc** (DSI).

- The deal is reportedly valued at over **USD 150 million**.

- As a part of deal, **Tiga Acquisition Corp III** will purchase preferred stock and certain rights from an existing shareholder of Dream Sports. The specific shareholder's identity has not been disclosed.
- CCI has approved Mankind Pharma Ltd.'s acquisition of Bharat Serums and Vaccines Limited (BSV) for **Rs 13,630 crores**, involving a complete takeover (100% stake) of BSV's shareholding.

2. Name the airline that has recently (in September '24) merged with AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia).

- 1) Vistara
- 2) Vietjet Air
- 3) Singapore Airlines
- 4) Qatar Airways
- 5) Air India Express

Answer- **5) Air India Express**

Explanation:

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (**DGCA**) has approved the merger of AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia) with Air India Express (AIX), **w.e.f. October 1, 2024**. This strategic move aims to create a unified low-cost carrier operating under the name 'Air India Express' with a single airline code, **IX**.

- The merger was initially announced in 2022, with approval from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on June 12, 2024.
- The merger received backing from the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), and other key stakeholders.
- DGCA will introduce a digital Personnel License for **Air Traffic Controllers (ATCOs)**, enhancing operational efficiency.

3. Which company has recently (in October '24) acquired 43% of the total paid up share capital of its subsidiary firm for Rs 1,282 crore?

- 1) Aadhar Housing Finance Limited
- 2) Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited
- 3) JM Financial Limited
- 4) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited
- 5) Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited

Answer- **3) JM Financial Limited**

Explanation:

The Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) has approved the acquisition of **43%** of the total paid up share capital of JM Financial Credit Solutions Limited (**JMFCSL**) by JM Financial Limited (**JMFL**), the operating cum holding company of the JM Financial Group, for consideration of approximately **Rs 1,282 crore**.

- Following the successful completion of the transaction, the stake held by JMFL in JMFCSL will increase from 46.68% to **89.67%**.
- The board of CCI has also approved the acquisition of **71.79%** of the total paid-up share capital of JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (JMFARC), subsidiary of JMFL, by JMFSCS, for a consideration of **Rs 856 crore**.

4. Which Organisation has recently (in October' 24) raised its shareholding in Bank of Maharashtra from 4.05% to 7.10% following a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP)?

- 1) Reliance Industries Limited
- 2) IDFC First Bank Limited
- 3) Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited
- 4) HDFC Bank Limited
- 5) Life Insurance Corporation of India

Answer- 5) Life Insurance Corporation of India

Explanation:

Mumbai(Maharashtra) based Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) increased its shareholding in the Pune (Maharashtra) based **Bank of Maharashtra (BOM)** from **4.05% to 7.10%**, after being allotted 25.96 crore shares as part of the bank's Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) Process. LIC has acquired additional 3.376% at an average price of Rs. 57.36 per share.

- Among the top investors in the QIP process, LIC received 42.56% of the total issue size, followed by ICICI Prudential Life Insurance with 8.51%, and Aditya Birla Sun Life with 5.67%.
- The allotment was made under the guidelines of Regulation 30 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, which was issued in July 2023.

5. The Government of India (GoI) has recently (in October' 24) divested 5% of its stake in _____, through an Offer for Sale (OFS) priced at Rs 1,540 per share.

- 1) National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)
- 2) Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)
- 3) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)
- 4) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)
- 5) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

Answer- 2) Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)

Explanation:

The Government of India (GoI) divested 5% of its stake in **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)**, through an **Offer for Sale (OFS)** priced at Rs 1,540 per share.

The total value of the stake is estimated to be around Rs 2,026 crore.

- This stake sale aimed at attracting more investment into the company while improving its operational efficiency.
- This move is also part of GoI's broader strategy to enhance its revenue through disinvestment in various Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
- The GoI sold up to **6,577,020** equity shares, representing a **2.50%** stake, as a '**Base Offer**' on October 16, 2024, for non-retail investors and on October 17, 2024, for retail investors.
- An additional 6,577,020 shares (2.50% stake) is available as an '**Oversubscription Option**', totaling 5 % of the company's total issued and paid-up equity share capital.

6. Which bank has recently (in October' 24) acquired a 24.9% shareholding in Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited (FGIICL)?

- 1) Central Bank of India
- 2) Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited
- 3) Rajapur Sahakari Bank Limited

- 4) RBL Bank
- 5) HDFC Bank

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

Explanation:

The Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) has approved the proposed acquisition of **24.9%** shareholding in Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited (**FGIICL**), a general insurance company and **25.18%** shareholding in Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Limited (**FGILICL**) by **Central Bank of India**, a scheduled commercial bank.

- This acquisition was approved following the bid/resolution plan submitted by the Central Bank of India under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (**IBBI**) (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016.
- FGILICL is a life insurance company, which provides savings insurance, investment plans like: Unit Linked Insurance Plan (**ULIP**), term insurance plans, child plans, retirement plans, among others.
- The CCI has approved the proposal of Bharti Airtel Limited (**Bharti Airtel**) to increase its stake in Indus Towers Limited (**Indus Towers**), passive telecom infrastructure provider, to **50.005%** (from previous shareholding of 48.95%) pursuant to buy back of shares by Indus Towers.
- The CCI has approved the proposal of **Aquilo House Pte. Limited** (AHPL) to acquire **Aavas Financiers Limited** (AFL) (**Target**), registered with the National Housing Bank (**NHB**) as a non-deposit taking housing finance company. [Click here to read more.](#)

DEFENCE

1. Name the Joint Military Exercise between India and Kazakhstan that was recently (in September '24) commenced in Auli, Uttarakhand.

- 1) Tarang Shakti 2024
- 2) IMBEX- 2024
- 3) KAZIND-2024
- 4) EXUS-2024
- 5) IMCOR- 2024

Answer- **3) KAZIND-2024**

Explanation:

The **8th** edition of India-Kazakhstan Joint Military '**Exercise KAZIND**', an annual bilateral exercise, commenced on **30th September 2024** at Surya Foreign Training Node, **Auli, Uttarakhand**. The exercise is being held from 30th September to 13th October 2024.

- The Exercise KAZIND 2024 is based on the theme of conducting Joint Subconventional Operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate.
- The objective of the exercise is to strengthen interoperability and cooperation, particularly in the context of counter-terrorism operations.
- In 2016, joint exercise between India and Kazakhstan was instituted as "Exercise **Prabal Dostyk**".

- The India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise **KAZIND** is a key defence collaboration aimed at enhancing counter-terrorism capabilities, improving interoperability between the armed forces, and strengthening strategic relations between the two nations.

2. Name the company that recently (in September 2024) delivered India's first indigenously developed Submachine Gun (SMG), "Asmi," to the Northern Command of the Indian Army.

- 1) Economic Explosives Limited
- 2) Lokesh Machines Limited
- 3) AXISCADES Technologies Limited
- 4) SECON Engineering Projects Private Limited
- 5) Mehta Hitech Industries Limited

Answer- 2) Lokesh Machines Limited

Explanation:

Hyderabad, Telangana based **Lokesh Machines Limited** has successfully delivered the first major order for its 9×19 millimeter(mm) Sub-Machine Gun (SMG) "**Asmi**" to the Northern Command of the Indian Army(IA).

- This is **India's first** SMG developed indigenously by the private sector.
- The delivery was part of a contract valued at approximately USD 550,000 for 550 ASMI 9×19-millimeter SMGs.
- The ASMI, acronym for **Ashmita** meaning "**pride,**" weighs **2.4 kg (5.3 lbs)**, making it 10-15% lighter than comparable SMGs.

3. Which company has recently (in September 2024) launched a series of advanced remote-controlled weapon and surveillance systems - Parashu; Fanish; Sharur; and Durgam to enhance the defence capabilities of India?

- 1) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- 2) Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited
- 3) Zen Technologies Limited
- 4) Signaltron Systems Private Limited
- 5) Bharat Electronics Limited

Answer- 3) Zen Technologies Limited

Explanation:

Hyderabad(Telangana) Based-**Zen Technologies Limited** has launched a series of advanced remote-controlled weapon and surveillance systems to enhance the defence capabilities of India. These innovations were developed in collaboration with **AI Turing Technologies** Private Limited.

- The newly launched systems include RCWS – 7.62 x 51 MMG (**Parashu**), Tank Mounted RCWS – 12.7 x 108 HMG (**Fanish**), Naval RCWS – 12.7 x 99 HMG (**Sharur**), and Artillery Rugged Camera (**Durgam**).
- This marks a significant step in modernising India's defence sector.

4. Which ministry has recently (in September '24) partnered with Military College of Telecommunications Engineering (MCTE) to foster innovation for defence applications?

- 1) Ministry of Defence
- 2) Ministry of Science and Technology
- 3) Ministry of Home Affairs

4) Ministry of Finance

5) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Answer- **5) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) and Indore (Madhya Pradesh, MP) based Military College of Telecommunications Engineering (**MCTE**) have partnered to foster **innovation** and **drive technological advancements** for defence applications.

- Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, the Research and Development (R&D) organisations of MeitY have handed over indigenously developed products to MCTE for military use.
- This partnership aims to strengthen collaborative efforts for joint R&D in areas like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum, Chip Design, Fifth Generation(5G) & beyond, strategic electronics and communications etc.
- This partnership will also provide a platform for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through an incubation ecosystem, promoting cross-pollination of ideas and technologies.

5. In which state, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has recently (in October '24) conducted three flight tests of the advanced 4th Generation Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)?

1) Andhra Pradesh

2) Gujarat

3) Odisha

4) Rajasthan

5) Assam

Answer- **4) Rajasthan**

Explanation:

On 3rd and 4th October 2024, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted three flight tests of the advanced **4th Generation** technically-advanced miniaturised Very Short Range Air Defence System (**VSHORADS**) at the **Pokhran Field Firing Ranges** in **Rajasthan**, demonstrating its capabilities against high-speed targets.

- The test was done from a **ground based portable launcher**.
- The development trials demonstrated the weapon system's reliable hit-to-kill capability across various target engagement scenarios, including approaching, receding, and crossing modes.
- The VSHORADS missiles are fully developed, with two production agencies engaged as **Development cum Production Partners (DcPP)**.
- The VSHORADS, designed as a Man Portable Air Defence System, was developed by Hyderabad, Telangana based **Research Centre Imarat (RCI)** in collaboration with other DRDO labs. These are fully digital and heat-seeking. It has a strike range up to **6 km**.

6. Which Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has recently (in September' 24) partnered with Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) to develop a Light Weight Bullet Proof Jacket 'ABHED (Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat)'?

- 1) IIT Madras
- 2) IIT Roorkee
- 3) IIT Kanpur
- 4) IIT Delhi
- 5) IIT Mumbai

Answer- 4) IIT Delhi

Explanation:

Defence Research & Development Organisation (**DRDO**) in partnership with researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT**) Delhi, New Delhi(Delhi), has developed 'ABHED (Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat)', a Light Weight Bullet Proof Jacket

- ABHED was developed at the DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence (**DIA-CoE**) at IIT Delhi.
- The jackets meet the highest threat levels and provide **360-degree protection** with front & rear armour.

7. In which state, a new artillery firing range was recently (in September' 24) opened by the Indian Army?

- 1) Rajasthan
- 2) Telangana
- 3) Arunachal Pradesh
- 4) Ladakh
- 5) Odisha

Answer- 3) Arunachal Pradesh

Explanation:

The Indian Army (IA) has opened a new **artillery firing range** in the Tawang sector of **Arunachal Pradesh (AR)**, which falls under the Eastern Command of the IA. This is the **first** artillery firing range in a **high-altitude area**.

- This range will allow the IA to practise firing howitzers and other weapon systems.
- The IA has identified 2 firing ranges in AR – one in Tawang (operationalised) and the other is in the process of getting notified.

8. Which organisation has recently (in October' 24) delivered the first AL-31FP Aero Engine to the Indian Air Force(IAF) at Koraput, Odisha?

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

Answer- 4) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

Explanation:

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (**HAL**) handed over the **first AL-31FP Aero Engine** manufactured under a 240-engine contract to the Indian Air Force(**IAF**) at Koraput, Odisha in the presence

of Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary (Defence Production), Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Dr D K Sunil, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of HAL.

- The MoD signed a **Rs. 26,000 crore** contract with HAL for 240 AL-31FP Aero Engines for Su-30MKI aircraft in September 2024 and these engines would be delivered in 8 years.
- Sukhoi Engine Division, Koraput, was created by HAL to manufacture engines of Su-30MKI aircraft from the raw material stage to the final engine.

9. Which organisation has recently (in October '24) delivered Indian Naval Ship (INS) Nirdeshak (Yard 3026), the second of four Survey Vessel Large (SVL) ships to the Indian Navy (IN)?

- 1) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- 2) Goa Shipyard Limited
- 3) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- 4) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited
- 5) Housing & Urban Development Corporation Limited

Answer- 4) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited

Explanation:

On 8th October 2024, Kolkata (West Bengal, WB)-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Limited delivered Indian Naval Ship (INS) Nirdeshak (Yard 3026), the second of four Survey Vessel Large (SVL) ships, to the Indian Navy (IN).

- It is steered by Warship Design Bureau of IN and is being constructed at GRSE headquarters in Kolkata, WB.
- The SVL ships are designed and built according to the classification rules of Indian Register of Shipping by M/s GRSE, Kolkata.
- It has an overall length of 110 meters (m), with displacement of about 3400 tons. It has an indigenous content of **over 80%** by cost. It was built using "Integrated Construction" technology.
- It is equipped with state-of-the-art **hydrographic equipment** such as data acquisition and processing system, autonomous underwater vehicle, remotely operated vehicle, DGPS long range positioning systems, digital side sonar, among others.

10. Which country has recently (in October '24) approved the sale of 53 MK-54 lightweight torpedoes All-Up Rounds (AURs) to India?

- 1) Malaysia
- 2) Sri Lanka
- 3) Japan
- 4) Hungary
- 5) United States of America

Answer- 5) United States of America

Explanation:

The Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), the Government of the United States of America (USA), has approved the sale of **53 MK-54 lightweight torpedoes All-Up Rounds (AURs)** to **India**. These torpedoes are valued at approximately **USD 175 million (Rs 14.7 billion)**.

- This include recoverable exercise torpedoes, air-launch accessories, spare parts, torpedo containers, and a range of technical support services.

- The torpedoes are intended for use with India's **MH-60R Seahawk helicopters** to enhance naval capabilities.
- The MK 54 torpedo is an advanced lightweight weapon developed by **Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems** in collaboration with the US Navy. It can be launched from various platforms, including surface ships, fixed-wing aircraft, and helicopters.

11. Which of the following countries did 'not' participate in the 28th edition of the multi-national maritime exercise MALABAR 2024 held in October 2024?

- 1) United States of America
- 2) Japan
- 3) Australia
- 4) India
- 5) Sri Lanka

Answer- **5) Sri Lanka**

Explanation:

The **28th** edition of the multi-national maritime exercise MALABAR (2024) commenced off the coast of **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP)** under the Eastern Naval Command (**ENC**). The exercise saw participation from the Indian Navy (**IN**), the United States Navy (**USN**), the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (**JMSDF**) and the Royal Australian Navy (**RAN**) from 8th to 18th October 2024.

- The MALABAR 2024 Exercise is hosted by the IN to enhance interoperability and strengthen maritime cooperation.
- The MALABAR Exercise began in **1992** as a bilateral exercise between India and the United States of America (USA).
- The **USN** is represented by the P-8 Poseidon, the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Dewey (DDG 105), and Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 15, 7th Fleet is also participating.
- The **JMSDF** is represented by the Murasame-class destroyer JS Ariake (DD 109).
- The **RAN** has deployed the Anzac-class frigate HMAS Stuart (FFH 153). A Royal Australian Air Force P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft.
- The MALABAR -2024 is conducted in two phases, **Harbor and Sea**.

12. Name the multinational maritime exercise in which Indian Naval Ship (INS) Talwar has recently (in October '24) participated at Simon's Town in South Africa.

- 1) IBSAMAR VIII
- 2) Tarang Shakti
- 3) RIMPAC
- 4) MAITREE
- 5) Mitra Shakti

Answer- **1) IBSAMAR VIII**

Explanation:

On 6th October 2024, Indian Naval Ship (**INS**) **Talwar**, frontline stealth frigate of Indian Navy (IN) arrived at Simon's Town in South Africa (SA) to participate in the **8th** edition of India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime (**IBSAMAR VIII**), a joint multinational maritime exercise among the navies of India, Brazil and South Africa.

- The trilateral maritime exercise, which commenced on 6th October 2024, will run till 18th October 2024.
- The exercise aims to improve interoperability and strengthen ties between the navies of 3 countries.
- This exercise takes place right before the upcoming **2024 BRICS Summit in Russia**.
- The exercise is based on **Blue Water Naval Warfare**, covering the dimensions of Surface and Anti-Air Warfare.
- The participation of INS Talwar in IBSAMAR VIII aims to bolster the ties between two countries and reaffirm India's commitment to constructive collaboration and mutual growth.

13. In October 2024, the Indian Army (IA) has unveiled its first upgraded T-90 'Bhishma' tank, which is manufactured under a licence agreement with _____(Country)

- 1) United States of America
- 2) France
- 3) South Africa
- 4) Russia
- 5) Israel

Answer- 4) Russia

Explanation:

On 7 October 2024, the **Indian Army (IA)** unveiled its first upgraded **T-90 'Bhishma'** tank, marking a significant move toward enhancing the operational capabilities of its armored units. The rollout ceremony was attended by the Chief of the Army Staff (CoAS) of the IA, **Upendra Dwivedi**.

- This initiative is part of the Army's ambitious "**Decade of Transformation**," reflecting India's growing indigenous capability to maintain and enhance critical military platforms.
- The T-90 tanks, manufactured under a license agreement with **Russia**, are produced at the Heavy Vehicles Factory (**HVF**) in **Avadi**, near Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).
- The IA has ordered **1,657 T-90 tanks** and currently operates around 1,300 units. The first set is now undergoing a significant overhaul.
- The next round of testing for the upgraded T-90 'Bhishma' tank will include **missile firing**. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) plans to complete various trials by **January 2025**.

14. Which company has built the 'Missile Cum Ammunition Barge 'LSAM 12 (Yard 80)' launched by the Indian Navy (IN) in October 2024?

- 1) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- 2) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited
- 3) M/s Vinayaga Marine Petro Limited
- 4) Mazagon Dock Limited
- 5) M/s SECON Engineering Projects Private Limited

Answer- 5) M/s SECON Engineering Projects Private Limited

Explanation:

The Indian Navy (IN) launched the 'Missile Cum Ammunition Barge, **LSAM 12** (Landing Ship Ammunition) (**Yard 80**)', which will enhance its naval logistics and firepower.

- This is the **sixth vessel** of 8 Missile Cum Ammunition Barge projects, aimed at strengthening the Navy's operational capabilities.
- It is built by **M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd (SEPPL)**, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- On 19th February 2021 Ministry of Defence (MoD) and SEPPL, signed the contract for the construction of 8 Missile Cum Ammunition Barges.
- Indigenously designed, built under **Indian Register of Shipping (IRClass)** regulations, with model testing at the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory.

15. Which company has recently (in October 2024) launched the Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) Yard No. 18001 named Indian Naval Ship (INS) 'Samarthak' in Chennai, Tamil Nadu(TN)?

- 1) Larsen & Toubro
- 2) Goa Shipyard Limited
- 3) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- 4) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited
- 5) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

Answer- **1) Larsen & Toubro**

Explanation:

On 14th October 2024, Larsen & Toubro (**L&T**) launched the first of class Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) **Yard No. 18001** named Indian Naval Ship (**INS**) **Samarthak**, built for the **Indian Navy (IN)**, from L&T Kattupalli Shipyard near Chennai, Tamil Nadu(TN).

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Chennai (Tamil Nadu) Based L&T Shipbuilding Limited signed a contract for the construction of 2 MPVs on 25th March 2022.
- The MPV is **106 meters** long and **16.8 meters** wide, capable of reaching a top speed of 15 knots.
- It is designed to **tow other vessels**, which is essential for naval operations. This capability allows it to assist in maneuvering disabled ships back to safety or to support naval exercises.
- It is designed to use **uncrewed autonomous vehicles (UAVs)**, which help with surveillance and gathering information.

16. Name the Multi-Target Detonation Device that was recently (in October '24) launched by the Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi during the Army Commanders' Conference (ACC) in Gangtok, Sikkim.

- 1) SEBEX 2
- 2) VL-SRSAM
- 3) Zorawar
- 4) Agniashtra
- 5) Vijayanta

Answer- **4) Agniashtra**

Explanation:

On 11th October 2024, Indian Army (**IA**)'s Chief of the Army Staff (**COAS**), General Upendra Dwivedi launched the "**Agniashtra**," a multi-target portable detonation device (WEDC), during the Army Commanders Conference (**ACC**) held in **Gangtok, Sikkim**.

- It was developed by Major Rajprasad RS from the Indian Army's Corps of Engineers.
- Agniashtra was developed to address the critical operational needs in military engagement.

- WEDC was created to improve the safety and reliability of executing **multiple-target detonations**, addressing shortcomings of older systems like the Exploder Dynamo Capacitor.
- The system is equipped with **microprocessor-based electronic controls**, which enhance its precision and operational capabilities.
- WEDC is specifically designed to assist in **counter-terrorism operations**, especially in neutralizing improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and facilitating safer demolitions from a distance.

17. Name the bilateral naval exercise conducted by the Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) off the coast of Goa from 13th to 18th October 2024.

- 1) Naseem Al Bahr
- 2) Exercise Kakadu
- 3) Exercise Eastern Bridge
- 4) Parvat Pahaar
- 5) Exercise SIMBEX

Answer- **1) Naseem Al Bahr**

Explanation:

The **Indian Navy (IN)** and **Royal Navy of Oman (RNO)** successfully conducted ‘**Naseem Al Bahr**’, the Indo-Oman bilateral naval exercise off **Goa’s** coast from **13th to 18th October 2024**. The exercise enhanced interoperability and understanding of each other’s best practices.

- ‘Naseem Al Bahr’ is also known as “**Sea Breeze**”.
- The exercise was held in **two phases: the harbour phase from 13th to 15th October 2024** and **the Sea Phase from 16th to 18th October 2024**.
- The integral helicopter operated from INS Trikand and undertook cross-deck landings and **vertical replenishment (VERTREP)** with RNOV Al Seeb.
- The Indian Navy’s Dornier aircraft provided **Over-the-Horizon Targeting (OTHT)** data with the participating ships.

18. Where was the Indian Navy (IN) recently (in October’ 24) launched its 4th nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine under the code name “S4*”?

- 1) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 2) Kochi, Kerala
- 3) Mormugao, Goa
- 4) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- 5) Kolkata, West Bengal

Answer- **4) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**

Explanation:

The **Indian Navy (IN)** has launched its **4th** nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (also known as Ship, Submersible, Ballistic, Nuclear, **SSBN**) under the code name “**S4***” at the Ship Building Centre (SBC) in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP)**. This marks a significant milestone in India’s efforts to enhance its naval capabilities and maintain strategic stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

- The launch of S4* follows the commissioning of Indian Naval Ship (**INS**) **Arighaat** (2nd SSBN) by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on 29th August, 2024, while **INS Aridhaman** (3rd SSBN) is expected to be commissioned in 2025.

- S4*SSBN is equipped with K-4 ballistic missiles that have a target range of 3,500 kilometers (kms) and can be launched through vertical systems, compared to 1st SSBN, INS Arihant which carries K-15 nuclear missiles with a range of 750 kms.
- It features about **75%** indigenous content, demonstrating India's progress in defence manufacturing.
- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a Very Low Frequency (**VLF**) **Naval Station** in the Damagundam forest area of Vikarabad district, Telangana.
- India is expected to acquire a Russian **Akula**-class nuclear-powered attack submarine on lease by 2028. [Click here to read more.](#)

19. Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has recently (in October 2024) launched two Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) Adamyia and _____ built by the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).

- 1) Mulki
- 2) Arighaat
- 3) Triput
- 4) Akshar
- 5) Malpe

Answer- **4) Akshar**

Explanation:

On 28th October 2024, the Indian Coast Guard (**ICG**) launched two domestic Fast Patrol Vessels (**FPVs**), named '**Adamyia**' and '**Akshar**', built by the Goa Shipyard Limited (**GSL**).

- The vessels, with over **60% indigenous content**, were launched by Priya Paramesh, wife of Paramesh Sivamani, Director General of ICG.
- These vessels aim to enhance security around offshore assets and island territories and bolster surveillance capabilities.
- The FPVs state-of-the-art FPVs are a part of the contract signed between ICG and GSL for 8 FPVs to be built at a cost of **Rs 473 crore**.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Which country has recently (in September' 24) launched six new satellites - 'Jilin-1 Kuanfu 02B (01-06)' into space?

- 1) United Arab Emirates
- 2) Türkiye
- 3) China
- 4) Europe
- 5) United States of America

Answer- **3) China**

Explanation:

On 20th September 2024, China successfully launched six new satellites – "**Jilin-1 Kuanfu 02B (01-06)**" into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province.

- Jilin-1 Kuanfu (wideband) 02B satellites numbers 1-6 were launched aboard a Long March-2D carrier rocket.

- This satellite features a high resolution and wide-field-of-view telephoto range imager for high-resolution land observation.

2. According to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), India's Lunar Mission _____ has landed within a buried impact crater.

- 1) Chandrayaan-3
- 2) Chandrayaan-0
- 3) Chandrayaan-1
- 4) Chandrayaan-2
- 5) Chandrayaan-4

Answer- **1) Chandrayaan-3**

Explanation:

Scientists from the Physical Research Laboratory (**PRL**) and Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) stated that India's Lunar Mission, **Chandrayaan-3** with the **Vikram**-lander and the **Pragyan** rover, has landed within a buried impact crater of diameter 160 kilometres (Km) and 4.4 km deep.

- The crater is expected to be **one of the oldest craters** on the Moon (older than the South Pole Aitken (SPA) basin, an ancient and the largest impact basin in the Solar System).
- The details of the study titled, 'Chandrayaan-3 landing site evolution by South Pole-Aitken basin and other impact craters', published in the peer-reviewed journal [Icarus](#).
- The lunar mission landed on the high latitude highland region near the south pole of the Moon located ~350 km from the SPA basin rim.
- The geomorphological and topographical analysis shows that this semi-circular structure is a heavily degraded crater structure or a buried impact crater. This semi-circular structure encompassed the station, **Shiv Shakti** (yellow star).

3. What is the name of a temporary "mini-moon", which will revolve around Earth from 29th September 2024 until 25th November 2024?

- 1) HD36384 b
- 2) MWC 758 c
- 3) 2022 AM5
- 4) 2024 PT5
- 5) TOI - 198 b

Answer- **4) 2024 PT5**

Explanation:

Earth has gained a temporary "**mini-moon**", an asteroid named '**2024 PT5**', which will revolve around Earth from 29th September 2024 until 25th November 2024. This will revolve in a **horseshoe shape** for around **55 days** and then escape Earth's gravitational pull without completing the full revolution.

- 2024 PT5, captured by Earth's gravitational pull, is around 10 meters in diameter. This won't be visible to the naked eye.
- It originates from the Arjuna asteroid belt, which comprises a collection of space rocks that share similar orbits with our planet.
- The 2024 PT5 was discovered with the help of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**)-funded Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (**ATLAS**).

- This Near Earth object (NEO) is the 5th detected mini-moon of Earth. The **1st mini-moon, 1991 VG**, was spotted in 1991.
- The findings about this mini-moon was published in the journal “Research Notes of the American Astronomical Society”.

4. Astronomers recently (in September’ 24) mapped the variation in the Sun’s chromosphere rotation speed from the equator to the poles using 100 years of data from_____.

- 1) Habitable Worlds Observatory
- 2) Nainital Astronomical Observatory
- 3) Vainu Bappu Observatory
- 4) Kodaikanal Solar Observatory
- 5) Udaipur Solar Observatory

Answer- **4) Kodaikanal Solar Observatory**

Explanation:

Astronomers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics(**IIA**) in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka, have discovered that the Sun’s outer layer “the chromosphere” rotates at different speeds from its equator (25 days) to its poles (35 days).

- The discovery was made using the 100 years of daily records from the **Kodaikanal Solar Observatory**, Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu(TN).
- This study marks the **1st time** that chromospheric network cells have been used to map the Sun’s rotation across latitudes.
- The findings, published in the **Astrophysical Journal**, provide critical insights into the Sun’s magnetic field and its activity cycles.

5. Which country has recently (in September ‘24) unveiled powerful suicide drone “Shahed 136B”?

- 1) Brazil
- 2) India
- 3) Bhutan
- 4) Iran
- 5) Nepal

Answer- **4) Iran**

Explanation:

Iran, for the first time, showcased “**Shahed 136B**”, a one-way attack drone which is also known as a ‘kamikaze’ drone or ‘suicide’ drones, and “**Jihad**”, a single-stage liquid-fuel ballistic missile, at the Armed Forces military parade held in September 2024, marking the anniversary of the start of the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

- Shahed 136B, the latest Iran-made drone, is an upgraded version of the Shahed-136, with new features and an operational range of more than 4,000 kilometres(Km).
- Jihad is a ballistic missile with a high-explosive detachable warhead and a range of 1,000 km. The missile was designed and manufactured by the aerospace arm of Iran’s Revolutionary Guards.

6. Name the organisation/ministry that has recently (in October 2024) approved Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex), India's 5th Lunar mission.

- 1) NewSpace India Limited
- 2) Indian Space Research Organisation
- 3) National Space Commission
- 4) Ministry of Science and Technology
- 5) Ministry of Earth Sciences

Answer- **3) National Space Commission**

Explanation:

The **National Space Commission**, India's apex body on space missions, has approved the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (**Lupex**), India's 5th Lunar mission. This will be conducted in collaboration between the Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) and Japan's Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (**JAXA**).

- Lupex aims for a lunar surface duration of up to **100 days**, significantly longer than Chandrayaan-3's 20 days.
- JAXA will develop the rover and rocket, while ISRO will create the lander system. The Lupex rover will weigh about **350 kg**, much larger than the **26 kg Pragyaa** rover from Chandrayaan-3.
- The mission will land at the Moon's south pole to investigate water and other resources, as well as analyze the interaction of water with lunar regolith.

7. Which Satellite Launch Vehicle of ISRO has recently (in October '24) re-entered the Earth's Atmosphere 8 years after its launch?

- 1) PSLV C-37
- 2) PSLV-C57
- 3) PSLV-DL
- 4) PSLV-C58
- 5) PSLV-3S

Answer- 1) PSLV C-37

Explanation:

The successful re-entry of Indian Space Research Organization's (**ISRO**) upper stage of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle C-37 (**PSLV C-37**) into Earth's atmosphere was made on October 6, 2024.

- This marks a significant milestone in ISRO's efforts and aims to achieve a **Debris Free Space Mission (DFSM)** by 2030 through ongoing proactive measures.
- The orbital altitude had decayed to 134×148 km, and re-entry occurred at the **North Atlantic Ocean**.
- PSLV-C37, launched on 15th February 2017, set a record by **deploying 104 satellites**, including the primary payload **Cartosat-2D** and 103 co-passengers.

8. Name the recently (in October '24) discovered exoplanet orbiting Barnard's star, the closest single star to our Sun.

- 1) Barnard a
- 2) Barnard b
- 3) Barnard 1
- 4) Barnard 2

5) Barnard 1a

Answer- **2) Barnard b**

Explanation:

Astronomers have discovered an **exoplanet** orbiting **Barnard's star**, a red dwarf star, the closest single star to our Sun using the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope (**ESO's VLT**). The discovery of this new exoplanet was published in the journal Astronomy & Astrophysics(A&A).

- This new exoplanet is known as '**Barnard b**', it is estimated to have a diameter about 6,000 miles (9,700 kilometre/km), or roughly three-quarters that of Earth.
- Barnard b is twenty times closer to Barnard's star than Mercury is to the Sun. It orbits its star in 3.15 Earth days and has a surface temperature around 125 °C. It is one of the lowest-mass exoplanets known and one of the few known with a mass less than that of Earth.

9. Name the fully reusable super heavy-lift launch vehicle developed by SpaceX that has recently (in October '24) completed its 5th test flight in Texas, the USA.

- 1) GOES-U
- 2) Fram2
- 3) TÜRKSAT-6A
- 4) Falcon
- 5) Starship

Answer- **5) Starship**

Explanation:

On 13th October 2024, Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (**SpaceX**) successfully launched the 5th test flight of the **Starship**, the 2-stage fully reusable super heavy-lift launch vehicle, from Starbase near Boca Chica, **Texas**, The United States of America(**USA**).

- The empty Starship blasted off from Texas near the Mexican border at a height of around **400 feet** (121 meters).
- The retro-looking spacecraft launched by the booster continued to move up to more than **130 miles** (212 kilometres) high.
- Following a successful liftoff, ascent, stage separation, boost back burn, and coast, the **71m Super Heavy booster** performed its landing burn and was caught by the chopstick arms of the launch and catch tower at Starbase.

10. Name the recently (in October '24) launched spacecraft by NASA to study Jupiter and its moon Europa.

- 1) Europa Clipper
- 2) Soyuz MS-25
- 3) RHUMI-1
- 4) Aditya-L1
- 5) Voyager 2

Answer- **1) Europa Clipper**

Explanation:

On 14th October 2024, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched its **Europa Clipper** spacecraft under the Europa mission to Jupiter and its moon **Europa**, one of Jupiter's 95 known moons.

- The spacecraft was aboard a Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX)'s Falcon **Heavy rocket** and was lifted off from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Florida, the United States of America (USA).
- This marks NASA's **1st** mission dedicated to studying an ocean world beyond Earth.
- The primary objective of the mission is to determine whether the icy shell of Europa and its ocean underneath could support life.
- NASA's Europa mission is part of its Artemis program, which aims to send astronauts back to the Moon and eventually to Mars. The cost of the mission is **USD 5.2 billion**.
- The Europa Clipper spacecraft will cover the distance of 1.8 billion miles (2.9 billion kilometer (km)) and will enter into Jupiter's orbit by April 2030 and will begin its scientific operations in 2031.
- The mission will conclude in 2034 with a planned crash into Ganymede, the largest moon of Jupiter.
- Europa Clipper is the **largest spacecraft** ever built by NASA for a planetary mission, mainly due to its massive solar arrays. [Click here to read more.](#)

11. Which among the following has recently (in October 2024) announced partnership to bring its Artificial intelligence (AI) research and models to support India's healthcare, sustainability and agriculture sectors?

- 1) Google
- 2) Bank of Baroda
- 3) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- 4) Ministry of Science and Technology
- 5) Meta

Answer- **1) Google**

Explanation:

Google made a series of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**-led collaborations aimed at enhancing India's healthcare, sustainability, and agriculture sectors. This initiative was unveiled during a roundtable event in Bengaluru, Karnataka, coinciding with the **fifth anniversary** of Google's Research Lab in the city.

- The partnerships focus on utilizing AI to address challenges in these critical areas.
- Google is working on **diabetic retinopathy screenings** through AI-assisted technologies, aiming to provide 6 million screenings over the next decade at no cost to patients.
- Google is opening its **Agricultural Landscape Understanding (ALU) API** (Android Programming Interface) to developers, which will provide insights for more efficient farming practices based on satellite imagery and Machine Learning (ML).

12. For which mission, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has recently (in October 2024) acquired two 400kg satellites?

- 1) Space Docking Experiment
- 2) Polaris Dawn Mission
- 3) VV24 mission
- 4) Mission TRISHNA
- 5) Simulated Mars Mission

Answer- **1) Space Docking Experiment**

Explanation:

The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** has acquired **two 400kg** satellites that are part of an important upcoming mission known as **Space Docking Experiment (SPADEX)**.

- As part of this mission, these two satellites will be ejected into slightly different orbits by a single rocket.
- **Ananth Technologies Private Limited (ATL)**, has facilitated the integration of two 400kg satellites for ISRO and were provided to them at ISRO's **Udupi Ramachandra Rao Satellite Centre (URSC)**, Bengaluru – the facility which is meant for designing and developing satellites.
- ISRO has always built their satellites at the URSC, but this is the **first** time that ISRO has got their satellites completely assembled, integrated and tested by the Indian private industry at a private facility.
- SPADEX is a mission which will show independent engagement and docking, which is the ability of two spacecraft to work as one unit, move itself in control etc. Docking is important for building and maintaining a space station.

13. In October 2024, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) detected Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) and Hydrogen Peroxide (H₂O₂) on the surface of _____

- 1) Lal
- 2) Mursan
- 3) Hilsa
- 4) Epsilon Indi Ab
- 5) Charon

Answer- **5) Charon**

Explanation:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) James Webb Space Telescope (**JWST**) detected Carbon Dioxide (**CO₂**) and Hydrogen Peroxide (**H₂O₂**) on the surface of **Charon**, Pluto's largest moon.

- The discoveries were made using Webb's Near-Infrared Spectrograph(NIRSpec).
- This marks the **first identification** of these compounds on Charon, which is approximately 1,200 kilometers(km) in diameter and orbits Pluto at a distance of about 19,640 km.
- The detection of CO₂ and H₂O₂ adds to previously known materials on Charon's surface, such as crystalline water ice and ammonia. These findings were published in **Nature Communications**.

SPORTS

1. Name the cricketer who has recently (in September 2024) announced retirement from all forms of cricket.

- 1) Dawid Malan
- 2) Shikhar Dhawan
- 3) Dinesh Karthik
- 4) Dwayne Bravo

5) Suresh Raina

Answer- **4) Dwayne Bravo**

Explanation:

West Indies cricketer **Dwayne Bravo**(40-year-old), two-time Men's Twenty20 (T20) World Cup winner, has announced his **retirement** from all forms of cricket. He retired from international cricket in **2021**.

- He has completed a 21-year journey in the field of cricket. His final appearance was cut short by an injury during the 2024 Caribbean Premier League (CPL).
- Kolkata Knight Riders (**KKR**), a professional franchise cricket team of the Indian Premier League (**IPL**), has announced Dwayne Bravo as **KKR's new mentor** succeeding **Gautam Gambhir**.
- He was a key member of the West Indies team that won the International Cricket Council (**ICC**) **Champions Trophy 2004** and the **ICC World T20 World Cup** in **2012** and **2016**.
- He has played **582** T20 matches, taken **631** wickets, and scored nearly **7,000** runs.
- Bravo has previously worked as the bowling coach of the **Chennai Super Kings** (CSK).
- As a part of the IPL team CSK, he has also won **four** IPL titles in different roles – **2011, 2018, 2021** as a player and **2023** as a coach.
- He is the third-highest wicket-taker in IPL history with **183** wickets and also the first player to win **two** purple caps in the tournament, in 2013 and 2015.

2. Which country has recently (in October '24) won the 2-match test series?

- 1) Pakistan
- 2) England
- 3) West Indies
- 4) Bangladesh
- 5) India

Answer- **5) India**

Explanation:

The **Bangladesh** cricket team captained by **Najmul Hossain Shanto** are **touring India** in September and October 2024 to play against **India**. The tour includes 2 Test matches and 3 Twenty20 International (T20I) matches.

- **Indian** Men's Cricket team captained by Rohit Sharma **won** the **Two-match** test series against **Bangladesh** (2-0).
- This marks Team India's 180th win in Test history.
- With this, India secured the **4th Place** in the list of **most Test wins**. The list is topped by Australia (414) followed by England (397) and West Indies (183).
- Ravichandran Ashwin won the Player of the Series award for his impressive performance with both bat and ball in the two-match India vs Bangladesh Test 2024. He received a cash prize of Rs 2.5 Lakh and Trophy. [Click here to read more.](#)

3. Which team won the 61st edition of Irani Cup at the Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee Eakana Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh(UP) in October 2024?

- 1) Rest of India Team
- 2) Mumbai Cricket Team
- 3) Hindus Cricket Team

4) Chennai Cricket Team

5) Railways cricket team

Answer- **2) Mumbai Cricket Team**

Explanation:

Mumbai Cricket team captained by **Ajinkya Rahane** won the **2024–25 Irani Cup**, the 61st edition of the first-class cricket tournament in India, by defeating the **Rest of India** Team captained by **Ruturaj Gaikwad**, based on the first-innings lead. This marks Mumbai's 15th Irani Cup title and the first title since 1997.

- The 2024–25 Irani Cup was held from 1st to 5th October 2024 at the Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee Eakana Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh(UP).
- The Mumbai Team received a cash prize of Rs 50 Lakhs from the Board of Control for Cricket in India(BCCI) and an additional Rs 1 crore from the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA).
- The Irani Cup, also known as the IDFC First Bank Irani Trophy for sponsorship reasons, is annually organised by the BCCI.
- Sarfaraz Khan (Mumbai) was declared the **Player of the Match**.

4. Bihar Chief Minister (CM) Nitish Kumar has recently (in October '24) unveiled the Logo and mascot of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy-2024 scheduled to be held in November 2024 in Rajgir, Bihar.

What is the name of the Mascot?

1) Sheen-e She

2) Gudiya

3) Ashtalakshmi

4) Phryges

5) Juhi

Answer- **2) Gudiya**

Explanation:

Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister (CM) of Bihar, unveiled the **Logo** and **mascot** named "**Gudiya**" of the **Women's Asian Champions Trophy-2024** which is scheduled to be held from 11th to 20th November 2024 in Rajgir, Bihar.

- Gudiya is the term of endearment in Bihar for young girls.
- The Mascot is inspired by the house sparrow, an endangered species and the state bird of Bihar. It represents resilience, strength, and natural heritage.
- Gudiya, holding a hockey stick, symbolizes the sport, while the **goalkeeper's glove** and nearby **hockey ball** represent strategy and teamwork, emphasizing the government's commitment to women's empowerment.
- The logo features the **Bodhi tree** and a **hockey stick**.

5. Which country has recently (in October' 24) won the 2024 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) U-17 Championship in Thimphu, Bhutan?

1) Japan

2) South Africa

3) India

4) Nepal

5) Sri Lanka

Answer- **3) India**

Explanation:

India's Under-17 men's football team (the Blue Colts), won the **2024** South Asian Football Federation (**SAFF**) **U-17 Championship** by defeating **Bangladesh** (2-0) in the final held at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan.

- This marks the 6th SAFF championship title of India. India has previously won the title in 2013, 2017, 2019, 2022, and 2023.
- The 2024 SAFF U-17 Championship is the **9th edition** of the international football competition for men's U-17 national teams. The competition was held from 20th to 30th September 2024.

6. Name the India's first female gymnastics Olympian who has recently (in October 2024) announced retirement from professional competition.

- 1) Shreya Gupta
- 2) Dipa Karmakar
- 3) Tasnim Mir
- 4) Indumathi Kathiresan
- 5) Simone Biles

Answer- **2) Dipa Karmakar**

Explanation:

On 7th October 2024, **Dipa Karmakar**, India's first female gymnastics Olympian, announced her retirement from professional competition at the age of 31. She had a career of **25** years in this professional sport.

- Dipa Karmakar won a **bronze** medal at the **2014** Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the United Kingdom (UK), becoming the **first** Indian female gymnast to do so in the Commonwealth Games.
- Dipa represented India in the **2016 Summer Olympics** in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil becoming the 1st Indian female gymnast ever to compete in the Olympics. She secured **4th** place in the vault.
- She won the **gold** medal at the **2018 Artistic Gymnastics World Cup** in Türkiye, becoming the 1st Indian gymnast to secure a gold medal at a global event.
- The government of India (GoI) has honoured her with **Padma Shri** (Sports) in **2017**; **Arjuna Award** (Gymnastics) in **2015** and **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award** in **2016**.

7. Where was the 27th International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)-Asian Table Tennis Championships 2024 from 7th to 13th October 2024 held?

- 1) Munich, Germany
- 2) Bridgetown, Barbados
- 3) Lausanne, Switzerland
- 4) Astana, Kazakhstan
- 5) Gangwon-do, South Korea

Answer- **4) Astana, Kazakhstan**