

GUPTA

CLASSES

Current Affairs

November 2024

English

Part-1



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CLASSES

Current Affairs Q&A PDF – November 2024

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Which state government has recently (in October '24) announced that the State Skills University will be renamed as "Padma Vibhushan Ratan Tata Skills University" in honour of Ratan Tata?

- 1) Jharkhand
- 2) Gujarat
- 3) Maharashtra
- 4) Odisha
- 5) Madhya Pradesh

Answer- 3) Maharashtra

Explanation:

The Maharashtra government has announced that the Maharashtra State Skills University will be renamed as "**Padma Vibhushan Ratan Tata Skills University**" in honour of the late industrialist and philanthropist **Ratan Tata** for his dedication to social causes, education, and skill development across India.

- The Maharashtra government also announced that the Udyog Bhavan in Mumbai will be renamed as "**Ratan Tata Udyog Bhavan.**"
- The Department of Industry, Maharashtra announced the renaming of the Udyog Ratna Award as the "**Ratan Tata Udyog Ratna Award**". Ratan Tata was the first recipient of this award in 2023.

2. Which of the following points is/are correct with respect to the approval of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 24th October 2024?

A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given approval to set up Rs 2000 crore Venture Capital (VC) Fund dedicated to the space sector under the supervision of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe).

B) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given approval to the implementation of the two Railway projects of the Ministry of Railways with a total estimated cost of Rs 6,798 crore (approx.).

C) The Union Cabinet has approved the construction of a new railway line linking the state's new capital, Amravati, Andhra Pradesh.

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

Answer- 3) Only B & C

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has given approvals to various schemes and projects on **24th October 2024**.

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, has given approval to set up **Rs 1000 crore Venture Capital (VC) Fund** which will be dedicated to the space sector,

under the supervision of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (**IN-SPACE**).

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given approval to the implementation of the two Railway projects of the Ministry of Railways with a total estimated cost of **Rs. 6,798 crores** (approx.).
- The Union Cabinet has approved the construction of a new railway line linking the state's new capital, Amravati, Andhra Pradesh with an investment of **Rs 2,245 crore** in 5 years. [Click here to read more.](#)

3. Who has recently (in October '24) launched "International Incoming Spoofed Calls Prevention System" to block spoofed international calls?

- 1) Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia
- 2) Dr. Jitendra Singh
- 3) Dharmendra Pradhan
- 4) Jayant Chaudhary
- 5) Narendra Modi

Answer- **1) Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia**

Explanation:

On 22nd October 2024, Union Minister **Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia**, Ministry of Communications (**MoC**) and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (**MDoNER**) launched "**International Incoming Spoofed Calls Prevention System**" at the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The system is designed with the objective to reduce the number of fraudulent calls that display a +91(India) prefix but originate from abroad.
- This system is developed by the DoT under MoC which has collaborated with Telecom Service Providers (**TSPs**) to identify and block such incoming international spoofed calls from reaching the Indian telecom subscribers.
- These spoofed calls have been used by cyber criminals to commit various cybercrimes such as financial scams, impersonating government officials, among others.

4. Name the project that was recently (in October '24) launched by Union Minister Rajeev Ranjan Singh worth USD 25 million to strengthen animal health security in India.

- 1) Project PARI
- 2) Amrit Catla project
- 3) National Livestock Mission
- 4) Pandemic Fund Project
- 5) Green Climate Fund Project

Answer- **4) Pandemic Fund Project**

Explanation:

On 25th October 2024, Union Minister **Rajeev Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh**, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying (**MoFAH&D**) launched **Pandemic Fund Project**, a USD 25 million initiative funded by the Group-20 (G20) Pandemic Fund, to strengthen animal health security in India for pandemic preparedness and response during an event held in New Delhi, Delhi.

- He also launched the **21st Livestock Census** which will be conducted till February 2025 at a cost of Rs 200 crore.

- The “Animal Health Security Strengthening in India for Pandemic Preparedness and Response” initiative will play a pivotal role in alleviating the risk related to zoonotic diseases that can spread from animals to humans.
- The main objective of the project is to enhance the country’s capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to animal health threats.
- It will be implemented in collaboration with Asian Development Bank (**ADB**), Food and Agriculture Organisation (**FAO**) and the World Bank Group (**WBG**).
- The G20 Pandemic Fund was established under Indonesia’s G20 Presidency in **2022**.
- 21st Livestock Census will provide the updated data on the livestock population, which will help the government to address key issues like: **disease control, breed improvement, and rural livelihoods**. [Click here to read more.](#)

5. Which ministry has recently (in October ‘24) launched the ‘Gram Panchayat-Level Weather Forecasting’ initiative in collaboration with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to provide daily weather updates to Gram Panchayats?

- 1) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- 2) Ministry of Rural Development
- 3) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- 4) Ministry of Science and Technology
- 5) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Answer- 1) Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Explanation:

Union Minister **Rajiv Ranjan Singh** aka Lalan Singh, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (**MoPR**) along with **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science and Technology (**MoS&T**) and Minister of State (MoS) Satya Pal Singh Baghel, MoPR launched the ‘**Gram Panchayat-Level Weather Forecasting**’ initiative in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi to provide daily weather updates to Gram Panchayats on temperature, rainfall, wind speed, and cloud cover.

- This is the first time that localized weather forecasts will be available at the Gram Panchayat level. It is developed in collaboration between **MoPR** and the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, Ministry of Earth Sciences (**MoES**).
- This initiative provides 5 days daily weather forecasting and provision to check hourly weather forecasts.
- Weather forecasts will be accessible through digital platforms like **Meri Panchayat application(app)**, **eGramSwaraj**, **Mausamgram**, and **Gram Manchitra**, enhancing local governance and transparency.
- Mausamgram is an initiative by the IMD designed to deliver location-specific weather forecasts at the Gram Panchayat level, aiming ‘**HAR HAR MAUSAM HAR GHAR MAUSAM**’ (weather information for every household anytime).

6. What is the age limit of Central Government Pensioners who are eligible for an additional pension as recently (in October ‘24) stated by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions(MoPPGP)?

- 1) 65
- 2) 70
- 3) 75

4) 80

5) 85

Answer- **4) 80**

Explanation:

The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (**DoPPW**), under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions(**MoPPGP**), stated that the Central Government **Pensioners turning 80** are eligible for an **additional pension**.

- On 18th October 2024, the DoPPW released an office memorandum outlining the detailed guidelines on additional pensions for pensioners turning 80.
- As per the provisions of Sub Rule 6 of Rule 44 of central civil services (CCS)(Pension) Rules 2021 [erstwhile Rule 49(2-A) of CCS(Pension) Rules 1972], after completion of eighty years of age or above by a retired Government servant, in addition to a pension or a compassionate allowance admissible under the rules.
- A compassionate pension is a special allowance that the government may grant to an employee or their family in certain circumstances.

7. Who has recently (in October '24) unveiled the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Census Building in New Delhi, Delhi?

1) Droupadi Murmu

2) Narendra Modi

3) Jyotiraditya M. Scindia

4) Raj Nath Singh

5) Amit Shah

Answer- **5) Amit Shah**

Explanation:

Union Minister **Amit Shah**, Ministry of Home Affairs (**MHA**) and the Ministry of Cooperation, unveiled the statue of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** at the Census Building (also known as the Janganana Bhawan) in New Delhi, Delhi and launched the Civil Registration System (**CRS**) mobile application(app) to facilitate seamless and hassle-free registration of births and deaths.

- The statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, popularly known as the "**Iron Man of India**" is a symbol of struggle and sacrifice for national interest.
- The CRS mobile app is a part of Prime Minister (**PM**) Narendra Modi's vision of digital India. It is a significant initiative to integrate technology with governance.
- The app will allow citizens to **register the birth and death** at any time, from any place, and in their state's official language.
- On 31st October 2024, on the occasion of the Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the MHA awarded the '**Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak**' to **463 personnel** of various States/Union Territories (**UTs**)/Central Armed Police Forces (**CAPFs**)/Central Police Organisations (**CPOs**) for the year **2024**.
- The 'Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak' was instituted by the MHA on 1st February 2024. [Click here to read more.](#)

8. Which company has recently launched (in October '24) "Srijan" Center for Generative AI (GenAI CoE) at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur, Rajasthan in collaboration with IndiaAI?

- 1) Google
- 2) Meta Platforms Inc.
- 3) Microsoft Corporation
- 4) Apple Inc.
- 5) Visa Inc

Answer- 2) Meta Platforms Inc.

Explanation:

IndiaAI, an initiative under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**), in partnership with Meta Platforms, Inc. (**Meta**), has announced the launch of the "**Srijan**" Center for Generative AI (**GenAI CoE**) at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

- This initiative, named after the Hindi word Srijan ((सृजन - meaning "creation"), aims to boost India's open-source AI (Artificial Intelligence) landscape by driving research, innovation, and skill development.
- Alongside this center, India AI, Meta in collaboration with the All India Council for Technical Education (**AICTE**) have launched the "**YuvAi Initiative for Skilling and Capacity Building**" to empower India's youth in AI.
- With Meta Platforms, Inc.'s support, the Generative AI Center of Excellence (GenAI CoE) at IIT Jodhpur will serve as a hub for responsible and ethical AI research and development in India.
- Meta, in collaboration with IndiaAI, MeitY, and AICTE, has introduced the YuvAi initiative, which aims to upskill 100,000 young Indians aged 18-30 in AI.

9. Which state has recently (in November '24) declared the Sadar Sammelan as their state festival?

- 1) Andhra Pradesh
- 2) Maharashtra
- 3) Haryana
- 4) Telangana
- 5) Assam

Answer- 4) Telangana

Explanation:

On 1st November 2024, the Chief Secretary of Telangana **Santhi Kumari** has officially declared the **Sadar Sammelan** as a state festival of Telangana. In this regard, the state government directed the Commissioners, GHMC (Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation) and all District Collectors (except Hyderabad District) to celebrate Sadar Sammelan as State Festival every year.

- The Sadar Sammelan, celebrated **two days after Diwali**, is a vibrant event primarily organized by the **Yadav community** since **1946**.
- The festival features a grand **procession of decorated buffaloes**, symbolizing pride and devotion.

10. Which ministry has recently (in October '24) launched revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) partnered with Railway Protection Force (RPF) to protect vulnerable children found on railway premises nationwide?

- 1) Ministry of Law and Justice
- 2) Ministry of Cooperation
- 3) Ministry of Home Affairs
- 4) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- 5) Ministry of Women and Child Development

Answer- 5) Ministry of Women and Child Development

Explanation:

On 25th October 2024, Railway Protection Force (**RPF**), the Ministry of Railways in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Child Development (**MoWCD**), has launched revised Standard Operating Procedure (**SOP**), a major initiative to protect vulnerable children found on railway premises nationwide, during an event held at Rail Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi.

- During the event, **Indian Railways** and **MoWCD** has also announced expansion of Child Help Desks (**CHDs**) at major railway stations, aimed at strengthening the support network available to children in need.
- This comprehensive SOP lays out a robust framework for protecting children who come into contact with Indian Railways.
- Anil Malik, Secretary of MoWCD highlighted various measures initiated by Indian Railways to enhance the safety and security of juveniles like: installing Closed Circuit Television (**CCTV**) and face recognition technology at upgraded railway stations.
- Over the last 5 years, RPF has rescued **57,564 children** from human trafficking, out of them 18,172 were girls.
- RPF has introduced various focused initiatives under the "**Operation Nanhe Farishte**" to ensure safety of children throughout the railway network.
- **Operation Meri Saheli** was launched on 29th October, 2020 which aims to ensure the safety of single ladies travelling in trains.
- The Government of India (GoI) had established a dedicated fund called "**Nirbhaya Fund**" in 2013, for implementation of initiatives aimed at improving the safety and security for women in the country. [Click here to read more.](#)

11. Rural employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (MGNREGA) has increased from 1,660 crore of the Financial Year 2006-07(FY07) to FY14 to _____ between FY15 and FY25.

- 1) 1,825 crore
- 2) 1,914 crore
- 3) 2,562 crore
- 4) 2,923 crore
- 5) 3,265 crore

Answer- 4) 2,923 crore

Explanation:

As per the data by the Ministry of Rural Development (**MoRD**), Rural employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (**MGNREGA**) has increased in the last 10 years. From the Financial Year 2006-07 (FY07) to FY14, a total of **1,660 crore person-days** were

generated. In contrast, between FY15 and FY25, the total person-days increased significantly to **2,923 crores**.

- This represents an increase of approximately **76.1%** in person-days generated over the two periods.
- The MoRD also informed that Adhaar seeding has been done for around 13 crore active workers, which is 99.3% of total active workers. It enabled to minimise the rejection of transactions due to the frequent changing of accounts.
- The budget allocation for MGNREGA has also increased to **86,000 crores** during FY 2024-25 budget allocation from Rs 33,000 crore during FY 2013-14.

12. Which state has recently (in October '24) launched 'Mission Basundhara 3.0' to provide land rights to indigenous people and digitize land-related services?

- 1) Assam
- 2) Chhattisgarh
- 3) Jharkhand
- 4) Uttar Pradesh
- 5) Nagaland

Answer- **1) Assam**

Explanation:

Assam Chief Minister (CM) Himanta Biswa Sarma launched **Mission Basundhara 3.0** in **Guwahati** to provide land rights to indigenous people, digitize land-related services, and publish maps to benefit the state's residents.

- The CM also launched the Revenue Department's **Digidoc**, a digital directory for non-registrable and optional registrable documents, aimed at streamlining services, reducing processing time, and enhancing public convenience, accessibility, and efficiency.
- Mission Basundhara 3.0 will be the final phase of the initiative, with no plans for a Mission Basundhara 4.0.
- Under this phase, members of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Adivasi communities, Tea Tribes, and Gorkhas will be recognized as "sons of the soil" and exempted from proving three-generation ancestry to obtain land rights.

13. Which country was elected as the "Country of Focus" for the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI 2024) to be held in Panaji, Goa?

- 1) China
- 2) Australia
- 3) Canada
- 4) Russia
- 5) United States of America

Answer- **2) Australia**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB) announced **Australia** as the "**Country of Focus**" for the **55th edition** of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI 2024), scheduled to take place in Panaji, **Goa**, from 20th to 28th November 2024.

- The "Country of Focus" is one of the key features of IFFI, offering a dedicated showcase of the nation's best contemporary films.

- This recognition aims to celebrate the contributions of Australian cinema to the global film industry.
- 7 Australian films, offering a diverse blend of genres, from critically acclaimed dramas to powerful documentaries, visually stunning thrillers, and light-hearted comedies will be presented at the IFFI 2024.

14. Which sub-division has been officially declared as the 17th district of Nagaland?

- 1) Satakha
- 2) Bhandari
- 3) Seyochung
- 4) Meluri
- 5) Tamlu

Answer- **4) Meluri**

Explanation:

On November 4, 2024, **Meluri** officially became the **17th district of Nagaland**, following a notification from the Governor of Nagaland, **La.Ganesan**. This transition elevates Meluri from a sub-division of Phek district to an independent district.

- Meluri includes 31 villages covering an area of 1011 square kilometers (km²) with four administrative headquarters such as the industrial town of Wazeho and the International Trade Centre (ITC) in Avangkhu, Nagaland.
- Meluri, primarily inhabited by the **Pochury Naga tribe**, is located near the international border with Myanmar.
- It is the fifth district established in Nagaland in the past three years, as part of the state government's efforts to improve administrative efficiency.

15. Which ministry has recently (in October '24) organised the Star Rating Awards Ceremony for Coal & Lignite Mines in New Delhi, Delhi?

- 1) Ministry of Coal
- 2) Ministry of Mines
- 3) Ministry of Earth Sciences
- 4) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- 5) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Answer- **1) Ministry of Coal**

Explanation:

The **Ministry of Coal** successfully organised an event in New Delhi, Delhi featuring the Star Rating Awards Ceremony for Coal & Lignite Mines, a Stakeholder Consultation on Mine Developers cum Operators (MDOs), and the release of the Coal Directory of India.

- The Chief Guest of the event was Union Minister **Gangapuram Kishan Reddy**, Ministry of Coal, and the Guest of Honour was Union Minister of State (MoS) **Satish Chandra Dubey**, Ministry of Coal.
- The event aimed to recognize outstanding performances in the coal sector, foster stakeholder engagement, and provide insights into the industry's future.
- The Star Rating Awards acknowledge the outstanding performance of coal and lignite mines, aiming to promote responsible mining practices, enhance industry standards, and ensure sustainable growth in the sector.

- **43 coal mines** achieved 5-star rating for the year 2022-23 for exceptional performance in mining operations, environmental practices, and worker safety.
- Neyveli (Tamil Nadu, TN) based **NLC India Limited** (NLCIL) mines achieved top scores and 5-star rating in the survey of lignite and coal-based open cast mines in India in the year 2022-23. [Click here to read more.](#)

16. Which Zoological Park will become the first zoo in India to receive certification from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)?

- 1) Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park, Himachal Pradesh
- 2) Nandankanan Zoological Park, Odisha
- 3) Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park, Maharashtra
- 4) Nehru Zoological Park, Telangana
- 5) National Zoological Park, Delhi

Answer- **1) Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park, Himachal Pradesh**

Explanation:

Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Chief Minister (CM) of Himachal Pradesh (HP), announced that **Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park**, located in the Bankhandi area of Kangra's Dehra constituency in HP, will set to become the **first zoo in India** to receive certification from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).

- This certification highlights the commitment to sustainable infrastructure and eco-friendly practices, setting a new benchmark for conservation and environmental responsibility across the country.
- This initiative aligns with the government's vision to develop **Kangra** as a model for eco-tourism, reinforcing its reputation as the "Tourism Capital" of HP.
- The zoo's development is progressing in phases. The first phase, spanning 25 hectares, has a projected cost of Rs 230 crore and is set for completion by the third quarter of 2025.
- The entire park, with a budget of **Rs 619 crore**, will boost tourism in Kangra and its neighbouring areas, creating a thriving, eco-friendly attraction.

17. Which ministry has recently (in October '24) reconstituted the Central Apprenticeship Council (CAC) for a three-year term?

- 1) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- 2) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- 3) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- 4) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- 5) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Answer- **4) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (**MSDE**) has reconstituted the **Central Apprenticeship Council (CAC)** for a three-year term, effective from October 17, 2024.

- This move is in accordance with the powers granted under Section 24(1) and (2) of the **Apprentices Act, 1961** (52 of 1961) and Rules 3 and 4 of the **CAC Rules, 1962**.
- The reformed council will focus on driving reforms to enhance apprenticeship training and increase industry participation in on-the-job training.

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge, IC), **Jayant Chaudhary**, MSDE will chair the council, with Rajya Sabha member **Vikramjit Singh Sahney** will be the vice-chairman of the council.
- The CAC, a statutory body under the **Apprenticeship Act, 1961**, advises the Central Government on implementing the Apprenticeship Act across India. It is reconstituted every three years.
- The CAC has suggested raising the apprentice participation cap in establishments from 10% to **15%** of the total workforce, with at least 5% allocated specifically for new apprentices.

18. Which of the following points is/are correct with respect to the new guidelines on maintaining records for family members of government pensioners under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (MoPPG&P)?

A) As per the new guidelines, the name of a daughter cannot be removed from the list of family members, eligible for a government servant's family pension.

B) According to the revised guidelines, daughters who are unmarried, widowed, or divorced or over the age of 35 years may also receive a family pension only if their siblings are either above the age of 25 or financially independent.

C) When eligible children reach adulthood but still qualify for the pension, then pension will be directly transferred to them.

- 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 Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (**DoPPW**) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (**MoPPG&P**) has issued new **guidelines** on maintaining records for family members of government **pensioners**.

- As per the new guidelines, the name of a daughter cannot be removed from the list of family members, eligible for a government servant's family pension.
- According to the **Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021**, the term "**family**" includes unmarried, married, and widowed daughters, which further includes step-daughters, and adopted daughters.
- According to the revised guidelines, daughters who are **unmarried, widowed**, or divorced or **over the age of 25** years may also receive a family pension only if their siblings are either above the age of 25 or financially independent.
- Female government employees or pensioners involved in ongoing divorce proceedings, or those who have filed cases against their husbands under relevant protective acts, may request family pension benefits for their children in the event of their death.
- As per the new guidelines, if no eligible child exists at the time of woman's death, the family pension will be received by the surviving widower. Initially, the pension will be given to the widower if they are the legal guardian of any minor or disabled children.
- When eligible children reach adulthood but still qualify for the pension, then pension will be directly transferred to them.

19. Which ministry has recently (in October '24) amended the Bicycle Retro-Reflective Devices (Quality Control) Order, 2020?

- 1) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- 2) Ministry of Rural Development
- 3) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- 4) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- 5) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Answer- **1) Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

Explanation:

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I) has amended the **Bicycle Retro-Reflective Devices (Quality Control) Order, 2020** notified on 9th July 2020 and came into effect on 1st July 2023.

- The QCO on Bicycle Retro-Reflective Devices (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2024 is one of the many initiatives for quality ecosystem development, attracting investments and fostering entrepreneurial talent that places paramount importance on product quality.
- Exemption for import of 200 bicycle reflectors for the purpose of Research and Development (R&D) by manufacturers of such goods and articles through a specific provision.
- Exemption for import of bicycle reflectors by bicycle manufacturers in India for export purposes, subject to certain conditions.

20. Who has recently (in November '24) inaugurated the 'Shilp Samagam Mela 2024' in New Delhi, Delhi?

- 1) Dr. Jitendra Singh
- 2) Kiren Rijiju
- 3) Harsh Malhotra
- 4) Dr. Virendra Kumar
- 5) Amit Shah

Answer- **4) Dr. Virendra Kumar**

Explanation:

Union Minister **Dr. Virendra Kumar**, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJ&E) has inaugurated the '**Shilp Samagam Mela 2024**' at the Dilli Haat, New Delhi, Delhi. The fair was organised from 5th -15th November 2024.

- He also inaugurated the '**TULIP**' (Traditional Artisans' Upliftment Livelihood Programme) **brand**, a Digital Platform for Craft and Community Empowerment.
- The mela was organised by the Corporations under the MoSJ&E- National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (**NSFDC**), National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (**NBCFDC**), and National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (**NSKFDC**).
- This initiative offers an opportunity to honour the skills and cultural diversity of artisans.
- TULIP aims to empower marginalized artisans with a platform for global exposure to sell their products through e-marketing.
- The artisans from Scheduled Castes (SC), Other Backward Classes (OBC), sanitation workers, and Persons with Disabilities (PwD) will have an e-platform to market their products under the TULIP brand.

21. Which organisation celebrated its 50th Raising Day on 7th November 2024?

- 1) NHPC Limited
- 2) SJVN Limited
- 3) NTPC Limited
- 4) Steel Authority of India Limited
- 5) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited

Answer- **3) NTPC Limited**

Explanation:

NTPC Limited, formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation, India's leading power generation company, celebrated its **50th Raising Day** on **7th November 2024** recognizing five decades of remarkable growth, innovation, and contribution to India's power sector.

- NTPC's 50-year **logo** was also launched on the occasion reflecting NTPC's everlasting commitment to growth and excellence and a reminder of the 50-years of powering growth and creation of infinite possibilities.
- Moreover, new **Information Technology** (IT) applications and a **comic book** on NTPC's **Girl Empowerment Mission** (GEM)—a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative that has empowered over 10,000 girls from rural areas were also launched during the celebrations.
- NTPC Limited is an Indian **Maharatna** central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the ownership of the Ministry of Power and the Government of India.
- The company was founded on 7 November **1975** by India's former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi as National Thermal Power Corporation Private Limited.
- NTPC has launched its **hydrogen-fuel buses** which will be operated in **Leh, Ladakh** on the occasion of its 50th foundation day.
- NTPC has also been working on **Gen-4 ethanol**, green urea, and Sustainable Aviation Fuel.
[Click here to read more.](#)

22. In which state, the first-ever Integrated Check Post (ICP) was recently (in November '24) launched on the India-Bhutan border?

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

Answer- **1) Assam**

Explanation:

On November 7, 2024, Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Governor of Assam, inaugurated the **first-ever** Integrated Check Post (ICP) along the India-Bhutan border at **Darranga** village in **Assam**. The facility was developed by the Land Ports Authority of India (**LPAI**).

- This ICP allows entry and exit for third-country nationals via land.
- Prior to this, 3rd-country nationals could only enter or exit Bhutan through Paro International Airport, located in Paro, Bhutan or the Jaigaon-Phuentsholing land route, with Jaigaon in West Bengal, India, and Phuentsholing in southern Bhutan.
- Covering 14.5 acres, ICP Darranga is designed to enhance trade and cross-border transit with modern infrastructure.

- The ICP is strategically located just 700 meters from the India-Bhutan border, making it an ideal point for trade and transit.

23. Which airline has recently (in October '24) become the first-ever Indian Airlines to receive Design Organisation Approval (DOA) from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)?

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

Answer- **5) Air India Limited**

Explanation:

Air India Limited has become the first-ever Indian Airlines to receive Design Organisation Approval (**DOA**) or **CAR 21 approval** from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (**DGCA**) to carry out modifications in aircraft interiors in-house as the Tata Group-owned airline works on revamping its fleet and expanding operations.

- The approval was handed over by DGCA Director General D.C. Sharma to Air India's CEO, Campbell Wilson.
- The full-service carrier collaborates with Tata Technologies to enhance the interiors of its aircraft fleet.
- The **DOA** from the **DGCA** will enable the airline to independently make design changes in-house and implement modifications to its aircraft interiors more efficiently.

24. Which state has recently (in November '24) become the first Indian state to implement a dedicated semiconductor policy?

- 1) Assam
- 2) Gujarat
- 3) Rajasthan
- 4) Haryana
- 5) Uttarakhand

Answer- **2) Gujarat**

Explanation:

Bhupendra Patel, the Chief Minister(CM) of **Gujarat**, has launched '**Gujarat Semiconductor Policy 2022-2027**', and became the **first** Indian state to implement a dedicated semiconductor policy.

- Gujarat has established the '**Gujarat State Electronics Mission**,' to ensure the effective implementation of this policy. The mission is a dedicated institution aimed at advancing Gujarat's leadership in semiconductor self-reliance.
- This initiative complements the central government's 'India Semiconductor Mission,' launched in **2021** with a budget of **Rs 76,000 crore** to boost domestic semiconductor production.
- As part of the Gujarat Semiconductor Policy, the state offers a **100%** one-time refund of stamp duty and registration fees.
- CM Bhupendra Patel laid the foundation stone for **Micron's advanced semiconductor ATMP plant in Sanand** (Gujarat), marking an investment of over Rs 22,500 crore.
- With the new semiconductor policy, Gujarat has become a frontrunner in strengthening India's semiconductor ecosystem. [Click here to read more.](#)

25. Who has recently (in October '24) inaugurated India's first Biomanufacturing Institute, "BRIC-National Agri-Food Bio-Manufacturing Institute" (BRIC-NABI) aimed at enhancing India's agri-food sector at Mohali, Punjab?

- 1) Narendra Modi
- 2) Jitendra Singh
- 3) Amit Shah
- 4) Jitin Prasada
- 5) Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Answer- 2) Jitendra Singh

Explanation:

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), **Jitendra Singh**, Ministry of Science and Technology (**MoST**) inaugurated the new complex of India's first Biomanufacturing Institute, "**BRIC-National Agri-Food Bio-Manufacturing Institute**" (BRIC-NABI) aimed at enhancing India's agri-food sector through advanced biotechnology at Mohali, Punjab.

- BRIC-NABI, created through the strategic merger of the NABI and the Center of Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing (**CIAB**), is set to revolutionize India's agricultural sector by combining expertise in biotechnology and bioprocessing.
- As part of its mission to advance biomanufacturing, the **Biomanufacturing Workshop 1.0** is scheduled to take place in December 2024.
- The Bioincubators Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies (BioNEST) BRIC-NABI Incubation Center aims to empower local youth, women, and agriculture, food, and bioprocessing, and to accelerate the commercialization of agri-food innovations.

26. In which city, India's first "Writer's Village" was inaugurated to encourage creativity and offer a supportive space for writers from all over the nation?

- 1) New Delhi, Delhi
- 2) Gurugram, Haryana
- 3) Kolkata, West Bengal
- 4) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 5) Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Answer- 5) Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Explanation:

India's first "**Writer's Village**" (Lekhak Gaon) was jointly inaugurated by former President **Ram Nath Kovind**, Uttarakhand Governor Lieutenant (Lt) General **Gurmit Singh** (retired) and Chief Minister (CM) **Pushkar Singh Dhami** in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

- It is conceived by former CM **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank**, a renowned writer in his own right.
- It aims to encourage creativity and offer a supportive space for writers from all over the nation, positioning Dehradun as an emerging cultural center for literary excellence.
- The village hosted its first event, the three-day International Literature, Culture, and Art Festival, "**Sparsh Himalaya Mahotsav**," with writers from more than 40 countries participating in person, while those from around 25 nations joined virtually.

27. Which state government has recently (in November '24) presented the Budget for the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25) at Rs 2.94 lakh crore?

- 1) Haryana
- 2) Madhya Pradesh
- 3) Maharashtra
- 4) Andhra Pradesh
- 5) Tamil Nadu

Answer- 4) Andhra Pradesh

Explanation:

The Government of Andhra Pradesh (AP) led by Chief Minister (CM) **N Chandrababu Naidu** presented the Budget for the Financial Year 2024-25(FY25) at **Rs 2.94 lakh crore**. Payyavula Kesav, AP's Finance Minister, presented his 1st budget in the Assembly in Amaravati, AP.

- The revenue expenditure has been pegged at **Rs 2,35,916 crore** and the capital expenditure was **Rs 32,713 crore**.
- CM N Chandrababu Naidu announced that welfare pensions were increased to Rs 4000 per month from Rs.3000 per month.
- The revenue deficit and fiscal deficit are at **Rs 34,743 crore** and **Rs 68,742 crore** respectively.
- The fiscal deficit will be around 4.19% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), and the revenue deficit will be around 2.12% of the GSDP.
- Rs 11,855 crore has been allocated for agriculture and allied sectors and an amount of Rs 8,207 crore for the Energy Department.
- The Panchayat Raj and rural development and Irrigation/water resources were allocated with Rs 16,739 crore and Rs 16,705 crore. [Click here to read more.](#)

28. Which department has recently (in November' 24) organised the National Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Cluster Outreach Program in partnership with the Small Industrial Development Bank (SIDBI)?

- 1) Department of Economic Affairs
- 2) Department of Public Enterprises
- 3) Department of Revenue
- 4) Department of Financial Services
- 5) Department of Expenditure

Answer: 4) Department of Financial Services

Explanation:

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman has launched the **National Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Cluster Outreach Program** which was jointly organized by the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**.

- The launch took place in the presence of Jitan Ram Manjhi, Union Minister for MSMEs (virtual presence from Gaya, Bihar); Pankaj Chaudhary, Union Minister of State for Finance;

Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, Union Minister of State for MSMEs, in Bengaluru. Nagaraju Maddirala, Secretary, DFS; Manoj Mittal, Chairman & Managing Director of SIDBI.

- The Union Finance Minister also virtually launched **6 new** Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) Branches in Karnataka, located at Tumakuru, Raichur, Shivamogga, Kalaburagi, Mangaluru and Vijayapura, thus expanding SIDBI's reach and financial assistance to MSMEs in these Clusters.
- Sanction letters to **five** borrowers of **Canara Bank** were provided under the newly launched Tarun Plus category of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY).

29. Which of the following points is/are correct with respect to the occasion of 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' on 15th November 2024 that was attended by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi in Bihar?

A) Janjatiya Gaurav Divas 2024 marks the commencement of 100th Birth Anniversary Year celebration of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

B) PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over Rs 6,640 crore in Jamui, Bihar.

C) Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Cooperation, unveiled a grand statue of Bhagwan Birsa Munda at Baansera Park in New Delhi, Delhi.

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

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

Explanation:

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi visited **Jamui, Bihar** on **15th November 2024** on the occasion of '**Janjatiya Gaurav Divas**' and paid tribute to tribal leader **Dharti Aaba Bhagwan Birsa Munda**.

- **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas 2024** marks the commencement of **150th Birth Anniversary Year** celebration of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.
- During the occasion, PM Modi launched a **Rs.150 commemorative coin** and **postal stamp** of Denomination Rs.5 to honour Birsa Munda's legacy.
- Birsa Munda is known for his leadership in the tribal freedom movement and his endless fight for the rights and dignity of tribal communities in India.
- PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over **Rs 6,640 crore** in Jamui, Bihar with an aim to boost tribal communities and improve infrastructure in rural and remote areas of the region.
- **11,000 houses** built under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (**PM-JANMAN**) were also inaugurated by the PM.
- Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Cooperation, unveiled a grand statue of Bhagwan Birsa Munda at **Baansera Park** in **New Delhi, Delhi** on the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary year.
- Amit Shah also declared that the 150th birth anniversary year of Birsa Munda will be observed as **Adivasi Gaurav Varsh** until 15th November, 2025.
- Birsa Munda was born in **1875** in the present-day **Jharkhand**, Munda and belonged to the Munda tribe in the **Chota Nagpur Plateau** area. [Click here to read more.](#)

30. Which ministry has recently (in November '24) approved the establishment of the 1st all-women battalion of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)?

- 1) Ministry of Defence
- 2) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- 3) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- 4) Ministry of Home Affairs
- 5) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Answer- **4) Ministry of Home Affairs**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Home Affairs (**MHA**) has approved the establishment of the 1st all-women battalion of Central Industrial Security Force (**CISF**) to enhance women's role in CISF. The addition of a '**Mahila Battalion**' would encourage more aspiring young women across the country to join the force and serve India.

- Women constitute over 7% of the CISF and have been the preferred choice for them from among the central armed police forces (CAPF).
- The establishment of the all-women battalion will encourage more aspiring young women to join CISF.
- The training is specially designed to create an elite battalion capable of performing multifarious roles as commandos in Very important person(VIP) security and security at airports, Delhi metro rail, etc.

31. Which organisation has recently (in November '24) organised a symposium on the "Green Transition in States" in collaboration with Institute for Sustainability, Employment and Growth Foundation (ISEG Foundation) in New Delhi, Delhi?

- 1) Food and Agriculture Organisation
- 2) Central Water Commission
- 3) Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- 4) National Council of Applied Economic Research
- 5) NITI Aayog

Answer- **5) NITI Aayog**

Explanation:

The National Institution for Transforming India (**NITI Aayog**) has organised a symposium on the "**Green Transition in States**" in collaboration with the New Delhi (Delhi) based Institute for Sustainability, Employment and Growth Foundation (**ISEG Foundation**), as a knowledge partner at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

- This initiative supports India's larger goal of achieving Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2070 and fulfilling the vision of a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047.
- NITI Aayog launched the Accelerating Sustainable Solutions for Energy Transition(**ASSET**) platform in partnership with the Ministry of Power (**MoP**) and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (**MNRE**).
- This platform is designed to assist states in advancing their green transition by helping them create energy transition blueprints, develop investible projects, and showcase emerging technologies such as Battery Energy Storage Systems (**BESS**), Green Hydrogen, e-mobility, and offshore wind energy.

32. Which category industries have been recently (in November '24) exempted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) from obtaining approval from the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)?

- 1) Green Category
- 2) Blue Category
- 3) Grey Category
- 4) White Category
- 5) Gold Category

Answer- **4) White Category**

Explanation:

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India** (MoEFCC) issued a directive that 'White Category' industries are no longer required to obtain approval from the **State Pollution Control Boards** (SPCBs) for their operations.

- Industrial plants scoring up to 20 on the Pollution Index(**PI**) will be exempt from certain provisions under sub-section (1) of Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, provided they inform their respective SPCBs or Pollution Control Committees in writing.
- This decision is part of a broader initiative to streamline business processes.
- Industries categorized under the White Category, which are considered to have minimal or negligible pollution potential, will no longer need to secure permissions known as 'Consent To Establish' (**CTE**) and 'Consent To Operate' (**CTO**) from SPCBs. This change aims to streamline the process for businesses and reduce bureaucratic hurdles.
- White Category industries include a variety of sectors that are primarily dry, mechanical, or non-emission processes.

33. Name the festival series that was recently (in November '24) launched by the Ministry of Culture to celebrate and preserve India's traditional arts.

- 1) Ratha Yatra
- 2) Amrit Parampara
- 3) Thrissur Pooram
- 4) Kala Jyoti
- 5) Sanskriti Samvardhan

Answer- **2) Amrit Parampara**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Culture(**MoC**) has launched "**Amrit Parampara**" a festival series to celebrate and preserve India's traditional arts, focusing on fading art forms, with innovative programs that blend tradition with modern technology.

- Union Minister **S. Jaishankar**, Ministry of External Affairs(MEA) inaugurated the first program of the series, "**Kaveri Meets Ganga**" at Kartavya Path (formerly known as Rajpath) in New Delhi(Delhi).
- It was held from 2nd to 5th November 2024 at Kartavya Path and the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) campus at Dwarka, Gujarat.
- It was Jointly organised by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the Kalakshetra Foundation and the CCRT.

- The event showcased a variety of art forms, including Nagar Sankirtan and Govardhan Puja from Braj, Kuchipudi from Andhra Pradesh(AP), Bharatanatyam by renowned artists, and folk traditions like Panchavadyam and Theyyam from Kerala.
- The festival series marks the start of a two-year celebration of the **150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Patel**, honouring his achievements and his role in uniting India.

34. Which short film has recently (in November '24) qualified for the 2025 Oscars in the Live Action Short Film Category?

- 1) The Anne Frank Gift Shop
- 2) Strange Way of Life
- 3) The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar
- 4) Invisible Border
- 5) Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know

Answer- **5) Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting(**MoI&B**) announced that Pune (Maharashtra) based Film and Television Institute of India(**FTII**) student film "**Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know**" has qualified for the **2025 Oscars** in the Live Action Short Film Category.

- The Kannada short film was produced by FTII and directed by **Chidananda S Naik**.
- The 16-minute short film is inspired by Indian folklore. The story chronicles a village where chaos unfolds after an elderly woman steals a rooster.
- It won the First Prize at the **Cannes Film Festival's La Cined Selection 2024**, gaining worldwide recognition for the Kannada-language project inspired by Indian folk tales and traditions.
- It also won the Bengaluru International Short Film Festival.

35. Name the pilot project that was recently (in November '24) launched by the Ministry of Science and Technology under National Geospatial Policy (NGP) 2022 to illustrate the possible applications of geospatial technologies.

- 1) Mission Kartavya
- 2) Operation Dronagiri
- 3) Mission Karmayogi
- 4) Project Vasudha
- 5) Project Geospatial

Answer- **2) Operation Dronagiri**

Explanation:

On 13th November 2024, The Ministry of Science and Technology (**MoST**) has launched **Operation Dronagiri**, a pilot project under **National Geospatial Policy (NGP) 2022** to illustrate the possible applications of **geospatial technologies** and innovations in improving the quality of life of citizens and ease of doing business.

- Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (**DST**), launched the project at Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (**FITT**), Indian Institute of Technology(**IIT**) **Delhi**.
- Operation Dronagiri is an effort of DST in advancing geospatial data, developing geospatial infrastructure, geospatial skill and knowledge as well as standards in executing the policy.

- In the **first** phase, Operation Dronagiri will be implemented in the states of **Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Assam, Andhra Pradesh** and **Maharashtra**.
- Operation Dronagiri gets significant support from **Integrated Geospatial Data Sharing Interface (GDI)**, which was also launched along with Operation Dronagiri.
- The government of India launched the **NGP** on **22nd December 2022** with an aim to make India a world leader in global geospatial space.

36. Who has recently (in November '24) inaugurated the first-ever Bodoland Mohotsav in New Delhi, Delhi?

- 1) Droupadi Murmu
- 2) Narendra Modi
- 3) Lakshman Prasad Acharya
- 4) Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
- 5) Himanta Biswa Sarma

Answer- **2) Narendra Modi**

Explanation:

Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the first-ever **Bodoland Mohotsav** at the KD Jadhav Wrestling Stadium, New Delhi (Delhi). The two-day event was held from 15th to 16th November 2024. The event focuses on promoting the language, literature, and culture of the Bodo community

- The theme of Bodoland Mohotsav is '**Peace and Harmony for Prosperous Bharat**', emphasizing the cultural, linguistic, and educational legacy of the Bodo community and other communities within the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), Assam.
- It highlights the community's journey of peace and progress since the 2020 Bodo Peace Accord.
- PM Modi referred to the North Eastern Region (NER), including Assam, as India's **Ashtalakshmi** (eight forms of prosperity) and emphasized the government's commitment to resolving border disputes and promoting peace in the region.
- The Central Government (**CG**)'s special package of **Rs 1,500 crore** and the Assam Government's special package to boost Bodoland's growth.
- The PM paid homage to Bodo leaders such as **Bodofa Upendra Nath Brahma** and **Kalicharan Brahma** for their democratic and non-violent efforts towards securing Bodo rights.
- The Memorandum of Settlement (MoS), signed on January 27, 2020, with factions of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) and the All Bodo Students Union, aimed to strengthen the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) and enhance its efficiency.

37. Which organisation has recently (in November '24) celebrated its 72nd Foundation Day on November 15, 2024?

- 1) CSC eGovernance Services India Limited
- 2) Employees' State Insurance Corporation
- 3) International Labour Organization
- 4) Employees' Provident Fund Organization
- 5) National Small Industries Corporation Limited

Answer- **4) Employees' Provident Fund Organization**

Explanation:

On November 15 2024, Union Minister **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoL&E), inaugurated an event to mark the **72nd** Foundation Day of the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (**EPFO**) at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, Delhi.

- During the event, the **Bhavishya Nidhi Awards 2024** were also presented by Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya to recognize exceptional contributions across various categories.
- EPFO's transformative role in managing savings and enhancing social security was highlighted during the event.
- The number of contributing establishments exceeded **7.8 lakh**, with over 7.6 crore members.
- Technological reforms, including IT database centralization and an updated electronic challan, aim to enhance EPFO's services. [Click here to read more.](#)

38. Which act permits the recent (in November '24) rule about Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) drivers operating transport vehicles under 7,500kg without additional authorisation?

- 1) Motor Vehicles Act, 1988
- 2) National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988
- 3) Road Transport Corporations Act, 1950
- 4) Carriage by Road Act, 2007
- 5) Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989

Answer- **1) Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**

Explanation:

The Supreme Court (**SC**) of India permits that a driver holding a licence for Light Motor Vehicle (**LMV**) class can drive transport vehicles weighing under 7,500 kilogram(kg) without need for additional authorisation under the **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**.

- A five-judge bench, led by former Chief Justice of India (**CJI**) Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud, examined the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
- The bench clarified that additional requirements under the Motor Vehicles Act apply only to vehicles exceeding the 7,500 kg threshold, such as medium or heavy goods and passenger vehicles.

39. What was the denomination of commemorative postage stamp that was recently (in November '24) launched for the "Sickle Cell Eradication – 2047" initiative?

- 1) Rs 5
- 2) Rs 10
- 3) Rs 20
- 4) Rs 50
- 5) Rs 100

Answer- **1) Rs 5**

Explanation:

On November 15, 2024, the Department of Posts(**DoP**), Ministry of Communications (**MoC**) launched a Special Commemorative Postage Stamp of denomination **Rs 5** on "**Sickle Cell Eradication – 2047**" initiative. It was unveiled by Madhya Pradesh (MP) Governor Mangubhai Patel and MP Chief Minister Mohan Yadav.

- The stamp honours MP's initiative to combat the high prevalence of sickle cell anemia, particularly in tribal regions, with the goal of eradicating the disease by 2047.

- The stamp features artwork symbolizing awareness and eradication of **sickle cell anemia**, emphasizing its impact on tribal communities.
- It displays the slogan “**Sickle Cell Eradication – 2047**”, aligning with the mission’s goal to eliminate this hereditary disease by the centenary year of India’s independence.
- Sickle Cell Disease (**SCD**) is a genetic disorder. It affects the haemoglobin within the red blood cells.
- **Sickle Cell Eradication Mission** launched in 2023 by **Prime Minister** (PM) of India **Narendra Modi** in MP, aims to tackle the widespread prevalence of sickle cell disease in tribal areas.

40. Which educational institute was recently (in November ‘24) commemorated by the Department of Posts with a special cover on its 121st anniversary?

- 1) Anna University
- 2) Madras Christian College
- 3) University of Madras
- 4) Madras Veterinary College
- 5) Women's Christian College

Answer- **4) Madras Veterinary College**

Explanation:

In November 2024, the Department of Posts (**DoP**) under the Ministry of Communications (MoC), Chennai City North Division commemorated the **121st** anniversary of Madras Veterinary College (**MVC**) by releasing a special cover on India Posts at the MVC Veperiy campus in Chennai, Tamil Nadu(TN).

- The special cover released signifies the rich heritage and the achievements made by **MVC** and also the image feature of the iconic building together with the cancellations done based on the logo of the institution.
- The MVC was founded on **October 1, 1903** and was the **3rd** veterinary college in India and also recognized as the Southern Regional Postgraduate Institute.
- It became the first veterinary college in India to affiliate with a university, Madras University in 1935.

41. Which state celebrated the “Year of Legends” as Cherry Blossom Festival 2024 from 15th to 16th November 2024?

- 1) Himachal Pradesh
- 2) Jammu & Kashmir
- 3) Karnataka
- 4) Meghalaya
- 5) Haryana

Answer- **4) Meghalaya**

Explanation:

Meghalaya celebrated the “Year of Legends” as **Shillong Cherry Blossom Festival 2024** which was conducted from **15th to 16th November 2024**, at the RDSA Sports Complex in Bhoiryong, Shillong, Meghalaya.

- With the “Year of Legends” theme, the Cherry Blossom Festival 2024 hosted **Akon**.
- The festival is a blend of culture, music and nature.

- This festival will showcase the beauty of cherry blossoms and the remarkable performances of both international stars and local talents.
- The Government of Meghalaya contributed approximately **Rs. 2 crores** for celebrating the festival.
- The two-day festival recorded the all-time highest number of visitors with more than **50,000** visitors.
- The Shillong Cherry Blossom Festival 2024 is special as **Japan** has been announced as the **partner**.

42. Who has recently (in November '24) launched Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI) 2023 during the National Workshop on "Effective Redressal of Public Grievances" held in New Delhi, Delhi?

- 1) Narendra Modi
- 2) Piyush Goyal
- 3) Jitendra Singh
- 4) B. L. Verma
- 5) Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya

Answer- **3) Jitendra Singh**

Explanation:

On 18th November 2024, Union Minister of State (**MoS**) (Independent Charge, IC) **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (**MoPPG&P**) has launched Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (**GRAI**) 2023 during the National Workshop on "**Effective Redressal of Public Grievances**" held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The workshop was organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), MoPPG&P.
- The 1st edition of GRAI 2022 was released on 21st June 2023.
- It aims to present organisation-wise comparative data and provide valuable insights about strengths and areas of improvement regarding grievance redressal mechanism.
- The index has categorised these 89 ministries and departments in 3 different groups based on the number of grievances registered in Calendar Year (CY) 2023 at CPGRAMS.
- As per GRAI 2023, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (**DA&FW**) under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (**MoA&FW**) has overall topped the rankings in **Group-A**.
- The Comptroller & Auditor General of India (**C&AGI**) has topped the rankings in **Group-B**.
[Click here to read more.](#)

43. Which company has recently (in November '24) partnered with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog to launch its 4th cohort of Community Innovator Fellows (CIFs)?

- 1) Capgemini India
- 2) Accenture
- 3) Infosys
- 4) Cognizant
- 5) Wipro

Answer- **1) Capgemini India**

Explanation:

The **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** of **NITI Aayog** (National Institution for Transforming India in partnership with **Capgemini India** launched its fourth cohort of **Community Innovator Fellows (CIFs)**, aimed at fostering grassroots innovation and empower local innovators to create sustainable solutions for their communities.

- The program, implemented by **SRF Foundation** in collaboration with AIM and Capgemini, includes **15 fellows** hosted at **Atal Community Innovation Centers (ACICs)** that provide a supportive environment for innovators from diverse backgrounds.
- The CIF initiative focuses on addressing community-specific challenges through local, sustainable solutions.
- Each Fellow receives a grant of **Rs 1 lakh** from Capgemini India to scale their innovative solutions.

44. Which of the following National Parks was recently (in November '24) notified as 56th tiger reserve of India?

- 1) Gir National Park, Gujarat
- 2) Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan
- 3) Orang National Park, Assam
- 4) Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand
- 5) Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla, Chhattisgarh

Answer- **5) Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla, Chhattisgarh**

Explanation:

On November 18 2024, Union Minister for Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, **Bhupender Yadav** notified the **Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla** protected area in Chhattisgarh as India's **56th tiger reserve**.

- The new reserve becomes India's **3rd largest** tiger reserve behind the Manas Tiger Reserve (MTR) in Assam and the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) in Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- It is the 4th tiger reserve in Chhattisgarh after Achanakmar, Indravati, and Udanti Sitanadi.
- The reserve will spread with a total size of 2,829.38 square kilometers(sq km) and 2,049.2 sq km designated as core area. It is contiguous to Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh(MP).

45. Which among the following is the festival celebrated in Karnataka on the fourth day of Deepavali?

- 1) Saka Dawa
- 2) Bali Padyami
- 3) Chapcharkut
- 4) Chhath Puja
- 5) Bathukamma

Answer- **2) Bali Padyami**

Explanation:

Karnataka celebrated the "**Bali Padyami**" festival (Bali Pratipada) on the fourth day of Deepavali which commemorated the return of the Asura king, Bali Chakravarty, from Pathala Loka to Bhuloka, as per the boon granted to him by Lord Vishnu during his Vamana Avatar.

- This year it was celebrated on 2nd November, 2024.
- Worship of Ganga Mata on the first day, observance of Naraka Chaturdashi on the second day, and celebration of Lakshmi Puja on the third day of Deepavali, the festival of Bali Padyami gains its significance on the fourth day.
- The day symbolizes prosperity and well-being, reflecting the once-thriving kingdom of Bali Chakravarty.

46. Which railway station in Bihar is set to be renamed after the Hindu shrine Ajgaibinath Dham?

- 1) Patna Junction Railway Station
- 2) Sultanganj Railway Station
- 3) Bishunpur Mahuari Railway Station
- 4) Rajendra Nagar Railway Station
- 5) Muzaffarpur Junction railway station

Answer- 2) Sultanganj Railway Station

Explanation:

Samrat Choudhary, Deputy Chief Minister (**CM**) of Bihar, announced that **Sultanganj Railway Station** in Bhagalpur district, Bihar, is set to be renamed after the **Hindu shrine Ajgaibinath Dham**, an ancient temple of lord Shiva located in Sultanganj on the banks of river Ganga.

- The renaming of the railway station aims to enhance the importance of the shrine and promote tourism in the region.
- The proposal to rename the station was passed by the municipal council of Bhagalpur. It will be forwarded to the competent authority for changing the name of Sultanganj railway station.

47. Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh, Ministry of Science & Technology (MoS&T) inaugurated the VISION initiative in New Delhi, Delhi.

What does the abbreviation "VISION" stand for in this context?

- 1) Virtual International Students' Outreach Network
- 2) Visionary Information and Science Outreach Network
- 3) Virtual Information for Students, Innovation, Outreach, and Networking
- 4) Viksit Bharat Initiative for Student Innovation and Outreach Network
- 5) Visionary Integrated Students' Innovation and Outreach Network

Answer- 4) Viksit Bharat Initiative for Student Innovation and Outreach Network

Explanation:

Union Minister of State(**MoS**) (Independent Charge-**IC**) **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Ministry of Science & Technology (**MoS&T**) inaugurated the "Viksit Bharat Initiative for Student Innovation and Outreach Network" (**VISION**) in New Delhi, Delhi.

- This initiative is designed to promote education, skill-building, and innovation among underprivileged children. This program aims to bridge the gap between urban and rural students by providing access to mentorship, resources, and training opportunities.
- The Union Minister highlighted the transformative power of technology and stated that initiatives like VISION can fuel similar revolutions by making opportunities accessible to all.
- The Union Minister emphasized how VISION will help students from remote areas participate in the growing startup ecosystem, ensuring equal opportunities for all.

- He highlighted India's rise as a global startup hub, with the number of startups increasing from 350 in 2014 to over 1.67 lakh in 2024, placing India as the **3rd-largest startup** ecosystem globally.

48. Which department under the Ministry of Finance has recently (in November '24) revised the capital restructuring guidelines for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to enhance operational flexibility, shareholder returns, and regulatory changes?

- 1) Department of Economic Affairs
- 2) Department of Expenditure
- 3) Department of Financial Services
- 4) Department of Revenue
- 5) Department of Investment and Public Asset Management

Answer- 5) Department of Investment and Public Asset Management

Explanation:

The **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)**, Ministry of Finance (**MoF**), has issued revised capital restructuring guidelines for Central Public Sector Enterprises (**CPSEs**) to enhance operational flexibility, shareholder returns, and value creation, reflecting market and regulatory changes since May 2016.

- These guidelines, effective from Financial Year 2024-25 (**FY25**), exclude Public Sector Banks (**PSBs**), insurance companies, and entities restricted under **Section 8** of the Companies Act, 2013.
- The guidelines will also apply to subsidiaries of CPSEs, where the parent CPSE holds more than **51%** stake.
- CPSEs must pay a minimum annual dividend of **30%** of Profit After Tax (PAT) or **4% of net worth**, whichever is higher (previously 5% of net worth).
- CPSEs with a net worth of **Rs 3,000 crore**, cash reserves above Rs 1,500 crore, and trading below book value for 6 months may consider share buybacks.
- Listed CPSEs with market prices exceeding **150 times face value** for 6 months may split shares, with a 3-year cooling-off period between splits.

49. Which of the following points is/are correct with respect to the approval of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25th November 2024?

A) The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), a flagship initiative of the Government of India (GoI) under NITI Aayog with an enhanced scope of work.

B) It has approved the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS), a new central sector scheme (CSS) for providing seamless, countrywide access for higher education and central government Research & Development (R&D) laboratories.

C) It has approved the launch of the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF), which will be a standalone Centrally-Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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

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

Explanation:

The **Union Cabinet** chaired by **Narendra Modi**, Prime Minister (**PM**) of India, has approved the following on 25th November 2024.

- The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, a flagship initiative of the Government of India (GoI) under the National Institution for Transforming India (**NITI Aayog**), with an enhanced scope of work.
- It has approved the One Nation One Subscription (**ONOS**), a new central sector scheme (**CSS**) for providing seamless, countrywide access to scholarly research articles and journals for higher education and central government Research & Development (**R&D**) laboratories.
- It has approved the launch of the National Mission on Natural Farming (**NMNF**), which will be a standalone **Centrally-Sponsored Scheme** under the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare** (MoA&FW).
- It has approved a proposal to waive off Bank Guarantee (**BG**) requirement for securitization of deferred spectrum installments auctioned before **2012**. [Click here to read more.](#)

50. Which of the following points is/are correct with respect to the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25th November 2024?

A) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the Permanent Account Number 2.0 (PAN 2.0) Project of the Income Tax (IT) Department with a budget outlay of Rs 1,435 crore.

B) It has approved 3 multi-tracking projects across Indian Railways (IR) with budget outlay of nearly Rs 7,927 crore and will be completed in 4 years.

C) It has approved the investment proposal worth Rs 1,750 crore for construction of Tato-I Hydro Electric Project (HEP) in Shi Yomi district of Arunachal Pradesh (AR).

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 Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (**CCEA**) chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved the following on 25th November 2024.

- The CCEA has approved the Permanent Account Number 2.0 (**PAN 2.0**) Project of the Income Tax (**IT**) Department, with a budget outlay of **Rs 1,435 crore**.
- It has approved **3** multi-tracking projects across Indian Railways (IR) with budget outlay of nearly **Rs 7,927 crore** and will be completed in 4 years.
- It has approved the investment proposal worth **Rs 1,750 crore** for construction of **Tato-I Hydro Electric Project (HEP)** in Shi Yomi district of Arunachal Pradesh (AR).
- It has approved the investment proposal worth **Rs 1, 939 crore** for the construction of **Heo HEP** in Shi Yomi district of Arunachal Pradesh (AR). [Click here to read more.](#)

51. Who has recently (in November '24) inaugurated the 125th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Utkal Keshari Dr Harekrushna Mahtab in New Delhi, Delhi?

- 1) Droupadi Murmu
- 2) Narendra Modi
- 3) Dharmendra Pradhan
- 4) Mohan Charan Majhi
- 5) Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Answer- **1) Droupadi Murmu**

Explanation:

On 21st November 2024, **Droupadi Murmu**, President of India, inaugurated the **125th Birth Anniversary** Celebration of Utkal Keshari Dr Harekrushna Mahtab in New Delhi, Delhi. The celebration was organised by the Ministry of Culture (MoC).

- Dr Harekrushna Mahtab is leader of the Indian National Congress(**INC**), a notable figure in the Indian independence movement and former Chief Minister(**CM**) of Odisha.
- Union Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, MoC; Union Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan**, Ministry of Education (MoE); and **Mohan Charan Majhi**, Chief Minister (CM) of Odisha were present during the event.
- President Droupadi Murmu released a Commemorative Stamp of Rs.5 and Commemorative Coin of Rs.125 to mark Dr. Mahtab's 125th birth anniversary.
- Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab (1899–1987), revered as Utkal Keshari, was a prominent freedom fighter, writer, historian, and political leader from Odisha.
- He also served as the last Prime Minister (**PM**) under the princely state of Odisha and later as CM of Odisha from 1946 to 1950 and 1956 to 1961.
- Dr. Mahtab was a prolific writer and journalist. He received the **Sahitya Akademi Award** in 1983 for his book Gan Majlis (Vol. III) (Essays).

52. Which news magazine has recently (in November '24) organised the 6th edition of Sahitya AajTak, a prestigious literary festival held in New Delhi, Delhi?

- 1) Economic Times
- 2) Business Standard
- 3) Indian Express
- 4) India Today
- 5) The Hindu

Answer- **4) India Today**

Explanation:

On 23rd November 2024, **Droupadi Murmu**, President of India, graced the **6th** edition of **Sahitya AajTak**, a prestigious literary festival organised by **India Today Group** at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi, Delhi.

- She conferred the **AajTak Sahitya Jagriti Lifetime Achievement Award** on Padma Bhushan awardee **Gulzar** (Real name: Sampooran Singh Kalra), the legendary poet, lyricist, and filmmaker, in recognition of his exceptional contributions to Indian literature and cinema.
- She also presented the prestigious **Aaj Tak Sahitya Jagriti Samman Awards**, recognising the outstanding contributions of established luminaries and emerging talents in the literary award.
- These awards were introduced in 2023 by India Today Group in collaboration with the Jagriti Foundation as part of "Sahitya AajTak".

- The recipient of the prestigious AajTak Sahitya Jagriti Lifetime Achievement Award received a cash prize of Rs 11 lakh, a commemorative plaque, and a citation.
- The awards were given across 7 main categories in the field of literature.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Which country has recently (in September 2024) joined the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as its 69th Member Country?

- 1) Israel
- 2) Denmark
- 3) Kuwait
- 4) Japan
- 5) China

Answer- **1) Israel**

Explanation:

Israel has officially joined the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as its **69th member** and 20th non-regional member with effect from **27th September 2024**, after completing all membership requirements.

- Israeli Finance Minister **Bezalel Smotrich** will represent Israel at the ADB.
- Israel formally submitted its application for ADB membership in **January 2022**.
- The ADB Board of Governors approved Israel's membership on **14th April 2022** through Resolution no. 414: "Membership of Israel and Increase in Authorized Capital Stock".

2. Which country has officially decided not to join China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)?

- 1) Brazil
- 2) Spain
- 3) Bangladesh
- 4) Afghanistan
- 5) South Africa

Answer- **1) Brazil**

Explanation:

Brazil has officially decided not to join China's **Belt and Road Initiative** (BRI). With this, Brazil becomes the second **BRICS** (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) nation, **following India**, to reject participation in this infrastructure project.

- Brazil aims to leverage aspects of the BRI framework to create synergies between its own infrastructure projects and Chinese investment funds, without formally joining the initiative.
- BRICS originally consisted of **Brazil, Russia, India, China** and **South Africa**. Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) have been admitted as new members.
- BRI, also known as the **One Belt One Road** or the **New Silk Road**, is a global development strategy launched by China in 2013. It aims to enhance connectivity and cooperation among countries primarily across Asia, Europe, and Africa.

3. Which cluster has recently (in November '24) joined the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Transitioning Industrial Clusters Initiative to drive economic growth, create jobs, and reduce Carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions?

- 1) AP Industrial Green Cluster
- 2) Visakhapatnam Green Hub
- 3) Dunkerque Industrial Cluster
- 4) AM Green Kakinada Cluster
- 5) Louisiana Future Energy Cluster

Answer- **4) AM Green Kakinada Cluster**

Explanation:

Andhra Pradesh(AP) based the **AM Green Kakinada Cluster**, the world's first Zero Emission Cluster, has joined the World Economic Forum's (WEF) **Transitioning Industrial Clusters Initiative** to drive economic growth, create jobs, and reduce Carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions through collaboration between industries and public institutions.

- The AM Green Kakinada cluster represents an investment of over **USD 3 billion**, projected to generate 10,000+ direct and indirect jobs.
- Operations will begin in 2026 with zero projected CO2 emissions.
- Starting with an Initial capacity includes **1 Million Tons Per Annum (MTPA)** of green ammonia.
- The cluster also includes a 2 GW (Giga Watt) electrolyser manufacturing plant, and other green molecule production.
- The initiative aims to accelerate the decarbonization of hard-to-abate industrial sectors through regional cooperation.

4. Which country has recently (in November '24) became the 104th full member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)?

- 1) Antigua and Barbuda
- 2) Armenia
- 3) Nepal
- 4) Syria
- 5) Paraguay

Answer- **2) Armenia**

Explanation:

On November 21 2024, **Randhir Jaiswal**, Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**), announced that the Republic of **Armenia** became the **104th** full member of the International Solar Alliance (**ISA**).

- Armenia's full membership in the **ISA** is effective from November 15, 2024 while the corresponding agreement was signed on November 16 2023 in Yerevan, Armenia.
- ISA was launched by the Prime Minister (PM) of India, **Narendra Modi** and the former President of France, **Francois Hollande** during the COP21 Paris Climate Conference held in November 2015.
- The main objective of **ISA** is to promote solar energy deployment and reduce dependence on fossil fuels among member countries situated between the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn

- By 2030, a treaty based intergovernmental organisation, **ISA** aims at mobilising **1000 billion** investments for the massive deployment of solar energy.

5. Which country has recently (in November '24) approved a new constitution in a referendum with preliminary results indicating that 91.8% of participants supported the proposed changes?

- 1) Congo
- 2) Gambia
- 3) India
- 4) Gabon
- 5) Uzbekistan

Answer- 4) Gabon

Explanation:

The voters of **Gabon** have approved a **new constitution** in a referendum with preliminary results indicating that **91.8%** of participants supported the proposed changes.

- The voter turnout was reported at approximately **53.5%**, according to Gabon's Interior Minister Hermann Immongault.
- This referendum is a significant step in Gabon's political landscape following the military coup that ousted President Ali Bongo Ondimba in August 2023.
- The new constitution introduces a limit of two terms for the presidency, with each term extended from five to seven years.
- The role of prime minister has been abolished, centralizing executive power within the presidency.

6. Who has recently (in November '24) inaugurated the first overseas Symbiosis International University's (SIU) campus at Dubai Knowledge Park, the United Arab Emirates(UAE)?

- 1) Narendra Modi
- 2) Bhupender Yadav
- 3) Ashwini Vaishnaw
- 4) Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
- 5) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

Answer- 5) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

Explanation:

In November 2024, Union Minister **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar**, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), inaugurated the **first overseas** of Symbiosis International University's (SIU) campus at Dubai Knowledge Park, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), marking a key moment in India-UAE relations.

- He also launched his book titled "**Why Bharat Matters**" in English at the Mohammed Bin Rashid Library in Dubai, UAE.
- The book was published by Rupa Publications India Private Limited. It was originally published in Hindi in December 2023.

7. Which anniversary of Hindi Diwas was recently (in November '24) celebrated by the Permanent Mission of India the United Nations (UN) in New York, the United States of America?

- 1) 50th
- 2) 75th

3) 100th

4) 150th

5) 200th

Answer- **2) 75th**

Explanation:

On 22 November 2024, the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations (UN) hosted a significant event in New York, the United States of America (USA) to mark the **75th anniversary** (Diamond Jubilee) of Hindi Diwas, emphasizing the global significance of Hindi.

- Hindi Diwas is annually celebrated on **September 14th** to commemorate the adoption of Hindi as an official language of India in 1949.
- The celebration also brought together representatives from over 40 countries, including Permanent Representatives (PRs), Deputy PRs, UN officials, academics, members of the Indian diaspora.
- The Director of Global Communications at the UN praised India's efforts to promote Hindi on the international stage, especially through the establishment of the **UN Hindi Project**.
- The PR of India, Ambassador to the UN, **Parvathaneni Harish**, emphasized Hindi's role in national integration, with global representatives, including the PRs of Mauritius and Nepal, highlighting its cultural significance and shared heritage.

GOVT SCHEMES

1. Which scheme has recently (in October '24) converged with the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme to improve healthcare access for ESI beneficiaries?

1) Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

2) Unified Pension Scheme

3) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

4) Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

5) Atal Pension Yojana

Answer- **1) Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**

Explanation:

Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)'s **Medical Benefit Council** has approved the convergence of the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme with Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (**AB PM-JAY**) to improve healthcare access for ESI beneficiaries.

- The decision was made during the 86th Medical Benefit Council meeting chaired by Ashok Kumar Singh, Director General (DG) of ESIC in New Delhi, Delhi.
- This aims to enhance medical services and includes initiatives like annual health check-ups and awareness camps for early diagnosis and improved healthcare delivery.
- The council also approved the implementation of the Common Support Mission (**CSM**) for **states** to improve and strengthen ESI's medical service delivery system in states with a focus on the Insured Persons(IP) centric approach.

2.The Ministry of Finance (MoF) raised the limit of Mudra loan amount under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) from current Rs 10 lakh to _____ under new “Tarun Plus” category.

- 1) Rs 12 lakh
- 2) Rs 15 lakh
- 3) Rs 20 lakh
- 4) Rs 25 lakh
- 5) Rs 26 lakh

Answer- 3) Rs 20 lakh

Explanation:

The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the Ministry of Finance (MoF) raised the limit of **Mudra loan** amount under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (**PMMY**) from current Rs 10 lakh to **Rs 20 lakh** under new “**Tarun Plus**” category to promote entrepreneurship in the country. It will be effective from **October 24, 2024**.

- Borrowers who have previously availed and successfully repaid loans under “Tarun” category will be able to access funding between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 20 lakh.
- PMMY was launched on **8th April, 2015** by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi in New Delhi, Delhi.
- **Aim:** To facilitate easy collateral-free micro-credit of up to Rs 10 lakh to non-farm small and micro-entrepreneurs for income-generating activities.
- MUDRA loans are classified into 4 main categories namely, Shishu, Kihore, Tarun and newly introduced category “Tarun Plus”.
- MUDRA has created a portal for this purpose, where Banks and other lending institutions can input their achievement details directly. [Click here to read more.](#)

3. Which state has recently (in October ‘24) launched the ‘Deepam 2.0’ scheme to provide 3 free Liquefied Petroleum(LPG) cylinders per year to an eligible woman?

- 1) Tamil Nadu
- 2) Kerala
- 3) Karnataka
- 4) Telangana
- 5) Andhra Pradesh

Answer- 5) Andhra Pradesh

Explanation:

Andhra Pradesh (AP) Chief Minister (CM) **Chandrababu Naidu** launched the ‘**Deepam 2.0**’ scheme as a Diwali gift in Edupuram, AP. This initiative will provide 3 free Liquefied Petroleum(LPG) cylinders per year to eligible women from 31st October 2024.

- Deepam (light) scheme is one of the “super six” poll promises made by the Telugu Desam Party (**TDP**) ahead of the 2024 elections.
- The AP government will provide 3 gas cylinders free of cost to eligible beneficiaries at the rate of one in four months.

4. Which of the following points is/are correct with respect to the approval of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 6th November 2024?

- A) Union Cabinet has approved 'PM Vidyalaxmi' scheme, a new Central Sector Scheme (CSS) which aims to provide financial assistance to meritorious students to pursue higher studies.**
- B) The government has allocated Rs 3,600 crore for 'PM Vidyalaxmi' scheme during the period from Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25) to FY31.**
- C) Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved an equity infusion of Rs 10,700 crore for the Food Corporation of India (FCI), to support its working capital requirements for the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25).**

- 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 6th November 2024, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister **(PM)** Narendra Modi, has approved '**PM Vidyalaxmi**' scheme, a new Central Sector Scheme **(CSS)** which aims to provide financial assistance to meritorious students, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder anyone from pursuing higher studies.

- The government has allocated **Rs 3,600 crore** for the scheme during the period from Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25) to FY31, and 7 lakh new students are expected to avail the benefit of this interest subvention during the period.
- The scheme is a key initiative stemming out of the National Education Policy, 2020 **(NEP 2020)** which had recommended providing financial support to meritorious students in both public and private Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).
- As per the scheme, any meritorious student who gets admission in Quality Higher Educational Institutions **(QHEIs)** will be eligible to get collateral free, guarantor-free loan from banks and Financial Institutions **(FIs)** to cover tuition fees and other course-related expenses.
- On 6th November 2024, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs **(CCEA)** chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved an equity infusion of **Rs 10,700 crore** for the Food Corporation of India **(FCI)**, to support its working capital requirements for the Financial Year 2024-25 **(FY25)**. [Click here to read more.](#)

5. Under which mission, 'Namo Drone Didi' Scheme is providing Drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) with an outlay of Rs 1261 Crores?

- 1) Mission Shakti
- 2) Mahila Shakti Kendra
- 3) Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana
- 4) Sukanya Samridhi Yojana
- 5) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission

Answer- 5) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission

Explanation:

The Government of India (GoI) has approved the Central Sector Scheme ‘**Namo Drone Didi**’ for providing Drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), with an outlay of **Rs 1261 Crores**.

- This aims to provide drones to **14500** selected Women SHGs during the period from 2024-25 to 2025-2026 to provide rental services to farmers for agricultural purposes like the application of liquid fertilizers and pesticides for the present.
- The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) has released the Operational Guidelines for this scheme.
- Namu Drone Didi will be governed at the Central level by the Empowered Committee of the Secretaries of DA&FW; Department of Rural Development(DRD), Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD); Department of Fertilizers(DoF), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers (MoC&F); Ministry of Civil Aviation(MoCA) and Ministry of Women and Child Development(MoWCD).
- Under the scheme, Central Financial Assistance at 80% of the cost of drone and accessories/ancillary charges up to a maximum of **Rs 8 lakhs** will be provided to the women SHGs for purchase of drones as a package. [Click here to read more.](#)

6. What was the allocated budget for the recently (in November’ 24) launched Scheme for “Strengthening the Medical Device Industry” by Union Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda?

- 1)Rs.600 crores
- 2)Rs.1000 crores
- 3)Rs.1100 crores
- 4)Rs.500 crores
- 5)Rs.450 crores

Answer: **4) Rs.500 crores**

Explanation:

Union Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers(MoC&F), launched the **Scheme for Strengthening the Medical Device Industry** with an allocated budget of Rs.500 crores.

i.Scheme for Strengthening the Medical Device Industry is a comprehensive scheme which targets critical areas of the medical device industry, covering manufacturing of key components and accessories, skill development, support for clinical studies, development of common infrastructure and industry promotion.

iv.**Production-Linked Incentive (PLI)** scheme, launched by the Government of India in 2020, has paved the way for growth and innovation, fostering industrial development, boosting manufacturing, and contributing to India’s self-reliance.

Scheme for Strengthening of Medical Devices Industry Sub-schemes	Outlay (Rs. in crore)
Common Facilities for Medical Devices Clusters	110

Marginal Investment Scheme for Reducing Import Dependence	180
Capacity Building and Skill Development for Medical Devices	100
Medical Device Clinical Studies Support Scheme	100
Medical Device Promotion Scheme	10

7. Which organisation has recently (in November '24) organised a national workshop on PMAY-U 2.0 - Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS) vertical in partnership with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in New Delhi, Delhi?

- 1) World Bank
- 2) Reserve Bank of India
- 3) National Housing Bank
- 4) HDFC Bank
- 5) Axis Bank

Answer- 3) National Housing Bank

Explanation:

On 14th November 2024, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (**MoHUA**) in partnership with National Housing Bank (**NHB**) organised a national workshop on Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban 2.0 (**PMAY-U 2.0**) – Interest Subsidy Scheme (**ISS**) vertical in New Delhi(Delhi).

- During the workshop, NHB signed Memorandum of Understanding (**MoUs**) with **147** different Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs) for implementation of ISS.
- Union Minister Manohar Lal, MoHUA highlighted the key features of PMAY-U 2.0 and the ISS vertical. He called upon all the financial institutions to become active partners of providing 'housing to all', a milestone of DEVELOPED INDIA by the year 2047.
- A unified web portal designed and developed by MoHUA to effectively execute the scheme was introduced to the participants of PMAY-U 2.0 workshop.
- This portal is accessible to all stakeholders and will help in monitoring and evaluating the PMAY-U 2.0 scheme.
- Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi launched the 'PMAY-U 2.0 – Housing for All' Scheme in September **2024**.
- The scheme offers financial assistance to poor and middle-class families to build or buy a pucca house in urban areas.

8. According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's (MoHFW) recent (in November '24) data, over _____ senior citizens aged 70 and above have enrolled for the newly launched Ayushman Bharat: Vay Vandana Card (AB-VVC).

- 1) 3 lakh
- 2) 5 lakh
- 3) 8 lakh
- 4) 10 lakh
- 5) 12 lakh

Answer- 4) 10 lakh

Explanation:

According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**) official data, as on 17th November 2024, **over 10 lakh** senior citizens aged 70 and above have enrolled for the newly launched Ayushman Bharat: Vay Vandana Card (**AB-VVC**), which enables them to avail free healthcare benefits under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (**AB PM-JAY**).

- This achievement comes within 3 weeks of the AB-VVC's rollout by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on the occasion of Dhanvantari Jayanti and Ayurveda Day (**29th October 2024**) at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (**AIIA**) in New Delhi, Delhi.
- AB-VCC is an expansion of **AB PM-JAY**, one of the key components of Ayushman Bharat (AB), a flagship scheme of Government of India (GoI), which aims to strengthen the idea of making healthcare accessible to all.
- Eligible senior citizens will receive a new distinct card under AB PM-JAY to access the wide range of healthcare services at both government and private hospitals that are part of AB PM-JAY network.
- All senior citizens of the age 70 years and above irrespective of their socio-economic status will receive health coverage of up to **Rs 5 lakh per family**.
- Around **4 lakh women** aged 70 and above have enrolled under the AB-VCC.
- So far, **over Rs 9 crore** have been authorised, which has benefitted over **4,800 senior citizens** aged 70 and above, including more than 1,400 women. [Click here to read more.](#)

9. Which of the following is/are correct with respect to the revised Performance-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme launched by the Ministry of Finance?

A) The previous PLI scheme was restricted only to Whole-Time Directors (WTDs)- Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officers (CEOs).

B) The revised scheme also applies to senior executives in the rank of Chief Manager and above.

C) This revision will reduce the existing wide compensation disparity between senior executives of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Private Sector Banks (PvSBs).

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

Answer- 3) Only B & C

Explanation:

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) has launched a revised **Performance-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme** with an aim to reward and motivate employees for significant value creation for various stakeholders.

- The previous PLI scheme was restricted only to **Whole-Time Directors (WTDs)** – Managing Director (**MD**) & Chief Executive Officers (**CEOs**) and Executive Directors.
- The revised scheme also applies to **senior executives** in the rank of Chief Manager and above.
- This revision will reduce the existing wide compensation disparity between senior executives of **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** and **private sector banks (PvSBs)**.
- The PLI ceiling for **MD & CEO** and **Executive Directors** of nationalised banks and Chairman and Managing Directors (CMD) and Deputy Managing Directors (DMD) of State Bank of India (SBI) has been fixed at **100 %** of their annual basic pay.
- On the other hand, the PLI ceiling for senior executives in the rank of Chief General Manager (CGM) and General Manager (GM); and Deputy General Manager (DGM) and Assistant General Manager (AGM) has been fixed at **90%** and **80%**, respectively, of their annual basic pay. [Click here to read more.](#)

VISITS

1. Which of the following points is/are correct with respect to the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Olaf Scholz's visit to India from 24th to 26th October 2024?

A) Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and Chancellor Olaf Scholz co-chaired the 7th Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC) under the motto "Growing Together with Innovation, Mobility and Sustainability".

B) PM Modi and Chancellor Scholz addressed the 18th Asia Pacific Conference of German Business (APK 2024) being held in New Delhi, Delhi.

C) India and Germany signed several Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) and agreements to boost bilateral relations in New Delhi.

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:

Olaf Scholz, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of **Germany**, paid an official visit to India, at the invitation of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, from **24th to 26th October 2024** for the 7th Intergovernmental Consultations (**IGC**) and 18th Asia Pacific Conference of German Business (APK 2024).

- Previously, Chancellor Olaf Scholz visited India twice in 2023, for a bilateral State Visit in February 2023 and to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit in September 2023.
- During his visit, Chancellor Scholz traveled to Goa, where the German naval frigate "**Baden-Wuerttemberg**" and combat support ship "**Frankfurt am Main**" have made a scheduled port call as part of Germany's Indo-Pacific deployment.

- PM Modi and Chancellor Olaf Scholz co-chaired the 7th Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC) under the motto “**Growing Together with Innovation, Mobility and Sustainability**”.
- India & Germany decided to establish an **India-Germany Dialogue on West Asia and North Africa** (WANA) between the respective Foreign Ministries, which would be in addition to long-standing dialogue mechanisms on Africa and East Asia.
- PM Modi and Chancellor Scholz addressed the **18th** Asia Pacific Conference of German Business (**APK 2024**) being held in New Delhi, Delhi.
- India and Germany signed several Memorandum of Understandings (**MoUs**) and agreements to boost bilateral relations in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in New Delhi. [Click here to read more.](#)

2. Which of the following points is/are correct with respect to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Gujarat on 28th October 2024?

A) PM Modi along with the Spanish PM Pedro Sanchez jointly inaugurated the TATA Aircraft Complex for manufacturing C-295 aircraft at TATA Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) Campus in Vadodara, Gujarat

B) He inaugurated the Bharat Mata Sarovar in Dudhala, Amreli developed through a collaboration between the Government of Gujarat and the Dholakia Foundation under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

C) He also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of projects worth around Rs 3,900 Crore at Amreli, Gujarat.

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

Answer- 1) Only A & B

Explanation:

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister (PM) of India, visited and inaugurated various projects in Gujarat on 28th October 2024.

- PM Modi along with Pedro Sanchez, Prime Minister (PM) of the Government of Spain, jointly inaugurated the TATA Aircraft Complex for manufacturing C-295 aircraft at **TATA Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)** Campus in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- PM Modi inaugurated the **Bharat Mata Sarovar** in Dudhala, Amreli, which was developed through a collaboration between the Government of Gujarat and the **Dholakia Foundation** under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- PM Modi also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of projects worth around Rs 4,900 Crore at Amreli, Gujarat.
- PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various road projects worth more than Rs 2,800 crores.
- PM Modi dedicated to the nation the **Bhuj-Naliya Rail Gauge Conversion Project**, developed at a cost of around Rs 1,100 crores.
- PM Modi also laid the foundation stone of **Pasavi Group Augmentation Water Supply Scheme Phase 2** in Bhavnagar district. [Click here to read more.](#)

3. Which of the following points is/are correct with respect to the Spain Prime Minister (PM) Pedro Sánchez's visit to India from 28th to 29th October 2024?

A) Bilateral trade between India and Spain has reached USD 5 billion, and nearly 240 Spanish companies have a presence in India.

B) India and Spain signed several MoUs related to rail transport, customs, finance mechanisms for investment, and cultural exchanges.

C) Spain's PM Pedro Sanchez inaugurated the fourth Spain-India Forum in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

1) Only A & B

2) Only A & C

3) Only B & C

4) Only C

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

At the invitation of Narendra Modi, Prime Minister (PM) of India, **Pedro Sánchez, PM of Spain**, along with his spouse Begona Gomez, visited India from 28th to 29th October 2024.

- PM Modi and Spain PM Pedro Sánchez, discussed a range of bilateral issues during delegation-level talks held at the Laxmi Vilas Palace in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- This was PM Sanchez's 1st visit to India and the 1st visit by the PM of Spain to India after 18 years.
- **Tanmaya Lal**, Secretary (West) of the Ministry of External Affairs(MEA), stated that multiple Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) were signed during the visit of Spain's PM.
- He also informed that bilateral trade between India and Spain has reached **USD 10 billion**, and nearly 240 Spanish companies have a presence in India.
- India and Spain signed several **MoUs** related to rail transport, customs, finance mechanisms for investment, and cultural exchanges.
- Spain's PM Pedro Sanchez inaugurated the fourth **Spain-India Forum** in Mumbai, Maharashtra on 29th October 2024. [Click here to read more.](#)

4. Which of the following points is/are correct with respect to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bihar on 13th November 2024?

A) PM laid the foundation stone of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Darbhanga, Bihar at a cost of Rs. 1264 Crore.

B) He inaugurated multiple initiatives in the petroleum and natural gas sector worth over Rs 4,020 crore.

C) He inaugurated 19 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras at various railway stations across the country through video conferencing from Darbhanga in Bihar.

1) Only A & B

2) Only A & C

3) Only B & C

4) Only C

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi visited Bihar on 13th November 2024 and laid foundation stones of various projects for the development in the region.

- With an aim to boost health infrastructure in the region, PM laid the foundation stone of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Darbhanga, Bihar at a cost of **Rs. 1264 Crore**.
- Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthaya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), till date, **22** AIIMS have been approved.
- PM Modi inaugurated multiple initiatives in the petroleum and natural gas sector worth over **Rs 4,020 crore**.
- PM laid the foundation stone for development of **City Gas Distribution (CGD)** network in **five** major districts of Bihar at Darbhanga, Madhubani, Supaul, Sitamarhi and Sheohar by **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited** in order to provide **Piped Natural Gas (PNG)** to households and providing clean energy options to commercial and industrial sectors.
- PM Modi inaugurated **18** Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya **Jan Aushadhi Kendras** at various railway stations across the country through video conferencing from Darbhanga in Bihar.
- PM Modi launched multiple **National Highway** projects worth around **Rs 5,070 crore** in Bihar and **railway** projects worth over **Rs.1520 crore**. [Click here to read more.](#)

5. Which of the following points is/are correct with respect to the Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi's visit to Nepal from 20th to 24th November 2024?

A) The visit aimed to bolster the close defence cooperation between India and Nepal and explore new avenues of collaboration between the two nations.

B) The central theme of the visit was "Strengthening India-Nepal ties".

C) He was honoured with the Guard of Army at the Nepali Army headquarters in Kathmandu, Nepal.

1) Only A & B

2) Only A & C

3) Only B & C

4) Only C

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (**COAS**) of the Indian Army (IA), made a 5-day visit to **Nepal** from 20th to 24th November 2024. The visit aimed to bolster the close defence cooperation between India and Nepal and explore new avenues of collaboration between the two nations.

- He was accompanied by Sunita Dwivedi, chair of the Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA) of the IA.
- The central theme of the visit was "**Strengthening India-Nepal ties**".
- He paid his tributes to Nepal's Bravehearts by laying a wreath at Bir Smarak, Tundikhel.
- The Indian Army presented **Valour Mount horses** and **Sentinel dogs** to the Nepali Army as a gesture of friendship.
- General Upendra Dwivedi was honoured with the **Guard of Honour** at the Nepali Army headquarters in Kathmandu, Nepal. This tradition highlights the deep-rooted historical and cultural ties between the Indian and Nepali Armies.

BANKING AND FINANCE

1. Which state has recently (in October' 24) received a USD 241.3 million loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to enhance the power distribution in the state?

- 1) Tripura
- 2) Jharkhand
- 3) West Bengal
- 4) Odisha
- 5) Maharashtra

Answer- 3) West Bengal

Explanation:

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a **USD 241.3 million loan**, aimed to enhance the power distribution in West Bengal (WB). This will also help enhance people's quality of life by ensuring reliable, quality, and sustainable power supply.

- This programme of ADB is in alignment with the WB government's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), which aims to strengthen the operational efficiency of power distribution companies (DISCOMs).
- In 2022, the Government of India (GoI) and the Government of West Bengal had approved the RDSS which is a result-based lending (RBL) program, for West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL) with budget outlay of **USD 197.39 million** for an implementation between 2022 and 2026.
- According to the ADB, the West Bengal Distribution System Strengthening Program will improve electricity distribution for **8.96 million consumers** in **7 districts** of the WB.

2. Which among the following Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) was 'not' banned by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from sanctioning and disbursing loans in October 2024?

- 1) Asirvad Micro Finance Limited
- 2) Arohan Financial Services Limited
- 3) Navi Finserv Limited
- 4) Directional Moving Index Finance Private Limited
- 5) Bandhan Financial Services Limited

Answer- 5) Bandhan Financial Services Limited

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has banned **4 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** including **2 Microfinance Institutions (MFIs)** from sanctioning and disbursing loans due to high interest rates charged to customers, effective from 21st October 2024.

- The directions given to the 4 entities are Asirvad Micro Finance Limited (NBFC-MFI), Arohan Financial Services Limited (NBFC-MFI), Directional Moving Index (DMI) Finance Private Limited (NBFC), and Navi Finserv Limited (NBFC).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken strict action by using its authority under Section 45L(1)(b) of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.

3. What is the total number of entities in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) alert list after adding 13 more firms in the list in October 2024?

- 1) 92
- 2) 56
- 3) 67
- 4) 88
- 5) 78

Answer- **4) 88**

Explanation:

On 22nd October 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) added **13** more firms to its “**alert list**” of unauthorized forex trading platforms. With this, the total number of entities in the RBI alert list has expanded to **88**.

- As per the RBI, the entities in the alert list are neither authorised to deal in forex under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999(FEMA) nor authorised to operate Electronic Trading Platforms (ETPs) for forex transactions under the **Electronic Trading Platforms (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2018**.
- The Alert list also includes the names of **entities/platforms/websites** which are promoting unauthorized entities or ETPs, including through advertisements of such unauthorized entities or claiming to be providing training or advisory services.
- RBI further clarified that if an entity does not appear on the list then it should not be assumed to be authorised by the RBI.

4. Which bank has recently (in October 2024) inaugurated its first branch in Singapore to provide banking services?

- 1) State Bank of India
- 2) Union Bank of India
- 3) HDFC Bank Limited
- 4) ICICI Bank
- 5) Indian Overseas Bank

Answer- **3) HDFC Bank Limited**

Explanation:

HDFC Bank Limited inaugurated its **first branch** in **Singapore** to provide banking services in Singapore. HDFC Bank has received the wholesale banking license from the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) with effect from **15th October 2024**.

- The branch was inaugurated by **Rakesh Singh**, Group Head of International Banking, Investment Banking, Private Banking, Digital Ecosystems and Banking as a Service (**BaaS**), HDFC Bank in the presence of Gaurav Khandelwal, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank, Singapore.
- The HDFC bank will now offer a wide range of financial products and services to residents of Singapore.

5. Which state has recently (in October '24) received a loan of USD 434.25 million by Asian Development Bank (ADB) to boost the renewable energy sector?

- 1) Assam
- 2) West Bengal

- 3) Maharashtra
- 4) Tamil Nadu
- 5) Uttar Pradesh

Answer- **1) Assam**

Explanation:

The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) has approved a substantial loan of **USD 434.25** million (around Rs 3600 crore) to boost the renewable energy sector in Assam.

- This funding will go towards the establishment of a **500 Megawatt(MW)** solar photovoltaic (PV) plant in **Karbi Anglong** district of Assam, marking a major step toward meeting the state's renewable energy (RE) target of 3,000 MW by 2030.
- The loan and technical assistance are intended to catalyze Assam's shift towards renewable energy, reinforcing both energy security and environmental responsibility in the state.
- The project incorporates a Battery Energy Storage System (**BESS**) to ensure a stable and reliable energy supply. This system will help manage peak power demand and maintain grid stability.
- ADB is also offering an additional **USD 1 million** in technical assistance through its Clean Energy Fund under the Clean Energy Financing Partnership Facility.

6. Which insurance company has recently (in October '24) launched 'Promise4Future', a non-linked participating plan that provides policyholders with a combination of life protection and savings?

- 1) Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited
- 2) SBI General Insurance Company Limited
- 3) Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited
- 4) Max Life Insurance Company Limited
- 5) Galaxy Health Insurance Company Limited

Answer- **3) Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited**

Explanation:

Gurgaon(Haryana) based **Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited** has announced the launch of '**Promise4Future**', a non-linked, participating plan that provides policyholders with a combination of life protection and savings.

- Promise4Future is a Unit Linked Individual Savings Life Insurance Plan, provides the dual benefit of long-term protection and the opportunity to benefit from the returns generated in the participating fund of the company.
- This also offers a range of valuable benefits, including flexible premium payments, high-premium boosters, and the option for partial or full withdrawals under deferred survival benefits.
- The plan is being offered in two variants: **Savings4Future** and **Income4Future**.

7. Which organisation has recently (in October '24) mandated Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to ensure that at least 25% of their borrowings come from the capital market instruments?

- 1) Reserve Bank of India
- 2) National Stock Exchange of India Limited
- 3) Securities and Exchange Board of India

4) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India

5) International Financial Services Centres Authority

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

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mandated **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** to ensure that at least **25%** of their borrowings come from the capital market instruments. This regulation is part of the RBI's ongoing efforts to enhance the financial stability and risk management practices within the NBFC sector.

- Capital market instruments include commercial papers, non-convertible debentures (**NCDs**), external commercial borrowings (**ECBs**), among others.
- NBFCs have a higher share of bank borrowing. In November 2023, RBI increased the risk weight on bank loans to NBFCs by **25%** for cases where the risk weight based on external ratings was below 100%. This change led to a sharp slowdown in bank loans to NBFCs.
- According to the RBI's latest data, bank loans to NBFCs grew by **12%** year-on-year (y-o-y) to **Rs 15.22 lakh crore** as of August 23, 2024 as compared to **21%** y-o-y growth observed in the same period in 2023.
- RBI has announced that the interest rate for the Government of India Floating Rate Bond 2034 (GOI FRB 2034) will be 7.53% per annum for the upcoming six-month period, from **October 30, 2024, to April 29, 2025**.
- RBI has reported a significant increase in its gold reserves, which now total **854.73 metric tonnes** as of the end of September 2024. Of this amount, **510.46 metric tonnes**, or approximately 60%, is stored domestically within India. [Click here to read more.](#)

8. Which bank has recently (in October '24) approved a loan of 300 million euro fund to the Bengaluru suburban railway project (BSRP) in Bengaluru, Karnataka?

1) World Bank

2) Asian Development Bank

3) New Development Bank

4) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

5) European Investment Bank

Answer- **5) European Investment Bank**

Explanation:

The European Investment Bank (**EIB Global**) has approved a loan of **300 million euro** (approximately Rs 2,800 crore) to fund the Bengaluru suburban railway project (**BSRP**) in Bengaluru, Karnataka. This initiative is aimed at developing a new suburban railway network in the city.

- The suburban railway will span a total of **149 kilometers**.
- It will consist of **four dedicated rail corridors**, ensuring efficient connectivity across various parts of the city.
- The project will include the construction of **58 stations** and **two depots**, facilitating the smooth operation and maintenance of the railway services.
- Since 2016, the EIB has invested 3.25 billion Euro (about Rs 30,225 crore) in Indian transport projects, including a 500 million Euro loan for the Bengaluru Metro's R6 line with 96 metro cars.

9. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has recently (in November '24) allowed the Indian Mutual Funds (MFs) to invest in overseas MFs or Unit Trusts (UTs) that shall not exceed _____ of their net assets.

- 1) 22%
- 2) 25%
- 3) 27%
- 4) 30%
- 5) 32%

Answer- **2) 25%**

Explanation:

On 4th November 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has allowed the Indian Mutual Funds (**MFs**) to invest in overseas MFs or Unit Trusts (UTs) that invest a specific portion of their assets in Indian securities, which is subject to the condition that the total exposure to Indian securities by these overseas MF/UTs shall **not exceed 25%** of their net assets.

- The move is aimed to facilitate ease of investment in overseas MF/UTs, which will bring transparency in the manner of investment, and also enable the MFs to diversify their overseas investments.
- This direction was introduced by SEBI through a circular issued in exercise of powers given under **Section 11(1) of SEBI Act, 1992**, read with the provisions of Regulation 43(1) and Regulation 77 of SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996.
- As per SEBI directions, the MF schemes are required to ensure that all investors' contributions to an overseas MFs/UTs are combined into a **single investment vehicle** without any side vehicles.
- Following the investment, if the exposure to Indian securities breaches the limit of 25%, then, an observance period of **6 months** from the date of publicly available information of such breach would be granted to Indian MF schemes for monitoring any portfolio rebalancing activity by the underlying overseas MF/UT.

10. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has committed nearly _____ to establish food parks in India to bolster food security for the UAE.

- 1) USD 6 billion
- 2) USD 5 billion
- 3) USD 4 billion
- 4) USD 3 billion
- 5) USD 2 billion

Answer- **5) USD 2 billion**

Explanation:

India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have strengthened their strategic partnership through several initiatives to boost economic, financial, and technological ties.

- Union Minister **Piyush Goyal**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (**MoCI**) highlighted ongoing efforts to link India's Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) with the UAE's Arabian Automated Network for Instant Payments (**AANI**) payment system during a press conference following the 12th meeting of the India-UAE High-Level Joint Task Force on Investment (HLJTFI) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- AANI is powered by Al Etihad Payments (AEP), a subsidiary of the Central Bank of the UAE(CBUAE).
- The UAE has committed nearly USD 2 billion to establish **food parks in India**, aiming to bolster food security for the UAE while creating jobs for Indian farmers.
- UAE became India's **fourth-largest investor**, with Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) commitments totaling USD 3.35 billion in 2023.
- Mumbai (Maharashtra) based National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) through its international subsidiary NPCI International Payments Limited (**NIPL**) and Abu Dhabi (UAE) based Al Etihad Payments (**AEP**) launched the **JAYWAN** card scheme, introduced during Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's UAE visit in early 2024.
- This launch also marks a milestone, as the UAE is the **first** country in the Gulf Cooperation Council (**GCC**) region to adopt the RuPay infrastructure.

11. The designation of the Central Nodal Officer under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) was recently (in October '24) changed from 'Additional Secretary' to which position?

- 1) Director
- 2) Secretary
- 3) Deputy Secretary
- 4) Joint Secretary
- 5) Under Secretary

Answer- **4) Joint Secretary**

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced six amendments to the Master Direction – Know Your Customer (KYC) Direction, 2016 (as amended from time to time), w.e.f. November 6, 2024.

- It should be noted that the terms of Master Direction on KYC are followed by **Regulated Entities** (REs) to undertake **Customer Due Diligence** (CDD) for their customers.
- **Customer Acceptance Policy:** REs must apply CDD at the **Unique Customer Identification Code** (UCIC) level. Existing KYC-compliant customers can open new accounts or access additional services without undergoing a new CDD process.
- **High-Risk Accounts Monitoring:** The definition of high-risk accounts has been clarified to emphasize that these accounts require intensified monitoring.
- **KYC Updation:** The term “periodic updation” replaces “**updation**” for clarity regarding the timing and processes for updating customer KYC details.
- **KYC Records and CKYCR:** REs must update KYC data for individual and legal entities with the **Central KYC Records Registry** (CKYCR) within seven days of receiving new information.
- **Changes in UAPA Procedures:** The designation of the Central Nodal Officer under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 has been changed from ‘Additional Secretary’ to ‘**Joint Secretary**’, reflecting an administrative update.
- **Terminology Update:** Throughout the Master Direction, references to “section” have been replaced with “paragraph” for consistency in legal language.

12. Which bank has recently (in October '24) raised Rs 5,000 crore through its 1st Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 (AT-1) bond issuance for the current Financial Year (FY2025) at a coupon rate of 7.98%?

- 1) Reserve Bank of India
- 2) City Union Bank
- 3) ICICI Bank
- 4) HDFC Bank
- 5) State Bank of India

Answer- 5) State Bank of India

Explanation:

Mumbai(Maharashtra) based State Bank of India (**SBI**) has raised **Rs 5,000 crore** through its 1st Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1(AT-1) bond issuance for the current Financial Year (**FY2025**) at a coupon rate of **7.98%**.

- The tenor of these SBI's AT-1 bonds is perpetual with call option after 10 years and each anniversary date thereafter.
- The issue attracted bids over 3.5 times against the base issue size of Rs 2,000 crore. The total number of bids received was 108, this indicates participation from a diverse set of qualified institutional bidders.
- The bonds are rated AA+ with a stable outlook from CRISIL (Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited) Ratings and CARE (Credit Analysis and Research Limited) Ratings.

13. Which company has been recently (in October '24) barred by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) from participating in securities markets due to alleged fund diversion and misrepresentation of the company's financial records?

- 1) Omaxe Limited
- 2) Anand Rathi Wealth Limited
- 3) Eros International Plc
- 4) Onelife Capital Advisors Limited
- 5) Cholamandalam Financial Holdings

Answer- 4) Onelife Capital Advisors Limited

Explanation:

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has barred **Onelife Capital Advisors Limited** (OCAL) and its promoters, **Pandoo Naig** and **Prabhakara Naig**, from participating in securities markets until further notice due to alleged fund diversion and misrepresentation of the company's financial records.

- SEBI has prohibited the Naigs from serving as a directors or key managerial personnel in any listed company that plans to raise funds from the public or any SEBI-registered intermediary until further notice.
- OCAL's methods involve various regulatory violations, including hidden transactions among related parties without proper disclosures or approvals, diversion of funds as loans to related parties, and failures in corporate governance.
- The order followed an October 2022 complaint to SEBI about alleged fund diversion and financial misrepresentation by FCHL and OCAL. NSE also investigated OCAL based on their internal alerts.

14. Which bank has recently (in October '24) issued its first biodiversity and nature-focused bond worth USD 100 million to fund vital conservation projects across Asia and the Pacific?

- 1) World Bank
- 2) Asian Development Bank
- 3) New Development Bank
- 4) Japan Bank for International Cooperation
- 5) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

Answer- 2) Asian Development Bank

Explanation:

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has issued its first biodiversity and nature-focused bond worth **USD 100 million** to fund vital conservation projects across Asia and the Pacific.

- The bond was announced at the 16th Conference of the Parties for the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16) in **Cali, Republic of Colombia**.
- The 10-year bond was issued under ADB's Theme Bonds for Sustainable Development program in collaboration with its Environment group.
- The bond issuance, purchased by Japan-based **Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company Limited** and arranged by France-based Credit Agricole (CIB) (an international banking group), marks a significant step in ADB's commitment to advancing sustainable development.
- The ADB has a longstanding commitment to environmental protection, focusing on biodiversity and nature conservation.
- In 2023, ADB launched the *Nature Solutions Finance Hub* and the *Natural Capital Fund* with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), supporting innovative conservation efforts.

15. According to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Half-Yearly report released in October 2024, Foreign Exchange Reserves (FER) has increased from USD 646.42 billion (March 2024) to _____ (September 2024).

- 1) USD 689.59 billion
- 2) USD 694.63 billion
- 3) USD 705.78 billion
- 4) USD 713.69 billion
- 5) USD 724.56 billion

Answer- 3) USD 705.78 billion

Explanation:

On 29th October 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its [43rd Half Yearly report from April to September 2024](#) on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves (MFER).

- As per the report, India's foreign exchange reserves position as on 18th October 2024 was projected at **USD 688.27 billion**, of which USD 598.24 billion in Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), Gold worth USD 67.44 billion, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) of **USD 18.27 billion** and Reserve Tranche Position (RTP) of **USD 4.32 billion**.
- The Department of External Investments and Operations (DEIO) under the RBI publishes the half-yearly reports on MFER to enhance transparency and levels of disclosure.
- According to the RBI's latest Half-Yearly report, FER has increased from USD 646.42 billion (as on 31st March, 2024) to **USD 705.78 billion** (as on 30th September 2024).

- The report showed India's FER on a balance of payments (**BoP**) basis, excluding valuation effects, has increased by **USD 5.2 billion** during April-June 2024 against the increase of USD 24.4 billion during the same period of last year.
- As per the report, RBI's net forward asset (payable) was at **USD 14.58 billion** as on 30th September, 2024. [Click here to read more.](#)

16. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently (in October '24) announced that any entity seeking authorisation or recognition as a Central Counterparty (CCP) should have at least net worth of _____.

- 1) Rs 100 crore
- 2) Rs 200 crore
- 3) Rs 300 crore
- 4) Rs 400 crore
- 5) Rs 500 crore

Answer- 3) Rs 300 crore

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) announced that any entity seeking authorisation or recognition as a Central Counterparty (**CCP**) should have at least net worth of **Rs 300 crore** at the time of submitting its applications.

- RBI has updated its previous regulations established in **June 2019** regarding capital requirements and governance frameworks for CCPs.
- The provisions of these revised regulations will be applicable to both domestic CCPs authorised by RBI and foreign CCPs recognized under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007(PSS Act).
- As per the revised regulations, every authorised CCP has been mandated to submit an audited networth certificate at the end of the financial year from the statutory auditor **within 6 months** of the closure of the financial year.
- It is mandatory for every authorised CCP to constitute a Regulatory Compliance Committee of the Board which will be chaired by an **Independent Director (ID)**. [Click here to read more.](#)

17. Which bank/financial institution has recently (in November '24) provided a USD 400 million loan to Bajaj Finance Limited (BFL) to expand access to climate finance for Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Energy-Efficient Consumer Goods (EECG)?

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

Answer- 2) International Finance Corporation

Explanation:

The United States of America(USA) based International Finance Corporation (**IFC**), a member of the World Bank Group, will provide a **USD 400 million** loan to Pune(Maharashtra) based Bajaj Finance Limited (**BFL**), a leading non-banking financial company (NBFC).

- This loan is a part of BFL's **USD 1 billion** fundraising initiative, which aims to expand access to climate finance for Electric Vehicles (**EVs**) and Energy-Efficient Consumer Goods (**EECG**) in India.
- The investment is set to boost competitiveness in the climate finance sector, align with national climate goals, and enhance financial inclusion across India.
- This will help BFL to enable greater usage of EVs and energy-efficient consumer goods, support more women-owned micro-borrowers, and contribute better to India's inclusive and low-carbon future.

18. Which insurance company has recently (in October '24) launched 5 new insurance plans to ensure its retail health insurance products?

- 1) Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited
- 2) Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited
- 3) Galaxy Health Insurance Company Limited
- 4) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited
- 5) TATA AIG General Insurance Company Limited

Answer- **5) TATA AIG General Insurance Company Limited**

Explanation:

TATA AIG General Insurance Company Limited launched **5 new insurance plans** to ensure its retail health insurance products. This will respond to the increasing medical expenses and evolving consumer demands.

- These will include coverage for mental well-being, Outpatient Department (**OPD**) expenses, female health care, cancer care, and unlimited restoration of the sum insured. Each of these riders offers more than 60 benefits.
- The five riders are EmpowerHer, Mental Wellbeing, CanCare, OPD Care, and Flexi Shield provide policyholders with comprehensive coverage.
- Mental Wellbeing introduces preventive mental health screenings and rehabilitation services. EmpowerHer focuses on female health issues, such as infertility and gynaecological concerns.
- CanCare provides enhanced cancer protection, while OPD Care and Flexi Shield help cover outpatient expenses and protect against rising medical costs.

19. Which bank has recently (in November '24) launched a new feature to track the status of international money transfers in real-time in collaboration with the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT)?

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

Answer- **4) IDFC First Bank Limited**

Explanation:

Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **IDFC First Bank Limited** (Infrastructure Development Finance Company) in collaboration with La Hulpe(Belgium) based Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (**SWIFT**), has launched a new feature that enables customers to track the status of their international money transfers in real-time.

- With this service, IDFC First Bank becomes the **first Indian lender** to offer live tracking for cross-border transactions. It is available on both the bank's mobile application(app) and internet banking platforms.
- It will provide updates on whether the funds are in transit or credited to the recipient's bank. It also alerts customers to issues like incorrect recipient details, helping them resolve problems quickly.
- To meet customers' growing expectations for transparency, **IDFC First Bank's SWIFT Global Payments Innovation (GPI)** integration allows users to monitor the status of their international transfers in real time.
- The bank offers this real-time tracking service for free under its "**Pay Abroad**" feature, with no extra processing fees.

20. The World Bank (WB) has approved _____ loan to support Kerala's agricultural sector through the Kerala Climate Resilient Agri-Value Chain Modernization (KERA) Project.

- 1) USD 100 million
- 2) USD 200 million
- 3) USD 300 million
- 4) USD 400 million
- 5) USD 500 million

Answer- 2) USD 200 million

Explanation:

The **World Bank (WB)** has approved a USD 200 million (Rs 1,655.85 crore) loan to support Kerala's agricultural sector through the Kerala Climate Resilient Agri-Value Chain Modernization (**KERA**) Project.

- The loan is provided by the WB's lending arm International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (**IBRD**) with a 23.5-year term and a 6-year grace period.
- This initiative will help farmers adopt climate-smart practices, improve market access, and promote women-led small businesses in agriculture.
- The WB has approved **Rs 2,365.5 crore** project submitted by Kerala's State Agriculture Department during a meeting of the WB executive directors held on 31 October 2024.
- The project has been sanctioned Rs 1,655.85 crore (USD 200 million) in assistance from the World Bank, with the Kerala state government contributing Rs 709.65 crore.
- The KERA Project aims to directly benefit **400,000 farmers** with climate-smart initiatives, while an additional **1 million farmers** are expected to receive indirect benefits.

21. Which bank has recently (in November '24) signed a USD 200 million loan with Government of India(GoI) to provide upgradation of water supply, sanitation, urban mobility, and other urban services in Uttarakhand?

- 1) World Bank
- 2) New Development Bank
- 3) European Investment Bank
- 4) Asian Development Bank
- 5) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

Answer- 4) Asian Development Bank

Explanation:

The Government of India (GoI) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a **USD 200 million loan** (about Rs 1,680 crore) to provide support in **upgradation** of water supply, sanitation, urban mobility, and other **urban services** in the state of **Uttarakhand**.

- The agreement was a part of the **Uttarakhand Livability Improvement Project** and was signed by Juhi Mukherjee, joint secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance (MoF) and Mio Oka, country director of the ADB's India Resident Mission.
- The European Investment Bank (EIB) will be co-financing the project with **USD 191 million** on a parallel basis.
- The main aim of the project was to create an **urban infrastructure** that is strong enough to tackle climate and environmental risks such as floods and landslides, ensuring the safety and health of Uttarakhand's population.
- The project will develop **transportation**, urban mobility, drainage, flood management, and overall public services in **Haldwani**.
- Additionally, efficient and climate-resilient water supply systems will be developed in four cities – **Champawat, Kichha, Kotdwar, and Vikasnagar** improving water supply delivery.

22. Which organisation has recently (in October '24) collaborated with Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to facilitate the auction of assets under the liquidation process through the 'eBKray platform'?

- 1) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
- 2) Small Industries Development Bank of India
- 3) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- 4) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority
- 5) Securities and Exchange Board of India

Answer- **1) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India**

Explanation:

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) announced that it has collaborated with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to facilitate the auction of assets under the liquidation process through the 'eBKray platform', which is presently owned and managed by **PSB Alliance Private Limited** (a consortium of 12 Public Sector Banks, PSBs).

- This announcement was made by IBBI through a circular issued in the exercise of the powers given under **Section 196** of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC 2016).
- This circular will come into force with effect from **1st November, 2024**.
- **eBKray** platform is a **centralised platform** which provides information on corporate debtor assets, including photographs, videos, and geographical coordinates.
- The platform aims to enhance bidder participation, streamline operations, and maximize returns for creditors. It also aims to enhance outcomes for bidders by improving transparency and efficiency through advanced technology. [Click here to read more.](#)

23. Name the digital gold investment platform that was recently (in October '24) launched by Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL).

- 1) Jio Gold
- 2) DigiGold
- 3) Smart Gold

4) Digital Gold Plus

5) GoldMine

Answer- **3) Smart Gold**

Explanation:

Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Jio Financial Services Limited (**JFSL**), registered with Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) as non-deposit taking Non-Banking Financial Company (**NBFC**), has launched “**Smart Gold**”, a digital gold investment platform which will be accessible through the **JioFinance** application (app).

- This new offering will enable the customers to purchase 24-Karat (K) physical gold anytime, with a minimum amount of **Rs 10**.
- The Customers can buy, sell or redeem their gold holdings for either in cash or physical gold coins and jewellery, ensuring a seamless and secure investment experience.
- The underlying physical gold of the customer will be procured and stored in insured vaults. It will also enable the customers to monitor the live market price of gold on the JioFinance app, promoting transparency in their investments.
- The delivery of physical gold is available for holdings of 0.5 gms and the gold is available in denominations of 0.5gm, 1 gm, 2 gm, 5 gm, and 10 gm.
- Jio Payment Solutions Limited (**JPSL**), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Jio Financial Services (**JFS**), has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) to operate as an online Payment Aggregator (**PA**). The certificate of authorisation came effective from **28th October 2024**.

24. Which company has recently (in October '24) recently launched a co-branded credit card in partnership with RBL Bank Limited?

- 1) Margdarshak Financial Services Limited
- 2) TataCapital Financial Services Limited
- 3) Jio Financial Services Limited
- 4) HDFC Credila Financial Services Limited
- 5) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited

Answer- **5) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited**

Explanation:

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited (Mahindra Finance) launched a co-branded credit card in partnership with **RBL Bank Limited**. The credit card is designed to meet its customers' aspirational needs.

- This will be the **first co-branded credit card** offering for Mahindra Finance.
- This partnership aims to provide a one-stop solution that offers unmatched benefits across a wide range of categories.

25. What is the maximum investment limit for a Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) , according to the recently (in November' 24) introduced RBI's operational framework for reclassification of investments by FPI to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) ?

- 1) 11%
- 2) 12%
- 3) 15%
- 4) 10%