

GUPTA

CLASSES

Current Affairs

November 2024

English

Part-2



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5) 20%

Answer: **4) 10%**

Explanation:

On 11th November 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) introduced an operational framework for the reclassification of investments made by a Foreign Portfolio Investor (**FPI**) to Foreign Direct Investment (**FDI**) if the entity breaches the prescribed limit.

i. Under the existing Foreign Exchange Management (**FEM**) (**Non-Debt Instruments**) **Rules, 2019**, an investment made by the FPI should be not exceeding **10%** of the total paid-up capital on a fully diluted basis.

ii. As per new framework, any FPI investing more than the prescribed limit should have the option of divesting their holdings or reclassifying such holdings as FDI subject to the conditions prescribed by the RBI and Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**).

26. Which bank has recently (in November' 24) partnered with Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) to provide accessible solar financing for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs)?

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

Answer: **3) IndusInd Bank**

Explanation:

Mumbai(Maharashtra) based **Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL)**, a subsidiary of Tata Power, has announced a strategic partnership with Mumbai based **IndusInd Bank Limited** to facilitate accessible and affordable solar financing for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) and promote solar energy adoption amongst MSEs.

i. This partnership will provide collateral-free solar financing to MSEs by offering loans ranging from **Rs 10 lakh to Rs 2 crore**.

ii. These loans, contingent on the bank's credit approval, require a 20% margin and come with competitive interest rates, offering terms of up to **7 years**.

iii. This partnership is in line with TPREL's vision of environmental responsibility and supports India's sustainability goals, including the net-zero target by 2070.

27. Which of the following Payment Aggregators (PAs) has recently (in November' 24) received a Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- 1) Razorpay
- 2) PayU
- 3) Cashfree Payments
- 4) CCAvenue
- 5) Instamojo

Answer: **3) Cashfree Payments**

Explanation:

Cashfree Payments India Private Limited, Bengaluru (Karnataka) based Payment Aggregator(PA) has received a Prepaid Payment Instrument (**PPI**) **licence** from the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**). At present, RBI has issued the PPI licences to **46 entities**.

i. This will allow Cashfree Payments to provide a range of digital payment solutions, including mobile wallets, prepaid cards, and vouchers.

ii. The PPI licence will help to build offerings that let internet businesses retain and grow their user base.

Note: Cashfree Payments received the Payment Aggregator Cross-Border (PA – CB) licence in July 2024, which facilitates transactions for imports and exports and the company secured the payment aggregator licence in December 2023, enabling it to process online merchant payments.

28. Which bank / organisation has recently (in November '24) expanded its foreign exchange (forex) reporting requirements to include spot deals in the trade repository (TR) of the Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCI) of the Indian forex market?

- 1) World Bank
- 2) Reserve Bank of India
- 3) National Stock Exchange
- 4) Indian Banks' Association
- 5) Securities and Exchange Board of India

Answer- **2) Reserve Bank of India**

Explanation:

On November 8 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expanded its foreign exchange (forex) reporting requirements to include **spot deals** to ensure completeness of transaction data in the trade repository (TR) of the Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCI) of the Indian forex market.

- With effect from **February 10 2025**, the authorized dealers must report all inter-bank foreign exchange spots including cash and tom (tomorrow-next day) transactions, undertaken by them to the **TR of CCIL**.
- Previously, Authorized dealers reported all over-the-counter (OTC) forex derivative contracts and foreign currency interest rate derivative contracts either directly or through their overseas entities to the **TR of CCIL**.
- A spot deal in forex is a transaction where two currencies are exchanged at the current market rate, with settlement typically occurring within two business days.
- A foreign exchange deal is considered a spot deal when it is settled within two business days of the transaction being agreed upon.
- RBI aims to ensure **transparency** and **data completeness** from the forex market, which helps to manage risks, maintain market stability, and ensure compliance with existing forex regulations.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 59.20 lakh** on **South Indian Bank (SIB)** for non-compliance with certain directions on 'interest rate on deposits' and 'customer service' in banks.

29. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the deadline to implement the cassette swap mechanism for money replenishment in ATMs to _____.

- 1) January 30, 2025
- 2) February 28, 2025
- 3) March 31, 2025
- 4) April 30, 2025
- 5) June 31, 2025

Answer- **3) March 31, 2025**

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted an extension to the banks and Automated Teller Machine (ATM) operators to implement the cassette swap mechanism for money replenishment in ATMs till **March 31, 2025**.

- The banking regulator has granted an exemption for Cash Recycler Machines (CRMs) from cassette swap requirement for money replenishment.
- This exemption also applies to banks that do not use third-party agencies for cash replenishment in ATMs.
- In 2018, RBI asked banks to implement the cassette swap mechanism in phases, aiming to cover at least one-third of their ATMs annually.
- A cassette swap mechanism involves swapping lockable cassettes, pre-filled with currency notes, during the cash replenishment in ATMs.

30. What are the names of the two new financial products that were recently (in November '24) launched by Karnataka Bank Limited (KBL)?

- 1) KBL Scholar and KBL Smart
- 2) KBL Excellence and KBL Clever
- 3) KBL Elite and KBL Master
- 4) KBL Zenith and KBL Bright
- 5) KBL Peak and KBL Genius

Answer- **5) KBL Peak and KBL Genius**

Explanation:

Karnataka Bank Limited (KBL) has launched 2 financial products, “**KBL Peak**” and “**KBL Genius**” to empower the younger generations and contribute to India’s growing knowledge economy.

- ‘**KBL Peak**’ is an education loan with financing of up to **Rs 2 crore** and comprehensive coverage, and ‘**KBL Genius**’ is a student savings account featuring free cyber insurance.
- These products aim to help students pursue their academic goals and aspirations with financial freedom, contributing to a brighter future for both individuals and the nation.
- KBL Peak supports students pursuing higher education in India and abroad.
- The loan amount will cover tuition fees and expenses related to accommodation, travel, books and laptops.
- KBL Genius savings account is a student-focused product available in two variants: ‘**KBL Genius Signature**’ and ‘**KBL Genius Advantage**’.
- With features like a minimum average balance requirement, seamless digital transactions and exclusive benefits on debit cards.

31. Which bank has recently (in November '24) launched an e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility in partnership with National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to replace the paper-based BG issuance process with e-stamping and e-signatures?

- 1) City Union Bank
- 2) Bandhan Bank
- 3) Punjab & Sind Bank
- 4) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- 5) Axis Bank

Answer- 3) Punjab & Sind Bank

Explanation:

New Delhi (Delhi) based **Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB)**, a public sector bank, launched e-Bank Guarantee (**e-BG**) facility in partnership with Bengaluru (Karnataka) based National e-Governance Services Limited (**NeSL**) to replace the paper-based BG issuance process with e-stamping and e-signatures.

- With the secured transmission and enhanced transparency, the beneficiaries will save efforts and time in the verification of physical BGs.
- This will enhance the ease of business for applicants and beneficiaries. It will reduce the TAT (Turn Around Time) and curb the frauds and inconvenience caused on the physical movement of documents.

32. Which banks have been recently (in November '24) designated as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) for 2024 by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

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

Answer- 2) State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has designated State Bank of India (**SBI**), **HDFC Bank** Limited, and **ICICI Bank** Limited as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (**D-SIBs**) for 2024, marking them as 'too big to fail'. They must maintain higher Common Equity Tier 1 (**CET1**) capital buffers to ensure financial stability.

- These three banks continue to be under the same bucketing structure as in the 2023 list of D-SIBs.
- **SBI** remains in the top 4 D-SIBs, requiring an additional CET1 buffer of 0.80%.
- **HDFC Bank**, the largest private lender, is classified in bucket 2, with a CET1 buffer requirement of 0.40%.
- **ICICI Bank** is in bucket 1, needing an additional 0.20% CET1 buffer.
- The higher D-SIB surcharges for SBI (0.80%) and HDFC Bank (0.40%) will apply from **April 1, 2025**.
- RBI designates banks as D-SIBs based on their size, complexity, and interconnectedness within the financial system.
- Banks with **assets exceeding 2% of India's GDP** (Gross Domestic Product) are considered for D-SIB classification and assigned a bucket to determine their CET1 requirements.

33. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has directed all Qualified Stock Brokers (QSBs) to offer either the facility of trading in the secondary market using the UPI block mechanism or the 3-in-1 trading account facility.

When will this facility come into effect?

- 1) 1st January, 2025
- 2) 31st January, 2025
- 3) 1st February, 2025

4) 28th February, 2025

5) 1st March, 2025

Answer- **3) 1st February, 2025**

Explanation:

On 11th November 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has directed all Qualified Stock Brokers (**QSBs**) to offer either the facility of trading in the secondary market using the Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**)-based block mechanism to their clients similar to Application Supported by Blocked Account (**ASBA**) facility or the **3-in-1 trading account facility** to their investors.

- This new direction for QSBs will come into effect from **1st February, 2025**.
- As per SEBI's directions, these QSBs are now required to offer one of these facilities, in addition to the current mode of trading.
- A UPI block mechanism will enable the clients to trade in the secondary market based on blocked funds in their bank accounts instead of transferring the funds upfront to the trading member.
- The 3-in-1 trading account facility combines a savings account, a demat account, and a trading account into a unified integrated solution. [Click here to read more.](#)

34. Which bank has recently (in November '24) announced the investment of an additional Rs 5,113 crores into its India operations to support its expansion efforts?

1) World Bank

2) Deutsche Bank

3) Asian Development Bank

4) European Investment Bank

5) New Development Bank

Answer- **2) Deutsche Bank**

Explanation:

Germany-based Investment Bank and Financial Service Company, **Deutsche Bank** announced the investment of an additional **Rs 5,113 crores** into its India operations to support its expansion efforts.

- The new capital investment represents a **33%** increase in the capital buffer compared to 2023, raising the regulatory capital of Deutsche Bank's India branches to nearly Rs 30,000 crores.
- The largest capital investment in India aims at expanding various business sectors such as corporate banking, investment banking, and private banking.
- The bank confirmed its commitment to support India's growth with a focus on sectors like digital transformation, sustainable finance, technology, and infrastructure development.

35. Which organisation has recently (in November '24) partnered with State Bank of India (SBI) to launch the 'SBI Innovation Hub'?

1) Zoho Creator

2) Mendix

3) APIX

4) Microsoft

5) CloudMedx

Answer- **3) APIX**

Explanation:

Mumbai(Maharashtra) based State Bank of India (SBI) launched the 'SBI Innovation Hub' in partnership with APIX, a platform connecting financial institutions and fintechs, during the Singapore Fintech Festival (SFF 2024) which was held from 6th to 8th November 2024 in Singapore.

- SBI Innovation Hub will offer a platform for fintechs, startups, and innovators across the globe to design next-generation financial solutions to meet the digital needs of SBI's customers.
- This aims to drive financial innovation, digital transformation and advance financial inclusion.
- This platform will enable fintechs and startups to gain recognition, compete for official partnerships, and reach millions of users across India through structured challenges, hackathons, and partnership opportunities.

36. Which organisation has recently (in November '24) added 10-year Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) to the list of specified securities for non-resident investors under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR)?

- 1) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- 2) Reserve Bank of India
- 3) Bombay Stock Exchange
- 4) National Stock Exchange of India Limited
- 5) International Financial Services Centres Authority

Answer- **2) Reserve Bank of India**

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has added **10-year** Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) to the list of specified securities for non-resident investors under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR). It will help to raise capital to fund sustainable initiatives for public sector projects.

- This move follows the inclusion of Indian Government Securities (G-Secs) in JPMorgan Chase's Emerging Markets Bond Index Global Diversified (GBI-EM GD), Bloomberg's EM Local Currency Government indices and FTSE Russell's Emerging Markets Government Bond Index (EMGBI).
- SGrBs will be issued by the Government of India(GoI) in the 2nd half of Financial Year 2024-25(FY25). It will be classified as 'specified securities' under FAR.
- The FAR introduced in 2020 allows Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), and other eligible investors to buy specified government securities without investment limits.

37. Which company has recently (in November '24) partnered with Yes Bank Limited and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch its co-branded Credit Card?

- 1) BharatPe
- 2) MoneyTap
- 3) Groww
- 4) BillDesk
- 5) Rio Money

Answer- **5) Rio Money**

Explanation:

Bengaluru (Karnataka)- based fintech company **Rio Money** has partnered with **Yes Bank Limited** and National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) to launch **Yes Bank Rio RuPay Credit Card**, a co-branded credit card.

- Rio Money also launched its **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) app**, to provide users with seamless access to credit for UPI payments.
- This innovative card integrates credit benefits with UPI, enabling users to transact at over 100 million merchant locations across India.
- The card is available to individuals aged **21 to 60 years** and is open to both salaried employees, with a minimum net monthly salary of Rs 25,000, and self-employed individuals, with an annual Income Tax Return (ITR) of Rs 5 lakh.
- The card is lifetime free and does not require any joining fee. Annual charges are waivable, depending on usage.
- The Yes Bank Rio RuPay Credit Card has seen strong adoption, with 60% of applications during its beta phase coming from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

38. Government of India (GoI) has recently (in November '24) released the 2nd tranche of _____ to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

- 1) USD 2.5 million
- 2) USD 3 million
- 3) USD 3.5 million
- 4) USD 4 million
- 5) USD 4.5 million

Answer- **1) USD 2.5 million**

Explanation:

Representative Office of India to Palestine announced that the Government of India (GoI) has released the **2nd tranche** of **USD 2.5 million** to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (**UNRWA**), one of the largest United Nations (UN) programs completing its annual commitment of USD 5 million for 2024-25.

- This contribution highlights India's ongoing support for the welfare of Palestinian refugees.
- India has provided a cumulative financial assistance of USD 40 million to UNRWA over the years. This support has been instrumental in funding the agency's key initiatives, including education, healthcare, and social services for Palestinian refugees.
- India has also consistently extended humanitarian aid, such as medical assistance, to Palestine.

39. Which app has recently (in November '24) launched an industry's-1st UPI payment solution designed to address the needs of India's elderly population?

- 1) Silvertree
- 2) Honeycomb
- 3) TrackMyHealth
- 4) GenWise
- 5) Element3 Health

Answer- **4) GenWise**

Explanation:

GenWise, India's leading app-based club for senior citizens, has launched an industry's-1st Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) payment solution "GenWise UPI" designed to address the needs of India's elderly population. This was developed in collaboration with **Axis Bank Limited**.

- GenWise UPI features an intuitive, simplified interface, emphasizing security measures like geo-fencing, biometric authentication, and audio-based navigation.
- It will enable India's elders to scan and make payments while shopping, pay their friends and family, and pay their utility bills, etc.
- This feature is tailored to support elders using digital payments.

40. Which company has recently (in November '24) raised USD 25 million through issuance of Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) to International Finance Corporation (IFC)?

- 1) Vivriti Capital Limited
- 2) Profectus Capital Private Limited
- 3) Paras Capfin Company Private Limited
- 4) Shriram Capital Private Limited
- 5) Kushal Finnovation Capital Private Limited

Answer- **2) Profectus Capital Private Limited**

Explanation:

Profectus Capital Private Limited, a Non-Banking Finance Company(NBFC) focused on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), raised USD 25 million (~Rs 205 crore) through issuance of Non-Convertible Debentures (**NCDs**) to International Finance Corporation (**IFC**), a member of the World Bank (WB) Group.

- This is IFC's 1st investment to finance energy efficient (**EE**) machinery for MSMEs in India.
- Profectus Capital has developed a Green Bond Framework in line with International Capital Market Association's(ICMA) Green Bond Principles.

41. Northern Arc has recently (in November 2024) secured a total of _____ from global development banks for its inaugural climate fund.

- 1) USD 15 million
- 2) USD 30 million
- 3) USD 50 million
- 4) USD 65 million
- 5) USD 80 million

Answer- **4) USD 65 million**

Explanation:

In November 2024, **Northern Arc**, a leading Non- Banking Financial Company (**NBFC**), announced that it secured a total of **USD 65 million** from global development banks for its inaugural climate fund, managed through its fund management arm, Northern Arc Investments Indian Financial System Code(**IFSC**) Trust.

- The climate fund has received a **USD 50 million** commitment from the United States International Development Finance Corporation (**DFC**) and an additional **USD 15 million** from (Oesterreichische Entwicklungsbank AG) **OeEB**, the development bank of the Republic of Austria.

- The fund focuses on providing debt financing to growth-stage companies in sectors such as commercial, industrial, and residential solar energy, energy efficiency, green buildings and materials, e-mobility, and sustainable agriculture.
- The fund also aligns with India's broader climate goals towards renewable energy and sustainable practices, reinforcing Northern Arc's commitment in reduction of emissions.

42. Which company has recently (in November '24) launched a pilot project for cross-border payments in partnership with foodtech Swiggy?

- 1) Cashfree Payments India Private Limited
- 2) Razorpay Software Private Limited
- 3) Amazon Pay India Private Limited
- 4) Hitachi Payment Services Private Limited
- 5) Zomato Payments Private Limited

Answer- **1) Cashfree Payments India Private Limited**

Explanation:

Cashfree Payments India Private Limited, a leading Indian fintech company, has launched a **pilot project for cross-border payments** in partnership with foodtech Swiggy, quick commerce giant Zepto, premium grocery platform Nature's Basket, online beauty and fashion retailer Nykaa, online ticketing platform Bookmyshow, online travel reservation platform Redbus and edtech company Vedantu.

- This marks a significant step towards facilitating seamless international transactions for both import and export businesses as well for individual users.
- The pilot programme benefits the users of Unified Payments Interface(UPI) systems and RuPay credit and debit card platforms that are not typically recognised for Global Transactions.

43. Which bank has recently (in November '24) raised a fund of Rs 2000 crore through its third climate fund to the investors?

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

Answer- **5) State Bank of India**

Explanation:

Mumbai (Maharashtra) based State Bank of India (**SBI**), India's multinational and financial powerhouse, has raised a fund of **Rs 2000 crore** (USD237 billion) through its third climate fund to the investors.

- **SBI Ventures Limited** (a unit of SBI), planned to raise the fund from various multilateral institutions after the approval from the concerned Company's board.
- The fund focuses on investments from small and mid-sized companies that aims to work towards environmental goals like **recycling waste** and curbing emissions

44. Which bank has recently (in November '24) partnered with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to enhance disaster resilience and climate risk management through the initiative 'Disaster Resilient Communities and Climate Risk-Informed Efficient Administrative Systems'?

- 1) Canara Bank
- 2) IndusInd Bank
- 3) Bandhan Bank
- 4) Punjab National Bank
- 5) Indian Overseas Bank

Answer- 2) IndusInd Bank

Explanation:

On November 21, 2024, **IndusInd Bank** and **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** formalised a partnership aimed at enhancing disaster resilience and climate risk management through the initiative '**Disaster Resilient Communities and Climate Risk-Informed Efficient Administrative Systems**'.

- This initiative is part of IndusInd Bank's flagship Corporate Social Responsibility (**CSR**) program, the Holistic Rural Development Program (**HRDP**), which incorporates a Climate Action component designed to elevate the standard of living and economic empowerment in Aspirational Districts.
- The program specifically targets improved natural resource management and income generation in **five districts**.
- The partnership was formalised through a Statement of Intent (**SOI**), with a primary focus on fostering disaster-resilient communities and equipping local governments with the tools to implement climate solutions.
- Key initiatives within the program include the development of real-time monitoring systems, early warning mechanisms, and advisory services aimed at mitigating climate risks such as droughts, floods, and heatwaves.

45. Which bank's licence has been recently (in November '24) cancelled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) due to inadequate capital?

- 1) Ahmedabad Mercantile Co-operative Bank Limited
- 2) Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank Limited
- 3) Bharat Cooperative Bank Limited
- 4) Durga Cooperative Urban Bank Limited
- 5) Abhyudaya Cooperative Bank Limited

Answer- 4) Durga Cooperative Urban Bank Limited

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has cancelled the licence of the **Durga Cooperative Urban Bank Limited**, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh (AP) that had been operational for 95 years.

- This decision follows the bank's failure to meet regulatory capital requirements and operational standards outlined in the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- With the cancellation of its licence, Durga Cooperative Urban Bank is prohibited from conducting banking activities, including accepting and repaying deposits, with effect from the close of business on **November 12, 2024**.
- As a result, the RBI has directed the Commissioner for Cooperation and the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, AP, to initiate a winding up order and appoint a liquidator for the bank.

46. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s data released on 20th November 2024, the net inflows through External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) have increased from USD 6.8 billion in 1st Half (H1: April-September) of Financial Year 2023-24 (FY24) to _____ in H1FY25.

- 1) USD 7.1 billion
- 2) USD 7.3 billion
- 3) USD 7.6 billion
- 4) USD 7.8 billion
- 5) USD 7.9 billion

Answer- 5) USD 7.9 billion

Explanation:

According to the Reserve Bank of India ([RBI' November monthly bulletin](#)) data released on 20th November 2024, the net inflows through External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) has increased from USD 6.8 billion in 1st Half (H1: April-September) of Financial Year 2023-24 (FY24) to **USD 7.9 billion** in H1FY25.

- As per the “**State of Economy**” report in RBI’s November bulletin, nearly 50% of the new ECBs registered during H1FY25 were intended for capital expenditure including on-lending and sub-lending for capex.
- ECBs for import/local sourcing of capital goods dropped to USD 1.3 billion in H1FY25 from 9.4 billion in H1FY24.
- The **ECBs for working capital and general corporate** increases from USD 4.0 billion (in H1FY24) to USD 10.2 billion (in H1FY25).
- According to the RBI’s data, outward remittances under the RBI’s Liberalised Remittance Scheme (**LRS**) declined by **14.88%** Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) during the H1FY25, mainly attributed to decrease across major segments.
- Remittances for the maintenance of close relatives decreased significantly by **37.17%** Y-o-Y to **USD 1.92 billion** from USD 3.05 billion.
- As per the RBI’s data, Gross Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India has increased by 25.7% Y-o-Y, from USD 33.5 billion (in H1FY24) to **USD 42.1 billion (H1FY25)**. [Click here to read more.](#)

47. Which bank has recently (in November ‘24) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies for cross-border transactions?

- 1) Indian Overseas Bank
- 2) World Bank
- 3) Reserve Bank of India
- 4) Asian Development Bank
- 5) Punjab National Bank

Answer- 3) Reserve Bank of India

Explanation:

On 21st November 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) and the Maldives Monetary Authority (**MMA**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies i.e. the Indian Rupee (**INR**) and the Maldivian Rufiyaa (**MVR**) for cross-border transactions.

- The agreement was signed by **Shaktikanta Das**, Governor of RBI and **Ahmed Munawar**, Governor of MMA in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- This partnership marks a major milestone in strengthening bilateral cooperation between RBI and MMA.
- The MoU aims to boost the use of INR and MVR in current account transactions, permissible capital account transactions and any other economic and financial transactions as agreed upon by both nations.
- The Use of local currencies in bilateral transactions will help to promote trade between India and Maldives as well as deepen financial integration and bolster the economic relations between both nations.

48. Which bank has recently (in November '24) partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) along with Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited to launch the 'Bharat Sanjeevani Krishi Utthan initiative'?

- 1) Axis Bank Limited
- 2) Bandhan Bank Limited
- 3) CSB Bank Limited
- 4) IndusInd Bank Limited
- 5) Federal Bank Limited

Answer- 4) IndusInd Bank Limited

Explanation:

Mumbai(Maharashtra) based IndusInd Bank Limited (**IBL**) and Hyderabad(Telangana) based Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited (**BFIL**), a 100% subsidiary of IBL, have partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (**MoA&FW**), Government of India(GoI), to launch the '**Bharat Sanjeevani Krishi Utthan initiative**'.

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for this collaboration was signed by the MoA&FW, BFIL and IBL.
- This marks the 1st formal collaboration of the MoA&FW with corporate entities.
- The partnership is driven through the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives of BFIL and IBL.
- This aims to enhance agricultural productivity, promote sustainable farming practices, and improve farmers' income consistently, across 11 states in India.
- This initiative aims to support "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)", the flagship programme of the Government of India(GoI) to provide a robust framework to empower FPOs across India.
- Under this initiative, BFIL and IBL will set up a Centralized Project Management Unit (CPMU) at the national level in **11 target states** to effectively monitor, support, and guide the implementation of FPO projects.

49. Which Mutual Fund has recently (in November '24) launched a New Fund Offer (NFO), 'Multi Sector Rotation Fund'?

- 1) Groww Mutual Fund
- 2) SBI Mutual Fund
- 3) Shriram Mutual Fund
- 4) Tata Mutual Fund

5) ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund

Answer- **3) Shriram Mutual Fund**

Explanation:

In November 2024, **Shriram Mutual Fund**, managed by Shriram Asset Management Company (AMC) Limited, launched a New Fund Offer (NFO), '**Shriram Multi Sector Rotation Fund**'. It is an open-ended scheme investing in equity and related instruments with a multi sector rotation theme.

- The NFO was opened for subscription on 18th November 2024 and remains closed on 2nd December 2024.
- This thematic fund has a unique **quantamental approach** that combines quantitative analysis with fundamental factors and will concentrate on 3-6 sectors expected to outperform in the near-to-long term, selecting them based on **momentum and macroeconomic factors**.
- The goal is to maximise returns by investing in sectors that are expected to perform well at specific times, and moving out of sectors that may underperform.

50. In November 2024, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued a circular abolishing the earlier requirement mandating issuer companies to deposit ____ of the public issue size with stock exchanges before launching a public issue.

- 1) 1%
- 2) 2%
- 3) 3%
- 4) 4%
- 5) 5%

Answer- **1) 1%**

Explanation:

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued a circular under Section 11(1) of the SEBI Act, 1992, which empowers SEBI to protect investor interests, regulate the securities market, and promote its development.

- The circular abolished the earlier requirement **mandating issuer companies to deposit 1% of the public issue size with stock exchanges before launching a public issue**.
- This change was formalized through an amendment to the Regulation 38(1) of the SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018 (ICDR Regulations) on 17th May 2024.
- This new direction will be applicable with immediate effect.
- SEBI initially introduced the 1% security deposit rule to ensure companies addressed common investor complaints like refund delays, incorrect share allotments, and issues with dispatching physical share certificates after public or rights issues.
- As per new regulations, SEBI has issued a significant update following an amendment to the ICDR (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations. The amendment resulted in the withdrawal of the previously outlined the process for issuing a **No Objection Certificate (NoC)** for the release of the 1% security deposit for public issues.

51. Which bank has recently (in November '24) launched virtual Automated Teller Machine (vATM) facility in collaboration with Paymart India Private Limited?

- 1) Nainital Bank Limited
- 2) South Indian Bank Limited
- 3) Karnataka Bank Limited
- 4) Karur Vysya Bank Limited
- 5) Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited

Answer- 5) Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited

Explanation:

On 22nd November 2024, The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited (**J&K Bank**) launched virtual Automated Teller Machine (**vATM**) facility in collaboration with **Paymart India Private Limited**.

- The innovative technology platform has been launched with an aim to provide access to technology for financial **empowerment** of people, especially in **rural** areas with deficiency of ATMs and promoting digital convenience for its customers.
- The platform was inaugurated by the bank's Managing Director (**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) Baldev Prakash in the presence of Amit Narang, Director and CEO of Paymart India Pvt Ltd.
- The main objective of the collaboration and development of vATM facility is to develop an **accessible** and **customer-centric** banking ecosystem.
- Through these vATMs, customers can be reached at their doorsteps in the **ATM-deficient** locations.

52. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the maximum transaction limit for UPI 123Pay from Rs 5,000 to _____ with effect from January 1, 2025.

- 1) Rs 10,000
- 2) Rs 15,000
- 3) Rs 20,000
- 4) Rs 25,000
- 5) Rs 30,000

Answer- 1) Rs 10,000

Explanation:

Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) announced an **increase** in the **transaction limit** for (Unified Payment Interface) **UPI123Pay** and the **UPI Lite** wallet limit allowing users to make higher value digital payments via mobile phones. Following this, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) issued a circular directing its members, including banks and service providers, to implement and comply with these new limits.

- The maximum transaction limit for **UPI 123Pay** has been increased from **Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000**, allowing users to conduct higher-value transactions.
- **UPI Lite** wallets have been increased from **Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000**, and the per transaction limit for UPI Lite has been raised from **Rs 500 to Rs 1,000**.
- **UPI LITE** is a new payment solution that leverages the trusted NPCI Common Library (CL) application to process low value transactions that have been set at below Rs 500.
- **UPI 123Pay** allows feature phone users to make digital payments without needing an internet connection. It offers four methods for transactions such as **IVR (Interactive Voice Response)**,

Missed calls, Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM)-embedded apps, and Sound-based technology all with the newly increased transaction limits.

- The NPCI has set a deadline of January 1, 2025 for banks, public sector banks (PSBs), and service providers to fully implement these changes.

53. In November 2024, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) infused funds worth _____ through a Variable Repo Rate (VRR) into the banking system as the weighted average call rate increases 23 basis points (bps) above the policy repo rate (6.50%) at 6.73%.

- 1) Rs 10,000 crore
- 2) Rs 15,000 crore
- 3) Rs 20,000 crore
- 4) Rs 25,000 crore
- 5) Rs 30,000 crore

Answer- **4) Rs 25,000 crore**

Explanation:

On 22nd November 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) infused funds worth **Rs 25,000 crore** through a Variable Repo Rate (VRR) into the banking system as the weighted average call rate, a parameter for short-term borrowing costs, increases 23 basis points (bps) above the policy repo rate (6.50%) at **6.73%**.

- This move aims to ensure that recent overseas outflows from local debt and equity do not drive up banks' cost of funds.
- This marked the 2nd such auction that the RBI has conducted post change in its stance to neutral from the withdrawal of accommodation.
- As per RBI data, surplus liquidity as measured by absorption of funds by the RBI, has declined to a one-month low of **Rs 84,154.75 crore**.
- RBI aims to keep liquidity surplus and roughly about **1% to 1.2%** of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL), to ensure that the call rates don't move away from the repo rate.

54. Which bank has recently (in November '24) become a signatory to the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials(PCAF)?

- 1) Canara Bank
- 2) Bank of Baroda
- 3) Indian Bank
- 4) Union Bank of India
- 5) Punjab National Bank

Answer- **5) Punjab National Bank**

Explanation:

New Delhi(Delhi) based Punjab National Bank (PNB) has become a signatory to the **Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials(PCAF)**, reaffirming its commitment to climate responsibility and sustainability. This move aligns with PNB's broader agenda of transparency in climate-related financial practices.

- By joining PCAF, PNB commits to using global standards for measuring and disclosing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions linked to its lending and investment activities.
- PNB disclosed its financed emissions in the Financial Year 2023-24 (FY24) Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR) using the PCAF Standard.

- The decision supports the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) draft framework on climate-related financial risk disclosures, effective from FY26 for all banks.
- PCAF is a global initiative founded in 2015 by **14 Dutch financial institutions** under the leadership of The Hague(Netherlands)-based **ASN Bank**.

55. Which bank's proposal has been recently (in November '24) approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to enter into the insurance sector through a Joint Venture (JV) with the Generali group?

- 1) Central Bank of India
- 2) Indian Overseas Bank
- 3) Union Bank of India
- 4) Punjab & Sind Bank
- 5) State Bank of India

Answer- 1) Central Bank of India

Explanation:

In November 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the Central Bank of India (CBI)'s proposal to enter into the **insurance sector** through a Joint Venture (JV) with the Generali group under "Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited (FGIICL) and Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Limited (FGILICL)".

- The RBI's approval follows the Competition Commission of India (CCI) clearance for CBI's acquisition of stakes in FGIICL and FGILICL.
- FGIICL provides personal insurance, commercial insurance, social, and rural insurance while FGILICL provides savings insurance, Unit Linked Insurance Plans (ULIP), term insurance plans, health insurance plans, child plans, retirement plans, rural insurance plans and group insurance plans.

56. Which insurance company has recently (in November '24) launched the Life Insurance industry's first 'Increasing Income' feature in its regular pay annuity product?

- 1) Max Life Insurance Company Limited
- 2) SBI Life Insurance Company Limited
- 3) Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited
- 4) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited
- 5) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited

Answer- 4) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited

Explanation:

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited has launched the Life Insurance industry's first '**Increasing Income**' feature in its regular pay annuity product, **ICICI Pru Guaranteed Pension Plan Flexi**, providing a **5%** annual increase in annuity payments to help retirees cope with inflation and sustain their quality of life.

- The new features of ICICI Pru Guaranteed Pension Plan Flexi provide retirees financial stability and flexibility by allowing them to make manageable long-term contributions, grow their retirement savings, and guaranteed permanent income that grows annually.

ECONOMY AND BUSINESS

1. Which organisation has recently (in October' 24) forecast India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the Financial Year(FY25) to 6.9 - 7.1%?

- 1) National Institute of Public Finance and Policy
- 2) World Bank
- 3) Moody's
- 4) State Bank of India
- 5) Asian Development Bank

Answer- 1) National Institute of Public Finance and Policy

Explanation:

On 25th October 2024, New Delhi (Delhi)-based Economic think tank National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) released its "[FY2024-25: Mid Year Macroeconomic Review](#)". It has lowered India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast to **6.9-7.1%** for Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25), from its previous estimate of 7.1-7.4% during the April review.

- As per the report, Capex contracted by **19.5%** during April-August 2024 compared to April-August 2023 due to election code of conduct.
- As per the report, aggregate demand growth (GDP) in 1st Quarter (Q1: April-June) of FY25 is moderated at **6.6%** Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y), due to contraction in government spending and net exports, despite accelerated private consumption growth.
- The report projected that average annual inflation will remain at **4.3%**, slightly higher than the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) target of 4%.
- Merchandise trade deficit increased from USD 56.7 billion in Q1FY24 to **USD 65.1 billion** in Q1FY25 due to higher oil imports. [Click here to read more.](#)

2. Which company has recently (in October' 24) entered the wealth advisory sector with the launch of a product named 'Tru'?

- 1) Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Limited
- 2) Hinduja Leyland Finance Limited
- 3) Poonawalla Fincorp Limited
- 4) HDFC Securities Limited
- 5) UGRO Capital Limited

Answer- 4) HDFC Securities Limited

Explanation:

HDFC Securities Limited, a subsidiary of HDFC Bank, has officially entered the wealth advisory sector with the launch of '**HDFC Tru**'. It will be headed by **Pranab Uniyal**, Head of Wealth Advisory, HDFC Securities.

- This new service is specifically designed for High-Net-worth Individuals (HNIs), Ultra-High-Net-Worth Individuals (**UHNIs**), family offices, and corporate clients, targeting those with revenues ranging from Rs 18 crore to **Rs 400 crore**.
- HDFC Tru will be offering personalized financial advice without charging brokerage fees, instead implementing a transparent fee structure.

3. Name the mission that was recently (in October '24) launched by Indian Aerospace Startup Space Kidz India to empower 12,000 girls across 108 countries.

- 1) ShakthiSAT
- 2) DART
- 3) Artemis
- 4) Mission 60000
- 5) Edutech4Space

Answer- **1) ShakthiSAT**

Explanation:

Chennai (Tamil Nadu) based Indian Aerospace Startup **Space Kidz India** has launched the '**ShakthiSAT mission**', aiming to empower 12,000 girls across 108 countries through space technology training to foster Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education among girls.

- The initiative includes **120 hours** of online training for high school students aged **14-18**, focusing on space technology, payload development, and spacecraft systems.
- The satellite is planned for launch as part of ISRO's Chandrayaan-4 mission in 2026.
- The project aims to inspire millions of young girls worldwide and is set to be officially unveiled by President of India Droupadi Murmu in November 2024.

4. Which among countries emerged in the top three customers for Indian military equipment in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 (FY24)?

- 1) China
- 2) Spain
- 3) Sri Lanka
- 4) Australia
- 5) United States of America

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

Explanation:

The United States of America (**USA**), **France**, and **Armenia** emerged as the top three customers for Indian military equipment in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 (FY24).

- In FY24, India's Defence exports reached a record value of **Rs 21,083 crore** (approximately USD 2.6 billion), marking a **32.5%** increase from FY23's figure of Rs 15,920 crore.
- India is currently exporting military equipment to over 100 countries worldwide.
- USA is primarily importing **sub-systems** and **components** from India, which are used by major Defence contractors such as Boeing and Lockheed Martin. These components include parts for aircraft and helicopters.
- France's imports from India largely consist of software and electronic equipment for Defence applications.
- Armenia imported finished weapon systems from India, including 155mm Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (**ATAGS**), Akash air Defence missile systems, Pinaka multi-launch rocket systems, bullet-proof vests, and Swathi weapon locating radars and other important systems.

5. Which company has recently (in October '24) agreed to lend Rs 11,000 crore to Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (AP CRDA) for the construction of Amaravati greenfield capital city in Andhra Pradesh?

- 1) Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited
- 2) Rural Electrification Corporation Limited
- 3) Power Finance Corporation Limited
- 4) Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited
- 5) Housing & Urban Development Corporation Limited

Answer- 5) Housing & Urban Development Corporation Limited

Explanation:

New Delhi(Delhi) based Housing & Urban Development Corporation Limited (**HUDCO**), a navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise(**CPSE**), has agreed to lend loan **Rs 11,000 crore** to Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (**AP CRDA**) for the construction of **Amaravati greenfield capital city** in Andhra Pradesh(**AP**).

- Rs. 26,000 crores would be at the State government's disposal for constructing the capital city.
- The World Bank(WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) had consented to lend Rs 15,000 crore for Amaravati.

6. As per 'October Global Economic Forecast update' report, India's economic growth is expected to stay strong with forecasts of 6.8 % for the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY 25) and ____ for FY26.

- 1) 6.4 %
- 2) 6.6 %
- 3) 7.1 %
- 4) 7.5 %
- 5) 7.8 %

Answer- 2) 6.6 %

Explanation:

The American credit rating agency **S&P Global Market Intelligence** released its 'October Global Economic Forecast update'. As per the report, India's economic growth is expected to stay strong, with forecasts of **6.8 %** for the Financial Year 2024-25(**FY 25**) and **6.6 %** for **FY26**.

- The report highlights moderating inflation and easing monetary policies as key factors steering the global economy towards a "soft landing."
- The report projects Global annual real Gross Domestic Product(GDP) growth rate of 4.3 % for 2024 and 4.4 % for 2025 in the region, excluding China and Japan.

7. Which company has recently (in October '24) selected as the new member of International Copper Association (ICA)?

- 1) Aakash Powertech Private Limited
- 2) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- 3) National Aluminium Company Limited
- 4) Hindalco Industries Limited
- 5) Southern Peru Copper Corporation

Answer- 4) Hindalco Industries Limited

Explanation:

'Hindalco Industries Limited', a firm of Aditya Birla Group, has been selected as the new member of International Copper Association (ICA), a nonprofit organisation engaged in creating awareness of the beneficial usage of copper.

- This collaboration will enhance the value chain of the critical metal (Copper) for supporting the world's net zero transition.
- ICA has 33 members across six continents and operates in the United States, Europe, Asia, and Latin America, with its headquarters in Washington.

8. According to the State Bank of India (SBI)'s recent (in November '24) report, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to grow around ____ in 2nd Quarter (Q2: July-September) of Financial Year 2024-25(FY 25).

- 1) 4.3%
- 2) 5.2%
- 3) 5.9%
- 4) 6.5%
- 5) 6.8%

Answer- 4) 6.5%

Explanation:

According to the State Bank of India (SBI)'s latest report, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to grow around 6.5% in 2nd Quarter (Q2: July-September) of Financial Year 2024-25(FY 25).

- This projection by SBI is 50 basis points (bps) lower than Reserve Bank of India's(RBI) estimate of 7% for Q2FY25.
- The report has further estimated that India's GDP growth in the 3rd Quarter (Q3) and 4th Quarter (Q4) of FY25 is closer to 7%.
- The report has monitored **50 leading indicators** in consumption and demand, agriculture, industry, service and other indicators and they have indicated a decline in Q2FY25.
- The percentage of indicators showing acceleration decreased to 69% in Q2FY25 compared to 80% in Q2FY24 and 78% in Q1FY25.
- The report underscored that the recent growth in rural demand, juxtaposed against the somewhat declining urban demand, with 85% of rural indicators showing acceleration as against 73% of urban indicators (September 2024).

9. What is the new timeline for marking a trading account as inactive that was recently (in November' 24) set by the National Stock Exchange Limited (NSE)?

- 1) 24 months
- 2) 12 months
- 3) 18 months
- 4) 6 months
- 5) 36 months

Answer: 1) 24 months

Explanation:

The National Stock Exchange Limited (**NSE**) has relaxed the norms regarding the definition of inactive trading account. It has changed the timeline for marking an account as inactive from 12 months to **24 months**.

- As per the NSE directions, existing clients who are inactive as per previous guidelines, but are active as per revised guidelines will be considered as active for trading only after updating their details.
- As per revised norms, trades in Initial Public Offering (**IPO**), Mutual Funds(**MF**), Sovereign Gold Bonds(**SGBs**), Offer for Sale (**OFS**) and buybacks are also now to be considered as active accounts for trading.
- Previously, only trading in equity, Futures and Options (**F&O**) commodities and currencies was considered for allowing the account to be active.
- The inactive accounts identified based on the above mentioned criteria may be termed as “**Inactive**” by the Trading Member in Unique Client Code (**UCC**) database of all the respective changes.

10. India’s overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) for April – October 2024 is projected to be _____, with a positive growth of 7.28%.

- 1) USD 252.28 billion
- 2) USD 416.93 billion
- 3) USD 215.98 billion
- 4) USD 114.57 billion
- 5) USD 468.27 billion

Answer- **5) USD 468.27 billion**

Explanation:

According to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (**MoC&I**), India’s **total exports** (Merchandise and Services combined) for **October 2024** are projected to be **USD 73.21 billion**, showing a positive growth of 19.08% from October 2023.

- **Total imports** (Merchandise and Services combined) for October 2024 are estimated at **USD 83.33 billion**, attaining a growth of 7.77% from October 2023.
- **Cumulative exports** during April-October 2024 are projected to be **USD 468.27 billion** showing a growth of 7.28%.
- **Cumulative imports** during April-October 2024 are estimated at **USD 531.51 billion**, increasing by 7.05%.
- **Merchandise exports** during April-October 2024 were **USD 252.28 billion** as compared to USD 244.51 billion during April-October 2023 while the **Merchandise imports** were **USD 416.93 billion** in April-October 2024 as compared to USD 394.18 billion during April-October 2023.
- **Non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports** (gold, silver & precious metals) in October 2024 were **USD 31.36 billion** as compared to USD 24.56 billion in October 2023.
- The value of **service exports** during April-October 2024 is estimated to be **USD 215.98 billion** as compared to USD 191.97 billion in April-October 2023.
- The value of **service imports** during April-October 2024 is projected to reach **USD 114.57 billion** as compared to USD 102.32 billion in April-October 2023.

- Services **exports** are projected to grow by **12.51%** during April-October 2024 over April-October 2023. [Click here to read more.](#)

11. According to the recently (in November '24) released data by the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the cumulative business of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) of Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) growth of 11% in the 1st Half of the Financial Year (H1FY25) reached at _____.

- 1) Rs 218 trillion
- 2) Rs 228 trillion
- 3) Rs 236 trillion
- 4) Rs 243 trillion
- 5) Rs 259 trillion

Answer- 3) Rs 236 trillion

Explanation:

According to the Ministry of Finance (**MoF**) data released on 12th November 2024, the cumulative business of Public Sector Banks (**PSBs**) has shown strong Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) growth of **11%** in the 1st Half of the Financial Year (**H1FY25**) reached at **Rs 236 trillion**.

- Also, the global credit and deposit portfolios of PSBs increased by **12.9%** and **9.5%** Y-o-Y to Rs 102.29 lakh crore and Rs 133.75 lakh respectively, during the same period of FY25.
- As per the MoF, the operating profit increased by **14.4%** Y-o-Y to **Rs 1.5 trillion** while the net profit saw a growth of **25.6%** at Rs 85,520 crore in H1FY25.
- The gross and net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) stood at **3.12%** and **0.63%**, respectively in September 2024, decreased by 108 basis points (**bps**) and 34 bps Y-o-Y, reflecting better asset quality.
- The data revealed that the Capital to Risk Weighted Average Assets Ratio (**CRAR**) or Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) reached **15.43%** in September 2024, against the regulatory requirement of 11.5%.

12. According to Moody's Ratings, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate is _____ for Calendar Year 2025 (CY25) and _____ for CY26.

- 1) 6.2%, 6.3%
- 2) 6.5%, 6.4%
- 3) 6.6%, 6.5%
- 4) 6.7%, 6.8%
- 5) 7.1%, 7.2%

Answer- 3) 6.6%, 6.5%

Explanation:

According to the Global Rating Agency, **Moody's Ratings**, the Indian economy is in a "**sweet spot**", with a mix of solid growth and moderating growth. It has projected India's Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) growth rate at **7.2%** for Calendar Year 2024 (**CY24**).

- It has also estimated India's GDP growth for the CY25 and CY26 at **6.6%** and **6.5%**, respectively.
- These projections were made by Moody's in its latest "**Global Macro Outlook for 2025-26**".
- As per the report, the household consumption is expected to grow, driven by increased spending during the ongoing festive season and a sustained pickup in rural demand on the back of an improved agriculture outlook.

- The report highlighted that India's real GDP grew by **6.7%** Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) in 2nd Quarter (Q2: July to September) of CY24, which was mainly attributed by strong household consumption, robust investment, and strong manufacturing activity.
- As per the report, India's retail inflation surged to a **14-month high** of **6.21%**, breaching the RBI's inflation tolerance range of 2% to 6%, amid a sharp increase in vegetable prices. [Click here to read more.](#)

13. Which country has recently (in November '24) initiated its first-ever electricity with an export of up to 40 MW hydropower to Bangladesh by utilizing India's electricity grid?

- 1) Nepal
- 2) Bhutan
- 3) Myanmar
- 4) Thailand
- 5) Sri Lanka

Answer- **1) Nepal**

Explanation:

On November 15, 2024, **Nepal** initiated its **first-ever** electricity with an export of up to **40 MW** hydropower to **Bangladesh**, utilizing **India's** electricity grid. This initiative aims to boost up sub-regional connectivity in the power sector among three countries.

- The agreement was signed between **NTPC** (National Thermal Power Corporation) Vidyut Vyapar Nigam, the Nepal Electricity Authority (**NEA**) and the Bangladesh Power Development Board (**BPDP**) in October 2024 in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
- The GoI formalized this initiative during the visit of former Prime Minister (**PM**) of Nepal, Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', to India from 31 May to 3 June 2023.

14. Morgan Stanley has recently (in November '24) released its '2025 India Economics Outlook' stating that India's GDP growth forecast is ____ for the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25).

- 1) 7.2%
- 2) 7.5%
- 3) 6.9%
- 4) 6.7%
- 5) 6.3%

Answer- **4) 6.7%**

Explanation:

In November 2024, **Morgan Stanley**, American multinational investment bank and financial services company, released its '**2025 India Economics Outlook**'. It revised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast to **6.7%** for the Financial Year 2024-25 (**FY25**) from an earlier projection of **7%**.

- This revision is due to weaker-than-expected performance in the Second Quarter (Q2) of FY25 at **6.3%**, driven by agriculture and government spending.
- The report also anticipates steady growth at **6.5%** in FY26 and FY27, driven by domestic demand.

- Weak indicators in Q2 include falling GST (Gross Domestic Tax) collections to a **40-month low** in September 2024, declining core sector output, and **8-month low** manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).
- According to the report, the **retail inflation** to moderate to **4.3%** in FY26, lower than the level of 4.9% in FY25, driven by stable commodity prices.

15. India's Credit Rating Agency, ICRA Limited has projected that India's real GDP is expected to decline from 6.7% in Q1 of Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25) to ____ in the 2nd Quarter (Q2: July-September) of FY25.

- 1) 6.6%
- 2) 6.5%
- 3) 6.4%
- 4) 6.3%
- 5) 6.2%

Answer- 2) **6.5%**

Explanation:

India's Credit Rating Agency, **ICRA Limited** (formerly Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited) has projected that India's real Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) is expected to decline to **6.5%** in 2nd Quarter (Q2: July-September) of Financial Year 2024-25(FY 25) from **6.7%** in Q1 of FY25.

- This decrease in India's GDP is mainly due to heavy rains and weaker corporate performance.
- However, it has retained its growth estimate for full FY25 at **7%** as the services sector is expected to improve and also back-ended recovery is anticipated.
- The growth in Gross Value Added (GVA) is estimated to decrease from **6.8%** (in Q1FY25) to **6.6%** (in Q2 FY25).
- It has been estimated that the growth in net indirect taxes (in nominal terms) is expected to increase marginally to **9.0%-9.5%** in Q2FY25 from 8.0% in Q1FY25.
- It has projected that industrial GVA growth to be **5.5%** in Q2FY25. This is driven by the growth of other sub-sectors led by electricity, mining and quarrying, manufacturing, and construction.

16. Goldman Sachs Group Inc. has recently (in November '24) projected India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to decline to ____ Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) in Calendar Year 2025 (CY25).

- 1) 6.9%
- 2) 6.7%
- 3) 6.6%
- 4) 6.4%
- 5) 6.3%

Answer- 5) **6.3%**

Explanation:

Goldman Sachs Group Inc. has projected India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to decline to **6.3%** Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) in Calendar Year 2025 (CY25). This projection is based on continued fiscal consolidation and tighter credit growth due to macro-prudential measures taken by the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**).

- Despite this slow growth projection for CY25, India is expected to remain relatively insulated from potential global economic shocks, such as the United States of America **(USA)-China** trade war.
- It has estimated **25 basis points** (bps) repo rate cut in February 2025, followed by another **25 bps** cut in April. This would result in the lower repo rate i.e. to 6% and overnight interbank rates to **5.75%**, supporting growth while keeping inflation within target.
- It has projected that India's Current Account Deficit **(CAD)** will be at 1.3% of GDP in CY25, due to robust services exports.
- According to Goldman Sachs, RBI is most likely to use cautious approach regarding monetary policy in 2025, given the need to balance domestic economic conditions with global factors like a strong US dollar and trade uncertainties.
- Goldman Sachs has projected that headline inflation to average **4.2%** Y-o-Y in 2025, decreasing from over 7% in 2024.
- As per Goldman Sachs, Core inflation has made steady progress lower from 5.0% Y-o-Y in CY23 to **3.5%** Y-o-Y in CY24.

17. According to the S&P Global Ratings' Global Bank Outlook Report, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is projected to grow between _____ annually in the next 3 Fiscal Year (FY) up to FY 2026-2027(FY27).

- 1) 6.5% to 6.9%
- 2) 6.5% to 7%
- 3) 6.5% to 7.3%
- 4) 6.5% to 7.5%
- 5) 6.5% to 7.7%

Answer- **2) 6.5% to 7%**

Explanation:

According to the **S&P Global Ratings'** Global Bank Outlook Report, India's Gross Domestic Product **(GDP)** is projected to grow between **6.5% to 7%** annually in the next 3 Fiscal Year(FY) up to FY 2026-2027**(FY27)**.

- If forecast annual growth of 6.7% is realised, India is set to become the 3rd-largest economy and transition to the upper-middle-income category by fiscal 2030-31.
- The report stated that the structural improvements and good economic prospects will support the resilience of India's financial institutions.

18. Which organisation has recently (in November '24) released its report "Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q1 2025: US Trade Shift Blurs the Horizon"?

- 1) Moody's Ratings
- 2) Goldman Sachs
- 3) S&P Global Ratings
- 4) Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
- 5) United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Answer- **3) S&P Global Ratings**

Explanation:

On 25th November 2024, **S&P Global Ratings** (previously known as Standard & Poor's) released its latest **"Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q1 2025: US Trade Shift Blurs the Horizon"**. It has lowered

India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth projection for Financial Year 2025-26 (**FY26**) to **6.7%** from its previous estimate of 6.9% and for **FY27** to **6.8%** from 7%.

- However, it has retained its growth forecast for the current financial year (**FY25**) at **6.8%**. This projection is based on the prevailing high interest rates and reduced fiscal support, dampening urban demand.
- It has also projected that the Indian economy will grow at **7%** in **FY28**.
- The report noted that Purchasing Manager Indices (**PMI**) remain strong, but other high-frequency indicators suggest a temporary slowing of momentum, mainly due to a setback in the construction sector during the September quarter.
- The Global Ratings Agency has increased its inflation projection for India to **4.6%** for FY25, from its previous estimate of 4.5%.
- The report also highlighted that impending change in the United States of America(**USA**) administration will pose challenges for China and the rest of the Asia-Pacific region.
- The International Monetary Fund (**IMF**) in its October 2024 World Economic Outlook (**WEO**) report has retained India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast at **6.5%** for FY26.

MoU's AND AGREEMENTS

1. Which ministry has recently (in October '24) entered into a Rs 387.44 crore contract with Goa based Chowgule & Company Private Limited to procure 6 Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs)?

- 1) Ministry of Defence
- 2) Ministry of Civil Aviation
- 3) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- 4) Ministry of Home Affairs
- 5) Ministry of Heavy Industries

Answer- **1) Ministry of Defence**

Explanation:

On October 24, 2024, the Ministry of Defence (**MoD**) entered into a Rs.387.44 crore contract with Goa based **Chowgule & Company Private Limited**, to procure **6 Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs)** for the Indian Coast Guard (**ICG**).

- This contract falls under the '**Buy {Indian}**' category, a classification that emphasizes purchasing from Indian companies and fostering local production.
- In line with the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, which promotes self-reliance across sectors, these ACVs, also known as **Hovercrafts**, will be manufactured entirely within India.
- This is a significant first in the nation's history for Air Cushion Vehicles production, marking a step forward for the indigenous shipbuilding industry.
- Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs), commonly known as Hovercrafts are amphibious vehicles designed to operate over various terrains, including water, mud, sand, and ice.

2. Which company has recently (in October '24) signed a binding agreement to acquire a 46.8% stake of Orient Cement Limited (OCL) for an equity value of Rs 8,100 crore?

- 1) Ultra Tech Cement Limited
- 2) India Cements Limited
- 3) Ambuja Cements Limited

4) Dalmia Bharat Limited

5) Shree Cement Limited

Answer- **3) Ambuja Cements Limited**

Explanation:

On 22nd October 2024, Ambuja Cements Limited (**ACL**), leading cement company in India and part of the Adani Group announced the signing of a binding agreement to acquire a **46.8%** stake of Orient Cement Limited (**OCL**), owned by C.K. Birla Group, for an equity value of **Rs 8,100 crore**. The acquisition will be completely funded through internal accruals.

- This marks Ambuja Cement's **4th** acquisition since its promoter change and the **3rd** acquisition of the ongoing Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25).
- ACL will make an open offer at **Rs 395.40 per share** to the public shareholders of OCL in accordance with the provisions of the Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers (SAST) regulations.
- The deal will increase the cement capacity of ACL to **16.6 MTPA**, including 8.5 MTPA currently operational, and 8.1 MTPA under development.

3. India and Pakistan have recently (in October '24) renewed their agreement on the Kartarpur Corridor extending its operation until _____.

1) 2026

2) 2027

3) 2028

4) 2029

5) 2030

Answer- **4) 2029**

Explanation:

India and **Pakistan** have renewed their agreement on the **Kartarpur Corridor**, extending its operation for further **5 years** i.e. until **2029**. This corridor facilitates **visa-free access** for Indian Sikh pilgrims to the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, Pakistan, which is a significant religious site for Sikhs as it marks the final resting place of Guru Nanak Dev, the **founder of Sikhism**, and **first** of the 10th Sikh gurus.

- The original agreement was signed on October 24, 2019.
- The extension of the Kartarpur Corridor agreement was announced on October 22, 2024.
- The Kartarpur Corridor is approximately 4 kilometers long and connects the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in **Narowal**, Pakistan, with the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in **Gurdaspur** district, India.
- The establishment of this corridor was seen as a **Confidence Building Measure (CBM)** aimed at improving relations between India and Pakistan amidst ongoing tensions.

4. In which State / Union Territory, National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) has recently (in October '24) partnered with the Indian Army (IA) to establish a Solar Hydrogen-based Microgrid?

1) Delhi

2) Assam

3) Rajasthan

4) Ladakh

5) Haryana

Answer- **4) Ladakh**

Explanation:

New Delhi(Delhi) based National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (**NTPC**) has partnered with the Indian Army (**IA**) to establish a **Solar Hydrogen-based Microgrid** at Chushul in the Leh district of the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh.

- Union Minister **Rajnath Singh**, Ministry of Defence (MoD) virtually inaugurated the project in the presence of senior officials from the Ministry of Defence (MoD), the IA, and NTPC in attendance.
- This project aims to provide a round-the-clock, stable power supply using green hydrogen technology for off-grid Army locations.
- NTPC will maintain the project for 25 years, ensuring a consistent and reliable power supply in strategically significant areas.
- The microgrid leverages solar energy and hydrogen for sustainable energy generation, reducing carbon emissions and contributing to a cleaner energy ecosystem.

5. Which company has recently (in October '24) entered into a draft Joint Venture (JV) agreement with Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Limited (MPSMCL)?

- 1) National Mineral Development Corporation Limited
- 2) Bharat Aluminium Company Limited
- 3) Coal India Limited
- 4) Hindustan Zinc Limited
- 5) MOIL Limited

Answer- **5) MOIL Limited**

Explanation:

Nagpur(Maharashtra) based **MOIL Limited** (formerly known as Manganese Ore (India) Limited), has entered into a draft Joint Venture (**JV**) agreement with Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Limited (**MPSMCL**) during the Madhya Pradesh Mining Conclave 2024 held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh(**MP**).

- This partnership aims to advance manganese ore mining and undertake value-addition projects in MP.
- This partnership is expected to harness the rich manganese ore reserves in MP, driving economic growth and creating numerous employment opportunities in the region, aligning with the vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

6. Which state has recently (in October '24) signed an agreement with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for an investment of Rs 3 lakh crore in the renewable energy sector?

- 1) Gujarat
- 2) Maharashtra
- 3) Karnataka
- 4) Rajasthan
- 5) Tamil Nadu

Answer- **4) Rajasthan**

Explanation:

The **Rajasthan** government has signed an initial agreement with the United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) for an investment of **Rs 3 lakh crore** in the renewable energy sector in Rajasthan.

- The goal of this investment is to establish solar, wind, and hybrid projects with a combined capacity of **60 gigawatt (GW)** in the western districts of Rajasthan.
- This Partnership will be a significant step in achieving the ambitious 500 GW of solar energy in the country. For this, Rajasthan will be required to install solar plants with a capacity of 250 GW.

7. Which ministry has recently (in October '24) renewed its MoU with the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport and Communications (DETEC) of Switzerland to enhance technical cooperation between the two nations?

- 1) Ministry of Communications
- 2) Ministry of External Affairs
- 3) Ministry of Railways
- 4) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- 5) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Answer- **3) Ministry of Railways**

Explanation:

The Indian Railways (**IR**), overseen by the Ministry of Railways (**MoR**), has formalized its partnership with the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport and Communications (**DETEC**) of Switzerland by signing a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance technical cooperation between the two nations.

- This agreement was established through video-conferencing, was jointly approved by the Ministry of Railways (MoR) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), aiming to strengthen technical cooperation between India and Switzerland.
- The MoU aims to strengthen technical cooperation in key areas, including technology sharing, track maintenance, management, and construction, thereby aligning with the Indian government's commitment to modernizing the railway system.
- Companies from Switzerland will contribute by providing specialized machinery, materials, and consultancy services for tunneling projects.
- The original MoU, signed on August 31, 2017, was valid for five years.

8. Which country has recently (in October '24) signed an 'electoral cooperation' agreement with the Election Commission of India (ECI)?

- 1) Botswana
- 2) Japan
- 3) Uzbekistan
- 4) Georgia
- 5) United States of America

Answer- **3) Uzbekistan**

Explanation:

The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** signed an 'electoral cooperation' agreement with **Uzbekistan's** central poll body – Central Election Commission during a visit of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) **Rajiv Kumar** to Tashkent as international observer for the upcoming elections.

- Polls in Uzbekistan were held on 27th October 2024.
- The MoU will further strengthen and deepen interaction between the two **Election Management Bodies (EMBs)** for mutual benefit of democracies.
- Both commissions actively engage in global electoral forums, such as the Association of World Election Bodies (**A-WEB**) and the Association of Asian Election Authorities (**AAEA**), which facilitate knowledge sharing and best practices in electoral management.
- This MoU is part of a broader effort by ECI, which has signed agreements with over **30 EMBs worldwide**, enhancing its role in international electoral cooperation.

9. Which country has recently (in November '24) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on bilateral defence cooperation with India?

- 1) China
- 2) Japan
- 3) Belgium
- 4) Algeria
- 5) Nepal

Answer- **4) Algeria**

Explanation:

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) **General Anil Chauhan** visited the **People's Democratic Republic of Algeria** from 31st October to November 03, 2024.

- This visit follows on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu's visit to Algeria in October 2024.
- The visit was part of wider endeavour which aimed to bolster India-Algeria relations which have witnessed increasing cooperation in recent years, particularly in the areas of trade, education, technology and defence.
- During his visit, General Chauhan called on **General Saïd Chanegriha**, Chief of Staff (CoS) of the People's National Army (**PNA**) of Algeria.
- He emphasized on increasing the defence production capability of India under the "**Make in India**" and "**Make for the World**" initiatives.
- CDS General Anil Chauhan and General Saïd Chanegriha Chief of Staff of PNA, Algeria signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) on bilateral **defence cooperation** in Algeria. [Click here to read more.](#)

10. Which institute has recently (in October '24) signed an MoU with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to launch an entrepreneurship training and incubation program in the Northeast region?

- 1) IIM Bangalore
- 2) IIM Ahmedabad
- 3) IIM Calcutta
- 4) IIM Mumbai
- 5) IIM Shillong

Answer- **5) IIM Shillong**

Explanation:

Indian Institute of Management(**IIM**) **Shillong, Meghalaya**, through its IIM Shillong Foundation for Incubation and Enterprise (**IIMSFIE**), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Small

Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**), to launch an entrepreneurship training and incubation program in the Northeast region.

- The partnership introduces the Skill to Enterprise Model (**STEM**) Programme, to equip aspiring entrepreneurs with the necessary skills, knowledge, and mentorship to build sustainable businesses.
- This initiative will offer an 18-month entrepreneurship training programme for 30 selected participants, combining classroom learning, hands-on experience, and incubation support.

11. Which company has recently (in November '24) become the first oil and gas producer in India to join the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Oil & Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP) 2.0?

- 1) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- 2) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
- 3) Cairn Oil & Gas
- 4) Gas Authority of India
- 5) Oil India

Answer- **3) Cairn Oil & Gas**

Explanation:

Cairn Oil & Gas, a Vedanta Group company, has become the first oil and gas producer in India to join the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) **Oil & Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP) 2.0** after inking MoU with UNEP in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

- This initiative, announced on November 4, 2024, aims to address methane emissions within the oil and gas sector, aligning with global efforts to combat climate change.
- The partnership aligns with Cairn's goal to decarbonize operations, advancing to Net Zero Carbon by 2030.
- Under the MoU, Cairn will establish a **5-year target** for reducing methane emissions and will transparently report its progress.
- The OGMP 2.0 initiative encompasses **over 40%** of global oil and gas production, providing a robust framework for measurement, reporting, and verification (**MRV**) of methane emissions.

12. India has recently (in November' 24) signed the Host Country Agreement (HCA) for establishing the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Energy Centre in _____

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

Answer: **5) Bengaluru, Karnataka**

Explanation:

India signed the Host Country Agreement (**HCA**) for establishing the **BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Energy Centre** in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka. This initiative aimed at enhanced energy cooperation in the Bay of Bengal and littoral region, including through inter-grid connectivity.

i. The Energy Centre is to be housed in the premises of the Central Power Research Institute (**CPRI**) Bengaluru and also function as the Secretariat of the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection Coordination Committee (**GICC**).

ii. The agreement was signed between the Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**), Secretary (East) **Jaideep Mazumder**, and BIMSTEC Secretary General, **Indra Mani Pandey**.

13. Which country has recently (in November '24) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India to boost air defence capabilities in India?

- 1) China
- 2) Russia
- 3) Malaysia
- 4) United Kingdom
- 5) Hungary

Answer- **2) Russia**

Explanation:

India's Bharat Dynamics Limited (**BDL**), top state-owned defence manufacturer and Russia's Rosoboronexport (**ROB**), Russia's main weapons export agency signed the Memorandum of Understanding (**MOU**) to boost India's air defence capabilities, particularly with the acquisition of advanced variants of the **Pantsir** air defence system from Russia.

- The MoU was signed at the **5th** India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission (**IRIGC**) Subgroup meeting which was held in **Goa**.
- The **Pantsir** is a Russian self-propelled anti-aircraft gun/missile system (SPAAGM), designed for point-defence.
- The **Pantsir** air defence system is a highly versatile and mobile platform designed to protect military installations from aerial threats, including aircraft, drones, and precision-guided munitions.
- Equipped with advanced radar and tracking systems, the **Pantsir** can detect and engage targets up to 36 kilometers away and at altitudes of up to 15 kilometers including Russia, China, and India, as part of a layered defence strategy alongside longer-range systems like the S-400.

14. Which company has recently (in November '24) signed an agreement with Kazakhstan based Ust-Kamenogorsk Titanium and Magnesium Plant JSC(UKTMP) for production of titanium slag (Ti Slag) in Odisha?

- 1) Allegheny Technologies
- 2) IREL (India) Limited
- 3) Rio Tinto India
- 4) Trimex Sands Private Limited
- 5) Travancore Titanium Products Limited

Answer- **2) IREL (India) Limited**

Explanation:

Mumbai (Maharashtra) based IREL (India) Limited (**IREL**) previously known as Indian Rare Earths Limited, and Kazakhstan based **Ust-Kamenogorsk Titanium and Magnesium Plant JSC (UKTMP)** signed a Joint Venture(**JV**) to establish **IREUK Titanium Limited** for production of titanium slag(Ti Slag) in **Odisha**.

- This partnership aims to strengthen India's titanium value chain by converting low-grade **ilmenite** (Titanium oxide) into high-grade feedstock, also generating local employment opportunities.
- UKTMP JSC will provide the technology of producing Ti Slag and will take the agreed quantities for an input in their Ti sponge plant.

15. Which ministry has recently (in November '24) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Energy Agency (IEA) to enhance collaboration in the field of critical minerals?

- 1) Ministry of Mines
- 2) Ministry of Earth Sciences
- 3) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- 4) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- 5) Ministry of Science and Technology

Answer- **1) Ministry of Mines**

Explanation:

On November 13, 2024, the Ministry of Mines (**MoM**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the International Energy Agency (**IEA**) at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi (Delhi) to enhance collaboration in the field of **critical minerals**. These minerals are vital for economic development and national security.

- This partnership is expected to provide India with access to reliable data, in-depth analysis, and policy guidance, strengthening its ability to manage critical resources strategically.
- The MoU will support India in refining its policies and regulatory frameworks for critical minerals, informed by the experiences of other IEA members.
- It will enable knowledge sharing through joint research, workshops, and training programs, improving technical expertise in mineral extraction, recycling, and technology.
- India will gain advanced capabilities in data collection, modeling, and analysis, enhancing institutional capacity in the critical mineral sector.

16. Which organisation has recently (in November '24) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to promote and strengthen the sustainable development in urban areas in India?

- 1) United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- 2) United Nations Development Programme
- 3) United Nations Environment Programme
- 4) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- 5) United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Answer- **5) United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

Explanation:

On November 15 2024, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (**MoHUA**) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (**UN-Habitat**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**), to promote and strengthen the sustainable development in urban areas in India.

- The partnership aims at advancing the goals of sustainable urbanization and harmonizing with India's larger commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**), specifically **SDG 11**(Sustainable Cities and Communities).

- UN-Habitat and MoHUA will collaborate through knowledge sharing, policy guidance, technical expertise, and collaboration aimed at fostering inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable development in India's urban areas and human settlements.
- As part of this collaboration, the two organisations launched the '**Urban RAASTA** (Resilient and Accelerated Advancement with Sustainable and Transformative Actions)' framework.
- The agreement also emphasizes the focus for shared prosperity with social, economic and environmental integration of cities, city regions and rural areas, recognising India's ambition to grow from a **USD 3 trillion** economy to a **USD 5 trillion** economy within the next few years.

17. Which country has recently (in November '24) signed a Memorandum of Implementation (MoI) with India for the co-development of UNICORN mast for fitment onboard Ships of the Indian Navy (IN)?

- 1) China
- 2) Russia
- 3) Japan
- 4) Malaysia
- 5) Nepal

Answer- 3) Japan

Explanation:

On November 15 2024, the Government of India(**GoI**) and the Government of **Japan** signed a Memorandum of Implementation (**MoI**) for the co-development of Unified Complex Radio Antenna(**UNICORN**) mast for fitment onboard Ships of the Indian Navy(IN) under India-Japan Defence Technology Cooperation (**IJDTC**).

- The initiative aims to enhance the stealth and technological capabilities of the Indian Navy and was **India's first** military technology transfer pact with Japan.
- The **UNICORN** mast (single piece) is an integrated conical structure housing antennas atop warships, designed to enhance stealth capabilities, and will be fitted on Indian Naval warships.
- **UNICORN's** implementation would be the first case of co-development and co-production of Defence Equipment between India and Japan.

18. Which state has recently (in November '24) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) to establish 500 compressed biogas (CBG) plants in the state?

- 1) Maharashtra
- 2) Uttarakhand
- 3) Gujarat
- 4) Andhra Pradesh
- 5) Karnataka

Answer- 4) Andhra Pradesh

Explanation:

The Government of Andhra Pradesh (**AP**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Reliance Industries Limited (**RIL**) to establish **500** compressed biogas (**CBG**) plants in the state over the next three years.

- This initiative involves an investment of approximately **Rs 65,000 crore**, with each plant costing Rs 130 crore.
- The plants will be part of Reliance's national target of setting up **2,000 CBG units**.
- The project will **utilize available wastelands** for the construction of these state-of-the-art plants.
- The project is projected to generate financial benefits of Rs 57,650 crore over 25 years through State Goods and Services Tax (SGST), electricity duty, and employment taxes.
- The project is expected to create approximately 2.5 lakh jobs, both directly and indirectly.
- The foundation stone for the first biofuel project is set to be laid on **28 December 2024**, in Kanigiri, located in Prakasam district of AP.

19. Which organisation has recently (in November '24) partnered with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited to form a 50: 50 Joint Venture Company (JVC) through their Green Energy Subsidiaries?

- 1) NTPC Limited
- 2) NHPC Limited
- 3) Indian Oil Corporation
- 4) GAIL (India) Limited
- 5) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

Answer- **1) NTPC Limited**

Explanation:

New Delhi(Delhi) based **NTPC Limited** (formerly National Thermal Power Corporation) and New Delhi based Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited(**ONGC**) has partnered to form a 50: 50 Joint Venture Company (**JVC**) through their Green Energy Subsidiaries – NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) and ONGC Green Energy Limited (OGL).

- ONGC NTPC Green Private Limited (**ONGPL**) was incorporated on November 18, 2024 to promote their interest in renewable and new energy.
- The JVC will involve in Renewable Energy (RE) and New Energy opportunities including Solar, Wind (Onshore/Offshore), Energy Storage (Pump/Battery), Green molecule (Green Hydrogen, Green Ammonia, Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), Green Methanol), E-mobility, Carbon Credits, Green Credits, etc.
- The JVC will also acquire RE assets and participate in offshore wind tenders in Tamil Nadu (TN) and Gujarat.
- NGEL has submitted an application to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA) for the incorporation of a **50:50** JVC with OGL.

20. Which organisation has recently (in November '24) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Indian Air Force (IAF) and Foundation for Science Innovation and Development in Bengaluru, Karnataka?

- 1) IISc Bengaluru
- 2) IISER Kolkata
- 3) IIT Bombay
- 4) IIT Delhi
- 5) IIT Kanpur

Answer- **1) IISc Bengaluru**

Explanation:

On November 19 2024, the Headquarter Maintenance Command (HQMC) of the Indian Air Force (IAF) through New Delhi- based Base Repair Depot, formalized a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), Bengaluru (Karnataka) and Bengaluru based Foundation for Science Innovation and Development (FSID) in a ceremony held in Bengaluru.

- This initiative aims to address key challenges faced by the IAF including radar systems, aircraft, and various Information Technology (IT) communication platforms.
- The agreement will facilitate access to both the organization's **testing facilities**, fostering mutual benefit to enhance academic collaboration between the IAF and IISc, particularly in relation to Post Graduate (PG) Programs.
- Advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), and Digital Twin-based systems will also be explored to enhance lifecycle management, predictive maintenance, and resource optimisation.

21. Which company has recently (in November '24) partnered with Noida International Airport (NIA) to invest Rs 550 crore to develop solar and wind power capacities and to supply clean energy to NIA?

- 1) Adani Green Energy Limited
- 2) Suzlon Energy Limited
- 3) Tata Power Company Limited
- 4) ReNew Power Private Limited
- 5) Indian Oil Corporation Limited

Answer- 3) Tata Power Company Limited

Explanation:

Mumbai(Maharashtra) based **Tata Power Company Limited** has partnered with Uttar Pradesh based **Noida International Airport (NIA)** to invest **Rs 550 crore** (USD 66 million) to develop solar and wind power capacities and to supply clean energy to NIA.

- Tata Power and NIA have signed two Power Purchase Agreements(**PPAs**) in New Delhi(Delhi) in the presence of Sanjay Banga, President of Transmission and Distribution at Tata Power, and Christoph Schnellmann, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Noida International Airport.
- Under this partnership, Tata Power's arm Tata Power Trading Company Ltd (TPTCL) will supply 10.8 Megawatt (MW) of wind power to the airport with secured assets from Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL).

22. Which organisation has recently (in November '24) signed an Implementation Agreement (IA) with Australian Space Agency (ASA) for strengthening the cooperation in space activities between both the countries?

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

Answer- 4) Indian Space Research Organisation

Explanation:

On November 20 2024, the Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) formalised an Implementation Agreement (**IA**) with Australian Space Agency (**ASA**) for strengthening the cooperation in space activities between both the countries.

- This initiative enables collaboration on both space agencies of crew and crew module recovery efforts for **Gaganyaan mission** (the country's 1st Human spaceflight program).
- India and Australia are enduring strategic partners working closely and committed to explore current and future collaboration activities.
- The name **Gaganyaan** has its roots in Sanskrit translating to 'sky and vehicle' and the primary objective of this mission is to launch a team of astronauts into space, where they will travel at an altitude of **400 km** above Earth in Low Earth Orbit (**LEO**) for a three-day expedition before returning by landing in the Indian Ocean.
- The launch of the mission is expected to be in **2026**. Under the Gaganyaan programme, **ISRO** will carry out four missions which includes 3 uncrewed space missions and 1 crewed mission.
- This significant achievement will place India among nations, such as the US, Russia, and China, with human spaceflight capabilities.

23. Which ministry has recently (in November '24) signed a tripartite MoU with the Banaras Hindu University and the Ministry of Education to provide enhanced funding and technical support to Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), institutes of BHU in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh?

- 1) Ministry of Science and Technology
- 2) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- 3) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- 4) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- 5) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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

Explanation:

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoH&FW**) signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Banaras Hindu University (**BHU**), and Ministry of Education (**MoE**) to provide enhanced funding and technical support to Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), institutes of BHU in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (**UP**).

- Union Minister J P Nadda, MoH&FW and Union Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, MoE were present during the signing.
- The MoU focuses on enhancing funding and technical support for IMS (BHU), to advance healthcare, education, and research in India.
- The MoU provides for grant-in-aid to IMS (BHU) by MoHFW, similar to the funding provided to new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (**AIIMS**) under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (**PMSSY**).
- This collaboration is a step toward transforming IMS, BHU into a global center of excellence. By addressing the medical needs of eastern Uttar Pradesh and neighboring states.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1. Who was recently (in October '24) appointed as the National Ambassador for Cyber Safety by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) to Promote Cyber Safety?

- 1) Rashmika Mandanna
- 2) Anushka Sharma
- 3) Manu Bhaker
- 4) Shikhar Dhawan
- 5) Alia Bhatt

Answer- **1) Rashmika Mandanna**

Explanation:

Indian actress **Rashmika Mandanna** has been appointed as the National Ambassador for Cyber Safety by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA).

- Rashmika Mandanna will spread a nationwide campaign aimed at raising awareness about cyber threats, cyberbullying and Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated malicious content.
- Her personal experience with cybercrime adds credibility to her mission of promoting online safety across India.

2. Who was recently (in November '24) declared as the 6th President of Botswana?

- 1) Mokgweetsi Masis
- 2) Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa
- 3) Dick Schoof
- 4) Paetongtarn Shinawatra
- 5) Duma Boko

Answer- **5) Duma Boko**

Explanation:

On November 1, 2024, the 54-year-old **Duma Gideon Boko** of Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) coalition was declared as the **6th President of Botswana** by getting 25 out of 61 parliamentary seats. He was born on December 31, 1969.

- He defeated Incumbent President **Mokgweetsi Masis** of Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) who secured only one seat. BDP had been in power since the country's independence in 1966.
- He became the leader of the Botswana National Front (BNF) in 2010 and was instrumental in forming the UDC in 2012. He has run for President in previous elections in 2014 and 2019.
- He has served as the **President** of both the **BNF** and the **UDC**.

3. Who has recently (in October' 24) been designated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) as the Chairperson of the Board of National Pension System (NPS) Trust?

- 1) Chitra Jayasimha
- 2) D K Sunil
- 3) Raja Randhir Singh
- 4) Ashok Kumar Singh
- 5) Venkata Rao Yadagini

Answer- **1) Chitra Jayasimha**

Explanation:

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (**PFRDA**) has appointed **Chitra Jayasimha**, who has been serving as Trustee of National Pension System (NPS) Trust Board since 2020, as the **chairperson** of the Board of NPS Trust with effect from 17th October, 2024.

- She succeeded **Venkata Rao Yadagini**, who was appointed to the position of NPS Trust chairman on 12th December, 2023.
- She has an extensive experience of **more than 17 years** working in various functions at senior levels in Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- She is founder, director and consulting Actuary of Universal Actuaries and Benefit Consultants. She was also appointed as Actuary at Sanima Reliance Life (Nepal) and General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) Reinsurance Company Limited (Bhutan), among others.

4. Who has been recently (in October '24) appointed as the Director-General (DG) Designate of International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)?

- 1) Dr Stanford Blade
- 2) Dr Himanshu Pathak
- 3) Dr Rebbie Harawa
- 4) Dr Sean Mayes
- 5) Dr Jacqueline Hughes

Answer- **2) Dr Himanshu Pathak**

Explanation:

The Governing Board of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (**ICRISAT**), chaired by Professor Prabhu Pingali, announced the appointment of **Himanshu Pathak** as the **Director-General (DG) Designate** of **ICRISAT**. He is set to take charge as DG in 2025.

- **Dr Stanford Blade** is currently serving as the Director General – Interim of ICRISAT.
- Dr. Pathak is currently serving as the Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (**DARE**) and DG of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (**ICAR**).

5. Who has been recently (in November '24) elected as the 47th President of the United States of America (USA)?

- 1) Kamala Harris
- 2) Donald John Trump
- 3) Jill Stein
- 4) Robert Kennedy
- 5) Joe Biden

Answer- **2) Donald John Trump**

Explanation:

On 6th November 2024, **Donald John Trump** of the Republican Party was elected as the **47th President** of the United States of America (**USA**) securing the popular vote and reaching the 295 electoral votes needed for victory. Donald John Trump will take over from Joe Biden, incumbent President of the USA, in January 2025.

- He defeated Democrat Kamala Harris (226 electoral votes) and became the first Republican to have won US Elections by popular vote.
- He has previously served as the **45th President of the USA from 2017 to 2021**.

- Donald Trump is the 2nd former president to return to power after **Grover Cleveland** regained the White House in the 1892 election.
- He relinquished management of The Trump Organization to his sons Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump in 2017 after he became the president of the USA in 2017.

6. Who was recently (in October '24) appointed as the Chairman of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC)?

- 1) S. Gopalakrishnan
- 2) Rakesh Ranjan
- 3) Vikram Dev Dutt
- 4) Braj Raj Sharma
- 5) S. Kishore

Answer- **1) S. Gopalakrishnan**

Explanation:

The Government of India (GoI) has appointed a 1991-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, **S. Gopalakrishnan** as the Chairman of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) with effect from 31st October 2024. The order was issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) under the Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions (MoPP&P).

- Gopalakrishnan succeeded **Rakesh Ranjan** (1992-batch IAS officer) who took voluntary retirement from service (VRS). He was set to remain in the post till May 15, 2029.
- **V. Umashankar** has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).
- **Vikram Dev Dutt** has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Coal (MoC).
- **Tanmay Kumar**, the Special Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), has been appointed as the Secretary of MoEFCC.
- **Subrata Gupta** was appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).

7. Who was recently (in October '24) appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of JP Morgan Chase & Co's domestic banking unit, JP Morgan India?

- 1) Pranav Chawda
- 2) Rahul Deora
- 3) Jamie Dimon
- 4) Hiral Mehta
- 5) Prabhdev Singh

Answer- **1) Pranav Chawda**

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved **Pranav Chawda's** appointment as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of JP Morgan Chase & Co's domestic banking unit, JP Morgan India, for a three-year term.

- He replaced **Prabhdev Singh**, who resigned in June 2024 before finishing his tenure.
- In his new role, Chawda will also lead the corporate banking division, reflecting the bank's strategy to combine its commercial and corporate banking services.

8. Who has recently (in October '24) reappointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Axis Bank Limited?

- 1) Shikha Sharma
- 2) Sai Giridhar
- 3) Amitabh Chaudhry
- 4) Pranav Haridasan
- 5) Atul Mehra

Answer- **3) Amitabh Chaudhry**

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of **Amitabh Chaudhry** as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Axis Bank Limited** for a period of 3 years, effective from 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2027.

- The reappointment was approved by the shareholders of the bank at their 30th Annual General Meeting held on July 26, 2024.

9. Who has recently (in November '24) sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of India (CJI)?

- 1) Justice Ranjan Gogoi
- 2) Justice Fathima Beevi
- 3) Justice Sanjiv Khanna
- 4) Justice DY Chandrachud
- 5) Justice Uday Umesh Lalit

Answer- **3) Justice Sanjiv Khanna**

Explanation:

Justice Sanjiv Khanna was sworn in as the **51st Chief Justice of India (CJI)** succeeding **Justice Dhananjaya Yeshwant (DY) Chandrachud** who retired on November 10, 2024.

- Justice Sanjiv Khanna will hold the post till **May 13, 2025**.
- The oath of office was administered by **President Droupadi Murmu** during a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, Delhi, attended by prominent dignitaries including Vice-President **Jagdeep Dhankhar**, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and other cabinet members.
- He was elevated as an additional judge of the Delhi High Court in 2005 and was made a permanent judge in 2006 and later became a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 18th January 2019.
- He is presently the Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority and a member of the Governing Council of the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal.

10. Who has been recently (in November '24) re-elected to a 2nd term as the President of Moldova?

- 1) Dorin Recean
- 2) Maia Sandu
- 3) Igor Dodon
- 4) Nicolae Timofti
- 5) Alexandr Stoianoglo

Answer- **2) Maia Sandu**

Explanation:

Maia Sandu (52 years old), a former World Bank economist, has been re-elected to a **2nd term** as the **President of Moldova**. She received 55.33% of the vote against 44.67% for Alexandr Stoianoglo, a former prosecutor general backed by the pro-Russian Socialist Party

- She previously served as the President of the Republic of Moldova from **2020 to 2024**.
- She served as the Minister of Education in the Government of the Republic of Moldova from 2012 and 2015.
- She acted as a Member of Parliament (**MP**) of the Republic of Moldova from February to June 2019.
- She was appointed as Moldova's Prime Minister(**PM**) from June 2019 to November 2019.

11. Who has recently (in October '24) appointed as the brand ambassador for the upcoming Jharkhand election by the Election Commission?

- 1) Anushka Sen
- 2) Saurabh Tiwary
- 3) Deepika Kumari
- 4) Ranjha Vikram Singh
- 5) Mahendra Singh Dhoni

Answer- **5) Mahendra Singh Dhoni**

Explanation:

The former Indian cricket captain, **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** (MS Dhoni) has been appointed as the **brand ambassador** for the upcoming **Jharkhand** election by the Election Commission.

- Dhoni will help raise awareness about voting through the SWEEP (Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation) program, aiming to encourage more people to vote by using his popularity.

12. Who has recently (in November '24) appointed as the Executive Director (ED) of Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC) in Singapore?

- 1) VD Chafekar
- 2) Masafumi Kuroki
- 3) Paramesh Sivamani
- 4) Arsenio Dominguez
- 5) Krishnaswamy Natarajan

Answer- **1) VD Chafekar**

Explanation:

The Governing Council of Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia Information Sharing Centre (**ReCAAP ISC**), **Singapore** has appointed Additional Director General (Retd) **VD Chafekar**, the former senior officer of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) as its **7th** Executive Director (ED).

- He will replace **Krishnaswamy Natarajan**, who serves as the 6th ED of ReCAAP ISC.
- He has been appointed as Executive Director from **April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2028**, to foster regional maritime security and cooperation, in line with the vision for a safer & more secure Indo-Pacific region.

- He served as the Additional Director General (ADG) of Western Seaboard. Previously he helmed the Western Region for about 18 months before being promoted.
- He has been honoured with the President's Tatrashak medal and Tatrakshak medal for his service to the country.

13. Who has been recently (in November '24) elected as the new Secretary-General of the International Criminal Police Organisation INTERPOL?

- 1) Jürgen Stock
- 2) Praveen Sood
- 3) Valdecy Urquiza
- 4) Ronald Noble
- 5) Vijayendra Bidari

Answer- **3) Valdecy Urquiza**

Explanation:

Valdecy Urquiza, a Federal Police Commissioner from Brazil, has been elected as the new **Secretary-General** of the International Criminal Police Organisation **INTERPOL**, during its **92nd** General Assembly held at **Glasgow (Scotland)** in the United Kingdom (UK). He officially assumed office on **November 7**, succeeding **Jürgen Stock** (Germany), who served the Organisation for a decade.

- He was the **first person** from a developing country **Brazil** to hold this position since INTERPOL's establishment in 1923.
- Prior to this, he served as the Director of International Cooperation (**DIC**) for the Brazilian Federal Police, Brazil.
- He served as Vice-President for the America's on INTERPOL's Executive Committee from 2021 to 2024.
- He has been the Head of the INTERPOL National Central Bureau (**NCB**) of Brazil and Head of International Police Cooperation (**IPC**) for the Brazilian Federal Police 2015-2018.

14. Who has been recently (in October '24) appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED)?

- 1) Ritesh Chauhan
- 2) Deepak Agarwal
- 3) Kamendra Srivastava
- 4) Muktanand Agrawal
- 5) Pankaj Kumar Bansal

Answer- **2) Deepak Agarwal**

Explanation:

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**), headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, has appointed **Deepak Agarwal** as the new Managing Director(**MD**) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (**NAFED**), under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (**MoA&FW**).

- **Deepak Agarwal**, a 2000-batch Indian Administrative Service (**IAS**) officer from the Uttar Pradesh(**UP**) cadre, will hold the post for a fixed term of **5 years**.
- MoA&FW assigned additional charge of MD of NAFED, to **Muktanand Agrawal**, a Joint Secretary, MoA&FW.

- **Pankaj Kumar Bansal**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, as the MD of NAFED, initially for “a period of three months or till the appointment of a regular incumbent to the post.”

15. Who has recently (in October '24) took over as the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI)?

- 1) Vipin Kumar
- 2) M. Suresh
- 3) Sanjeev Kumar
- 4) Rubina Ali
- 5) Padam Lal Negi

Answer- **1) Vipin Kumar**

Explanation:

On 28th October 2024, **Vipin Kumar**, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1996 batch from the Bihar cadre, took over as the **Chairman** of the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** under the Ministry of Civil Aviation (**MoCA**).

- He succeeded **M. Suresh**, who has been serving as the interim chairman after **Sanjeev Kumar**, the former chairman, was appointed as the Defence secretary in the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in August 2024.
- Prior to the appointment, he served as Additional secretary in the Department of School Education & Literacy (DSEL), Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India (GoI).
- He was responsible for projects like **Samagra Shiksha Scheme** under National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, **Prime Minister Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI)** Scheme.

16. Who will take over as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bharti Airtel Limited (BAL) in January 2026?

- 1) Gopal Vittal
- 2) Parag Raja
- 3) Mamta Saikia
- 4) Sunil Bharti Mittal
- 5) Shashwat Sharma

Answer- **5) Shashwat Sharma**

Explanation:

Shashwat Sharma, the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Bharti Airtel Limited (**BAL**), will take over as the Managing Director (**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of BAL with effect from (wef) 1st January **2026**.

- He will succeed **Gopal Vittal**, who has been promoted as the Executive Vice Chairman (**EVC**) of BAL effective from 1st January 2026.
- Shashwat Sharma will be responsible for the entire end-to-end consumer business, after taking charge as MD and CEO.

17. Who has been recently (in November '24) appointed as New Chief Secretary of Jharkhand?

- 1) Shiv Basant
- 2) Alka Tiwari
- 3) Chhabilendra Roul

4) Amir Subhani

5) Puneet Kumar Goel

Answer- **2) Alka Tiwari**

Explanation:

The Election Commission of India (**ECI**) has approved Jharkhand's proposal to appoint **Alka Tiwari** as the new Chief Secretary of the state. She replaced **Lalbiakluanga Khiangte**, who retired on October 31, 2024. Her tenure will end on September 30, 2025.

- Alka Tiwari, a 1988-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, currently the senior-most IAS officer in the cadre.
- Prior to this appointment, she served as the Secretary of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (**NCST**).
- She was an advisor in NITI Aayog and additional secretary in the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoC&F).

18. Who was recently (in November' 24) appointed as the Prime Minister of "Mauritius" for the third time?

1) Michel Barnier

2) Prithvirajsing Roopun

3) Navinchandra Ramgoolam

4) Anura Kumara Dissanayake

5) Pravind Kumar Jugnauth

Answer: **3) Navinchandra Ramgoolam**

Explanation:

Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam (77), the leader of the Labour Party, was appointed as the Prime Minister (PM) of Mauritius for the **third time** by the President **Prithvirajsing Roopun**, after his coalition Alliance du Changement won the parliamentary election. He took the oath of office on November 13, 2024 for a 5-year term and replaced **Pravind Kumar Jugnauth**, who has served as PM since 2017.

i. The opposition coalition secured a commanding victory with **62.6%** of the vote, winning **60 of the 62** contested seats, while the People's Alliance led by Jugnauth failed to win any seat.

ii. It was the 12th election of Mauritius since the country attained independence in 1968.

19. Alix Didier Fils-Aime was recently (in November' 24) sworn in as the interim Prime Minister of _____ (Country).

1) Haiti

2) Dominican Republic

3) Cuba

4) Jamaica

5) Trinidad and Tobago

Answer: **1) Haiti**

Explanation:

On November 11, 2024, **Alix Didier Fils-Aime** (52), former president of Haiti's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (**CCI**) was sworn in as the interim Prime Minister (**PM**) of Caribbean country **Haiti** at the National Palace in Port-au-Prince, capital of Haiti.

- i. He replaced **Garry Conille** who was appointed as the PM in May 2024 and was dismissed by the Transitional Presidential Council (TPC) due to the continued political instability of the country.
- ii. The new government, formed with 18 ministers, will head Haiti's transition until February 7, 2026.

20. Who was recently (in October '24) appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of the Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)?

- 1) Partha Pratim Sengupta
- 2) Amitabh Chaudry
- 3) Punit Goenka
- 4) Krishnan Venkat Subramanian
- 5) Praveena Rai

Answer: **5) Praveena Rai**

Explanation:

On October 31, 2024, **Praveena Rai** was taken charge as the Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) and Managing Director (**MD**) of the Multi Commodity Exchange of India (**MCX**) for a five-year term. She replaced **PS Reddy** who retired in May 2024.

i. Praveena Rai's appointment was confirmed at the annual general meeting held in September 2024.

ii. Prior to the appointment, she served as Chief Operating Officer (CEO) at the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), where she played a vital role in formulating business, operational, and technical strategies and shaping the organization's industry impact.

iii. She also held the position of banking professional in Regional Head of Payments for Asia Pacific at HSBC Holdings plc. She also led the cash management portfolio at [Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited \(KMBL\)](#), which is the largest shareholder in MCX.

Note: **MCX** is one of India's largest commodity derivatives exchanges.

21. Who has recently (in November '24) elected as the 13th president of International Hockey Federation's (FIH)?

- 1) Narinder Batra
- 2) Leandro Negre
- 3) Mohammad Tayyab Ikram
- 4) Seif Ahmed
- 5) Juan Calzado

Answer: **3) Mohammad Tayyab Ikram**

Explanation:

Mohammad Tayyab Ikram was elected as new 13th president of International Hockey Federation's (**FIH**) at the **49th FIH** Statutory Congress held in **Muscat, Oman**. The current tenure will be continued until 2032.

- Ikram assumed the FIH presidency on an interim basis in 2022 for a two-year term of 2022-2024, following **Narinder Batra's** (India) mid-term resignation.
- He was the Co-Chairman of **FIH** Development and Education Committee and the Chairman of **FIH** International and Olympic Relations.
- He has served as Chief Executive/Secretary General International Olympic Committee (**IOC**) and has been the key member of the Coordination and Evaluation Commission (**CEC**) for the Asian Games 2010 to 2022 and also Asian Winter Games Changchun 2009.

- He has been the Vice Chair of Olympic Council of Asia (**OCA**) Athletes Commission and also the member of **OCA** Disciplinary Commission.
- He was awarded a Prestigious title of Dato' from Malaysia (**2010**), FIH President's Award (**2002**), Performance Medal by Governo de Macau (**1998**), Macau Medalha de Merito Sportivo Nacional – Macau National Medal of Merit in Sports (**1999**).

22. Who has been recently (in November '24) appointed as the new Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)?

- 1) Ranjit Rath
- 2) Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
- 3) Anirban Ghosh
- 4) Satish Kumar Vaduguri
- 5) Arvinder Singh Sahney

Answer- **5) Arvinder Singh Sahney**

Explanation:

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**) has approved the proposal of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (**MoPNG**), for the appointment of **Arvinder Singh Sahney** as the new Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (**IOCL**) for a **5-year** tenure with effect from the date of assuming office or until superannuation.

- He replaced **Satish Kumar Vaduguri**, IOC's Director of Marketing (**DOM**), who was handling the additional charge of Chairman from September 2024 after **Shrikant Madhav Vaidya's** tenure ended on August 31, 2024.
- Prior to the appointment, Sahney served as the Executive Director of Business Development (**EDBD**) in the Petrochemicals division at **IOC**.
- He started his career at **IOC** in **1993** following a brief stint at Tata Chemicals and was appointed as Executive Director (**ED**) in February 2022, gaining over **3 decades** of experience in the refinery and petrochemicals sectors in the **IOC**.
- In August 2024, he was initially selected to be the company's Director for Business Development (**DBD**) position but has now been elevated to the position of Chairman of **IOC**.

23. Who has been recently (in November '24) appointed as the 17th Prime Minister (PM) of Sri Lanka?

- 1) Vijitha Herath
- 2) Bimal Rathnayake
- 3) Harini Amarasuriya
- 4) Dinesh Gunawardena
- 5) Ranil Wickremesinghe

Answer- **3) Harini Amarasuriya**

Explanation:

In November 2024, Sri Lanka's President Anura Kumara Dissanayake appointed **Harini Amarasuriya** as **17th** Prime Minister (**PM**) of Sri Lanka following the victory of the National People's Power (**NPP**) coalition in the general election.

- The **NPP** secured **159** seats in Sri Lanka's **225**-member parliament, granting the legislative power.

- The swearing-in ceremony was held at the Presidential Secretariat in **Colombo**, capital of Sri Lanka.
- She is a prominent Sri Lankan politician, academic, and social activist.
- She was first appointed as the PM in September 2024 to serve in the interim government after Anura Kumara Dissanayake won the 2024 presidential election.
- The new 22-member Sri Lankan Cabinet of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (**JVP**)-led National People's Power (**NPP**) coalition and as a part of **4-member** Cabinet, Harini Amarasuriya will also serve as the Minister of Education, Higher Education, and Vocational Education.

24. Who has recently (in November '24) sworn in as the 15th Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India?

- 1) K Sanjay Murthy
- 2) Rajiv Mehrishi
- 3) Sindhushree Khullar
- 4) Shashi Kant Sharma
- 5) Girish Chandra Murmu

Answer- **1) K Sanjay Murthy**

Explanation:

On November 19 2024, **K Sanjay Murthy**, a 1989-batch Himachal Pradesh(HP) cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, was sworn in as the 15th Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India by President Droupadi Murmu at a function in the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi(Delhi).

- He succeeded **Girish Chandra Murmu** (1st Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, J&K), who retired on November 20 2024. The tenure of Sanjay Murthy is till 2029.
- Prior to the appointment, Sanjay Murthy served as the **Secretary** of the Department of Higher Education(DHE), Ministry of Education (**MoE**).
- K Sanjay Murthy had a distinguished career of over **three decades** in the **IAS**. He has also held several important administrative positions in the State Government of HP.

25. Who was recently (in November '24) elected as the 6th President of Somaliland?

- 1) Muse Bihi Abdi
- 2) Faysal Ali Warabe
- 3) Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi
- 4) Ahmed Mohamed Mohamoud
- 5) Hassan Sheikh Mohamud

Answer- **3) Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi**

Explanation:

Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, leader of Somaliland's opposition has won the presidential elections and was elected as the **6th President** of Somaliland. Abdullahi (Waddani Party), also known as **Irro**, secured nearly **64%** of the vote by defeating the incumbent President **Muse Bihi Abdi** (Kulmiye Party).

- Prior to the appointment, Abdullahi served as Somaliland's Parliament Speaker in 2005.
- He served as Speaker of the Parliament for 12 years, during which he founded the **Waddani Party** and was chosen as its first Chairman as well as the Presidential candidate for the 2017 election.

26. Who was recently (in November '24) appointed as the Prime Minister (PM) of Uzbekistan?

- 1) Abdulla Nigmatovich Aripov
- 2) Shavkat Mirziyoyev
- 3) Akylbek Japarov
- 4) Oljas Bektenov
- 5) Kokhir Rasulzoda

Answer- **1) Abdulla Nigmatovich Aripov**

Explanation:

On November 20 2024, **Abdulla Nigmatovich Aripov** was appointed as the Prime Minister (**PM**) of **Uzbekistan** for the **third** consecutive term by the President **Shavkat Mirziyoyev** and the announcement was made at a meeting during the Legislative Chamber of **Oliy Majlis** (the lower house of the parliament).

- Abdulla Aripov **first** assumed the position of Prime Minister (**PM**) of Uzbekistan in **December 2016**, following his nomination by the Liberal-Democratic Party (**LDP**) of Uzbekistan.
- He was re-confirmed in the position again in January **2020**.
- The Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan, as per Article 94 of the Constitution, approved the proposal for Abdulla Aripov's appointment. Subsequently, a presidential decree under Article 109 of the Constitution officially appointed him as Prime Minister.
- In 2002, Aripov was appointed as Deputy Prime Minister (**DYPM**) and Head of the Complex of Communication, Information, and Telecommunication Technologies.

27. Who has been recently (in November '24) re-elected as the Prime Minister of Japan?

- 1) Fumio Kishida
- 2) Shigeru Ishiba
- 3) Yoshihide Suga
- 4) Shinzo Abe
- 5) Yoshihiko Noda

Answer- **2) Shigeru Ishiba**

Explanation:

The Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), **Shigeru Ishiba** was re-elected as the **Prime Minister** (PM) of Japan after receiving the highest number of votes in both houses of the Japanese Parliament (known as Japanese Diet).

- Shigeru Ishiba won in a runoff for PM against opposition leader **Yoshihiko Noda**, the leader of the major opposition Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP), in the Lower House of the Japanese Diet.
- Ishiba was first sworn in as Japan's PM in September 2024 after his predecessor, Fumio Kishida, resigned following a string of scandals.

28. Who has recently (in November '24) joined All Living Things Environmental Film Festival 2024" (ALT EFF 2024) as the goodwill ambassador?

- 1) Deepika Padukone
- 2) Dia Mirza
- 3) Kangana Ranaut
- 4) Shriya Pilgaonkar
- 5) Anushka Sharma

Answer- 4) **Shriya Pilgaonkar**

Explanation:

Shriya Pilgaonkar, an Indian actress and director, has joined All Living Things Environmental Film Festival 2024" (**ALT EFF 2024**), India's largest environmental film festival as the goodwill ambassador.

- 5th ALT EFF is being held from November 22 to December 8, 2024.
- ALT EFF has also appointed actress-producer Alia Bhat as the goodwill ambassador for its 2024 edition.
- She first joined the ALT EFF in 2023, her continued involvement highlights **ALT EFF's** dedication to raising awareness about critical environmental issues such as wildlife conservation and climate change.

29. Who was recently (in November '24) appointed as the new Prime Minister (PM) of Mali?

- 1) Modibo Sidibé
- 2) Abdoulaye Maiga
- 3) Cissé Mariam Kaïdama Sidibé
- 4) Soumeylou Boubèye Maïga
- 5) Choguel Kokalla Maiga

Answer- 2) **Abdoulaye Maiga**

Explanation:

On November 21, 2024, General **Abdoulaye Maiga** was appointed as the new Prime Minister (**PM**) of **Mali** by the ruling junta.

- He succeeded **Choguel Kokalla Maiga**, who served as the PM of Mali since 2021. He was dismissed by the junta for his criticism of the military regime.
- Prior to the appointment, Abdoulaye Maiga served as minister of territorial administration, government spokesman and Deputy Prime Minister (**DY PM**).
- Abdoulaye Maiga, a specialist in international affairs and good governance represented Mali at the United Nations General Assembly (**UNGA**) in New York, the United States of America (USA) and participated in the United Nations (**UN**) climate conference **COP29** in Azerbaijan.
- He briefly served as PM of Mali in 2022, when Choguel Maïga was hospitalised.

30. Who has recently (in November '24) took over as the President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for 2024-25?

- 1) Harsha Vardhan Agarwal
- 2) Sanjiv Mehta
- 3) Subhrakant Panda
- 4) Anish Shahat
- 5) Vijay Shankar

Answer- 1) **Harsha Vardhan Agarwal**

Explanation:

On November 21 2024, **Harsha Vardhan Agarwal**, Vice Chairman and Managing Director (MD) of Emami Group Limited, took over as the President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (**FICCI**) for 2024-25, during the FICCI's 97th Annual Convention held in New Delhi (Delhi).

- Prior to this, he served as the senior vice president of FICCI.

- He succeeds **Anish Shahat**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Managing Director (MD) of the Mahindra Group & Mahindra Limited(M&M).
- He is a member of the Young Presidents' Organisation and also a member of the Executive Committee of Indian Chamber of Commerce.
- In 2016, he was awarded as one of India's "**Hottest Young Business Leaders**" in the prestigious 'FORTY UNDER 40' list by the Economic Times(ET) & Spencer Stuart.
- **Anant Goenka**, Vice Chairman of Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Rama Prasad Goenka (RPG) Group has been elevated to Senior Vice President from the position of Vice President.
- **Vijay Shankar**, Chairman of Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN) based Sanmar Group (Chennai) also appointed as the Vice President of **FICCI**.

31. Who has been recently (in November '24) appointed as the new chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC)?

- 1) Justice BR Gavai
- 2) Justice Sanjiv Khanna
- 3) Justice Surya Kant
- 4) Justice Dipankar Datta
- 5) Justice Dy Chandrachud

Answer- **3) Justice Surya Kant**

Explanation:

In November 2024, **Justice Surya Kant** was appointed as the new chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (**SCLSC**) by the Chief Justice of India (**CJI**) Sanjiv Khanna, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3A of the Legal Services Authority(LSA) Act, 1987.

- He replaced **BR Gavai** who has been appointed as Executive Chairperson of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).
- Justice Surya Kant served as the Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh (**HP**) High Court in 2018 and was elevated as an apex court judge in 2019.
- The Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (**SCLSC**) plays a crucial role in ensuring access to justice for those who might face financial and social barriers in accessing the highest court of the land.

32. Which Indian actor has been recently (in November '24) appointed as Brand Ambassador and Tourism Advisor for Thailand?

- 1) Sonu Sood
- 2) Rajinikanth
- 3) Salman Khan
- 4) Ranveer Singh
- 5) Shah Rukh Khan

Answer- **1) Sonu Sood**

Explanation:

Sonu Sood, an Indian actor and philanthropist, has been appointed as **Brand Ambassador** and Tourism Advisor for **Thailand**, aiming to promote tourism between India and Thailand.

- The Ministry of Tourism and Sports of Thailand has appointed him to provide strategic guidance and advice on marketing and public relations to promote Thailand as a prime tourist destination in India.

- Sonu Sood has now joined a list of celebrities who represent countries worldwide, including Shah Rukh Khan, the Brand Ambassador for Dubai (United Arab Emirates(UAE) and Ranveer Singh, who represents Switzerland.
- He helped thousands of stranded migrant workers return home during the pandemic, earning him the title of “**Messiah of Migrants.**”

33. Who has been recently (in November ‘24) appointed as the Prime Minister (PM) of Lithuania?

- 1) Najib Mikati
- 2) Gintautas Paluckas
- 3) Ingrida Šimonytė
- 4) Evika Siliņa
- 5) Vilija Blinkevičiute

Answer- **2) Gintautas Paluckas**

Explanation:

On November 21 2024, **Gintautas Paluckas**, a computer scientist and Social Democrat was appointed as the Prime Minister (**PM**) of Lithuania (Baltic country) by the President **Gitanas Nausėda**. He was elected by the Seimas, parliament of Lithuania with 88 Member of Parliament (MPs) support out of 128MPs.

- Gintautas Paluckas, deputy leader of the Lithuanian Social Democrats Party (LSDP), will replace Incumbent PM **Ingrida Šimonytė** from the conservative Fatherland Union.
- He steps into the position after **Vilija Blinkevičiute**, leader of the LSDP, kept her seat in the European Parliament (EP) and refused both the premiership and a seat in the Seimas.
- In 2003, he became a member of the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party (**LSDP**) and his career began with a position as Chief Specialist at Lithuania’s social insurance institution, Sodra, from 2003 to 2005.

34. Which Indian actor has been recently (in November ‘24) appointed as the Brand Ambassador for Madhya Pradesh’s (MP) tourism?

- 1) Arjun Rampal
- 2) Kartik Aaryan
- 3) Pankaj Tripathi
- 4) Mukesh Tiwari
- 5) Farhan Khan

Answer- **3) Pankaj Tripathi**

Explanation:

In November 2024, Bollywood actor **Pankaj Tripathi** was appointed as the Brand Ambassador for Madhya Pradesh’s (**MP**) **tourism**, aiming to promote the state’s diverse attractions.

- The MP State Tourism Development Corporation Limited (MPSTDC) has launched its first television (TV) commercial featuring Tripathi, titled “Madhya Pradesh (MP) that truly cast its charm this time”.
- As the face of MP Tourism, he will promote the region’s iconic landmarks, including the ancient temples of Khajuraho, the grand forts of Gwalior, and the lush jungles of Kanha and Bandhavgarh and inviting adventurers to explore its rich heritage and natural wonders.

35. Who has recently (in November '24) took over as the Secretary General(SG) of the World Agriculture Forum (WAF)?

- 1) Dr Stanford Blade
- 2) Sanjay Agarwal
- 3) Himanshu Pathak
- 4) Rudy Rabbinge
- 5) Dr Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes

Answer- **5) Dr Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes**

Explanation:

Dr Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes, the outgoing Director General (DG) of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), headquartered in Hyderabad, Telangana, took over as the Secretary General(SG) of the World Agriculture Forum (WAF).

- ICRISAT has appointed Dr Himanshu Pathak, Secretary of Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), as the DG-designate of ICRISAT.
- Dr. Pathak will take over as DG of ICRISAT in 2025. Until then Stanford Blade, the Deputy DG (Research) at ICRISAT, will serve as the Interim DG.

36. Who has been recently (in November '24) elected as the 43rd President of Uruguay?

- 1) Yamandú Ramón Antonio Orsi Martínez
- 2) José Mujica
- 3) Luis Lacalle Pou
- 4) Alvaro Delgado
- 5) Carolina Cosse

Answer- **1) Yamandú Ramón Antonio Orsi Martínez**

Explanation:

On November 24 2024, **Yamandú Ramón Antonio Orsi Martínez**, a leftist opposition candidate, was elected as the **43rd** President of Uruguay after he won the presidential election, bringing a shift in leadership to the South American (SA) nation. He secured 50.2% of the vote, defeating his opponent **Alvaro Delgado**, who received 45.6%.

- Yamandú Orsi will assume office as the new President on **March 1, 2025** for a period of 5 years. He will replace incumbent President of Uruguay, Luis Lacalle Pou.
- **Carolina Cosse** is elected as the vice president of Uruguay. She is set to become the third consecutive woman vice president for the country.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1. Who among the following were recently (in October' 24) awarded the 'Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought 2024 (Sakharov Prize)' by the European Parliament along with Edmundo González Urrutia?

- 1) Emmanuel Macron
- 2) Prahlad Chandra Agrawal
- 3) María Corina Machado Parisca
- 4) Anil Bhardwaj
- 5) Nicolás Maduro

Answer- 3) **María Corina Machado Parisca**

Explanation:

On 24th October 2024, Roberta Metsola, President of European Parliament named **María Corina Machado Parisca**, the leader of the democratic forces in Venezuela, and **Edmundo González Urrutia**, Venezuelan former presidential candidate, as the winners of 'Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought 2024 (**Sakharov Prize**)', the highest tribute paid by the European Union (EU) to human rights work.

- This award is given in recognition of their efforts to restore democracy and freedom in Venezuela.
- The official award ceremony for the Sakharov Prize 2024 will be held on 18th December, 2024 in Strasbourg, France, during the European Parliament's plenary session.
- María Corina was elected as the Venezuelan opposition's presidential candidate in 2023 under the "Unity Democratic Platform(PUD)". However, she was disqualified from the elections by the regime-controlled National Electoral Council (NEC).
- Edmundo González Urrutia is a Venezuelan politician, diplomat, international analyst, and writer. He was the presidential candidate of the Unitary Platform political alliance for the 2024 Venezuelan presidential election.
- The award was established in **1988** and is awarded annually by the European Parliament to individuals or organisations defending human rights and democracy. [Click here to read more.](#)

2. Who has been recently (in October 2024) selected to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame - Class of 2025?

- 1) Sharath Kamal Achanta
- 2) Jannik Sinner
- 3) Tasnim Mir
- 4) Maria Sharapova
- 5) Leander Paes

Answer- 4) **Maria Sharapova**

Explanation:

Russian tennis player **Maria Sharapova** and American doubles tennis players **Bob Bryan** and **Mike Bryan** has been selected to be inducted into the **International Tennis Hall of Fame – Class of 2025**

- They will be officially inducted into the Hall of Fame during the Induction Celebration in Newport, Rhode Island, the United States of America (USA) from 21st to 23rd August 2025.
- Sharapova and the Bryans will join an elite group of 267 inductees from 28 countries.
- Maria Sharapova won five Grand Slam singles titles during her career and she is one of the 10 Women players who have achieved the "Career Grand Slam" in Singles.
- Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan, the identical twin brothers popularly known as the Bryan Brothers, have won a record 119 titles together, including 16 Grand Slams, 39 Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Masters 1000s, 1,109 match wins and the ATP Finals title four times.

3. Who has recently (in October '24) named the Male International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Athlete of the Year 2024 at the ISSF World Cup Final Opening Ceremony in New Delhi, India?

- 1) Nar Singh
- 2) Parattu Raveendran Sreejesh
- 3) Lallianzuala Chhangte
- 4) Liu Yukun
- 5) Swapnil Kusale

Answer- **4) Liu Yukun**

Explanation:

Olympic pistol champion **Yang Ji-in** from South Korea and Olympic gold medalist in rifle **Liu Yukun** from China were named the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Athletes of the Year 2024** at the ISSF World Cup Final Opening Ceremony on 14th October 2024 held at **Dr Karni Singh Range Tughlakabad** in **New Delhi**, India.

- **Yang Ji-in** from South Korea has been named the **female ISSF Athlete of the year 2024**.
- **Liu Yukun** from China has been named the **male ISSF Athlete of the year 2024**.
- Yang is a 21-year-old South Korean sport shooter who has won a **gold** medal in the women's 25m pistol at the **Paris 2024 Olympic Games**, held in France.
- Liu Yukun is a **Chinese** sport shooter and Olympic champion. He made an Olympic **record** with a score of **594** in qualification and won a **gold** medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final at **Paris Olympics 2024** with a score of 463.6

4. Which award will be replaced by the Arjuna Award (Lifetime) with effect from 2024?

- 1) Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna
- 2) Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar
- 3) Dronacharya Lifetime Award
- 4) Dhyan Chand Lifetime Award
- 5) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy

Answer- **4) Dhyan Chand Lifetime Award**

Explanation:

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (**MoYAS**) announced the discontinuation of the **Dhyan Chand Award for lifetime achievement** and introduction of the **Arjuna Award (Lifetime)** with effect from **2024**.

- Arjuna Award (Lifetime) has been introduced in place of Dhyan Chand Award to rationalise the various sporting honours of India.
- The Arjuna Award (Lifetime) will be given for lifetime contribution to sports development.
- The ministry also announced that to recognize the Khelo India scheme, the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (**MAKA) Trophy** will be given to the University for Overall Top Performance in Khelo India University Games.
- Dhyan Chand Lifetime award, instituted in 2002, is annually presented to individuals excelling in disciplines that are a part of the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games and others.
- The award consists of a statue of Dhyan Chand, a certificate, a ceremonial dress and a cash prize of **10 lakh rupees**.