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CLASSES

Current Affairs

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English

Part-3



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5. Who has been recently (in October '24) awarded the Harry Messel Award for Conservation Leadership by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE)?

- 1) MK Ranjitsinh
- 2) Bibhab Talukdar
- 3) Medha Patkar
- 4) Billy Arjan Singh
- 5) Marimuthu Yoganathan

Answer- 2) Bibhab Talukdar

Explanation:

Bibhab Talukdar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Aranyak, has been awarded the **Harry Messel Award for Conservation Leadership** by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

- This recognition highlights his significant contributions to wildlife conservation and his leadership in various initiatives aimed at protecting biodiversity in India.
- The award was presented to him during the **5th IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Leaders' Meeting** in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- Bibhab Talukdar, a prominent conservationist from Assam and he has led numerous conservation projects, especially in Northeast India, since 1991.
- He is the **founder Secretary General** and CEO of Aaranyak, a research-driven organisation based in Guwahati, Assam.

6. Who has recently (in October '24) been awarded the 'Honorary Officer of the Order of Fiji' by the Republic of Fiji?

- 1) Ben Ryan
- 2) Vijay Singh
- 3) Droupadi Murmu
- 4) Narendra Modi
- 5) Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

Answer- 5) Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

Explanation:

The Republic of Fiji (South Pacific nation) has conferred its highest civilian award, the '**Honorary Officer of the Order of Fiji**', on **Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**, the renowned spiritual leader, humanitarian and founder of The Art of Living Foundation.

- The award was presented by Fiji's President, **Ratu Wiliame M. Katonivere**, in recognition of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's dedication to promoting peace and unity across the world.
- He is the sixth person to receive this prestigious award worldwide.
- He received India's Second Highest Civilian Award in 2016.
- He was also the recipient of Colombia's highest civilian award, "Orden de la Democracia Simón Bolívar" and Highest civilian award "National Order of Mérito de Comuneros", Paraguay.

7. Who has recently (in October '24) won the 2024 Men's Ballon d'Or or Golden Ball Award in Paris, France?

- 1) Rodrigo Hernández Cascante
- 2) Lionel Messi
- 3) Cristiano Ronaldo

- 4) Harry Edward Kane
- 5) Kylian Mbappé Lottin

Answer- **1) Rodrigo Hernández Cascante**

Explanation:

The 68th edition of the **Ballon D'Or (2024)** award ceremony took place on 28th October 2024 at the Théâtre du Châtelet, in Paris, France.

- Manchester City and Spain's midfielder **Rodrigo Hernández Cascante** (also known as Rodri) has won the 2024 Men's Ballon d'Or or Golden Ball Award.
- Barcelona FC and Spain midfielder **Aitana Bonmatí Conca** won the Women's Ballon d'Or or Ballon d'Or Féminin Award for the second year in a row. She previously won the award in 2023.
- Rodrigo earned the award by playing an integral role for his club – Manchester City and Spain in the 2023/24 season.
- He helped his club to win a record 4th successive English Premier League title before being named The Union of European Football Associations (**UEFA**) **EURO 2024 Player of the Tournament** for his impressive performances as Spain triumphed in Germany.
- The Ballon d'Or has been annually presented by the French magazine "France Football" since 1956.
- This is the most prestigious award presented to a footballer to recognise outstanding achievements and exceptional talent. [Click here to read more.](#)

8. Who has been recently (in October '24) named as Asia's Men's International Player of the Year 2023 by Asian Football Confederation (AFC) during 28th edition of AFC Annual Award ceremony in Seoul, South Korea?

- 1) Mehdi Taremi
- 2) Son Heung-min
- 3) Musa Al-Taamari
- 4) Seol Young-woo
- 5) Akram Afif

Answer- **2) Son Heung-min**

Explanation:

On 29th October 2024, Tottenham Hotspur Football Club Forward(attacker) and South Korean **Son Heung-min** (32 year-old) was named as **Asia's International Player of the Year** for the fourth time by Asian Football Confederation (AFC) during **28th edition of AFC Annual Award** ceremony held at the iconic Grand Peace Palace at Kyung Hee University in Seoul, South Korea.

- Earlier, he won this honour in 2015, 2017 and 2019.
- Also, Matilda's fullback **Ellie Carpenter**, a key player for Australia's national women's football team, who plays for French club Lyon, won the inaugural Asian International Women's Player of the Year Award.
- Son, who captains both Tottenham F.C and South Korea, is the most successful Asian player in the Premier League, scoring 123 goals and assisting 64 more since joining Tottenham in 2015.
- He became the **6th** player to reach the 150-goal mark for the Tottenham club in September 2023 and scored his **200th** goal across all European competitions in October 2023.
- The **28th** edition of AFC Annual Award and awards were presented in **21 categories**.

- On October 29, 2024, the All India Football Federation (**AIFF**) was honoured with the Asian Football Confederation (**AFC**) **President's Recognition Award for Grassroots Football (Silver)** at the AFC Annual Awards 2023 in Seoul, South Korea. [Click here to read more.](#)

9. Which organisation has recently (in October '24) been awarded the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President's Recognition Award for Grassroots Football (Silver) at the AFC Annual Awards 2023 in Seoul, South Korea?

- 1) Football Australia
- 2) Lebanese Football Association
- 3) All India Football Federation
- 4) Vietnam Football Federation
- 5) Uzbekistan Football Association

Answer- **3) All India Football Federation**

Explanation:

On October 29, 2024, the All India Football Federation (**AIFF**) was honoured with the Asian Football Confederation (**AFC**) **President's Recognition Award for Grassroots Football (Silver)** at the AFC Annual Awards 2023 in Seoul, South Korea.

- AFC President Recognition Awards for Grassroots Football '**Gold**' won by Football Australia for the 3rd time (2016, 2022 & 2023).
- AFC President Recognition Awards for Grassroots Football '**Bronze**' won by the Vietnam Football Federation (VFF) for the second time (2015 & 2023).

10. Who has recently (in October '24) received the "Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award" in the United Kingdom?

- 1) Aamir Khan
- 2) Darasing Khurana
- 3) Virat Kohli
- 4) Rajkumar Hirani
- 5) Gul Panag

Answer- **2) Darasing Khurana**

Explanation:

Indian Actor and philanthropist **Darasing Khurana** has received the "**Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award**" for his work towards raising awareness around mental health issues as the 'Commonwealth Year of Youth Champion' at the University of Oxford's Ashmolean Museum in the United Kingdom (UK).

- **Darasing Khurana** recognised for his significant contributions to the field of arts and his unwavering commitment to social causes.
- He served as the keynote speaker at the Global Mental Health Summit 2024 held at the Oxford Union at the University of Oxford, the UK.
- In 2024, he was also honoured with the "International Personality of the Year 2024" award by AsiaOne magazine.

11. Who has topped the 11th edition of the Hurun India Philanthropy list recently (in November '24) released by the EdelGive Foundation in partnership with Hurun India?

- 1) Mukesh Ambani
- 2) Shiv Nadar
- 3) Nandan Nilekani
- 4) Krishna Chivukula
- 5) Gautam Adani

Answer- **2) Shiv Nadar**

Explanation:

The **11th** edition of the **Hurun India Philanthropy list** has been released by the EdelGive Foundation in partnership with Hurun India on 7th November 2024 in which **Shiv Nadar** (79) and his family have retained the title of **India's Most Generous** for the **third** time in five years as he donated **Rs 2,153 crore** during the Financial Year (FY) 2023-24.

- As per the report, **Shiv Nadar**, founder-chairman of HCL Technologies, donated **Rs 5.9 crore** every day and his donation is primarily focused on education, uplifting communities and technology-driven initiatives.
- The **2nd** spot on the list was occupied by Chairman and Managing director(CMD) of Reliance Industries Limited, **Mukesh Ambani** who donated **Rs 407 crore**.
- The **3rd** spot was secured by the **Bajaj family** who climbed three spots this year with a donation of **Rs 352 crore**, marking a **33%** increase from the previous year.
- The EdelGive-Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024 shows India's remarkable givers and their growing importance in India as philanthropists towards nation-building.
- **Mumbai** remained the city with the highest concentration of philanthropists in the list, accounting for 30% of the total, followed by **New Delhi** at 19%, and **Bengaluru** at 9%.
- Zerodha co-founder **Nikhil Kamath** has been listed as one of the youngest philanthropists in the EdelGive-Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024 at **38** years.
- **Rohini Nilekani** (69),co-founder and director of **EkStep**, has been named as India's most generous woman with a personal donation of **Rs.154 crores** and led the list of Indian women philanthropists.[Click here to read more.](#)

12. Who has recently (in November '24) won the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Men's Player of the Year in Muscat, Oman?

- 1) PR Sreejesh
- 2) Dayaan Cassiem
- 3) Sufyan Khan
- 4) Harmanpreet Singh
- 5) Gurinder Singh

Answer- **4) Harmanpreet Singh**

Explanation:

On 8th November 2024, Indian men's hockey team captain **Harmanpreet Singh** and former Goalkeeper of Indian hockey team Parattu Raveendran (**PR**) **Sreejesh** have won the International Hockey Federation (**FIH**) Men's Player of the Year and Men's Goalkeeper of the Year award, respectively during the ceremony held at the **49th** FIH Statutory Congress held in Muscat, Oman.

- Harmanpreet Singh had previously won the FIH Men's Player of the Year award in 2020-21 and 2021-22.

- He won this title by securing **63.84%** of the votes. **Joop de Mol** (the Netherlands) finished in 2nd position with 16.10% of the total vote share.
- The winners were determined through a voting process involving an expert panel, national hockey associations, fans and media.
- Harmanpreet Singh played an important role in winning the Indian Men's Hockey team 2nd consecutive bronze medal at 2024 Paris Olympic Games, with 10 goals from 8 matches.
- He has been honoured with various national sports awards like: the Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the Year (2021), **Arjuna Award (2021)**, Hockey India Pargat Singh Award for Defender of the Year (2019, 2022 and 2023). [Click here to read more.](#)

13. Which word is selected as the Collins Word of the Year for 2024 of Collins Dictionary published by HarperCollins in Glasgow (Scotland)?

- 1) Brat
- 2) Permacrisis
- 3) Brainrot
- 4) Strollout
- 5) Delulu

Answer- **1) Brat**

Explanation:

Collins Dictionary, a printed and online dictionary published by HarperCollins in Glasgow(Scotland), has named "**Brat**", redefined by British singer Charli XCX, as the Collins Word of the Year for 2024.

- Originally known as a term for a misbehaving child, "brat" has transformed into a symbol of **confidence, independence, and hedonism.**
- Collins Dictionary noted that "brat" has become more than a word. It's a cultural phenomenon with an impact that resonates across music, politics, and social identity.
- This transformation began with Charli XCX's hit sixth album *Brat*, which became a global sensation and inspired the phrase "brat summer", a style and lifestyle embraced by fans.
- 2024 Shortlisted Words: Brainrot, Era, Looksmaxxing, Rawdogging, Anti-Tourism, Delulu, Romantasy, Supermajority and Yapping.

14. Which city has recently (in November '24) became the first Indian city to win the Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities, also known as the Shanghai Award?

- 1) Agadir, Morocco
- 2) Melbourne, Australia
- 3) Doha, Qatar
- 4) Iztapalapa, Mexico
- 5) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Answer- **5) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**

Explanation:

The **Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation** in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, has become the **first Indian city** to win the Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities, also known as the Shanghai Award.

- The award ceremony was held on 2nd November 2024, in Alexandria, Egypt, coinciding with the observance of **World Cities Day 2024.**

- The award was received by Thiruvananthapuram's Mayor, **Arya Rajendran**, along with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Ltd., **Rahul Sharma**.
- 5 global cities were selected for the award this year, with **Agadir** (Morocco), **Melbourne** (Australia), **Doha** (Qatar), and **Iztapalapa** (Mexico) also being recognized alongside Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Installation of **17,000 KW** (KiloWatt) of solar panels and 2,000 solar street lights.
- Introduction of 115 electric buses and 100 electric autos, delivery of 100 e-autos to unemployed youths, and 35 e-scooters for the corporation's use.

15. Which bank has recently (in October '24) recognised as the Best Bank in India for 2024 by the United States of America (USA) based Global Finance Magazine?

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

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

Explanation:

The Global Finance Magazine of the United States of America (USA) has recognised the State Bank of India (SBI) as the **Best Bank in India for 2024 during** its 31st Annual Best Bank Awards event held on the sidelines of Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in Washington, the USA.

- CS Setty, Chairman of SBI, received the award in recognition of the bank's commitment to providing exceptional services and promoting financial inclusion nationwide by winning the trust of its customers.
- The Global Finance's Best Bank Awards has the standard for evaluating the world's financial institutions.

16. Who has been recently (in November '24) selected to be awarded with the first Jadav Payeng International Award, launched by the Jyoti-Protap Education Trust in Jorhat district, Assam?

- 1) Protap Saikia
- 2) Shiv Nadar
- 3) M Karunakar Reddy
- 4) Rajendra Singh
- 5) Jadav Payeng

Answer- **3) M Karunakar Reddy**

Explanation:

Telangana-based environmentalist **M Karunakar Reddy** has been selected to be awarded with the **first Jadav Payeng International Award**, launched by the **Jyoti-Protap Education Trust** in Jorhat district, Assam.

- M Karunakar Reddy is known as the **Water Man and Green Man of India** will be awarded for his extraordinary efforts towards conserving environment and climate action.
- He is also known as the **Crisis Man of India** for his efforts to provide disaster relief and management in some of the disaster-prone areas affected by climate change.

- The award will be presented to Reddy in **January 2025**, at the ceremony that will be held at Jyoti Protap Bidyalay in Teok, Jorhat.
- The Jadav Payeng International Award consists of a cash prize of **Rs 2 lakh**, a citation, and various other mementos.
- Karunakar Reddy is a social entrepreneur and philanthropist who has made significant contributions across the rural and urban landscape.
- He has delivered various to combat environmental challenges including the water crisis, climate change, biodiversity loss and human impacts.

17. Which book has recently (in November '24) won the 2024 Booker Prize, became the first book set in space to win the award?

- 1) James
- 2) Creation Lake
- 3) Held
- 4) The Safekeep
- 5) Orbital

Answer: **5) Orbital**

Explanation:

British author **Samantha Harvey** won the **2024 Booker Prize** award for her fiction novel "**Orbital**" which has become the first book set in space to win the prize. The winner was announced by Chair of the 2024 judges, Edmund de Waal, at a ceremony held at Old Billingsgate in London, the United Kingdom(**UK**).

- Harvey becomes the **1st woman** to win the award since 2019. Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo shared the award in 2019.
- Samantha Harvey was awarded with **50,000 pound (USD 64,000)** and a trophy, which was presented to her by Paul Lynch, winner of the Booker Prize 2023.

i.Orbital is the 2nd-shortest novel ever to win the Booker Prize.

ii.This science fiction novel has been published by Jonathan Cape in the United Kingdom (UK) and by Grove Atlantic in the United States of America (USA).

iii.It is the **second-shortest** book with **136** pages to win the prize, and covers the briefest time frame of just 24 hours for any book on the shortlist.

iv.This year's shortlist had **five** women out of **6** shortlists – the largest number of women represented in its **55**-year history.

v.2024 shortlist included, James – Percival Everett (US), Creation Lake – Rachel Kushner (US), Held – Anne Michaels (Canada), The Safekeep – Yael van der Wouden (Netherlands), Stone Yard Devotion – Charlotte Wood (Australia).

18. Who became the 1st Indian to win the "Miss Grand International (MGI) 2024" at MGI hall in Bangkok, Thailand?

- 1) Shivangi Desai
- 2) Rajashree Dowarah
- 3) Irene Dkhar
- 4) Rachel Gupta
- 5) Tanvi Raksam Marak

Answer: **4) Rachel Gupta**

Explanation:

Rachel Gupta from Jalandhar(Punjab) won the 12th edition of “**Miss Grand International (MGI) 2024**” standing out among contestants from more than 70 countries held at MGI hall in Bangkok (Thailand). She became the **1st Indian** and **3rd Asian** to be crowned MGI.

- **Thae Su Nyein**, Miss Grand Myanmar 2023, was crowned as the second runner-up at MGI 2024.
- She won the Miss Grand India title in August 2024, which paved the way for her to compete for the MGI title.

i.In addition to winning the main title, she also won the Grand Pageants Choice Award 2024. She will now serve as the global ambassador for MGI, promoting peace and stability worldwide.

ii.With this win, she shares the record for the most global pageant crowns won by an Indian, along with former Miss Universe Lara Dutta.

iii.In 2022, she won the title of “**Miss Super Talent of the World**” at the 15th edition of the pageant held in Paris, France.

19. Who has recently (in November ‘24) secured the top position in the “Fortune 100 Most Powerful People (MPP) in Business in 2024” released by Fortune Magazine?

- 1) Elon Musk
- 2) Mukesh Ambani
- 3) Jensen Huang
- 4) Satya Nadella
- 5) Mark Zuckerberg

Answer- **1) Elon Musk**

Explanation:

On 14th November 2024, **Fortune**, an American global business magazine, released the inaugural list of the “**Fortune 100 Most Powerful People (MPP) in Business in 2024**”. **Elon Musk**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Tesla** and Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (**SpaceX**), has secured the top position in the list.

- He is followed by **Jensen Huang**, CEO of Nvidia Corporation and **Satya Nadella**, CEO of Microsoft Corporation ranked at **2nd** and **3rd** positions, respectively, showcasing their transformative influence in technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- **Mukesh Ambani**, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Reliance Industries Limited (**RIL**) who ranked **12th** spot is the only Indian to be featured on the list. This shows his strong presence in telecommunications and energy sectors.
- The list has featured the world’s most influential leaders, ranging in age from their **30s to 90s**, have shaped the global business landscape, representing **40** industries across the world.
- The list also featured some of the prominent business leaders like: Warren Buffet (**4th**), chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway Inc., Jamie Dimon (**5th**), Chairman and CEO of JP Morgan Chase; and Tim Cook (**6th**), CEO of Apple Inc.
- 2024 MPP in Business list includes **6 Indian**-origin individuals, of which **4** are CEOs of leading tech giants, while one leads a makeup brand.
- **Satya Nadella** has topped among the Indian-origin individuals featured on the list, followed by **Sundar Pichai**, CEO of Alphabet Inc. is ranked at **10th** position. [Click here to read more.](#)

20. Which organisation has recently (in November '24) announced the names of 55 villages as Best Tourism Villages for 2024?

- 1) World Tourism Cities Federation
- 2) United Nations World Tourism Organisation
- 3) World Travel and Tourism Council
- 4) Pacific Asia Travel Association
- 5) Caribbean Tourism Organization

Answer- 2) United Nations World Tourism Organisation

Explanation:

On 15th November 2024, United Nations (UN) World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) announced the names of 55 villages including Caviahue-Copahue (Argentina), Sibayo (Peru), Xito (China), Tra Que Vegetable Village (Vietnam), among others were recognised as **Best Tourism Villages for 2024**.

- This marks the **4th** edition of the Best Tourism Villages initiative which highlights the role of rural destinations in promoting sustainable tourism, preserving cultural heritage and contributing to community development.
- These villages were selected from **over 260 applications** from more than **60** UN Tourism Member states.
- This initiative was launched by UNWTO in **2021**, aimed to promote tourism's role in rural areas, preserving landscapes, cultural diversity, local values and culinary traditions.
- It was launched as part of the **UN Tourism for Rural Development Programme**.
- Among 55 Best Tourism Villages for 2024, **7** villages were selected from the BTV Upgrade Programme.
- Also, **20** villages were selected to participate in the Upgrade Programme for the year 2024. From India, **Dhudmaras** village is selected.
- Dhudmaras village located in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh is the only Indian village featured in BTV Upgrade Programme list. [Click here to read more.](#)

21. Which organisation has recently (in November '24) ranked top and received the award for their exceptional performance during the National Learning Week (NLW)?

- 1) National Aluminium Company Limited
- 2) Hindustan Copper Limited
- 3) Khanij Bidesh India Limited
- 4) Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited
- 5) Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre

Answer- 4) Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited

Explanation:

Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL), and Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (JNARDDC) under the Ministry of Mines (MoM) were honoured for their exceptional performance during the [National Learning Week \(NLW\)](#), a 9 day nationwide initiative promoting learning and development, held from 19th to 27th October 2024.

- The awards were presented by Union Minister of State (MoS) **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (MoPP&P)
- The award ceremony was held by Capacity Building Commission (CBC) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi.

- HCL, MECL and JNARDDC each one award competing all the central government organizations throughout India in achieving “Minimum 4-hour Learning Goal”, a goal set by CBC wherein each employee of any individual organization had to complete at least of 4 hours of Integrated Government Online training (iGOT) courses during NLW.

Rank	Organisation	Organisation’s Category
1st	MECL, Nagpur(Maharashtra)	S
2nd	JNARDDC, Nagpur	XS
3rd	HCL, Kolkata(West Bengal, WB)	M

22. Which airport has recently (in November ‘24) achieved Airport Excellence Awards during the Saudi Airport Exhibition 2024?

- 1) Navi Mumbai International Airport Private Limited, Maharashtra
- 2) GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited, Telangana
- 3) Maharishi Valmiki International Airport Limited, Uttar Pradesh
- 4) Cochin International Airport Limited, Kerala
- 5) Manohar International Airport, Goa

Answer- 2) GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited, Telangana

Explanation:

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (**GHIAL**) in Hyderabad, Telangana achieved international recognition for its innovative advancements in aviation at the **Airport Excellence Awards** during the Saudi Airport Exhibition 2024.

- The awards ceremony, held on 12th November 2024, at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center (**RICEC**) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, honoured GHIAL for its exceptional digital solutions and passenger-centric technologies.
- GHIAL’s **Digital Twin** secured top honours in the *Innovation & Technology* and *Facility Management* categories, while its **Smart Shopping Trolley** was recognized as the runner-up in the *Airport Revenue Management* category.
- The **Digital Twin**, India’s first virtual replica of an airport, creates a synchronized real-time digital representation of Hyderabad based Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA).
- GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) was established in 2002 under the name Hyderabad International Airport Limited, the company was later rebranded as GHIAL.

23. Who has been recently (in November ‘24) crowned Miss Universe 2024 at the 73rd edition of Miss Universe 2024 in Mexico City, Mexico?

- 1) Sheynnis Palacios
- 2) Rhea Singha
- 3) Chidimma Adetshina
- 4) Maria Fernanda Beltran
- 5) Maria Victoria Kjær Theilvig

Answer - 5) Maria Victoria Kjær Theilvig

Explanation:

Maria Victoria Kjær Theilvig (21) from **Denmark** has been crowned Miss Universe 2024 at the **73rd** edition of Miss Universe 2024 pageant held at the Arena in Mexico City, Mexico. This marks Denmark's **first-ever victory** in the global beauty pageant. The edition witnessed the participation of 125 contestants.

- She was crowned by Nicaragua's **Sheynnis Palacios, Miss Universe 2023**.
- Miss Nigeria, Chidimma Adetshina, secured the 2nd spot as 1st Runner-up, while Miss Mexico, Maria Fernanda Beltran, finished in 3rd place as 2nd Runner-up.
- India was represented by **Rhea Singha** from **Gujarat**, who made it to the top 30 finalists.
- Victoria Kjær Theilvig has previously finished as 2nd runner-up at Miss Denmark 2021, went on to win Miss Denmark 2024 in September 2024, and also competed in the Miss Grand International 2022 pageant, finishing in the top 20. She was also crowned Miss Grand Denmark 2022.
- The event was hosted by **Mario Lopez**, Miss Universe 2012 Olivia Culpo, Zuri Hall, and Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray.

24. Who were recently (in November '24) honoured with 6th International Olympic Committee (IOC) Coaches Lifetime Achievement Awards in Lausanne, Switzerland?

- 1) Jane Figueiredo and Vitaliy Petrov
- 2) Myriam Fox-Jerusalmi and Malcolm Brown
- 3) Ulla Koch and Malcolm Arnold
- 4) Laura Martinel and Taesuk Chang
- 5) Tom Daley and Matty Lee

Answer- **1) Jane Figueiredo and Vitaliy Petrov**

Explanation:

In November 18 2024, Diving coach **Jane Figueiredo** (Zimbabwe/Portugal) and Pole vault coach **Vitaliy Petrov** (Ukraine) were honoured with **6th International Olympic Committee (IOC) Coaches Lifetime Achievement Awards** in the presence of IOC President Thomas Bach at Olympic House in Lausanne, Switzerland.

- They have been recognised for their long-standing dedication to their respective sports and the athletes they coach.
- The IOC Coaches Lifetime Achievement Awards 2023 winners are **Laura Martinel** (Argentina, judo) and **Taesuk Chang** (Republic of Korea, fencing).
- The IOC **Coaches Lifetime Achievement Awards** was launched in 2017.
- Jane Figueiredo coached **7 Olympic medallists** during her career, including British duo Tom Daley and Matty Lee.
- Vitaliy Petrov led the **1st athlete** from the Philippines, Ernest John Obiena, to qualify for the Olympic Games in pole vaulting.

25. In November 2024, 24 coastal villages from which state were officially recognized as 'Tsunami Ready' by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO?

- 1) West Bengal
- 2) Andhra Pradesh
- 3) Tamil Nadu
- 4) Kerala

5) Odisha

Answer- **5) Odisha**

Explanation:

24 coastal villages from 6 districts of **Odisha** have been officially recognised as '**Tsunami Ready**' by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (**IOC**) of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**).

- This Tsunami Ready Recognition Certificates was presented during the **2nd Global Tsunami Symposium** in Indonesia on 11th November 2024.
- These villages are located in **Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri and Ganjam districts**.
- These 24 coastal villages were recognised by the **National Tsunami Ready Recognition Board**.
- The members of the board include scientists of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services and officers of National Disaster Management Authority (**NDMA**).
- Additionally, Tsunami Ready Recognition Certificates were renewed for 2 villages – **Noliasahi** in Jagatsinghpur district and **Venkatraipur** in Ganjam district. They were recognised as Tsunami Ready in 2020.
- Now Odisha has **381** Tsunami-prone coastal villages and habitations. [Click here to read more.](#)

26. Who has been recently (in November '24) honored with the "Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development 2023" award along with Ali Abu Awwad?

- 1) Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
- 2) Daniel Barenboim
- 3) Angela Merkel
- 4) Manmohan Singh
- 5) Sir David Attenborough

Answer- **2) Daniel Barenboim**

Explanation:

Daniel Barenboim, a world-famous pianist and conductor and **Ali Abu Awwad**, a Palestinian peace activist were honored with the "**Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development 2023**" award on Indira Gandhi's 106th birth anniversary for their contribution towards peace and non-violence in Israel-Palestine conflict.

- The awardees were selected by a jury headed by former Chief Justice of India (**CJI**) T S Thakur.
- Daniel Barenboim was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina known as an **Israeli pianist** and conductor who was noted for his musical talent and his bold efforts to promote peace through music in the Middle East.
- Ali Abu Awwad was a prominent Palestinian peace activist who has worked in peace-building in Israel and Palestine for many years.

27. Who among the following is 'not' a nominee of the 67th Grammy Awards?

- 1) Ricky Kej
- 2) Anoushka Shankar
- 3) Radhika Vekaria

4) Chandrika Tandon

5) Tanvi Shah

Answer- **5) Tanvi Shah**

Explanation:

Indian music composer and environmentalist **Ricky Kej** and **Anoushka Shankar**, British-American sitarist and Indian musician have been nominated at the **67th Grammy Awards**. This was announced by California (United States of America, the USA) based Recording Academy.

- A three-time Grammy winner, Ricky Kej has earned his 4th nomination for his album “**Break of Dawn**” in the Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album category.
- Anoushka Shankar received a nomination in the same category for her album “**Chapter II: How Dark It Is Before Dawn**”, marking her 11th Grammy Awards nomination.
- Other nominees in the same category include “Warriors of Light” by **Radhika Vekaria** and “Triveni” by entrepreneur and musician **Chandrika Tandon**, created in collaboration with flautist Wouter Kellerman and cellist Eru Matsumoto.

28. Which company has recently (in November '24) ranked as the 'world's most sustainable aluminium company' in the S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) rankings 2024?

1) Hindalco Industries Limited

2) Manaksia Aluminium Company Limited

3) Maan Aluminium Limited

4) Hindustan Copper Limited

5) National Aluminium Company Limited

Answer- **1) Hindalco Industries Limited**

Explanation:

According to the **S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) rankings 2024**, Mumbai(Maharashtra) based **Hindalco Industries Limited**, a firm of the Aditya Birla Group, has been ranked as the 'world's most sustainable aluminium company' for the **5th** consecutive year.

- As of 30 October 2024, it attained a total score of 87 points, reflecting a 9 point increase from 2023.
- It reached the 100th percentile in nearly all areas of the three dimensions of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG).
- It cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 19.54% from the Financial Year 2011-12(FY12) baseline and is on course to run 30% of its operations on renewable energy by 2030. It recycled 85% of its operational waste in FY24, with three of its units achieving zero-waste-to-landfill certification.

29. Who has recently (in November '24) received the 2024 Pfizer Award for the book “Brown Skins, White Coats: Race Science in India, 1920–66”?

1) Hari Kunzru

2) Thomishia Booker

3) Projit Bihari Mukharji

4) Shweta Aggarwal

5) Divya Thomas

Answer- **3) Projit Bihari Mukharji**

Explanation:

Professor **Projit Bihari Mukharji** of Ashoka University, Sonipat, Haryana has received the **2024 Pfizer Award** for his book "**Brown Skins, White Coats: Race Science in India, 1920–66**" published in 2023 by University of Chicago Press.

- The award, presented by the History of Science Society (**HSS**), recognizes his significant work exploring the intersection of race, science, colonialism, and nationalism in India.
- Professor Projit Bihari Mukharji book sheds light on the entanglement of scientific practices with racial ideologies during the colonial era.
- He is also the author of other notable works, including *Nationalizing the Body* (2009) and *Doctoring Traditions* (2016).
- The Pfizer Award, established in **1958** by Pfizer, Inc., recognizes exceptional books on the history of science. The award consists of a medal and **USD 2,500**.

30. Which company has been recently (in November '24) honored with the Green World Environment Award 2024 in the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) category?

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

Answer- **1) Coal India Limited**

Explanation:

Coal India Limited (CIL), 'Maharatna' enterprise under the Ministry of Coal, Government of India, has been honored with the prestigious **Green World Environment Award 2024** in the **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** category and named Green World Ambassador.

- The award recognizes CIL's significant contributions through the **Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna**, which provides permanent curative treatment for **over 600 Thalassemia patients** via stem cell (Bone Marrow) transplants/BMT.
- CIL pioneered CSR in 2017 by funding Thalassemia treatments through BMT, offering up to **Rs 10 lakh** for patients across India.
- Coal India Limited (CIL) became the first Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) in 2017 to launch a CSR initiative specifically for the curative treatment of Thalassemia through Bone Marrow Transplants (BMT) across India.
- The award was presented by **The Green Organization**, an independent environmental group established in 1994 to promote global environmental and CSR best practices.
- **Coal India Limited (CIL)**, the state-owned coal mining corporation established in 1975, is headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal.

31. Which department has recently (in November '24) organized an Official Language Award ceremony to honor the winners of essay and poetry competitions with Rajbhasha Awards held during "Hindi Pakhwada"?

- 1) Department of Official Language
- 2) Department of School Education & Literacy
- 3) Department of Law and Order
- 4) Department of Telecommunications

5) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

Answer- **5) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries**

Explanation:

On 13th November 2024, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFA&D) organized an **Official Language Award** ceremony to honor the winners of essay and poetry competitions with Rajbhasha Awards held during "**Hindi Pakhwada**" in September 2024.

- Minister of State (MoS) **Prof. Satya Pal (SP) Singh Baghel**, MoFA&D presented certificates to the winners of the All India essay and poetry competitions.
- The event, chaired by **Alka Upadhyaya**, Secretary of DAHD, and attended by senior officials.
- MoS Prof. Satya Pal (SP) Singh Baghel has launched the second edition of the DADF's official language magazine, **Surabhi**.
- The magazine highlights the department's efforts to promote Hindi, featuring articles, poetry, and essays by employees.

32. Who has recently (in November '24) honored (in absentia) with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Global Peace Award for Minority Upliftment in Maryland, the United States of America?

- 1) Droupadi Murmu
- 2) Jagdeep Dhankhar
- 3) Jagat Prakash Nadda
- 4) Narendra Modi
- 5) Nirmala Sitharaman

Answer- **4) Narendra Modi**

Explanation:

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister (**PM**) of **India** was honored (in absentia) with the **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Global Peace Award** for Minority Upliftment. The award was jointly presented by **Washington Adventist University** and Association of Indian American Minorities (**AIAM**) to PM Modi.

- The award recognised PM Modi's efforts toward inclusive development and minority welfare.
- The award is named after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., an American, known for his contributions to the American Civil Rights Movement, and it honors his lasting legacy in promoting equality, justice, and human rights.
- On 22nd November 2024, the **AIAM**, a new Non-Governmental Organization (**NGO**), was launched at the **Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church** in Maryland, the United States of America (**USA**). This aims to unite and support minority communities within the Indian American diaspora.
- The event emphasized **PM Modi's commitment** to upholding India's **secular constitution** and promoting global recognition for the nation.

33. Who has been recently (in November '24) honoured with the Fédération Internationale de Hockey (FIH Honorary Member Award) in Muscat, Oman?

- 1) Tayyab Ikram
- 2) Rene Frank
- 3) Marijke Fleuren

4) Juan Calzado

5) Narinder Batra

Answer- **3) Marijke Fleuren**

Explanation:

Former Euro Hockey President and former Fédération Internationale de Hockey (FIH – International Hockey Federation) Executive Board (EB) Member **Marijke Fleuren** (Netherlands) was honoured with the **FIH Honorary Member Award** by FIH President **Tayyab Ikram** during the 49th FIH Statutory Congress held in Muscat, Oman.

- Marijke Fleuren, the Chair of the FIH Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, has been involved in FIH in different roles since 1999.
- She has served for 12 years as the President of the European Hockey Federation (EuroHockey) since 2011.
- During the event, FIH launched **FIH Women in Hockey Empowerment Project**, a transformative platform designed to uplift and engage female players, coaches, officials, and leaders in Hockey.

34. Which book has recently (in November '24) won the 7th Edition JCB Prize for Literature?

1) Firebird

2) Just Maria

3) The One Legged

4) Chronicle of an Hour and a Half

5) Lorenzo Searches for the Meaning of Life

Answer- **5) Lorenzo Searches for the Meaning of Life**

Explanation:

On November 23 2024, Upamanyu Chatterjee's book "**Lorenzo Searches for the Meaning of Life**", won the **7th Edition JCB** (Joseph Cyril Bamford Excavators Limited) **Prize** for Literature. The book, published by Speaking Tiger Books, follows protagonist Lorenzo Senesi's journey of self-discovery and faith.

- The award ceremony was held at JCB India's headquarters Ballabgarh, Faridabad where Upamanyu Chatterjee received a cash prize of **Rs 25 lakh**, along with a trophy titled "**Mirror Melting**", designed by Delhi artist duo Thukral and Tagra.
- In 2023, "**Firebird**" by Perumal Murugan, translated from the Malayalam by Janani Kannan won the prestigious award.
- Upamanyu Chatterjee (65) was born in Patna, Bihar, an author and a retired Indian civil servant. His works include the novel English, August: An Indian story, The Last Burden, The Mammaries of the Welfare State and Weight Loss.
- In 2004, he was awarded the "**Sahitya Akademi Award**" for The Mammaries of the Welfare State. The novel "**Way To Go**" was shortlisted for The Hindu Best Fiction Award in 2010.

35. Who has recently (in November '24) won the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay National Innovation Foundation(NIF) Book Prize 2024?

1) Radhika Iyengar

2) Ashok Gopal

3) Kunal Purohit

4) Neerja Choudhury

5) Chitralkha Zutshi

Answer- **2) Ashok Gopal**

Explanation:

In November 2024, the New India Foundation announced writer **Ashok Gopal** has won the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay National Innovation Foundation(**NIF**) **Book Prize 2024** for his biography “A Part Apart: The Life and Thought of B R Ambedkar”.

- The award carries a cash prize of **Rs 15 lakh**, a trophy, and a citation.
- The book was published by Navayana and it delivers a vivid account of Ambedkar’s life journey from facing systemic oppression to shaping India’s constitution as an advocate for marginalised communities.
- In 2023, **Akshaya Mukul** won the award for his biography of writer Agyeya, titled ‘Writer, Rebel, Soldier, Lover: The Many Lives of Agyeya’.

SUMMITS, CONFERENCES

1. Which country has hosted the 2024 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)?

- 1) Algeria
- 2) United Kingdom
- 3) Philippines
- 4) Japan
- 5) India

Answer- **3) Philippines**

Explanation:

The **Government of the Philippines** and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (**UNDRR**) jointly hosted the 2024 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (**APMCDRR**) held from 14th to 18th October, 2024 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila, the Philippines. The conference was officially inaugurated by **Bongbong Marcos**, President of the Republic of Philippines.

- **Theme 2024 APMCDRR:** “Surge to 2030: Enhancing ambition in Asia Pacific to accelerate disaster risk reduction”.
- It is the main platform in the Asia and Pacific region to monitor, review and enhance cooperation for the implementation of the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SDFRR) 2015-2030** at the regional level.
- The conference was organised around **3 thematic pillars** and **4 cross-cutting themes**.
- The Indian delegation at APMCDRR 2024 was led by Union Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs, **Nityanand Rai**. [Click here to read more.](#)

2. Which country has recently (in October ‘24) hosted the 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA 2024) in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO)?

- 1) Russia
- 2) Brazil

- 3) Belgium
- 4) India
- 5) Ireland

Answer- **4) India**

Explanation:

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (**CDSCO**), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**), India hosted the **19th** International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (**ICDRA 2024**) in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (**WHO**). This marks the first time India has hosted the ICDRA since its inception in 1980.

- The conference was held from 14th October to 18th October 2024 at Yashobhoomi, India International Convention Centre (IICC) in New Delhi, Delhi.
- Union Minister Jagat Praksah Nadda, MoH&FW inaugurated the 19th ICDRA in New Delhi.
- **Theme of 19th ICDRA:** “Smart Regulation: Delivering Quality Assured Medical Products for All”.
- The 5-day conference was focused on strengthening global regulatory systems through partnerships and collective efforts. Regulatory bodies from different countries discussed challenges and opportunities in harmonizing regulations for medical products, addressing Antimicrobial Resistance (**AMR**) and advancing traditional medicines.
- On 16th October 2024, Union Minister of State (MoS) for MoH&FW **Anupriya Singh Patel** addressed 19th ICDRA. She was accompanied by Dr. VK. Paul, Member (Health), National Institute for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) at the event. [Click here to read more.](#)

3. Which country hosted the 16th BRICS summit from 22nd to 23rd October, 2024?

- 1) Italy
- 2) Russia
- 3) Brazil
- 4) India
- 5) China

Answer- **2) Russia**

Explanation:

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** visited Russia from **22nd to 23rd October** 2024 to attend the **16th BRICS** (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) **Summit in Kazan**, Russia following an invitation from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

- The **BRICS Summit 2024** was held under the chairmanship of the Russian Federation in Kazan, Russia from October 22 to 24, 2024. The summit was chaired by Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation. The theme of the Summit was ‘**Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security**, which aimed to provide an important platform for leaders to discuss key global issues.
- The BRICS Summit 2024 concluded with the adoption of the ‘**Kazan Declaration**’.
- The grouping was formed in September **2006** and it originally comprised Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC). It was renamed as BRICS after South Africa was accepted as a full member in September **2010**.
- PM Narendra Modi addressed two sessions of the BRICS Summit. In his address, he emphasized upon taking a **people-centric approach** to tackle challenges like conflicts, adverse climatic impacts, and cyber threats.

- He also suggested the need for early adoption of a **Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism** at the United Nations to combat the menace of terrorism. [Click here to read more.](#)

4. Which state hosted the 17th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Exhibition (2024) from 25th October to 27th October 2024?

- 1) Gujarat
- 2) Rajasthan
- 3) Haryana
- 4) Telangana
- 5) Maharashtra

Answer- **1) Gujarat**

Explanation:

Bhupendra Patel, Chief Minister(CM) of Gujarat inaugurated the **17th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Exhibition (2024)** at the Mahatma Mandir Convention Centre in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**. The theme of the 2024 conference is 'Standardization and Optimization of Urban Transport Solutions'.

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs(MoHUA) organised the UMI 2024 in collaboration with the Institute of Urban Transport (India) and with the support of the Government of Gujarat and Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation (GMRC) Limited. The event was held from 25th October to 27th October 2024.
- The exhibition showcased the best practices in urban transport in India and abroad, latest urban transport technologies and got the participation of more than **2200** delegates including more than **50** participants from abroad.
- The UMI 2024 saw the participation of around **76** exhibitors from **Metro Rail Companies** and public and private sectors.
- The conference has also focused upon the aim for clean air cities, urban freight, urban transport solutions for small and middle towns in India.
- During the closing ceremony, the winners of 'Best Practices Project in Urban Transport' were awarded to state and city authorities in a total of 9 categories.
- **Bhubaneswar**(Odisha) was awarded the title of the '**City with the Best Public Transport System**' at the Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Exhibition 2024.
- UMI originates from the **2006 National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP)**, which focuses upon developing State and city-level capacities to overcome urban transport challenges and develop sustainable solutions. [Click here to read more.](#)

5. Which of the following is/are correct with respect to the 7th Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) held in New Delhi from 3rd to 6th November 2024?

- A) ISA elected Ashish Khanna from the Republic of India as its 3rd Director General.**
- B) The 7th session of the ISA Assembly has elected India as President and Seychelles as co-president for a period of two years from 2024 to 2026.**
- C) The 3rd edition of the World Solar Report series was released at the 7th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance.**

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

3) Only B & C

4) Only B

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

The **7th** Session of the International Solar Alliance (**ISA**) was conducted from **3rd to 6th November 2024** in Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi with ministers from **29** countries.

- Ministers, mission heads, and delegates from **120** Member and Signatory Countries (**103 Member** and **17 Signatory** Countries), along with partner organisations and stakeholders, participated in the event.
- The aim of the event was to enhance solar energy deployment across its Member Countries, particularly in regions with limited energy access.
- ISA elected **Ashish Khanna** from the Republic of India as its 3rd Director General.
- The 7th session of the ISA Assembly in progress in New Delhi, Delhi, has elected **India** as **President** and **France** as **co-president** for a period of two years from 2024 to 2026.
- **Ghana** and **Seychelles** will hold office as vice presidents for the Africa region; Australia and Sri Lanka for Asia and the Pacific region; **Germany** and **Italy** for Europe and the others region; **Grenada** and **Suriname** from the Latin America and the Caribbean region.
- The **3rd** edition of the **World Solar Report** series was released at the 7th Assembly of the ISA which focused on global solar growth, investment trends, technological advancements, and Africa's green hydrogen potential. [Click here to read more.](#)

6. Which country hosted the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 16) from 21st October to 1st November 2024?

1) Turkey

2) Colombia

3) Australia

4) Canada

5) India

Answer- **2) Colombia**

Explanation:

The **16th** meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (**CBD COP 16**) was conducted from **21st October to 1st November 2024** in Cali, Colombia.

- The theme of the conference was "**Peace with Nature**".
- It was the **first** Biodiversity COP since the adoption of the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF)** at COP 15 in December 2022 in Montreal, Canada.
- The conference's main goal was to assess progress on the **2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF)**, which set targets to protect 30% of global land and sea areas and restore 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030.
- Union Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**) **Kirti Vardhan Singh** delivered the national statement regarding the conservation of biological resources in the 16th meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Cali, Colombia on 29th October 2024.

- Kirti Vardhan Singh, released India's updated **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)**, at the 16th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- The **Global Ecosystems Atlas** at the 16th Conference of Parties (COP16) was launched to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 22nd October 2024. [Click here to read more.](#)

7. Where was the 22nd edition of the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit (HTLS 2024) held from November 14 to 16, 2024?

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

Answer- **1) New Delhi, Delhi**

Explanation:

On November 16 2024, **Narendra Modi**, the Prime Minister (PM) of India, addressed the 22nd Hindustan Times Leadership Summit (**HTLS 2024**) in New Delhi, Delhi. The summit was held from November 14 to 16, 2024.

- During the event, PM Modi released a **commemorative postage stamp** of denomination **Rs 5** to celebrate 100 years of Hindustan Times (HT) which was founded by Mahatma Gandhi in **1924**.
- The PM articulated a roadmap focusing on "Development with Dignity," aiming to ensure that progress benefits all citizens.
- The HTLS was launched in 2003 to enhance the level of discourse on critical issues, encourage interaction among leaders in important areas.
- The postage stamp depicts HT's journey from 1924 to 2024 and its design prominently incorporates HT's tagline, "**First Voice, Last Word**," symbolizing its steadfast commitment to truth and simplicity.

8. Where was the 1st edition of 'Sagarmanthan – The Great Oceans Dialogue', South Asia's largest Maritime Thought Leadership summit held from 18th to 19th November 2024?

- 1) New Delhi, Delhi
- 2) Gurugram, Haryana
- 3) Hyderabad, Telangana
- 4) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- 5) Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Answer- **1) New Delhi, Delhi**

Explanation:

The 1st edition of '**Sagarmanthan – The Great Oceans Dialogue**', the South Asia's largest Maritime Thought Leadership summit was held from November 18-19, 2024 at ITC Maurya in New Delhi, Delhi

- It is organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (**MoPSW**), Government of India (GoI) in partnership with New Delhi based global think tank, Observer Research Foundation (**ORF**) to foster Global Maritime Cooperation.

- Sagarmanthan provides a global platform for leaders and policymakers to discuss critical maritime topics like the blue economy, global supply chains, maritime logistics, and sustainable growth, aiming to create a future-ready maritime ecosystem.
- The event focuses on four main themes: **New Frontiers, Blue Growth, Green and Blue, and Coasts and Communities**, addressing challenges and opportunities in ocean governance.
- **India's maritime sector** handles 95% of the country's trade by volume and 70% by value, with 12 major ports and over 200 minor ports. It is the **16th** largest maritime nation and a leader in global shipping lanes.

9. Which of the following points is/are correct with respect to the 27th edition of the Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS 2024) from 19th to 21st November 2024 in Bengaluru, Karnataka?

A) The Karnataka government launched its Global Capability Centres (GCC) policy becoming the first Indian state to initiate this policy.

B) The Karnataka government launched Nipuna Karnataka, to develop the skills of local talent to make them globally competitive in emerging technologies. Under this initiative, five MoUs were exchanged with global tech giants.

C) Karnataka is set to establish 3 dedicated global innovation districts in Bengaluru, Mysuru and Belagavi as part of its Global Capacity Centres (GCC) policy.

1) Only A & B

2) Only A & C

3) Only B & C

4) Only C

5) All A, B & C

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

Explanation:

The **27th** edition of the **Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS 2024)** was jointly organized by Karnataka's Electronics, Information Technology (IT), and Biotechnology Department and the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) from **19th to 21st November 2024** at Bengaluru Palace, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- The central **theme** of BTS for the 2024 event was '**Unbound**'.
- BTS 2024 was hosted by representatives from over **15** countries, and delegates from Australia, the United Kingdom (**UK**), France, Austria, the European Union (EU), Denmark, Finland, Poland, Japan, Germany, Switzerland, Israel, and the United States of America (**USA**) who shared their opinions.
- The Karnataka government launched its **Global Capability Centres (GCC)** policy becoming the first Indian state to initiate such a policy. The **GCC Policy 2024-2029** will aim to modify the state as a prime location for innovation and technological excellence.
- The Karnataka government drafted the **Karnataka Space Technology Policy, 2024-29** with the aim to make the state a global attraction for space technology.
- The Karnataka government launched **Nipuna Karnataka**, to develop the skills of local talent to make them globally competitive in emerging technologies.
- Under the Nipuna initiative, **five** MoUs were exchanged with global tech giants.
- Karnataka is set to establish 3 dedicated global innovation districts in **Bengaluru, Mysuru and Belagavi** as part of its Global Capacity Centres (**GCC**) policy.

- The Government of Karnataka launched **50** innovative products/solutions developed by startups on the 2nd day of BTS 2024. Out of the 50 startups, **23** were Women-led startups. [Click here to read more.](#)

10. Which of the following points is/are correct with respect to the 19th Group of 20 (G20) Leaders' Summit for 2024, under the Presidency of Brazil was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 18th to 19th November 2024?

A) During the summit, leaders of G20 adopted the "G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration", which aimed to address major global challenges and crises and promote strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

B) India, Brazil and Russia launched a landmark joint declaration on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data for governance.

C) Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni jointly unveiled the "Italy-India Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-29" during their bilateral meeting held on the sidelines of the G20 summit.

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

Answer- 2) Only A & C

Explanation:

The **19th** Group of 20 (**G20**) Leaders' Summit for 2024, under the Presidency of Brazil was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 18th to 19th November 2024. The summit was held under the theme "**Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet**".

- During the summit, leaders of G20 adopted the "[G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration](#)", which aimed to address major global challenges and crises and promote strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.
- **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva**, President of Brazil officially launched the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty during the opening session of G20 Leaders' summit.
- Leaders from the **G20 Troika** including **India, Brazil** and **South Africa** launched a landmark joint declaration on Digital Public Infrastructure (**DPI**), Artificial Intelligence (**AI**) and data for governance.
- Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi** addressed the opening session of the G20 summit on "**Social Inclusion and the Fight against Hunger and Poverty**".
- PM Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart **Giorgia Meloni** jointly unveiled the "**Italy-India Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-29**" during their bilateral meeting held on the sidelines of the G20 summit.
- PM Narendra Modi and Australian **PM Anthony Albanese** held the 2nd India-Australia Annual Summit on the sidelines of the G20 summit.
- Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva handed over the G20 Presidency to **Cyril Ramaphosa**, President of South Africa as the 19th G20 Leaders' Summit concluded on 19th November 2024. [Click here to read more.](#)

11. Who has recently (in November '24) inaugurated the Conference of Chairpersons of State and Union Territories (UT) Haj Committees held in New Delhi, Delhi?

- 1) Narendra Modi
- 2) Piyush Goyal
- 3) Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- 4) Jagat Prakash Nadda
- 5) Kiren Rijiju

Answer- **5) Kiren Rijiju**

Explanation:

On November 23 2024, Union Minister for Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs **Kiren Rijiju** inaugurated the **Conference of Chairpersons of State and Union Territories (UT) Haj Committees** held in **New Delhi**(Delhi). The conference was organised by the Haj Committee of India(**HCI**), Ministry of Minority Affairs(**MoMA**).

- During the event, Union Minister **Kiren Rijiju** launched the Haj Suvidha Application (App) 2.0, aimed at enhancing the pilgrimage experience for smoother travel.
- **Haj Suvidha App 2.0** was developed by Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics(**BISAG-N**) under the guidance of the **MoMA**.
- Building on the success of the previous version **Haj Suvidha App 1.0**, the new version introduces key features such as the selection process, boarding pass and air travel details, a navigation system with Mina maps, and medical history and health advisories for Indian pilgrims etc.
- The App will further ensure better access to facilities by the pilgrims and better administrative coordination and control, with emergency response.

12. Where was the “High-Level Policy Conference of Central Banks from the Global South” held in November 2024?

- 1) New Delhi, Delhi
- 2) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 3) Hyderabad, Telangana
- 4) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- 5) Bengaluru, Karnataka

Answer- **2) Mumbai, Maharashtra**

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) hosted the “**High-Level Policy Conference of Central Banks from the Global South**” in Mumbai, Maharashtra from November 21 to 22, 2024. The conference was inaugurated by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

- The theme of the conference is “**Building Synergies across the central banking fraternity of the Global South**”.
- The focus of the conference was on sharing experiences and perspectives on issues of contemporary relevance to foster mutually beneficial partnerships for a more prosperous, stable and sustainable future for the Global South.
- **RBI@90 Initiative:** This event was part of **RBI’s 90th-anniversary celebrations**, under its flagship program, RBI@90, marking the **third** international conference in this series.
- Global Conference on ‘Digital Public Infrastructure and Emerging Technologies’ held in Bengaluru, Karnataka in August 2024.

- High-Level Conference on 'Central Banking at Crossroads' held in New Delhi, Delhi in October 2024.

COMMITTEE AND MEETING

1. Which country hosted the 27th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM 2024) from 24th to 26th October 2024?

- 1) Samoa
- 2) Rwanda
- 3) United Kingdom
- 4) Antigua and Barbuda
- 5) Sri Lanka

Answer- **1) Samoa**

Explanation:

The 27th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (**CHOGM 2024**) or the Meeting of the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Nations was held in **Apia, Samoa** from 24th to 26th October 2024. Samoa hosted the meeting with support from Australia.

- The **theme** of CHOGM 2024 is 'One Resilient Common Future: Transforming our Common Wealth'.
- The Indian delegation was led by Union Minister **Kiren Rijiju**, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs(MoPA), Government of India(GoI) participated in the Executive Session of CHOGM 2024.
- CHOGM is convened every 2 years by the Commonwealth countries and organisations.
- The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) is represented at CHOGM by Commonwealth Parliamentarians from different jurisdictions and the CPA Secretary-General, **Stephen Twigg**.
- Commonwealth countries adopted their **1st ocean declaration** during the CHOGM 2024 as calls from some of Britain's former colonies for reparatory justice for the trans-Atlantic slave trade grew louder.
- The '**Apia Commonwealth Ocean Declaration**' calls on all 56 Commonwealth nations to protect the ocean in the face of severe climate, pollution and over-exploitation.
- **Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey**, Foreign Minister of Ghana, was appointed as the new **Commonwealth Secretary-General** (SG), CPA on the last day of CHOGM 2024. [Click here to read more.](#)

2. Who has recently (in October '24) co-chaired the 2nd Ministerial Meeting of the Economy and Investment Committee under the India-Saudi Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia?

- 1) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar
- 2) Amit Shah
- 3) Narendra Modi
- 4) Nirmala Sitharaman
- 5) Piyush Goyal

Answer- **5) Piyush Goyal**

Explanation:

Union Minister **Piyush Goyal**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry(**MoC&I**), visited the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** from 29th to 30th October 2024. He participated in the 8th Future Investment Initiative (FII8) and co-chaired the **2nd Ministerial Meeting of the Economy and Investment Committee** in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

- This visit marks a significant milestone in strengthening the strategic partnership between India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- The 8th FII held from October 29 to 31, 2024 in Riyadh. The theme of 8th FII is “**Infinite Horizons: Investing Today, Shaping Tomorrow**”
- Union Minister Piyush Goyal co-chaired the **2nd Ministerial Meeting of the Economy and Investment Committee** under the India-Saudi Strategic Partnership Council (**SPC**) along with His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud, Minister of Energy, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 30th October 2024 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- He launched the **Lulu Wali Diwali Festival** at the Lulu Hypermarket in Riyadh furthering India-Saudi cultural and economic ties.
- The Union Minister unveiled the **One District, One Product (ODOP) Wall**, featuring unique products from various districts across India, at the Indian Embassy in Riyadh. [Click here to read more.](#)

3. Which country has recently (in October '24) joined the Steering Committee of the Asset Recovery Interagency Network-Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP) to combat economic crimes and enhance asset recovery capabilities?

- 1) France
- 2) India
- 3) Germany
- 4) Kazakhstan
- 5) United Arab Emirates

Answer- **2) India**

Explanation:

India has joined the Steering Committee of the **Asset Recovery Interagency Network-Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP)** to combat economic crimes and enhance asset recovery capabilities.

- The **Directorate of Enforcement (ED)**, which represents India in this network, is tasked with investigating offences related to money laundering and violations of foreign exchange laws.
- India will assume the Presidency of the network in **2026** and host its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2026.
- This alignment reflects India’s commitment to international cooperation on financial crimes and supports its broader strategic goals under the G-20 (Group of Twenty) framework, particularly the **Nine Point Agenda** focused on fugitive economic offenders and asset recovery.
- It is a multi-agency network based in **Seoul**, South Korea facilitating the exchange of information regarding individuals, companies, and assets involved in unlawful activities across the Asia-Pacific region.
- It has 28 member jurisdictions and 9 observers.

4. The 25th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-25) was recently (in November '24) organised in New Delhi, Delhi by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and hosted by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Which of the following is 'not' a member of SATRC-25?

- 1) Afghanistan
- 2) Bangladesh
- 3) Bhutan
- 4) Pakistan
- 5) Thailand

Answer: 5) Thailand

Explanation:

The 25th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (**SATRC-25**) was held from **11th to 13th November 2024** in New Delhi, Delhi. The meeting was inaugurated by Union Minister **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, Ministry of Communications.

The meeting was organized by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (**APT**) and hosted by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (**TRAI**).

i. SATRC-25's program comprised of discussions focusing upon the theme of 'Accelerating Telecommunication and information and communications technology (ICT) Development for Growth and Inclusiveness' and promoting digital transformation for economic and social prosperity in the region.

ii. The meeting was attended by about **120** participants, including delegates from more than **10** countries and from the telecom industry as well. There were **9** Heads of Regulators/Heads of Delegation representing each of the SATRC Members.

iii. The meeting was attended by the representatives from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka** alongside key figures such as Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Minister of State for Communications, Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), and Mr. Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman of India's Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRAI).

Note: SATRC Chair Major General (Retd.) Mohammad Emdad Ul Bari, Chairman of Bangladesh's Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, celebrated two decades of SATRC's accomplishments in regional telecommunications.

5. The Government of India(GoI) has recently (in November '24) reconstituted the Inter-State Council (ISC), an important body for enhancing Centre-State and interstate coordination. Who is appointed as the Chairman of ISC?

- 1) Narendra Modi
- 2) Rajnath Singh
- 3) Amit Shah
- 4) Virendra Kumar
- 5) Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

Answer- 1) Narendra Modi

Explanation:

The Government of India(GoI) has reconstituted the Inter-State Council (**ISC**), an important body for enhancing **Centre-State** and **interstate** coordination, with Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** as its chairman.

- The council aims to strengthen cooperative federalism by fostering dialogue and cooperation between the GoI and the states.
- Previously, ISC was reconstituted in 2022.
- The ISC is a key constitutional body (non-permanent) established under **Article 263** of the Constitution of India.
- Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and 9 Union Ministers and Chief Ministers (**CMs**) of all states, Union Territories (UTs) with legislative assemblies, **Administrators** of Union Territories (**UTs**) without legislative assemblies, Union Ministers from National Democratic Alliance (**NDA**) allies, such as Janata Dal (United), Janata Dal (Secular), Telugu Desam Party (TDP), and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), are also included as members.
- The GoI also restructured the **Standing Committee** of the ISC and appointed Union Minister **Amit Shah** as its chairman.
- The committee includes **12** other members: 5 Union Ministers and Chief Ministers (CMs) from 7 states. [Click here to read more.](#)

6. Which company has organised the 27th Energy Technology Meet (ETM 2024) along with Centre for High Technology (CHT) in Bengaluru, Karnataka?

- 1) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
- 2) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- 3) Oil India Limited
- 4) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
- 5) Coal India Limited

Answer- **2) Indian Oil Corporation Limited**

Explanation:

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) launched the **27th** Energy Technology Meet (ETM 2024) which was held from **12th to 14th November 2024** in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka.

- The three-day Energy Technology Meet has been organised by the **Centre for High Technology (CHT)** and **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)**.
- The event was focusing on the theme - Green Energy Horizons: Advancing Sustainable Refining and Petrochemicals.
- The meet showcased India's efforts towards sustainable energy innovations and the shift towards greener energy solutions.
- The Union Minister addressed the event at the inauguration highlighting that through biofuel blending, India saved **Rs. 91,000 crores** on the import bill and this can be utilized for the benefit of the agricultural sector.
- He added that India has become the **fourth**-largest refining nation globally, with a capacity of **8 million** Metric Tonnes Per Annum (**MMTPA**), following the United States of America (USA), China, and Russia.
- He emphasized that being the world's third-largest energy consumer, India's requirements are projected to increase **2.5 times** by **2047** making up **25%** of global energy demand growth within the next two decades.
- Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) was awarded with the special award for **Innovation** by the Centre for High Technology, MoPNG.

7. Which states have recently (in November '24) formed a 10-member joint corridor management committee between the two states in response to the incidents of cheetahs?

- 1) Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh
- 2) Uttar Pradesh and Bihar
- 3) Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan
- 4) Jharkhand and West Bengal
- 5) Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh

Answer- 3) Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan

Explanation:

The Governments of **Madhya Pradesh** and the Government of **Rajasthan** have formed a **10-member joint corridor management committee** between the two states in response to the incidents of cheetahs from Madhya Pradesh(MP) straying into neighboring Rajasthan. It aims to create and manage a cheetah corridor between the two states, guaranteeing the safe movement of cheetahs.

- The committee was formed following the incidents of cheetahs straying from MP into Rajasthan in December 2023 and May 2024.
- The panel, co-chaired by the Principal Chief Conservators of Forest (PCCFs) (wildlife) from MP and Rajasthan, has been tasked with identifying the "Cheetah Conservancy Landscape".
- The primary focus will be on conserving these felines, creating appropriate habitats, and supporting the future relocation of cheetahs from MP's **Kuno National Park (KNP)** and **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary (GSWS)**.

8. Where was the 11th ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) held from 20th to 22nd November 2024?

- 1) Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2) Siem Reap, Cambodia
- 3) Bangkok, Thailand
- 4) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 5) Vientiane, Lao PDR

Answer- 5) Vientiane, Lao PDR

Explanation:

The **11th** Association of Southeast Asian Nations (**ASEAN**) Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (**ADMM-Plus**) was conducted from **20th to 22nd November 2024** in **Vientiane, Lao PDR**. The Meeting exchanged views on regional and international security issues in order to strengthen security and defense cooperation for peace, stability, and development in the region.

- The meeting was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Laos General **Chansamone Chanyalath**.
- The 11th ADMM-Plus forum consisted of **10** ASEAN countries, **8** Plus countries (dialogue partners) and Timor Leste.
- The 8 dialogue partners include India, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America (USA).
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a series of important bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Laos, and Malaysia on 20th November 2024 with an aim to strengthen defence cooperation and address regional security concerns.
- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh conducted discussions with counterparts from the **US, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Australia, Japan** and the **Philippines**.

- **Australia** and **India** have collaborated to enable the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)** and India's armed forces to conduct **air-to-air refuelling** at the bilateral discussions held between Rajnath Singh and Australia's Minister for Defence Industry and Capability Delivery **Pat Conroy** ADMM-Plus 2024.

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1. Which country has the largest number of people living in poverty in the world with 234 million people, as per the recent (in October' 24) report 2024 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)?

- 1) Pakistan
- 2) India
- 3) Ethiopia
- 4) Nigeria
- 5) Republic of Congo

Answer- **2) India**

Explanation:

According to the [Global Multidimensional Index Poverty Index \(MPI\) 2024: Poverty amid Conflict](#), **1.1 billion** (18.3%) out of 6.1 billion people across 112 countries live in acute multidimensional poverty and staggering **455 million** (40%) of the world's poor live in countries experiencing war, fragility and/ or low peacefulness, which is hindering and even reversing hard-won progress to reduce poverty.

- As per the report, **India** with **234 million** people has the largest number of people living in poverty, followed by Pakistan (93 million), Ethiopia (86 million), Nigeria (74 million) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (66 million).
- 2024 Global MPI was jointly released by the **Human Development Report Office** of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (**OPHI**) based at the University of Oxford on 17th October 2024, which is observed annually as the **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**.
- According to the report, over half of the 1.1 billion poor people i.e. **584 million**, are children under the age of 18. Globally, approximately 28% of children live in poverty, compared with 13.5% of adults.
- **553 million people**, representing nearly 50% of the poor people in the world, live in the **Sub-Saharan Africa** region, followed by **South Asia** (402 million). Together both these regions accounted for **83.2%** of poor people. [Click here to read more.](#)

2. According to the recent (in October '24) report released by UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) on World Educations Statistics 2024, India has spent nearly _____ of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on education between 2015 and 2024.

- 1) 2.2 - 2.8%
- 2) 3.1 - 3.5%
- 3) 4.1 - 4.6%
- 4) 5.3 - 5.8%
- 5) 5.5 - 5.9%

Answer- 3) 4.1 - 4.6%

Explanation:

According to the report released by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics (UIS) on [World Educations Statistics, 2024](#), India has spent nearly 4.1 - 4.6% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on education between 2015 and 2024.

- This shows that investment by India in education is alignment with the international benchmarks set by “Education 2030 Framework for Action”, which recommends that countries allocate between 4% and 6% of their GDP to education.
- As per the report, India’s government expenditure on education has fluctuated between **13.5% and 17.2%** during the period between 2014 and 2024.
- The world average of public expenditure on education has witnessed decline since 2010 i.e. from 13.2% (in 2010) to **12.5% (in 2020)**, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- According to the report, South Asian countries such as **Nepal** and **Bhutan** have allocated **nearly 4 - 6%** of their GDP to education.
- As per the report, India’s education expenditure as percentage of GDP in 2022 among Central and Southern Asia is lower only to **Bhutan (7.5%)**, Kazakhstan (7.2%), Maldives (4.7%), Tajikistan (5.7%) and Uzbekistan (5.2%). [Click here to read more.](#)

3. Which state has the highest share in direct tax revenue in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 (FY24), according to the recent (in October '24) report 'How Tax Simplification has given a necessary fillip to ITR Filing' by State Bank of India (SBI)?

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

Answer- 1) Maharashtra

Explanation:

According to the **State Bank of India (SBI)** Research report titled '[How Tax Simplification has given a necessary fillip to ITR Filing](#)', Maharashtra has the highest share in direct tax revenue in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 (FY24).

- **Maharashtra** retained the **top position** with a significant **38.9% share**, Karnataka contributed **11.9%** and Delhi fell to third place, contributing 10.4%, followed by Tamil Nadu (TN) at 6.5% and Gujarat at 4.8%.
- These 5 states collectively contribute over **70%** of India’s total direct taxes.
- This marks the **first time** in seven years that Karnataka has outperformed Delhi in terms of direct tax contributions, as Delhi had held the second position from 2017-18 to 2022-23.
- The SBI report also highlighted that direct taxes now account for **56.7%** of total tax revenue in FY24, marking the highest contribution in 14 years.

4. According to the recently (in October 2024) released report, '2024 Global Nature Conservation Index (NCI)', India has ranked _____ among 180 countries across the world.

- 1) 146th
- 2) 153rd
- 3) 168th

4) 176th

5) 179th

Answer- **4) 176th**

Explanation:

According to the [2024 Global Nature Conservation Index \(NCI\)](#) released on 24th October 2024, India ranked at **176th** position among 180 countries across the world, with an overall score of **45.5** out of 100. India's low ranking in the index is mainly attributed to inefficient land management and rising threats to biodiversity.

- As per the Index, India is among the **5 worst performers** alongside **Kiribati (180th)**, Turkey (179th), Iraq (178th), and Micronesia (177th).
- **Luxembourg** topped the index with an overall score of 70.8, followed by **Estonia (70.5)** and **Denmark (69.4)** ranked at **2nd** and **3rd** position, respectively.
- Among the top 10 countries in 2024 NCI, **7** are from the Europe region: Luxembourg, Estonia, Denmark, Finland, Switzerland, the United Kingdom (UK) and Romania.
- **China**, the 2nd largest economy in the world and one of the mega-biodiverse countries, ranked at **164th** position in the index with an overall score of **48.34**.
- Among all the 4 main parameters, India ranked among the bottom 3 countries in **"Threats to Biodiversity"** parameter and ranked at **177th** position with a score of **54**. [Click here to read more.](#)

5. Which organisation has recently (in October '24) released the report "Emissions Gap Report 2024: No more hot air... please!", states that the world has made no progress in limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels in 2023 compared to 2022.

1) World Nature Organisation

2) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

3) International Union for Conservation of Nature

4) United Nations Environment Programme

5) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Answer- **4) United Nations Environment Programme**

Explanation:

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**)'s report titled ["Emissions Gap Report 2024: No more hot air... please!"](#), the world has made no progress in limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels in 2023 compared to the previous year.

- As per the report, the gap in implementing policies to achieve the targets set in 2030 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) remains unchanged from previous year assessment by UNEP.
- The report showed that the world is on pace to hit **3.1°C** (5.6 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming since pre-industrial times, which is more than twice the goal, set in **2015 Paris Agreement** i.e. to limit global temperature to 1.5 °C (2.7 °F) since pre-industrial times.
- The report noted that global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions increased by **1.3%** in 2023 to 57.1 Gigatonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent (GtCO₂e) compared to 2022.
- The report has projected that the emission gap for achieving the 2 °C target at **16 GtCO₂e** and **21 GtCO₂e** for 2030 and 2035 respectively, which is same as previous year's estimates. [Click here to read more.](#)

6. According to the recently (in October 2024) released report, “WJP Rule of Law Index 2024” by World Justice Project (WJP), India has ranked _____ among 142 countries across the world.

- 1) 65th
- 2) 79th
- 3) 93rd
- 4) 114th
- 5) 129th

Answer- 2) 79th

Explanation:

On 23rd October 2024, Washington D.C. (the United States of America, USA)-based think tank World Justice Project (WJP) released the report titled [“WJP Rule of Law Index 2024”](#). India has been ranked at **79th** position among 142 countries in the index with an overall rule of law score of **0.50** increased by 0.8% compared to last year’s score.

- According to the index, the rule of law has declined for the **7th** consecutive year in a majority of countries (57%) while 43% of countries surveyed have experienced improvement in the rule of law.
- **Denmark** topped the index with an overall score of 0.90, followed by **Norway** (0.89) and **Finland** (0.87) ranked at **2nd** and **3rd** position, respectively.
- **Venezuela** ranked at **142nd** position in the index with lowest score of **0.26**, followed by Cambodia (0.31), Afghanistan (0.32), Haiti (0.33), and Myanmar (0.34) ranked at 141st, 140th, 139th and 138th position, respectively.
- India ranked **3rd** among the 6 South Asian countries, after **Nepal (69th)** and **Sri Lanka (75th)**. Other 3 countries from the South Asia region: Pakistan (129th), Bangladesh (127th) and Afghanistan ranked bottom on the index.
- India ranked **8th** among the 38 Lower-Middle Income Countries (LMICs) covered in the index. [Click here to read more.](#)

7. Which bank has recently (in October ‘24) released the report ‘How Tax Simplification has given a necessary fillip to ITR Filing’, by stating that Income Disparity in India is reduced by 74.2% between fiscal years 2013-14 and 2022-23?

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

Answer- 4) State Bank of India

Explanation:

A recent study by the State Bank of India’s (SBI) Economic Department, Ecowrap, in its report titled [‘How Tax Simplification has given a necessary fillip to ITR Filing’](#), reveals a cumulative **74.2%** reduction in income disparity in India for individuals earning up to **Rs 5 lakh** annually from the Financial Year 2013-14 (FY14) to 2022-23 (FY 23).

- The report highlights that income distribution has become more equitable, with lower-income groups seeing higher income growth.

- The share of individuals earning up to **Rs 3.5 lakh** annually in income disparity dropped from 31.8% in FY14 to **12.8%** in FY21, marking a 19% improvement relative to their population share.
- Traditional income tax base states such as Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, and Karnataka are nearing saturation in ITR (Income Tax Return) filings, while states like **Uttar Pradesh (UP)**, Bihar, **Andhra Pradesh (AP)**, **Punjab**, and **Rajasthan** are increasing their tax base.
- Direct tax contribution to total tax revenue rose to **56.7%** in AY24, the highest in 14 years, and the direct tax-to-GDP (Gross Domestic Product) ratio reached **6.64%**, the highest since 2000-01.

8. Which organisation has recently (in October '24) stated that 38% of the world's trees are threatened in its 1st comprehensive Global Tree Assessment?

- 1) United Nations Environment Programme
- 2) International Union for Conservation of Nature
- 3) Botanical Survey of India
- 4) World Wide Fund for Nature
- 5) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Answer- 2) International Union for Conservation of Nature

Explanation:

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s 1st comprehensive Global Tree Assessment, **38%** of the world's trees are threatened, i.e. over one in three tree species is at risk of extinction.

- The latest assessment revealed that **at least 16,425** of the 47, 282 tree species assessed are at risk of extinction.
- Also, the number of threatened tree species is more than double compared to the number of all threatened birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians combined.
- The key findings of the assessment were announced at the **16th** Conference of Parties (**COP16**) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held from 21st October to 1st November, 2024 in Cali, Columbia.
- The Western European Hedgehog (**scientific name: Erinaceus europaeus**) has moved from Least Concern to **Near Threatened** on the IUCN Red List. Its assessment was done for the European Red List with the support of the European Commission. [Click here to read more.](#)

9. According to the Central Water Commission (CWC)'s report, glacial lakes and other water bodies across the Himalayan region witnessed an overall increase of _____ in areas in 2024 due to climate change.

- 1) 7.32%
- 2) 8.63%
- 3) 9.96%
- 4) 10.81%
- 5) 11.56%

Answer- 4) 10.81%

Explanation:

According to the Central Water Commission (CWC)'s report, glacial lakes and other water bodies across the Himalayan region witnessed an overall increase of **10.81%** in areas, from **5.33 lakh hectares (ha)** in **2011** to 5.91 lakh ha in 2024 due to climate change, which indicates towards increased risk of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).

- As per the report, the total inventory area of glacial lakes in India has increased by **33.7%** i.e. from 1,962 ha during 2011 to **2,623 ha** during 2024 (September).
- The report has identified **67 lakes** in India that experienced an over 40% expansion in surface area, placing them in the high-risk category for potential GLOFs.
- The report has observed notable surface area expansions in regions like Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh (**HP**), Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh (**AR**), indicating a heightened risk of GLOFs and need for intensified monitoring and disaster preparedness.
- The CWC report highlighted the transboundary risks posed by expanding glacial lakes in neighbouring countries including: **Bhutan, Nepal** and **China**.

10. According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s report "Asia-Pacific Climate Report 2024: Catalyzing Finance and Policy Solutions", climate change under high-end emissions lead to _____ loss in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2070 across the Asia-Pacific region.

- 1) 14.3%
- 2) 15.4%
- 3) 16.9%
- 4) 18.5%
- 5) 19.6%

Answer- **3) 16.9%**

Explanation:

According to the inaugural edition of Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s report titled "[Asia-Pacific Climate Report 2024: Catalyzing Finance and Policy Solutions](#)", climate change under a high-end emissions scenarios could potentially lead to **16.9%** loss in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by **2070** across the Asia-Pacific region, with India projected to witness a **24.7%** GDP decline.

- It has further estimated that Asia-Pacific will experience **41%** loss in GDP by **2100**.
- The report has cautioned that if the climate crisis continues to accelerate, then **up to 300 million people** in the region could be at risk from coastal inundation and trillions of dollars' worth of coastal assets could face annual damage by **2070**.
- Among the countries and sub-regions assessed by the report, these losses are prominent in Bangladesh (**30.5%**), Vietnam (30.2%), Indonesia (26.8%), India (24.7), the rest of Southeast Asia' (23.4%), higher-income Southeast Asia (22%), Pakistan (21.1%), the Pacific (18.6%), and the Philippines (18.1%).
- The report highlighted that **Developing Asia** has accounted for most of the increase in global GreenHouse Gas (GHG) emissions since 2000.
- As per the report, the share of global GHG emissions by the Asia-Pacific region has increased from 29.4% (in 2000) to **45.9%** (in 2021).

It has been estimated that regional countries require annual investment for climate change adaptation **between USD 102 billion and USD 431 billion**, which is more than the nearly USD 34 billion adaptation finance mobilized in the region in 2021-22. [Click here to read more.](#)

11. Which institute has recently (in November '24) secured the highest rank in India in the 16th edition of the 'QS World University Ranking Asia 2025' list?

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

Answer- **5) IIT Delhi**

Explanation:

On 6th November 2024, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) released the **16th** edition of the '[QS World University Ranking Asia 2025](#)' which showed that Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) (75.4), New Delhi(Delhi), secured the top spot in India with the **44th** position (from 46th in 2024) on the list.

- It was followed by Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) (73.1), Mumbai, Maharashtra at the **48th** position and the **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** (IITM) (69.6), Chennai, Tamil Nadu at the **56th** position and are the top 3 universities from India featured in the list.
- **Peking University**, Beijing(China) secured **1st** spot in the QS Asia University Rankings 2025 with an overall score of 100 followed by the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong(China) and the National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore on the 2nd and 3rd spot respectively.
- The QS World University Rankings: Asia 2025 has assessed **984** institutions covering **25** countries in Eastern, Southern, South-Eastern and Central Asia.
- India stands as the most represented country in Asia's higher education system with **162** ranked institutions, including **22** new additions.
- A total of **seven** Indian institutes, including **five** IITs, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru, and the **University of Delhi**, have secured top **100** ranks in the QS Asia University Rankings for 2025. [Click here to read more.](#)

12. Which organisation has recently (in October '24) released Global Tuberculosis (TB) Report 2024, stating that India has registered a 17.7% decline in TB incidence from 237 per lakh population in 2015 to 195 in 2023?

- 1) World Health Organisation
- 2) National Medical Commission
- 3) Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation
- 4) All India Institute of Medical Science
- 5) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Answer- **1) World Health Organisation**

Explanation:

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s '[Global Tuberculosis \(TB\) Report 2024](#)' released on 29th October 2024, India has registered a **17.7%** decline in TB incidence from 237 per lakh population in 2015 **to 195** in 2023, which is more than twice the global average decline of **8.3%**.

- The report has acknowledged the significant progress made by India in bridging the gap of missed TB cases since 2015.
- As per the report, the net reduction in the global number of deaths caused by TB between 2015 and 2023 was **23%**, which is almost 1/3rd of the WHO End TB strategy milestone of a 75% reduction by 2025.

- The report showed that globally, the number of deaths caused by TB has declined in 2023, from 1.32 million (in 2022) to **1.25 million (in 2023)**.
- Globally, **8.2 million** people were reported as newly diagnosed with TB in 2023, increasing from 7.5 million people in 2022.
- As per the report, India is estimated to have had **27 lakh TB cases in 2023**, of which 25.1 lakh were diagnosed and put on treatment, with this, India's treatment coverage has increased from 72% (in 2015) to **89% (in 2023)**. [Click here to read more.](#)

13. Which city has recently (in November '24) emerged as the world's top city brand in the Brand Finance's Global City Index 2024?

- 1) Paris, France
 - 2) London, United Kingdom
 - 3) Tokyo, Japan
 - 4) Dubai, United Arab Emirates
 - 5) New York, United States of America
- Answer- 2) London, United Kingdom**

Explanation:

According to the Brand Finance's [Global City Index 2024](#), **London**(the United Kingdom, UK), has again emerged as the world's top city brand for the 2nd consecutive year, with an overall score of **90.9** out of 100. Only 3 Indian cities featured in the Global city index 2024. **New Delhi** ranked 77th in the list, making it the highest-ranked Indian city. It was followed by Mumbai (78) and Bengaluru (97).

- It is followed by New York City (the United States of America, USA) and Paris (France) secured **2nd** and **3rd** position respectively.
- This is the **2nd** edition of the index, which provides the most comprehensive global survey of city perceptions, collecting opinions from more than **15,000** respondents across **20** countries worldwide.
- The index assessed the performance of **top 100 city brands** based on the ratings given by respondents on key performance indicators: familiarity, reputation, and consideration.
- London has secured **3rd** rank in two key performance indicators of the index: familiarity and reputation.
- Globally, London has been ranked at **2nd** spot in the "**Education & Science**" pillar.
- New York City has retained its **2nd** position in the index, with an overall score of **89.8**. It has also outperformed other countries in the index as the **2nd** most familiar city globally. [Click here to read more.](#)

14. According to the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)'s recent (in November '24) report, India's current climate policies are expected to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by around _____ between 2020 and 2030.

- 1) 1 billion tonnes
- 2) 2 billion tonnes
- 3) 3 billion tonnes
- 4) 4 billion tonnes
- 5) 5 billion tonnes

Answer- 4) 4 billion tonnes

Explanation:

According to the New Delhi (Delhi)-based independent climate think tank, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)'s latest report, India's current climate policies are expected to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by around **4 billion tonnes** between 2020 and 2030.

- This key finding of the report is important considering **India**, the fast-developing South Asian country, now the world's **5th** largest economy, had pledged to reducing emissions by **1 billion tonnes by 2030** at the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Glasgow, Scotland in 2021.
- The report showed that policies designed for India's power, residential and transport sectors have already saved **440 million tonnes** of carbon dioxide (MtCO₂) between 2015 and 2020.
- As per the report, the policies promoting renewable energy only in the power sector are projected to drive a **24% decline** in coal-based power generation by 2030, relative to the no-policy scenario.
- The report highlighted that the **2006 Standards and Labelling programme** in the residential sector has led to significant energy-efficiency improvements in air-conditioning.
- It has been estimated that air conditioning-related electricity consumption in Indian households is expected to **double** between **2020 and 2030**, and will further increase by almost **10 times** by **2050**. [Click here to read more.](#)

15. Which organisation has recently (in November '24) released the "Adaptation Gap Report (AGR) 2024: Come Hell and High Water" report?

- 1) United Nations Environment Programme
- 2) Food and Agriculture Organization
- 3) International Union for Conservation of Nature
- 4) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- 5) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Answer- **1) United Nations Environment Programme**

Explanation:

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s ["Adaptation Gap Report \(AGR\) 2024: Come Hell and High Water"](#), International public adaptation finance flows to developing countries has increased by **32%**, from USD 22 billion (in 2021) to **USD 28 billion (in 2022)**, which is the largest relative Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) increase since the Paris Agreement (2015).

- This shows progress towards the adaptation component of the **Glasgow Climate Pact** signed at the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Glasgow, Scotland in 2021, which urged developed country parties to **at least double** their collective provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing country parties from about **USD 19 billion** (2019 levels) by **2025**.
- However, when this figure is compared with adaptation finance needs estimated at **USD 215-387 billion annually** in AGR2023, shows that a very large adaptation finance gap still exists.
- The report underscored that even achieving the Glasgow Climate Pact target would only help to adaptation finance gap (which is estimated at USD 187-359 billion per year), by around only **5%**.
- The report highlighted that at present, 171 countries (**87%**) have at least one national adaptation policy strategy in place, of which **51%** have a second and 20% have a third instrument.

16. According to the recently (in November '24) released report 'World Intellectual Property Indicators 2024' by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), India has ranked _____ globally with 64,480 patent applications, domestic applicants comprising over half (55.2%).

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

Answer- 3) 6th

Explanation:

According to the [World Intellectual Property Indicators 2024](#), the annual report published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), India has made a significant growth in terms of the global intellectual property (IP) and has secured a position in the top 10 countries for all three major IP rights – patents, trademarks, and industrial designs.

- The report published by WIPO assesses the global trends in IP filings and shows significant growth in patent, trademark, and industrial design applications across top economies.
- India recorded a considerable growth of **15.7%** in 2023 in patent applications, the fastest among the top 20 countries and is the **5th** consecutive year of **double**-digit increases in patent filings.
- India has gained **6th** rank globally with **64,480 patent** applications, domestic applicants comprising **over half (55.2%)** of these applications which is the first time for a country.
- In India's industrial design sector, applications also rose by **36.4%** reflecting the increasing emphasis on product design, manufacturing, and the creative industries in India.
- The WIPO report also showed a remarkable progress in India's performance in **trademark** filings, with a **6.1%** increase in 2023.
- India ranked **4th** globally for trademarks and nearly **90%** of these filings originated from domestic businesses. [Click here to read more.](#)

17. According to the Central Electricity Authority's (CEA) report, India's total renewable energy-based electricity generation capacity has reached _____ in October 2024.

- 1) 189.23 GW
- 2) 196.14 GW
- 3) 203.18 GW
- 4) 215.96 GW
- 5) 235.63 GW

Answer- 3) 203.18 GW

Explanation:

According to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA)'s data, India's total renewable energy-based electricity generation capacity has increased by **24.2 GigaWatt (GW)** (13.5%) and reached **203.18 GW** in October 2024 compared to 178.98 GW in October 2023.

- This remarkable growth in Renewable Energy (RE) is in line with the country's ambitious RE target of achieving **500 GW** from non-fossil sources by **2030**.
- Also, when including nuclear energy, India's total non-fossil fuel capacity has increased from 186.46 GW (in 2023) to **211.36 GW** (in 2024).

- At present, India's total electricity generation capacity has reached **452.69 GW**, with RE contributing a major portion of the overall power mix.
- **Solar Power** saw an increase of **27.9%**, from 72.02 GW (in October 2023) to 92.12 GW (in October 2024) and has emerged as the **largest contributor** to RE-based power generation in 2024, followed by **Wind power** (47.72 GW) with Year-over-Year(Y-o-Y) increase of **7.7%**.
- As on 13th November 2024, **Rajasthan** topped among the states in RE capacity with an impressive **29.98GW** of installed RE capacity, followed by Gujarat (29.52 GW), Tamil Nadu (TN) (23.70 GW) and Karnataka (22.37 GW) ranked at **2nd, 3rd** and **4th** position respectively.
- According to the International Renewable Energy Agency's (**IRENA**) **2024 Annual Review**, India's RE sector achieved a significant milestone with an estimated **1.02 million jobs** generated in 2023. [Click here to read more.](#)

18. Which organisation has recently (in November '24) prepared the report titled 'Skyways to the Future: Operational Concepts for Advanced Air Mobility in India' in collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Government of India(GoI)?

- 1) World Meteorological Organisation
- 2) World Economic Forum
- 3) Airports Authority of India
- 4) Adani Airport Holdings Limited
- 5) Airport Council International

Answer- 2) World Economic Forum

Explanation:

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (**MoCA**), Government of India(GoI), in collaboration with the World Economic Forum (**WEF**) has prepared the report titled '[Skyways to the Future: Operational Concepts for Advanced Air Mobility in India](#)'.

- As per the report, **Advanced Air Mobility (AAM)** represents a transformative approach to transportation, particularly in densely populated regions like India.
- AAM solutions can significantly enhance accessibility, alleviate road congestion, and create new economic opportunities.
- According to the report, the sector shows strong growth, with **1,000+ aircraft** and **100,000+ daily flights** projected in **15 years**.
- AAM technologies like air taxis or Electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing (**eVTOL**) and Short Take-Off and Landing (**STOL**) are designed to provide on-demand transport services.
- AAM can provide solutions to densely populated and rapidly urbanising areas such as Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata and Delhi, where traffic congestion is causing severe economic losses.
- Bengaluru alone lost almost Rs 200 billion in 2023 due to congestion, hampering productivity and worsening pollution.
- India is one of the world's fastest-growing civil aviation markets and the third largest domestic aerial market globally. [Click here to read more.](#)

19. Which bank / organisation has recently (in November '24) released the report 'Own Sources of Revenue Generation in Municipal Corporations: Opportunities and Challenges'?

- 1) World Bank
- 2) Reserve Bank of India
- 3) Geological Survey of India

4) National Sample Survey Office

5) Survey of India

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

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report titled '[Own Sources of Revenue Generation in Municipal Corporations: Opportunities and Challenges](#)' emphasizes the need for comprehensive reforms in municipal corporations (MCs) to improve their own revenue generation.

- It highlights the importance of tax reforms, rationalizing user charges, and strengthening collection mechanisms to address financial inefficiencies.
- The report analyzed the budgetary data of **232 MCs**, covering over 90% of India's total municipal corporations.
- While MCs show surplus revenue accounts, they MCs rely heavily on transfers from higher governments, limiting their financial autonomy.
- MCs' revenue receipts rose by **20.1% YoY** (Year-on-Year) to Rs 1.7 trillion in FY24, up from Rs 1.42 trillion in FY23 and Rs 1.37 trillion in FY22.
- MCs' revenue expenditure grew by **13.9%** to **Rs 1.49 trillion** in FY24 from Rs 1.31 trillion in FY23 and Rs 1.23 trillion in FY22.
- The consolidated budget of MCs shows a surplus, but it decreased from Rs 4,914 crore in FY19-20 to Rs 1,034 crore in FY20-21. The FY23-24 budgeted surplus is **Rs 20,819 crore**.
- Regular formation and timely implementation of **State Finance Commissions** (SFCs) recommendations are crucial for proper state funding.

20. According to the 24th Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Quarterly Bulletin (July to September 2024), Unemployment Rate (UR) in urban areas has decreased from 6.6% to _____ in 2nd Quarter of Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25).

1) 6.5%

2) 6.4%

3) 6.3%

4) 6.2%

5) 6.1%

Answer- **2) 6.4%**

Explanation:

On 18th November 2024, the National Statistical Office (**NSO**) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**) released the **24th [Periodic Labour Force Survey \(PLFS\) Quarterly Bulletin \(July to September 2024\)](#)**.

- As per the report, Unemployment Rate (UR) in urban areas among persons aged 15 years and above has decreased by **20 basis points** (bps), to **6.4%** in 2nd Quarter (**Q2: July-September**) of Financial Year 2024-25 (**FY25**), from **6.6%** in Q2FY24. This marks the lowest UR since the inception of PLFS in April-June 2017.
- The UR among females (aged 15 years and above) in urban areas has decreased marginally to **8.4%** in Q2FY25 from 8.6% in the same quarter of FY24 and 9% in Q1FY25. This marks the **5th** consecutive quarter of the female UR has been above 8%.
- While, the UR among males (aged 15 years and above) in urban areas has decreased from 6% (in Q2FY24) to **5.7%** in Q2FY25. The rate was 5.8% in Q1FY25.

- For urban areas, the quarterly PLFS data measures labour market indicators like: UR, Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), and Worker Population Ratio (WPR) based on the Current Weekly Status (**CWS**).
- At the national level, in the urban areas, a total number of **5,739** First Stage Units (**FSUs**) (urban sampling unit curved out from Urban Frame Survey) have been surveyed during the Q2FY25.
- The UR in CWS among the urban youth aged 15-29, declined from 16.8% (in Q2FY24) to **15.9%** (Q2FY25). [Click here to read more.](#)

21. According to Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2025, India ranked at _____ with overall score of 67.99 on a list of over 60 countries

- 1) 4th
- 2) 7th
- 3) 10th
- 4) 12th
- 5) 14th

Answer- **3) 10th**

Explanation:

According to the [Climate Change Performance Index \(CCPI\) 2025](#), **India** ranked at **10th** position with an overall score of **67.99** on a list of over 60 countries assessed for efforts to fight climate change, dropping from **7th** position in 2023. As per the CCPI 2025, this latest ranking of India is mainly attributed to its low per capita emissions and rapid deployment of renewable energy.

- The index has left the 1st three places empty as no country performed well enough across all index categories to achieve an overall “**very high**” rating. Thus, the index is topped by **Denmark** (score of 78.37) ranked at **4th** position, followed by **the Netherlands** (score of 69.60) and the United Kingdom (**UK**) with overall score of 69.29 ranked at **5th** and **6th** position, respectively.
- The CCPI 2025 was released at the **29th** Conference of Parties (**COP29**) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**) held in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- The index has been published annually since 2005, by 3 environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs): **Germanwatch**, **NewClimate Institute** and the Climate Action Network (**CAN**) **International**.
- **The UK** and **India** are the only two Group-20 (**G20**) countries ranked among the high climate performers in the CCPI 2025.
- India earns a “**High**” performance rating in the GHG emissions and Energy Use categories with a score of **28.78** and 15.53 respectively. It received a “medium” rating in Climate Policy with a score of **17.20**. [Click here to read more.](#)

22. Which organisation has recently (in November ‘24) published the report “World Food and Agriculture: Statistical Yearbook 2024”, stating that 152 million more people are facing hunger in 2023?

- 1) Food Corporation of India
- 2) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
- 3) Food and Agriculture Organization
- 4) Indian Council of Agricultural Research

5) Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture

Answer- **3) Food and Agriculture Organization**

Explanation:

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)'s "[World Food and Agriculture: Statistical Yearbook 2024](#)", despite rising food production, global hunger continues to worsen, with **152 million** more people facing hunger in 2023 compared to pre-pandemic levels in 2019.

- This report was released at the 5th United Nations World Data Forum (UNWDF 2024) held in Medellín, Colombia from November 12-15, 2024.
- This latest edition of FAO's yearbook is structured into **4 thematic chapters** covering: the economic dimensions of agriculture; the production; trade; and prices of commodities; food security and nutrition; and sustainability and environmental aspects of agriculture.
- As per the report, hunger affected **9.1%** of the global population in 2023, which is more than the 7.5% estimated for 2019.
- Over the last two decades, global agricultural value has increased by **89%** in real terms, reaching **USD 3.8 trillion** in 2022.
- The countries with the largest agriculture, forestry and fishing sector in terms of value added in 2022 are **China, India** and the United States of America(**USA**).
- As per the report, the global production of primary crops reached **9.6 billion tonnes** in 2022, up by **56%** compared to 2000. Staple crops like sugarcane, maize, wheat and rice together accounted for approximately 50% of global crop production. [Click here to read more.](#)

23. Which organisation has recently (in November '24) released the report "Charting New Paths for Gender Equality and Empowerment: Asia-Pacific Region Report on Beijing +30 Review" stating India struggles with limited effectiveness of its Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)?

1) Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation

2) Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development

3) United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

4) United Nations Development Programme

5) United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Answer- **5) United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

Explanation:

According to the United Nation(UN) report titled "[Charting New Paths for Gender Equality and Empowerment: Asia-Pacific Region Report on Beijing +30 Review](#)", India struggles with limited effectiveness of its Gender Responsive Budgeting (**GRB**) due to the lack of sex-disaggregated data and exclusion of key programmes that benefit women.

- The report was published jointly by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**UNESCAP**) and **UN Women** at the 'Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review' held in Bangkok, Thailand.
- The report provides an in-depth insight of the progress made and gaps in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (**BPfA**) in Asia-Pacific region.
- The report aims to identify opportunities to address gender inequalities and frame future policies and programmes that can bring gender-centric transformative changes for all women and girls of diverse backgrounds in the Asia-Pacific region.

- The report has suggested that the Government of India (GoI) should enhance the Gender Budget Statement and establish robust monitoring mechanisms through the Ministry of Women and Child Development (**MoWCD**) and Ministry of Finance (**MoF**) to strengthen the quality of GRB.
- The report highlighted that other than India, **the Philippines** acknowledged the importance of integrating a gender perspective into the public financial management system in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.
- The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing +30 Review was organised jointly by the UN ESCAP and UN Women from 19th November to 21st November, 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand.
[Click here to read more.](#)

24. Which bank has recently (in November '24) released the report "Jobs at Your Doorstep: A Jobs Diagnostics for Young People in Six States" during an event held in New Delhi, Delhi?

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

Answer- 1) World Bank

Explanation:

Union Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan**, Ministry of Education(MoE) and Union Minister **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoL&E) launched the World Bank's report titled "[Jobs at Your Doorstep: A Jobs Diagnostics for Young People in Six States](#)" during an event held in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The 6 states covered in this report are **Himachal Pradesh(HP), Kerala, Madhya Pradesh(MP), Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan**, which are collectively known as the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) states.
- This report is a skills gap analysis which tries to align trades offered in Schools industry-specific needs of the districts where the schools are present.
- The report highlights the benefits of embedding skill-based education from grades 9-12 to prepare students for a diverse career path.
- Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan noted that skilling should begin at schools and National Education Policy (**NEP**) **2020** has envisioned mainstreaming skilling in schools.
- The WB assisted the MoE with its program called **STARS** covering **6 states** (STARS States).

25. According to the Sustainable Trade Index (STI) 2024, India ranked _____ globally with an overall score of 24 out of 100.

- 1) 19th
- 2) 21st
- 3) 22nd
- 4) 23rd
- 5) 24th

Answer- 4) 23rd

Explanation:

According to the [Sustainable Trade Index \(STI\) 2024](#), **India**, which is the **5th** largest economy in the world, ranked at **23rd** position globally with an overall score of **24** out of 100. India has improved its ranking by 1 place from **24th** spot in 2023.

- As per the STI 2024, **New Zealand** has again emerged as the “**most sustainable trade economy**” for the **3rd** consecutive year with an overall score of 100.
- **United Kingdom (UK)**, ranks **2nd**, followed by **Australia** in **3rd** position respectively.
- India’s STI 2024 and its ranking position of three pillars: 16th in Economic Resilience, 28th in Societal Pillar, 28th in Environmental Pillar.
- This is the **3rd** edition of the STI, which is published annually by the International Institute for Management Development (**IMD**) World Competitiveness Center (**WCC**) and the **Hinrich Foundation** since 2022.
- The countries are ranked in STI based on **3 main pillars**: economic growth, societal advancement, and environmental resilience.
- India’s STI 2024 and its ranking position of three pillars: **16th in Economic Resilience** (Score: 62.3) shows a strong economy. **28th in Societal Pillar** (Score: 13.32) due to poverty, inequality, and lack of amenities. **28th in Environmental Pillar** (Score: 43.1) amid air pollution, deforestation, and water scarcity. [Click here to read more.](#)

26. The Network Readiness Index 2024, published by Portulans Institute (PI) and Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford, has ranked _____ (country) as the world leader in network readiness with an overall score of 78.96.

- 1) Singapore
- 2) Finland
- 3) Sweden
- 4) United States of America
- 5) United Kingdom

Answer- **4) United States of America**

Explanation:

The [Network Readiness Index 2024](#), published by Portulans Institute (**PI**) and Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford, has ranked the United States of America (**USA**) as the world leader in network readiness for the **3rd** consecutive year with an overall score of 78.96.

- **Singapore** was ranked **2nd** (76.94) followed by **Finland** on 3rd (75.76), **Sweden** on 4th (74.99) and **Republic of Korea** on **5th** spot (74.85) respectively.
- India is ranked **49th** globally with a total score of 53.63. Among the lower-middle-income countries, India is ranked 2nd only to Vietnam (45th).
- The NRI Index provides a framework for evaluating the effects of **Information Communication & Technology (ICT)** on society and the development of nations.
- The NRI was first published in **2002**. Until **2016**, it was part of the Global Information Technology Report (GITR) published by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, **Cornell University**, and **INSEAD** (Institut Européen d’Administration des Affaires). However, in **2019** it was redesigned and started published by PI.
- The 2024 NRI rankings have introduced four new countries: **Seychelles**, **Sierra Leone**, **Trinidad and Tobago**, and **Yemen**.
- The **high-income** economies are led by the **USA** (1) followed by Singapore (2) and Finland (3).

- **India** ranks **12th** within the **Asia Pacific** region with Singapore at the top. [Click here to read more.](#)

27. According to the State of the World's Children (SOWC 2024) report, a global flagship report of UNICEF, titled "The Future of Childhood in a Changing World", the global child population will stabilize at around _____ by 2050.

- 1) 1.4 billion
- 2) 1.9 billion
- 3) 2.3 billion
- 4) 2.5 billion
- 5) 2.8 billion

Answer- 3) 2.3 billion

Explanation:

According to the State of the World's Children (**SOWC 2024**) report which is a global flagship report of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (**UNICEF**), titled "[The Future of Childhood in a Changing World](#)", the global child population will stabilize at around **2.3 billion** by **2050**, with a significant shift in regional distributions.

- The report was released on the occasion of World Children's Day (20th November, 2024) in New Delhi, Delhi.
- The report has been published annually since **1989** by UNICEF.
- The report has examined **three megatrends** that will potentially affect children's lives between now and 2050: demographic shifts, climate and environmental crisis, and frontier technologies.
- As per the report, **South Asia** will remain one of the regions in the world with the largest child populations, along with Eastern and Southern Africa as well as West and Central Africa.
- The report has projected that the share of children in the population will decrease in every region, for instance: the share of children is expected to decline below **40%** in Africa compared to about 50% in the 2000s.
- It is followed by a decline below **19%** in East Asia, Western Europe, North America, and among various High Income Countries (HICs) such as: Australia, the Republic of South Korea and Singapore.
- Globally, newborn survival rates increased by 4% points from the 2000s to **over 98%**.
- The report has projected that **95.7%** of children are expected to have at least a primary education (up from 80% in the 2000s) by the 2050s, while 77% are estimated to have at least an upper secondary education (up from 40% in the 2000s). [Click here to read more.](#)

28. Which organisation has recently (in November '24) published the report 'Enhancing Domestic Coking Coal Availability to Reduce the import of Coking Coal' that advocated coking coal to be included in the list of critical minerals?

- 1) NITI Aayog
- 2) International Energy Agency
- 3) Central Electricity Authority
- 4) Coal India Limited
- 5) GAIL India Limited

Answer- 1) NITI Aayog

Explanation:

The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog's report titled '*Enhancing Domestic Coking Coal Availability to Reduce the Import of Coking Coal*' recommended that the Government of India (GoI) include **coking coal** in its **list of critical minerals** to enhance domestic production and reduce reliance on imports.

- The report emphasizes the strategic importance of coking coal for India & steel industry and overall economic growth. It meets all the criteria to declare coking coal as a 'critical mineral' for India.
- Coking coal is also known as **metallurgical coal**. It is a naturally occurring sedimentary rock found within the earth & crust.
- Currently, India imports about 85% of its coking coal which is higher than that of the European Union(EU) (approximately 62%).
- India has **5.13 billion tonnes of prime coking coal** and **16.5 billion tonnes of medium-quality coking coal**, yet its production is underutilized.
- In the Financial Year 2023-24(FY24), Integrated Steel Plants(ISPs) imported 58 million tonnes(MT) of coking coal, costing over Rs 1.5 lakh crore.
- The report suggested to amend the **Coal Bearing Areas (CBA) Act, 1957**, to allow the SPV under PPP mode to remain a deemed lessee of Jharkhand even after majority shares are transferred to the private sector.
- The Government has released a **list of 30 critical minerals for India** in 2023.

ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

1. Which bank has recently (in October '24) entered into an agreement to acquire the Rs 4,100 crore Standard Chartered Bank India's personal loan book?

- 1) Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited
- 2) Axis Bank Limited
- 3) IDFC First Bank Limited
- 4) Industrial Development Bank of India Limited
- 5) Yes Bank Limited

Answer- 1) Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited

Explanation:

On 18th October 2024, Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (**KMBL**), a leading Indian private sector bank announced that it has entered into an agreement to acquire **Standard Chartered Bank India's** personal loan book.

- As of 30th September 2024, the proposed transaction includes loans of around **Rs 4,100 crore** (nearly USD 490 million) and it consists of loans classified as "**Standard Loans**" as per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines.
- The transaction will be completed over the **next 3 months**, subject to regulatory and other approvals and the satisfaction or waiver of customary closing conditions.

2. Which company has recently (in October '24) acquired an additional 31.52% stake in Agilus Diagnostics Limited (Agilus)?

- 1) Indraprastha Medical Corporation Limited
- 2) Fortis Healthcare Limited
- 3) Global Health Limited
- 4) Artemis Medicare Services Limited
- 5) Healthcare Global Enterprises Limited

Answer- 2) Fortis Healthcare Limited

Explanation:

On 29th October 2024, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposal of Fortis Healthcare Limited (FHL), a multi-speciality hospital chain in India, to acquire an additional **31.52%** stake in Agilus Diagnostics Limited (Agilus).

- Following the transaction, the shareholding of FHL in Agilus will increase from current **57.68% to 89.2%**.
- In August 2024, FHL announced to acquire a 31% stake in Agilus for **Rs 1,780** crore valuing Agilus at Rs 5,700 crore.
- FHL is mainly engaged in providing integrated healthcare delivery services such as medicare, healthcare, diagnostics, among others. FHL's diagnostics services business is being undertaken mainly through Agilus.
- CCI has approved the proposed combination inter alia envisages the merger of Diliigent Power Private Limited (DPPL) into DB Power Limited (DBPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of DPPL, and the reorganization of Decore Thermal Power Private Limited (DTPPL) pursuant to the buyback of certain securities.
- CCI has approved the proposed combination involving acquisition of additional stake in **Thoughtworks Holding, Inc.** by London (the United Kingdom)-based Apax Partners Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) (AP Funds) and Temasek Holdings (Private) Limited (Temasek).
- CCI has approved the acquisition of shares of ST Telemedia Global Data Centres (GDC) Pte. Limited (STT GDC), which is further subject to compliance of certain voluntary commitments submitted by the parties. [Click here to read more.](#)

3. Which company was recently (in October '24) acquired by Mankind Pharma Limited for Rs. 13,768 crores?

- 1) Incepta Vaccine Limited
- 2) Sun Pharma
- 3) Intas Pharmaceuticals Limited
- 4) Bharat Serums and Vaccines Limited
- 5) Serum Institute of India Private Limited

Answer- 4) Bharat Serums and Vaccines Limited

Explanation:

Delhi (New Delhi) based pharmaceutical company **Mankind Pharma Limited** has completed the acquisition of a 100% stake in Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Bharat Serums and Vaccines Limited (BSV) for **Rs. 13,768 crores** to strengthen its leadership in the Indian women's health, critical care and fertility drug market.

- The transaction was funded through internal accruals and external debt, arranged through a combination of non-convertible debentures (NCDs) and commercial papers.

- BSV has a specialized portfolio in women's health, offering products that span from fertility drugs to post-pregnancy therapies, along with a presence in the animal bites category, including treatments like snake venom antiserum and equine rabies immunoglobulin (Ig).

4. Which fintech company has recently (in October '24) merged with North East Small Finance Bank?

- 1) CRED
- 2) PayU
- 3) Groww
- 4) Slice
- 5) BillDesk

Answer- **4) Slice**

Explanation:

Slice, the Bengaluru (Karnataka) based fintech start-up, has completed its merger with Guwahati (Assam) based **North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB)**, following the receipt of necessary approvals from shareholders and the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**), effective from 27th October 2024.

- The entity will roll out a range of banking products and services, including savings accounts, fixed deposits, and credit offerings and aims to strengthen the bank's presence in northeastern regions of India.
- The entity will establish a technology-driven bank with an improved financial position, aimed at growing operations, strengthening risk management, and enhancing the customer experience.

5. Which company's 0.4% shares was recently (in October' 24) acquired by HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company for Rs 90 crore through an open market transaction?

- 1) LIC Housing Finance Limited
- 2) ICICI Home Finance Limited
- 3) PNB Housing Finance Limited
- 4) SBI Life Insurance Limited
- 5) HDFC Life Insurance Limited

Answer: **3) PNB Housing Finance Limited**

Explanation:

Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company Limited** acquired 0.4% shares of New Delhi (Delhi) based **PNB Housing Finance Limited** for Rs 90 crore through an open market transaction. It highlights HDFC Standard Life's interest in expanding its portfolio within the housing finance sector.

i. The shares were picked up at an average price of **Rs 900 apiece**, taking the transaction value to Rs 90 crore.

ii. After the transaction, foreign investor **Asia Opportunities V (Mauritius) Ltd** reduced its holding in PNB Housing to **0.94%** from **1.34%**.

iii. In August 2024, **Asia Opportunities V (Mauritius)** divested a 3% stake in PNB Housing Finance for over Rs 676 crore while in May 2024, **Asia Opportunities V (Mauritius)** and **General Atlantic** liquidated a cumulative 4.46% stake in PNB Housing Finance for Rs 843 crore.

6. Which insurance company has recently (in November '24) sold more than 2.02% stake in Tata Power Company Limited for approximately Rs 2,888 crore?

- 1) Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Limited
- 2) Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited
- 3) Life Insurance Corporation of India
- 4) Aviva Life Insurance Company India Limited
- 5) Max Life Insurance Company Limited

Answer- 3) Life Insurance Corporation of India

Explanation:

Life Insurance Corporation of India (**LIC**) sold more than 2.02% stake in Tata Power Company Limited for approximately **Rs 2,888 crore**. This strategic move reduces LIC's shareholding in Tata Power from 5.906% (18,87,06,367 shares) to **3.881% (12,39,91,097 shares)** of the company's paid-up capital.

- **Number of Shares Sold:** LIC sold over 6.47 crore shares, amounting to a 2.025% stake.
- **Average Sale Price:** The shares were sold at an average price of Rs 446.402 each.
- **Sale Period:** The transactions were made between June 20, 2024, and November 11, 2024.

7. Which company has recently (in November '24) acquired 21% stake in E2E Networks Limited at a cost of Rs 1,407.02 crore through a two part deal?

- 1) Larsen & Toubro Limited
- 2) Muthoot Microfin Limited
- 3) NTPC Green Energy Limited
- 4) Reliance Industries Limited
- 5) REC Limited

Answer- 1) Larsen & Toubro Limited

Explanation:

Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Larsen & Toubro (**L&T**) has proposed to acquire **21%** stake in **E2E Networks Limited**, an Indian Cloud and AI Cloud provider, at a cost of **Rs 1,407.02** crore through a two part deal.

- The two part deal involves a preferential allotment of **15%** equity, valued at Rs 1,079.27 crore at Rs 3,622.25 per share, and the remaining **6%** stake to be acquired from the founder for Rs 327.75 crore at Rs 2,750 per share.
- This partnership also aims at advancing '**Make in India**' initiatives, enabling the production of traditional CPU (Central processing unit) workloads and GPU (Graphic processing unit) -driven GenAI innovation within the country.

8. Which company has recently (in November '24) acquired Reliance Capital Limited (RCAP) for Rs 10,000 crore?

- 1) IndusInd International Holdings Limited
- 2) Aasia Enterprises Private Limited
- 3) Alpha Alternatives Holdings Private Limited
- 4) Invesco Asset Management (India) Private Limited
- 5) Hindalco Tech Limited

Answer- 1) IndusInd International Holdings Limited

Explanation:

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (**MoC&I**), has granted approval for the **Rs 10,000 crore** acquisition of debt-laden Reliance Capital Limited (**RCAP**), part of Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group, by Mauritius-based IndusInd International Holdings Ltd (**IIHL**), a company of the Hinduja Group Limited (**HGL**).

- This approval completes all necessary regulatory clearances for the transaction. Earlier this year, IIHL had received approvals from the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**), the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**), and stock and commodity exchanges.
- DPIIT's approval was essential due to the involvement of Hong Kong (China)-based shareholders in IIHL.
- Reliance Capital Ltd (**RCAP**), a firm burdened with over Rs 40,000 crore in debt, faced governance concerns and payment defaults that led to intervention by the **RBI** in 2021.

9. Which company was recently (in November '24) acquired by Morgan Stanley Asia, Societe Generale and other entities with a 6.82% stake through open market transactions worth Rs 1,664 crore?

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

Answer- 4) PNB Housing Finance Limited

Explanation:

In November 2024, **Morgan Stanley Asia, Societe Generale** and **other entities** acquired a **6.82% stake** (1.77 crore shares) of **PNB Housing Finance Limited** (a subsidiary of Punjab National Bank, PNB) through open market transactions worth **Rs 1,664 crore**.

- Morgan Stanley Asia (Singapore) purchased 5.4% stake in two separate transactions.
- Meanwhile, Ghisallo Master Fund LP (the United States of America, USA) and Societe Generale (France) bought 0.68% stake and 0.65% stake respectively at an average price of Rs 939.30 per share.
- In contrast, Carlyle Group (USA), through its affiliate Quality Investment Holdings (**QIH**), sold a 9.43% stake for **Rs 2,301.58 crore**, reducing its holding in PNB Housing from 19.87% to 10.44%. The shares were sold at Rs 939.42 each.

DEFENCE

1. Where was the 31st edition of joint Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) 2024 conducted in October 2024?

- 1) Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- 2) Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
- 3) Umroi, Meghalaya
- 4) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 5) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Answer- 5) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Explanation:

On October 23-29, 2024, the 31st edition of joint Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) 2024 conducted off the coast of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. This annual event aimed at enhancing naval cooperation between the **Indian Navy (IN)** and the **Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)**.

- The opening ceremony was conducted onboard Indian Naval Ship **(INS) Shivalik**.
- The exercise is conducted in two phases – the **Harbour Phase** from 23 to 25 October at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh and the **Sea Phase** from 28 to 29 October in the Bay of Bengal.
- SIMBEX began in 1994 as **Exercise Lion King** and has evolved into the longest continuous naval exercise conducted by the IN with any foreign navy. This reflects the strong and lasting naval partnership between India and Singapore.

2. Name the 7th vessel in the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) series that was recently (in October '24) launched by the Indian Navy (IN) at L&T Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu.

- 1) Amini
- 2) Agray
- 3) Abhay
- 4) Akshay
- 5) Arnala

Answer- **3) Abhay**

Explanation:

The Indian Navy (IN) launched '**Abhay**', the 7th vessel in the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (**ASW SWC**) series, built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)**. The launch took place at L&T Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu (TN) and was presided over by **Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar**, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Naval Command/ FOC-in-C (East).

- The contract for constructing eight ASW SWC vessels was signed between the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) in April 2019.
- This project aligns with Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) initiative, with over **80% indigenous content**.
- The Arnala-class ships are set to replace the Indian Navy's active Abhay-class ASW corvettes. They are specifically designed for anti-submarine warfare in coastal areas and can perform low-intensity maritime operations as well as mine-laying tasks.
- The 5th and 6th ships namely '**Agray**' and '**Akshay**' respectively were launched in March 2024.

3. Which company's LM2500 marine engines has recently (in October' 24) been chosen to power Indian Navy's Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMV)?

- 1) Boeing
- 2) PowerJet
- 3) Space Machines Company
- 4) GE Aerospace
- 5) Carsten Rehder Schiffsmakler und Reederei GmbH & Co. KG

Answer- **4) GE Aerospace**

Explanation:

The United States of America(USA) based General Electric (**GE**) **Aerospace's LM2500**, engineered for reliability and performance, has been selected to power the Indian Navy's(IN) Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMV), which are constructed by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) in Kochi(Kerala).

- It will provide six kits of the LM2500 marine gas turbine engines which will be assembled and tested by the Industrial and Marine Gas Turbine Division of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (**HAL**) in Bangalore(Karnataka).
- The delivery of the ships is set to begin in **March 2027**, as the IN aims to protect the country's maritime interests in the contested Indo-Pacific region, particularly against aggressive Chinese vessels

4. Which company has recently (in October '24) developed an innovative handheld anti-drone gun 'Vajra Shot'?

- 1) Fortem Technologies
- 2) DroneShield
- 3) Big Bang Boom Solutions
- 4) Zen Technologies
- 5) Lockheed Martin Corporation

Answer- **3) Big Bang Boom Solutions**

Explanation:

The **Vajra Shot**, an innovative handheld anti-drone gun developed by **Big Bang Boom Solutions**, a technology startup based in Chennai (Tamil Nadu), India was showcased '**Swavlamban 2024**' – Indian Navy's Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (**NIIO**) Seminar organized by the Indian Navy (IN) at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi.

- It has been deployed in the Indian Army (**IA**) and the Indian Air Force (**IAF**).
- The Vajra Shot can detect and jam drone signals at a distance of up to **4 kilometers (Km)**.
- It can be paired with a handheld drone detector to create the enhanced version known as the **Vajra Super Shot**, which integrates detection and jamming capabilities.
- It includes a simple LED (Light-emitting diode) display that provides real-time monitoring of the device's operational status and interference duration.

5. Who has recently (in October '24) launched two significant initiatives, 3rd edition of Acing Development of Innovative Technologies (ADITI 3.0) challenge and the 13th Defence India Start-up Challenges (DISC 13)?

- 1) Droupadi Murmu
- 2) Narendra Modi
- 3) Amit Shah
- 4) Rajnath Singh
- 5) Jitendra Singh

Answer- **4) Rajnath Singh**

Explanation:

Union Minister **Rajnath Singh**, Ministry of Defence (**MoD**) launched two significant initiatives aimed at bolstering indigenous defence technologies: 3rd edition of **Acing Development of Innovative Technologies** (ADITI 3.0) challenge and the **13th Defence India Start-up Challenges** (DISC 13).

- The initiatives were launched during **Swavlamban 3.0** held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi organised by the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO).
- The **ADITI (Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX) 3.0** challenge is designed to foster innovation in defence technology by encouraging startups and enterprises to develop cutting-edge solutions.
- The 13th edition of **DISC** includes 7 challenges aimed at enhancing operational efficiencies within the armed forces.
- The previous editions of the Swavlamban initiative had garnered over 2,000 proposals, leading to the development of 155 challenges and facilitating the completion of 171 contracts worth more than Rs 700 crore.
- It has successfully collaborated with 213 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**) and startups through the iDEX initiative, promoting self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

6. Where was the 15th edition of the Exercise Vajra Prahar scheduled to be conducted from 2nd to 22nd November 2024?

- 1) Darwin, Australia
- 2) Meghalaya, India
- 3) Masirah, Oman
- 4) Kuantan, Malaysia
- 5) Idaho, United States of America

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

Explanation:

The Indian Army (**IA**) contingent participated in the **15th** edition of the **Exercise Vajra Prahar** with the United States (**US**) Army at the Orchard Combat Training Centre in Idaho, the United States of America (USA).

- This ongoing exercise, which began on **November 2 2024**, aims to strengthen military cooperation between India and the US and is scheduled to continue until **November 22, 2024**.
- Each country's **contingent** in the joint exercise will include 45 personnel.
- The exercise will focus on executing joint Special Forces operations in desert and semi-desert environments, engaging in rigorous physical training to boost endurance and combat readiness, and conducting collaborative mission planning along with synchronized tactical drills to strengthen teamwork and precision.
- Exercise Vajra Prahar is an annual exercise between the armies of India and the USA to exchange best practices and experiences, particularly in areas like joint mission planning and operational tactics.

7. Name the exercise between India and Indonesia, Joint Special Forces Exercise conducted from 1st to 12th November 2024 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

- 1) Garuda Shakti
- 2) Mitra Shakti
- 3) Maitree Exercise
- 4) Samudra Shakti
- 5) Konkan

Answer- **1) Garuda Shakti**

Explanation:

A contingent of the Indian Army (IA) participated in the 9th edition of the India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise, GARUD SHAKTI, from November 1 to November 12, 2024 in **Cijantung** in Jakarta, Indonesia.

- It provides an opportunity to share best practices, achieve common security goals, and strengthen bilateral relations.
- Aim: To enhance mutual understanding, cooperation, and interoperability between both forces through joint tactical drills and discussions, strengthening bilateral military ties.
- The exercise GARUD SHAKTI – 24 involves 25 Indian personnel from the **Parachute Regiment** (Special Forces) of the IA and 40 members of **Indonesia's Special forces Kopassus**.
- The exercise was initiated in 2012 as a **Joint Military Exercise** between India and Indonesia. This exercise is held alternately in India and Indonesia.

8. Name the exercise between India and Vietnam conducted from 4th to 23rd November 2024 in Haryana.

- 1) VARUNA
- 2) YUDH ABHYAS
- 3) VINBAX-2024
- 4) JIMEX-24
- 5) RIMPAC

Answer- **3) VINBAX-2024**

Explanation:

The 5th edition of the Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise (**VINBAX-2024**) is being conducted at **Ambala**, Haryana and **Chandimandir** Military Station in Panchkula District of Haryana from November 4 to 23, 2024, marking a significant step in enhancing the defence ties between India and Vietnam.

- The aim of VINBAX-2024 is to strengthen the joint military readiness of both nations, particularly in areas crucial to United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions.
- The Indian Army (**IA**) **contingent**, comprising 47 personnel, is represented by a Regiment of the Corps of Engineers, with additional support from other arms and services.
- The **Vietnamese contingent** mirrors this strength, with personnel from the Vietnam People's Army.
- VINBAX-2024 is designed as an intense field training exercise, focusing on technical coordination and shared best practices.
- This year, VINBAX has expanded its scope, with participation from **both the Army and Air Force of India and Vietnam** for the first time, reflecting a deeper commitment to bilateral cooperation.
- VINBAX, is an annual training exercise instituted in 2018, with the first edition held in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh(MP).

9. In which state, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the first flight-test of the Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM)?

- 1) Bihar
- 2) Odisha