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# Aparchit October 4th Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts By :- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir

Q. Airbus has tied up with which IIT to boost talent development in the Indian aerospace sector?

A) IIT Mumbai

B) IIT Delhi

C) IIT Kharagpur

D) IIT Kanpur

#### Answer: D

✓ Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur and Airbus signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to focus on research to promote talent development in the Indian aerospace sector. Airbus is a European multinational aerospace company

#### IIT IN NEWS 2023

- > IIT Kanpur and Airbus to collaborate to boost aerospace talent base in India.
- > IIT Kanpur has signed an MoU with private lender ICICI Bank to support the startup ecosystem in the institute.
- > IIT Guwahati have developed pharmaceutical and food products from tea factory waste.
- ➤ IIT Jodhpur scientists develop 'CODE' device for good air quality.
- ➤ IIT Madras-incubated space tech startup GalaxEye Space on 29 August 2023 launched their drone-based synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system, Ahead of their planned satellite launch in 2024.
- ➤ IIT Bombay has received a donation of \$18.6 million from an alumnus towards the establishment of a Green Energy and Sustainability Research Hub.
- > IIT Guwahati has signed MoU with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to build capacity/skills in international affairs and foreign policy.
- ➤ IIT Guwahati researchers develop Al-based model for knee X-ray.
- ➤ Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani donated ₹315 crores to IIT Bombay.
- ➤ IIT-Madras generates hydrogen from seawater using solar energy.
- India, Israel to jointly develop Center of Water Technology at IIT Madras.
- > IIT Madras researchers partner for development of materials and micro-device processing techniques.

- > IIT Kanpur's C3iHub, a cybersecurity Technology Innovation Hub, has launched a Cybersecurity Skilling Programme.
- > IIT Madras to set up its first international campus in Tanzania.
- ➤ Indian Institute of Technology Madras will be provided a grant of Rs 242 crore over a period of five years to carry out research on Lab Grown Diamonds (LGD).
- ➤ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has been ranked 1st in India and 47th globally in engineering and technology by the QS World University Rankings for 2023.
- ➤ IIT Indore, in partnership with NASA-Caltech and the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, has designed an inexpensive camera setup.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) Researchers have developed a three-dimensional (3D) paper-based portable device that can detect adulteration in milk within 30 seconds.
- > IIT Kanpur to Host Youth20 Consultation under G20 Presidency of India.
- > IIT Bombay's SHUNYA secures second place in 'Solar Decathlon' Build Challenge in US.
- > Students of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore won an award of AED (Emirates Dirham) 1 million along with a gold medal at the World Government Summit in Dubai.
- > IIT Indore Students Awarded with Global Best M-GOV Awards by Egyptian President.
- > Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) at IIT Kanpur has entered into a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agreement with Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited.
- > DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.
- > IIT Madras-incubated firm has developed an indigenous mobile operating system called BharOS.
- > IIT Madras Centre of Excellence working with DRDO on Advanced Defence Technologies including Combat Vehicle Technologies.
- > IIT Madras researchers develop machine learning tool to detect tumour in brain, spinal cord.
- ➤ ISRO plans to develop astronaut training module with IIT Madras.
- > IIT-Bombay and Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) join hands to develop touchless biometric system.
- > IIT delhi has been ranked among the top 50 engineering institutions in the QS World University Rankings by Subject.
- > An IIT Madras incubated firm has developed an indigenous mobile operating system 'Bharos' that can benefit India's 100 crore mobile phone users.

Q. Which country has named the cyclonic storm 'Hamoon' that arose in the Bay of Bengal?

A) Pakistan

B) Bangladesh

C) Iran

D) Kuwait

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Cyclonic storm 'Hamoon' that arose in the Bay of Bengal hit the south-eastern coast of Bangladesh on 25 October 2023.
- ✓ Tropical cyclones that form in the Indian Ocean are ranked by the 13 member countries.
- ✓ Cyclonic storm 'Hamoon' has been named by Iran. 'Hamun' is a Persian word that refers to temporary desert lakes and marshlands
- Q. What is the brand name of the Cotton launched by Union Textiles Ministry?

A) Kasturi Cotton Bharat

B) Kriya Cotton Bharat

C) Texo Cotton Bharat

D) Namo Cotton Bharat

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Recently, the Union Minister of Textile, Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution launched website of Kasturi Cotton Bharat.
- ✓ About Kasturi Cotton Bharat:
- ✓ It is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Textiles, the Cotton Corporation of India, Trade Bodies & Industry.
- ✓ Objective: To work on the principle of self-regulation by owning complete responsibility of Branding, Traceability and Certification of Indian Cotton to enhance its' competitiveness in the global market and create a sustainable ecosystem for all stakeholders involved.
- ✓ The website provides a digital platform for necessary information and updates on this initiatives and highlights the registration process for ginners to produce Kasturi Cotton Bharat Brand.
- ✓ All the ginners in the country have been empowered to produce Kasturi Cotton Bharat brand as per stipulated protocol.
- ✓ Besides this, to provide complete traceability of Kasturi Cotton Bharat across the supply chain, QR based certification technology will be used at each stage of the processing and a blockchain based software platform will provide end to end traceability and transaction certificate.
- ✓ The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) the apex body has been designated as the implementing agency for Traceability, Certification and Branding of "KASTURI Cotton India"

- Q. Which ship-building company delivered INS Imphal, the third ship of Project 15B-Class of stealth guided missile destroyers?
  - A) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
  - B) Cochin Shipyard
  - C) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
  - D) Hindustan Shipyard

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Recently, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) delivered the third Stealth Destroyer of Project 15B Class Guided Missile Destroyer, i.e., Yard 12706 (IMPHAL), to the Indian Navy.
- ✓ About Yard 12706 (IMPHAL):
- ✓ The ship is constructed using Indigenous Steel DMR 249A and is among the largest Destroyers constructed in India, with an overall length of 164 metres and a displacement of over 7500 tonnes.
- ✓ The ship is propelled by a powerful Combined Gas and Gas Propulsion Plant (COGAG), consisting of four reversible Gas Turbines, which enables her to achieve a speed of over 30 knots (approx 55 Kmph).
- ✓ Key points about Project 15B
- ✓ Project 15B (P15B) / Visakhapatnam-class is the latest destroyer design currently under construction for the Indian Navy.
- ✓ These ships have been designed indigenously by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design, New Delhi.
- ✓ Each ship spans 163 meters in length and 17.4 meters in beam and displaces 7,300 tonnes
- Q. Which state government has inaugurated 'Mission Mahila Sarathi'?
  - A) Bihar
  - B) Uttar Pradesh
  - C) Kerala
  - D) Karnataka

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated "Mission Mahila Sarathi" recently in Ayodhya.
- ✓ Under the scheme, 51 buses of the state transport corporation will be operated by women drivers and conductors.

#### **UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS 2023**

- > President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the first Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show at India Expo Center and Mart in Greater Noida.
- ➤ Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) has signed an MoU with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for the solarisation of residential units at Ayodhya and for bio-energy and renewable project financing.
- Ashok Leyland has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the government of Uttar Pradesh to set up an integrated commercial vehicle bus plant focused on green mobility in Uttar Pradesh.
- ➤ Uttar Pradesh government has decided to organize a campaign under Road Safety Fortnight from July 17 to 31.
- ➤ Uttar Pradesh Police Department has launched 'Operation Conviction' to combat criminals and mafias in the state.
- ➤ Uttar Pradesh government has decided to cancel all Traffic Chalan for private and commercial vehicle owners pending from 2017 to 2021.
- ➤ UP holds 2nd position in GI tagged products.
- After getting GI tag for three more One District One Product (ODOP) crafts, Uttar Pradesh has now come second in the country in terms of maximum number of items with Geographical Indication tag.
- The ODOP crafts which have got GI tag include Mainpuri Tarkashi, Mahoba Gaura Stone Craft and Sambhal Horn Craft.
- Tamil Nadu leads with 55 GI-tags, followed by UP and Karnataka with 48 and 46 GI products, respectively.
- > The state government has given green signal to the project of setting Uttar Pradesh a state's first Pharma Park in Lalitpur district of Bundelkhand.
- > Uttar Pradesh introduces "School Health Program" digital health cards for children.
- > The online rural education initiative 'Pahal' was officially launched by Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra at Government UP Sainik Inter College in Sarojini Nagar.
- ➤ Uttar Pradesh on track to be first Indian state with 100% EVs in govt depts.
- > Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the India's first urban transport ropeway on March 24, 2023, in Varanasi.

- ➤ Uttar Pradesh government has launched the portal for the creation of 'Family ID One Family One Identity'.
- > Uttarakhand won the first prize for its tableau, followed by Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh in the second and third positions respectively.
- Uttar Pradesh came in third with its tableau commemorating Ayodhya's Deepotsav.
- > Uttar Pradesh Government Launched 'Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan' Campaign.
- Uttar Pradesh tops charts for mobile gaming destination in India.
- Taj Mahotsav Starts In Agra of Uttar Pradesh.
- ➤ UP first all-woman PAC battalions formed by Uttar Pradesh Govt.
- ➤ Uttar Pradesh tops in India, 8462 lakes developed under Mission Amrit Sarovar.
- > Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurates north India's first data centre at Greater Noida.
- ➤ Uttar Pradesh bags top honours at PMAY-U Awards 2021.
- Agriculture Minister of India, Narendra Singh Tomar, has introduced a new platform called 'DigiClaim' on the national crop insurance portal.
- ➤ Kannuj will be developed into a tourist destination as per the decision taken by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- > Centre has approved the setting up of the Terai Elephant Reserve (TER) at Dudhwa-Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh. The Terai Elephant Reserve is the 3rd Elephant Reserve in India.
- > Uttar Pradesh cabinet has gave a green signal for the development of the first tiger reserve in the Bundelkhand region
- Q. India's first Nano DAP plant has been inaugurated in which state?

A) Uttar Pradesh

B) Gujarat

C) Haryana

D) Rajasthan

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the country's first Nano DAP plant in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ✓ Nano Liquid Dapp Plant in Kalol has been set up by IFFCO at a cost of Rs 300 crore. IFFCO was established in 1967.

- Q. With which country has the Union Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Cooperation for Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership?
  - A) France

B) Germany

C) Singapore

D) Japan

#### Answer: D

✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Cooperation between India and Japan on Japan-India Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with Japan in July 2023.

#### **SIGNS MoU IN NEWS 2023**

- India-Japan pact on semiconductor supply chain gets Cabinet green light.
- ➤ India, Italy sign defence agreement.
- > India and Tanzania elevate ties to Strategic Partnership; Agree on 5 year roadmap for defence cooperation.
- ➤ India, Tanzania to sign 15 agreements with eye on USD 10 billion trade.
- > India And Saudi Arabia Tie Up For Green Hydrogen.
- ➤ India And Saudi Arabia Sign Agreement On Cooperation In Energy Sector.
- ➤ India, New Zealand Sign MoU To Enhance Cooperation In Civil Aviation.
- ➤ India and Trinidad and Tobago have entered a partnership by signing an MoU to share INDIA STACK.
- > India, Moldova agree to sign MoU for cooperation in agriculture
- ➤ India, UAE sign MoU on linking of India's Unified Payments Interface with Instant Payment Platform of UAE.
- ➤ India, Panama sign MoU on electoral cooperation.
- ➤ India and Singapore extend MoU on cooperation for 5 years.
- > Israel signed an agreement with India to enhance technological advancements and sustainable practices cooperation in the fields of water and agriculture.
- > India and US To Establish Monitoring Group to Boost High-Tech Trade and Tech Partnership.
- ➤ India and Australia Sign Agreements on Migration and Green Hydrogen Task Force.
- > India, Israel sign MoU for industrial research and development cooperation.

- ➤ NET Zero' Innovation Virtual Centre to be jointly created by India-UK.
- India, UK sign agreement to collaborate on science and innovation.
- ➤ Nepal and India to Sign Agreement for Cross-Border Digital Payments.
- > India and Romania sign first Defence Cooperation Agreement to strengthen bilateral relations.
- ➤ India, US to sign memorandum of understanding on semiconductors.
- Australia, India agree on strengthening economic, defence ties.
- Q. Which Indian-American was awarded the National Medal of Technology and Innovation by the US President?

A) Vivek Ramaswami

B) Ashok Gadgil

C) Arun Mehra

D) Ajay Bagga

#### Answer: B

- ✓ US President Joe Biden honored two Indian American scientists with the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. Which includes Ashok Gadgil and Subra Suresh.
- ✓ This award is given to those Americans who have made achievements in science and technology. This award was established in 1959
- Q. Who has been appointed by the Election Commission of India as its national icon?

A) Kapil Dev

B) Mahendra Singh Dhoni

C) Anushka Sharma

D) Rajkumar Rao

#### Answer: D

- ✓ The Election Commission of India has appointed actor Rajkumar Rao as its national icon. National icons make people aware about voting.
- ✓ Rajkumar Rao was given the National Award for Best Actor for his film 'Newton'.
- ✓ In August this year, the Election Commission had made former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar its national icon.
- Q. Which country is hosting the UN Forum on 'Forest Fire and Certification'?

A) France

B) Brazil

C) South Africa

D) India

#### Answer: D

- ✓ A two-day Country Led Initiative (CLI) program is being organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in Uttarakhand at the Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun. In this, about 55 representatives from 30 countries and 41 representatives from 20 organizations will discuss the topic of Forest Fire and Certification. This program is a part of the United Nations Forum on Forests.
- Q. Who has been made the new head coach of the Indian women's cricket team?

A) Amol Muzumdar

B) Ramesh Powar

C) Nikhil Chopra

D) Ajay Jadeja

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Domestic cricket legend Amol Muzumdar has been named the new head coach of the Indian women's cricket team by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Muzumdar has previously worked as the batting coach for Rajasthan Royals (RR) in the Indian Premier League (IPL)
- Q. Which player has made the record of fastest century in ODI World Cup history?

A) Rohit Sharma

B) Glenn Maxwell

C) Aiden Markram

D) Babar Azam

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Australia's Glenn Maxwell has scored the fastest century in World Cup history. Glenn Maxwell completed his century against Netherlands in just 40 balls. During his innings, Maxwell hit 9 fours and 8 sixes.
- ✓ In this case, Maxwell broke the record of South Africa's Aiden Markram who had scored a century in 49
- Q. The Indian textile industry in collaboration with industry bodies will host the world's largest textiles event "Bharat Tex 2024" in which city from 26 February to 29 February 2024?

A) Hyderabad

B) Chennai

C) Mumbai

D) New Delhi

#### Answer: D

- ✓ The Indian textile industry in collaboration with industry bodies will host the world's largest textiles event "Bharat Tex 2024".
- ✓ This mega exhibition is scheduled to take place from 26 February to 29 February 2024 in New Delhi.

- ✓ The initiative marks India's dedication to becoming a global textile powerhouse, combining innovation, collaboration, and the "Make in India" spirit.
- ✓ Bharat Tex 2024 represents India's 5F vision, encompassing Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.
- Q. According to rating agency Crisil, India will spend nearly Rs143 lakh crore on which sector between fiscal 2024 and 2030, more than twice the ₹ 67 lakh crore spent in the past seven financial years starting 2017?

A) Solar Sector

B) Agriculture Sector

C) Health Sector

D) Infrastructure Sector

#### Answer: D

- ✓ India will spend nearly Rs143 lakh crore on infrastructure between fiscals 2024 and 2030, more than twice the ₹ 67 lakh crore spent in the past seven financial years starting 2017, according to rating agency Crisil.
- ✓ Of the total, ₹ 36.6 lakh crore will be green investments, marking five times rise compared with the amount spent during fiscals 2017-2023.
- ✓ The agency expects India's gross domestic product to grow at an average 6.7 percent through fiscal 2031 to be the fastest-expanding large economy.
- Q. According to a Swiss technology company IQAir, which of the following city is the most polluted city in the world?

A) Beijing

B) Mumbai

C) Karachi

D) Islamabad

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Mumbai was the second most polluted city among 109 places tracked by IQAir, a Swiss technology company measuring air quality in real-time.
- ✓ Beijing, meanwhile, took the top spot.
- ✓ The air quality index (AQI) score is based on the US system where a score of between 0-50 is good, 51-100 is moderate, 101-150 is unhealthy for sensitive groups, 151-200 is unhealthy, 201-300 is very unhealthy and >301 is hazardous.
- ✓ The concentration of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in Mumbai was 14.7 times the World Health Organization (WHO) guideline of five micrograms per cubic metre. In Delhi, it was 9.8 times the guideline value

- Q. According to which market intelligence, India surpasses Japan to become 2nd largest economy in Asia by 2030?
  - A) Fitch Rating
  - B) FICCI
  - C) S&P Global
  - D) OECD

#### Answer: C

- ✓ India, the world's fifth largest economy in the world, is likely to overtake Japan to become the world's third-largest economy with a GDP of \$ 7.3 trillion by 2030, S&P Global Market Intelligence.
- ✓ After two years of rapid economic growth in 2021 and 2022, the Indian economy has continued to show sustained strong growth during the 2023 calendar year.
- ✓ India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow 6.2-6.3 percent in the fiscal year ending in March 2024, being the fastest-growing major economy this fiscal year.
- ✓ India's nominal GDP measured in \$ terms is forecast to rise from \$ 3.5 trillion in 2022 to \$ 7.3 trillion by 2030
- Q. The Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023, recently seen in news is a joint bilateral training exercise between the India and which of the following country's army?
  - A) Nepal
  - B) Malaysia
  - C) Sri Lanka
  - D) Indonesia

#### Answer: B

- ✓ The joint bilateral training exercise "Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023" between the Indian and Malaysian Army has officially started at Umroi Cantonment in India.
- ✓ The Malaysian Army contingent includes troops from the 5th Royal Battalion of the Malaysian Army, while the Indian contingent is represented by a battalion of THE RAJPUT REGIMENT.
- ✓ The previous edition of this exercise took place in Malaysia in 2022

#### Q. Consider the following statements

- 1. Development of SC dominated villages into an "Adarsh Gram".
- 2. 'Grants-in-aid' for District/State-level Projects for socio-economic betterment of SCs
- 3. Financial assistance towards loans taken by beneficiaries for acquisition/creation of assets required for livelihood generation.

Which among the following are the components of Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana?

A) 2 and 3

B) 3 only

C) 1 and 2

D) 1, 2 and 3

#### Answer: D

- ✓ The Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana (PM-AJAY) has been implemented since 2021-22.
- ✓ About Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana:
- ✓ It is a merged scheme of three Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP), and Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY).
- ✓ Aim:
- ✓ To reduce poverty of the SC communities by generation of additional employment opportunities through Skill development, income generating schemes and other initiatives
- ✓ To improve socio-economic developmental indicators by ensuring adequate infrastructure and requisite services in the SC dominated villages.
- ✓ The Scheme has three components:
- ✓ Development of SC dominated villages into an "Adarsh Gram": The objective of this component is to ensure integrated development of SC majority villages so that, inter alia, there is:, Adequate infrastructure; all requisite infrastructure necessary for socio-economic development needs is to be provided under the Scheme.
- ✓ 'Grants-in-aid' for District/State-level Projects for socio-economic betterment of SCs that may include creation of infrastructure in SC dominated villages including those selected under Adarsh Gram component, construction of Hostels/Residential schools.
- ✓ Comprehensive Livelihood Projects which may include components such as Skill development, related infrastructure development, financial assistance towards loans taken by beneficiaries for acquisition/creation of assets required for livelihood generation etc.

- ✓ Construction of Hostels in higher educational institutions which are top-ranked as per the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) of Government of India and are funded by the Centre/State/UT Governments either fully or partially.
- Q. Consider the following statements about Small Savings Instruments (SSIs)
  - 1. All deposits received under various small savings schemes are pooled in the National Small Savings Fund.
  - 2. Public provident fund (PPF) and Kisan Vikas Patra are the examples of Small Savings Instruments.
  - 3. The money in the fund is used by the central government to finance its fiscal deficit.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None of the above

#### Answer: C

- ✓ The government of India has raised the rates offered for most small savings instruments (SSIs) in the range of 40 basis points (bps) to 150 bps over the last five quarters.
- ✓ About Small Savings Instruments (SSIs):
- ✓ These are a set of savings instruments managed by the central government with the aim of encouraging citizens to save regularly, irrespective of their age.
- √ Features
- ✓ They provide returns that are generally higher than bank fixed deposits.
- ✓ It also gives a sovereign guarantee and tax benefits.
- ✓ The interest rates on small savings schemes change on a quarterly basis.
- ✓ All deposits received under various small savings schemes are pooled in the National Small Savings Fund.
- ✓ These instruments can be classified under three headings:
- ✓ Postal deposits (comprising savings account, recurring deposits, time deposits of varying maturities, and monthly income scheme (MIS).
- ✓ Savings certificates (National Small Savings Certificate VIII (NSC) and Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP).
- ✓ Social security schemes (public provident fund (PPF) and Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme (SCSS).

  The money in the fund is used by the central government to finance its fiscal deficit.

- Q. Consider the following statements about Floating Rate Savings Bonds (FRSBs)
  - 1. FRSBs are interest-bearing, tradable bonds issued by the Government of India.
  - 2. Non-Resident Indians (NRI) are eligible to invest in these bonds.
  - 3. Interest received through the bonds will be taxable under the Income-tax Act, 1961.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None of the above

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Statement 1 Incorrect
- ✓ Statement 2 Incorrect
- ✓ Statement 3 Correct
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently expanded the basket of products offered through the Retail Direct Portal, allowing retail investors to subscribe to Floating Rate Savings Bonds (FRSBs), 2020 (Taxable).
- ✓ About Floating Rate Savings Bonds (FRSBs), 2020 (Taxable):
- ✓ It was introduced by the Government of India on July 1, 2020.
- ✓ FRSBs are interest-bearing, non-tradeable bonds issued by the Government of India that are repayable on the expiration of seven years from the date of issue.
- ✓ Eligibility: The bonds may be held by
- ✓ A person resident in India, in her or his individual capacity, or in individual capacity on a joint basis, or in individual capacity on any one or survivor basis, or on behalf of a minor as father/mother/legal guardian.
- ✓ A Hindu undivided family.
- ✓ Non-Resident Indians (NRI) are not eligible to invest in these bonds.
- ✓ Minimum Subscription: The bonds will be issued for a minimum amount of Rs. 1000 (face value) and in multiples thereof.
- ✓ Maximum Limit: There will be no maximum limit for investment in the bonds.
- ✓ A certificate of holding will be issued to the customer as proof of subscription.
- ✓ The bonds will be issued only in the electronic form called the Bond Ledger Account (BLA).
- ✓ Contributions to the bonds can be made in cash (up to ₹20,000/- only)/ drafts/cheques.
- ✓ Key Facts about the RBI-Retail Direct Scheme:

- ✓ It was launched on November 12, 2021, as a one-stop solution to facilitate investment in Government Securities by individual investors.
- ✓ Under the scheme, individual investors are permitted to open a Retail Direct Gilt account with the RBI using an online portal, through which investments in government Securities can be made in primary and secondary markets.
- ✓ There are 4 kinds of government securities you can invest in through the RBI Retail Direct platform:
- ✓ Government of India Treasury Bills (T-Bills)
- ✓ Government of India Dated Securities (Dated G-Sec or Government Bonds)
- ✓ State Development Loans (SDLs)
- ✓ Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB)
- Q. Which country is India's biggest trading partner during April-September in fiscal 2023-24?

A) China

B) Israel

C) USA

D) UAE

#### Answer: C

- ✓ United States has emerged as India's biggest trading partner during April-September this fiscal. The US was India's biggest trading partner in 2022-23.
- ✓ The bilateral trade between India and the US has declined by 11.3 per cent to \$59.67 billion during April-September 2023 against \$67.28 billion in the same period last year.
- ✓ Similarly, the two-way trade between India and China also dipped by 3.56 per cent to \$58.11 billion.
- Q. Which country hosted the 7th Edition of Future Investment Initiative (FII) in 2023?

A) USA

B) UK

C) Saudi Arabia

D) India

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal attended the 7th Edition of Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh.
- ✓ He met several dignitaries from the host country of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).
- ✓ Piyush Goyal addressed the 7th Edition of FII in one of the plenary sessions titled "The Coming Investment Mandate".

- ✓ India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) was established in 2019.
- Q. Dhordo has been bestowed with the title 'Best Tourism Village' by the United Nations World Which of the following country has recently announced free visas for Indians to boost tourism?

A) Sri Lanka

B) Maldives

C) Vietnam

D) Bhutan

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Sri Lanka waived the visa fees for Indians and tourists from six other countries, as part of its efforts to boost tourist arrivals and help rebuild the island nation's battered economy following last year's financial crash.
- ✓ India has remained Sri Lanka's top source market for many years. This year, over 2 lakh Indian tourists constituting 20 percent of the total tourist arrivals have visited the island nation until September.
- ✓ As part of its decisions, the Cabinet announced the implementation of a pilot project to issue free tourist visas to tourists from China, India, Russia, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Japan until March 31, 2024.

#### SRI LANKA IN NEWS 2023

- Sri Lanka has recently announced visa-free access for Indian passport holders.
- Ministry of Transport and Highways of Sri Lanka has signed a contract with India's IRCON International Limited for the design, testing and commissioning of signaling systems with Sri Lanka Railways.
- > Sri Lanka hosted the Karnataka Cultural Festival on August 27, 2023.
- > FIFA has lifted its ban on the Sri Lankan Football Federation with immediate effect.
- India gives Lanka Rs 450 mn in aid for unique digital identity project.
- World Bank approves \$700 million for crisis-hit Sri Lanka.
- ➤ Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off India's first international cruise vessel MV Empress, from Chennai to Sri Lanka.
- ➤ Bharti Airtel has announced its plan to merge its Sri Lanka operations with Dialog Axiata, the largest telecom provider in Sri Lanka.
- ➤ The 10th annual SLINEX-2023 bilateral maritime exercise between India and Sri Lanka has commenced in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- Sri Lanka assent to Adani Green's \$442 Million Wind Power Project.

- > India will support Sri Lanka's debt restructuring plan as the island nation looks to trim its huge public expenditure to win approval for a crucial bailout from the International Monetary Fund.
- ➤ India has supplied 50 buses to Sri Lanka on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of independence.
- > Indian High Commission signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka to establish a Hindi Chair.
- ➤ India & Sri Lanka inaugurate exhibition 'Geoffrey Bawa' in New Delhi.
- > Reliance Retail Ventures Limited announced a strategic partnership with Sri Lanka-headquartered Maliban Biscuit Manufactories Limited.
- SRI LANKA
- Capital: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (legislative)
- Colombo (executive and judicial)
- Currency: Rupee
- > President : Ranil Wickremesinghe
- > Prime Minister : Dinesh Gunawardena
- Mitra Shakti Military Exercise: India and Sri Lanka
- Slinex Navel Exercise : India and Sri Lanka
- > Parliament : parliamenthua (225 seats)
- National day: 4 February 1948
- Q. Which of the following has recently unveiled its indigenously built the Vikram-1 rocket?

A) Boeing Rotorcraft Systems

B) Tata Advanced Systems

C) Skyroot Aerospace

D) National Aerospace Laboratories

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Space start-up Skyroot Aerospace has unveiled its indigenously built Vikram-1 rocket in Hyderabad which is expected to deliver satellites to low earth orbit early 2024.
- ✓ Skyroot's Vikram-1 is described as a "technologically advanced, multi-stage launch vehicle with a payload capacity of approximately 300 Kg to Low Earth Orbit.
- ✓ It is an all-carbon-fiber-bodied rocket equipped with 3D-printed liquid engines.
- ✓ Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh also inaugurated 'The MAX-Q Campus', the new headquarters of the start-up at the GMR Aerospace and Industrial Park at Mamidipally in South Hyderabad.

- Q. Which bank has partnered with National E-Governance Services Limited to issue its inaugural electronic Bank Guarantee through its platform?
  - A) Yes Bank

B) HDFC Bank

C) Kotak Mahindra Bank

D) Axis Bank

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank has partnered with National E-Governance Services Limited to issue its inaugural electronic Bank Guarantee through its platform.
- ✓ This collaboration is poised to usher in the era of digital trade, effectively eliminating the traditional paper-based issuance of Bank Guarantees.
- ✓ The digital transformation encompasses the issuance, modifications, closures, digital stamping, and signing processes, resulting in a significant reduction in the guaranteed turnaround time (TAT).
- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank
- ✓ Founded 1985
- ✓ Founders : Uday Kotak
- ✓ Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ✓ MD & CEO : Ashok Vaswani
- ✓ Tagline : Let's Make Money Simple Ab Kona Kona Kotak.
- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai.
- ✓ It is India's third largest private sector bank by market capitalisation after HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank.
- ✓ As of 31 March 2023, the bank has a national footprint of 1,780 branches and 2,963 ATMs.
- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Finance was then renamed Kotak Mahindra Bank. At the time, Uday Kotak had a 56% stake in the company while Anand Mahindra held a 5% stake .
- Q. Which bank has collaborated with Viamericas Corporation to offer non-resident Indians (NRIs) in the US digital inward remittance services on its platform?

A) IndusInd Bank

B) Kotak Mahindra Bank

C) Canara Bank

D) HDFC Bank

Answer: A

- ✓ IndusInd Bank has collaborated with Viamericas Corporation to offer non-resident Indians (NRIs) in the US digital inward remittance services on the 'Indus Fast Remit' platform.
- ✓ The service will offer competitive exchange rates on remittances to India.
- ✓ NRIs can initiate remittance transactions using the auto debit payment mode (automated clearing house ACH) through their overseas bank accounts on the Fast Remit platform.
- ✓ INDUSLND BANK

✓ Founded: 1994

✓ Founder : S.P. Hinduja

✓ Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra,

✓ MD & CEO : Sumant Kathpalia

✓ Tagline: We Make You Feel Richer

Q. Which state government has launched the 'iStart Talent Connect Portal' to boost employment opportunities in the state?

A) Uttar Pradesh

B) Uttarakhand

C) Rajasthan

D) Haryana

#### Answer: C

- ✓ The Rajasthan government has launched the 'iStart Talent Connect Portal' at Jaipur's Techno Hub to boost employment opportunities in the state.
- ✓ The platform has launched in collaboration with Jaipur-based startup Hyrefox.
- ✓ Objective To serve as a user-friendly platform for both job providers and job seekers.
- ✓ The platform not only allows companies to discover potential talent but also lets them post job openings and connect with their future employees

#### **RAJASTHAN IN NEWS 2023**

- Rajasthan government has launched the 'iStart Talent Connect Portal' at Jaipur's Techno Hub to boost employment opportunities in the state.
- ➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched multiple projects worth ₹5,000 crore in Rajasthan and asserted that they will lead to further development of the state.
- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has announced the formation of three new districts in the state Malpura, Sujangarh, and Kuchman City. Rajasthan will now have 53 districts.

- Rajasthan government has issued an order to conduct a caste survey in the state. It will become the second state in India to carry out such a survey, after Bihar.
- Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) India Limited, a Navratna Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSE) under the Ministry of Coal, has emerged victorious in securing an 810 MW Solar PV project capacity from Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Nigam Limited (RRVUNL).
- > Prime Minister recently offered prayers at the Sanwariya Seth Temple in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan.
- NABARD has sanctioned Rs 1,974.07 crore to the Rajasthan government under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for 2023-24.
- Noor Shekhawat became the first transgender person in Rajasthan to be issued a birth certificate with the gender recorded as transgender.
- ➤ For the first time in India, the Rajasthan government introduced the Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers Bill, 2023.
- Rajasthan Assembly passed a bill to provide minimum guaranteed income to all adult citizens as part of a welfare package for the state.
- > Rajasthan government is set to take stringent measures against recruitment exam paper leaks by introducing a bill in the upcoming assembly session.
- ➤ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 11 National Highway projects worth Rs 5600 crore in Pratapgarh, Rajasthan.
- ➤ Rajasthan government has sanctioned Rs 13.48 crore to promote religious tourism at Nagaur, Jaisalmer, and Alwar regions of the state.
- > PM Modi Launches Projects Worth Rs 5,500 Crore In Rajasthan, Including 114 Km Long Six-Lane Udaipur-Shamlaji Section Of NH-48.
- Lithium reserves have been discovered in Rajasthan's Degana following the recent discovery in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Jal Jan Abhiyan virtually on Abu Road in the Sirohi district of Rajasthan.
- Q. Who has been appointed as Brand Ambassador of an ed-tech platform, Henry Harvin Education?

A) Shashi Tharoor

B) Amitav Ghosh

C) Chetan Bhagat

D) Salman Rushdie

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Henry Harvin Education, an ed-tech platform specializing in upskilling and reskilling programmes for young professionals, has onboarded Chetan Bhagat as its brand ambassador.
- ✓ Backed by this alliance, Henry Harvin Education is poised for a voyage of further innovation and transformative growth, solidifying its position as a trailblazing influence in the global education sector.
- ✓ This partnership represents a shared vision and commitment to empowering the youth of India.
- ✓ Chetan Bhagat Books:
- ✓ One Night @the Call Centre
- ✓ Half Girlfriend
- ✓ 5 Point Someone
- ✓ The Three Mistakes of My Life
- ✓ 2 States
- ✓ Half Girlfriend
- ✓ What India Wants

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LATEST BRAND AMBASSADOR IN NEWS 2023			
Chetan bhagat	Henry Harvin Education		
Mohammed Shami	Puma		
Sachin Tendulkar	ICC as the global ambassador of ODI World Cup 2023		
Mahendra Singh Dhoni	JioMart		
Katrina Kaif	Uniqlo		
Hrithik Roshan	lubricants brand Mobilil		
Anushka Sharma	W		
Mahendra Singh Dhoni	Swaraj Tractors		
Iga Świątek	Infosys		
Rafael Nadal	Infosys		
Rahul Dravid	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)		
Shah Rukh Khan	ICC World Cup 2023		
Shraddha Kapoor	Asics India Private Limited		
Rashmika Mandanna	Printer company Epson India		
Smriti Mandhana	Wrangler		
Hrithik Roshan	Zebronics TV		
Sachin Tendulkar	Smile Ambassador		
Sania Mirza	Sony Sports Network		
Sourav Ganguly	Brand ambassador of Tripura Tourism		
Virat Kohli	Duroflex		
Alia Bhatt	Gucci, the luxury fashion brand from Italy		
Ayushman Khurana	Wakefit		



Rishabh Pant	Star Sports	
Rohit Sharma	JioCinema	
Virat Kohli	HSBC India	
Ranveer Singh	Star Sports Network	
Shreya Ghodawat	India's ambassador for She Changes Climate	
MC Mary Kom, Farhan Akhtar	Brand ambassadors of IBA Women's World Championships 2023	
Sachin Tendulkar	World's first 'Hand Ambassador' for Savlon India	
Ranveer Singh	Pepsi	
Ayushmann Khurrana	UNICEF India child rights	
Yastika Bhatia and Renuka Singh	Hyundai Motor India Ltd	
Thakur		
Vir Das	Plant-based meat brand UnCrave	
Harmanpreet Kaur	Puma	
Nikhat Zareen	National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)	
Saurav Ganguly	Bandhan Bank 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign	
Anushka Sharma	Puma	
Deepika Padukone	Pottery Barn	
Virat Kohli	Smart watch Noise	
Prasoon Joshi	Uttarakhand State	
Lionel Messi	Byjus	

- Q. Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda, and Chief Minister of Gujarat, Bhupendra Patel have inaugurated the Aadi Mahotsav at Ahmedabad. What is the theme of this festival?
  - A) Marketing Development
  - B) Tribal Culture
  - C) Van Dhan Vikas Kendras
  - D) Celebration of Tribal Entrepreneurship, Crafts, Culture and Commerce

#### Answer: D

- ✓ Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda, and Chief Minister of Gujarat, Bhupendra Patel have inaugurated the Aadi Mahotsav at Ahmedabad.
- ✓ The Aadi Mahotsav is a 10-day mega event which is being organized by the TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India, Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs), at the Ahmedabad Haat, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad.
- ✓ The theme of the festival is 'Celebration of Tribal Entrepreneurship, Crafts, Culture and Commerce'.

- ✓ The Aadi Mahotsav features the exhibition-cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, art, paintings, fabric, jewellery, cuisine and much more through 100 stalls. More than 200 tribal artisans and artists from across the country are participating in the festival
- Q. India's Deepthi Jeevanji has clinched the gold medal in the women's \_\_\_\_ -T20 event at the Asian Para Games 2023

A) 200m

B) 300m

C) 400m

D) 500m

#### Answer: C

- ✓ India's Deepthi Jeevanji has clinched the gold medal in the women's 400m-T20 event at the Asian Para Games 2023.
- ✓ Deepthi clocked a timing of 56.69 seconds to finish more than two whole seconds ahead of her nearest rival Orawan Kaising of Thailand, who secured the silver medal with a time of 59s.
- Q. Prachi Yadav has won gold in the women's Para KL2 event at the Asian Para Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China. She is related to which sport?

A) Canoe

B) Archery

C) Tennis

D) Wushu

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Prachi Yadav has won gold in the women's Para Canoe KL2 event at the Asian Para Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China
- Q. Who has been appointed as the Director of General Hospital Services (Armed Forces)?

A) Sadhna Saxena Nair

B) Sankar Muthusamy

C) Bharat Raghav

D) Nicholas Nathan Raj

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Air Marshal Sadhna Saxena Nair took charge as the Director of General Hospital Services (Armed Forces), becoming the first women officer to hold the prestigious post.
- Q. Who has won the women's singles title at Abu Dhabi Masters 2023 in UAE?

A) Unnati Hooda

B) Rakshitha Sree

C) Anupama Upadhyaya

D) Ayush Shetty

#### Answer: A

- ✓ India's Unnati Hooda beat Samiya Imad Farooqui in the final of the Abu Dhabi Masters 2023 women's singles event in the United Arab Emirates.
- ✓ The 16-year-old Unnati Hooda took 40 minutes to defeat the 20-year-old Samiya Imad Farooqui 21-16, 22-20 on the badminton courts of the ADNEC Marina Hall in the UAE capital.
- ✓ Unnati Hooda is an Indian badminton player
- Q. Who won the gold medal for India with a new Asian Games record in the Men's High Jump T47 at the Asian Para Games 2022?

A) Nishad Kumar

B) Bhim Singh

C) Monu Ghangas

D) Tejaswin Shankar

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Nishad Kumar bagged a gold medal for India with a new Asian Games record in the Men's High Jump T47 at the 4th Asian Para Games 2022.
- ✓ Nishad took the gold with a jump of 2.02m. China's Hongjie Chen settled for silver (1.94m). India's Ram Pal too won silver as he registered 1.94m in his fifth attempt.
- Q. Who won the gold medal in the Men's High Jump T63 event at the Asian Para Games 2022?

A) Ajit Singh Balla

B) Gurnam Singh

C) Shailesh Kumar

D) Bhim Singh

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Shailesh Kumar has won the gold medal in the Men's High Jump T63 event at the Asian Para Games 2022.
- ✓ The Asian Para Games 2022 is being held in Hangzhou, China.
- ✓ Shailesh Kumar leaped a distance of 1.82m and in the process broke the Games record
- Q. Pranav Soorma has won the gold medal at the Asian Para Games 2022. He is related to which sport?

A) Karate

B) Wrestling

C) Wushu

D) Club throw

#### Answer: D

✓ India swept all three medals in the men's club throw F51 event with Pranav Soorma winning the gold on the opening day of the athletics competition at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games 2022.

- ✓ The 29-year-old Soorma broke the Asian Para Games record with an effort of 30.01m to clinch the gold while Dharambir (28.76m) and Amit Kumar (26.93m) were second and third respectively.
- Q. World Polio Day is observed every year on October 24. What is the theme of World Polio Day 2023?
  - A) Stories of Progress: Past and Present
  - B) End Polio Now
  - C) A healthier future for mothers and children
  - D) Together, we end polio

#### Answer: C

- ✓ World Polio Day is observed every year on October 24.
- ✓ Objective To create awareness around the importance of polio vaccination to protect children.
- ✓ Theme 2023 A healthier future for mothers and children.
- ✓ It is also an opportunity to highlight the importance of all mothers, fathers, caregivers, health workers and volunteers who play a key role in getting polio vaccines to children and their communities.
- ✓ On January 13, this year, India completes 12 polio-free years which is considered as a remarkable achievement; the last polio case in India was detected in 2011
- Q. UN Disarmament Week is celebrated every year from to

A) 25-29 October

B) 25-30 October

C) 25-31 October

D) 24-30 October

#### Answer: D

- ✓ UN Disarmament Week is celebrated every year on October 24 to 30.
- ✓ It is an annual event organized by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).
- ✓ Objective To raise awareness of the importance of disarmament and to promote the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.
- Q. Who is next Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO from January 1, 2024?

A) Ashok Vaswani

B) Rajshankar Ray

C) B Ramesh Babu

D) A. Manimekhalai.

Answer: A

- ✓ International banker Ashok Vaswani, who until last year was at a senior role in British bank Barclays, will succeed Uday Kotak as MD & CEO at Kotak Mahindra Bank the fourth largest private lender..
- ✓ Ashok Vaswani is set to hold the position of the new CEO and MD of Kotak Mahindra Bank for a period of three years, likely from January 1, 2024
- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank
- ✓ Founded 1985
- ✓ Founders : Uday Kotak
- ✓ Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ✓ MD & CEO : Ashok Vaswani
- ✓ Tagline: Let's Make Money Simple Ab Kona Kona Kotak.
- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai.
- ✓ It is India's third largest private sector bank by market capitalisation after HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank.
- ✓ As of 31 March 2023, the bank has a national footprint of 1,780 branches and 2,963 ATMs.
- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Finance was then renamed Kotak Mahindra Bank. At the time, Uday Kotak had a 56% stake in the company while Anand Mahindra held a 5% stake .

#### NEWLY BANK MD & CEO IN NEWS 2023

- Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Ashok Vaswani as the Managing Director & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) for a period of three years.
- South Indian Bank has appointed P R Seshadri as its MD & CEO.
- Ashwani Kumar is new MD & CEO of UCO Bank.
- ➤ Karnataka Bank Appoints Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma as MD & CEO.
- Rajneesh Karnatak Named As New MD and Chairman Of Bank Of India.
- Debadatta Chand named as new Managing Director of Bank of Baroda.
- Ajay Kumar Srivastava has been elevated as Managing Director and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank.
- ➤ K Satyanarayana Raju named as new MD and CEO of Canara Bank.

Q. Banni festival which was seen in the news, is a famous festival of which state?

A) Telangana

B) Andhra Pradesh

C) Kerala

D) Tamil Nadu

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Recently, three people lost their lives and more than a hundred were injured in the traditional Banni festival at Devaragattu in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ About the Banni festival:
- ✓ It is a traditional stick-fight
- ✓ It is celebrated on the night of Dussehra celebration (Vijaya Dasami) every year.
- ✓ The objective of this event was to snatch the idols from God's team, leading to a fierce battle known as the Banni Fight.
- ✓ This festival was celebrated by people under the Vijayanagara Empire.

FESTIVAL IN NEWS 2023		
Banni festival	Andhra Pradesh	
Zanskar Festival	Ladakh	
Indo-Latin America Cultural Festival	New Delhi	
Nuakhai festival	Odisha	
Nadi Utsav	Delhi	
Karnataka Cultural Festival	Sri Lanka	
Unmesha' - International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' -	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	
Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts		
Festival of Libraries 2023	New Delhi	
Chachin Grazing Festival	Arunachal Pradesh	
Harela Festival	Uttarakhand	
Bonalu Festival	Telangana	
Kharchi Puja	Tripura	
Palkhi festival	Maharashtra	
Raja festival	Odisha	
Kheer Bhawani Mela	Jammu and Kashmir	
Great Prayer Festival	Ladakh	
Sinthan Snow Festival	Jammu and Kashmir	
Heritage Festival	Goa	
Thawe Festival	Bihar	
Bohag Bihu festival	Assam	
49th Khajuraho Dance Festival	Madhya Pradesh	
Yaoshang festival	Manipur	



Purple Fest	Goa
Orange Festival	Nagaland
Kala Ghoda Arts Festival	Mumbai, Maharashtra
Losar Festival	Ladakh
23rd Hornbill Festival	Nagaland
Gaan Ngai festival	Manipur
Cherchera Festival	Chhattisgarh
26th National Youth Festival 2023	Hubbali, Karnataka
International Yoga Festival 2023	Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
Tribal Dance Festival & Military Tattoo	New Delhi
Mongeet Festival	Assam
International Kite Festival 2023	Ahmedabad, Gujarat
Vigyanika Science Literature Festival	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
Baisakhi is a harvest festival	Punjab and Haryana

- Q. What rights does the Montreux Convention provide to Turkey during times of war?
  - A) Full control over the Turkish Straits
  - B) The right to regulate trade through the Black Sea
  - C) The ability to block all vessels, including merchant vessels
  - D) The right to regulate the transit of naval warships

#### Answer: D

- ✓ The Turkish Ministry of National Defence recently announced that it will impose restrictions on the passage of warships belonging to countries not bordering the Black Sea within the framework of the Montreux Convention.
- ✓ About the Montreux Convention:
- ✓ It is an agreement concerning the Dardanelles Strait and the Bosporus Strait, also known as the Turkish straits or the Black Sea straits.
- ✓ The Turkish straits are the only maritime passage between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.
- ✓ According to the 1936 Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits, often referred to simply as the Montreux Convention, Turkey has control over the Turkish Straits.
- ✓ In the event of a war, the pact gives Turkey the right to regulate the transit of naval warships and to block the straits for warships belonging to the countries involved in the conflict.

- ✓ Merchant vessels enjoy freedom of passage through the Turkish Straits, while passages of vessels of war are subject to some restrictions that vary depending on whether these vessels belong to the Black Sea littoral States or not.
- Q. Which Company has Introduces Maternity Insurance Plan for Women Delivery Partners?

A) Flipkart

B) Meesho

C) Zomato

D) Foodpanda

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Zomato, the food ordering and delivery platform, has introduced a maternity insurance programme for its female delivery partners. This insurance coverage caters to a range of pregnancy-related expenses, including childbirth and maternity complications.
- ✓ Operated in collaboration with ACKO, the maternity insurance programme is available to female delivery partners who have completed 1,000 deliveries on the Zomato platform and have maintained an active status for at least 60 days prior to applying for this insurance.
- ✓ This insurance plan provides up to ₹25,000 for natural childbirth, up to ₹40,000 for cesarean sections, and up to ₹40,000 in case of maternity complications such as miscarriage and abortion.
- ✓ The comprehensive insurance offering encompasses coverage for both natural and caesarean deliveries for up to two children
- ✓ India's gig economy has been growing daily. According to data by NITI Aayog, India has 7.7 million gig workers, and the numbers are expected to swell to 23.5 million by 2029-30
- ✓ ZOMATO

✓ Founded: July 2008

✓ Founders: Deepinder Goyal & Pankaj Chaddah

✓ Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana

✓ CEO: Deepinder Goyal

Q. Which state government to Set Up ₹237 Crore Graphene Production Facility?

A) Odisha

B) Maharashtra

C) Uttar Pradesh

D) Kerala

#### Answer: D

✓ Kerala government decided to establish a graphene production facility as a pilot project in the State.

- ✓ Graphene, a material produced from graphite, is in high global demand for its use in making electronics, sensors, coatings, composites, and biomedical devices.
- ✓ The Cabinet cleared the proposal to establish the exploratory facility for ₹237 crore in public-private partnership (PPP) mode. It has not specified the location of the facility.

# **KERALA IN NEWS 2023**

- ➤ Kerala government decided to establish a graphene production facility as a pilot project in the State.
- ➤ The Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) said that the 'IBSA Blind Football Intercontinental Cup 2023' will be organized at the United Sports Center in Kakkanad in Kochi, Kerala.
- ➤ Kerala unveils additional books to include portions deleted by NCERT.
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma launched the 'Graphene-Aurora program' at a function in Maker Village Kochi, Kerala.
- kerala has launched a groundbreaking scheme called 'Shubhayatra'.
- ➤ Kerala to set up India's first fisheries Atal Incubation Centre.
- ➤ Piramal Finance opened the first all women branch named "Maitreyi" at Thripunithura near Kochi to cater to the unique needs of women customers.
- > Kerala has become the first state in the country to launch its own internet service.
- > Kerala has become the first and only state in the country to have its own internet services.
- According to data shared by the GI Registry, Kerala received the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) tags for products among all states in India in the fiscal year 23 (FY23).
- ➤ Kerala has adopted a water budget, the first of its kind in the country, to deal with the problem of water scarcity in summer.
- > Dharmadam, Kerala becomes first complete library constituency in India.
- ➤ Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan launches 'One Panchayat, One Playground' project.
- India's first Graphene Innovation center to be set up in Kerala.
- > Recently, a group of researchers discovered a butterfly subspecies from the fringes of Akkulam and Vembanad lakes in Kerala.
- > Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25th April flagged off Kerala's first Vande Bharat Express between Thiruvananthapuram and Kasargod at Thiruvananthapuram Central Station.
- ➤ Kerala declared first State to enable digital banking service.

- MT Vasudevan Nair was awarded the "Kerala Jyoti", the highest civilian honour in Kerala.
- ➤ The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched the 2nd G20 Empower meeting in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala under the theme "Women Empowerment: Win-win for Equality and Economy".
- Kerala to become first State to use robotics tech extensively for manhole cleaning.
- National Green Tribunal (NGT) in New Delhi has imposed a fine of Rs 10 crore on the Kerala government for failing to protect the Vembanad and Ashtamudi lakes, listed as Ramsar sites.
- Q. The Lemru Elephant Corridor, recently seen in the news, is located in\_\_\_\_.

A) Assam

B) Karnataka

C) Chhattisgarh

D) Maharashtra

#### Answer: C

- ✓ The Union Coal Ministry has said that Coal India Limited's (CIL) 40 coal blocks in and around the Lemru Elephant Corridor (LEC) will not be auctioned at the request of the Chhattisgarh government.
- ✓ About Lemru Elephant reserve
- ✓ It is located in the Korba district of Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ It seeks to give elephants a permanent habitat while also minimising property damage and human-animal conflict.
- ✓ The reserve is part of an elephant corridor that connects Lemru (Korba), Badalkhol (Jashpur), Tamorpingla (Surguja).
- ✓ Elephant reserves in India- There are 33 notified Elephant Reserves (ERs) in the country, spread over 14 states.
- ✓ What is Project Elephant?
- ✓ It was launched by the Government of India in 1992 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with following objectives:
- ✓ To protect elephants, their habitat & corridors
- ✓ To address issues of man-animal conflict
- ✓ Welfare of captive elephants

Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chaired which edition of Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI)?

A) 37th

B) 55th

C) 43rd

D) 40th

#### Answer: C

- ✓ The Prime Minister recently chaired the meeting of the 43rd edition of PRAGATI, involving Centre and State governments.
- ✓ About the PRAGATI Platform:
- ✓ PRAGATI stands for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation.
- ✓ It is a multi-purpose and multi-modal platform that is aimed at addressing common man's grievances and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.
- ✓ The platform was launched on March 25, 2015.
- ✓ It is designed in-house by the PMO team with the help of the National Informatics Center (NIC)
- ✓ It is also a robust system for bringing e-transparency and e-accountability with real-time presence and exchange among the key stakeholders.
- ✓ This platform is combined with the three latest technologies, that are-
- ✓ Video-conferencing
- ✓ Digital data management and
- ✓ Geo-spatial technology
- Q. The Union Cabinet has approved the Jamrani Dam Project, it belongs to which state?

A) Bihar

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Uttarakhand

D) Rajasthan

#### Answer: C

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has given its approval to 'Jamrani Dam Project' of Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The construction of this project will solve the problem of drinking water and irrigation in Haldwani and surrounding areas.
- ✓ Jamrani Dam Project will be constructed on 'Gola' river, 10 km upstream from Kathgodam in Nainital.

Q. In which state did Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launch 124 PM-Shri schools?

A) Haryana

B) Uttar Pradesh

C) Assam

D) Punjab

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan, along with Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, launched 124 PM-Shri schools in the state.
- ✓ These schools have been designed with smart classrooms and information and communication technology (ICT) laboratories.
- ✓ PM-Shri School Scheme is a central government scheme.
- ✓ About Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) Scheme:
- ✓ It is a Centrally Sponsored scheme announced in 2022.
- ✓ Objective: Development of more than 14500 schools across the country by strengthening selected existing schools being managed by Central Government/ State/ UT Government/ local bodies.
- ✓ The duration of the scheme is from 2022-23 to 2026-27, after which it shall be the responsibility of the States/UTs to continue to maintain the benchmarks achieved by these schools.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ The selected schools will act as exemplar schools showcasing all components of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) and offering mentorship to other schools in their vicinity.
- ✓ The PM SHRI Schools will be developed as Green Schools, incorporating environment-friendly aspects.
- ✓ The pedagogy adopted in these schools will be more experiential, holistic, integrated, play/toy-based (particularly in the foundational years), inquiry-driven, discovery-oriented, learner-centric, discussion-based, flexible and enjoyable.
- ✓ The focus will be on the learning outcomes of every child in every grade.
- Q. Which Indian player won the gold medal in the 50m Rifles SH-1 event at the Asian Para Games?

A) Ajay Sinha

B) Rahul Kumar

C) Siddharth Babu

D) Amit Anand

Answer: C

- Siddharth Babu won gold medal in 50 meter rifles SH-1 event in Asian Para Games. Indian Para athletes created history by winning the most medals in the Asian Para Games on October 26, taking the country's medal tally to 82, including 18 gold.
- ✓ India had earlier won 72 medals in the 2018 Asian Para Games
- Who has been elected as the next King of Malaysia? Q.

A) Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar B) Al-Sultan Abdullah

C) Al-Sultan Ibrahim

D) Yang Amat Berhormat

#### Answer: A

- ✓ The royal families of Malaysia have elected Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar as the next king of the country.
- ✓ He will take over from outgoing King Al-Sultan Abdullah on January 31 next year.
- ✓ Malaysia has a unique tradition in which the heads of its nine royal families become kings on a rotating basis for a five-year term.
- ✓ Malaysia is a country in Southeast Asia.
- ✓ Capital : Kuala Lumpur
- ✓ Currency: Malaysian ringgit (MYR).
- Who to become Slovakia's new prime minister for fourth time? Q.

A) Robert Fico

B) Peter Pellegrini

C) Eduard Chmelár

D) Andrej Danko

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Leftist leader Robert Fico was appointed Slovakia's prime minister for the fourth time, after pledging in his election campaign to end military support for Ukraine and criticising sanctions on Russia.
- ✓ President Zuzana Caputova appointed Fico and his cabinet after his SMER-SSD party won the Sept.
- ✓ Slovakia officially the Slovak Republic is a landlocked country in Central Europe

✓ Capital : Bratislava

✓ Currency : Euro

✓ • President : Zuzana Čaputová

✓ • Prime Minister : Robert Fico

- Q. Who has inaugurated the 7th Edition of the India Mobile Congress at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi?
  - A) Amit Shah

B) Narendra Modi

C) Droupadi Murmu

D) Nirmala Sitharaman

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 7th Edition of India Mobile Congress 2023 on 27 October 2023 and said 'The Future is Here and Now'. The event is taking place at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan in New Delhi
- ✓ Reliance Jio's Space Fibre and Jio Bharat Device :
- ✓ During the event, Akash Ambani introduced Reliance Jio's groundbreaking initiative Space Fibre, India's first satellite-based giga fibre service capable of delivering internet speeds of up to 1 Gbps. This innovation is set to transform high-speed broadband services in previously inaccessible areas of India. Furthermore, the Jio Bharat device, offering 4G services, was on display at the Jio pavilion.
- ✓ Bharti Enterprises' Technological Showcase :
- ✓ At the Mobile Congress, Bharti Enterprises showcased the "future of innovation" with technologies like 5G Plus, AI-enabled tech, and other digital infrastructure solutions. These advancements are set to revolutionize the telecommunications landscape in India.
- ✓ The '100 5G Use Case Labs' Initiative :
- ✓ During the event, Prime Minister Modi conferred awards upon 100 '5G Use Case Labs' established in educational institutions across India as part of the '100 5G Labs initiative.' This initiative focuses on developing 5G applications tailored to India's unique requirements and global demands
- ✓ Asia's Largest Telecom, Media, and Technology Forum :
- ✓ The India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2023, scheduled from October 27 to 29, is Asia's largest telecom, media, and technology forum. It serves as a platform to showcase India's remarkable advancements in telecommunications and technology, make significant announcements, and offer startups the opportunity to showcase innovative products and solutions.
- ✓ Theme: 'Global Digital Innovation' :
- ✓ Under the theme 'Global Digital Innovation,' IMC 2023 aims to reinforce India's position as a developer, manufacturer, and exporter of cutting-edge technologies. This includes 5G, 6G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and critical discussions on issues related to the semiconductor industry, green technology, and cybersecurity.

Q. Where is the national level 'Saras Livelihood Fair' 2023 being organised?

A) Patna

B) Varanasi

C) Gurugram

D) Lucknow

#### Answer: C

- ✓ A national level Saras Aajeevika Mela 2023 will begin 26th Oct 2023 in Gurugram, Haryana.
- ✓ The 17-day fair, which is being held at Leisure Valley Ground, Gurugram will continue till 11th of next month. Around 800 women of Self-Help Groups from 28 States will display their varied range of products like handicrafts, handlooms and natural food items from rural areas across the country at the fair.
- ✓ SARAS Mela is an initiative by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission of Ministry of Rural Development to bring the rural women Self Help Group members under one platform to showcase their skills, sell their products and help them build linkages with potential market players
- Q. Who has been elected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives?

A) Andy Biggs

B) Lauren Boebert

C) Christopher A. Wray

D) Mike Johnson

#### Answer: D

- ✓ Republicans Elect Mike Johnson As 56th Speaker Of The House.
- ✓ The selection of Mike Johnson came after weeks of infighting within the Republican Party. Johnson, a staunch ally of former President Donald Trump.
- ✓ The removal of Kevin McCarthy.
- Q. The Bannerghatta National Park lies in which one of the following States?

A) Odisha

B) Karnataka

C) Gujarat

D) Madhya Pradesh

# Answer: B

- ✓ The Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) recently directed the office of the chief secretary of Karnataka to submit a response on the issue of encroachment of the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of Bannerghatta National Park.
- ✓ About Bannerghatta National Park:
- ✓ Location: It is located near Bangalore, Karnataka, in the hills of the Anekal range.

- ✓ Founded in 1971, the park was given the status of a national park in 1974.
- ✓ In 2002, a portion of the park became a biological reserve, the Bannerghatta Biological Park. It is the first biological park in India to have a fenced, forested elephant sanctuary.
- ✓ In 2006, India's first butterfly enclosure was inaugurated at the park.
- Q. The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) will conduct a 5G Hackathon VIMARSH 2023 to address the challenges faced by Law Enforcement Agencies. The Hackathon will be organized by which ministry?

A) Ministry of Home Affairs

B) Ministry of Finance

C) Ministry of Defence

D) Ministry of Education

#### Answer: A

- ✓ The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) will conduct a 5G Hackathon VIMARSH 2023 to address the challenges faced by Law Enforcement Agencies.
- ✓ The students can submit their ideas between the 1st of November to the 9th of December this year. The grand finale of VIMARSH 2023 will be organized on the 28th of February next year.
- ✓ The Hackathon will be jointly organized by the Home Ministry, the Department of Telecom, and Telecom Centres of Excellence India.
- ✓ Nine Problem Statements have been formulated to conduct a Hackathon with students and startups.
- Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently inaugurated which edition of the National Games at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Goa?

A) 38th

B) 35th

C) 36th

D) 37th

#### Answer: D

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 37th National Games at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Goa.
- ✓ PM said, India is advancing in various domains and setting unprecedented benchmarks today. From Khelo India to TOPS (Target Olympic Podium Scheme), the government has created a new ecosystem to support players in the country.
- ✓ National Games is reflection of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. The Prime Minister also appreciated the preparation for the National Games by the Goa government.

- ✓ Moga is the official mascot for the 2023 National Games of India
- Q. Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda, and Chief Minister of Gujarat, Bhupendra Patel have inaugurated the Aadi Mahotsav at Ahmedabad. What is the theme of this festival?
  - A) Marketing Development
  - B) Tribal Culture
  - C) Van Dhan Vikas Kendras
  - D) Celebration of Tribal Entrepreneurship, Crafts, Culture and Commerce

#### Answer: D

- ✓ Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda, and Chief Minister of Gujarat, Bhupendra Patel have inaugurated the Aadi Mahotsav at Ahmedabad.
- ✓ The Aadi Mahotsav is a 10-day mega event which is being organized by the TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India, Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs), at the Ahmedabad Haat, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad.
- ✓ The theme of the festival is 'Celebration of Tribal Entrepreneurship, Crafts, Culture and Commerce'.
- ✓ The Aadi Mahotsav features the exhibition-cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, art, paintings, fabric, jewellery, cuisine and much more through 100 stalls. More than 200 tribal artisans and artists from across the country are participating in the festival
- Q. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted a committee of 12 members to simplify insurance policy wording. Who will chair this committee?

A) L Viswanathan

B) Anand R. Baiwar

C) Pramod Rao

D) G. P. Garg

#### Answer: A

- ✓ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted a committee of 12 members to simplify insurance policy wording.
- ✓ The committee, which will be headed by L Viswanathan, a member of the Insurance Advisory Committee (IAC), will also include the Secretary Generals of the Life Insurance and General Insurance Council along with the president of the Insurance Brokers Association of India (IBAI) and the Principal Officer, State Bank of India (Corporate Agent) as well as other senior members of the insurance industry.

- ✓ This decision comes in the backdrop of Irdai's observation that policyholders often find it difficult to understand the terms and conditions in insurance policy contracts due to the complex language used in the policy, stopping them from making informed decisions while purchasing an insurance policy.
- ✓ As a step towards Irdai's goal of Insurance for all by 2047, the regulator is putting efforts towards creating a progressive, supportive, facilitative and forward-looking architecture, which will foster a healthy environment leading to wider choice, accessibility and affordability to the policyholders.
- ✓ The eight-member committee has been asked to submit its recommendations within 8-10 weeks.

# **COMMITTEE IN NEWS 2023**

- ➤ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted a committee of 12 members to simplify insurance policy wording. The committee, which will be headed by L Viswanathan.
- > Government has constituted an eight member high level committee to examine One Nation, One Election. Former President Ram Nath Kovind has been appointed as Chairman of the committee.
- ➤ Government of India has constituted an expert panel headed by former Law Secretary TK Vishwanathan to propose reforms in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act and reduce the burden on the courts.
- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has established an 11-member Cheetah Project Steering Committee under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Rajesh Gopal, secretary general of Global Tiger Forum, has been appointed as its chairman.
- Government of India has constituted a Peace Committee in Manipur under the Chairpersonship of Governor, Manipur Anusuiya Uikey.
- > IRDAI has recently constituted a five-member expert committee comprising medical experts and insurers to advise on matters related to mental health and insurance; Headed By: Pratima Murthy.
- Razorpay forms 4-member advisory board to strengthen corporate governance; Head-former RBI deputy governor NS Vishwanathan.
- Ministry of Finance has set up of a four-member committee forms panel to suggest changes to National Pension Scheme (NPS); Headed By- Finance Secretary T.V. Somanathan.
- ➤ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has set up a 14-member committee to look into stalled real estate projects; Headed By Amitabh Kant.

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has constituted a nine-member task force to make India a 'product developer and manufacturing nation'. Chaired By Bhuvnesh Kumar.
- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has formed an expert committee to create a roadmap to encourage Indian startups/fintech domiciled abroad to relocate to the GIFT City in Gujarat. Chaired By G. Padmanabhan.
- A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has ruled that the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs) will now be made by a high-power committee consisting of the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India.
- ➤ The five-judge Constitution Bench was headed by Justice K M Joseph.
- > Supreme Court has formed a six-member expert committee to examine Hindenburg Research firm's report on the Adani Group and probe the stock price crash in Adani stocks. Headed By AM Sapre.
- ➤ Government of India (GoI) constituted a 16-member inter-ministerial committee to analyse the need for a separate law for competition in the digital market and to draft a digital competition act within three months. Headed By Manoj Govil.
- > The Shipping Ministry has formed a committee to draft revised Guidelines for operationalization of Roll on-Roll off (Ro-Ro) and Roll on-Passenger (Ro-Pax) ferry service. Headed By- Sanjay K. Mehta.
- Q. World Energy Outlook 2023, recently in news is published by which of the following organization?
  - A) International Renewable Energy Agency
  - B) International Energy Agency
  - C) International Atomic Energy Agency
  - D) Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

# Answer: B

- ✓ According to World Energy Outlook 2023, India will see the largest energy demand growth of any country or region in the world over the next 3 decades.
- ✓ It is the world's most authoritative source of energy analysis and projections.
- ✓ Findings of World Energy Outlook 2023 for India
- ✓ Power consumption India will exceed the whole of Africa now.

- ✓ Air-conditioner usage Residential ownership to see 9 fold increase by 2050.
- ✓ Energy demand A sharp rise as temperatures cross the 25-degree Celsius threshold.
- ✓ Energy supply To rise to 60.3 exajoules (EJ) by 2050.
- ✓ Investments Need to nearly triple by the end of this decade to be on a trajectory to meet its net zero emissions target.
- ✓ Annual CO2 emissions To rises nearly 30% by 2050, which is one of the largest increases in the world.
- ✓ Implication over India's climate Over the past 5 decades, more than 700 heatwave events occurred
- Q. Indian Army's first Vertical Wind Tunnel has been constructed in which state?
  - A) Sikkim

B) Punjab

C) Himachal Pradesh

D) Jammu and Kashmir

# Answer: C

- ✓ Indian Army's inaugural Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT) has been inaugurated at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) located in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ This state-of-the-art wind tunnel is aimed to enhance and improve the Combat Freefall (CFF) skills of armed forces personnel

# **HIMACHAL PRADESH IN NEWS 2023**

- ➤ Indian Army's inaugural Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT) has been inaugurated at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) located in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
- > Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Launches Scheme For Specially-Abled Children, 'SABAL'.
- ➤ Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu launched 'Sashakt Mahila Loan Yojana', a collateral-free loan scheme for women.
- ➤ Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has inaugurated "The Tribune Real Estate Expo, 2023, Shimla".
- ➤ Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu informed that Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) will set up an ethanol plant at Jeetpur Baheri in Una district at a cost of Rs 500 crore.
- European Commission (EC) has awarded protected geographical indication (PGI) status to Kangra tea, a unique variety of tea grown in the Kangra district of India's Himachal Pradesh.

- ➤ Himachal Pradesh (HP) has become the first Indian state to develop a DNA database for unidentified bodies.
- ➤ Himachal Pradesh launched Sanjeevani Project to uplift the livelihood of small dairy farmers and livestock owners.
- ➤ Himachal Pradesh targets to be first 'green energy state' by 2025.
- ➤ Himachal Cabinet approves monthly incentive of Rs 1,500 for women of Spiti Valley.
- ➤ Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced to set up of Rs 101 crore CM's Sukhashraya Sahayata Kosh for the destitute in the state.
- ➤ Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu laid the foundation stone of 'Himachal Niketan' which will provide accommodation facilities to the students and residents of Himachal Pradesh visiting New Delhi.
- ➤ Himachal Pradesh celebrates its 53rd Statehood Day with joy and enthusiasm across the state on 25th January 2023
- ➤ About Himachal Pradesh
- Formation 1 November 1956
- Capital Shimla and Dharamshala (Winter)
- District 12
- ➤ Governor- Shiv Pratap Shukla
- Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu
- Rajya Sabha 3 seats
- Lok Sabha 4 seats
- > Symbol of Himachal Pradesh
- Bird Western Tragopan
- Fish Golden Mahseer
- Flowers Pink Rhododendron
- Mammal Snow Leopard
- > Tree -Deodar Cedar

- Q. Consider the following statements, with reference to Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) UDAN:
  - 1. The scheme aims to improve infrastructure and connectivity in India, especially in remote and underserved regions.
  - 2. It is a component of India's National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP), 2016.
  - 3. UDAN 5.1 is designed specifically for helicopter routes by increasing the scope of operations for helicopter operators.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A) Only one
- B) Only two
- C) All three
- D) None

### Answer: C

- ✓ The Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) has recently completes 6 years with a total of 75 airports have being and 499 UDAN routes being operationalized under UDAN.
- ✓ The Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) UDAN aims to improve infrastructure and connectivity in India, especially in remote and underserved regions.
- ✓ It is a vital component of India's National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016, launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) with a 10-year vision.
- ✓ The first RCS-UDAN flight was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 2017, connecting Shimla to Delhi.
- ✓ The scheme focuses on improving unserved air routes in underserved regions of the country and fulfilling the aspirations of the common citizens.
- ✓ UDAN 5.1 designed specifically for helicopter routes by increasing the scope of operations for helicopter operators, enhancing viability gap funding (VGF) and reducing Airfare Caps.
- ✓ UDAN 5.2 is underway to further enhance the connectivity to remote and regional areas of the country, achieve last-mile connectivity.
- ✓ The scheme will provide greater operational flexibility to the small aircraft operators

- Q. Consider the following statements with respect to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) framework::
  - 1.ESG investment strategies guarantee higher financial returns compared to traditional investment approaches.
  - 2.ESG criteria are used by investors, stakeholders, and organizations to evaluate a company's commitment to sustainable and responsible business practices.
  - 3.ESG investing only applies to public equity investments, not other asset classes such as private equity, fixed income or real estate.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 and 2 only B) 2 only

C) 2 and 3 only D) 1 only

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect.
- ✓ ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) investment strategies do not guarantee higher financial returns compared to traditional investment approaches.
- ✓ ESG investments are made with the primary goal of aligning one's portfolio with ethical and sustainable values, and they take into account not only financial factors but also environmental, social, and governance considerations.
- ✓ While some ESG investments may perform well financially, their returns are subject to the same market risks and fluctuations as traditional investments.
- ✓ ESG investing is a framework for evaluating how companies manage their environmental, social, and governance risks and opportunities.
- ✓ This framework can be applied to any type of investment, regardless of the asset class.
- ✓ Statement 2 is correct.
- ✓ ESG criteria are used by investors, stakeholders, and organizations to evaluate a company's commitment to sustainable and responsible business practices.
- ✓ Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria are a set of standards that companies can use to measure and manage their impact on the environment, society, and their own governance practices
- ✓ ESG criteria are becoming increasingly important to investors, stakeholders, and organizations because they can help to identify companies that are making a positive impact on the

- Q. With reference to Energy Transition, consider the following statements:
  - 1. Energy Transition refers to the transformation of the energy sector from fossil-based systems of energy production and consumption to renewable energy sources.
  - 2.India is the fourth-largest renewable energy producer in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Energy Transition refers to the transformation of the energy sector from fossil-based systems of energy production and consumption to renewable energy sources.
- ✓ It involves a shift in the energy mix to reduce the carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases.
- ✓ India is the world's third-largest consumer of electricity.
- ✓ India stands fourth globally in renewable energy installed capacity, fourth in wind power capacity, and fourth in solar power capacity.
- Q. Consider the following:
  - 1. Fintech companies
  - 2. Credit unions
  - 3. Peer-to-peer lending platforms
  - 4. Insurance companies

Which of the options provided above possesses the capability to deliver digital lending services?

A) 1, 2 and 3 only

B) 1,3 and 4 only

C) 1 and 3 only

D) 1 and 2 only

#### Answer: A

✓ Fintech companies, Credit unions, Peer-to-peer lending platforms, Microfinance institutions are capable of digital lending. Digital lending is the process of applying for, receiving, and managing loans through online platforms. It uses technology to automate and streamline the lending process, making it faster, easier, and more convenient for borrowers. Digital lending platforms can be offered by traditional banks or by new fintech companies. They typically use a variety of data sources, including bank statements, credit history,

and social media data, to assess a borrower's creditworthiness. This allows them to make faster and more informed lending decisions

- Q. With reference to India's Tax base, which of the following statements is/are correct?
  - 1.India's tax base has significantly declined since 2013-14.
  - 2. The number of returns filed by individual taxpayers in various income ranges has grown.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

### Answer: B

- ✓ Statement 1 is incorrect. India's tax base has significantly expanded since 2013-14. The number of income tax returns filed by individuals has increased from 3.36 crore to 6.37 crore between assessment years 2013-14 and 2021-22. Statement 2 is correct. The number of returns filed by individual taxpayers in various income ranges has grown.
- ✓ In the income range up to ₹5 lakh, there has been a 32% increase in the number of returns filed, including those with incomes below the taxable limit.
- ✓ For higher income ranges of ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh, the number of returns filed increased by 295%.
- Q. 'Arattu' festival, which was seen in the news, is a famous festival of which state?
  - A) Kerala
  - B) Karnataka
  - C) Odisha
  - D) Bihar

#### Answer: A

- ✓ The 'Arattu' festival has a rich tradition of being celebrated at the Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram.
- ✓ The uniqueness of the 'Arattu' festival is that the head of the royal family of the erstwhile Travancore kingdom still escorts the idols of deities during the procession in traditional attire.
- ✓ The Aarattu Festival is celebrated twice each year.

# **KERALA IN NEWS 2023**

- > The 'Arattu' festival has a rich tradition of being celebrated at the Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- ➤ Kerala government decided to establish a graphene production facility as a pilot project in the State.
- > The Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) said that the 'IBSA Blind Football Intercontinental Cup 2023' will be organized at the United Sports Center in Kakkanad in Kochi, Kerala.
- ➤ Kerala unveils additional books to include portions deleted by NCERT.
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma launched the 'Graphene-Aurora program' at a function in Maker Village Kochi, Kerala.
- kerala has launched a groundbreaking scheme called 'Shubhayatra'.
- ➤ Kerala to set up India's first fisheries Atal Incubation Centre.
- ➤ Piramal Finance opened the first all women branch named "Maitreyi" at Thripunithura near Kochi to cater to the unique needs of women customers.
- ➤ Kerala has become the first state in the country to launch its own internet service.
- ➤ Kerala has become the first and only state in the country to have its own internet services.
- According to data shared by the GI Registry, Kerala received the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) tags for products among all states in India in the fiscal year 23 (FY23).
- ➤ Kerala has adopted a water budget, the first of its kind in the country, to deal with the problem of water scarcity in summer.
- > Dharmadam, Kerala becomes first complete library constituency in India.
- ➤ Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan launches 'One Panchayat, One Playground' project.
- India's first Graphene Innovation center to be set up in Kerala.
- > Recently, a group of researchers discovered a butterfly subspecies from the fringes of Akkulam and Vembanad lakes in Kerala.
- ➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25th April flagged off Kerala's first Vande Bharat Express between Thiruvananthapuram and Kasargod at Thiruvananthapuram Central Station.
- ➤ Kerala declared first State to enable digital banking service.
- MT Vasudevan Nair was awarded the "Kerala Jyoti", the highest civilian honour in Kerala.

- ➤ The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched the 2nd G20 Empower meeting in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala under the theme "Women Empowerment: Win-win for Equality and Economy".
- ➤ Kerala to become first State to use robotics tech extensively for manhole cleaning.
- National Green Tribunal (NGT) in New Delhi has imposed a fine of Rs 10 crore on the Kerala government for failing to protect the Vembanad and Ashtamudi lakes, listed as Ramsar sites.
- Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated which edition of the Indian Mobile Congress 2023 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi?

A) 6th

B) 7th

**C)** 8th

D) 9th

### Answer: B

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 7th Edition of the Indian Mobile Congress 2023 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- ✓ He will award 100 5G Use Case Labs to educational institutions across the country. These labs are being developed under the 100 5G labs initiative.
- ✓ The 100 5G labs initiative, is an endeavour to realize the opportunities associated with 5G technology by encouraging the development of 5G applications that cater, both to India's unique needs as well as the global demands..
- ✓ It will foster innovation across various socioeconomic sectors like education, agriculture, health, power, and transportation. The initiative is also a pivotal step for building a 6G-ready academic and start-up ecosystem in the country.
- Q. 'Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2023' has been organized by which of the following?

A) Indian Navy

B) Indian Air Force

C) Indian Army

D) Indian coast guard

# Answer: C

✓ Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2023' is being organized by the Indian Army in partnership with Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS).

- ✓ The first edition of Chanakya Defence Dialogue will be held on 3rd & 4th November 2023 in Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. This is the first event of its kind being organized by the Indian Army.
- ✓ This Dialogue will carry out a comprehensive analysis of security challenges in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific. It will focus on crafting a roadmap for collaborative security measures in the region to fortify India's position as a ready, resurgent, and relevant stakeholder among the nations of this region.
- ✓ Indian Army has been closely working with 340 indigenous defence industries towards the fructification of 230 contracts by the year 2025. The COAS also mentioned that Indian Army has identified 45 niche technologies in the field of military applications.
- Q. Which of the following has launched its Maiden Mutual Fund Schemes Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index Fund, ELSS Tax Saver Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index Fund?

A) HDFC Mutual Fund

B) Bharti AXA General Insurance

C) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

D) Zerodha Fund House

#### Answer: D

- ✓ Zerodha Fund House has launched its maiden funds Zerodha Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index Fund and Zerodha ELSS Tax Saver Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index Fund, open-ended, passive, index equity mutual fund schemes.
- ✓ The NFO opened on 20th October 2023 and will remain open till 3rd November 2023.
- ✓ It is a joint venture between Zerodha Broking Limited and Smallcase Technologies Pvt Ltd.
- ✓ Zerodha Fund House (ZFH) is a passive-only AMC which aims to build simple, transparent, and affordable mutual funds. ZFH will leverage technology at every touchpoint to provide building blocks for every investor's portfolio.
- ✓ Zerodha Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index Fund and Zerodha ELSS Tax Saver Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index Fund will be benchmarked against Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index TRI (Total Returns Index).
- Q. Richa Chadha has been honored with the title of 'Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres' by the government of which country for her significant contribution in the field of art?

A) France

B) Australia

C) Russia

D) Japan

Answer: A

- ✓ Richa Chadha has been awarded the title of 'Chevalier dans l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres' by the French government for her significant contributions in the field of arts.
- ✓ Jean-Marc Sere-Charlet, the Consul General of France in Mumbai, presents the award to Chadha on the sidelines of the Jio MAMI Mumbai International Film Festival.
- ✓ The actresses' 2015 critically-acclaimed film, 'Masaan' was an Indo-French co-production that was screened in the 'Un Certain Regard' section at the Cannes Film Festival the same year and had won two awards.
- ✓ For her maiden home production film, 'Girls Will Be Girls' she has received both, the French grant 'Aide aux Cinemas du Monde' (ACM) as well as the new incentives introduced by the Indian authorities.
- Q. Sheetal Devi has become the first Indian woman to win two gold medals in a single edition of the Asian Para Games by claiming the top honours in the women's individual compound event. She is related to which sport?

A) Archery

B) Wushu

C) Shotput

D) Tennis

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Teenaged armless archer Sheetal Devi has become the first Indian woman to win two gold medals in a single edition of the Asian Para Games by claiming the top honours in the women's individual compound event.
- ✓ It is a hat-trick of medals for the 16-year-old from Jammu and Kashmir, who holds her bow with her foot.
- ✓ Earlier this week, Sheetal won gold in the compound mixed team event and silver in the women's doubles.
- ✓ Sheetal, who became the first armless woman to win a Para World Archery Championships medal in July, defeated Singapore's Alim Nur Syahidah 144-142 in the gold medal match
- Q. Who has been appointed by State Bank of India as its new brand ambassador?

A) Sachin Tendulkar

B) Mahendra Singh Dhoni

C) Rohit Sharma

D) Virat Kohli

#### Answer: B

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed cricket legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the official brand ambassador of the bank.
- ✓ As a brand ambassador, Dhoni will play a key role in various promotional campaigns of the bank.
- ✓ State Bank of India is a public sector bank, its headquarters is in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

# MS DHONI IN NEWS 2023

- Lay's announces cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador, starring in a campaign 'No Lay's, No Game.'
- > State Bank of India (SBI), the nation's largest lender, has appointed the legendary cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its official Brand Ambassador.
- ➤ Reliance Retail's JioMart has signed up Mahendra Singh Dhoni, India's most iconic cricketer, as its brand ambassador.
- Industrialist Anand Mahindra has welcomed Mahindra Singh Dhoni as the cricketer became a brand ambassador of his Swaraj Tractors.
- Former India cricket team captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni and drone market Garuda Aerospace have launched a a surveillance drone named 'Droni.'
- ➤ Viacom18 announces former captain MS Dhoni as their brand ambassador.
- Q. Which bank has partnered with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) on the latter's platform?

A) Federal Bank

B) RBL Bank

C) Kotak Mahindra Bank

D) IndusInd Bank

### Answer: C

- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank has partnered with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) on the latter's platform.
- ✓ The tie-up enables the digitization of Trade, thus helping eliminate the paper-based issuance of Bank Guarantees.
- ✓ The digitization includes issuance, amendment, closure, digital stamping, and signing, significantly reducing the Guarantee turnaround time (TAT) to a few hours compared to 2-3 working days for the paper-based process. The e-BG also mitigates the authentication risks.

# **KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IN NEWS 2023**

- ➤ Kotak Mahindra Bank has partnered with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) on the latter's platform.
- Ashok Vaswani is next Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO.

- ➤ Kotak Mahindra Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to acquire 100% stake in micro-lender Sonata Finance.
- ➤ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty or ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank
- Founded 1985
- Founders: Uday Kotak
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ➤ MD & CEO : Ashok Vaswani
- Tagline: Let's Make Money Simple Ab Kona Kona Kotak.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai.
- It is India's third largest private sector bank by market capitalisation after HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank.
- As of 31 March 2023, the bank has a national footprint of 1,780 branches and 2,963 ATMs.
- ➤ Kotak Mahindra Finance was then renamed Kotak Mahindra Bank. At the time, Uday Kotak had a 56% stake in the company while Anand Mahindra held a 5% stake .
- Q. Which edition of Joint Military 'Exercise KAZIND-2023' between India and Kazakhstan has begun in Otar, Kazakhstan?

A) 7th

B) 6th

C) 8th

D) 9th

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Recently, the Indian Army and Indian Air Force contingent, comprising 120 personnel, departed to take part in the Joint Military 'Exercise KAZIND-2023' which will be conducted at Otar, Kazakhstan, from October 30th to November 11th, 2023.
- ✓ About Exercise KAZIND-2023:
- ✓ It is the 7th edition of Kazind exercise.
- ✓ The Joint Exercise between India and Kazakhstan was instituted as 'Exercise PRABAL DOSTYK' in the year 2016.

- ✓ After the second edition, the Exercise was upgraded to a company-level exercise and renamed as 'Exercise KAZIND'.
- ✓ The Exercise has been further upgraded as a Bi-service Exercise this year by including the Air Force component.
- Q. Deep Narayan Nayak has been awarded the Global Teacher Prize 2023. He is from which state?

A) Chhattisgarh

B) Rajasthan

C) West Bengal

D) Maharashtra

# Answer: C

- ✓ A teacher from West Bengal, Deep Narayan Nayak has been announced as a top 10 finalist from across 130 countries in the USD 1 million Global Teacher Prize 2023.
- ✓ Deep Narayan, from Tilka Manjhi Adivasi Free Primary School in Jamuria, Asansol, earned the title of "Teacher of the Streets" during the COVID-19 lockdown when he moved classrooms outside and helped bridge the digital divide for disadvantaged children living below the poverty line in remote communities, empowering those with learning disabilities, counseling students and their parents, and improving literacy rates among adult learners.
- ✓ Now in its eighth year, the annual prize is organized by the UK-based Varkey Foundation in collaboration with UNESCO and in strategic partnership with Dubai Cares, a UAE-based global philanthropic organization.
- ✓ The prize was created to recognize an exceptional teacher who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession as well as to shine a spotlight on the important role teachers play in society
- Q. Which company has become the official sponsor for the 37th National Games?
  - A) MasterCard
  - B) Dream 11
  - C) BharatPe
  - D) Paytm

# Answer: D

- ✓ India's renowned fintech giant, Paytm is the official sponsor for the 37th National Games in Goa.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Games at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Fatorda.

# **SPONSOR IN NEWS 2023**

- Paytm becomes official sponsor for 37th National Games.
- MotoGP Bharat has roped in IndianOil as the title sponsor for the event scheduled to take place at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida.
- > ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 to be sponsored by Mahindra on Disney Star.
- Amul has been named as the official sponsor of the Indian contingent for the 19th Asian Games 2022 to be held in Hangzhou, China.
- ➤ The 28th edition of BWF World Badminton Championships 2023, sponsored by TotalEnergies, was held at Royal Arena, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- ➤ International Cricket Council (ICC) has a brand tie-up with Mastercard for the upcoming Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 to be held in India between 5 October and 19 November 2023.
- ➤ Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) signed a three-year sponsorship deal with fantasy sports gaming platform Dream 11.
- > BCCI ropes in Adidas as new kit sponsor of Indian cricket team.
- ➤ Mastercard has reportedly taken over from BharatPe as the global sponsor of the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Tata Group bags Title sponsorship rights for the Women's Premier League to 2027.
- Adani Sportsline is principal sponsor of Indian Olympic Association Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022, the Hangzhou Asian Games 2022, and the Paris Olympic Games 2024.
- ➤ Kewal Kiran Clothing (KKCL) replaces MPL as Indian cricket team's official sponsor.
- Adidas will sponsor the India cricket team kit as part of a Rs 350 billion deal.
- ▶ BCCI to become an official partner of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) for the 2023 season.
- ➤ Sony Sports signs Hyundai Ioniq 5, Samsonite as sponsors for Australian Open 2023.
- Odisha extends Indian Hockey team sponsorship till 2033.
- For the second year in a row, the State Bank of India (SBI) has extended its sponsorship for Khleo India Youth Games (KIYG) in Madhya Pradesh and remained as KIYG's Principal sponsor for KIYG 2022 edition.

- Q. The European Union (EU) and India conducted their first joint naval exercise in which place?
  - A) Gulf of Guinea

B) Indian Ocean

C) South China Sea

D) Gulf of Finland

#### Answer: A

- ✓ The European Union (EU) and India recently conducted their first joint naval exercise in the Gulf of Guinea.

  The exercise followed the third meeting of the EU-India Maritime Security Dialogue in Brussels.
- ✓ During the exercise, Indian Navy's INS Sumedha, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, was joined by three EU Member States' ships in the Gulf of Guinea
- Q. In the context of the Global Minimum Corporate Tax (GMCT), consider the following statements:
  - 1.It is a proposed international tax reform that would set a minimum tax rate of 15% on multinational corporations.
  - 2.It is a tax on the gross revenue of multinational corporations.
  - 3.It will require all multinational corporations to pay the same tax amount, regardless of their size or location.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

# Answer: A

- ✓ Statement 1 is correct. GMCT is a proposed international tax reform that would set a minimum tax rate of 15% on multinational corporations. It is designed to address the problem of tax avoidance, where companies shift their profits to low-tax jurisdictions in order to reduce their overall tax burden. The GMCT will work through a two-pillar approach:
- ✓ Pillar One: This pillar would allow countries to tax a share of the profits of multinational corporations that are generated in their markets, even if the company does not have a physical presence in the country.
- ✓ Pillar Two: This pillar would introduce a global minimum tax rate of 15% on multinational corporations. If a company pays less than 15% tax in any country where it operates, its home country would be able to impose a top-up tax to bring the effective tax rate up to 15%.
- ✓ Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. GMCT is not a tax on the gross revenue of multinational corporations. It is a tax on the profits of multinational corporations. The GMCT is designed to reduce the incentives for

companies to shift their profits to low-tax jurisdictions. The GMCT does not require all multinational corporations to pay the same tax amount, regardless of their size or location. The tax rate will be applied to the net income or profit that enterprises make from their businesses, and the actual tax liability will depend on the size and location of the corporation

- Q. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) consider the following statements::
  - 1.It aims to provide full compensation for the wage loss in terms of cash incentive, so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery of the first child.
  - 2. Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal ministry for implementing the scheme.
  - 3. The benefit under PMMVY is to be provided to a woman for the first two children provided the second child is a girl.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A) 1 and 2 only

B) 2 and 3 only

C) 1 and 3 only

D) 1, 2 and 3

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Statement 1 is incorrect. PMMVY is a partial compensation scheme, which means that it does not fully cover the wage loss of a pregnant woman. The scheme provides a cash incentive of ₹5,000 to pregnant women and lactating mothers who meet certain eligibility criteria. Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal ministry for implementing the scheme. The benefit under PMMVY is to be provided to a woman for the first two children provided the second child is a girl.
- ✓ About PM Matru Vandana Yojana:
- ✓ It is a Centrally Sponsored Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme launched in 2017.
- ✓ Objectives
- ✓ Providing partial compensation for the wage loss in terms of cash incentive, so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery of the first child
- ✓ To improve health-seeking behaviour amongst Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers (PW&LM).
- ✓ Features
- ✓ The scheme is to provide maternity benefits to women belonging to socially and economically disadvantaged sections of society.

- ✓ The maternity benefit is to be provided to a woman for the first two living children provided the second child is a girl
- ✓ Under this scheme monetary benefit of Rs. 5,000 is given to the expecting mothers from the time of the initial stage of pregnancy to till the time the child is born.
- ✓ Additionally, Rs. 1,000 is provided under the Janani Suraksha Yojana post-institutional delivery.
- ✓ The Rs. 5,000 is provided in three installments.
- ✓ The first installment of Rs. 1,000 is paid at the time of registration of the pregnancy.
- ✓ The second installment of Rs. 2,000 is paid at the time of completing 6 months of pregnancy and receiving at least one antenatal checkup.
- ✓ The third installment of Rs. 2,000 is received after the birth and registration of birth of such child and after such child receives the first cycle of immunization for BCG, OPV, DPT and Hepatitis-B.
- ✓ Cases of miscarriage/stillbirths are to be treated as fresh cases for providing maternity benefits under the scheme
- O. Consider the following statements about Saras Aajeevika Mela
  - 1. It aims to bring rural women SHG members under one platform to showcase their skills, sell their products and linkages with potential market players.
  - 2. It is organised by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR).

#### Choose the correct statements:

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

### Answer: A

- ✓ Recently, the union Minister of State for Rural Development, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution inaugurated the popular SARAS Mela Gurugram.
- ✓ About Saras Aajeevika Mela:
- ✓ It is an initiative by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of Ministry of Rural Development.

- ✓ Aim: To bring the rural women Self Help Group members under one platform to showcase their skills, sell their products, and help them build linkages with potential market players.
- ✓ It is organised by the Ministry of Rural Development and National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)
- ✓ Key facts about DAY-NRLM
- ✓ It is a flagship rural poverty alleviation program of the Government of India.
- ✓ It addresses multiple dimensions of The programme aims to reach out to 10 Crore rural poor households and organise one woman member from each rural household into affinity-based women SHGs.
- ✓ These SHGs provide close, long-term handholding support to their members, enabling them to access financial services from banks, diversify and stabilise their livelihoods, and effectively access their entitlements with ease.
- ✓ Objective: To ensure that each family is able to achieve household food security and have more than one stabilised livelihood source.
- Q. Which of the following are the Indigenous cattle breeds of India?

1. Harian

2. Kankrej

3. Rathi

4. Jamunapari

**Choose the correct code:** 

A) 2 and 3

B) 1 and 2

C) 1, 3 and 4

D) 1, 2 and 3

#### Answer: D

- ✓ The Rashtriya Gokul Mission seeks to improve all Indigenous cattle breeds of India but recently it is found that it has promoted only the Gir indigenous cow breed.
- ✓ About the Rashtriya Gokul Mission
- ✓ It has been implemented for the development and conservation of indigenous bovine breeds since December 2014.
- ✓ It is continued under the umbrella scheme Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikas Yojana from 2021 to 2026.
- ✓ Objectives
- ✓ To enhance the productivity of bovines and increase milk production in a sustainable manner using advanced technologies.

- ✓ To propagate the use of high genetic merit bulls for breeding purposes.
- ✓ To enhance artificial insemination coverage through strengthening the breeding network and delivery of Artificial insemination services at farmers' doorstep.
- ✓ To promote indigenous cattle & buffalo rearing and conservation in a scientific and holistic manner.
- ✓ About Gir Cow:
- ✓ It is an excellent dairy cattle breed well-known among milk producers.
- ✓ It is known for its milk producing ability, good fertility, heat tolerance, easy maintenance, resistance to diseases, and longevity.
- ✓ The name of the breed is derived from its place of origin, the "Gir" forest of Gujarat.
- ✓ It has the ability to adapt to the entire central belt and northern and southern stretches
- Q. Consider the following statements about NISAR
  - 1. NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
  - 2. NISAR is the first satellite mission to use two different radar frequencies to measure changes in our planet's surface.

# **Choose the correct statements:**

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

#### Answer: C

- ✓ The 'NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar' (NISAR) is poised to facilitate the exploration of how shifts in Earth's forest and wetland ecosystems impact the global carbon cycle and influence climate change.
- ✓ About NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR):
- ✓ NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
- ✓ It is an SUV-size satellite weighing 2,800 kilograms.
- ✓ It consists of both L-band and S-band synthetic aperture radar (SAR) instruments, which makes it a dual-frequency imaging radar satellite.
- ✓ NISAR will be the first satellite mission to use two different radar frequencies (L-band and S-band) to measure changes in our planet's surface.
- ✓ SAR is capable of penetrating clouds and can collect data day and night regardless of the weather conditions.
- ✓ NASA has provided the L-band radar, GPS, a high-capacity solid-state recorder to store data, and a payload data subsystem. ISRO has provided the S-band radar, the GSLV launch system, and spacecraft.

- Q. Melghat Tiger Reserve, recently seen in news is located in which of the following state?
  - A) Maharashtra

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Rajasthan

D) Andhra Pradesh

#### Answer: A

- ✓ A tiger was recently found dead in the Susarda range in the Paratwada division of Melghat Tiger Reserve (MTR) buffer zone
- ✓ About Melghat Tiger Reserve (MTR):
- ✓ Location:
- ✓ It is located in the Amaravati district of Maharashtra.
- ✓ It is located on the southern offshoot of the Satpura Hill Range in Central India, called Gavilgarh Hill.
- ✓ It was established as a wildlife sanctuary in 1967 and was declared a tiger reserve in 1974.
- ✓ It was the first tiger reserve in Maharashtra.
- ✓ It was among the first nine tiger reserves notified in 1973-74 under Project Tiger.
- Q. Where was the fourth annual conference of the Indian Association for Economics and Allied Sciences held?

A) Jaipur

B) Srinagar

C) Varanasi

D) Patna

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the fourth annual conference of the Indian Economics & Allied Sciences Association at the University of Kashmir, Srinagar.
- ✓ Indian Economics and Allied Sciences Association (IEASA) President Professor Sudhakar Panda and IEASA Secretary Dr. Alok Kumar also participated in this program.
- Q. Which city will host Beautyworld Middle East 2023?

A) Muscat

B) Dubai

C) Abu Dhabi

D) Kuwait City

## Answer: B

✓ Beautyworld Middle East 2023 will be held from October 30 to November 1, 2023 at the Dubai World Trade Centre.

- ✓ This is a major international trade show. 1,750 exhibitors from 57 countries are expected to participate in this event.
- Q. Which country has recently been removed by the Financial Action Task Force from its 'grey list'?

A) Pakistan

B) Malaysia

C) Myanmar

S) Albania

#### Answer: D

- ✓ The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has announced the removal of several countries from its 'grey list' in a review published on October 27, 2023.
- ✓ These include Cayman Islands, Panama, Jordan and Albania. Bulgaria has been included in the list.
- ✓ The 'grey list' includes countries that do not meet standards such as anti-money laundering and counterterrorist financing (CFT).
- Q. Which Indian shooter secured the 11th Paris Olympic quota for India in the Asian Shooting Championship?

A) Saurabh Chaudhary

B) Anjali Bhagwat

C) Jeetu Rai

D) Manu Bhakar

#### Answer: D

- ✓ Indian female shooter Manu Bhakar secured the 11th Paris Olympic quota for India in the Asian Shooting Championship.
- ✓ She finished fifth in the women's 25 meter sports pistol event at the Asian Championships in Changwon, Korea.
- ✓ Arjun Babuta in the men's 10 meter air rifle event and Sarabjot Singh in the men's 10 meter air pistol event have also secured Paris 2024 quota
- Q. Climate change expert Professor Salimul Haq has passed away, he was a resident of which country?

A) Pakistan

B) Japan

C) India

D) Bangladesh

#### Answer: D

✓ Famous climate change expert Professor Saleemul Huq has passed away in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He was the director of the International Center for Climate Change and Development.

- ✓ He was a resident of Bangladesh.
- ✓ Salimul Haq was a professor at Independent University Bangladesh (IUB).
- ✓ He was an associate of the United Kingdom's International Institute on Environment and Development (IIED)
- Q. Who addressed the 7th Edition of Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh?

A) Nitin Gadkari

B) Amit Shah

C) Piyush Goyal

D) Narendra Modi

# Answer: C

- ✓ Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Textiles, Piyush Goyal attended the 7th Edition of Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh.
- ✓ Goyal addressed the 7th Edition of FII in one of the plenary sessions titled "The Coming Investment Mandate".
- ✓ He also co-chaired a conclave session on the theme "From Risk to Opportunity: Strategies for Emerging Economies in the New Industrial Policy Era" along with the KSA Investment Minister.
- Q. Who has launched a logo, website, and brochure of a newly established National Cooperative for Exports Limited (NCEL) at a national symposium in New Delhi?

A) Draupadi Murmu

B) Narendra Modi

C) Amit Shah

D) Rajnath Singh

## Answer: C

- ✓ Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has launched a logo, website and brochure of a newly established National Cooperative for Exports Limited (NCEL) at a national symposium in New Delhi.
- ✓ Shah also distributed membership certificates to NCEL members at the symposium to be organized at the Pusa complex here.
- ✓ NCEL has been established to serve as a national-level multi-state cooperative society that will act as an umbrella organization for exports within the cooperative sector.
- ✓ This visionary initiative is set to open up new avenues for cooperatives, fostering economic growth and inclusivity.

- ✓ NCEL is committed to empowering farmers, laborers, and traders by providing them with opportunities for integrated growth. NCEL is poised to make a substantial impact on the export landscape, benefiting both cooperatives and the nation.
- ✓ It aims to focus on exporting the surplus available in the Indian cooperative sector by accessing wider markets beyond the geographical contours of the country.
- ✓ NCEL boasts an authorized share capital of Rs 2,000 crore, reflecting the significant financial backing it has received to fulfill its mission.
- Q. Which oil company has launched India's first gasoline and diesel reference fuel, used by automobile manufacturers for testing vehicles?
  - A) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)
  - B) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
  - C) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
  - D) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)

#### Answer: C

- ✓ State-run Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has launched India's first gasoline and diesel reference fuel, used by automobile manufacturers for testing vehicles.
- ✓ The production of this specialized fuel by Indian Oil not only reduces India's dependence on imports but also catapults country's energy industry to the select global players armed with exclusive competencies.
- ✓ This is the first time that India is venturing into the production of Reference Gasoline and Diesel Fuels. The home-grown development of these products in-line with international benchmarks testifies to the brilliance and relentless hard work of Indian Oil.
- ✓ As per the latest SIAM projection, the current demand in the country for gasoline or petrol reference fuel is around 120 KL (kilo litre) per annum and demand for diesel reference fuel is around 15 KL per annum

Q. Swiss Watchmaker 'Rado' appoints \_\_\_\_ as its Global Brand Ambassador.

A) Deepika Padukone

B) Alia Bhatt

C) Anushka Sharma

D) Katrina Kaif

Answer: D

- ✓ Luxury Swiss watch brand 'Rado' has appointed Bollywood Superstar Katrina Kaif as Global Brand Ambassador.
- ✓ This exciting partnership reinforces Rado's commitment in creating memories that last a lifetime.
- ✓ Katrina Kaif's timeless beauty and international appeal make her the perfect choice to represent Rado's enduring commitment to precision, innovation, and craftsmanship. Known for her versatile talent and charisma, Katrina Kaif embodies the values that Rado holds.
- ✓ CEO of Rado Adrian Bosshard
- Q. Richard Roundtree passed away recently at the age of 81. Who was he?

A) First head of WHO

B) First Chief of NASA

C) First chief of WTO

D) First Black Action Hero

#### Answer: D

- ✓ First Black Action Hero, Richard Roundtree Passed Away
- ✓ Richard Roundtree, the trailblazing actor who starred as the ultra-smooth private detective in several Shaft films beginning in the early 1970s, has passed away at the age of 81.
- ✓ He was born in New Rochelle, New York, was considered as the first Black action hero.
- ✓ He became one of the leading actors in the blaxploitation genre through his New York street-smart John Shaft character in the Gordon Parks-directed film in 1971.
- ✓ In 2011, he secured the African-American Film Critics Association award, while in 1994, he claimed the MTV Movie + TV Award for his role in "Shaft."
- Q. Eight former Indian Navy personnel have been sentenced to death by a court in which country?

A) UAE

B) Qatar

C) Saudi Arabia

D) Iran

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Eight former Indian Navy personnel have been sentenced to death by a court in Qatar.
- ✓ The former naval officers had been working for Al Dahra company on a submarine project for the Qatari authorities when they were detained more than a year ago.
- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs is currently 'exploring legal options' and intends to take the matter up with officials in the other country.

# Q. The Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) is marked on which day in India?

A) 31 October

B) 30 October

C) 29 October

D) 28 October

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is observed every year in India on October 31 since 2014.
- ✓ The day is marked to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ✓ 2023 marks the 148th anniversary of the great leader.
- ✓ He played an instrumental role in India's struggle for independence, and later during the integration of the country.
- ✓ Sardar Patel was the first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of India.
- ✓ He is often referred to as the Father of the Indian Constitution and was a key member of the Constituent Assembly.
- Q. The Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is marked in India to mark the birth anniversary of which leader?

A) Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

B) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

C) Subhas Chandra Bose

D) A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

#### Answer: B

- ✓ National Unity Day is celebrated every year on 31st October to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ✓ In 2014, the Government of India decided to celebrate the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as the "National Unity Day" to honour Sardar Patel's contribution to integrated India.
- ✓ Since then, on 31 October (date of birth of Sardar Patel) is celebrated as the "National Unity Day".
- ✓ Apart from this, the world's tallest statue, the 'Statue of Unity', was dedicated to him on 31 October 2018, which is about 182 meters (597 ft) high.
- ✓ It is also known as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.
- ✓ Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- ✓ Sardar Patel was born on 31st October 1875 in Nadiad, Gujarat.
- ✓ He was the first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of India.
- ✓ He played an important role in the integration of many Indian princely states to make an Indian federation.

- ✓ At the time of independence, Sardar Patel played a key role in convincing several princely states to align with the Indian Union.
- ✓ He also worked hard as a social leader for the Independence of India.
- ✓ Women of Bardoli bestowed the title 'Sardar' on Vallabhbhai Patel, which means 'a Chief or a Leader'.
- ✓ He is recognized as the real unifier of India for his colossal contribution to integrate and make India a united (Ek Bharat) and an independent nation.
- ✓ He requested the people of India to live together by uniting in order to create Shresth Bharat (Foremost India).
- ✓ He is also remembered as the 'Patron saint of India's civil servants' as he established the modern all-India services system.
- ✓ Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, popularly known as the Iron Man of India.
- ✓ On the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, on October 31, 2018, PM Modi unveiled the 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat's Narmada district.
- ✓ The total height of the Sardar Patel statue (182 meters) is double that of New York's Statue of Liberty
- Q. Which day of the year is celebrated as World Cities Day?

A) 28 October

B) 30 October

C) 29 October

D) 31 October

#### Answer: D

- ✓ United Nations designated World Cities Day (WCD) is marked every year on October 31.
- ✓ The first World Cities Day was launched in October 2014 in Shanghai, China.
- ✓ WCD aims to promote the international community's interest in global urbanization, cooperation among countries in addressing challenges of urbanization, and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world
- ✓ Theme 2023 : "Financing sustainable urban future for all".
- O. In India, when is the World Savings Day observed?

A) October 29

B) October 31

C) October 30

D) October 28

Answer: C



- ✓ World Savings Day (formerly known as World Thrift Day) is observed every year on October 30 in India.
- ✓ However, the day is observed on October 31 in few countries where this day is a public holiday.
- ✓ World Savings Day aims to promote the importance of savings and learn more about the same.
- ✓ This year, the theme of Conquer your Tomorrow.
- ✓ The day was established on October 30, 1924, during the first International Savings Bank Congress (World Society of Savings Banks) in Milan, Italy.





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