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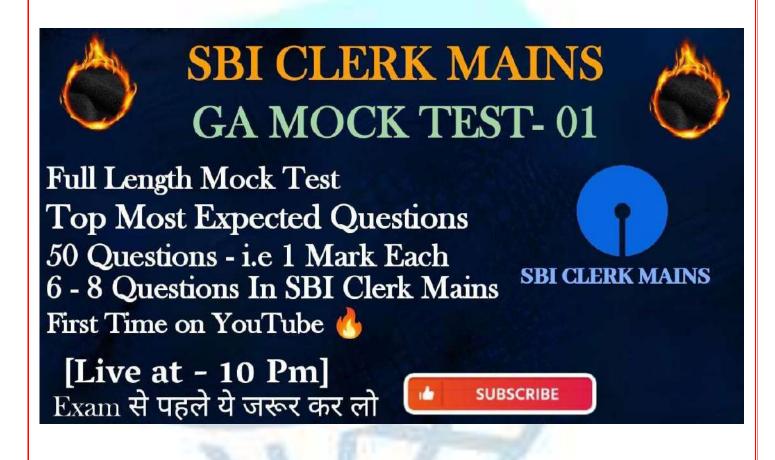
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# Aparchit March 3rd Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts By:- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir

Q. Kotak Mahindra Bank has sold how much percent stake in KFin Technologies through the open market for Rs 208 crore?

A) 3%

B) 2%

C) 5%

D) 9%

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank has sold a 2% stake in KFin Technologies through the open market for Rs 208 crore.
- ✓ The private sector lender sold 3,470,000 shares of KFin Technologies at Rs 600.28 a share, bulk deals data on the BSE showed.
- ✓ As of December end, Kotak Mahindra Bank held a 9.80% stake in KFin Technologies.
- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank invested Rs 310 crore in KFin Technologies in September 2021.

#### **KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IN NEWS 2023-24**

- ➤ Kotak Mahindra Bank has sold a 2% stake in KFin Technologies through the open market for Rs 208 crore.
- ➤ Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched 'Smart Choice Gold Loan' for customers.
- CCI approves Zurich Insurance's acquisition of 70% stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance.
- ➤ Kotak Mahindra Bank Partners with IITK to Launch Kotak School of Sustainability. The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT) and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) have joined forces to establish the Kotak School of Sustainability.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of CS Rajan as part-time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- ➤ 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. SIMA, an AI gaming agent, is developed by:

A) Google

B) Facebook

C) Microsoft

D) OpenAI

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Google DeepMind revealed its latest AI gaming agent called SIMA which can follow natural language instructions to perform tasks across video game environments.
- ✓ Scalable Instructable Multiworld Agent (SIMA) as an AI Agent which can process data and take action themselves.
- ✓ It can be called a generalist AI Agent that is capable of doing different kinds of tasks.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ It is like a virtual buddy who can understand and follow instructions in all sorts of virtual environments from exploring mysterious dungeons to building lavish castles.
- ✓ It can accomplish tasks or solve challenges assigned to it.
- ✓ It "understands" your commands as it has been trained to process human language
- ✓ One distinct feature of this AI Agent is that it is capable of learning and adapting.

- ✓ However, SIMA goes beyond that and can follow instructions in a variety of game settings. This could potentially introduce more helpful AI agents for other environments.
- ✓ Google has partnered with game developers to train SIMA on a variety of video games.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the ETHANOL 100 fuel:
  - 1. It has a very low octane rating.
  - 2. It can be used in Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs) designed to run on gasoline.

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: B

- ✓ Recently, the Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs, launched 'ETHANOL 100, a revolutionary automotive fuel at Indian Oil Retail Outlet.
- ✓ It has a high-octane rating, typically between 100-105.
- ✓ It proves ideal for high-performance engines, ensuring improved efficiency and power output all while minimizing environmental impact.
- ✓ Moreover, ETHANOL 100's versatility shines through, as it can be used in a wide array of vehicles, including Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs) designed to run on gasoline, ethanol, or any blend of the two.
- ✓ It includes 93-93.5 percent ethanol blended with 5 percent petrol and 1.5 percent co-solvent, which is a binder.
- ✓ What are flex-fuel vehicles?
- ✓ These are designed to run on a variety of fuels.
- ✓ These are equipped with an internal combustion engine (ICE) which can run on petrol or ethanol or methanol, giving consumers choice at the point of sale of the fuel.
- ✓ Apart from a few modifications, flex fuel vehicles are similar to petrol-only cars.
- Q. India has signed a 181 million dollars loan with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve urban livability and mobility in which city?

A) Guwahati

B) Ahmedabad

C) Bengaluru

D) Hyderabad

Answer: B

- ✓ India has signed a 181 million dollars loan with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve urban livability and mobility in Ahmedabad.
- ✓ The loan will fund development in areas transitioning from rural to urban, called Peri-urban areas.
- ✓ Under the Ahmedabad Peri-urban Livability Improvement Project, 166 km of water distribution network, 126 km of climate-resilient stormwater drainage, 300 km of sewerage systems, and four sewage treatment plants will be constructed.
- ✓ The Project will also support 10 junction improvements along the existing Sardar Patel Ring Road to improve connectivity of peri-urban areas to Ahmedabad.
- Q. The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU between India and which country on extending co-operation in the field of Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Measures?

A) Mauritius

B) Maldives

C) Sri Lanka

D) Bhutan

#### Answer: D

- ✓ India and Bhutan signed MoU in the field of Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Measures
- ✓ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the signing of MoU between India and Bhutan on extending co-operation in the field of Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Measures.
- ✓ The MoU was signed between Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, Government of India and Department of Energy, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Royal Government of Bhutan.

#### SIGNS MoU IN NEWS 2023-24

- ➤ India and Bhutan signed MoU in the field of Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Measures.
- India, Colombia sign MoU on Cooperation in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions.
- India Signs Agreement for Lithium Exploration & Mining Project in Argentina.
- Cabinet approves the Migration and Mobility Agreement between India and Italy
- India and Italy sign Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement to facilitate movement of workers.
- 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 of the following has signed a financing pact with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for \$125 million to support financing in rural and peri-urban areas in India, particularly women borrowers?

A) LIC Housing Finance

B) L&T Finance Holdings

C) HDFC Housing Finance

D) Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Answer: B

- ✓ L&T Finance Holdings Ltd (LTFH) has signed a financing pact with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for \$125 million to support financing in rural and peri-urban areas in India, particularly women borrowers.
- ✓ Last November, LTFH had sourced \$125-million loan from Asian Development Bank, & as part of the cofinancing agreement, additional \$125-million loan is now raised from JICA.
- ✓ At least 40% of the proceeds would be allocated to women borrowers, while the rest would be to support farmers and MSMEs, besides loans to purchase new two-wheeler vehicles, including electric two-wheelers.
- ✓ The project is strategically aligned with the goals of the Ministry of Rural Development as it focuses on lending in rural and peri-urban areas of lagging Indian states.
- Q. Where was the India's first indoor athletics and aquatic centre inaugurated?

A) Bhubaneswar

B) Chennai

C) New Delhi

D) Jaipur

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurated India's first indoor athletics and aquatic centres at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneshwar, and laid the foundation stone for an indoor diving center.
- ✓ Costing Rs 120 crore, the stadium accommodates 120 athletes with coaching facilities, medical care, and a pantry.
- ✓ It features a 10,000 sq. meter track by Mondo SpA and hosts national and international events.
- ✓ It's a training hub for the Odisha Reliance Foundation Athletics High-Performance Centre, aimed at developing athletics nationwide.
- Q. Which ministry collaborated with IIT Roorkee in automotive and EV sector?
  - A) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
  - B) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
  - C) Ministry of Heavy Industries
  - D) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Answer: C

- ✓ The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) have collaborated to establish a Centre of Excellence and Industry Accelerator in the automotive and electric vehicle (EV) sector.
- ✓ The two ministries signed an MoU to promote innovation and advance the automotive and EV sector.
- ✓ Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, witnessed the historic event
- Q. Who has been appointed as the new prime minister of Palestine?

A) Mohammad Mustafa

B) Salam Fayyad

C) Mohammad Abu Jayyab

D) Mohammed Shtayyeh

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas appointed Mohammad Mustafa as the new prime minister of Palestine.
- ✓ Mustafa is a political independent and economist who has been educated in the United States.
- ✓ He is the economic advisor to Abbas.
- ✓ Mustafa will lead a technocratic government in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, which could potentially administer Gaza before the state becomes independent.

#### **NEWLY PRIME MINISTER IN NEWS**

Mohammad Mustafa: Palestine

Olzhas Bektenov : Kazakhstan

Gabriel Attal: France

Donald Tusk: Poland

Luke Frieden: Luxembourg

Robert Fico : Slovakia

> Christopher Luxon: 42nd PM of New Zealand

> Srettha Thavisin: Thailand

Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani : Qatar

Li Qiang : China

Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM: Equatorial Guinea

> Anwar Ibrahim : Malaysia

- Benjamin Netanyahu : Israel
- Rishi Sunak: 57th PM of United Kingdom (UK)
- Q. The naval forces of which three countries launched a joint exercise near the Gulf of Oman?
  - A) China, Iran, and Russia
- B) India, USA and China
- C) Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan
- D) Australia, Maldives and Russia

#### Answer: A

- ✓ The naval forces of China, Iran, and Russia recently launched a joint exercise called the "Maritime Security Belt-2024" near the Gulf of Oman.
- ✓ The exercise, which began on March 11 and lasted until 15, is the fifth common military exercise between the three countries in recent years.
- ✓ The exercise aims to safeguard regional maritime security and strengthen maritime cooperation.
- ✓ The exercise is organized in three phases: harbor, sea, and summarize.
- ✓ The exercise focuses on anti-piracy and search and rescue training courses, and includes the participation of Russian warships and aviation.

#### **EXERCISE IN NEWS 2023-24**

- The naval forces of China, Iran, and Russia recently launched a joint exercise called the "Maritime Security Belt-2024" near the Gulf of Oman.
- The joint exercise 'Bharat-Shakti' of the three armies of India (Army, Navy and Air Force) will be organized in Asia's largest field firing range located in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- The United States Coast Guard's (USCG) Bertholf ship reached Port Blair ahead of the 'Sea Defenders-2024' joint exercise.
- Exercise Samudra Laksamana kicked off on February 28 and will continue until March 2, taking place at or off the coast of Visakhapatnam
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) started its largest military exercise in Europe, the Steadfast Defender 2024, recently.
- > The 5th edition of the joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' is being organized at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.
- > Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships reached the Maldives recently to take part in the trilateral coast guard exercise Dosti 16

- ➤ Indian Air Force will conduct mega exercise Vayu Shakti 2024 at Pokhran Range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on February 17.
- > The first edition of India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' is being organized in Mahajan, Rajasthan
- ➤ India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) conducted a major air exercise, named 'Desert Knight', over the Arabian Sea.
- ➤ Indian Army contingent is taking part in the 2nd edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE. The Exercise is being conducted at Anshas, Egypt.
- > 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
- The maiden Bilateral Maritime Exercise -Ayutthaya' between the Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was conducted.
- The 12th edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise 2024 (Milan) is set to take place at Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27.
- ➤ Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 45 personnel reached Hanoi, Vietnam to take part in the Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023.
- This year's exercise will be conducted at Hanoi, Vietnam.
- ➤ Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise "VAJRA PRAHAR 2023" commenced at the Joint
- Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya.
- A joint military exercise, "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023" is being conducted from November 16th to 29th, 2023, in Aundh (Pune), Maharashtra.
- It is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lankan army.
- This year is the ninth edition of the exercis.
- The coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' is set to unfold its strategic manoeuvres along the Kerala and Mahe coasts.
- Coordinated by the Indian Coast Guard.
- Much-anticipated joint exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' recently began near the western border of Rajasthan in Jaisalmer.
- Exercise CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 09 Nov 2023.

- Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 commenced in Umroi Cantonment, India.
- > It is a joint bilateral training exercise between Indian & Malaysian Armed Forces.
- > The 19th edition of "EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS" will be conducted from 25th September to 8th October
- 2023 in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Agreement on Pre-notification of the 'Flight Testing of Ballistic Missiles':
  - 1. It was signed between India and Pakistan immediately following the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971.
  - 2. It applies only to tests conducted with surface-to-surface ballistic missiles launched from land or sea.

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: B

- ✓ Pakistan recently urged India to comply with the timeline stipulated in the Agreement on pre-notification of flight testing of ballistic missiles as it took note of the first flight test of India's indigenously developed Agni-5 missile.
- ✓ About Agreement on Pre-notification of the 'Flight Testing of Ballistic Missiles':
- ✓ It was signed between India and Pakistan on October 3, 2005.
- ✓ According to the pact, both countries are supposed to send each other an 'advance notification' of the flight test that they intend to undertake of any land or sea-launched, surface-to-surface ballistic missiles.
- ✓ Each country also has to ensure that the test launch sites don't fall within 40 km and the impact area isn't within 75 km of the International Boundary or the Line of Control along the side of the country undertaking the test.
- Q. With reference to the African Development Bank (AfDB), consider the following statements:
  - 1. It does not have members from outside the African continent.
  - 2. It is a financial provider to private companies investing in the Bank's regional member countries.
  - 3. Nigeria is the largest shareholder in the bank.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

#### Answer: B

- ✓ The head of the African Development Bank is calling for an end to loans given in exchange for the continent's rich supplies of oil or critical minerals used in smartphones and electric car batteries.
- ✓ About African Development Bank (AfDB):
- ✓ It is a regional multilateral development finance institution established to contribute to the economic development and social progress of African countries—the institution's regional member countries.
- ✓ The bank is also known as the Banque Africaine de Développement.
- ✓ It was founded following an agreement signed by member states in 1963 in Khartoum, Sudan, which became effective in 1964.
- ✓ Mission: To help reduce poverty, improve living conditions for Africans, and mobilize resources for the continent's economic and social development.
- ✓ AfDB seeks to stimulate and mobilize internal and external resources to promote investments as well as provide its regional member countries with technical and financial assistance.
- ✓ Headquarters: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
- ✓ The AfDB Bank Group comprises three entities: the African Development Bank, the African Development Fund (ADF), and the Nigeria Trust Fund (NTF).
- ✓ Membership: It has 81 member countries: 54 from the African continent and the other 27 from other regions around the world.
- ✓ Shareholding:
- ✓ The shareholding of the Bank is 60%-40% between regional member countries and non-regional member countries respectively.
- ✓ Nigeria is the largest shareholder of AfDB.
- Q. Consider the following:

1. Paper currency

2. Promissory Note

3. Bills of Exchange

4. Cheque

How many of the above come under the ambit of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) Only three

D) All four

#### Answer: C

- ✓ The Supreme Court recently observed that mere filing of the cheque dishonor complaint under the Negotiable Instruments Act would not grant a right to a complainant to seek interim compensation.
- ✓ About Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881:
- ✓ It came into force on 1st March 1881, and it extends to the whole of India.
- ✓ It was enacted to provide a uniform legal framework for the use of negotiable instruments in India.
- ✓ A negotiable instrument is a piece of paper that guarantees the payment of a certain sum of money, either immediately upon demand or at any predetermined period, and whose payer is typically identified.
- ✓ Section 13 of the Act states that, "A negotiable instrument means a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque payable either to order or to bearer".
- ✓ However, no section of this act affects the usage of paper currency, which is governed by the Indian Paper Currency Act of 1871.
- ✓ The Act has been amended several times to ensure that it is in line with changing business practices and legal requirements.
- O. Consider the following statements with reference to the World Monuments Fund:
  - 1. It is an independent organization devoted to safeguarding the world's cultural heritage sites.
  - 2. It is headquartered in New York.

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

- ✓ The Eri (tank) network in the Kazhuveli watershed region in Villupuram district that comprises of an incredible network of tanks created thousands of years ago is to be proposed for nomination to the World Monuments Fund Watch 2025 programme.
- ✓ It is the leading independent organization devoted to safeguarding the world's most treasured places to enrich people's lives and build mutual understanding across cultures and communities.

- ✓ Since 1965, its global team of experts has preserved the world's diverse cultural heritage using the highest international standards at more than 700 sites in 112 countries.
- ✓ Partnering with local communities, funders, and governments, WMF draws on heritage to address some of today's most pressing challenges: climate change, underrepresentation, imbalanced tourism, and post-crisis recovery.
- ✓ Headquarter: New York City
- ✓ In 2015, WMF India became the most recent entry to the World Monuments Fund family of affiliates, established under India's Companies Act, following the country's policy to include heritage conservation in corporate social responsibility programs.
- ✓ What is the World Monuments Watch?
- ✓ It is a nomination-based program that connects local heritage preservation to global awareness and action.
- ✓ Every two years, the Watch rallies support to places in need and the people who care for them, spotlighting new challenges.
- ✓ At its core, the Watch's call to action seeks to empower timely preservation efforts that improve the lives of communities.
- ✓ The 2025 Watch will include 25 places, each telling an urgent local story with global relevance
- Q. The State Bank of India (SBI) has told the Supreme Court that a total\_\_\_ of electoral bonds were purchased by political parties between April 1, 2019 and February 15 this year, out of which \_\_\_\_were redeemed.

A) 22,217; 22,020

B) 22,207; 22,030

C) 22,217; 22,030

D) 22,117; 22,030

#### Answer: C

- ✓ The State Bank of India (SBI) has told the Supreme Court that a total of 22,217 electoral bonds were purchased by political parties between April 1, 2019 and February 15 this year, out of which 22,030 were redeemed.
- ✓ In a compliance affidavit filed in the apex court, the SBI said as per the court's direction, it has made available the details of electoral bonds to the Election Commission of India before the close of business hours on March 12.
- ✓ A total number of 22,217 bonds were purchased during the period April 1, 2019 till February 15, 2024.

- ✓ The affidavit said between April 1, 2019 to April 11, 2019, a total of 3,346 electoral bonds were purchased and 1,609 redeemed.
- ✓ It further said from April 12, 2019 to February 15 this year, a total of 18,871 electoral bonds were purchased and 20,421 were redeemed.
- ✓ A Supreme Court judgment on February 15, 2024 had struck down the anonymous system of political funding called the 'electoral bonds scheme' while directing the SBI, which was the authorised one under the system, to disclose information about who bought the bonds for which political part
- Q. According to RBI data, The share of private sector banks in total deposits has risen how much percent as of December 2023?

A) 34%

B) 36%

C) 38%

D) 40%

#### Answer: A

- ✓ The share of private sector banks in total deposits has risen significantly, reaching 34% as of December 2023, up from 25% at the end of the financial year 2017-18.
- ✓ This growth has been driven by aggressive interest rate offerings and improved customer relationship management strategies adopted by private banks.
- ✓ The share of public sector banks in the space has declined to 59% from 66% at the end of the financial year 2017-18, according to the Reserve Bank of India data.
- ✓ The ability of private banks to swiftly raise interest rates on fixed deposits has helped them increase their share in total deposits.
- ✓ Deposits of private banks grew by 135% to Rs 68.4 trillion as of December 2023, from Rs 29 trillion as of March 2018. Public sector banks increased their deposits by 40% to Rs 116.5 trillion as of December-end, from Rs 76.5 trillion as of March 2018.
- Q. What are 'Agray' and 'Akshay', recently seen in the news?
  - A) Anti-submarine warships
  - B) Climate monitoring satellite
  - C) Medicinal plant found mainly in South India
  - D) Newly discovered Exoplanets

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Indian Navy launched ships 'Agray' and 'Akshay' to bolster anti-submarine capabilities.
- ✓ The Ministry of Defence contracted Kolkata-based PSU GRSE for eight ASW Shallow Water Craft (SWC).
- ✓ GRSE built these ships, launched nearly five years post-contract signing.
- ✓ Named after former Abhay class corvettes, Neeta Chaudhary named them INS Agray and INS Akshay.
- ✓ These are the fifth and sixth in the series.
- ✓ India's shipbuilding prowess enhances maritime security with modern capabilities
- Q. Which day of the year is marked as the International Day of Action for Rivers?

A) 14 March

B) 15 March

C) 16 March

D) 13 March

#### Answer: A

- ✓ The International Day of Action for Rivers is celebrated every year on 14th of March.
- ✓ It was first marked in March 1997.
- ✓ The year 2022 marks the 25th anniversary of the International Day of Action for Rivers.
- ✓ Theme in 2024 is "Water for All".
- ✓ The day aims to raise awareness about the value and importance of rivers as well as bring together people from across the world to discuss and spread awareness about conserving rivers, river management, pollution, and equitable access to clean and flowing water.
- Q. The International Day of Mathematics (IDM) is event held on\_

A) 15 March

B) 16 March

C) 14 March

D) 13 March

#### Answer: C

- ✓ The International Day of Mathematics (IDM) is observed every year on 14th of March.
- ✓ The theme for 2024 IDM is "Playing With Math".
- ✓ The day was initiated by the International Mathematical Union (IMU) to celebrate the beauty and importance of mathematics and its essential role in everyone's life.
- ✓ The 40th General Conference of UNESCO approved the Proclamation of March 14 as the International Day of Mathematics, on November 26, 2019.

Q. In India, the National Vaccination Day is observed annually on which day?

A) 13 March

B) 14 March

C) 15 March

D) 16 March

#### Answer: D

- ✓ In India, the National Vaccination Day (also known as National Immunisation Day (IMD)) is observed on 16 March ever year, to convey the importance of vaccination to the entire nation.
- ✓ The day was first observed in the year 1995. It was on March 16, 1995 that India started Pulse Polio Programme and the first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine was given.
- Q. With reference to T+0 Settlement, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:
  - 1. It means that the funds and securities for a transaction will be settled on the day the trade was entered.
  - 2. At present, all the transactions in the Indian securities markets operate on T+0 Settlement cycle.
  - 3. Shorter settlement cycles are expected to mitigate counterparty risk and enhance market liquidity.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

#### Answer: B

- ✓ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently approved the launch of the beta version of the T+0 settlement on an optional basis.
- ✓ About T+0 Settlement:
- ✓ T+0 settlement means that the funds and securities for a transaction will be settled on the day the trade was entered.
- ✓ At present, the Indian securities markets operate on a T+1 settlement cycle, where the settlement happens on the next day of trade.
- ✓ In 2002, the regulator cut down the settlement period from T+5 to T+3, and in 2003, SEBI further reduced it to T+2. In 2021, the T+1 settlement started and was gradually implemented, with the final phase completed in January 2023.
- $\checkmark$  The T+0 settlement cycle will now be offered as an alternative alongside T+1.
- ✓ Advantages:

- ✓ Instant receipt of funds and securities to the investor.
- ✓ It will eliminate the risk of any kind of settlement shortage and give greater control over funds and securities to the investor.
- ✓ There is expected to be lower counterparty risk and increased liquidity in the market.
- ✓ Although the T+0 settlement system is not as common as T+1 or T+2 settlement cycles, there are a few countries and markets that have adopted T+0 settlement.
- ✓ The Moscow Exchange (MOEX), Korea Exchange (KRX), Taiwan Stock Exchange (TWSE), and Hong Kong Stock Exchange (HKEX) offer T+0 settlements for certain types of trades and transactions.

#### **SEBI IN NEWS 2023-24**

- > Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently approved the launch of the beta version of the T+0 settlement on an optional basis.
- > SEBI Extends Nomination Filing Deadline for Mutual Funds and Demat Accounts Until June 2024.
- > SEBI Plans To Introduce Same Day Trade Settlement By March 2024.
- According to her, market participants have conveyed the necessity to initiate the process at T+0 and subsequently progress towards instantaneous settlement.
- The regulatory body aims to achieve same-day settlement by the end of March 2024, marking a significant leap from the existing T+0 settlement cycle.
- > SEBI has granted approval for Not for Profit Organisations (NPOs) to enhance their fundraising capabilities through the social stock exchange.
- > SEBI has decided to decrease the minimum issue size for public issuance of Zero Coupon Zero Principal Instruments (ZCZP) from Rs 1 crore to Rs 50 lakh.
- Madhabi Puri Buch, the Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has officially launched the Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA) platform at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- ➤ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):
- ➤ It is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India established in 1988.
- ➤ It is the regulator of the Capital market and Commodities market in India.
- The first SEBI chairman was Dr S A Dave (1988-90)
- Madhabi Puri Buch is the current and 10th Chairperson of the SEBI.

- ➤ Headquarters : Mumbai
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the ULLAS initiative:
  - 1. It aims to provide basic education, digital and financial literacy to citizens aged 15 and above.
  - 2. It is an initiative of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

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: A

- ✓ The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education, Government of India, is set to conduct the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) as part of the ULLAS Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram on 17th March 2024, across 23 states.
- ✓ The Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS) initiative is poised to revolutionise education and literacy across the nation.
- ✓ It is done by fostering a learning ecosystem that reaches every individual, bridging the gaps in basic literacy and critical life skills.
- ✓ It imparts basic education, digital and financial literacy and critical life skills to citizens aged 15 and above who lost on the opportunity to go to school. It is being implemented through volunteerism.
- ✓ The objectives of the scheme is to impart not only Foundational Literacy and Numeracy but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of 21 st century such as
- ✓ Critical Life Skills (including financial literacy, digital literacy, commercial skills, health care and awareness, child care and education, and family welfare);
- ✓ Vocational Skills Development (with a view towards obtaining local employment);
- ✓ Basic Education (including preparatory, middle, and secondary stage equivalency)
- ✓ Continuing Education (including engaging holistic adult education courses in arts, sciences, technology, culture, sports, and recreation, as well as other topics of interest or use to local learners, such as more advanced material on critical life skills).
- ✓ ULLAS app which is user-friendly and interactive app available both on android and ios.

- ✓ It will serve as a digital gateway for learners to engage in diverse learning resources through the DIKSHA portal of NCERT.
- ✓ The ULLAS app can be used for registration of learners and volunteers either through self-registration or by surveyors.
- Q. Which company will buy 13% of Paramount's stake in Viacom18 for Rs 4,286 crore?

A) Reliance industries

B) Wipro Group

C) Tata Group

D) Adani Group

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Reliance to buy 13% of Paramount's stake in Viacom18 for Rs 4,286 crore
- ✓ India's largest private company Reliance Industries has entered in a binding agreement to buy Paramount Global's entire 13.01% stake in Viacom 18 Media for Rs 4,286 crore (\$517 million).
- ✓ The stake in Viacom18 was held by Paramount Global through its two subsidiaries.
- ✓ Viacom18 is a subsidiary of TV18 Broadcast, which holds preferencial shares worth 57.48% in the company.
- ✓ Post the transaction, TV18 Broadcast's stake in Viacom18 will increase to 70.49%. Viacom18 has 40 television channels, including Comedy Central, Nickelodeon and MTV.
- ✓ This transaction is subject to completion of Reliance's previously announced merger with Walt Disney for their India TV and streaming media assets

#### **RIL IN NEWS 2023-24**

- India's largest private company Reliance Industries has entered in a binding agreement to buy Paramount Global's entire 13.01% stake in Viacom 18 Media for Rs 4,286 crore (\$517 million).
- Reliance Industries Limited and Walt Disney Company have officially signed a binding agreement to merge their media businesses in India.
- ➤ Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) achieved a significant milestone on Indian stock exchanges by surpassing a market capitalization of ₹20-lakh crore.
- Reliance Industries Achieves India's First ISCC-Plus Certification.
- Reliance Industries and DBS Bank India have collaborated to introduce a financing initiative aimed at supporting the establishment of compressed biogas (CBG) plants.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is set to hire RS Sodhi, the former MD of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which is responsible for the popular Indian milk brand, Amul.

- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Ashok Leyland unveiled India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) technology solution for heavy duty trucks. This technology was flagged off by PM Modi at the India Energy Week in Bengaluru.
- ➤ Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)
- ➤ Founded : 8 May 1973
- > Founder : Dhirubhai Ambani
- > Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- CMD : Mukesh Ambani
- Owner : Mukesh Ambani (50.49%)
- Director : Nita Dalal Ambani
- Subsidiaries
- ➤ Jio Platforms (67.03%)
- ➤ Jio Payments Bank (70%).
- At Rs 19 lakh crore or \$250 billion, Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani-promoted Reliance Industries's market capitalisation.
- Q. Union Minister Arjun Munda laid the foundation stone of 'Centre for Preservation and Promotion of Tribal Culture and Heritage' in which state?

A) Bihar

B) Jharkhand

C) Assam

D) Tripura

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Union Minister of Tribal Affairs; Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Arjun Munda recently laid the foundation stone of 'Centre for Preservation and Promotion of Tribal Culture and Heritage' in Kharsawan district of Jharkhand through virtual medium.
- ✓ A budget of Rs 10 crore has been allocated for the establishment of this centre.
- Q. Pandavula Gutta, a Geo Heritage site recently seen in news, is located in:

A) Telangana

B) Andhra Pradesh

C) Maharashtra

D) Karnataka

Answer: A

- ✓ Recently, Pandavula Gutta has been officially recognised as the sole Geo-heritage site in Telangana.
- ✓ It is a geological marvel older than the Himalayan hills.
- ✓ It is located in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district in Telangana is home to many prehistoric habitation sites.
- ✓ This site was first discovered in the year 1990.
- ✓ It is rich in terms of number of paintings, rock shelters and its habitation, right from the mesolithic to medieval times.
- ✓ The paintings also feature geometrical designs and impressions in green, red, yellow and white pigment colours.
- ✓ These cave paintings offer a rare glimpse into the prehistoric man's rock art identified on walls and ceilings of caves, rock shelters and isolated boulders.
- ✓ The rock art paintings depict wild life like Bison, Antelope, Tiger, Leopard etc. Other shapes like swastika symbol, circles and squares, weapons such as bows, arrows, sword and lancer etc are present in these paintings

#### **TELANGANA IN NEWS 2023-24**

- Pandavula Gutta has been officially recognised as the sole Geo-heritage site in Telangana.
- ➤ Global Spirituality Conference ever organised in India came to an end on 17 March 2024 in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- > Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced to provide accident insurance of Rs 5 lakh to gig workers from the government.
- > Prime Minister recently inaugurated the Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO) center in Hyderabad, at Begumpet Airport. This is a major development for the aviation sector in Telangana.
- Sammakka Sarakka Medaram Jathara, Asia's largest tribal fair, started in Telangana's Mulugu district witnessed thousands of devotees who paid obeisance to tribal deities.
- ➤ Union Cabinet approved the establishment of a tribal university in Telangana, named The Sarakka Central Tribal University. This university, with a budget of Rs 889 crore, will be located in Mulugu district.
- ➤ US-based multinational technology company "Corning" has announced plans to set up a \$113m Gorilla Glass manufacturing facility in the Indian state of Telangana.

- > Telangana has launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF).
- ➤ Telangana achieves 100% coverage of PMJDY.
- > Telangana govt launches first of its kind State Robotics Framework.
- ➤ Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao laid the foundation for the Hare Krishna Heritage Tower in Hyderabad. The 400 feet tall structure will be constructed on six acres of land in Narsingi at a cost of Rs 200 crore.
- ➤ The two-day 'Food Conclave-2023' will be organized on April 28 and 29 in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ➤ Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao recently unveiled a 125-feet tall bronze statue of BR Ambedkar in Hyderabad.
- World Economic Forum (WEF) has chosen Hyderabad to set up its Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution focused on healthcare and life sciences.
- ➤ Hyderabad to become India's first city with 100% sewerage facilities by May 2023.
- ➤ IAS 'Shanti Kumari' becomes first woman Chief Secretary of Telangana.
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index:
  - 1. It is designed and published by NITI Aayog on an annual basis.
  - 2. It uses data from the Centralised Public Grievance Redressal and Management System.

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: B

- ✓ The Ministry of Home Affairs has consistently ranked amongst the top 10 ministries in 2023-24 in the Grievance Redressal Assessment Index (GRAI), performing well in all 15 specified indicators.
- ✓ It was conceptualised and designed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India.

- ✓ Objective: To present an organisation-wise comparative picture and provide valuable insights about strengths and areas of improvement regarding the grievance redressal mechanism.
- ✓ It is based on a comprehensive index in the dimensions of Efficiency, Feedback, Domain and Organisational Commitment
- ✓ It uses data from the Centralised Public Grievance Redressal and Management System (CPGRAMS).
- Q. Exercise "LAMITIYE, is conducted between India and:

A) Seychelles

B) Bhutan

C) Nepal

D) France

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Indian Army contingent departed for Seychelles to participate in the Tenth edition of Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2024".
- ✓ It is a joint military exercise between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF).
- ✓ 'LAMITIYE' meaning 'Friendship' in the Creole language is a biennial training event and has been conducted in Seychelles since 2001.
- ✓ 45 personnel each from the GORKHA RIFLES of the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) will participate in the 2024 exercise.
- ✓ The aim of the Exercise is to enhance interoperability in Sub-conventional Operations in Semi-Urban environment under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter on Peace Keeping Operations.
- ✓ The exercise will contribute immensely in developing mutual understanding and magnify jointness between the troops of both the Armies
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Co-branded Credit card:
  - 1. It can only be used for purchases made at the co-branding retailer.
  - 2. It bears the logo of the credit card company only.

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: D

- ✓ The tightening of compliance regulations by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may prompt banks to lean towards collaborating with larger fintech companies for co-branded credit card partnerships.
- ✓ It is a card that is issued jointly by a card-issuer and a co-branding entity bearing the names of both the partnering entities.
- ✓ These cards typically bear the logos of both the credit card company and the retailer.
- ✓ Usage: They can be used in any location where the card network is accepted, not just with the co-branding retailer.
- ✓ Features: They typically come with rewards or other benefits that are tied specifically to purchases made at the co-branding retailer, and usually offer rewards or benefits for general purchases as well.
- ✓ Recognition: The retailer's logo and the card network's logo usually appear on the card.
- ✓ How Co-Branded Cards Work?
- ✓ Co-branded cards work like any normal credit card. They can be used for any purchase wherever cards in that network (such as Mastercard, Visa, American Express, or Discover) are accepted.
- ✓ Co-branded card relationships can be structured in a variety of ways. But basically, in order to issue a cobranded credit card, a merchant (such as a department store, gas station, or airline) or another organization (like a university or nonprofit) must partner with a financial institution, which provides the actual credit.
- ✓ Hence both statements are not correct
- Q. With reference to revenue-based financing, consider the following statements:
  - 1. It is a collateralised debt against a percentage of gross revenue.
  - 2. It is an alternative financing product for digitally enabled businesses.
  - 3. It does not involve any transfer of an ownership stake to investors.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Revenue-based financing (RBF) is gaining traction amongst statups and digital SMEs, as venture capital flow continues to be dry and traditional credit remains out of reach for many.
- ✓ It is a non-collateralised debt against a percentage of gross revenue.

- ✓ It is an alternative financing product for digitally-enabled businesses, where they can raise capital in exchange for a percentage of their gross revenue as a monthly repayment, in addition to a fixed fee between 8-10% of the principal amount.
- ✓ It is usually opted by companies with steady revenue flow that have a high requirement for short-term working capital, such as cloud kitchens, e-commerce merchants, financial services companies or software-as-a-service firms.
- ✓ In this type of investment investors receive a regular share of the businesses income until a predetermined amount has been paid.
- ✓ Typically, this predetermined amount is a multiple of the principal investment and usually ranges between three to five times the original amount invested.
- ✓ Revenue-based Financing vs. Debt and Equity-based Financing
- ✓ Revenue-based financing seems similar to debt financing because investors are entitled to regular repayments of their initially invested capital.
- ✓ However, revenue-based funding does not involve interest payments. Instead, the repayments are calculated using a particular multiple that results in returns that are higher than the initial investment.
- ✓ Also, in revenue-based financing, a company is not required to provide collateral to investors.
- ✓ Unlike equity-based investment models, there is no transfer of an ownership stake in a company to investors.
- ✓ Hence only statements 2 and 3 are correct.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Integrated Assessment Models:
  - 1. It examines possible futures of the energy, climate system and economies.
  - 2. It combines different strands of knowledge to model human society.

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

- ✓ The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) uses 'modelled pathways' to estimate what it will take to limit the warming of the earth's surface and these pathways are drawn using Integrated Assessment Models (IAMs).
- ✓ These are complex models that examine possible futures of the energy and climate system and economies.

- ✓ They are "integrated" because they combine different strands of knowledge to model human society alongside parts of the Earth system.
- ✓ Its macroeconomic models can point to future growth levels in terms of GDP; its energy models can project future consumption; vegetation models can examine land-use changes; and earth-system models use the laws of physics to understand how climate evolves.
- ✓ With such integration across disciplines, IAMs are meant to provide policy-relevant guidelines on climate action.
- ✓ They prioritise least-cost assessments for example, the absolute cost of setting up a solar plant or undertaking afforestation in India is lower than in the U.S.
- ✓ The most common use of IAMs is in the field of climate mitigation.
- ✓ A key purpose of IAMs is to provide orientation knowledge for the deliberation of future climate action strategies by policymakers, civil society and the private sector
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding Lake Baikal:
  - 1. It is located in Russia and was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
  - 2. It is the oldest existing freshwater lake on Earth.

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

- ✓ Recent study showed that ancient ecosystem of Lake Baikal is at risk of global warming.
- ✓ It is located in the southern part of eastern Siberia within the republic of Russia.
- ✓ It is the oldest existing freshwater lake on Earth (20 million–25 million years old), as well as the deepest continental body of water.
- ✓ It had its start in the time of the dinosaurs and began to take its modern form well before the appearance of the Homininae.
- ✓ It is having a maximum depth of 5,315 feet (1,620 metres).
- ✓ It is also the world's largest freshwater lake by volume, containing about one-fifth of the fresh water on Earth's surface.
- ✓ Into Lake Baikal more than 330 rivers and streams flow.

- ✓ The largest of which include the Selenga, Barguzin, Upper (Verkhnyaya) Angara, Chikoy, and Uda.
- ✓ It is known as the 'Galapagos of Russia', its age and isolation have produced one of the world's richest and most unusual freshwater faunas, which is of exceptional value to evolutionary science.
- ✓ In 1996 Lake Baikal was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Q. Which one of the following cities is located on the banks of Shipra River?

A) Mathura

B) Bhopal

C) Ujjain

D) Nashik

#### Answer: C

- ✓ A performance audit conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) on the degradation of the Shipra River, threw up a host of significant findings.
- ✓ About Shipra River:
- ✓ The Shipra, also known as the Kshipra, is a river in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ It is a perennial river and is considered as sacred as the Ganga River by the Hindus.
- ✓ Course:
- ✓ Origin: It originates in the Vindhya Range from a hill called Kakri-Tekdi, which is in the north of Dhar and situated at a distance of 11km from Ujjain.
- ✓ This river is 195km long, out of which 93km flow through Ujjain.
- ✓ It flows across the Malwa Plateau to join the Chambal River.
- ✓ Religious Significance:
- ✓ The Puranas, or ancient Hindu texts, put forward that the Shipra originated from the heart of Varaha, Lord Vishnu's incarnation as a boar.
- ✓ Also on the banks of the Shipra is Sage Sandipani's ashram or hermitage, where Krishna, Lord Vishnu's eighth incarnation, had studied.
- ✓ It finds mention not only in ancient Hindu texts but also in Buddhist and Jain scriptures.
- ✓ The holy city of Ujjain is located on the right bank of the Shipra River. The famous Kumbha Mela takes place in the ghats of this city, once every 12 years, a yearly celebration of the river goddess Kshipra.
- ✓ Major Tributaries: Khan and Gambhir

- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC):
  - 1. It is a proposed sea route between the Indian port of Chennai and the Russian port of St. Petersburg.
  - 2. It is significantly shorter than the current route between the Indian and Russian ports via the Suez Canal.

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: B

- ✓ The Red Sea crisis has shifted attention to the Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC) the proposed trade route for coking coal, crude oil, LNG, fertilizers and containers.
- ✓ About Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC):
- ✓ It is a proposed sea route between the Indian port of Chennai and the Russian port of Vladivostok.
- ✓ The corridor is estimated to bring down transportation time between Indian and Russian ports in the Far East Region by up to 16 days.
- ✓ Once complete, it will take 24 days, down from presently over 40 days, to transport goods from India to Far East Russia.
- ✓ The present trade route between Mumbai and St. Petersburg covers a distance of 8,675 nautical miles.
- ✓ The EMC will cover a distance of about 5,600 nautical miles, which is significantly shorter than the current route via the Suez Canal.
- ✓ For India, it will provide a shorter and more efficient route to access the markets of the Far East, such as China and Japan
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Rice Bran:
  - 1. It is one of the main byproducts in the process of rice milling.
  - 2. It is currently mostly used as animal feed.

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

- ✓ The Central Government has extended the ban on exports of de-oiled rice bran by another four months, according to an official notification put out by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) recently.
- ✓ About Rice Bran:
- ✓ It is one of the main byproducts in the process of rice milling.
- ✓ It is the outer brown layer of brown rice and is separated during the milling process.
- ✓ One hundred kilogram (100 kg) of paddy rice will generate approximately 5–10 kg of bran.
- ✓ The bran fraction contains 14-18% oil.
- ✓ Rice bran oil is popular as a "healthy oil" in Japan, Asia, and particularly India.
- ✓ It is a pale yellow, odourless, nutty-flavoured oil with a sweet taste.
- ✓ It is a good source of unsaturated fats, vitamin E, and other important nutrients.
- ✓ It is currently mostly used as animal feed. The oily nature makes bran an excellent binder for animal feeds.
- Q. Hemoglobin A1C Test is primarily used to test which one of the following diseases?

A) Tuberculosis

B) Malaria

C) Sickle cell anemia

D) Diabetes

#### Answer: D

- ✓ India is estimated to have 10.13 crore people with diabetes, and another 13.6 crore people who are prediabetic, according to a nationwide study published in 2023.
- ✓ It is one of the most commonly-used tests to diagnose pre-diabetes and diabetes (both type 1 and type 2) and to help manage diabetes.
- ✓ It is also known as the glycated haemoglobin or glycosylated haemoglobin test.
- ✓ Hemoglobin is the part of your red blood cells that carries oxygen from your lungs to the rest of your body.
- ✓ It is an important blood test that gives a good indication of how well your diabetes is being controlled.
- Q. India's Shipping Ministry has approved waterways projects on Brahmaputra in Assam to boost tourism. What is the total outlay approved by ministry for this project?

A) ₹415 crore

B) ₹725 crore

**C**) ₹645 crore

D) ₹550 crore

Answer: C

- ✓ India's Shipping Ministry has approved waterways projects worth ₹645 crore on Brahmaputra in Assam.
- ✓ Projects, aimed at boosting river tourism, will be implemented with financial assistance from the Centre.
- ✓ Projects will involve the creation of slipways at strategic locations in Dhubri and Majuli, new passenger terminals at Ghagor in North Lakhimpur and Bahari in Barpeta district of Assam. There will be additional passenger terminals in Goalpara, Guijan, Kurua, Dhubri, Disangmukh & Matmora.
- ✓ Projects, which will be developed under the Sagarmala programme.
- Q. Which company has bagged a 200-megawatt (MW) capacity solar power project to be set up at the Gujarat State Electricity Corporation's (GSECL) 1,125 MW RE Park in Khavda?

A) NHPC Limited

B) NTPC Limited

C) JSW Energy

D) Adani Enterprises

## Answer: A

- ✓ State-run hydro power major NHPC has bagged a 200-megawatt (MW) capacity solar power project to be set up at the Gujarat State Electricity Corporation's (GSECL) 1,125 MW RE Park in Khavda.
- ✓ NHPC will develop the project on a build-own-and-operate basis at a tentative development cost of about ₹847 crore.
- ✓ The project was secured at a tariff of ₹2.66 per unit and will be completed in a period of 18 months.
- ✓ The project will generate about 473 million units (MU) in the first year of commissioning and the cumulative generation from the project over a period of 25 years would be about 10,850 million units.
- ✓ The project will annually generate 11,223 MU of hydropower, which is clean and green energy and will be fed into the Northern Grid. The project has a construction period of 108 months and is scheduled to be commissioned in February 2032.
- ✓ It has the potential of direct employment of 500 people during the construction phase and 300 during operation. Further, the project will provide indirect employment of 5,000 people during construction phase and 500 during operation phase.
- Q. Who has released the Book and Video on "Sagar Parikrama" at Rajkot, Gujarat?
  - A) Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
  - B) Parshottam Rupala
  - C) Piyush Goyal
  - D) Anurag Thakur

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry Dairying Parshottam Rupala has release Book and Video on "Sagar Parikrama" at Rajkot, Gujarat.
- ✓ The object of the book is to chronicle the Sagar Parikrama Yatra, encompassing content on diverse elements, such as the Maritime route, cultural and geographical explorations, and notable impacts from all 12 phases of Sagar Parikrama.
- ✓ The Book on Sagar Parikrama contains 7 chapters covering genesis of Sagar Parikrama, Overview and detailed coverage of the journey of West coast, East coast and the key take away.
- ✓ This document will provide an insight into the challenges of coastal fishermen, their culture, religious and traditional fisheries heritage of India.
- Q. Laxminarayan Ramdas passed away recently at the age of 91. He was former chief of which defence force?

A) Indian Coast Guard

B) Indian Army

C) Indian Navy

D) Indian Air Force

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Former chief of the Indian Navy, Admiral Laxminarayan Ramdas passed away at the age of 91.
- ✓ Known for his heroic role during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan War, he later emerged as a leading peace activist, advocating for nuclear disarmament after his retirement.
- ✓ Admiral Laxminarayan Ramdas was born on September 5, 1933. He attended the Cambridge School in Srinivaspuri in Delhi and joined the Indian Navy's 1st course of the Joint Services Wing (JSW) in Dehradun in 1949 when he was 15.
- Q. Tamilisai Soundararajan resigned from her post, she was the Governor of which state?

A) Tamil Nadu

B) Telangana

C) Kerala

D) Karnataka

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Telangana Governor and Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Tamilisai Sundararajan have resigned from both their posts.
- ✓ He has sent his resignation to President Draupadi Murmu.

- ✓ Soundararajan served as the second Governor of Telangana state.
- ✓ He assumed charge on September 8, 2019
- Q. Who was awarded the PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award recently?

A) Ratan Tata

B) Ramnath Kovind

C) S Jaishankar

D) Nitish Kumar

## Answer: A

- ✓ Former Tata Sons Chairman Ratan Tata was honored with the prestigious PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for his outstanding philanthropic contributions.
- ✓ The PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award is named after the former Prime Minister of India.
- ✓ This award is given to people dedicated to social and humanitarian welfare.
- Q. Who was recently appointed the Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education?

A) Ajay Sinha

B) Rahul Singh

C) Raghuvar Das

D) Vinay Saxena

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Senior bureaucrat Rahul Singh has recently been appointed Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) by the Central Government.
- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Singh, a 1996 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Bihar cadre, as the Chairman of CBSE.
- ✓ He will replace Nidhi Chhibber, who has been named advisor in NITI Aayog.
- Q. Who has recently been appointed as the new Chairman of Prasar Bharati?

A) Ashok Khemka

B) Sonal Goyal

C) Navneet Kumar Sehgal

D) Manoj Kumar Sharma

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Retired IAS officer Navneet Kumar Sehgal has been appointed as the new Chairman of Prasar Bharati, the post was vacant for four years.
- ✓ Sehgal replaced A Surya Prakash, whose tenure ended in February 2020.
- ✓ Prasar Bharati is India's largest public broadcasting agency. It was established in the year 1997

Q. Exercise Tiger Triumph is conducted between India and:

A) Japan

B) South Africa

C) Nepal

D) USA

#### Answer: D

- ✓ Exercise Tiger Triumph is scheduled on the Eastern Seaboard from 18 to 31 March 2024.
- ✓ It is a bilateral tri-Service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise between India and the USA.
- ✓ The exercise is aimed at developing interoperability for conducting HADR operations and refine Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to enable rapid and smooth coordination between forces of both countries.
- ✓ The Harbour Phase is scheduled from 18 to 25 Mar 24.
- ✓ The US would be represented by US Navy Ships with embarked troops of the US Marine Corps and US Army.

# **EXERCISE IN NEWS 2023-24**

- A bilateral tri-service exercise Tiger Triump-24 between India and the US will be held on the Eastern Seaboard in the US from March 18 to 31.
- An Indian Army contingent on Monday departed for Seychelles to participate in the 10th edition of joint military exercise "LAMITIYE-2024" with Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF). The joint exercise will be conducted in Seychelles from March 18-27, 2024.
- ➤ The naval forces of China, Iran, and Russia recently launched a joint exercise called the "Maritime Security Belt-2024" near the Gulf of Oman.
- The joint exercise 'Bharat-Shakti' of the three armies of India (Army, Navy and Air Force) will be organized in Asia's largest field firing range located in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- The United States Coast Guard's (USCG) Bertholf ship reached Port Blair ahead of the 'Sea Defenders-2024' joint exercise.
- Exercise Samudra Laksamana kicked off on February 28 and will continue until March 2, taking place at or off the coast of Visakhapatnam
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) started its largest military exercise in Europe, the Steadfast Defender 2024, recently.

- ➤ The 5th edition of the joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' is being organized at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.
- > Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships reached the Maldives recently to take part in the trilateral coast guard exercise Dosti 16
- ➤ Indian Air Force will conduct mega exercise Vayu Shakti 2024 at Pokhran Range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on February 17.
- > The first edition of India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' is being organized in Mahajan, Rajasthan
- ➤ India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) conducted a major air exercise, named 'Desert Knight', over the Arabian Sea.
- Indian Army contingent is taking part in the 2nd edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE. The Exercise is being conducted at Anshas, Egypt.
- ➤ 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
- The maiden Bilateral Maritime Exercise -Ayutthaya' between the Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was conducted.
- ➤ The 12th edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise 2024 (Milan) is set to take place at Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27.
- ➤ Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 45 personnel reached Hanoi, Vietnam to take part in the Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023.
- This year's exercise will be conducted at Hanoi, Vietnam.
- ➤ Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise "VAJRA PRAHAR 2023" commenced at the Joint
- Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya.
- A joint military exercise, "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023" is being conducted from November 16th to 29th, 2023, in Aundh (Pune), Maharashtra.
- It is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lankan army.
- This year is the ninth edition of the exercis.
- > The coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' is set to unfold its strategic manoeuvres along the Kerala and Mahe coasts.
- Coordinated by the Indian Coast Guard.

- Much-anticipated joint exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' recently began near the western border of Rajasthan in Jaisalmer.
- ➤ Exercise CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 09 Nov 2023.
- Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 commenced in Umroi Cantonment, India.
- ➤ It is a joint bilateral training exercise between Indian & Malaysian Armed Forces.
- > The 19th edition of "EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS" will be conducted from 25th September to 8th October
- > 2023 in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement:
  - 1. It sets out a target of a \$100 billion investment into India from the European Free Trade Association countries.
  - 2. Under this partnership, India is not mandated to eliminate tariffs on various products.

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: A

- ✓ The India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) is the latest in India's recent Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) which ventures into some uncharted territory.
- ✓ It is the latest in India's Free Trade Agreements.
- √ Features
- ✓ Investment: TEPA sets out a target of a \$100 billion investment into India from EFTA countries and consequent one million jobs over a 15-year period.
- ✓ It also provides India the ability to withdraw its tariff concessions if such expected investment is not achieved.
- ✓ If India is not satisfied, it can pull back its tariff concessions in a proportionate manner after 18 years.
- ✓ Trade in goods: India is mandated to eliminate tariff on most products within seven to 10 years.

- ✓ With regard to India's exports to EFTA, there will be no material impact since most products face very low or zero tariff for nations which have the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status in EFTA countries.
- ✓ Trade in services: On services, both India and the EFTA members have committed to liberalisation across a wide range of sectors.
- ✓ Sustainable development: The TEPA's chapter on Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD), comprising commitments on environment and labour aspects, represents a first for India in any FTA.
- ✓ The TSD chapter refers to a range of multilateral environmental agreements and labour conventions, whose implementation is based on a balance of rights and obligations.
- ✓ Intellectual Property Rights (IPR): The EFTA countries are home to several pharmaceutical and high technology MNCs, whose ask has been commitments on protection of IPRs that exceed the WTO's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.
- Q. Who has been appointed as the Group President of 'One Kotak' by Kotak Mahindra Bank?

A) Abhay Singh

B) Rajeev Anand

C) Jaideep Hansraj

D) Ashwini Kumar

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed Jaideep Hansraj, current MD and CEO of Kotak Securities, as Group President of 'One Kotak' with effect from April 1, 2024.
- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai

## **KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IN NEWS 2023-24**

- ➤ Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed Jaideep Hansraj, current MD and CEO of Kotak Securities, as Group President of 'One Kotak' with effect from April 1, 2024.
- ➤ Kotak Mahindra Bank has sold a 2% stake in KFin Technologies through the open market for Rs 208 crore.
- ➤ Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched 'Smart Choice Gold Loan' for customers.
- CCI approves Zurich Insurance's acquisition of 70% stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance.
- ➤ Kotak Mahindra Bank Partners with IITK to Launch Kotak School of Sustainability. The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT) and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) have joined forces to establish the Kotak School of Sustainability.

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of CS Rajan as part-time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- ➤ 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. With reference to the World Air Quality Report 2023, consider the following statements:
  - 1. It is published by the World Health Organization (WHO).
  - 2. India has the worst air quality among all the countries in the report.
  - 3. Delhi is the most polluted capital city in the world.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Delhi was identified as the capital city with the poorest air quality, according to a new report by World Air Quality Report 2023.
- ✓ About World Air Quality Report 2023:
- ✓ It is published by the Swiss organisation IQAir.
- ✓ It included data from 7,812 locations in 134 countries, regions, and territories.
- ✓ Highlights:
- ✓ With an average air annual particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5) concentration of 54.4 micrograms per cubic metre, India had the third worst air quality.
- ✓ India was better than only two of its neighbouring countries, Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- ✓ While Bangladesh remained the most polluted country in the world, with an average PM2.5 concentration of 79.9 micrograms per cubic metre, Pakistan was second, with a level of 73.7.
- ✓ It also identified Delhi as the most polluted capital city in the world for the fourth consecutive time.
- ✓ Bihar's Begusarai was termed the world's most polluted metropolitan area.
- ✓ Ten out of the top 11 most polluted cities in the world are from India, the other being Lahore in Pakistan.
- ✓ 96 percent of the Indian population experiences PM2.5 levels more than seven times the WHO annual PM2.5 guideline

Air Quality Index (AQI) Values	Levels of Health Concern
0 to 50	Good
51-100	Moderate
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
151-200	Unhealthy
201-300	Very Unhealthy
301 to 500	Hazardous

Q. Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS), recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following countries?

A) United States

B) United Kingdom

C) China

D) France

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Exporters seeking to avail duty concessions on shipments to the UK will have to adhere to the new British rules under the Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS).
- ✓ About Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS):
- ✓ It is a scheme introduced by the United Kingdom (UK) Government to facilitate developing countries to integrate into the global economy, create stronger trade and investment partnerships and strengthen supply chains.
- ✓ It is a simpler and more generous preferential trading scheme which has been designed to boost trade with developing countries in order to support their development.
- ✓ It reduces or removes rates of duty, or tariffs, on imports from eligible developing countries into the UK.
- ✓ It also enables UK businesses to access thousands of products from around the globe at lower prices, reducing costs for UK consumers.
- ✓ The DCTS applies to 65 countries, that are:
- ✓ least developed countries (LDCs) as defined by the United Nations.
- ✓ low-income countries (LIC) and lower middle-income countries (LMIC) as defined by the World Bank.
- ✓ DCTS will provide duty-free, quota-free trade to LDCs on everything but arms and duty-free, quota-free trade on 85% of eligible goods to most low LIC and LMIC countries.
- ✓ The DCTS does not extend to countries and territories deemed by the World Bank as 'upper-middle income' for three consecutive years, or to LICs and LMICs who have a free trade agreement (FTA) with the UK.
- Q. Which state police recently launched the digital platform 'Trinetra' App 2.0?

A) Madhya Pradesh

B) Assam

C) Uttar Pradesh

D) Bihar

## Answer: C

✓ Uttar Pradesh Police will now use the state-of-the-art digital platform Trinetra App 2.0, which has been designed to help in crime prevention and investigation.

✓ UP DGP Prashant Kumar along with ADG Law and Order Amitabh Yash launched the app at the DGP headquarters

## APP & PORTAL IN NEWS 2023 -24

- ➤ Uttar Pradesh Police will now use the state-of-the-art digital platform Trinetra App 2.0, which has been designed to help in crime prevention and investigation.
- ➤ Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW) report and "Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW)-Suitability Mapping" portal was launched by NITI Aayog.
- Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India launched "Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)" Portal.
- Agriculture minister launches Sarathi portal for insurance products.
- > GHAR GO Home and Re-Unite Portal have been developed and launched by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).
- ➤ Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs launched a web portal of Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO) namely C-CARES.
- ➤ About C- CARES Portal:
- ➤ It is developed and designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- Ministry of Communications launched the "Bharat 5G Portal- an integrated portal" on the sidelines of 'Bharat Telecom 2024'.
- ➤ About Bharat 5G Portal:
- ➤ It is a comprehensive platform serving the interests of startups, industry and academia in quantum, 6G, IPR and 5G domains
- Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched the MPLADS e-SAKSHI Mobile Application.
- ➤ About e-SAKSHI Application:
- ➤ It was launched for revised fund flow procedure under Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD) Scheme.
- > National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) project has introduced a mobile app 'Report Fish Disease' to track and monitor fish diseases across the country

- Q. Who has been chosen by the Election Commission of India as the National Disability Icon?
  - A) Sheetal Devi

B) Arunima Sinha

C) Dev Rathi

D) Jai Kumar

## Answer: A

- ✓ Para archer and Arjuna Award winner Sheetal Devi has been appointed as the National Disability Icon by the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- ✓ In view of the Lok Sabha elections, ECI and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) organized an exhibition cricket match to promote voter education.
- ✓ India's para-athlete Sheetal Devi has been honoured with the Arjuna Award from the president of India. Sheetal Devi received her award from the President of India Droupadi Murmu.
- ✓ Sheetal won 2 golds and 1 siver in the Asian Para Games 2022.
- ✓ Sheetal was born with a rare congenital disorder named phocomelia in Loidhar village in Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir in 2007.

## **ICON BY ELECTION COMMISSION IN NEWS 2023-24**

- Ms. Sheetal Devi was declared the National Disability Icon of the Election Commission of India. Para archer and Arjuna Awardee Sheetal Devi has been declared National Icon in the Disability category (PWD).
- Former cricketer Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar has been recognized as a 'National Icon' by the Election Commission in the presence of Chief Election Commissioner, Rajeev Kumar.
- ➤ Election Commission (EC) of India has appointed actor Rajkummar Rao as its National Icons on 26 October 2023
- Election Commission of India (ECI) in creating awareness amongst voters, Actor Pankaj Tripathi has been declared as the 'National Icon' of ECI.
- ➤ Election Commission (EC) in the Indian state of Karnataka has selected Manjamma Jogati, a transgender folk dancer, as a poll icon for transgender community.
- Folk singer Maithili Thakur was appointed the state icon for Bihar by the Election Commission

- Q. 'Kovind Committee' which was in discussion recently is related to which of the following?
  - A) Appointment of judges
- B) simultaneous elections

C) Electoral bond

D) Uniform Civil Code

#### Answer: B

- ✓ A committee was formed under the leadership of former President Ram Nath Kovind to evaluate the feasibility of 'One Nation, One Election'.
- ✓ Recently the committee has submitted its report to President Draupadi Murmu
- Q. Which state government has agreed to implement the PM SHRI Schools scheme by signing an MoU with the Ministry of Education?
  - A) Maharashtra

B) Tamil Nadu

C) Uttar Pradesh

D) Gujarat

## Answer: B

- ✓ Tamil Nadu government agreed to implement the PM SHRI (Prime Minister Schools for Rising India) scheme by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education.
- ✓ The scheme aims to improve the quality of education in Tamil Nadu and upgrade existing government schools to become model schools for the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- Q. Ethanol 100 fuel, recently launched by petroleum ministry, is currently accessible in how many states?

A) 3

B) 4

C) 5

D) 7

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Union Minister Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launched 'ETHANOL 100', a groundbreaking automotive fuel at IndianOil's retail outlet in Delhi.
- ✓ This ethanol-based fuel will be available in 183 outlets across Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, New Delhi, and Tamil Nadu. Secretary Shri Pankaj Jain and IndianOil Chairman Shri Shrikant Madhav Vaidya also attended.
- ✓ Minister Puri emphasized ETHANOL 100's role in reducing fossil fuel dependence, aligning with the Prime Minister's vision of energy transformation.

- Q. Which airport was given the title of 'Best Airport' in the Asia-Pacific region?
  - A) Chennai International Airport
  - B) Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport
  - C) Indira Gandhi International Airport
  - D) Kempegowda International Airport

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) in Delhi, India has been named the "Best Airport" in the Asia-Pacific region for six years in a row.
- ✓ The award is given by the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards, which measure passenger satisfaction using real-time surveys.

## **AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023-24**

- Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) in Delhi, India has been named the "Best Airport" in the Asia-Pacific region for six years in a row.
- ➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated 15 airport projects, including the revamped Terminal 1 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi, worth over Rs.9,800 crore
- > Cochin International Airport Limited has signed an agreement with Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) for the Green Hydrogen Project.
- > Supreme Court recently agreed to hear a curative petition filed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) against the multinational conglomerate GMR Group concerning the operational management of Nagpur's Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport.
- So far, 519 air routes are being operated across the country under the regional level air connectivity scheme (RCS) 'Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik' (UdeDeshka Aam Nagrik-UDAN).
- Government of India has officially given the status of 'International Airport' to Surat Airport in Gujarat.
- Thiruvananthapuram Airport Honored with Excellence Award for its Quality Initiatives.
- ➤ Bengaluru and Delhi Airports have jointly bagged the 'Best Airport of the Year' at the Wings India Awards 2024 in the Civil Aviation Sector.
- > Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli International Airport in Tamil Nadu.

- ➤ Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to declare Surat Airport an international airport.
- > 58 Airports in the country have been covered under Krishi Udan Scheme.
- > Deoghar Airport in Jharkhand is the first airport in the country to land a commercial aircraft in low visibility.
- Larsen and Toubro (L&T) Construction have secured a large order to construct the greenfield Bhogapuram International Airport project in Andhra Pradesh.
- ➤ The largest airport in the world is the king Fahd International Airport, located in Dammam, Saudi Arabia which covers an area of about 300 sq.
- Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated Utkela Airport owned by the Government of Odisha.
- > Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport became the first airport in the northeast to get 'Digi Yatra' facility.
- ➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Gujarat's first greenfield airport at Hirasar near Rajkot.
- ➤ Government of India has given 'in-principle' approval for setting up 21 new greenfield airports.
- Q. Which country is the largest producer, consumer and importer of pulses globally?

A) Brazil

B) China

C) India

D) United States

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Central government to buy Masur and Tur dal directly from the farmers
- ✓ According to a report published in the Mint newspaper, the government of India is planning to buy 400,000 tonnes of toor/tur dal and 200,000 tonnes of Masur/Masoor dal directly from farmers at the minimum assured procurement price (MAPP) or at the dynamic buffer procurement price (DBPP), whichever is higher.
- ✓ The MAPP is the weighted average price of a district's previous three trading days. The DBPP is the weighted average price of (a) the day of procurement(b) three previous days, and(c) three subsequent trading days.
- ✓ Nodal agency for procurement of Masur & Tur Dal
- ✓ In January 2024, the Union Ministry of Cooperation, headed by Amit Shah, launched a multilingual portal where registered farmers can directly sell their tur and masur dal to the government. The National

Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF) are the procurement agencies for this purpose.

- ✓ According to the report, both agencies have procured around 8,000 tonnes of tur, and the procurement of masur is scheduled to start in March.
- ✓ India is a large importer of masur dal. In 2022-23, India imported 11 lakh tonnes of masur dal.
- ✓ India is the world's largest producer, consumer and importer of pulses. In 2022-23, it imported 24.96 lakh tonnes of pulses.
- ✓ National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.(NAFED)
- ✓ National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.(NAFED) was established on 2nd October 1958.
- ✓ It comes under the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- ✓ NAFED has been registered under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act 2002.
- ✓ NAFED was set up to benefit the farmers by promoting cooperative marketing of agricultural produce. The farmers are the main members of NAFED, forming the members of the General Body of NAFED.
- ✓ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ✓ Chairman: Dr. Bijender Singh
- Q. Who has been selected for the 33rd Saraswati Samman by the K K Birla Foundation?
  - A) Kamala Suraiyya

- B) Malayattoor Ramakrishnan
- C) Balachandran Chullikkad
- D) Prabha Varma

#### Answer: D

- ✓ The K K Birla Foundation has selected noted poet and litterateur Prabha Varma for the 33rd Saraswati Samman for 2023 for his novel Roudra Sathwikam
- ✓ According to the Birla Foundation, the novel "Roudra Sathwikam, written in poetic verse in the Malayalam language, probes the conflict between power and politics, individual and state and art and power in a unique way."
- ✓ The novel Roudra Sathwikam, published in 2022" transcends the concept of time and space as it addresses the predicament of dharma and adharma in a creatively philosophical way." said the Birla Foundation.
- ✓ The Saraswati Samman awardee was chosen by a selection committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri.

- ✓ About Prabha Varma
- ✓ Prabha Verma was born in Thiruvalla, Kerala, in 1959. He writes in both English and Malayalam.
- ✓ Some of the notable works of Prabha Verma are "Souparnika, Arkkapoornima, Shyama Madhavam, Chandana Nazhi, Aardram, and Kanal Chilambu.
- ✓ Prabha Varma is the media advisor to the Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- ✓ Saraswati Samman
- ✓ The Saraswati Samman is an annual prize. It is given to an outstanding literary work published in the last 10 years. It is given to a work written in any Indian language by an Indian citizen.
- ✓ The winner is given a cash prize of Rs 15 lakhs, a citation and a plaque.
- ✓ Harivansh Rai Bachchan received the first Saraswati Samman in 1991 for his four-volume autobiography, Kya Bhooloon Kya Yaad Karoon, Need Ka Nirman Phir, Basere Se Door, and Dashdwar se Sopan Tak.
- ✓ The 32nd awardee was Sivasankari for her work Surya Vamsam. It was written in Tamil language.
- ✓ K K Birla Foundation Prize
- ✓ K.K. Birlarla Foundation was set up by noted industrialist Krishna Kumar Birla in 1991. It aims to promote Indian literature. An outstanding literary work of an Indian, published in the last 10 years, has been selected for the awards given by the Foundation. Important awards given by K.K.Birla Foundations are as follows:
- ✓ Bihari Puraskar
- ✓ The Bihari Puraskar was also started in 1991 by the K Birla Foundation. The annual award is given for an outstanding work published by a Rajasthani author in Hindi or Rajasthani language.
- ✓ It carries a cash prize of Rs2.5 lakh, a plaque and a citation.
- ✓ Famous poet Jaisingh Neeraj was awarded the first Bihari Puraskar in 1991 for his poetry compilation 'Dhani Ka Aadmi'.
- ✓ The 32nd Bihari Puraskar 2022 was awarded to Dr Madhav Hada for his book 'Pachrang Chola Pahar Sakhi Ri'.
- ✓ Vyas Samman
- ✓ It is given for outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen and published in the previous 10 years..
- ✓ It carries a cash prize of ₹ 4 lakh.
- ✓ Ram Vilas Sharma was the first person to get the award for his work "Bharat ke Pracheen bhasha parivar aur Hindi."

- ✓ The 32nd Vyas Samman 2022 was awarded to Gyan Chaturvedi for his novel Pagalkhana
- Q. Who has been appointed Director General (News) of All India Radio (AIR)?
  - A) Vivek Kishore

B) Deepak Kumar Kdia

C) Saurabh Tripathi

D) Maushami Chakraborty

## Answer: D

- ✓ Maushami Chakraborty becomes the Director General of All India Radio.
- ✓ According to the information given by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Maushami Chakraborty will replace Vasudha Gupta. The ministry released the notification of their appointments on 16 March 2024.
- ✓ Maushami Chakraborty is a 1991 batch Indian Information Service officer.
- ✓ About Akashvani:
- ✓ Broadcasting in India actually began about 13 years before All India Radio came into existence. In June 1923, the Radio Club of Bombay made the first broadcast in the country.
- ✓ Five months later, the Calcutta Radio Club was established. Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) came into existence on July 23, 1927. But IBC had to close it down in less than three years.
- Q. The Global Recycling Day is observed every year on which day?
  - A) 18 March
  - B) 19 March
  - C) 17 March
  - D) 16 March

#### Answer: A

- ✓ The Global Recycling Day is observed every year on 18th of March to recognise the importance of recycling as a resource, not waste.
- ✓ The theme of Global Recycling Day 2024 is "RecyclingHeroes".
- ✓ The theme recognise the people who put themselves on the frontline to collect waste and recycling during the multiple lockdowns.
- ✓ The Global Recycling Day was created in 2018 by the London-based Global Recycling Foundation to promote the concept and practice of recycling

Q. What is India's rank in the United Nations' World Happiness Report for the year 2024?

A) 139

B) 126

C) 144

D) 130

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Finland tops UN's World Happiness Report as happiest country
- ✓ In the United Nations sponsored annual 'World Happiness Report' released on 20 March 2024, 'Finland' has been considered the happiest country in the world.
- ✓ Finland has become the happiest country in the world for the seventh consecutive year in this United Nations report.
- ✓ Nordic countries included in the World Happiness Report:
- ✓ In this report, Nordic countries maintained their position among the 10 happiest countries. It also includes Denmark, Iceland and Sweden
- ✓ India ranks 126th among 143 countries in the World Happiness Report. India was at the same rank last year also
- ✓ Afghanistan at the bottom:
- ✓ In the World Happiness Report, Afghanistan has been placed at the lowest position in the list of 143 countries.
- ✓ Afghanistan has been plagued by humanitarian disaster since it came under Taliban control in 2020. This is also being seen in the World Happiness Report of the United Nations
- ✓ Basis of World Happiness Ranking:
- ✓ Many core values have been included in the preparation of this report of the United Nations. These mainly include the following:
- ✓ GDP per capita along with self-assessment of life satisfaction of individuals
- ✓ Social Support
- ✓ Healthy Life Expectancy
- ✓ Freedom
- ✓ Kindness
- ✓ Corruption.
- ✓ Top 10 countries ranked in World Happiness Report:
- ✓ 1. Finland

- ✓ 2. Denmark
- ✓ 3. Iceland
- ✓ 4. Sweden
- ✓ 5. Israel
- ✓ 6. Netherlands
- ✓ 7. Norway
- ✓ 8. Luxembourg
- ✓ 9. Switzerland
- ✓ 10. Australia
- Q. According to the World Happiness Report 2024, which is the happiest country in the world?
  - A) Denmark

B) Germany

C) Finland

D) Iceland

#### Answer: C

- ✓ According to the World Happiness Report 2024, the European country Finland is the happiest country in the world.
- ✓ Finland remains the happiest country in the world for the seventh consecutive year.
- ✓ Like last year, India remains at 126th position in the World Happiness Index.
- ✓ Whereas India's neighboring country Pakistan is at 108th place and Sri Lanka is at 128th place. America is at 23rd place
- Q. Which bank will support Tata Memorial -support National Cancer Grid with Rs 100 crore contribution?

A) Yes Bank

B) Axis Bank

C) HDFC Bank

D) ICICI Bank

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Axis Bank to support Tata Memorial-supported National Cancer Grid
- ✓ A national tumour biobank and cancer teleconsultation network are among the projects that will be supported by a ₹100 crore contribution towards the National Cancer Grid (NCG), from Axis Bank.
- ✓ As part of the five-year partnership, Axis Bank will support NCG, a network of 300-plus cancer centres across the country, coordinated by the Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), under the Tata Memorial Centre.

✓ The aim is to improve cancer care and research, in terms of access and digital adoption on formalising a Memorandum of Understanding with Tata Memorial.

### **AXIS BANK IN NEWS 2023-24**

- Axis Bank to support Tata Memorial-supported National Cancer Grid.
- > Axis Bank has appointed Pranam Wahi as an additional independent director of the bank for four years.
- Axis Bank signed MoU with IRMA to promote financial inclusion and literacy in India.
- Axis Bank and Fibe Partner to launch India's First Numberless Credit Card.
- Axis Bank Launched 'NEO For Business' Banking Platform For MSMEs.
- Axis Bank Introduces 'Infinity Savings Account' with Zero Domestic Transaction Fees.
- Axis Bank partners with RBI Innovation Hub to launch Kisan Credit cards.
- Axis Bank Partners with Kiwi to Bolster 'Credit on UPI' on RuPay Credit Cards.
- Axis Bank has launched the 'one-view' feature on its mobile application which enables account management across multiple bank accounts.
- Axis Bank has appointed NS Vishwanathan, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India, as non-executive chairman.
- Axis Bank launches Digital Onboarding platform 'Sarathi' for POS Terminals.
- Axis Bank and India Shelter Finance Corporation ltd announce strategic partnership under the colending model.
- Axis Bank completes deal to buy Citibank's India consumer business.
- Axis Bank Partners with OPEN to Launch a Fully Digital Current Account.
- AXIS BANK
- ➤ Founded: 1993
- > HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- > Chairman : Rakesh Makhija
- > MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhary
- Tagline: Badhti Ka naam Zindagi

- Q. Consider the following:
  - 1. United States
  - 2. China
  - 3. India
  - 4. United Kingdom

How many of the above countries are members of the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy (IPHE)?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) Only three

D) All four

#### Answer: D

- ✓ The 41st Steering Committee Meeting of the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy (IPHE) kicked off in New Delhi recently.
- ✓ About the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy (IPHE):
- ✓ IPHE, established in 2003, is an international inter-governmental partnership currently consisting of 23 member countries and the European Commission.
- ✓ Objective: To facilitate and accelerate the transition to clean and efficient energy and mobility systems using fuel cells and hydrogen technologies.
- ✓ IPHE serves as a mechanism to organize and implement effective, efficient, and focused international research, development, demonstration, and commercial utilization activities related to hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.
- ✓ Members: Australia, Canada, European Commission, India, Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria, Chile, France, Italy, Norway, UAE, Belgium, China, Germany, Japan, South Africa, United Kingdom, Brazil, Costa Rica, Iceland, South Korea, Singapore, and the United States.
- Q. 'State of Global Climate Report' is an annual report released by which one of the following organisations?
  - A) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
  - B) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
  - C) World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
  - D) World Bank

#### Answer: C

- ✓ The new annual State of the Global Climate report, published recently by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), found that 2023 was the hottest year on record.
- ✓ About State of Global Climate Report 2023:
- ✓ It is an annual report published by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).
- ✓ Dozens of experts and partners contribute to the report, including UN organizations, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), and Global Data and Analysis Centers, as well as Regional Climate Centres, the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW), the Global Cryosphere Watch, and the Copernicus Climate Change Service operated by ECMWF
- ✓ Highlights of the 2023 Report:
- ✓ 2023 was the hottest year on record, with the global average near-surface temperature at 1.45 °Celsius (with a margin of uncertainty of  $\pm$  0.12 °C) above the pre-industrial baseline.
- ✓ It was the warmest ten-year period on record.
- ✓ Numerous records for indicators of the climate system, including greenhouse gas levels (GHGs), surface temperatures, ocean heat, sea level rise, Antarctic Sea ice cover, glacier retreat, etc., were broken.
- ✓ On an average day in 2023, nearly one third of the global ocean was gripped by a marine heatwave, harming vital ecosystems and food systems.
- ✓ Towards the end of 2023, over 90% of the ocean had experienced heatwave conditions at some point during the year.
- ✓ The global set of reference glaciers suffered the largest loss of ice on record (since 1950), driven by extreme melt in both western North America and Europe, according to preliminary data.
- ✓ In 2023, renewable capacity additions increased by almost 50% from 2022, for a total of 510 gigawatts (GW), the highest rate observed in the past two decades.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):
  - 1. It is an autonomous body established under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
  - 2. It provides for licensing, registration and accreditation for food business operators.

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: B

- ✓ With food poisoning and diarrhoea becoming a common occurrence, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is working towards creating a network of 34 microbiology labs across the country that will be equipped to test food products for 10 pathogens.
- ✓ About Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):
- ✓ It is an autonomous body established under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- ✓ The FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India.
- ✓ Vision: Build a new India by enabling citizens to have safe and nutritious food, prevent diseases, and lead a healthy and happy life.
- ✓ Mission: Set globally benchmarked standards for food, encourage and ensure that food businesses adhere to these standards, adopt good manufacturing and hygiene practices, and ultimately enable citizens to access safe and right food.
- ✓ Functions:
- ✓ FSSAI is responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety.
- ✓ It lays down standards and guidelines in relation to articles of food, and provides for licensing, registration, and accreditation for food business operators.
- ✓ Anyone selling or importing food in India needs a food licence issued by FSSAI.
- ✓ FSSAI also directly monitors compliance of food regulations, especially in the area of food imports to India.
- ✓ The FSSAI is also responsible for the accreditation of food testing laboratories throughout India.
- ✓ The FSSAI is responsible for the Food Certification in India

## **FSSAI IN NEWS 2023-24**

FSSAI is working towards creating a network of 34 microbiology labs across the country that will be equipped to test food products for 10 pathogens.

- > FSSAI has awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification to 150 railway stations so far for ensuring safe, hygienic and nutritious food options for passengers.
- ➤ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) introduced a new provision called 'Special Category' in the FOSCOS portal.
- > FSSAI has recently recognized the Mithun as a 'food animal,' opening doors for its commercial use found in Arunachal Pradesh.
- > Defence ministry, FSSAI to promote use of millets, healthy eating habits among armed forces.
- > Guwahati Railway Station of the Northeast Frontier Railway has been awarded the 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI, for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.
- ➤ Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated the state-of-the-art National Training Centre for Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- ➤ Varanasi Cantt Railway Station of the Indian Railways has been awarded the 5-Star 'Eat Right Station' certification for providing high quality nutritious food to the passengers.
- The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has awarded the food provided by the Bulandshahr prison of Uttar Pradesh a five-star rating and the tag 'Eat Right Campus'. Bulandshahr Jail is the second prison after Farrukhabad jail to get this tag from Uttar Pradesh..
- ➤ G Kamala Vardhana Rao was appointed the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- > FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which is a consolidating statue related to food safety and regulation in India.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

> Founded: 2008

Headquarters : New Delhi
 Chairperson : Rajesh Bhusan

CEO: G Kamala Vardhana Rao

Q. Which app has ISRO launched to assist the Gaganyaan crew?

A) SAKHI

B) MADAD

C) AKASH

D) SAMARTH

## Answer: A

- ✓ Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC) located at Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram has launched a multipurpose app 'SAKHI' (Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction-SAKHI) to assist the Gaganyaan crew.
- ✓ This app will help in monitoring the health of astronauts and maintaining communication with ISRO on Earth.
- ✓ ISRO can launch Gaganyaan human mission in the year 2025.
- ✓ Developed by: Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), an ISRO Facility at Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram Kerala.
- ✓ Purpose: During the Mission;
- ✓ It will perform a range of tasks such as looking up vital technical information or communicating with one another for Gaganyaan Crew.
- ✓ Utility:
- ✓ Health Monitoring:
- ✓ It will provide information on key parameters like blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen saturation & invaluable insights into the crew's physical condition throughout the mission.
- ✓ It will also remind them about their hydration and dietary schedules and sleep patterns.



## **ISRO IN NEWS 2023-24**

- ➤ Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC) located at Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram has launched a multi-purpose app 'SAKHI' (Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction-SAKHI) to assist the Gaganyaan crew.
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has partnered with ISRO for the Urban Frame Survey (UFS) using Bhuvan.
- ➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and ISRO Chairman have already said that by 2040 we should have an Indian astronaut on the moon and also to have our space station by 2035.
- > PM Modi laid the foundation stone of the second spaceport of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.
- ➤ ISRO has successfully launched meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS with the GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS mission from SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota.
- Vyommitra(Woman Robot Astronaut) is going to fly into Space ahead of ISRO's "Gaganyaan" Mission
- > ISRO has completed all key tests on Insat-3DS satellite before the final review which will be followed by its shipping to the spaceport in Srihari Kota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ➤ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the PSLV-C58 X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) mission.
- ➤ Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is planning to send Indian astronauts to the moon for the first time by 2040.
- ➤ ISRO's Next Moon Mission in Collaboration with Japan Gathers Steam. This mission, called LUPEX, or Lunar Polar Exploration, is slated for 2024-25.
- > Centre has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by the ISRO.
- ISRO has announced a new online training programme for post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology. The programme is called Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START).
- ➤ ISRO will launch Singapore's TeLEOS-2 satellite using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota.
- ➤ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

- Founded: 15 August 1969
- > HQ: Bengalore, Karnataka
- > Founder / 1st Chairman : Vikram Sarabhai
- > 10th Chairman : S Somanath
- Aryabhata India's first satellites Launched on 19 April 1975.
- ➤ GSAT-1 India's first commercial satellite.
- > SLV-3 was India's first experimental satellite launch vehicle.
- Ariane Passenger PayLoad Experiment, (APPLE) first communication satellite in India 19 June 1981.
- Udupi Ramachandra Rao : satellite Man of India
- Q. Where is 'Start-up Mahakumbh' being organised?

A) Bengaluru

B) Mumbai

C) New Delhi

D) Kolkata

### Answer: C

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Start-up Mahakumbh at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- ✓ On this occasion, he also visited the exhibition displayed.
- ✓ On this occasion, PM Modi said that India has the third largest startup ecosystem with 1.25 lakh startups, which includes 12 lakh youth
- Q. Who has been appointed as the new Ambassador of India to Russia?

A) Vinay Kumar

B) Parsottam Rupala

C) Ajay Nagar

D) R K Aggarwal

#### Answer: A

- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs has appointed the country's senior diplomat Vinay Kumar as the next Ambassador of India to Russia.
- ✓ Vinay Kumar is currently serving as the Ambassador of India to Myanmar. Vinay Kumar is a 1992 batch IFS officer.
- ✓ India has long-term and extensive cooperation with Russia in the field of defence.
- ✓ India imports most of the weapons from Russia

- Q. Who has recently been given the additional charge of the Ministry of Food and Processing Industries?
  - A) Anurag Thakur

B) Arjun Ram Meghwal

C) Smriti Irani

D) Kiran Rijiju

#### Answer: D

- ✓ After the resignation of Pashupati Kumar Paras from the Union Council of Ministers, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju has been given the additional charge of the Ministry of Food and Processing Industries.
- ✓ President Draupadi Murmu has given Rijiju the charge of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, in addition to his existing portfolio of Ministry of Earth and Science
- Q. Who has recently been given additional responsibility as the Governor in-charge of Telangana?

A) Anandiben Patel

B) Kalraj Mishra

C) CP Radhakrishnan

D) Mahendra Nath Yadav

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan has been given additional responsibility as the in-charge Governor of Telangana in place of Tamilisai Soundararajan.
- ✓ Earlier, Soundararajan had resigned from his post.
- ✓ He will also hold the additional responsibilities of Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI):
  - 1. It is an agricultural research institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
  - 2. It undertakes research on coconut, arecanut, cocoa and palmyra palm.

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

- ✓ The Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare recently inaugurated the Krishi Sammelan (Farmer's Meet), organised by the ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute.
- ✓ About Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI):
- ✓ It was established by the Government of Madras in 1916 for coconut research.

- ✓ Later, it was acquired by the Indian Central Coconut Committee in 1947.
- ✓ The CPCRI was established in 1970 as one of the agricultural research institutes in the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- ✓ Headquarters: Kasaragod, Kerala.
- ✓ The institute had the mandate to undertake research on coconut, arecanut, cocoa, cashew, oil palm, and spices at the time of establishment.
- ✓ In 2023, a new mandate crop, Palmyra Palm, was added to its institute.
- ✓ The Institute also holds the International Coconut Gene Bank for South Asia at Kidu in Karnataka.
- ✓ The Institute also serves as the headquarters of the All-India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Palms.
- Q. In the context of Indian economy, the term 'reverse flipping' refers to:
  - A) Shifting of the focus from online to offline sales
  - B) Movement of the investments from India to foreign capital markets
  - C) Changing the business model from subscription-based to one-time purchases
  - D) Moving the domicile of overseas start-ups to India

#### Answer: D

- ✓ Startups such as Pine Labs, Zepto, Meesho are the latest new-age companies looking to move headquarters to India.
- ✓ About Reverse Flipping:
- ✓ It is a term used to describe the trend of overseas start-ups shifting their domicile to India and listing on Indian stock exchanges.
- ✓ The general motivation for a reverse flip is the increased certainty of an exit at a higher valuation in India.
- ✓ This trend has been gaining traction in recent years, as start-ups look to capitalise on India's large and growing economy, access to deeper pools of venture capital, favourable tax regimes, better intellectual property protection, a young and educated population, and favourable government policies.
- ✓ The Economic Survey 2022-23 recognised the concept of reverse flipping and proposed ways to accelerate the process, such as simplifying the processes for tax vacations, taxation of ESOPs, capital movements, decreasing tax layers, and the like.
- ✓ What is flipping:

- ✓ Flipping is when an Indian company transforms into a 100% subsidiary of a foreign entity after it has moved its headquarters overseas, including a transfer of its Intellectual Property (IP) and others.
- ✓ It effectively transforms an Indian startup (company) into a 100% subsidiary of a foreign entity, with the founders and investors retaining the same ownership via the foreign entity, having swapped all shares.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the International Seabed Authority (ISA):
  - 1. It is an autonomous international organization to regulate mining and related activities within the territorial waters of member countries.
  - 2. It came into existence upon the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

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: B

- ✓ The Council of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) commenced the first part of its 29th session recently.
- ✓ About International Seabed Authority (ISA):
- ✓ It is an autonomous international organization established in 1994 to regulate mining and related activities in the international seabed beyond national jurisdiction, an area that includes most of the world's oceans.
- ✓ The ISA came into existence upon the entry into force of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which codified international law regarding territorial waters, sea lanes, and ocean resources.
- ✓ ISA is the organization through which states parties to UNCLOS organize and control all mineral-resourcesrelated activities in the Area (the seabed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction) for the benefit of humankind as a whole.
- ✓ Headquarters: Kingston, Jamaica
- ✓ Members: As of May 2023, ISA has 169 Members, including 168 Member States and the European Union.
- ✓ The secretary-general of the ISA is nominated by the council and is elected by the assembly to a four-year term

- Q. Srinagar hosted the first-ever Formula 4 car racing demonstration event on the banks of which lake?
  - A) Kausar Nag Lake

B) Nigeen Lake

C) Wular Lake

D) Dal Lake

#### Answer: D

- ✓ Srinagar hosted the first-ever Formula 4 car racing demonstration event on Sunday on the banks of the world-famous Dal Lake.
- ✓ The event enthralled locals and motorsport fans as they witnessed stunts performed by professional Formula 4 drivers.
- ✓ Sleek racing cars roared along a 1.7 km track from Lalit Ghat on the banks of Dal Lake to Nehru Park in the city.
- ✓ The event, the first of its kind in the Kashmir Valley, was organized by the Federation of Motorsports Clubs of India, which is affiliated with the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)
- Q. The Election Commission of India has launched a new mobile application called KYC. This app allows voters to check if any candidate standing for elections in their constituency has a criminal record. What is the meaning of "C" in "KYC"?

A) Candidate

B) Customer

C) Criteria

D) Candidature

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Election Commission launches 'Know Your Candidate' app
- ✓ The Election Commission of India, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, has launched a new mobile application called Know Your Candidate (KYC).
- ✓ This app allows voters to check if any candidate standing for elections in their constituency has a criminal record.
- ✓ The app is available for download on both Android and iOS platforms.
- ✓ The KYC app provides voters with the ability to access information about candidates with criminal antecedents.
- ✓ Candidates are required to disclose their criminal records in newspapers and on television three times. The parties nominating such candidates must explain their selection over other deserving candidates.
- ✓ ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

✓ Founded: 25 January 1950

✓ 25 January : Voter's Day

✓ HQ: New Delhi

✓ First Election Commissioner: Sukumar Sen

✓ First Woman Chief Election Commissioner: V.S. Ramadevi

✓ 25th Chief Election Commission : Rajiv Kumar

✓ Election Commissioner: Anup Chandra Pandey & Arun Goel

✓ Tenure : 6/65yrs

✓ Article: 324

✓ The Commission consists of one Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners. They are appointed by the President of India.

## Q. Where is India's First Oil Palm Processing Unit started operation?

A) Haryana

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Uttar Pradesh

D) Arunachal Pradesh

#### Answer: D

- ✓ India's first integrated oil palm processing unit in Arunachal Pradesh started operation by one of India's largest oil palm development companies, 3F Oil Palm.
- ✓ A new factory has been established in the Lower Dibang Valley district of India's northeast state. This factory is part of Mission Palm Oil and is India's first oil palm factory under NMEO-OP.
- ✓ This integrated Oil Palm project will include a cutting-edge oil palm factory (Palm Oil Processing and Refinery), a zero-discharge effluent plant, a palm waste-based power plant, and additional structures and go-downs for support purposes.
- ✓ This factory marks the first Oil Palm factory in Arunachal Pradesh and India's first Oil Palm Factory under NMEO-OP.
- ✓ 3F Oil Palm's state-of-the-art Integrated Oil Palm Processing Unit has been designed to process fresh fruit bunches (FFBs) into high-quality palm oil with an impressive capacity of 10 metric tons per hour.
- ✓ With 2,500 hectares of oil palm currently being planted across a farmer base of 500 farmers, 3F Oil Palm Pvt Ltd is a leader and pioneer in Arunachal Pradesh's oil palm development programme.

- Q. The Election Commission has launched a special campaign in which state to boost voter turnout in 414 polling stations with less than 60% voting during the last Lok Sabha polls?
  - A) Uttar Pradesh

C) Chhattisgarh

D) Himachal Pradesh

#### Answer: D

- ✓ The Election Commission has launched a special campaign in Himachal Pradesh to boost voter turnout in 414 polling stations with less than 60% voting during the last Lok Sabha polls.
- ✓ The main focus of the campaign "Mission 414" is increasing the vote percentage in 414 identified polling stations which registered less than 60% voting in the last Lok Sabha polls.
- ✓ Awareness campaigns and cultural events would be held besides making these 414 stations model polling stations.
- ✓ Booth youth icons from first time voters would be roped in and special invitation cards made by children would be given to prospective voters.
- ✓ A similar initiative is under way for 22 Assembly segments and is aimed at increasing the voter turnout to 72% in polling stations where the turnout was less than 70% in the last Lok Sabha elections. The average voter turnout in Himachal Pradesh in 2019 was 72.42%.
- Q. Guyana Defence Force will acquire two Dornier 228 aircraft from India. Dornier 228 aircraft is manufactured by which Indian company?

A) Larsen & Toubro (L&T)

B) BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL)

C) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) D) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

#### Answer: D

- ✓ The Indian defence industry is making forays in the Caribbean with the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) planning to soon acquire two new aircraft from New Delhi with a \$23.27 million loan from Export-Import Bank of India.
- ✓ An agreement in this regard was signed between Guyanese Finance Minister and Deputy GM of EXIM Bank.
- Guyana, which has a substantial Indian diaspora, plans to purchase two HAL (Dornier) 228 planes from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

- ✓ These aircraft will be used for maritime patrols and troop movement. India has already given these aircraft to its neighbours like Maldives and Sri Lanka
- ✓ About Guyana
- ✓ Capital: Georgetown
- ✓ Currency: Dollar
- ✓ Prime Minister : Mark Phillips
- ✓ President: Mohamed Irfaan Ali
- Q. Tata Sons will sale how much percent stake in Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for ₹9,362.3 crore?

A) 0.6%

B) 0.9%

C) 0.7%

D) 0.5%

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Tata Sons announces sale of 0.6% Stake in TCS for over ₹9,300 crore
- ✓ Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group, will be selling 2.34 crore shares or 0.65 per cent equity of Tata Consultancy Services through a block deal for ₹9,362.3 crore (\$1.13 billion).
- ✓ According to the December-end filing, Tata Sons holds a 72.38 per cent stake in TCS.
- ✓ Holding companies and promoter entities usually sell stakes in group firms to generate cash to pay down debt and stabilise balance sheets.
- ✓ Recently, British tobacco company BAT Plc sold a 3.5 per cent stake in its Indian associate ITC Ltd for ₹16,690 crore. This monetisation was done chiefly to buy back its shares and continue its deleveraging exercise.
- Q. President Vladimir Putin, 71, won Russia's presidential election with 87.8% of the vote, a record post-Soviet landslide. How many years is the tenure of the President of Russia?

A) 5 years

B) 6 years

C) 8 years

D) 10 years

#### Answer: B

- ✓ President Vladimir Putin, 71, won in a record post-Soviet landslide, winning 87.8% of the vote in Russia's election.
- ✓ Putin is set to embark on a new six-year term, which, if completed, would make him Russia's longest-serving leader in over 200 years, surpassing Josef Stalin.

- ✓ For Putin, a former KGB lieutenant colonel who first rose to power in 1999, the result is intended to underscore to the West that its leaders will have to reckon with an emboldened Russia, whether in war or in peace, for many more years to come
- Q. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Poonawalla Fincorp?
  - A) Bhavish Aggarwal

B) Arvind Kapil

C) Shravan Kumaran

D) Abhay Hanjura

# Answer: B

- ✓ Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Poonawalla Fincorp has appointed Arvind Kapil as Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company.
- ✓ The current MD & CEO of the company, Abhay Bhutada, has been elevated to a group-level role and will be taking up a strategic position at the Cyrus Poonawalla Group, managing its strategy, investment, and finance.
- ✓ Currently, Kapil is serving as the group head of mortgage banking business at HDFC Bank and manages a book of over Rs 7 trillion. He also handled the merger of HDFC and HDFC Bank.
- Q. Who will be conferred the 2024 Sangita Kalanidhi award by the Madras Music Academy?
  - A) Sudha Ragunathan
  - B) Thodur Madabusi Krishna
  - C) V. Dakshinamoorthy
  - D) M. S. Subbulakshmi

### Answer: B

- ✓ Renowned Carnatic vocalist Thodur Madabusi Krishna will be conferred the 2024 Sangita Kalanidhi award by the Madras Music Academy.
- ✓ The Sangita Kalanidhi award is considered one of the highest honours in Carnatic music.
- ✓ The musician will preside over the academic sessions of the 98th Annual Conference and Concerts of The Music Academy, the Deccan Herald reporting quoting Murali. The session will be held from December 15, 2024 to January 1, 2025, when he will receive the award.
- ✓ In 2016, Krishna was awarded the coveted Ramon Magsaysay Award.

- Q. Who has won the Men's Indian Wells ATP 2024 Title?
  - A) Rafael Nadal

B) Carlos Alcaraz

C) Novak Djokovic

D) Alexander Zverev

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) defeated Daniil Medvedev (Russia) in straight sets, with a score of 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 in the final of the Indian Wells ATP tournament.
- ✓ With this win, the 20-year-old Alcaraz became the first player to win back-to-back Indian Wells titles since Novak Djokovic did it from 2014 to 2016.
- Q. World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People is marked annually on\_
  - A) March 15

B) March 18

C) March 20

D) March 17

#### Answer: C

- ✓ The World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People is celebrated all over the world on March 20.
- ✓ The day is celebrated every year since 2001 by the international community of theatre practitioners to attract the attention of a wider public to the art of theatre for children and young people.
- ✓ The event is basically organised by the ASSITEJ International, an international alliance of professionals involved in theatre for children and young people.
- Q. Which day is observed as the International Day of Happiness every year?
  - A) March 19

B) March 20

C) March 18

D) March 21

# Answer: B

- ✓ Every year the International Day of Happiness is celebrated on March 20.
- ✓ The day aims to promote happiness as a fundamental human right for all human beings across the world.
- ✓ The theme for 2023 International Day of Happiness campaign is "Be Mindful. Be Grateful. Be Kind.".
- ✓ The first International Day of Happiness was officially held on 20 March 2013.
- ✓ It was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on 28 June 2012.

- Q. The World Oral Health Day is marked every year on March 20. What is the theme for the day in 2023?
  - A) Be Proud Of Your Mouth
- B) Unite for Mouth Health
- C) Brush your way to Health
- D) Good health adds life to years

# Answer: B

- ✓ The World Oral Health Day is marked every year on March 20.
- ✓ The theme for Oral Health Day 2024 is 'A happy mouth is a happy body.'
- ✓ The day aims to raise global awareness of the issues around oral health and the importance of oral hygiene so that governments, health associations and the general public can work together to achieve healthier mouths and happier lives
- ✓ The day is an initiative of FDI World Dental Federation; an organization that brings together the world of dentistry with the aim of achieving optimal oral health for everyone
- Q. March 20 is dedicated to celebrating which of the following days?
  - A) World Sparrow Day
- B) World Frog Day
- C) UN French Language Day
- D) All of the above

# Answer: D

- ✓ World Sparrow Day is celebrated every year on March 20. The UN French Language Day is observed annually on 20 March. The World Frog Day is observed annually on March 20.
- ✓ World Sparrow Day is celebrated every year on March 20.
- ✓ Theme of 2024 World Sparrow Day "I Love Sparrows"
- ✓ The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of House Sparrow and other common birds to urban environments, and of threats to their populations.
- ✓ The first World Sparrow Day was celebrated in 2010.
- ✓ The day was initiated by the Nature Forever Society of India in collaboration with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France) and numerous other national and international organisations across the world.
- ✓ The World Frog Day is observed annually on March 20.
- ✓ The purpose of the day is to raise awareness about the tailless amphibian frogs: found on land and water both.
- ✓ The day was created in 2009 with the intention to save many different species of frogs from going extinct.

- ✓ The UN French Language Day is observed annually on 20 March.
- ✓ The day was established by UN's Department of Public Information in 2010.
- ✓ It is one of the six official languages used throughout the Organization, and aims to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as promote equal use of all.
- Q. The World Head Injury Awareness Day is celebrated on which day annually?

A) March 18

B) March 20

C) March 19

D) March 21

# Answer: B

- ✓ The World Head Injury Awareness Day is observed annually on March 20, to educate and foster awareness among the general public about traumatic head injuries and strategies to prevent accidents and brain injuries.
- Q. Which bank has partnered with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024?

A) Yes Bank

B) Axis Bank

C) HDFC Bank

D) ICICI Bank

#### Answer: A

- ✓ YES Bank has partnered with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024.
- ✓ As part of the collaboration, the bank launched the campaign 'Milkar Jitayengey' and introduced the 'YES Glory Debit Card,' specially designed for India's Olympic athletes.
- ✓ The bank also unveiled the 'YES Glory' savings account proposition, extending benefits to athletes and their immediate family members.
- ✓ The YES Glory account offers a range of benefits tailored to the needs of champion athletes. These perks include a complimentary Welcome on-board Taj voucher, free orthopedic consultations, and zero cross-currency mark-up on international spends

# YES BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- > YES Bank has partnered with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024.
- Yes Bank becomes first Indian bank to conduct export finance transactions on RXIL's ITFS.

- > Yes Bank Launches SmartFin With Veefin Solutions, An Advanced Digital Platform To Boost MSMEs.
- Yes Bank becomes first lender to offer 'ONDC Network Gift Card'.
- Yes bank partnered with fintech Zaggle for next-gen corporate credit card.
- > YES Bank goes live with UPI interoperability on Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).
- Yes Bank Launches All-In-One 'IRIS' Mobile App.
- ➤ Reliance General Insurance becomes first insurer to accept Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) e-Rupee (e₹) in tie-up with YES Bank
- > YES Bank announced the unveiling of its new logo, which forms part of its "refreshed brand identity." YES BANK launches new logo, to roll out campaign 'Life Ko Banao Rich'.
- Yes Bank is an Indian bank headquartered in Mumbai, India and was founded by Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapoor in 2004.
- > YES BANK
- > Founded: 2004
- Founder: Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapoor
- > Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- > Chairman: Sunil Mehta
- MD & CEO: Prashant Kumar
- YES BANK launches new logo, to roll out campaign 'Life Ko Banao Rich'.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI):
  - 1. It was set up to extend the use of Internet Service Protocols (ISPs) to route domestic traffic within the country.
  - 2. It functions as the Indian Registry for Internet Names and Numbers (IRINN).

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

- ✓ The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) is set to unveil the BhashaNet portal at the upcoming Universal Acceptance (UA) Day in a move towards advancing digital inclusion and promoting linguistic diversity in India.
- ✓ About National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI):
- ✓ It was established in 2003 as a not-for-profit organization under the Companies Act 2013.
- ✓ NIXI was set up to extend the use of Internet Service Protocols (ISPs) for the purpose of routing domestic traffic within the country instead of taking it all the way abroad, thereby resulting in a better quality of service (reduced latency) and reduced bandwidth charges for ISPs by saving on international bandwidth.
- ✓ It is tasked to increase internet penetration and adoption in India by facilitating the various infrastructure aspects to enable the Internet ecosystem to be managed and used by the masses.
- ✓ .IN is India's Country Code Top Level Domain (ccTLD). The Government of India delegated the operations of INRegistry to NIXI in 2004. The INRegistry operates and manages India's .IN ccTLD.
- ✓ Another activity being carried out by NIXI is that of the National Internet Registry (NIR). The NIR is known as the Indian Registry for Internet Names and Numbers (IRINN).
- ✓ It offers IXPs towards building Internet Exchange Points.
- Q. Project GR00T, a multimodal AI system, belongs to:

A) Facebook

B) Microsoft

C) Google

D) Nvidia

### Answer: D

- ✓ Recently, AI chip leader Nvidia announced Project GR00T which promises to revolutionise the evolution of humanoid robots.
- ✓ The project GR00T stands for Generalist Robot 00 Technology.
- ✓ It is a multimodal AI system that acts as the mind for humanoid robots, allowing them to learn new skills and interact with the real world.
- ✓ Robots built on this platform are designed to understand natural language and emulate movements by observing human actions, such as instantly learning coordination, dexterity, and other skills.
- ✓ This can help the robots navigate and engage with the real world around them.
- ✓ The project aims to empower humanoid robots with human-like understanding and movement using Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ✓ It is essentially a general-purpose foundation model for humanoid robots.

- ✓ It is at the vanguard of Nvidia's efforts to drive breakthroughs in robotics and embodied AI (robots, virtual assistants, or other intelligent systems that can interact with and learn from a physical environment).
- ✓ The model has been trained on NVIDIA GPU-accelerated simulation, and enables the humanoids to learn from human demonstrations with imitation learning, and from the robotics platform NVIDIA Isaac Lab for reinforcement learning.
- Q. Reserve Bank of India has imposed how much rupee's penalties on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance with certain directions related to 'interest rate on advances'?

A) ₹1.31 cr

B) ₹3.21 cr

C) ₹1.76 cr

D) ₹2.55 cr

# Answer: A

- ✓ RBI imposes ₹1.31 cr. penalty on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has imposed penalties on DCB Bank and Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance with certain directions related to 'interest rate on advances'.
- ✓ A monetary penalty of Rs 63.6 lakh has been imposed on DCB Bank.
- ✓ A penalty of Rs 1.31 crore has been imposed on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance with certain directions issued by it on 'Interest Rate on Advances' and 'Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) Revision in Reporting.

### PENALTY IN NEWS 2023-24

- RBI imposes Rs 1.31 cr fine on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.4 crore on Bank of India for non-compliance with certain regulatory norms.
- Paytm's trouble escalated further with the Financial Intelligence Unit-India slapping a ₹5.49 crore penalty on Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) for violating Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) obligations
- ➤ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to waive the ₹5 crore penalty that was previously imposed on Bank of Baroda.
- ➤ RBI imposes Rs 8.8 lakh penalty on Power Finance Corporation for non-compliance.

- ➤ Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has fined Air India ₹1.1 crore for safety violations on certain flights.
- > RBI took regulatory action imposing penalties on Bank of America, N.A. and HDFC Bank Ltd. for violations of specific norms.
- ➤ RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs. 10,000 on Bank of America, N.A. for violating the reporting requirements under the liberalized Remittances Scheme of FEMA 1999.
- ➤ HDFC Bank Ltd also faced a penalty of Rs.10,000 for violating directions related to the acceptance of deposits from non-residents.
- ➤ RBI Imposes ₹2.5 Crore Penalty On L&T Finance For Non Compliance.
- > This penalty has been levied due to non-compliance with specific provisions of the Non-Banking Financial Company.
- ➤ RBI Imposes ₹5.4 Crore Penalty On Paytm Payments Bank.
- Paytm Payments Bank was penalized for "non-compliance with certain provisions of the 'Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016'."
- ➤ 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.
- Q. Where was the 4th Shanghai Cooperation Organization Startup Forum organized?

A) Shanghai

B) Moscow

C) New Delhi

D) Tashkent

# Answer: C

- ✓ The fourth edition of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Startup Forum was held in New Delhi on 19 March 2024.
- ✓ Representatives of all the member countries of SCO participated in this meeting.
- ✓ The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a Eurasian political, economic, international security and defense organization established in 2001.
- ✓ India became a member of this organization in the year 2017
- ✓ Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

✓ Founded : 2001

✓ HQ : Beijing, China

- ✓ Secretary General : Zhang Ming (China)
- ✓ Member Countries = 9 ( Iran ,China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,Pakistan,Russia, Tajikistan & Uzbekistan)
- ✓ SCO Summit 2022 : Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- ✓ SCO Summit to be hosted by the Indian side in 2023.
- ✓ The founding members (5) of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) were China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan. India and Pakistan officially joined this organisation in 2017
- ✓ Trick to remember SCO Countries.
- ✓ TRICK :- PICK IN KURTA
- ✓ P Pakistan
- ✓ I India
- ✓ C- China
- ✓ K Kazakhstan
- ✓ IN Iran
- ✓ K Kyrgyzstan
- ✓ U Uzbekistan
- ✓ R Russia
- ✓ TA Tajikistan
- ✓ Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- ✓ It is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation. It was created in 2001.
- ✓ The SCO Charter was signed in 2002, and entered into force in 2003.
- ✓ It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- ✓ It is seen as a counterweight to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), It is a nine-member economic and security bloc and has emerged as one of the largest transregional international organisations.
- ✓ Permanent Bodies:
- ✓ SCO Secretariat in Beijing.
- ✓ Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent.
- ✓ Chairmanship:
- ✓ It is by rotation for a year by Member States.

- ✓ Iran is set to become a permanent member of the SCO in 2023.
- Q. With whom has the Indian Council of Agricultural Research signed an agreement for new technology in the agricultural sector?

A) AgriXLab

B) Aarav Agritech

C) Dhanuka Agritech Limited

D) Crofarm

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Dhanuka Agritech Limited have signed an MoU.
- ✓ The objective of this agreement is to utilize the expertise of both the institutions to deliver new technology to the farmers.
- ✓ Under this, Dhanuka Agritech will provide training related to agricultural production to small farmers.
- Q. Who has taken charge as the President of Indian Steel Association?

A) Naveen Jindal

B) Gautam Adani

C) Ratan Tata

D) Deepak Mehta

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Jindal Steel and Power Chairman Naveen Jindal has taken over as the President of the Indian Steel Association (ISA) with immediate effect.
- ✓ ISA said in a statement that Jindal has replaced Dilip Oommen
- Q. Operation Rising Sun, recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following?
  - A) Smuggling of foreign-origin gold
  - B) Smuggling of Drugs
  - C) Smuggling of Tiger's skin
  - D) Smuggling of red sandalwood

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) launched Operation "Rising Sun" to bust a major gold smuggling syndicate.
- ✓ The operation took place across four states on March 12 and 13, 2024 and resulted in the seizure of 61.08 kilograms of gold, valued at around Rs 40 crore, along with 19 vehicles, cash, and other electronic items.
- ✓ The gold was recovered from Guwahati, Barpeta, Darbhanga, Gorakhpur, and Araria.

# **IMPORTANT OPERATION & CODE NAME IN NEWS 2023-24**

### > OPERATION RISING SUN

➤ Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) busted a big syndicate involved in smuggling of foreignorigin gold worth around Rs. 40 crorein its operation code named 'Rising Sun' on 12th nd 13th March, 2024

### > OPERATION KAMDHENU

> Jammu and Kashmir police launched Operation Kamdhenu to curb cattle smuggling.

#### OPERATION PROSPERITY GUARDIAN

> Operation Prosperity Guardian is a United States-led military operation by a multinational coalition formed in December 2023 to respond to Houthi-led attacks on shipping in the Red Sea.

#### > OPERATION AJAY.

➤ India has launched 'Operation Ajay' to facilitate the return from Israel of those Indians who wish to come back home.

#### > OPERATION IRON SWORD

> Israel has named the ongoing fight against Hamas as Operation Iron Sword. Hamas is a Palestinian militant group that controls some areas of the Gaza Strip.

#### OPERATION SAJAG

➤ Indian Coast Guard conducted 'Operation Sajag,' a comprehensive drill along the west coast, aimed at enhancing coastal security.

#### > OPERATION BROADER SWORD.

India and the USA, jointly conducted an 'Operation Broader Sword' to stop the illegal shipment of drugs through the International Mail System.

#### OPERATION KARUNA

India launched "Operation Karuna" to provide humanitarian assistance for people in Myanmar, which is affected by Cyclone Mocha.

# > OPERATION KAVERI

> India launches Operation Kaveri to evacuate Indian citizens stranded in Sudan

#### > OPERATION DOST

> Due to the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria, India has launched a campaign named 'Operation Dost' to help the affected people.

#### > OPERATION GARUDA

> Central Bureau of Investigation has launched a multi-phase 'Operation Garuda' against illicit drug trafficking network.

#### > OPERATION YATRI SURAKSHA

- > To give assurance of the safety to the passengers, the Indian railways with the coordination of Railway Protection Force has launched a pan India drive under the code name Operation Yatri Suraksha.
- > OPERATION "NARCOS"
- Railway Protection Force (RPF) recently recovered narcotic products worth Rs 7.40 crore under "Operation Narcos".
- > OPERATION SANKALP
- Indian Navy's stealth Frigate, INS Talwar is presently deployed for Op-Sankalp commemorating the 3rd continuous year of Indian Navy's presence in the Gulf.
- > OPERATION SATARK
- Railway Protection Force (RPF) has recently started "Operation Satark" taking action against illicit liquor, fake currency circulation, etc.
- OPERATION GANGA
- > India launches mission named Operation Ganga to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine
- Q. Project SOORYA, recently seen in the news, is launched by which organization?

A) ISRO

B) DRDO

C) WHO

D) UNEP

### Answer: A

- ✓ ISRO's Project SOORYA is the name of its Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV) project, which aims to build the country's own space station and send Indians to the moon.
- ✓ The project is led by S. Sivakumar, with the initial phase being his responsibility.
- ✓ The first launch of the NGLV, codenamed SOORYA, is expected by 2034-35, and will require a third launch pad at Sriharikota.

- ✓ The project demonstrates ISRO's commitment to technological innovation and solidifying India's position as a global space power.
- Q. 'Brucethoa isro', recently seen in the news, is a:
  - A) new species of marine jellyfish
  - B) scientific research vessel of Ministry of Earth Science
  - C) new species of deep-sea isopod
  - D) satellite launched by ISRO to explore polarimetry

### Answer: C

- ✓ Researchers recently named a new species of deep-sea isopod discovered off the Kerala coast after the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ✓ About Brucethoa isro:
- ✓ It is a new species of deep-sea isopod discovered off the Kollam coast, Kerala.
- ✓ The tiny fish-parasitic crustacean, belonging to the genus Brucethoa, was recovered from the base of the gill cavity of the Spinyjaw greeneye, a marine fish.
- ✓ It is the second species within this genus to be documented in India.
- ✓ It has been named Brucethoa isro in honour of the Indian space agency's successful space missions.
- ✓ Females of the species tend to be larger than males. Females grow to about 19 mm in length and 6 mm in width, while males are smaller at around half the size.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Earth Hour:
  - 1. It is a symbolic lights-out event to promote awareness of climate change challenges and energy conservation.
  - 2. It is organized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

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: A

✓ The power discoms in the national capital are gearing up to make the 'Earth Hour' a success by encouraging their consumers to switch off non-essential lights and electric appliances for one hour on March 23 night.

- ✓ About Earth Hour:
- ✓ It is a global grassroots movement uniting people to take action on environmental issues and protect the planet.
- ✓ It is organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).
- ✓ It started in Sydney, Australia, in 2007 as a symbolic lights-out event and has since grown into a global movement involving millions of people in over 190 countries and territories.
- ✓ It takes place towards the end of March every year.
- ✓ "Earth Hour" encourages people to switch off all lights for an hour, from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. local time, to promote awareness of climate change challenges and energy conservation.
- Q. Indian-origin Leo Varadkar was the Prime Minister of which country, who recently resigned?

A) Ireland

B) Finland

C) Portugal

D) Spain

### Answer: A

- ✓ Leo Varadkar of Indian origin has resigned from the post of Prime Minister of Ireland.
- ✓ He has also stepped down as leader of the ruling Fine Gael party.
- ✓ In 2017, Varadkar became the country's first openly gay Prime Minister and the youngest person to hold the post.
- ✓ Ireland is an island in the North Atlantic Ocean, in north-western Europe.
- Q. Indian Navy has signed an MoU with which IIT to promote technology development, innovative solutions and joint R&D?

A) IIT Kharagpur

B) IIT Guwahati

C) IIT Patna

D) IIT Madras

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Indian Navy has signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur to promote technology development, innovative solutions and joint R&D.
- ✓ The strategic collaboration focuses on joint research and development initiatives involving teams from Indian Navy and IIT Kharagpur. The MoU will be coordinated by INS Shivaji, Lonavala.
- ✓ This alignment signifies a move towards a symbolic relationship between the Academia and the Military, fostering an environment conducive to innovation and knowledge exchange.

Q. Which company has partners with Election Commission of India to identify unlawful content from its platforms?

A) X

B) Tinder

C) Meta

D) Google

# Answer: C

- ✓ Meta partners with ECI to identify unlawful content from its platforms
- ✓ As the world's largest democracy prepares for the 18th General Elections, Meta (erstwhile Facebook) will continue efforts to limit misinformation, remove voter interference, and enhance transparency and accountability on its platforms to support free and fair elections.
- ✓ The company said it is also "closely engaged with the Election Commission of India via the Voluntary Code of Ethics" that it joined in 2019, which gives the Commission a high priority channel to flag unlawful content to Meta.
- ✓ Tech-giant Google had also last week announced that it has partnered with the ECI to provide authoritative information on voting processes for the upcoming general elections via Google Search and YouTube videos.
- ✓ Both Google and Shakti (a pan-India network) will work together to aid in the detection of online misinformation, including deepfakes, and to create a common repository that news publishers can use to tackle the challenges of misinformation at scale
- Q. The Finance Ministry has notified the issuance of a special commemorative coin of Rs 90 denomination to mark the completion of \_\_\_\_ of the RBI.

A) 75 years

B) 50 years

**C)** 100 years

D) 90 years

# Answer: D

- ✓ The Finance Ministry has notified the issuance of a special commemorative coin of Rs 90 denomination to mark the completion of 90 years of the RBI.
- ✓ One side of the coin shall bear the RBI's logo in the centre, with RBI@90 inscribed below.
- ✓ This will be a silver coin with 99.99% silver purity, weighing about 40 grams
- ✓ The face of the coin shall bear the Lion Capital of Ashoka Pillar in the centre with "Satyamev Jayate" inscribed in the Devnagari script below it.

- Q. In which city is India's first Ayurvedic cafe opened?
  - A) Delhi

B) Hyderabad

C) Bengaluru

D) Chennai

# Answer: A

- ✓ India's First Ayurvedic Cafe Opens in Delhi
- ✓ Maharishi Ayurveda Hospital in Shalimar Bagh, Delhi treats its patients with the utmost care by providing them with panchakarma therapy, a meditation room, yoga training, deluxe room facilities and in-house doctors.
- ✓ The hospital is making the headlines due to its in-house restaurant, Soma-The Ayurvedic Kitchen. Here, the food is given according to the health of the visitor.
- ✓ From Dumplings to Pav Bhaji, several dishes are served here without onion and garlic.
- Q. SANY India recently signed an MoU with which bank to provide finance solutions for infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh?
  - A) Bank of Baroda

B) Jammu and Kashmir Bank

C) Bank of India

D) Punjab National Bank

## Answer: B

- ✓ SANY India, a construction equipment manufacturer, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with J&K Bank to provide financial solutions for infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- ✓ The partnership aims to use the strengths of both organizations to offer comprehensive financial services with competitive rates.
- ✓ The partnership also aims to fuel growth and development opportunities in the region.
- Q. Which country hosted the third summit for Democracy?

A) Vietnam

B) South Korea

C) India

D) Germany

### Answer: B

✓ South Korea hosted the 3rd Summit for Democracy in Seoul from 18-20 March 2024, initiated by President Joe Biden in 2021 to combat authoritarianism and uphold human rights.

- ✓ South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken opened the summit. Previously, the 1st was held virtually in 2021, with over 100 countries attending, and the 2nd in 2023, cohosted with multiple nations in virtual mode, with 121 world leaders invited.
- Q. Which day of the year is marked as the International Day of Forests?

A) March 19

B) March 20

C) March 21

D) March 22

# Answer: C

- ✓ The International Day of Forests (also known as World Forestry Day) is celebrated every year on March 21.
- ✓ International Day of Forests 2024 theme is 'Forests and innovation: new solutions for a better world.'
- ✓ The day aims to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests, and trees outside forests, for the benefit of current and future generations as well as to increase the public awareness among communities about the values, significance and contributions of the forests to balance the life cycle on the earth.
- ✓ This day was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on November 28, 2012.
- ✓ The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Forum on Forests are the coordinators of the International Day of Forests.
- Q. UNESCO has declared which day to be observed as World Poetry Day?

A) 21 March

B) 22 March

C) 20 March

D) 23 March

# Answer: A

- ✓ The World Poetry Day is celebrated on 21 March every year to promote the reading, writing, publishing and teaching of poetry throughout the world.
- ✓ The theme for World Poetry Day 2024 is "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants."
- ✓ The day was declared by the UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in 1999.

- ✓ The objective of the day is to "give fresh recognition and impetus to national, regional and international poetry movements", with the aim of supporting linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increasing the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard.
- Q. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is marked annually on which day?

A) 21 March

B) 18 March

C) 20 March

D) 19 March

# Answer: A

- ✓ The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March to remind people about the negative consequences of racial discrimination.
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly called for the day in 1966 to encourage people to remember their obligation and determination to combat racial discrimination
- Q. The World Down Syndrome Day 2024 was celebrated on which day?

A) 20 March

B) 21 March

C) 19 March

D) 22 March

#### Answer: B

- ✓ The World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) is observed every year on 21 March to raise public awareness for the rights, inclusion and well being of people with Down syndrome.
- ✓ The Theme of 2024 World Down Syndrome Day 'End The Stereotypes'.
- ✓ The day was officially recognised by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012.
- ✓ It must be noted that the 21st day of March (the 3rd month of the year) has been selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome.
- Q. What is the code name of the operation launched by the Indian government to rescue stranded Indians from Haiti?

A) Operation Raahat

B) Operation Sankat Mochan

C) Operation Indravati

D) Operation Kaveri

#### Answer: C

✓ Operation Indravati to rescue Indians from Haiti.

- ✓ On 21 March 2024, Indian External Affairs Minister, S.Jaishankar, on the microblogging site X, wrote that the government of India has launched 'Operation Indravati' to relocate stranded Indians in violence-wrecked Haiti to the neighbouring country Dominican Republic.
- ✓ S.Jaishankar also shared the picture of the evacuated 12 Indian citizens on the X site.
- ✓ According to the External Affairs Ministry, there are about 75 to 90 Indians in Haiti, and about 60 of them have registered with Indian authorities to return to India.
- ✓ India in Haiti
- ✓ India does not have a diplomatic mission in the former French colony Haiti. The situation in the country is being handled by the Indian diplomatic mission in Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic.
- ✓ The Dominican Republic is a neighbouring country of Haiti
- Q. Who has been elected as the chairman of the Indian Bank Association (IBA) for 2023-24?

A) Dinesh Kumar Khara

B) Shanti Lal Jain

C) Dr.N.Kamakodi

D) M.V. Rao

# Answer: D

- ✓ M.V. Rao, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the public sector bank, Central Bank of India, has been elected as the new chairman of the Indian Bank Association (IBA) for 2023-24.
- ✓ M.V Rao will succeed Atul Kumar Goel, who is also the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Punjab National Bank. Atul Kumar Goel was elected chairman of IBA in 2021-22 and again in 2022-23.
- ✓ According to the IBA, the Managing Committee of the IBA, in a meeting on 21 March 2024, also elected various office bearers of the IBA for 2023-24.
- ✓ Three newly elected Deputy Chairman of IBA
- ✓ Dinesh Kumar Khara, Chairman of State Bank of India,
- ✓ Shanti Lal Jain, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Bank and
- ✓ Dr.N.Kamakodi, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of City Union Bank.
- ✓ Honorary Secretary of IBA
- ✓ Madhav Nair, Country Head and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait.
- ✓ Indian Bank Association
- ✓ It is an association of Banks and Financial Institutions operating in India.

- ✓ On 26 September 1946, at a meeting of bankers in Bombay(now Mumbai), the Indian Bank Association was formed with 22 members.
- ✓ According to the IBA, it has 247 members as of April 2018.
- ✓ The IBA includes Public sector Bank., Private Sector Banks, Foreign Banks, Co-operatives, Regional Rural Banks, and All India Financial Institutions.
- ✓ Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

# **NEWLY BANK MD & CEO IN NEWS 2023-24**

- M.V. Rao, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the public sector bank, Central Bank of India, has been elected as the new chairman of the Indian Bank Association (IBA) for 2023-24.
- ➤ SBM Bank India has appointed Ashish Vijayakar as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the Bank for a period of 3 years.
- > Praveen Achuthan Kutty appointed as MD & CEO of DCB Bank.
- 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. Where will be India's 1st Battery Energy Storage GigaFactory?

A) Ladakh

B) Jammu and Kashmir

C) Gujarat

D) Uttarakhand

#### Answer: B

- ✓ India's 1st Battery Energy storage GigaFactory to be launched in J&K
- ✓ GoodEnough Energy will start operations at India's first battery energy storage gigafactory in the northern region of Jammu and Kashmir by October.
- ✓ The facility will help industry in cutting more than 5 million tons of carbon emissions in a year.

- ✓ GoodEnough has already spent 1.5 billion rupees (\$18.07 million) on the 7 gigawatts per hour (GWH) facility and will spend 3 billion rupees by 2027 to raise capacity to 20 GWH.
- ✓ Battery energy storage projects are critical to India's ambitious plan to expand its renewable energy capacity to 500 gigawatts (GW) by 2030, from 178 GW at present.
- ✓ India has set a 2070 goal for becoming net zero.

# **INDIA'S FIRST IN NEWS 2023-24**

- ➤ India's 1st Battery Energy Storage GigaFactory will be Launched in J&K
- > India's first integrated oil palm processing unit in Arunachal Pradesh started operation by one of India's largest oil palm development companies, 3F Oil Palm.
- > India's first Indoor athletic centre inaugurated in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- India's First Research IIT Satellite Campus will be in Ujjain.
- India's first spy satellite built by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) will be launched in a SpaceX rocket by April and will be used by the armed forces to obtain secret information.
- ➤ Commencement of Core Loading at India's first indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) (500 MWe) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.
- The PFBR has been fully designed and constructed by BHAVINI.
- > Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first automobile in-plant railway siding project at Maruti Suzuki India's plant in Hansalpur, Gujarat.
- Kerala has declared the man-animal conflict a state-specific disaster, the first in India to do so.
- > Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first indigenous green hydrogen fuel cell inland waterway vessel in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) has successfully established and tested India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility.
- ➤ Ola Founder's Krutrim Becomes First \$1 Billion Indian AI Startup.
- For the first time in India, a boat running on solar energy will be operated in the Saryu river in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.
- Reliance Industries Achieves India's First ISCC-Plus Certification .
- Lucknow city, known as the 'City of Nawabs', will be developed as India's first 'AI City'.
- ➤ Uttar Pradesh government has announced the launch of India's first 'Telecom Center of Excellence.

- India's first solar roof cycling track was inaugurated in Hyderabad city.
- Uttarakhand launches India's first polythene waste bank for sustainable waste management.
- > Telangana has launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF) in Hyderabad.
- India's first-ever sports university to be set up in Manipur.
- ➤ India Launches Its 1st Indigenous e-Tractor Developed By the CMERI.
- ➤ Dr Jitendra Singh, had launched the CSIR Prima ET11, the first indigenous e-Tractor developed by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur, a public engineering R&D institution in Durgapur, West Bengal, and a constituent laboratory of the Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- ➤ Kerala Launches India's First AI School, Pioneering Future-Focused Education.
- > Sanchi, a world heritage site located in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, is all set to become India's first solar city.
- ➤ Hitachi Payment Services launched India's first UPI-ATM.
- India's first Vedic-themed park unveiled in Noida.
- Q. ISRO successfully tested the landing mission of the reusable launch vehicle, what is it called?

A) Pushpak

B) Sarthak

C) AKASH YAAN

D) Vikram

### Answer: A

- ✓ Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully tested the landing mission of its Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) named 'Pushpak' from the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) in Challakere, Karnataka.
- ✓ This was the third landing mission of RLV.
- ✓ The mission was accomplished by Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) along with the Liquid Propulsion System Centre (LPSC) and the ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU).
- Q. Who has been selected as the flag bearer for India at Paris Olympics 2024?

A) Manika Batra

B) Sharat Kamal

C) Saurabh Chaudhary

D) Neeraj Chopra

Answer: B

- ✓ Khel Ratna Award winner and two-time Commonwealth Games champion table tennis player Sharath Kamal will be India's flag bearer in the upcoming Paris Olympics 2024.
- ✓ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has recently announced this.
- ✓ Sharath Kamal will be India's 19th flag bearer in the Olympics.
- ✓ Former Indian men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh and Mary Kom led India as flag bearers in the Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- ✓ Achanta Sharath Kamal known as Sharath Kamal, is an Indian professional table tennis player.
- ✓ He is the first Indian table tennis player ever to become ten times Senior National Champion hence breaking the record of eight-time National Champion Kamlesh Mehta.
- ✓ In 2019 he was awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian award and in 2022, he was awarded the Khel Ratna Award, India's highest sporting honour.
- Q. Which of the following countries are part of the IMT Tri-Lateral Exercise, recently in the news?

A) India, USA and Australia

B) USA, UK and Australia

C) India, Japan and USA

D) India, Mozambique and Tanzania

### Answer: D

- ✓ INS Tir and INS Sujata will participate in the forthcoming edition of India Mozambique Tanzania (IMT)
  Tri Lateral (TRILAT) Exercise.
- ✓ It is a joint maritime exercise scheduled from 21-29 Mar 24.
- ✓ The first edition of IMT TRILAT exercise conducted in Oct 22, saw participation of INS Tarkash with the Tanzanian and Mozambique Navies.
- ✓ The current edition of the exercise is planned in two phases. As part of the harbour phase scheduled from 21-24 Mar 24, Naval ships Tir and Sujata will engage with the respective Navies at the ports of Zanzibar (Tanzania) and Maputo (Mozambique).
- ✓ The exercise will conclude with a joint debrief scheduled at Nacala (Mozambique)
- Q. Which IIT has developed an indigenous electric standing wheelchair called 'NeoStand'?

A) IIT Bombay

B) IIT Madras

C) IIT Kanpur

D) IIT Delhi

Answer: B

- ✓ IIT Madras has developed an indigenous electric standing wheelchair called 'NeoStand,' claimed to be India's most customizable wheelchair for the benefit of wheelchair users.
- ✓ The wheelchair was launched at the campus in the presence of Professor V Kamakoti, Director of IIT Madras, faculty, researchers, dignitaries, supporters of this project, and users of these rehabilitative devices.
- ✓ The NeoStand is a compact standing wheelchair equipped with navigation for its motorized standing mechanism. Users can easily switch from sitting to standing at the touch of a button.
- ✓ Tata Elxsi sponsored the journey of NeoStand under its corporate social responsibility initiative. The development and design were spearheaded by the TTK Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development (R2D2) at IIT Madras and NeoMotion, which took the lead in bringing this product to the marketplace

# **IIT IN NEWS 2023-24**

- > IIT Madras has developed an indigenous electric standing wheelchair called 'NeoStand,' claimed to be India's most customizable wheelchair for the benefit of wheelchair users
- Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) have collaborated to establish a Centre of Excellence and Industry Accelerator in the automotive and electric vehicle (EV) sector.
- > Uttar Pradesh government will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Roorkee for better disaster management in the state.
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) has successfully established and tested India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility.
- > IREDA has entered into an agreement with IIT Bhubaneswar to promote innovation and research in the renewable energy sector.
- > IIT Madras to open new campus at Kandy in Sri Lanka.
- ArcelorMittal and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India materials and engineering resources being deployed to construct Asia's first Hyperloop testing facility at IIT Madras, Chennai, India
- ➤ Reliance Jio Infocomm, India's largest telecom service provider, is working with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay to launch 'Bharat GPT', a large language model specifically tailor for India's needs.
- ➤ IIT Guwahati recently developed an indigenous river model, BRAHMA-2D.

- > IIT Kanpur, Indian Navy join forces to drive innovation through research partnership.
- > SAMRIDHI conclave, a deeptech startup acceleration drive launched at IIT Ropar.
- ➤ The First Australia India Education and Skill Council (AIESC) meeting was held at IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ➤ 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.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum:
  - 1. It facilitates cross-border incubation and acceleration programs.
  - 2. India has never organized the Startup Forum of the SCO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

### Answer: A

✓ The fourth edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum was organized on 19th March 2024 in New Delhi.

B) 2 only

✓ It is a platform for the stakeholders from the startup ecosystems from all SCO Member States to interact and collaborate.

- ✓ It aims to create multilateral cooperation and engagement for startups among the SCO Member States. This engagement will empower the local startup ecosystems in the SCO Member States.
- ✓ India will host the second meeting of the Special Working Group for Startups and Innovation (SWG) in November 2024 and SCO Startup Forum 5.0 in January 2025.
- ✓ Previously, Startup India had organized various initiatives for SCO Member states including:
- ✓ SCO Startup Forum 1.0: The SCO Startup Forum in 2020 laid the foundation for multilateral cooperation and engagement for startups among the SCO Member States.
- ✓ SCO Startup Forum 2.0: The two-day Forum was held virtually in 2021 through a customized platform representing the Indian culture in augmented reality. SCO Startup Hub, a single point of contact for the SCO startup ecosystem, was launched in this forum.
- ✓ SCO Startup Forum 3.0: DPIIT organised the first ever physical SCO Startup Forum in 2023 for the SCO Member States.
- ✓ 1st Meeting of the SWG: The first Meeting of the SCO Special Working Group on Startups and Innovation (SWG), permanently chaired by India, was organised on the theme 'Growing from Roots' in 2023.
- Q. Who has been appointed as the new President of Federation of Indian Export Organization?

A) Rajeev Sinha

B) Jai Agnihotri

C) Ashwini Kumar

D) Vinay Kumar

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Ashwini Kumar has been appointed as the new President of Federation of Indian Export Organization (FIEO).
- ✓ Ashwini Kumar is a renowned business entrepreneur and exporter from Jalandhar, Punjab, who is associated with the engineering sector.
- Q. Who has recently been appointed as the new captain by Chennai Super Kings?

A) Ravindra Jadeja

B) Ruturaj Gaikwad

C) Ajinkya Rahane

D) Shivam Dubey

## Answer: B

✓ Ruturaj Gaikwad to replace Dhoni as CSK Captain in IPL 2024

- ✓ One of the most successful Indian Premier League (IPL) teams, Chennai Super Kings(CSK), appointed Ruturaj Gaikwad as its captain on 21 March 2024.
- ✓ The 17th IPL starts on 22 March 2024, with the defending champion CSK taking on Royal Challengers Bangalore at Chepauk, Chennai.
- ✓ Mahendra Singh Dhoni as CSK Captain
- ✓ Mahendra Singh Dhoni was the longest-serving captain of CSK. M.S. Dhoni has the distinction of captaining CSK in 235 of their 249 games in all competitions.
- ✓ He was appointed captain of CSK in the inaugural IPL in 2008. In the 2022 season, Ravindra Jadeja was appointed captain of CSK, but Dhoni replaced Jadeja after 8 tournament matches. Dhoni was the captain of CSK in the 2023 season and under his captaincy, it won the IPL title for the 5th time, equalling the record with Mumbai Indians.
- ✓ Under Dhoni's captaincy, CSK won IPL titles in 2010, 2011, 2018, 2021, and 2023.
- ✓ M S Dhoni retired from international cricket in 2019 following the One Day World Cup held in England and Wales.
- ✓ Chennai Super Kings
- ✓ It is one of the most successful IPL franchise teams. CSK is owned by N. Srinivasan and his family, who hold 28.14 per cent shares of CSK.
- ✓ N.Srinivasan is the former president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. He was the president of BCCI from 2011-2013.
- ✓ N.Srinivasan was made the first chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) in 2014
- ✓ <u>Indian Premier League</u>
- ✓ The Indian Premier League is a 20-over cricket league that was started in 2008 by the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India).
- ✓ 8 franchise teams used to participate in the IPL, but in 2022, the number of franchises was raised by 10 teams. Currently, ten franchises are participating in the IPL.
- ✓ They are the Chennai Super Kings, Gujarat Titans, Lucknow Super Giants, Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore, Punjab Kings, Delhi Capitals, Kolkata Knight Riders, Rajasthan Royals, and Sunrisers Hyderabad.
- ✓ Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings have won the title 5 times each.

- Q. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has signed an MoU with which company for the dissemination & promotion of ICAR's initiatives for the growth of Indian Agriculture and farmers' welfare?
  - A) Bayer Crop Science Ltd
- B) Agrocorp industries
- C) Krishi Jagran Pvt Ltd
- D) Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation Ltd

# Answer: C

- ✓ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Krishi Jagran Pvt Ltd have signed a MoU for the dissemination & promotion of ICAR's initiatives for the growth of Indian Agriculture and farmers' welfare.
- ✓ Dr. U.S. Gautam, Deputy Director General (Agril. Extension) ICAR and Shri M.C Dominic, Founder & Editor-In-Chief, Krishi Jagran Pvt Ltd, signed the MoU for their respective organisations.
- ✓ The MoU will help in the Video production of ICAR Success Stories on social media platforms and promote the success stories of ICAR-developed technologies across India.
- ✓ It will also help generate Video Bytes of senior officials and Writeups in relevant Krishi Jagran magazine editions on ICAR initiatives.
- Q. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of Kesoram Cement Business from Kesoram Industries Limited by which company?
  - A) Dalmia Bharat Ltd

B) Ambuja Cement Ltd

C) UltraTech Cement Limited

D) ACC Ltd

# Answer: C

- ✓ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of Kesoram's Cement Business by UltraTech Cement Limited.
- ✓ The deal is estimated to be valued at ₹7,600 crore, including the debt the company will take on from Kesoram.
- ✓ The proposed combination relates to the acquisition of the grey cement business of Kesoram Industries Ltd by UltraTech Cement Ltd.
- ✓ UltraTech Cement, the flagship company of Aditya Birla group, had in November last year announced that it has acquired the cement business of Kesoram Industries in a share-swap deal.
- ✓ Post-acquisition, UltraTech's annual cement capacity will reach 149.14 mt, including its overseas operations. The proposed transaction will accelerate UltraTech's path to achieve the stated goal of 200 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) in India

- Q. Which payments bank has partnered with Noise and Mastercard to launch "A New Way to Pay" to revolutionize contactless payments by redefining and making them more accessible to a wider user base?
  - A) Jio Payments Bank

B) Airtel Payments Bank

C) Paytm Payments Bank

D) India Post Payments Bank

# Answer: B

- ✓ Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Noise, India's premier wristwatch brand, and Mastercard, a worldwide payments technology business, to launch A New Way to Pay.
- ✓ The institutions have collaborated to create the Bank's Airtel Payments Bank Smart Watch, which aims to revolutionise contactless payments by redefining and making them more accessible to a wider user base.
- ✓ These smartwatches, built by Noise and powered by Airtel Payments Bank, will improve Tap and Pay capabilities and the user experience by introducing the convenience of contactless payments via smart wearables.
- ✓ The new smartwatch is now available for purchase for INR 2,999.
- ✓ Customers with an Airtel Payments Bank savings account can purchase this smartwatch using the Airtel Thanks App. The Airtel Payments Bank Smart Watch allows customers to make daily payments ranging from INR 1 to INR 25,000.
- Q. Who has been appointed as the CEO of Leading FMCG maker P&G India?
  - A) Kumar Venkatasubramanian
  - B) Dilip Sharma
  - C) Rajendra Singh
  - D) Alok Sinha

### Answer: A

- ✓ Leading FMCG maker P&G India has appointed Kumar Venkatasubramanian as CEO of the company, with effect from 1 May 2024.
- ✓ The current CEO, L V Vaidyanathan will leave the company to pursue personal interests after 28 years of service.
- ✓ Kumar is currently leading the P&G business in Australia and New Zealand as CEO.
- ✓ Before the Australia role, Kumar was leading sales team in P&G India until 2020

Q. Prabowo Subianto has been elected as new President of which country?

A) Malaysia

B) Ireland

C) Iceland

D) Indonesia

# Answer: D

✓ Prabowo Subianto elected as new President of Indonesia

- ✓ Indonesia's Prabowo Subianto has been elected as president of the world's third-biggest democracy.
- ✓ Defence Minister Prabowo and his vice-presidential running mate Gibran Rakabuming Raka received more than 96 million votes, commission chairman Hasyim Asy'ari said, roughly 58.6 percent of the total count and enough to secure a first-round majority.
- ✓ Indonesia

✓ Capital : Jakarta

✓ Currency: Rupiah

✓ President : Prabowo Subianto

# **NEWLY PRESIDENT IN NEWS 2023-24**

Prabowo Subianto : Indonesia

Tamás Sulyok: Hungary

Alexander Stubb : Finland

Azali Assoumani : Comoros

Bernardo Arevalo: Guatemala

> William Lai: Taiwan

➤ Abdel Fatah al-Sisi : Egypt

Daniel Noboa : Ecuador

Mohammed Muizzu: Maldives

> Bharatvanshi Tharman Shanmugaratnam : Singapore

Emmerson Mnangagwa: Zimbabwe

> Edgars Rinkevics : Latvian

> Tayyip Erdogan : Turkey

Bola Tinubu : Nigeria

➤ Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu : Bangladesh

Ram Chandra Paudel : Nepal

> Xi Jinping : China (third term)

➤ Vo Van Thuong : Vietnam

- Q. Which organization of India has received the Aviation Week Laureates Award?
  - A) ISRO

B) DRDO

C) ICAR

D) CSIR

### Answer: A

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) received the Aviation Week Laureates Award in 2024 for its achievements with the Chandrayaan-3 mission.
- ✓ Deputy Ambassador at the Indian Embassy in the US, Sripriya Ranganathan, accepted the award on behalf of ISRO.
- ✓ The award recognizes extraordinary accomplishments in the aerospace industry
- Q. The government has decided to impose an anti-dumping duty on cast aluminum alloy wheels from which country?

A) China

B) Russia

C) Malaysia

D) Iran

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Indian Finance Ministry imposed an anti-dumping duty on cast aluminum alloy wheels (ARWs) from China, ranging from \$0.23 to \$1.71 per kilogram, depending on the producer.
- ✓ The duty is valid for five years.
- ✓ The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has said that applicants have submitted evidence of dumping of the product from China in spite of the existing anti-dumping duties.
- ✓ The DGTR can review the need for the continued imposition of the duty before the end of five years.
- Q. Where was the 3rd edition of the North East Games 2024 started?

A) Nagaland

B) Assam

C) Arunachal Pradesh

D) Mizoram

Answer: A

- ✓ The 3rd edition of North East Games 2024 commenced in Nagaland at Regional Centre for Sporting Excellence, Sovima.
- ✓ Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio inaugurated the event.
- ✓ Over 3000 athletes from eight North Eastern states compete in 15 disciplines across three districts.
- ✓ Host Nagaland won the opening football match against Tripura.
- ✓ Manipur also secured victory in Sepaktakraw Men's event against Mizoram.
- ✓ The games feature sports like archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, boxing, football, lawn tennis, Pencak Silat, table tennis, taekwondo, volleyball, and wushu.
- Q. What is the rank of India in the production of crude steel in the world?

A) 2nd

B) 3rd

C) 4th

D) 1st

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Naveen Jindal elected the President of Indian Steel Association.
- ✓ Noted industrialist and former member of Parliament Naveen Jindal was unanimously elected as the President of the Indian Steel Association (ISA) on 21 March 2024.
- ✓ He also assumed the charge as the President of the Indian Steel Association on the same day.
- ✓ He replaced Mr Dilip Oommen, CEO, AMNS India and Executive Vice President, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India.
- ✓ About Naveen Jindal
- ✓ Naveen Jindal is currently the chairman of Jindal Steel & Power (JSP), India's leading Industrial conglomerate with interests in steel, mining and infrastructure sector.
- ✓ He has also been elected as the Lok Sabha member from the Kurukshetra constituency of Haryana in 2004 and again in 2009.
- ✓ He is known for successfully fighting a ten year long legal battle, which resulted in every Indian gaining 'Right to display the national flag on all days' as part of their Fundamental Right.
- ✓ <u>Indian Steel Association</u>
- ✓ The Indian Steel Association was set up in 2014 as an apex body of steel producing companies of India. According to the Indian Steel Association it represents 65% of India's crude steel production.
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi

- ✓ Steel Sector In India
- ✓ The foundation of India's present iron and steel industry was laid in 1875, when a blast-furnace plant was built at Kulti near Calcutta (now Kolkata). The Kulti plant is currently being operated by Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO).
- ✓ The first modern steel plant was set up by Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata. He set up Tata Iron and Steel Company (now Tata Steel) was formed in 1907 and set up its plant at Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.
- ✓ During second five year plan (1956-61) government started the process to first integrated steel plant of the public sector at
- ✓ Rourkela (Odisha) in collaboration with German firms,
- ✓ Bhilai (Chhattisgarh) in collaboration Soviet Union and
- ✓ Durgapur (West Bengal) in collaboration with Britain.
- ✓ <u>Status of Steel production</u>
- ✓ India is the world's second-largest producer of crude steel in the world after China. In 2022-23 India produced 125.32 million tonnes of crude steel and 121.29 million tonnes of finished steel in 2022-23.
- ✓ The steel sector in India has grown significantly over the last decade, with production increasing by 75% since 2008.
- ✓ In 2022-23 the Steel consumption per capita in India was 86.7 kilograms.
- ✓ India is the largest producer of sponge iron in the world.
- ✓ India is the world's third-largest user of finished steel after China and the United States of America.
- Q. Which two star clusters have been discovered in space recently by the Gaia space telescope?

A) Chhota and Bheem

B) Shiva and Shakti

C) Motu and Patlu

D) Tom and Jerry

### Answer: B

- ✓ Gaia telescope discovers two ancient streams of stars Shiva & Shakti.
- ✓ The European Space Agency's Gaia space telescope has discovered two ancient streams of stars called Shiva and Shakti. These new discoveries have greatly advanced human understanding of the origin of the galaxy.
- ✓ Formed approximately 12 billion years ago, these celestial structures are among the earliest structures that contributed to the formation of our galaxy.

- ✓ These ancient structures have been discovered under the leadership of Khyati Malhan of the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy (MPIA) in Heidelberg, Germany.
- ✓ Khyati Malhan has expressed surprise at the ability to unearth these ancient structures.
- ✓ About Gaia Space Telescope:
- ✓ It was launched in December 2013.
- ✓ The Gaia spacecraft is a mission operated by the European Space Agency.
- ✓ Gaia has been surveying the skies for more than a decade and collecting vast amounts of data.
- Q. The theme for 2024 World Water Day is Water for peace'. When is this day celebrated annually?

A) 21 March

B) 22 March

C) 23 March

D) 20 March

#### Answer: B

- ✓ 'World Water Day' is observed each year on the 22nd of March.
- ✓ On this occasion, people are reminded of the importance of freshwater and the need for sustainable water management techniques. Because currently water shortage remains a global concern.
- ✓ The theme of 'World Water Day' for this year 2024 is 'Water for peace'.
- ✓ In the year 1992, the Environment and Development Conference program was organized in Brazil. The issue of celebrating 'World Water Day' was raised in this conference. After this, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution in 1992. UNGA announced that 'World Water Day' should be celebrated every year on 22 March.
- ✓ In this way, 'World Water Day' was celebrated for the first time in the year 1993. In 2010, the UN recognized the right to safe, clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right. Its aim is to focus people's attention on the global water crisis.
- ✓ The primary objective of World Water Day is to promote the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. In which a target has been set to provide water and sanitation to all by 2030.
- Q. Which country has conferred its highest civilian award Order of the Druk Gyalpo on Narendra Modi?

A) Vietnam

B) Cambodia

C) Indonesia

D) Bhutan

Answer: D

- ✓ Narendra Modi receives Bhutan's Order of the Druk Gyalpo Award.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a two-day visit to Bhutan, was conferred' Order of the Druk Gyalpo' by the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck on 22 March 2024.
- ✓ In a ceremony organised at the Tashichho Dzong Palace in the Bhutanese capital, Thimphu
- ✓ Thus, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the first foreign leader to receive the highest Bhutanese civilian award, the Order of the Druk Gyalpo'.
- ✓ The Order of the Druk Gyalpo was bestowed upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his contribution to furthering India -Bhutan relationships and for his distinguished service to the Bhutanese nation and people".
- ✓ The Order of the Druk Gyalpo Award is the highest civilian award instituted by the Government of Bhutan. The award is given for lifetime achievement and takes precedence over all orders, decorations and medals given in Bhutan.
- ✓ PM Modi's Visit to Bhutan
- ✓ Initially Prime Minister Modi was to visit Bhutan on 21st March 2024 but due to bad weather conditions over the Paro airport, the visit was rescheduled to 22. Now the visit will be of two days duration 22-23 March..
- ✓ He was received at the Paro airport by the Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay.
- ✓ India to provide Rs 10,000 crore to Bhutan in next five years
- ✓ The Prime Minister announced that India will provide Rs 10,000 crore in the next five years to support Bhutan's 13th five-year plan. India is a major financier of Bhutan's five-year plans. India provided Rs 5,000 crore to Bhutan to finance its 12th five-year Plan.
- ✓ Bhutan is the largest recipient of India's external aid. In 2024-25, India will provide Rs 2,068 crore of financial aid to Bhutan.
- ✓ Bhutan
- ✓ Bhutan, also known as Druk Yul, means "Land of the Thunder Dragon.
- ✓ Bhutan is a landlocked country in South Asia. It shares international boundaries with India and China.
- ✓ Four Indian states, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Sikkim, share a land border with Bhutan.
- ✓ The length of India's international border with Bhutan is 699 km.
- ✓ Capital: Thimphu
- ✓ Currency: Nagultram
- ✓ Language spoken in Bhutan-Dzongkha

- ✓ King: Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck
- ✓ Prime Minister: Tshering Tobgay
- ✓ STATE HONOURS GIVEN TO NARENDRA MODI
- ✓ 16. Order of the Druk Gyalpo Award : Bhutan's highest civilian award (2024).
- ✓ 15. PM Modi conferred with Greece's Grand Cross of the Order of Honour (2023)
- ✓ 14. Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour : France's highest civilian and military honour (2023)
- ✓ 13. Order of the Nile : Egypt's highest honor (2023)
- ✓ 12. Companion of the Order of Logohu: the highest civilian award of Papua New Guinea (2023)
- ✓ 11. Companion of the Order of Fiji: Highest honour of Fiji (2023)
- ✓ 10. Ebakl Award by the Republic of Palau (2023)
- ✓ 9. Order of the Dragon King is the highest civilian honour of Bhutan (2021)
- ✓ 8. Legion of Merit is a military award of the USA (2020)
- ✓ 7. Order of Zayed is the highest civilian honour of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) (2019)
- ✓ 6. Order of St. Andrew is the highest civilian honour of Russia (2019)
- ✓ 5. Order of the Distinguished Rule of Izzuddin is the highest honour of the Maldives (2019)
- ✓ 4. King Hamad Order of the Renaissance is the highest honour of Bahrain (2019)
- ✓ 3. Grand Collar of the State Of Palestine is the highest civilian order of Palestine (2018)
- ✓ 2. Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud is the Highest honour of Saudi Arabia (2016)
- ✓ 1. Amir Amanullah Khan Award is the highest civilian award of Afghanistan (2016)
- Q. Who is the first person to reach Point Nemo, the oceanic pole of inaccessibility?

A) Chris Brown

B) James Cook

C) David Livingstone

D) Abraham Bristow

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Chris Brown, 1st person who reaches point Nemo-remotest Point on Earth
- ✓ Chris Brown of Britain has become the first person in history to reach Point Nemo, the oceanic pole of inaccessibility in the Pacific Ocean. The Point Nemo is located in the southern Pacific Ocean east of New Zealand.
- ✓ In an Instagram post on 20 March 2024, Chris Brown wrote that he had become the first person to swim to Point Nemo.

- ✓ Where is Point Nemo?
- ✓ Point Nemo is an imaginary point in the south Pacific Ocean that is very far from land. It is located at coordinates 48°52.6′ South latitude and 123°23.6′ West longitude.
- ✓ The nearest landmass in the north is Ducie Island, part of the Pitcairn Islands, which is 2,688 km away from Point Nemo. In the northeast of Point Nemo lies Motu Nui Island, part of Easter Island and in the south is Maher Island, part of Antarctica.
- Q. Which company launched border patrol surveillance drone 'Trishul' in March 2024?

A) Boeing

B) Garuda Aerospace Private Limited

C) Lockheed Martin

D) Tata Advanced Systems

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Garuda Aerospace unveiled Trishul, a border patrol surveillance drone.
- ✓ Drone manufacturer Garuda Aerospace has launched a Border Patrol Surveillance Drone, 'Trishul'. Garuda Aerospace Company gave information in this regard on 22 March 2024.
- ✓ Uses of Trishul Drone:
- ✓ The Border Patrol surveillance drone Trishul can be used to monitor the movement of people, monitor natural disasters and assess traffic.
- ✓ About Garuda Aerospace:
- ✓ Garuda Aerospace Private Limited is a drone startup company based in Chennai. It was founded in 2015 by Agnishwar Jayaprakash, a young entrepreneur and Asian gold medalist swimmer.
- ✓ Garuda has received approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in India.
- ✓ In 2022, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi inaugurated Garuda Aerospace's drone manufacturing facilities.
- ✓ Indian cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni serves as its brand ambassador and shareholder. Garuda Aerospace was also the official drone partner of IPL team Chennai Super Kings for the year 2023.
- ✓ Garuda Aerospace Founders: Agnishwar Jayaprakash (CEO), Rithika Mohan
- ✓ Brand Ambassador of Garuda Aerospace: Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- Q. Which is the first country in the world where the Amul brand products will be manufactured?

A) Russia

B) United Kingdom

C) United States

D) France

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Amul Launches its first International business in the US.
- ✓ Iconic Indian brand Amul will start its first international operation in the United States of America by manufacturing its product there. The Amul brand is owned by Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF).
- ✓ The tagline of Amul is "The Taste of India".
- ✓ According to Jayen Mehta ,Managing Director Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF),Amul will launch its fresh milk product in the United States of America in partnership with the Michigan Milk Producers Association . The Michigan Milk Producers Association is one of the oldest dairy cooperatives of the United States.
- ✓ Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation is the largest exporter of dairy products from India.It exports its product through agents in more than 50 countries in West Asia, Europe and the United States of America which has a large Indian diaspora.
- ✓ However it will be the first time that Amul will manufacture its product outside India.
- ✓ Amul is owned by Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF). It is India's largest food product marketing organisation based in Gujarat. It is the apex marketing body of Dairy cooperatives of Gujarat.
- ✓ The genesis of Amul lies in the formation of Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers Union Limited by two village dairy co-operative societies in 1946.
- ✓ The headquarters of the Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers Union Limited is at Anand, Gujarat.

  The farmers of the village founded Anand Milk Union Limited popularly known as Amul.
- ✓ Milk Production In India
- ✓ In 1998, India surpassed the United States of America to become the largest milk-producing country in the world.
- ✓ According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), in 2021-22, India's contribution to world milk production was 24%.
- ✓ Milk production in the country is estimated as 230.58 million tonnes during 2022-23,a growth of 22.81% over the past 5 years.
- ✓ Highest milk producing State during 2022-23 was
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh with a share of 15.72 % of total milk production

- ✓ Rajasthan (14.44 %),
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh (8.73 %),
- ✓ Gujarat (7.49 %), and
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh (6.70 %).
- Q. Which bank has announced a USD 250 million loan commitment for new-age entrepreneurs?
  - A) Karur Vyasya Bank

B) Karnataka Bank

C) Indian Overseas Bank

D) DBS Bank India

#### Answer: D

- ✓ DBS Bank India has announced a USD 250 million loan commitment for new-age entrepreneurs.
- ✓ The project is part of the bank's efforts to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the country's vibrant startup environment.
- ✓ The Indian start-up sector, a foundational pillar of the country's development goals, has seen significant expansion over the years with over 90,000 start-ups and more than 100 unicorns as of 2024.
- ✓ Development Bank of Singapore (DBS) Bank

√ Founded: 1968

✓ Headquarters : Singapore

✓ Chairman : Peter Seah

✓ CEO: Piyush Gupta

Q. Which state becomes the first State to develop a system which would bring the information on the availability of water to the public domain?

A) Gujarat

B) Rajasthan

C) Uttar Pradesh

D) Bihar

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Rajasthan is the first state in India to develop a system that provides real-time information on the availability of water in dams and canals.
- ✓ The state has launched the Rajasthan Water Resources Dashboard.
- ✓ This initiative aims to enhance water management efficiency and predict floods and droughts.
- ✓ Water Resources Minister Suresh Singh Rawat hailed Rajasthan's pioneering effort, marking a significant step in water and disaster management.

- Q. Kazhuveli watershed region, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?
  - A) Karnataka

B) Andhra Pradesh

C) Kerala

D) Tamil Nadu

### Answer: D

- ✓ Conservationists plan to nominate Kazhuveli watershed region of Tamil Nadu for inclusion in World Monuments Fund Watch 2025, linking local preservation efforts with global attention and action.
- ✓ The World Monuments Fund, founded in 1965, aims to conserve significant architectural and cultural sites worldwide.
- ✓ Headquartered in New York, it operates in 112 countries, partnering with communities, funders, and governments.
- ✓ Its work addresses contemporary issues such as climate change and underrepresentation by leveraging heritage for resilience and inclusivity.

#### **TAMIL NADU IN NEWS 2023-24**

- Conservationists plan to nominate Kazhuveli watershed region of Tamil Nadu for inclusion in World Monuments Fund Watch 2025, linking local preservation efforts with global attention and action.
- The Khelo India Youth Games 2024 will be held in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- ➤ 'Guidance', the nodal agency for investment promotion of Tamil Nadu, has received the United Nations Promotion Award 2023.
- Project Nilgiri Tahr' launched in Tamil Nadu.
- The second spaceport of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), will come up in about two years at Kulasekarapattinam in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.
- > The U.K. and Tamil Nadu collaborate on a smart technology project for sustainable water, waste, and resource management.
- Recently, Udangudi 'Panangkarupatti' (palm jaggery/ gur) from Tamil Nadu has received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- > Tamil Nadu government has unveiled its new tourism policy to develop the State into the most attractive experiential destination in Asia.
- Tamil Nadu's Salem Sago gets GI tag.

- ➤ Bhaderwah Rajmash and Sulai honey of Doda and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir, have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
- > The Matti banana variety, native to Kanniyakumari district Tamil Nadu was recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ➤ Taiwanese firm Foxconn Technology Group, a key supplier to Apple Inc., signed a letter of Intent with the Tamil Nadu government to invest ₹1,600 crore to establish a manufacturing facility in Kancheepuram district.
- ➤ Centre has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by the ISRO.
- Tamil Nadu's Authoor betel leaves get Geographical Indication (GI) certificate.
- > Tamil Nadu bagged the Best Performing State award 2023 in cadaver organ donation.
- Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister "Udhayanidhi Stalin" has unveiled the trophy and the 'Bomman' mascot for the prestigious Asian Champions Trophy 2023 hockey tournament to be held in Chennai.
- Muthamizh Selvi, first Tamil Nadu woman to scale Mt Everest.
- > Tamil Nadu government declared Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary as the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the state..
- Tamil Nadu becomes first state to launch its own Climate Change Mission.
- Tamil Nadu govt to launch five-year Tamil Nadu Millet Mission.
- > In a first of its kind initiative in India, the Government of Tamil Nadu announced the 'Nilgiri Tahr Project'.
- Q. Who was awarded the prestigious Devi Shankar Awasthi Award 2023?

A) Achyutanand Mishra

B) Ashutosh Bhardwaj

C) Ram Shankar Awasthi

D) Nishant

#### Answer: D

✓ Nishant, a young poet and critic, is awarded the 29th Devi Shankar Awasthi Award in 2023 for his book 'Kavita Pathak Aalochna'.

- ✓ The selection committee, comprising esteemed writers like Mridula Garg and Sudhir Chandra, unanimously chose Nishant. Established in 1995, this honor, named after Hindi literary critic Devi Shankar Awasthi, recognizes young critics for their significant contributions to Hindi criticism.
- ✓ Nishant's work exemplifies excellence in both criticism and poetry.

#### **AWARDS AND HONOURS IN NEWS 2023-24**

- ➤ Nishant, a young poet and critic, is awarded the 29th Devi Shankar Awasthi Award in 2023 for his book 'Kavita Pathak Aalochna'.
- Narendra Modi receives Bhutan's Order of the Druk Gyalpo Award.
- Amitav Ghosh has been awarded the 'Erasmus Prize' 2024 for highlighting the climate change crisis
- ➤ Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal has become the first Indian to be awarded an honorary knighthood by Britain's King Charles III
- > Shashi Tharoor, a prolific author and a diplomat-turned-politician, was conferred France's highest civilian honour 'Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur'.
- > PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and MS Swaminathan are set to receive India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna.
- ➤ Karpoori Thakur, a renowned socialist leader and former Chief Minister of Bihar, is set to be posthumously conferred with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.
- Another recipient of the Bharat Ratna Award for the year 2024 is Lal Krishna Advani.
- > Dr. Bina Modi, the esteemed Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, has been honored with the prestigious 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year' Award.
- ➤ REC Secures Best Green Bond Corporate Award At The Asset Triple A Awards 2024.
- > PT Usha Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award by SJFI and DSJA
- > Priest Ishwari Prasad Namboodiri Honored with the Shankar Smriti Award
- > The 69th edition of the Filmfare Awards 2024 took place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ➤ Best Film 12th Fail
- Best Director Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
- ➤ Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)
- > Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)

- Australia skipper Pat Cummins was announced as the winner of the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2023.
- ➤ Veteran Indian batter Virat Kohli was crowned the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2023.
- ➤ Skyways Air Services wins Best Cargo Services Award at Wings India Awards.
- ➤ REC Limited Wins ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting FY 2022-23.
- ➤ US Air Force Officer Madison Marsh Becomes First Active-Duty Winner Of Miss America 2024
- Savita Kanswal Posthumously Honored With Tenzing Norgay Award
- Singapore's Changi Airport Earns The Title Of World's Best Airport For 2023
- ➤ Hero MotoCorp's facility wins CII National Award for water management
- Prof B R Kamboj Honoured With M S Swaminathan Award
- ➤ Poet Sukrita Paul Kumar Wins Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for 'Salt & Pepper'
- > Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport Terminal 2 Recognized Among UNESCO's 'Most Beautiful Airports'
- ➤ IREDA's Pradip Kumar Das Wins 'CMD Of The Year' For The Second Straight Year.
- Poonam Khetrapal Singh Honored with Bhutan's National Order of Merit.
- > Indira Gandhi Peace Prize Awarded to Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad"
- Noted Hindi Writer Pushpa Bharati to Receive 33rd Vyas Samman for her 2016 memoir, "Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein."
- Federal Bank Titled "Bank of the Year 2023" in India: The Banker
- Argentina's football icon, Lionel Messi, has been named Time magazine's Athlete of the Year for 2023
- Abdullahi Mire, a Somali refugee, has been named the 2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award
- Paul Lynch who is an Irish author won the 2023 Booker prize for his fifth novel 'Prophet Song'
- Tamil writer Perumal Murugan's 'Fire Bird' Wins 2023 JCB Prize for Literature
- Q. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited signed an agreement with whom to increase the peaceful use of nuclear energy?

A) Air Force

B) Indian Army

C) Indian Navy

D) National Cadet Corps

Answer: D

- ✓ NCC & NPCIL signed MoU for peaceful nuclear power awareness programs
- ✓ National Cadet Corps (NCC) and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) signed MoU to enhance peaceful use of nuclear energy. NCC and NPCIL together will organize various awareness programs across the country for this.
- ✓ Signing of MOU:
- ✓ This agreement was signed on March 21, 2024 in New Delhi. It was signed by NCC Director General Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh and NPCIL Executive Director BVS Shekhar.
- ✓ NPCIL will educate NCC cadets in this initiative. Thereafter will provide resource persons for regional engagement with NCC during camps and various activities.
- ✓ This MoU will provide an opportunity to the cadets to visit various NPCIL facilities across the country.
- ✓ NPCIL (Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited) is an Indian public sector undertaking headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✓ About National Cadet Corps (NCC):
- ✓ The National Cadet Corps (NCC) serves as the youth organization affiliated with the Indian Armed Forces.
- ✓ The headquarters of NCC is New Delhi.
- ✓ NCC was formed in 1948.
- ✓ It is open to school and college students on a voluntary basis as a tri-service organization. NCC encompasses the Army, Navy, and Air Force, where cadets undergo fundamental military training in small arms handling and drill exercises.
- Q. Who is the first Indian table tennis player to win a singles title at the WTT Feeder Series event?

A) Sharath Kamal

B) G.Sathiyan

C) Sutirtha Mukherjee

D) Anthony Amalraj

#### Answer: B

- ✓ G.Sathiyan wins WTT Feeder Beirut Table Tennis 2024 Title
- ✓ Indian table tennis player G.Sathiyan beat fellow Indian Manav Vikash Thakkar in the final to win the men's singles title at the WTT Feeder Beirut 2024 table tennis tournament at the Al Kawthar Secondary School in Lebanon on 21 March 2024.
- ✓ Diya Chitale and Manush Shah won the second title for India by winning the mixed doubles title.
- ✓ World no.103 ranked G.Sathiyan became the first Indian to win a singles title at the WTT Feeder Series event.

- ✓ In the mixed doubles event, the Indian pair Diya Chitale and Manush Shah defeated the fellow Indian pair Manay Thakkar and Archana Kamath.
- ✓ Xia Lian Ni of Luxembourg defeated Suh Hyo Won of South Korea to win the women's single title. It was the second WTT Feeder Series title for Xia Lian Ni.
- Q. Who became the 1st Indian to have 12000 runs in a T20 Match?

A) Rohit Sharma

B) KL Rahul

C) Virat Kohli

D) Shikhar Dhawan

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Virat Kohli Became 1st Indian to have 12000 runs in T20 Match
- ✓ Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli has achieved another milestone in his career by becoming the first Indian cricketer to score 12,000 runs in T20 format.
- ✓ Kohli accomplished this feat during the opening match of the 2024 Indian Premier League (IPL) between Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) at MA Chidambaram Stadium.
- ✓ The 12,000 runs include the runs he scored for RCB in the IPL and the now-defunct Champions League, for Delhi in domestic Twenty-over cricket and for India in T20 Internationals.
- ✓ Rohit Sharma is the second highest Indian run-scorer in T20 cricket with a total of 11,156 runs.
- ✓ The leading position in the list is held by former West Indies opener, Chris Gayle, who has scored a massive 14,562 runs in T20 cricket.
- ✓ Following him is former Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik with 13,360 runs, and third is West Indian player Kieron Pollard with 12,900 runs.
- Q. Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA) achieved a significant milestone by being conferred with the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE). In which year GRID-INDIA was established?

A) 2009

B) 2010

C) 2011

D) 2008

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA) achieved a significant milestone by being conferred with the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).
- ✓ This recognition, bestowed upon by the Ministry of Power, Government of India, underscores GRID-INDIA's pivotal role in the nation's power landscape.

- ✓ Established in 2009, GRID-INDIA holds the crucial mandate of overseeing the seamless and uninterrupted operation of the Indian Power System, ensuring the efficient transfer of electric power within and across regions, facilitating trans-national power exchanges with a focus on reliability, economy, and sustainability
- Q. 47th Meeting of the National Committee of Archivists (NCA) was concluded in which city?

A) Srinagar

B) Chennai

C) New Delhi

D) Bengaluru

#### Answer: A

- ✓ The two-days' 47th Meeting of the National Committee of Archivists (NCA) was concluded at the Sher-e Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.
- ✓ Delegates from Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh participated in the meeting.
- ✓ The two-day meeting held with an aim to revitalize the archives administration and records management system across states and Union Territories.
- ✓ The next meeting of the NCA is likely to be held in Gujarat later in the year.
- Q. International Telecommunication Union (ITU) elected which country as co-chair of its Digital Innovation Board?

A) China

B) Russia

C) India

D) United States

#### Answer: C

- ✓ ITU elects India as co-chair of its Digital Innovation Board
- ✓ Dr Neeraj Mittal, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, led a high-level delegation to Geneva for a series of crucial meetings at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Headquarters.
- ✓ The visit focused on fostering collaboration and exploring innovative initiatives in the telecommunications and information and communication technology (ICT) sectors.
- ✓ The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has selected 17 organizations from around the world to host Network of Acceleration Centres with the Global Innovation Centre at ITU Area Office and Innovation Centre, New Delhi, India to coordinate the efforts of Network Acceleration centres around the globe

- Q. The Martyrs Day to commemorate the death anniversary of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru, is marked on which day?
  - A) March 21

B) March 23

C) March 22

D) March 20

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Every year 23 March is celebrated as Shaheed Diwas or 'Martyrs' Day'.
- ✓ On this occasion, the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Indian independence are honored and their sacrifices are remembered.
- ✓ <u>History of Shaheed Diwas:</u>
- ✓ On March 23, 1931, the British hanged India's young freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Shivram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar. This day is celebrated to pay tribute to the immortal martyrs who sacrificed their lives smilingly in the freedom struggle.
- ✓ The names of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru are recorded in golden letters in history. Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru are role models and inspirations for the youth. All three were sentenced to death on charges of Lahore conspiracy.
- ✓ March 24, 1931 was fixed as the date of hanging of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru. But the British government hanged him on March 23, a day before the scheduled time.
- Q. Which day is marked as the World Meteorological Day annually?

A) 19 March

B) 23 March

C) 21 March

D) 20 March

#### Answer: B

- ✓ 'World Meteorological Day' is celebrated every year on 23 March.
- ✓ On this occasion, attention is paid to the Earth's environment and the behavior of the people associated with it.
- ✓ It is a global event celebrated to commemorate the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- ✓ The theme of 'WMD' this year in 2024 is "At the frontline of climate action".

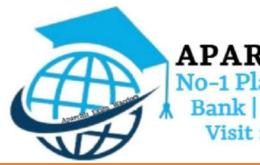




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MY PAID GROUP STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN IBPS RRB CLERK GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE JOURNEY FEELING PROUD.

NAME - NIPUN ROLL NO - 1533002831 SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK STATE - HARYANA



MY PAID GROUP STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN IBPS RRB CLERK GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - PRAVEEN ROLL NO - 1801005776 SELECTED IN - RRB PO KARNATAKA GRAMMENA BANK STATE - KARNATAKA



Name: Bathina Maneesha Rollno: 2543024278 Selected in : RRB clerk State : Telangana

MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - BATHINA MANEESHA ROLL NO - <u>2543024278</u> SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK STATE - TELAGANA



MY PAID GROUP STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN IBPS RRB CLERK GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - NISHU SHARMA ROLL NO - 1523008901 SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK STATE - HARYANA



MY PAID GROUP STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN IBPS RRB CLERK GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE JOURNEY FEELING PROUD.

NAME - GURIYA KUMARI ROLL NO -1373006773 SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK DAKSHIN BIHAR GRAMEEN



MY PAID GROUP STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN IBPS RRE CLERK GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - GURPREET KAUR ROLL NO - <u>2283002821</u> BANK - PUNJAB GRAMIN BANK STATE - FROM PUNJAB



MY PAID GROUP STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN IBPS RRB CLERK GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - MANU VARGHESE ROLL NO - 2110710970 BANK - KERALA GRAMEEN BANK CLERK