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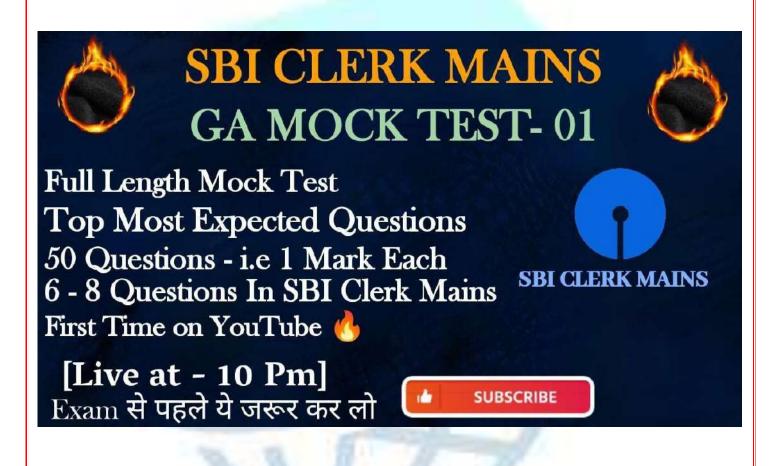
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# Aparchit March 4th Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts By:- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir

Q. Chandrayaan-3 landing site was recognized by the International Astronomical Union, what was it named?

A) Atal

B) Shiv Shakti

C) Sarthak

D) Abhay

#### Answer: B

- ✓ The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has recently recognized ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 landing site as 'Shiv Shakti' point.
- ✓ PM Modi named the Chandrayaan-3 landing site as 'Shiv Shakti' on August 26, 2023.
- ✓ It is noteworthy that Vikram lander of Chandrayaan-3 had landed on the South Pole of the Moon on 23 August 2023.
- ✓ India became the first country to make a soft landing on the South Pole of the Moon.
- ✓ Chandrayaan -3 mission
- ✓ On July 14, 2023, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched Chandrayaan-3 from Sriharikota using a GSLV-Mark III (LVM-3) heavy-lift rocket. The spacecraft includes a lander named Vikram and a rover named Pragyan, with no orbiter this time around.
- ✓ The mission has an estimated budget of Rs 615 crore. Vikram stands at 2 meters tall and weighs just over 1,700 kg, carrying a 26-kg lunar rover named Pragyan. Among its tasks, Pragyan will conduct a spectrometer analysis of the mineral composition of the lunar surface.
- ✓ The lander is scheduled to touch down on the moon and deploy the rover on August 23, 2023.
- ✓ The mission objectives include demonstrating a safe and soft landing on the lunar surface, rover roving on the moon, and conducting in-situ scientific experiments. Both Vikram and Pragyan are designed to operate for one lunar day, which lasts 14 Earth days.

#### **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. With reference to the vote-from-home facility, consider the following statements:
  - 1. First-time voters
  - 2. Media persons carrying authorisation letters from the Election Commission of India
  - 3. Central Armed Police Forces personnel deployed on poll duty
  - 4. People aged 60 and above

How many of the above are eligible for the vote-from-home facility in India?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) Only three

D) All four

#### Answer: B

- ✓ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has, for the first time in the history of the Lok Sabha elections, extended its 'vote-from-home' facility to Persons with Disabilities (PwD) and senior citizens aged 85 and above.
- ✓ Who is eligible?
- ✓ People aged 85 and above.
- ✓ Persons with Disabilities: The disability shall not be less than 40% of the prescribed handicap and certified by the certifying authority.
- ✓ Media persons covering 'polling day activities': Carrying authorisation letters from the Election Commission
- ✓ Workers from essential services: Services such as metros, railways and health care.
- ✓ Service voters: Personnel of the armed forces posted away from their hometowns, Central Armed Police Forces personnel deployed away from home and those on poll duty.
- ✓ How to avail the vote-from-home facility?

- ✓ Key to the process is Form 12D, which is a letter informing the Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) that the person may not be in a position to go to the polling station to vote.
- ✓ The form can be downloaded online from the ECI website or collected from the office of the representative district officer of a parliamentary constituency.
- ✓ The form has to be filled and submitted within five days of notification of the polling date
- Q. Election Commission of India launched which app to facilitate easier voting for persons above 85 years of age and PWDs with 40%?

A) Madad App

B) Sankalp App

C) Saksham App

D) Kavach App

#### Answer: C

- ✓ The Election Commission aims to ensure inclusivity in voting with new measures. Voters over 85 and those with 40% benchmark disability can vote from home. Polling stations will provide volunteers, wheelchairs, and transport.
- ✓ The Saksham App facilitates voting for PWDs.
- ✓ Permanent Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) in schools aim to enhance election processes. Polling stations managed by PWDs and women, along with Model Polling Stations, promote accessibility and gender inclusivity
- Q. Krutrim AI model, recently seen in news, is developed by:

A) Nvidia

B) Google

C) Microsoft

D) Ola

#### Answer: D

- ✓ Earlier this year, Indian multinational ridesharing company, Ola, introduced Krutrim AI, claiming it as "India's own AI".
- ✓ It is envisioned to be personalised assistant, which can simplify personal and professional life by getting a variety of tasks done for you.
- ✓ This AI model hopes to bridge the gap between conventional AI and the specific needs based on Indian languages and culture.
- ✓ It uses Natural Language Processing (NLP) a component of AI to understand the nuances of human language, including colloquialisms and cultural contexts.

- ✓ Machine Learning (ML) algorithms enable it to learn from vast data sets and improve its responses over time. Moreover, Deep Learning, a sophisticated branch of ML, helps it recognise patterns and analyse complex data.
- ✓ One of the distinguishing features of Krutrim AI is that it has the ability to understand the intent of the user.
- ✓ While most AI models rely on keyword matching and statistical probabilities, Krutrim AI reportedly dives deeper to understand the user's request
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Bima Sugam:
  - 1. It is an e-commerce platform that facilitates both buying and claim settlement of insurance policies.
  - 2. It onboards all companies that offer life and non-life insurance 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: C

- ✓ Recently, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has approved the setting up of Bima Sugam.
- ✓ It is like an e-commerce platform where insurance companies can sell their products.
- ✓ It onboards all the companies that offer life and non-life insurance products under one roof.
- ✓ It aims to provide an 'end-to-end' digital journey to all policyholders like from buying insurance policies to renewals to claim settlement to portability to grievance redressal
- ✓ This marketplace serves as a one-stop solution for all insurance stakeholders, including customers, insurers, intermediaries and agents, thereby, promoting transparency, efficiency, and collaboration across the entire insurance value chain
- ✓ It will be a unified platform, which will be integrated with various government databases, insurers, intermediaries, insurance repositories, etc., for fetching customer details, providing product information, and buying and servicing Insurance policies.
- ✓ Bima Sugam aims to eliminate the paperwork as you can simply have your policy in an electronic format.
- ✓ Bima Sugam aims to eliminate the paperwork as you can simply have your policy in an electronic format.
- ✓ Customers can view all their policies life, health and non-life insurance in one single application or window under Bima Sugam

- Q. Who among the following is authorized to permit or reject the transfer of captive elephants according to the Captive Elephant (Transfer of Transport) Rules, 2024?
  - A) District Magistrate
  - B) Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW)
  - C) Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF)
  - D) Gram Sabha

#### Answer: B

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change recently notified Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024.
- ✓ Captive Elephants under the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972:
- ✓ Elephants are, according to the provisions of the WPA, a Schedule 1 species, and therefore, be it wild or captive, cannot be captured or traded under any circumstances.
- ✓ Section 12 of the Act allows Schedule I animals to be translocated for 'special purposes' such as education and scientific research.
- ✓ They can also be translocated for population management of wildlife without harming any wild animals and the collection of specimens for recognised zoos/museums.
- ✓ Section 40(2) of the WPA prohibits the acquisition, possession, and transfer of a captive elephant without the written permission of the Chief Wildlife Warden(CWW) of the State.
- ✓ The Environment Ministry in 2021 brought in an amendment that allowed the transfer of elephants for 'religious or any other purposes'.
- ✓ Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024:
- ✓ It lays down the procedure to be followed for the transfer of captive elephants within a State or between two States.
- ✓ The notification authorises the CWW of States and UTs to permit or reject the transfer of captive elephants.
- ✓ The CWW shall permit the inter and intra-State transfers if the owner of the elephant is no longer in a position to maintain it or if the animal will have a better upkeep than in the present circumstances.
- ✓ The transfer of captive elephants won't be permissible unless the genetic profile of the animal has been entered in the electronic monitoring application of the MoEFCC (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change).

- Q. Digital Markets Act (DMA), recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following organizations?
  - A) World Trade Organization (WTO)
  - B) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
  - C) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
  - D) European Union (EU)

#### Answer: D

- ✓ Apple, Alphabet's Google and Meta Platforms will be investigated for potential breaches of the EU's new Digital Markets Act, European antitrust regulators said recently.
- ✓ About Digital Markets Act (DMA):
- ✓ It is the European Union's (EU's) law to make the markets in the digital sector fairer and more contestable.
- ✓ It aims to create a safer internet, empower citizens, enhance consumer protections, and foster higher-quality digital services.
- ✓ In order to do so, the DMA establishes a set of clearly defined objective criteria to identify "gatekeepers".
- ✓ Gatekeepers are large digital platforms providing so-called core platform services, such as online search engines, app stores, and messenger services.
- ✓ Gatekeepers will have to comply with the do's (i.e., obligations) and don'ts (i.e., prohibitions) listed in the DMA.
- ✓ The DMA is one of the first regulatory tools to comprehensively regulate the gatekeeper power of the largest digital companies.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the World Tuberculosis (TB) Day:
  - 1. It is celebrated every year on March 24.
  - 2. The theme of World Tuberculosis Day 2024 is "Yes! We can end TB".

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

- ✓ World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is celebrated on March 24 annually to spread awareness around the deadly disease.
- ✓ It is celebrated to raise awareness around the disease, increase efforts to eradicate the disease, and mobilise support for those affected by TB.
- ✓ Background
- ✓ March 24, 1882 is considered a significant date in the battle against tuberculosis as it is on this day that Dr Robert Koch discovered the bacteria that causes TB.
- ✓ It was not before the year 1982, on the centenary of Dr. Koch's discovery that the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD) proposed observing March 24 as World TB Day to raise awareness about TB and its global impact.
- ✓ The first World TB Day was officially observed in 1983, and since then, it has become an annual event.
- ✓ Theme of World Tuberculosis day 2024: "Yes! We can end TB".
- Q. Where was the 148th Inter Parliamentary Union meeting held?

A) Paris, France

B) Washington DC, United States

C) Geneva, Switzerland

D) Vienna, Austria

#### Answer: C

- ✓ The 148th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland from March 23–27, 2024.
- ✓ The IPU is an international organization founded in 1889, with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, as well as offices in New York, United States of America, and Vienna, Austria.
- ✓ A seven-member Indian parliamentary delegation, led by Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh attended the event.
- ✓ The IPU boasts 180 member countries

#### **SUMMIT & CONFERENCE IN NEWS 2023-24**

- ➤ The 148th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland from March 23–27, 2024.
- Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurates World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS 2024) in Delhi.

- > WSDS 2024 is the 23rd edition of the summit.
- ➤ WSDS 2024 will take place on the theme 'Leadership for the Sustainable Development and Climate Justice
- > 54th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) is being held in Davos, Switzerland from 15 January 2024.
- ➤ Theme of 54th meeting of WEF: 'Rebuilding Trust'.
- ➤ India launched Global Good Alliance for Gender Equity and Equality, at the World Economic Forum Summit at Davos, Switzerland, held from 15-19 January 2024.
- ➤ Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit- 2024 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, on 10 January 2024.
- Theme of 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit- 2024: 'Gateway to the Future'.
- ➤ India has been selected for the first time to chair and host the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.
- The 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will be held in New Delhi between 21 and 31 July 2024.
- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates joined BRICS as new full members. This group has now become an organization of 10 countries.
- Russia's tenure as Chairman of BRICS begins from January 1, 2024.
- > 27th WAIPA World Investment Conference (WIC) started on 11 December 2023 in New Delhi
- ➤ India Internet Governance Forum 2023 (IIGF-2023) will be organized on 5 December 2023 in New Delhi.
- India is going to organize a three-day (4 to 6 December) Global Technology Summit (GTS) from 4 December 2023
- Q. With reference to the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), consider the following statements:
  - 1. It can be applied only after an area has been declared "disturbed" under the provisions of the Act.
  - 2. Under AFSPA, the armed forces can use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.

3. Under no circumstances, legal proceedings can be initiated against any person in respect of anything done in the exercise of the powers conferred by this Act.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one B) Only two

C) All three D) None

#### Answer: B

- ✓ The Union Home Minister recently said the Central Government will consider revoking the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ About Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA):
- ✓ It is a law enacted by the Parliament in 1958 which gives the armed forces special powers and immunity to maintain public order in "disturbed areas".
- ✓ When is it applied? It can be applied only after an area has been declared "disturbed" under section 2 of the Act.
- ✓ What is a Disturbed area? An area can be considered to be disturbed due to differences or disputes among different religious, racial, language, or regional groups or castes or communities.
- ✓ Who declares an area as disturbed?
- ✓ The Central Government, or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory, can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.
- ✓ It can be invoked in places where "the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary".
- ✓ The 'special powers' of armed forces under AFSPA are:
- ✓ They have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area, can use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.
- ✓ If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant, enter or search a premises without a warrant, and ban the possession of firearms.
- ✓ Where is AFSPA in force now? Apart from Nagaland, the AFSPA is currently in force in Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Manipur except Imphal, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Q. What is the primary role of ICGS Samudra Paheredar, recently seen in the news?

A) Anti-piracy operations

B) Search and rescue missions

C) Pollution response at sea

D) Maritime law enforcement

#### Answer: C

- ✓ External Affairs recently visited Indian Coast Guard ship Samudra Paheredar, which is in Manila Bay in the Philippines, as part of an overseas deployment to ASEAN countries.
- ✓ About ICGS Samudra Paheredar:
- ✓ It is a specialised Pollution Control Vessel (PCV) of the Indian Coast Guard.
- ✓ It is the second PCV of India (the first being ICGS Samudra Prahari).
- ✓ It was indigenously built by ABG Shipyard, Surat.
- ✓ It was commissioned in 2012.
- ✓ It is stationed on the East Coast of India in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ It was commissioned in 2012.
- ✓ It is stationed on the East Coast of India in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ The ship is 94.10 metres long, draws 4,300 tons at maximum displacement, and is propelled by 3,000-kilowatt twin diesel engines, producing power that is further enhanced by twin shaft generators for a maximum speed of 21 knots.
- ✓ At economical speed, the ship has an endurance of 6,500 nautical miles and can stay at sea for 20 days.
- ✓ The ship is capable of unhindered oil-recovery operations, with a storage capacity of 502 kilolitres.
- ✓ It is capable of operating one twin-engine ALH/ Chetak helicopter.
- Q. With reference to Krishi Integrated Command and Control Centre, consider the following statements:
  - 1. It provides information on crop yields and drought situation through Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
  - 2. It uses artificial intelligence and remote sensing to collect and process data.
  - 3. It generates a customised advisory only in English and Hindi language.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

#### Answer: B

✓ Recently, the Union Agriculture Minister inaugurated a Krishi Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) set up at Krishi Bhavan in New Delhi.

- ✓ It is a tech-based solution involving multiple IT applications and platforms, which is designed to help in making informed decisions.
- ✓ It is housed in the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
- ✓ Objectives: It will enable comprehensive monitoring of the farm sector by making available at one place geospatial information received from multiple sources, including remote sensing; plot-level data received through soil survey and weather data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) etc.
- ✓ Working: It uses state of the art technologies such as artificial intelligence, remote sensing, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to collect and process large amounts of granular data on temperatures, rainfall, wind speed, crop yields and production estimations and presents it in graphical format.
- ✓ It uses platforms including the Krishi Decision Support System (DSS) to collect micro-level data, process it, and present the macro picture.
- ✓ It can create an ecosystem based on which individual farmer-level advisories can be generated through apps like Kisan e-mitra, a chatbot developed for PM-Kisan beneficiaries.
- ✓ The AI-/ machine learning-based system will identify a farmer through his/ her mobile number or Aadhaar, and match it with the farmer's field information obtain through land records, historical crop sowing information from the crop registry, weather data from IMD, etc.

#### Q. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Border Roads Organisation was formed to develop infrastructure in remote areas of the northeast States of India.
- 2. The Union Minister of Defence acts as Chairman of the Border Roads Development Board.

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

- ✓ Recently, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) connected strategically important all-weather 298-km long road from Manali to Leh through Darcha and Nimmu on the Kargil–Leh Highway.
- ✓ It is a road construction executive force in India that provides support to Indian Armed Forces.
- ✓ Establishment: It was formed on 7 May 1960 to secure India's borders and develop infrastructure in remote areas of the north and north-east States of the country.

- ✓ In order to ensure coordination and expeditious execution of projects, the Government of India set up the Border Roads Development Board (BRDB) with the Prime Minister as Chairman of the Board and Defence Minister as Deputy Chairman.
- ✓ It develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighboring countries.
- ✓ This includes infrastructure operations in 19 states and three union territories (including Andaman and Nicobar Islands) and neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Tajikistan and Sri Lanka.
- ✓ BRO is also included in the Order of Battle of the Armed Forces, ensuring their support at any time.
- ✓ Motto of the organization: Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam (everything is achievable through hardwork)
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Smart Meter National Programme (SMNP):
  - 1. It aims to replace 25 crore conventional meters with smart meters in India.
  - 2. It is being implemented by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

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

- ✓ Kerala's move towards an alternate model for the rollout of smart electricity meters, effectively jettisoning the Centre's Rs 3 lakh crore smart meters project, comes as a spanner in the works for the Union Government scheme.
- ✓ What is a Smart Meter?
- ✓ A smart meter is used for recording the consumption of electricity, but it also measures voltage levels.
- ✓ While traditional meters measure the power consumption of a home or business, smart meters live up to their name and transmit the same information every 15 minutes or hourly to utility providers.
- ✓ Since they are connected to the internet, smart meters can communicate information to the consumer about usage and also to the utility provider for monitoring purposes and accurate billing.
- ✓ About Smart Meter National Programme (SMNP):
- ✓ It is an initiative by the Government of India to promote the use of smart meters across the country.
- ✓ The aim of the SMNP is to improve the billing and collection efficiencies of distribution companies (DISCOMs) operating in the country.

- ✓ SMNP aims to replace 25 crore conventional meters with smart meters in India.
- ✓ The scheme is being implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).
- ✓ EESL is a joint venture of four National Public Sector Enterprises: NTPC Limited, PFC, REC, and POWERGRID, and was set up under the Ministry of Power.
- ✓ This roll-out is under the Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) model, wherein EESLwillundertake all the capital and operational expenditure with zero upfront investment from states and utilities.
- ✓ The smart meters are installed as per guidelines issued by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).
- ✓ Smart meters are connected through a web-based monitoring system, which will help reduce commercial losses of utilities, enhance revenues, and serve as an important tool in power sector reforms
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Gram-Negative Bacteria:
  - 1. It can pass along genetic materials that allow other bacteria to become drug resistant.
  - 2. It causes infections including pneumonia and bloodstream infections.

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 Technology Development Board (TDB) has penned an agreement with two companies and has sanctioned a grant of ₹75 Lakhs towards the project "ANAGRANINF for the development of a Novel Class of Antibiotics Against Gram-Negative Bacterial-Infections.
- ✓ The primary objective of this project is to develop a novel lead compound, particularly an antibiotic, adept at inhibiting the FabI enzyme and combatting critical gram-negative pathogens.
- ✓ What is a Gram-negative bacteria?
- ✓ They have a much thinner peptidoglycan cell wall, but in addition they have an outer membrane containing lipopolysaccharides surrounding the cell and are consequently termed diderms.
- ✓ These bacteria have built-in abilities to find new ways to be resistant and can pass along genetic materials that allow other bacteria to become drug resistant as well.
- ✓ It causes infections including pneumonia, bloodstream infections, wound or surgical site infections, and meningitis in healthcare settings.

- ✓ Gram-negative bacteria are resistant to multiple drugs and are increasingly resistant to most available antibiotics.
- ✓ Examples: Bacteria include enterobacter species, salmonella species and pseudomonas species.
- Q. Who has been named as the new Ambassador of India to Myanmar?

A) Abhay Thakur

B) Abhishek Saxena

C) Deepak Sinha

D) Syed Akbaruddin

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Veteran diplomat Abhay Thakur has recently been appointed as the new Ambassador of India to Myanmar.
- ✓ Abhay was a key member of the team guiding the talks during India's G20 presidency last year.

  Abhay is a 1992 batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and is currently working in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- Q. Who has acquired Lanco Amarkantak Power Limited which has been approved by CCI?

A) Tata Power

B) Adani Power Limited

C) Reliance Industry

D) NTPC

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved 100 percent acquisition of Lanco Amarkantak Power Limited by Adani Power Limited.
- ✓ Adani Power Limited (Acquirer) is a company of Adani Group.
- ✓ Lanco Amarkantak is a company associated with thermal power generation.
- ✓ The Competition Commission of India is the main national competition regulator in India.
- Q. Who led the Indian delegation to the 148th meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva recently?

A) Harivansh Narayan Singh

B) Rajnath Singh

C) Venkaiah Naidu

D) RK Sinha

#### Answer: A

✓ Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh participated in the 148th meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, IPU, in Geneva, Switzerland. He led the Indian parliamentary delegation.

- ✓ The Inter-Parliamentary Union is an international organization of national parliaments. It was established in 1889
- Q. Who won the gold medal in the 59 kg youth category in the recent Para Powerlifting World Cup?
  - A) Ajay Rathi

B) Atul Kumar

C) Vinay

D) Rishabh Singh

#### Answer : C

- ✓ India's Vinay performed brilliantly in the Para Powerlifting World Cup held in Egypt and won the gold medal by lifting 120 kg in the 59 kg youth category.
- ✓ 18 year old athlete Vinay is a resident of Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ In the same event, Ahmed Abdelkader of Egypt won the silver medal.
- Q. Who has recently been appointed the head of the National Investigation Agency?

A) Rajeev Kumar Sharma

B) Sadanand Vasant Date

C) Ajay Anand

D) Abhinav Sharma

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Maharashtra cadre officer Sadanand Vasant Date has been appointed as the chief of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- ✓ Piyush Anand has been appointed Director General of NDRF and Rajeev Kumar Sharma has been appointed Director General of Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD).
- Q. In which city will the Cinevistar International Film Festival be organized?

A) Chandigarh

B) New Delhi

C) Mumbai

D) Jaipur

#### Answer: A

- ✓ The five-day Cinevistar International Film Festival (CIFF) will be organized in Chandigarh from March 27 to 31.
- ✓ Actor Boman Irani will inaugurate the event and Cannes-winning French film The Taste of Things will be screened as the first film

- Q. Who won two gold medals in the Indian Masters National Badminton Championship 2024?
  - A) Ashmita Chaliha

B) Nahid Divecha

C) Malvika Bansod

D) Aparna Balan

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Maharashtra's Nahid Divecha has won two gold medals at the Indian Masters National Badminton Championship 2024 in Panchkula.
- ✓ Divecha, a member of Bombay Gymkhana and associated with Shuttle Craze Academy, won the women's 50 singles title by defeating Haryana's Sunita Singh Panwar in straight sets
- Q. Which team won the title of Boxing Sub Junior National Championship?
  - A) Uttar Pradesh

B) Punjab

C) Haryana

D) Kerala

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Haryana won the team title in both boys and girls categories in the Boxing Sub Junior National Championship with an impressive combined lead of 19 medals.
- ✓ Delhi and Maharashtra stood second and third with 34 and 31 points respectively
- Q. TRAI has issued recommendations on 'Use of Embedded SIM for Machine-to-Machine Communication', when was TRAI established?

A) 1990

B) 1995

C) 1997

D) 2000

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released its recommendations on 'Use of Embedded SIM for Machine-to-Machine (M-to-M) communications'.
- ✓ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is a regulatory body established by the Government of India under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.
- Q. Where were the first Foreign Office Consultations between India and Mauritania organized?

A) New Delhi

B) Nouadhibou

C) Nouakchott

D) Chennai

#### Answer: C

- ✓ India and Mauritania held their 1st Foreign Office Consultations in Nouakchott, discussing bilateral, regional, and global issues.
- ✓ Talks covered political cooperation, economic partnership, and cultural exchanges.
- ✓ Bilateral trade surged to \$378 million in 2022-23 from \$108 million in 2021-22.
- India's Resident Mission, opened in June 2021, has bolstered relations.
- The meeting highlighted the enduring friendship and collaboration between the two nations
- Q. Which one of the following countries recently signed a new agreement to build Australia's SSN-**AUKUS Submarines?**

A) Ukraine, France and Germany B) US, UK, and Australia

C) India, US and China

D) Russia, Australia and Malaysia

#### Answer: B

- ✓ The US, UK, and Australia have formed a new pact to construct Australia's SSN-AUKUS submarines, marking a milestone in defense cooperation.
- ✓ ASC and BAE Systems will build the submarines, equipped for intelligence, surveillance, and undersea warfare.
- ✓ SSN-AUKUS will enhance industrial collaboration, bolster collective capacity, and spur economic growth in defense sectors.
- ✓ AUKUS aims to fortify a robust submarine industrial base across the three nations, ensuring production and maintenance capabilities
- Who has achieved the title of the billionaire capital of Asia, according to recently released Hurun Q. **Research Institute Report?**

A) Mumbai

B) Beijing

C) Manila

D) Jakarta

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Mumbai becomes Asia's billionaire capital: Hurun Report
- ✓ According to a recently released 13th Hurun Global Rich List report of Hurun India on 26 March 2024, India's financial capital, Mumbai, has emerged as the Asian billionaire capital, replacing China's capital, Beijing. Mumbai has also emerged as the fastest-growing billionaire capital in the world.

- ✓ According to the Hurun report, the number of billionaires in Mumbai increased from 66 to 92
- ✓ <u>Billionaires in India</u>
- ✓ According to the report, India added the largest number of new billionaires to the list after the United States of America due to a booming stock market.
- ✓ This year,132 people were added to the billionaire list in the United States, while 94 people were added to the Indian list of billionaires for the first time.
- ✓ However, last year, 10 people included in the billionaire list were not included this year. Thus, the net addition of billionaires from India this year is 84.
- ✓ The number of billionaires in India increased to 271.
- ✓ Richest man in the world
- ✓ According to the 13th Hurun Global Rich List, the following are the richest people in the world:
- ✓ With \$231 billion in wealth, Tesla CEO Elon Musk is the richest man in the world.
- ✓ Jeff Bezos of Amazon, with a wealth of \$ 185 billion, was at the second rank.
- ✓ Bernard Arnault, the owner of luxury brand LVMH, has a wealth of \$175 billion and was in third place.
- ✓ Mark Zuckerberg of the Meta, with a wealth of \$158 billion, was at 4th place.
- ✓ The only Indian included in the top 10 billionaires of the world is the chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries Limited, Mukesh Ambani. However, he dropped from 9th place to 10th place.
- ✓ Gautam Adani, chairman of the Adani group, was ranked 15th.
- ✓ Rank of countries
- ✓ China had the largest number of 814 billionaires. Last year, China had 956 billionaires on the Hurun list.
- ✓ The United States of America comes in second place with 800 billionaires.
- ✓ Rank of Cities
  - 1. New York with 119 billionaires
  - 2. London with 97 billionaires
  - 3. Mumbai, with 92 billionaires
  - 4. Beijing with 91 billionaires
  - 5. Shanghai with 87 billionaires
- ✓ Delhi was ranked 9th with 57 billionaires. It was included for the first time in the top 10 cities with the highest number of billionaires.

- ✓ Hurun is a research, media and investments group that publishes research reports. It was founded by Rupert Hoogewerf in 1999 in the United Kingdom.
- ✓ The Hurun company is based in Shanghai, China.
- Q. Who is the author of the book titled "From A Car Shed To The Corner Room & Beyond"?

A) S Raman

B) Raghuram Rajan

C) Arvind Subramanian

D) Amartya Sen

#### Answer: A

- ✓ A book titled "From A Car Shed To The Corner Room & Beyond" is written by S Raman.
- ✓ S Raman, who retired as CMD of Canara Bank, and as a wholetime Member of the board of SEBI, rose to the top, having started his career as a clerk with SBI.
- ✓ Within two years, he was selected as a direct recruit officer in Bank of India and rose meteorically to be an Executive Director in Union Bank and then as CMD of Canara. He hails from a middle class Tamil family in Hyderabad.

#### **FAMOUS BOOKS & AUTHOR IN NEWS 2023-24**

- From A Car Shed To The Corner Room & Beyond: S Raman
- > The Gems of Indian Art: Harish Khullar
- ➤ UNEQUAL: Why India Lags Behind Its Neighbours : Swati Narayan
- Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns: M.J. Akbar and K. Natwar Singh
- Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan: Arup Kumar Dutta
- An Uncommon Love: The Early Life of Sudha and Narayana Murthy: Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
- Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns: M.J. Akbar & co-author K. Natwar Singh
- Modi: Energising A Green Future: Pentagon Press in collaboration with the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation
- Sanskriti ke Ayaam: Manorama Mishra
- Four Stars of Destiny: An Autobiography: General Manoj Mukund Naravane
- > The Babri Masjid Ram Mandir Dilemma: Madhav Godbole
- > Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future: Raghuram Rajan & Rohit Lamba
- Zeba: An Accidental Superhero : Huma Qureshi
- Welcome to Paradise : Twinkle Khanna

- ➤ India's Moment : Changing Power Equations around the World : Mohan Kumar
- > Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers: Sharmishtha Mukherjee
- > Thread by Thread, on the life of Shambhu Kumar or 'the' S Kumar : Sathya Saran
- Do Palkon Ki Chhavn Main: Hema Joshi
- Nilavu Kudicha Simhangal ('Lions that drank the Moonlight'): Autobiography of S Somanath
- Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire: Nandini Das
- Q. According to the report Brand Finance Insurance 2024, which insurance company has emerged as the strongest insurance brand globally?

A) Bajaj Finance

B) Life Insurance Corporation of India

C) Reliance General Insurance

D) HDFC Life Insurance

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Insurance Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has emerged as the strongest insurance brand globally, according to a report Brand Finance Insurance 100 2024.
- ✓ The report said that LIC's brand value remains steady at USD 9.8 billion, accompanied by a brand strength index score of 88.3 and an associated AAA brand strength rating.
- ✓ Following LIC, the rankings highlight Cathay Life Insurance as the second strongest brand, experiencing a 9 per cent increase in brand value to USD 4.9 billion, closely followed by NRMA Insurance, which saw an 82 per cent rise in brand value to USD 1.3 billion.
- ✓ Notably, Chinese insurance brands maintain dominance in the global rankings, with Ping An leading with a 4 per cent increase in brand value to USD 33.6 billion, followed by China Life Insurance and CPIC defending their 3rd and 5th positions, respectively
- ✓ Additionally, LIC India achieved the highest first-year premium collection of Rs 39,090 crore in FY23, while SBI Life Insurance and HDFC Life Insurance led the private sector with new business premium collections of Rs 15,197 crore and Rs 10,970 crore, respectively.



## According To World Index,

# The Top 10

## Strongest Insurance Brands In 2024 Are:

- 1. 🎫 LIC
- 2. Cathay Life Insurance
- 3. NRMA Insurance
- 4. PZU
- 5. China Life Insurance
- 6. SBI Life Insurance
- 7. Samsung Life Insurance
- 8. High Gjensidige
- 9. WINIQA
- 10. ASR

(Source: BrandFinance)

#### **LIC IN NEWS 2023-24**

- LIC has emerged as the strongest insurance brand globally, according to a report Brand Finance Insurance 100 2024.
- LIC gets RBI nod for 9.99% stake buy in HDFC Bank.
- LIC emerged as the most valued Indian PSU firm, surpassing SBI.
- > (LIC) is planning to acquire up to 10 percent equity stake in a company promoted by the National Housing Bank (NHB)
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has appointed S Sundar Krishnan as Chief Risk Officer (CRO), replacing Pratap Chandra Paikarai
- LIC has launched a special scheme, named Jeevan Utsav.
- > Siddhartha Mohanty appointed as Chairman of LIC Until June 2024.
- ➤ LIC Raises Stake in Tech Mahindra to 8.88% Through Open Market Transactions.
- LIC to divest 60.72% share in IDBI Bank.

➤ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)

> Founded: 1956

> Headquarters : Mumbai

> Chairman : Siddhartha Mohanty

- It is India's largest life insurance company and also the country's largest investment company.
- ➤ Authorised Capital of LIC Rs 25,000 Crore
- Q. In which state was recently a 900-year-old Kannada inscription of the Kalyana Chalukya dynasty found?

A) Telangana

B) Karnataka

C) Kerala

D) Tamil Nadu

#### Answer: A

- ✓ A 900-year-old Kannada inscription from the Kalyana Chalukya dynasty was found in Jadcherla mandal of Mahabubnagar district of Telangana.
- ✓ Archaeologist and CEO of Plech India Foundation E. Shivanagi Reddy said that this inscription was found during the campaign 'Preserve heritage for future generations'.

#### **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. Which team made the biggest team score in IPL history?
  - A) Mumbai Indians

B) Sunrisers Hyderabad

C) Chennai Super Kings

D) Delhi Capitals

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Sunrisers Hyderabad has broken the record of the biggest team total in IPL history.
- ✓ Sunrisers Hyderabad scored 277/3 runs in 20 overs against Mumbai Indians, which is the highest team total till date.
- ✓ Earlier in the year 2013, RCB had scored 263/5 against Pune Warriors India.

- Q. Which bank has launched a RuPay smart key chain called 'Flash Pay' for contactless NCMC (National Common Mobility Card) payments at enabled metro stations and PoS terminals?
  - A) Axis Bank

B) Yes Bank

C) Federal Bank

D) HDFC Bank

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Federal Bank has launched a RuPay smart key chain called 'Flash Pay' for contactless NCMC (National Common Mobility Card) payments at enabled metro stations and PoS terminals.
- ✓ Customers can make payments up to ₹5,000 without a PIN, whereas those over ₹5,000 will require PIN authentication. The per day limit at any PoS terminal has been capped at ₹1 lakh.
- ✓ 'Flash Pay' allows users to make secure payments with just a tap, eliminating the need for physical cards or cash.
- ✓ Through the 'Flash Pay' device, users can can make payments at millions of merchants, with built-in security features such as tokenisation and encryption to ensure that transactions are safe and secure.
- Q. The union government has allocated how much rupees to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) under the recapitalization scheme?

A) Rs 6200 crore

B) Rs 4800 crore

C) Rs 7700 crore

D) Rs 5500 crore

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Government allocated Rs 6200 cr to boost RRB
- ✓ The union government has allocated Rs 6212.03 crore to regional rural banks under the recapitalization scheme.
- ✓ Under the scheme, recapitalization support is provided to RRBs to maintain the minimum prescribed capital-to-risk (Weighted) Assets ratio of nine per cent.
- ✓ The performance of RRBs has improved significantly, with a consolidated CRAR (Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio) at an all-time high of 13.83 per cent as of December 31, 2023.
- ✓ Indian RRBs have shown the highest ever consolidated net profit of Rs 4,974 crores in FY22-23 and a net profit of Rs 5,236 crore up to the 3rd quarter of FY 2023-24
- ✓ Similarly, the credit expansion has led to an increase in the consolidated credit-deposit ratio to 72.13 per cent as of 30.09.2023, which is the highest in the last 15 years
- ✓ There are 43 RRBs sponsored by 12 scheduled commercial banks in India

- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Fact Check Unit of the Press Information Bureau (PIB):
  - 1. It is headed by the Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology.
  - 2. It acts as a deterrent to creators and disseminators of fake news and misinformation.

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 Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology notified the Press Information Bureau's Fact Check Unit under IT Rules of 2021.
- ✓ It was established in 2019.
- ✓ It was started with an objective of acting as a deterrent to creators and disseminators of fake news and misinformation.
- ✓ It also provides people with an easy avenue to report suspicious and questionable information pertaining to the Government of India.
- ✓ It is mandated to counter misinformation on Government policies, initiatives and schemes either suo motu or under a reference via complaints.
- ✓ The FCU actively monitors, detects, and counters disinformation campaigns, ensuring that false information about the Government is promptly exposed and corrected.
- ✓ Organisation
- ✓ It is headed by a senior DG/ADG level officer of the Indian Information Service (IIS). The day-to-day operations of the Unit are handled by IIS officers at various levels.
- ✓ The Unit reports to the Principal Director General, PIB who functions as the Principal Spokesperson of the Government of India.
- ✓ Fact-Check Mechanism
- ✓ Users send requests over WhatsApp, email or a web portal. Each such request received is considered as a 'Query'. Queries are segregated by the Unit based on their relevance to matters pertaining to Government of India.
- ✓ Only queries pertaining to Government of India are considered and taken up as Actionable Queries, while others are deemed not relevant for action.

Q. Recently, the Border Road Organization connected the Nimmu-Padam-Darcha road in which region?

A) Ladakh

B) Srinagar

C) Kashmir

D) Amritsar

#### Answer: A

- ✓ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) completed the strategic Nimmu-Padam-Darcha road in Ladakh.
- ✓ This 298-km road connects Manali to Leh via Darcha and Nimmu on Kargil Leh Highway.
- ✓ It's the third axis linking Ladakh to the hinterland, alongside Manali-Leh and Srinagar-Leh routes. Notably, the road is shorter and crosses only one pass, Shinkun La (16,558 feet), where tunnel work by BRO is set to begin.
- Q. With reference to Treasury Bills, consider the following statements:
  - 1. These are zero coupon securities and pay no interest.
  - 2. These are short term debt instruments issued by the Government of India.
  - 3. These are purchased only by the nationalized banks.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Recently, the Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India notified the calendar for the issuance of Treasury Bills for the quarter ending June 2024.
- ✓ Treasury bills or T-bills are money market instruments.
- ✓ These are short term debt instruments issued by the Government of India.
- ✓ Maturity period: At present, treasury bills are issued in three maturities 91-day, 182-day and 364-day.
- ✓ These are zero coupon securities and pay no interest. Instead, they are issued at a discount and redeemed at the face value at maturity.
- ✓ Who can buy?
- ✓ Individuals, trusts, institutions and banks can purchase T-Bills. But they are usually held by financial institutions.
- ✓ They have a very important role in the financial market beyond investment instruments.

- ✓ Banks give treasury bills to the RBI to get money under repo. Similarly, they can also keep it to fulfil their Statutory Liquid Ratio (SLR) requirements.
- ✓ How do T-bills work?
- ✓ Treasury bills are issued at a discount to original value and the buyer gets the original value upon maturity.
- ✓ For example, a Rs 100 treasury bill can be availed of at Rs 95, but the buyer is paid Rs 100 on the maturity date.
- ✓ The return on treasury bill depends on liquidity position in the economy. When there is a liquidity crisis, the returns are higher, and vice versa.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Investment facilitation for Development (IFD):
  - 1. It was launched at the 11th World Trade Organisation's Ministerial Conference.
  - 2. It aims to create legally binding provisions to facilitate investment flows.

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

- ✓ One of the significant developments at the 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Abu Dhabi was the non-adoption of the agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD).
- ✓ It is a joint initiative launched at the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11) in 2017 on a plurilateral basis by 70 countries.
- ✓ This was done through a process known as the Joint Statement Initiative.
- ✓ Aim: This agreement aims to create legally binding provisions to facilitate investment flows.
- ✓ It also aims to develop predictable, transparent and open investment rules that will contribute to more efficient investment flows and increased business confidence and it is now in a formal negotiation phase.
- ✓ Objective: A core objective of the framework is to facilitate greater participation by developing and leastdeveloped WTO Members in global investment flows.
- ✓ The IFD agreement was finalised in 2023 and at present around 120 of 166 WTO member countries (more than 70% of the membership) back this agreement.

- Q. Afanasy Nikitin Seamount, recently seen in the news, lies in which one of the following oceans?
  - A) Pacific Ocean

B) Atlantic Ocean

C) Arctic Ocean

D) Indian Ocean

#### Answer: D

- ✓ India recently applied to the International Seabed Authority (ISBA) for rights to explore two vast tracts in the Indian Ocean seabed, including a cobalt-rich crust long known as the Afanasy Nikitin Seamount (AN Seamount).
- ✓ About Afanasy Nikitin Seamount:
- ✓ The AN Seamount is a structural feature (400 km-long and 150 km-wide) in the Central Indian Basin, located about 3,000 km away from India's coast.
- ✓ It comprises a main plateau, rising 1200 m above the surrounding ocean floor (4800m), and secondary elevated seamount highs.
- ✓ It is rich in deposits of cobalt, nickel, manganese, and copper
- ✓ What is a Seamount?
- ✓ It is an underwater mountain formed through volcanic activity.
- ✓ These are recognised as hotspots for marine life.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO):
  - 1. It is a project of international collaboration between the European Space Agency (ESA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
  - 2. It is the longest-lived Sun-watching satellite to date.

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

- ✓ Recently, a citizen scientist spotted a comet in an image from the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) spacecraft, which has now been confirmed to be the 5,000th comet discovered using SOHO data.
- ✓ About Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO):
- ✓ It is a project of international collaboration between the European Space Agency (ESA) and the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

- ✓ Launched in 1995, SOHO was designed to study the Sun.
- ✓ In order to provide continuous observations, it was maneuvered to orbit the first Lagrangian Point (L1), a point some 1.5 million km (900,000 miles) from Earth toward the Sun where the gravitational attraction of Earth and the Sun, combine in such a way that a small body remains approximately at rest relative to both.
- ✓ It carries 12 scientific instruments to study the solar atmosphere, helioseismology, and the solar wind.
- ✓ Information from the mission has allowed scientists to learn more about the Sun's internal structure and dynamics, the chromosphere, the corona, and solar particles.
- ✓ Though its mission was scheduled to run until only 1998, it has continued collecting data, adding to scientists' understanding of our closest star, and making many new discoveries, including thousands of comets.
- ✓ SOHO is the longest-lived Sun-watching satellite to date.
- Q. Which Gulf country will participate in the Miss Universe pageant for the first time?

A) Saudi Arabia

B) Qatar

C) Bahrain

D) Armenia

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Saudi Arabia will participate in the historic Miss Universe event for the first time.
- ✓ Saudi Arabia's Rumy Alqahtani will officially participate in the Miss Universe competition for the first time as the first representative of the Islamic country.
- ✓ Alqahtani has won the titles of Miss Middle East and Miss Arab World Peace 2021.
- Q. Bharat Biotech International Limited has started clinical trials of vaccine MTBVAC on adults in India. MTBVAC is the vaccine of which disease?

A) Cervical Cancer

B) Tuberculosis

C) HIV

D) Breast cancer

# Answer: B

- ✓ Bharat Biotech International Ltd started clinical trials of the Tuberculosis vaccine MTBVAC on adults in India.
- ✓ This is the first vaccine against Tuberculosis derived from a human source by the Spanish biopharmaceutical company, Biofabri.
- ✓ The trials are carried out by Bharat Biotech in close collaboration with Biofabri.

- ✓ After completing a dose escalation trial in HIV uninfected adults, a Phase2 study in HIV-infected adults has started in 2024 to determine whether MTBVAC is safe in this population.
- Q. Star Housing Finance (Star HFL) has partnered with which finance company to leverage the domain of Star HFL in low-ticket affordable housing finance space?
  - A) LIC Housing Finance
  - B) Shriram Transport Finance Corporation Ltd
  - C) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services
  - D) Tata Capital Housing Finance

# Answer: D

- ✓ Star Housing Finance (Star HFL) has entered into a co-lending partnership with Tata Capital Housing Finance (TCHFL).
- ✓ The partnership aims to leverage domain of Star HFL in low ticket affordable housing finance space and the mutual synergies arising out of operations.
- ✓ Star HFL branch network across Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, NCR and Tamil Nadu would be utilized in this partnership to provide housing finance assistance predominantly to home buyers in economically weaker section (EWS) and low-income group (LIG) segment.
- Q. Soumendu Bagchi has been appointed as India's next envoy to which country?

A) Syria

B) UAE

C) Iran

D) Iraq

#### Answer: D

- ✓ Soumendu Bagchi appointed India's next ambassador to Iraq
- ✓ Soumendu Bagchi, currently a deputy director general at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), has been appointed as the country's next envoy to Iraq.
- ✓ Bagchi is a 1993-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS).
- ✓ While, Abhilasha Joshi, presently additional secretary in the ministry, has been appointed as India's next ambassador to the Republic of Chile.

- Q. India's Sreeja Akula won the women's singles title at the WTT Feeder Beirut II 2024 tournament at the Al Kawthar Secondary School in Lebanon. She is related to which sport?
  - A) Archery

B) Wushi

C) Table Tennis

D) Badminton

# Answer: C

- ✓ In Table Tennis, India's Sreeja Akula won the women's singles title at the WTT Feeder Beirut II 2024 table tennis tournament at the Al Kawthar Secondary School in Lebanon.
- ✓ Akula, the world No. 47, beat Luxembourg's Sarah De Nutte to win what was her second WTT singles career title.
- ✓ The 25-year-old's maiden crown came at the Feeder Corpus Christi 2024 in Texas.
- ✓ For the mixed doubles crown, India's Poymantee Baisya and Akash Pal beat Sathiyan Gnanasekaran and Manika Batra, while in Men's Doubles Final, Manush Shah and Manav Thakkar won the event of the WTT Feeder Beirut- II tournament in Lebanon.
- Q. Recently, who became the first Black leader of a government in the UK?

A) James Cleverly

B) Bim Afolami

C) Kemi Badenoch

D) Vaughan Gething

#### Answer: D

- ✓ Vaughan Gething, son of a Welsh father and Zambian mother, is elected as Wales' first minister, becoming the UK's first Black government leader.
- ✓ Gething prioritizes diversity and unity, aiming to navigate challenges like Tata Steel job cuts. Previously Wales' health minister during COVID-19, he faces economic hurdles, including Tata Steel's blast furnace closures and environmental protests.
- ✓ Gething's leadership underscores Wales' commitment to inclusivity amidst pressing issues.
- Q. Recently, the government has approved inclusion of which crops under its price stabilization fund (PSF)?

A) Cotton and Coffee

B) Wheat and Rice

C) Jute and Tea

D) Pulses and Barley

Answer: B

- ✓ The government has recently included wheat and rice in the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF).
- ✓ Established in 2014-15 under Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Famers Welfare (DAC&FW), it was transferred to DOCA in 2016.
- ✓ Managed centrally by PSFMC, it regulates proposals from State Governments and Central Agencies.
- ✓ SFAC maintains it as a central corpus fund.
- ✓ The fund aims to stabilize prices of selected commodities by distributing or procuring them, primarily used to counter high or low prices.
- Q. Which day is observed as the World Theatre Day every year?

A) 25 March

B) 28 March

C) 27 March

D) 26 March

#### Answer: C

- ✓ The World Theatre Day is celebrated all over the world on the 27 March since 1962 to promote the art form "theatre" across the world.
- ✓ The theme of 2024 World Theatre Day is Theatre and a Culture of Peace
- ✓ The day was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI).
- ✓ Every year the Executive Council of ITI choses an outstanding theatre personality to write the message for World Theatre Day.
- Q. Which company has inked foreign currency loan agreements worth JPY 30 billion with the Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC) for Renewable Project?

A) NTPC Ltd

B) ReNew Power

C) JSW Energy

D) Adani Enterprises

#### Answer: A

- ✓ State-run NTPC group has inked foreign currency loan agreements worth JPY 30 billion, or roughly \$200 million, with the Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC).
- ✓ The loan facility of around ₹1,650 crore extended by the Japanese Government's policy-based financial institution, is divided into two equal halves for NTPC and its clean energy solutions arm NTPC Renewables Energy (NREL).
- ✓ JBIC has provided 60 per cent of the facility amount and the balance of the facility amount has been provided by other commercial banks under JBIC guarantee.

✓ The facility has been extended under JBIC's initiative, Global action for reconciling economic growth and environment preservation (GREEN), for projects that ensure conservation of the global environment.

# **NTPC IN NEWS 2023-24**

- > NTPC group has inked foreign currency loan agreements worth JPY 30 billion, or roughly \$200 million, with the Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC).
- > NTPC Green Energy (NGEL), a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC, has signed a joint venture agreement with Maharashtra State Power Generation Company (MAHAGENCO) for development of renewable energy parks in Maharashtra
- > NTPC Green Energy has entered into an agreement with Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation to set up India's largest green hydrogen production plant.
- NTPC Limited gets certified as a Top Employer 2024 in India.
- ➤ NTPC Kanti has received the 11th edition of the FICCI Water Award 2023 under the "Industrial Water Use Efficiency" category.
- ➤ NTPC shines as the only Indian PSU to feature in Forbes "World's Best Employers 2023" List.
- The central government has received about Rs 1,487 crore from NTPC as a dividend tranche.
- NTPC has been honoured with the prestigious Economic Times (ET) HR World Future Skills Awards 2023.
- NTPC climbs up 52 positions to 433rd rank in Forbes' "The Global 2000" List.
- > NTPC Kanti launches Girl Child Empowerment Mission (GeM)-2023.
- > NTPC Group's total installed capacity reaches 72,304 MW with first overseas capacity addition in Bangladesh.
- ➤ Country's largest power generation company NTPC Limited has been conferred with 'ATD Best Awards 2023' by Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA.
- NTPC and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) sign agreement for joint development of nuclear power plants.
- ➤ India's largest power company NTPC Ltd has commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project at Kawas, Gujarat.
- ➤ About NTPC

- ➤ The NTPC which was earlier known as National Thermal Power Corporation of India is owned by the Government of India. It was set up in 1975.
- ➤ The Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station in the Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh, with an installed capacity of 4,760MW, is currently the biggest thermal power plant in India.
- ➤ Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairman and Managing Director: Gurdeep Singh
- Q. The Food Waste Index Report 2024 is published by:

A) World Bank

B) Food and Agriculture Organisation

C) World Health Organisation

D) United Nations Environment Programme

#### Answer: D

- ✓ According to the Food Waste Index Report 2024, households across the globe wasted over one billion meals a day in 2022.
- ✓ It a study jointly authored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme), a U.K.-based non-profit.
- ✓ The Food Waste Index tracks the global and national generation of food and inedible parts wasted at the retail and consumer (household and food service) levels.
- ✓ Highlights of the report
- ✓ It noted that in 2022, there were 1.05 billion tonnes of food waste generated (including inedible parts), amounting to 132 kilograms per capita and almost one-fifth of all food available to consumers.
- ✓ It stressed the importance of expanding and strengthening data infrastructure to enable the tracking and monitoring of food waste.
- ✓ Many low- and middle-income countries continue to lack adequate systems for tracking progress to meet Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 of halving food waste by 2030, particularly in retail and food services."
- ✓ At present, only four G-20 countries (Australia, Japan, U.K., U.S.) and the European Union have food waste estimates suitable for tracking progress to 2030.
- ✓ As of 2022, only 21 countries had included food loss and/or waste reduction in their climate plans or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

- ✓ The report defines "food waste" as "food and the associated inedible parts removed from the human food supply chain".
- Q. Who won the Abel Prize 2024, sometimes called the Nobel Prize of Mathematics?

A) Avi Wigderson

B) Luis A. Caffarelli

C) Michel Talagrand

D) Laszlo Lovasz

# Answer: C

- ✓ The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has decided to award the Abel Prize for 2024 to Michel Talagrand of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) Paris, France.
- ✓ Talagrand received the prestigious prize "for his groundbreaking contributions to probability theory and functional analysis, with outstanding applications in mathematical physics and statistics."
- ✓ The common theme in Michel Talagrand's groundbreaking discoveries is working with and understanding the random processes we see all around us.
- ✓ It has now become apparent that a thorough understanding of random phenomena is essential in today's world. The Abel Prize is named after Niels Henrik Abel, Norway's greatest mathematician throughout the times.
- ✓ The Abel Prize was established by the Norwegian Parliament (The Storting) in 2002, on the occasion the 200-year anniversary of his birth. The Prize is 7,5 million Norwegian Kroner.
- Q. Luis Montenegro has been named as Prime Minister of which country?

A) Portugal

B) Finland

C) Brazil

D) Indonesia

#### Answer: A

- ✓ Luis Montenegro named Portugal's Prime Minister
- ✓ Portugal's president has named Luis Montenegro, head of the centre-right Democratic Alliance (AD), as the country's new prime minister and invited him to form a minority government after eight years of Socialist rule.
- ✓ Portugal

✓ Capital : Lisbon ✓ Currency : Euro

✓ Prime minister : Luis Montenegro

# **NEWLY PRIME MINISTER IN NEWS**

Luis Montenegro : Portugal

> 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. Which of the following has received online payment aggregator licences by RBI in March 2024?

A) Z to Infinity

B) Nitai Infotech

C) Vnetalgo

D) Innoviti Payments

# Answer: D

- ✓ Innoviti Payments, Concerto Software get RBI payment aggregator licences
- ✓ Offline point-of-sales deploying company Innoviti Payments and payment gateway Vegaah, which is run by Concerto Software and Systems, have secured the online payment aggregator (PA) licence from the Reserve Bank of India, joining the likes of MSwipe, Razorpay, Cashfree, and Zomato.
- ✓ CCAvenue, which is run by listed fintech company Infibeam Avenues, also received its PA licence from the RBI earlier this month.
- ✓ As PAs, these companies are authorised to settle ecommerce transactions. The licence also brings these payment companies directly within the purview of RBI regulations.

- ✓ Bengaluru-based Innoviti has around 2,500 online merchants who are using its online payment system named 'Innoviti Link'.
- ✓ MSwipe is another point-of-sales (PoS) player that received the PA licence recently. MSwipe offers online payment service to its offline customers who seek an omnichannel experience for their customers.
- Q. Which Small Finance Bank has partnered with Veefin Solutions Ltd to enhance supply chain finance offerings for MSMEs?

A) Capital Small Finance Bank

B) Shivalik Small Finance Bank

C) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

D) AU Small Finance Bank

#### Answer: C

- ✓ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has partnered with Veefin Solutions Ltd to enhance supply chain finance offerings for MSMEs, addressing the sector's working capital needs.
- ✓ it aims to provide end-to-end solutions, bridging the credit gap in the MSME sector and fostering inclusive growth.
- ✓ The collaboration underscores the commitment of both entities to leverage technology and innovative solutions to address the long-standing challenges faced by MSMEs in accessing timely and affordable credit.
- Q. French aerospace and defence firm, Starburst Accelerator SARL has partnered with which IIT to set up an innovative hub for start-ups with €100 million in funding support?

A) IIT Madras

B) IIT Bombay

C) IIT Kanpur

D) IIT Hyderabad

#### Answer: A

- ✓ French aerospace and defence firm Starburst Accelerator SARLhas partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) to set up an innovative hub for start-ups with €100 million in funding support.
- ✓ Through this collaboration, IIT Madras will enable Starburst to set up accelerator programs to boost the Aviation, Space, and Defence (ASD) ecosystem in India.
- ✓ A key focus of this partnership will be entrepreneurs, research parks, investors (public and private), government, and corporate firms.
- ✓ The aim is to create innovative startups and help them grow rapidly to work in tandem with future aerospace and New Space worldwide programs.

# **IIT IN NEWS 2023-24**

- ➤ French aerospace and defence firm Starburst Accelerator SARLhas partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) to set up an innovative hub for start-ups with €100 million in funding support.
- > 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.
- ➤ Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT Guwahati) transferred swine fever vaccine technology to BioMed Pvt. Ltd.
- ➤ 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.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to CoViNet:
  - 1. It is network of global laboratories to identify potential novel coronaviruses.
  - 2. It is an initiative of World Health Organisation.

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

- ✓ World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched a new network for coronaviruses, CoViNet.
- ✓ It is a network of global laboratories with expertise in human, animal and environmental coronavirus surveillance.
- ✓ It will identify and monitor potentially novel coronaviruses that could emerge shortly.
- ✓ The network will now have animal health and environmental surveillance and timely risk assessment to feed WHO policies and protective measures.
- ✓ In low- and middle-income countries, CoViNet will support the building of more laboratories to monitor MERS-CoV and novel coronaviruses of public health importance.
- ✓ Data generated through CoViNet's efforts will guide the work of WHO's Technical Advisory Groups on Viral Evolution (TAG-VE) and Vaccine Composition (TAG-CO-VAC) and others, ensuring global health policies and tools are based on the latest scientific information.

- ✓ It currently comprises 36 laboratories from 21 countries in all six WHO regions.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Kalam-250:
  - 1. It is a stage-2 of Vikram-1 space launch vehicle.
  - 2. It is developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation.

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

- ✓ Skyroot Aerospace, the leading space-tech company, has successfully test-fired the Kalam-250 at the propulsion testbed of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), at its Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ It is a stage-2 of Vikram-1 space launch vehicle.
- ✓ It is a high-strength carbon composite rocket motor, which uses solid fuel and a high-performance Ethylene-Propylene-Diene terpolymers (EPDM) thermal protection system (TPS).
- ✓ The stage includes a carbon ablative flex nozzle along with high-precision electro-mechanical actuators for thrust vector control of the vehicle, aiding in achieving the desired trajectory.
- ✓ The second stage of Vikram-1 will play a crucial role in the ascent of the launch vehicle, propelling it from the atmosphere to the deep vacuum of outer space.
- ✓ It is developed by the Skyroot Aerospace.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees:
  - 1. It was established in the aftermath of the Second World War.
  - 2. It awards Nansen Refugee Award for recognition of service to the cause of refugees.

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

- ✓ As per the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), over 4,500 Rohingya refugees set off on dangerous journeys across the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea IN 2023.
- ✓ It protects refugees worldwide and facilitates their return home or resettlement.
- ✓ History: It was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1950 in the aftermath of the Second World War to help the millions of people who had lost their homes.
- ✓ It is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution.
- ✓ It was awarded Nobel Peace Prizes in 1954 and 1981.
- ✓ It has started Nansen Refugee Award in 1954 for recognition of outstanding service to the cause of refugees, displaced or stateless people.
- ✓ Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland
- Q. Who recently took oath as judicial member of Lokpal?

A) A.M. Khanvilkar

B) Alok Sinha

C) Ritu Raj Awasthi

D) Ravi Shankar Prasad

# Answer: C

- ✓ Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi took oath as judicial member of Lokpal.
- ✓ The Lokpal of India is headed by Justice A.M. Khanvilkar administered the oath to him.
- ✓ Justice Ritu Raj previously served as the Chairperson of the 22nd Law Commission of India.
- ✓ He has also been the Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court.
- ✓ Pankaj Kumar and Ajay Tirkey took oath as Lokpal members.
- Q. Who has been appointed by Microsoft as the new head of both Windows and Surface?

A) Pawan Davuluri

B) T Rajkumaran

C) Aditya Ganguly

D) Shivkumar Sinha

# Answer: A

- ✓ Microsoft has appointed Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-Madras) graduate Pawan Davuluri as the new head of both Windows and Surface.
- ✓ Davuluri replaces previous Windows chief Mikhail Parakhin.

- Q. Which Indian has been appointed by the UN Secretary General as his Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction?
  - A) Manmohan Jha

B) Syed Akbaruddin

C) Kamal Kishore

D) Ramaswamy Iyer

# Answer: C

- ✓ Kamal Kishore, a top official of India's National Disaster Management Authority, has been appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as his Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- ✓ The 55-year-old Kishor will serve as the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- Q. Who is the first umpire from Bangladesh to be included in the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires?

A) Habibul Bashar

B) Sharafuddaulah Ibne Shahid

C) Nitin Menon

D) Moin Khan

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Bangladesh's Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid has recently become the first umpire from Bangladesh to be included in the ICC elite panel of umpires.
- ✓ India's Nitin Menon has joined this panel for the fifth time.
- ✓ Menon remains the only Indian in the 12-member club
- Q. In which country is the Popocatepetl volcano, which was in discussion recently, located?

A) Japan

B) Mexico

C) Italy

D) Kenya

# Answer: B

- ✓ According to Mexico's National Disaster Mitigation Center, Popocatepetl volcano erupted several times last month.
- ✓ The Popocatepetl volcano is located just 50 miles from the country's capital.
- ✓ Mexico is a country located in the southern part of North America.
- ✓ It is the 13th largest country in the world in terms of area

- Q. In which country is the Baltimore Bridge, which was in the news recently?
  - A) France

B) China

C) Brazil

D) USA

# Answer: D

- ✓ Recently, a major accident occurred in the city of Baltimore, Maryland, USA, when a big cargo ship from Singapore collided with the 'Francis Scott Key Bridge' and the bridge broke and fell into the water.
- ✓ This bridge was built in the year 1977 on the Patapsco River in Baltimore city
- Q. Adani Ports has acquired 95% stake of Gopalpur Port from SP Group for Rs 3,080 crore. Gopalpur Port located in which state?

A) Assam

B) Odisha

C) Gujarat

D) Kerala

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Billionaire Gautam Adani-run Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone will buy a 95% stake in Odisha's Gopalpur Port (GPL) for an equity value of Rs 1,349 crore and enterprise value of Rs 3,080 crore to boost its east coast presence.
- ✓ Furthermore, in addition to the enterprise value, the company said there is a contingent consideration of Rs 270 crore which is likely to be payable after 5.5 years, subject to certain conditions.
- ✓ APSEZ, India's largest private port operator, will be acquiring a 56 per cent stake in Gopalpur Port from real-estate conglomerate Shapoorji Pallonji Group (SP Group) and a 39 per cent stake from Orissa Stevedores.
- ✓ The port, located on India's east coast, can handle around 20 MMTPA. The Odisha government in 2006 awarded a 30-year concession to GPL, with the provision of two extensions of 10 years each.
- Q. The government will borrow how much rupees between April 1 and September 30, 2024?

A) 5.5-lakh crore

B) 6.5-lakh crore

C) 7.5-lakh crore

D) 8.5-lakh crore

# Answer : C

✓ The government will borrow ₹7.5-lakh crore between April 1 and September 30.

- ✓ The interim Budget has set a target of ₹14.13-lakh crore of gross borrowing during FY25 to bridge the deficit between expenditure and Income.
- ✓ This means 53 per cent of the yearly target is to be borrowed during the first half of the current fiscal, which is lower than the previous years' number of 60 per cent or more.
- Q. Who has been selected for the appointment as Director in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)?
  - A) Hansha Mishra

B) Dinesh Meena

C) Ramesh Chandra

D) Radhika Sharma

# Answer: A

- ✓ Hansha Mishra (IA&AS) has been selected for the appointment as Director in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- ✓ He has been selected for the appointment under the Central Staffing Scheme for a period of five years from the date of taking over charge of the post or until further orders, whichever event takes place earlier
- Q. Which IIT successfully transferred a pioneering swine fever vaccine technology to BioMed Pvt, a vaccine manufacturing company?
  - A) IIT Guwahati
  - B) IIT Madras
  - C) IIT Kanpur
  - D) IIT Roorkee

# Answer: A

- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT Guwahati) transferred swine fever vaccine technology to BioMed Pvt. Ltd.
- ✓ The vaccine targets classical swine fever virus prevalent in states like Bihar, Kerala, and northeastern regions.
- ✓ Developed using a recombinant vector, the vaccine is non-infectious to humans.
- ✓ IIT Guwahati's reverse genetic platform facilitated its creation.
- ✓ The collaboration aims to address the significant gap in India's swine fever vaccine technology, safeguarding pig populations in affected regions.

- Q. START 2024, a space program, recently launched by which organization?
  - A) ISRO

B) DRDO

C) CSIR

D) Department of Science & Technology

# Answer: A

- ✓ ISRO's START 2024 program is an online training program that teaches space science and technology to undergraduate and postgraduate science and technology students.
- ✓ The program is scheduled to take place in April and May 2024.
- ✓ The main goal of the program is to attract young students to space science and technology.
- Q. Which bank will raise Rs 10,000 crore through long-term infra bonds to fund infrastructure projects?

A) Kotak Mahindra Bank

B) Bank of India

C) Axis Bank

D) Yes Bank

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Bank of India to raise Rs 10,000 cr via infrastructure bonds
- ✓ Bank of India (BoI)'s board has given approval to raise Rs 10,000 crore through long-term infra bonds to fund infrastructure projects.
- ✓ The fund would be raised in 2024-25, BoI said in a regulatory filing.
- ✓ Recently, many banks including SBI have issued infrastructure bonds to secure funds that are solely dedicated to advancing various infrastructure development projects.
- ✓ These bonds help in building roads, bridges, airports, power plants, and telecommunications networks etc and addressing the infrastructure deficit of the country.

# **BOI IN NEWS 2023-24**

- ➤ Bank of India to raise Rs 10,000 cr via infrastructure bonds.
- Income Tax department has levied a penalty of Rs 564.44 crore on Bank of India, the public sector lender.
- 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.
- Former LIC Chairman M.R. Kumar has been appointed as part-time non-official director and non-executive chairman of Bank of India (BOI).

- > Bank of India (BoI) has launched an exclusive savings bank product for women (Nari Shakti Savings Account) with an independent source of income.
- > Bank of India has inaugurated its IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT SEZ area in Gandhinagar
- Rajneesh Karnatak has been appointed as the MD & CEO of the Bank of India (BOI) with effect from April 29, 2023.
- He replaces Atanu Kumar Das.
- ➤ Bank of India has launched a 'Centralized Pool Buy-Out and Co-Lending Cell' to boost priority sector lending in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ➤ Bank of India, one of the largest public sector banks (PSBs) in the country, has become the first bank to officially roll out Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) scheme..
- ➤ Bank of India (BOI)
- > Founded: 7 September 1906
- > Founder: Ramnarain Ruia
- > Headquarters : Mumbai
- > MD & CEO: Rajneesh Karnatak
- Tagline: Relationship beyond Banking
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to P-800 Onyx Missile:
  - 1. It is a supersonic medium-range cruise missile developed by the United States of America.
  - 2. It can be launched from surface ships, submarines and land-based equipment.

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

- ✓ Russia's Onyx supersonic cruise missile, which has frequently struck Ukrainian targets in Odesa near the Black Sea, is slated to get deadlier with a new target seeker.
- ✓ About Onyx Missile:
- ✓ The P-800 Onyx missile, also known as Oniks, is a supersonic medium-range cruise missile developed by Russia.

- ✓ It is designed to combat surface ship groups, as well as to destroy ground targets in conditions of strong fire and electronic countermeasures.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ Also known as Russian Brahmos, it can reach speeds of over 3,000 km/h, making it extremely difficult to intercept.
- ✓ Additionally, the missile operates at an altitude of 10-15 meters above land or water, further enhancing its stealth capabilities.
- ✓ The missile has a range of up to 300 kilometers in its default trajectory and a range of 120 km in a lowaltitude trajectory.
- ✓ It can be launched from surface ships, submarines, and land-based equipment.
- Q. The Konda Reddi Tribe primarily inhabits which one of the following States in India?

A) Andhra Pradesh

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Kerala

D) Karnataka

#### Answer: A

- ✓ The indigenous knowledge of the Konda Reddi tribe, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group inhabiting the Papikonda hill range in the Godavari region, has proven resourceful.
- ✓ About Konda Reddi Tribe:
- ✓ Konda Reddis is a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group inhabiting the banks of the river Godavari and also in the hilly forest tracts of Godavari and Khammam districts of Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ Their mother tongue is Telugu in its purest and chaste form, with a unique accent.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the INDRA app:
  - 1. It disseminates weather-related information and forecasts.
  - 2. It is developed by the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics.

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

- ✓ Recently, INDRA app was launched in an event conducted by School of Naval Oceanology & Meteorology (SNOM) and Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre (INMAC) at Southern Naval Command as part of the World Meteorological Day celebrations.
- ✓ INDRA App:
- ✓ The Indian Naval Dynamic Resource for Weather Analysis (INDRA) app will help to disseminate weather related information and forecasts empowering optimal & quick decision making.
- ✓ The application has been developed by BISAG (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics) in coordination with Directorate of Naval Oceanology and Meteorology, Indian Navy.
- ✓ Key facts about BISAG
- ✓ It is an Autonomous Scientific Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- ✓ The organisation has three main domain areas: Satellite Communication, Geo-informatics and Geo-spatial technology.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.

# APP & PORTAL IN NEWS 2023 -24

- INDRA app was launched in an event conducted by School of Naval Oceanology & Meteorology (SNOM) and Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre (INMAC) at Southern Naval Command as part of the World Meteorological Day celebrations.
- ➤ 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
- O. What is the name of India's first AI-based film?
  - A) IRAH
  - B) WALL
  - C) M3GAN
  - D) MATRIX

# Answer: A

- ✓ India's first Artificial Intelligence based Film 'IRAH' trailer launched
- ✓ The trailer and song launch of the first Hindi film on this subject, "IRAH," took place in Mumbai.
- ✓ The movie features Rohit Bose Roy, Rajesh Sharma, Karishma Kotak, and Rakshith Bhandarry in prominent roles.
- ✓ The movie is Produced by Big Films Media and directed by Sam Bhattacharjee. The film is set to release nationwide in theaters on April 4th through Iamplex Digital Theatrical Distribution.
- ✓ The trailer of the film "IRAH" showcases the misuse of AI technology, shedding light on its negative aspects.

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

- ➤ India's first Artificial Intelligence based Film 'IRAH' trailer launched
- ➤ 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. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Madagascar is located off the coast of East Africa in the Indian Ocean.
- 2. Madagascar is a semi-presidential republic.
- 3. Eighty percent of Madagascar's economy is fueled by agricultural industries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 and 2 only

B) 2 only

C) 1 and 3 only

D) 1, 2 and 3

#### Answer: D

- ✓ A tropical cyclone named Gamane that swept across the island of Madagascar killed at least 18 people and displaced thousands more, the country's disaster management office said recently.
- ✓ About Madagascar:
- ✓ Located off the coast of East Africa in the Indian Ocean, Madagascar is the second-largest island country in the world.
- ✓ It covers an area of 592,800 sq. kilometers.
- ✓ Geography: The country can be divided into three parallel longitudinal physiographic regions.
- ✓ The coastal strip in the east, the central plateau, and the western regions of low plateaus and plains.

- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Vaikom Satyagraha:
  - 1. It was aimed at establishing the rights of the oppressed classes.
  - 2. It was supported by Sree Narayana Guru.

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

- ✓ India's one of the most supported and widely accepted protests, 'Vaikom Satyagraha', is celebrated its 100 years recently.
- ✓ It is the first anti-caste movement, as the pupil of the depressed class and untouchables were restricted from entering the temple.
- ✓ This Satyagraha was to establish the rights of the oppressed classes to walk on the roads to the Shree Mahadeva Temple in Vaikom in Kottayam district
- Q. Which one of the following is the primary objective of the India-led Group of Friends (GOF) grouping, recently seen in news?
  - A) Providing humanitarian aid to conflict zones
  - B) Promoting cultural exchange programs among member states of G20
  - C) Facilitating accountability for acts of violence against UN peacekeepers
  - D) Advocating for UN Security Council (UNSC) reforms

#### Answer: C

- ✓ At the second meeting of the India-led Group of Friends (GOF), India launched a new database designed to record crimes against peacekeepers and monitor progress in holding perpetrators accountable.
- ✓ About 'Group of Friends' to Promote Accountability for Crimes Against Peacekeepers:
- ✓ It will seek to facilitate the promotion of accountability for all acts of violence against United Nations (UN) peacekeepers and seek facilitation of capacity building and technical assistance to the host state authorities.
- ✓ It was launched in 2022.
- ✓ It comprises of 40 member states. India, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco and Nepal are co-chairs.
- ✓ India and UN Peacekeeping:

- ✓ India is the largest cumulative contributor of peacekeepers to the UN, having deployed more than 2,60,000 peacekeepers over the last seven decades.
- ✓ India has lost 177 of its peacekeepers in the line of duty, the largest by far from any troop-contributing country.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0:
  - 1. It is designed to provide universal coverage of water supply through functional taps to all households in all the statutory towns in the country.
  - 2. It will promote a circular economy of water through the development of the City Water Balance Plan (CWBP) for each city covered under the scheme.

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

- ✓ Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has sanctioned 39 more sewage treatment plants (STPs) under the AMRUT scheme, and these plants will be used in the Musi Riverfront Development project.
- ✓ About AMRUT Scheme:
- ✓ It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in 2015, in 500 selected cities and towns across the country.
- ✓ It focuses on the development of basic infrastructure in the selected cities and towns in the sectors of water supply, sewerage and septage management, storm water drainage, green spaces and parks, and non-motorized urban transport.
- ✓ A set of Urban Reforms and Capacity Building have been included in the mission.
- ✓ AMRUT Mission has been subsumed under AMRUT 2.0, which was launched in 2021.
- ✓ AMRUT 2.0, which was launched for a period of five years, from the financial year 2021-22 to the financial year 2025-26, is designed to provide universal coverage of water supply through functional taps to all households in all the statutory towns in the country and coverage of sewerage/septage management in 500 cities covered in the first phase of the AMRUT scheme.

- ✓ AMRUT 2.0 will promote a circular economy of water through the development of the City Water Balance Plan (CWBP) for each city focusing on recycle/reuse of treated sewage, the rejuvenation of water bodies, and water conservation.
- ✓ Other components of AMRUT 2.0 are:
- ✓ Pey Jal Survekshan to ascertain equitable distribution of water, reuse of wastewater, mapping of water bodies, and promote healthy competition among the cities /towns.
- ✓ Technology Sub-Mission for water to leverage latest global technologies in the field of water.
- ✓ Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign to spread awareness among the masses about conservation of water.
- ✓ The total indicative outlay for AMRUT 2.0 is ₹2,99,000 crore including Central share of ₹76,760 crore for five years
- Q. With reference to Panneer thiratchai, consider the following statements:
  - 1. It is a grape variety cultivated in the Cumbum valley of Tamil Nadu.
  - 2. It is harvested only during the months of January and April.
  - 3. It has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

# Answer: B

- ✓ Cumbum valley—grapes city of south India contributes up to 85% of panneer thiratchai production in the country.
- ✓ It is a grape variety mainly cultivated in the Cumbum valley of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ These grapes were first introduced in Tamil Nadu by a French priest in 1832.
- ✓ A unique factor about 'panneer' grapes is that, these are harvested all through the year as against only during January and April in the rest of India.
- ✓ It is extremely popular among farmers because of quick growth and early maturity.
- ✓ The grapes grown are suitable for making wine, spirit, jams, canned grape juice and raisins.
- ✓ It has received Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2023.
- ✓ Key facts about the Cumbum valley

- ✓ It is located at the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu is known as the 'Grapes city of South India' and cultivates the Panneer Thratchai.
- ✓ This variety which is also known as Muscat Hamburg constitutes almost 85% of the grape-growing areas in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 3 are correct.
- Q. World's First Om-Shaped Temple inaugurated in which state?

A) Telangana

B) Rajasthan

C) Madhya Pradesh

D) Uttar Pradesh

#### Answer: B

- ✓ The World's first-ever Om-shaped temple has inaugurated in the village of Jadan in Pali district of Rajasthan.
- ✓ This temple became the world's first temple designed in this iconic form. This architectural masterpiece will not only attract tourists, but will also boast of an impressive visual presence that will be visible from space too.
- ✓ The 'Om Aakar' temple spans across a vast expanse of 250 acres in Jadan Village.
- ✓ Features of Om Aakar Temple
- ✓ This temple is shaped like the Om symbol and follows the Nagara style commonly seen in North India. This intricate design pays tribute to the region's rich cultural and architectural heritage.
- ✓ Nagara style got its fame from the Gupta dynasty and continued to flourish through various regional kingdoms and empires that ruled over the northern parts of India.
- ✓ The temple stands at a towering height of 135 ft and is supported by 2,000 pillars. It also has 108 rooms on its premises, with the tomb of Guru Madhavanand ji as the central feature of the temple complex
- Q. Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TEPM) has signed an MoU with which company to set up 5,000 electric vehicle charging stations across India?
  - A) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)
  - B) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
  - C) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
  - D) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)

Answer: D

- ✓ Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TEPM) has signed an MoU with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) to set up 5,000 electric vehicle charging stations across India.
- ✓ The collaboration will leverage HPCLs widespread fuel station network and TPEMs insights from over 1.2 lakh Tata EVs on Indian roads, to set up chargers at locations frequently visited by Tata EV owners.
- ✓ The collaboration will leverage HPCL's extensive network of over 21,500 fuel stations across the country.
- ✓ HPCL aims to install 5,000 electric vehicle charging stations by December 2024, leveraging its extensive fuel station network.
- Q. Which institute has partnered with Europe's Starburst Aerospace to boost the aerospace, new space, and defence (ASD) industry in India?

A) IIM Mumbai

B) IIM Ahmedabad

C) IIM Bangalore

D) IIM Calcutta

# Answer: A

- ✓ Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Mumbai has partnered with Europe's Starburst, in a bid to boost the aerospace, new space, and defence (ASD) industry in India.
- ✓ The partnership aims to strengthen India's position as a hub for ASD innovation on the global stage, as well as offer a conducive environment for innovation and entrepreneurship.
- ✓ This strategic collaboration between IIM Mumbai and Starburst signifies a crucial step towards nurturing and empowering the burgeoning ASD startup ecosystem in India.
- Q. Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the New India Assurance Company?

A) Girija Subramanian

B) Trishneet Arora

C) Farrhad Acidwalla

D) Kavita Shukla

# Answer: A

- ✓ Girija Subramanian appoints as CMD of New India Assurance Company
- ✓ The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has selected Girija Subramanian as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the New India Assurance Company and Bhupesh Sushil Rahul as CMD of United India Insurance Company.
- ✓ The post of CMD at United India has been vacant since February 2024 following the retirement of Satyajit Tripathy, and Neerja Kapur's tenure at New India Assurance is set to end in April 2024.

- ✓ Girija Subramanian is currently the CMD of the Agriculture Insurance Company of India, and B S Rahul serves as the general manager at the same company.
- ✓ About New India Assurance Company
- ✓ New India Assurance Company is India's premier general insurance company.
- ✓ Established in 1919. It is one of the Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (DSIIs) identified by the IRDAI.
- ✓ The New India Assurance Company is headquartered in Mumbai.
- Q. Who has been elected as the new Chairman of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA)?

A) Divya Gandotra Tandon

B) Advait Thakur

C) Sreelakshmi Suresh

D) Arnab Banerjee

# Answer: D

- ✓ MD & CEO of CEAT Ltd, Arnab Banerjee has been elected as the new Chairman of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA).
- ✓ Arnab Banerjee joined CEAT in 2005 as the Vice President-Sales and Marketing.
- ✓ About ATMA
- ✓ ATMA is the national industry body for the automotive tyre sector in India.
- ✓ Established -1975
- ✓ ATMA is amongst the most active national industry bodies in the country representing ₹90,000 crore (\$11 bn) automotive tyre industry.
- ✓ Eight large tyre companies comprising a mix of Indian and International tyre majors and representing over 90 per cent of production of tyres in India are members of the Association.
- ✓ ATMA members include Apollo Tyres, Bridgestone India, Ceat, Continental India, Goodyear India, JK Tyre & Industries, MRF and TVS Tyres.
- Q. Income Tax department has levied a penalty of Rs 564.44 crore on which bank for various disallowances?

A) Canara Bank

B) Bank of Maharashtra

C) Bank of India

D) Axis Bank

Answer: C

- ✓ Income Tax department has levied a penalty of Rs 564.44 crore on Bank of India, the public sector lender.
- ✓ The bank has received the order under Section 270A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 from the Income Tax Department, Assessment Unit pertaining to AY2018-19, wherein the penalty of Rs 564.44 crore has been imposed on various disallowances made.
- Q. Who has been awarded the prestigious Times Power Icon 2024 Award by the Times Group?

A) Arjun Rai

B) Rohit Kashyap

C) Deepanjali Dalmia

D) Vijay Jain

# Answer: D

- ✓ Managing Director of Star Estate, Vijay Jain has been awarded the prestigious Times Power Icon 2024 Award.
- ✓ The award ceremony, held recently in Noida, was organized by The Times Group.
- ✓ About Star Estate
- ✓ Founded in 2012 as the fastest-growing Real Estate enterprise, Star Estate offers a wide range of consulting services in residential, commercial and retail verticals and more.
- ✓ Star Estate aims to inspire the world by demonstrating that it is possible to provide long-term and sustainable benefits to consumers, entrepreneurs, suppliers, shareholders, and the community all at the same time.
- O. Which IIT will host the 6th Shaastra Rapid FIDE Rated Chess Tournament?

A) IIT Madras

B) IIT Bombay

C) IIT Kanpur

D) IIT Guwahati

#### Answer: A

- ✓ An International Chess Federation (FIDE)-rated Rapid Chess Tournament will be hosted by IIT Madras.
- ✓ More than 35 players from the institute will take part in the event.
- ✓ The '6th Shaastra Rapid FIDE Rated Chess Tournament' will witness the participation of six Grandmasters, sixteen International Masters, three Women Grandmasters and a Women International Master.
- ✓ The total prize fund of the tournament is ₹5,00,000 with the first prize being ₹65,000. The tournament not only offers substantial prize funds but also attracts a diverse range of player.

- Q. Which has tested the first aircraft named 'Mark 1A', the advanced version of fighter jet Tejas in March 2024?
  - A) Bharat Electronics Limited
  - B) Tata Advanced Systems
  - C) BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited
  - D) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

# Answer: D

- ✓ The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has successfully completed the first flight of indigenous light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mark 1A fighter jet in Bengaluru.
- ✓ The aircraft was airborne for 15 minutes during its first flight.
- ✓ The fighter aircraft is likely to be deployed at Nal airbase in Rajasthan's Bikaner near the Pakistan border where it can take care of the western adversary.
- ✓ LCA Mk-1A is an advanced variant of the LCA Mk-1, and it has advanced electronic radar, superior warfare capabilities, and improved maintenance features
- Q. Nobel winner Daniel Kahneman passed away recently at the age of 90. In which field did Daniel Kahneman receive the Nobel Prize in 2002?
  - A) Economic
  - **B) Physics**
  - C) Peace
  - D) Chemistry

# Answer: A

- ✓ Daniel Kahneman, a psychologist who pioneered theories in behavioural economics that heavily influenced the discipline, and won him a Nobel prize, has died at age 90.
- ✓ Kahneman, who wrote bestselling book Thinking, Fast and Slow, argued against the notion that people's behaviour is rooted in a rational decision-making process rather that it is often based on instinct.
- ✓ In 2002, Kahneman was awarded the Nobel memorial prize in economic sciences in recognition for his research in the fields of psychology and economics.

- Q. Which day of the year has been designated by the United Nations to be observed as the International Day of Zero Waste?
  - A) March 29

B) March 31

C) March 30

D) March 28

# Answer: C

- ✓ The first International Day of Zero Waste is being observed on March 30. The celebration will be held on an annual basis from now on.
- ✓ On 14 December 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to proclaim 30 March as International Day of Zero Waste. The resolution was put forward by Turkiye, along with 105 other countries.
- ✓ The day is jointly facilitated by UNEP and UN-Habitat.
- ✓ The main objective of International Day of Zero Waste is to raise awareness about how zero-waste initiatives contribute to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Q. The International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) is observed every year on which day?

A) March 27

B) March 30

C) March 29

D) March 31

#### Answer: D

- ✓ The International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) occurs annually on March 31.
- ✓ TDOV aims to raise awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, while also celebrating their contributions to society.
- ✓ The day was founded by US-based transgender activist Rachel Crandall of Michigan in 2009
- Q. Which of the following days is observed on March 31 annually?

A) World Computer Day

B) World Backup Day

C) World Algorithm Day

D) World Cyber Security Day

#### Answer: B

- ✓ World Backup Day is marked every year on March 31.
- ✓ The day reminds us to protect our precious digital documents as we've become more reliant on technology.

- ✓ It is a day for people to learn about the increasing role of data in our lives and the importance of regular backups.
- ✓ Originally, the World Backup Day began as World Backup Month, by a hard drive company named Maxtor which was later acquired by Seagate Technology.
- Q. The International Day of Drug Checking is marked every year since 2017 to ensure awareness on drugs. When is this day observed?
  - A) March 28
  - B) March 29
  - C) March 30
  - D) March 31

#### Answer: D

- ✓ The International Day of Drug Checking takes place on March 31 every year since 2017 to ensure people are educated on drugs and aware of their effects.
- ✓ The day aims to promote harm reduction initiatives of drugs and reduce drug-related risk







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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