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Ultimately, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for giving me an abundance of love, support, and respect. Thank you so much, India.

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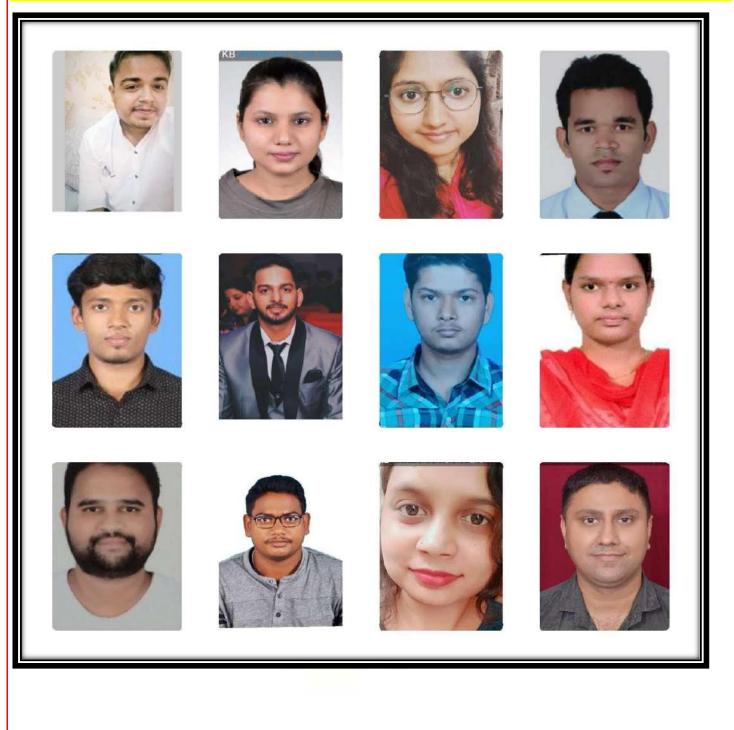
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Name - Neelam State - Jharkhand Selected as - IBPS P



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Name - Christina Dsouza State - Maharashtra Selected as - IBPS Clerk



Name - Himanshu Gupta State - Uttar Pradesh Selected as - IBPS PO & Clerk



Name - Anil State - West Bengal Selected as - RRB PO / RRB Clerk IBPS Cler<del>k</del>



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SET – 01	<b>PAGE NO 9 TO 98</b>
SET – 02	PAGE NO 99 TO 205
SET – 03	PAGE NO 206 TO 317
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### Aparchit May 1st Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts By :- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir

- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Stand-By Arrangement of the International Monetary Fund (IMF):
  - 1. It provides short-term financial assistance to countries facing balance of payments problems.
  - 2. It is available for both emerging as well as low-income countries.

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 International Monetary Fund has approved an immediate disbursal of USD 1.1 billion to Pakistan as part of a bailout package supported by the IMF's Stand-By Arrangement (SBA).
- ✓ The Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) provides short-term financial assistance to countries facing balance of payments problems.
- ✓ Historically, it has been the IMF lending instrument most used by advanced and emerging market countries.
- ✓ Eligibility: All member countries facing actual or potential external financing needs. Most often used by advanced and emerging market countries, but low-income countries sometimes use the SBA together with the Standby Credit Facility (SCF).
- ✓ Conditionality
- ✓ Countries' economic policies must address the problems that led the country to seek funding.
- ✓ Disbursements conditional on the observance of quantitative performance criteria.
- ✓ Duration of loan: Flexible. Typically covers a period of 12–24 months, but not more than 36 months.
- ✓ Key facts about IMF
- ✓ It fosters economic growth and employment by providing temporary financial assistance to countries to help ease the balance of payments adjustment and technical assistance.
- ✓ Foundation: Formed in 1944 at the Bretton Woods Conference with the goal of reconstructing the international monetary system.
- ✓ Important Reports: World Economic Outlook and Global Financial Stability Report
- ✓ Headquarters: Washington, DC, USA



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### **IMF IN NEWS 2024**

- International Monetary Fund has approved an immediate disbursal of USD 1.1 billion to Pakistan as part of a bailout package supported by the IMF's Stand-By Arrangement (SBA).
- Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released the latest Global Financial Stability Report.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reappointed Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria) as Managing Director for a second five-year term starting October 1, 2024.
- > IMF Raises India's GDP Growth Projection to 6.8% for FY 2024-25.
- Recently, in its Fiscal Monitor the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said industrial policy initiatives pursued by the United States, Europe and other countries to steer innovation in certain sectors were no panacea to boost economic growth
- Sri Lanka will get 337 million US dollars assistance from IMF to stabilize the economy.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- ➢ Founded : 1945
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C.
- Managing Director : Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria)
- First Deputy MD : Gita Gopinath
- Chief Economist : Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas (France)
- > Executive Director for India at IMF : Krishnamurthy Subramaniam
- Member countries : 190 (Andorra)
- IMF Released Report
- Global Financial Stability Report
- World Economic Outlook.
- > The value of Special Drawing Right (SDR) is determined by the basket of 5 currencies.
- > The currencies are, US Dollar, Japanese Yen, British Pound, Chinese Yuan and Euro.
- Special Drawing Right is known as the Paper Gold. The value of the SDR is based on a basket of key international currencies reviewed by IMF every five years. SDR was introduced in the 1969 by the IMF to solve the problem of International liquidity



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Q. Which IIT has unveiled Innovative 3D Printed Dummy Ballot Unit in April 2024?

A) IIT Guwahati B) IIT Indore

C) IIT Roorkee

D) IIT Delhi

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Innovative 3D Printed Dummy Ballot Unit unveiled by IIT Guwahati
- ✓ The Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Cell (SVEEP) of Kamrup Election District has partnered with Indian Insitute of Technoloy-Guwahati to develop a innovative 3D printed dummy ballot unit.
- ✓ The inauguration of the dummy ballot unit was held at the IIT Guwahati campus and was attended by several dignitaries.
- ✓ Crafted with the objective of acquainting citizens, particularly new voters, and senior citizens, with the intricacies of voting procedures, the 3D printed dummy ballot unit aims to dispel any apprehensions, anxiety or uncertainties associated with the voting process.
- ✓ SVEEP
- ✓ SVEEP is a programme launched by the Election Commission of India. It aims to educate and spread awareness among the citizens, electors, and voters regarding the electoral process.
- ✓ This programme is designed to fulfill the needs of different states based on their socio-economic, cultural, and demographic profile as well as their history of electoral participation.
- SVEEP is a multi-approach program that uses various modes and media to provide voter education materials and promote informed participation in the electoral process.
- ✓ The Commission produces a range of voter awareness materials and disseminates them through different mediums/platforms of communication, such as print media, electronic media, and social media
- Q. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) was recently granted 'Navratna' status by the Department of Public Enterprises. With this the total number of Navratna PSEs has become \_\_.

A) 15	B) 16
<b>C)</b> 17	D) 19

Answer : C

✓ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) was granted 'Navratna' status by the Department of Public Enterprises.



✓ A non-banking financial institution under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, IREDA is engaged in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance for setting up projects related to new and renewable sources of energy.

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- The Indian government grants Navratna status to premier public sector undertakings (PSUs), empowering  $\checkmark$ them to execute significant investments of up to ₹1,000 crore without requiring approval from the central authority.
- These firms are permitted to allocate up to 30 per cent of their net worth annually, provided it remains under  $\checkmark$ ₹1,000 crore. Additionally, they have the option to participate in joint ventures, forge partnerships, and set up overseas subsidiaries.
- ✓ Established in March 1987, the company offers financial assistance to projects that produce electricity using fresh and sustainable sources. The government holds a 75 per cent ownership stake in the company.
- This takes the total number of Navratna PSEs to 17.

#### **IREDA IN NEWS 2023-24**

- > IREDA has opened an office in GIFT City, Gandhinagar, which will specialize in providing debt options denominated in foreign currencies.
- > Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, Punjab National Bank to co-finance green energy projects.
- > IREDA has entered into an agreement with IIT Bhubaneswar to promote innovation and research in the renewable energy sector.
- > Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Launches 'Pahal' Vigilance Journal
- IREDA Declared 2024 as 'Year of HR Development and Discipline'
- IREDA CMD Pradip Kumar Das bagged 'CMD of the Year' award
- > Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) launched a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) portal to improve transparency in CSR initiatives.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted an 'Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)' status to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).
- IREDA signs MoUs with Union Bank of India and Bank of Baroda to co-finance Renewable Energy  $\geq$ projects.
- > IREDA and Bank of Maharashtra partner to promote renewable energy adoption in India.



Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a Mini Ratna (Category – I) has signed an a MoU with Government, Revenue Target for 2023-24 set at ₹ 4,350.

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- > Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has set up a state-of-the-art Business Centre at NBCC Office Complex, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)
- > It was incorporated as a Public Limited Company in the year 1987 as a 'Non-Banking Financial Institution'.
- > It is a Miniratna (Category 1) type company functioning under the administrative control of 'Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India.
- > Its function is to encourage projects related to new and renewable energy sources and to provide them financial assistance for their development.
- ▶ It has been notified as a 'Public Financial Institution' under section 4'A' of the 'Companies Act, 1956'.
- Chairman and Managing Director Pradip Kumar Das

Q. Who has been appointed as the captain of the Indian men's cricket team for the ICC 2024 T20 World Cup?

A) Shubman Gill	B) Hardik Pandya
C) Rohit Sharma	D) Virat Kohli

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Rohit Sharma to lead Indian team for the 2024 T20 Cricket World Cup.
- ✓ The five-member Senior Men's Cricket Selection Committee, headed by Ajit Agarkar, announced the 15member Indian squad for the 2024 ICC men's T20 cricket World Cup.
- ✓ The 9th ICC Men's T 20 Cricket World Cup will be held from 1-29 June 2024.
- ✓ It is being co-hosted by the West Indies and the United States of America.
- ✓ India has been placed in group A along with Pakistan, Canada, the United States and Ireland.
- ✓ India will play its first match against Ireland on June 5. It will then play against Pakistan on 9 June, the USA on 12 June, and Canada on 15 June
- ✓ India squad for the 2024 T20 World Cup



#### Rohit Sharma (Captain), Hardik Pandya (Vice-Captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, $\checkmark$ Rishabh Pant (wicket keeper), Sanju Samson (wicket keeper), Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Siraj.

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- Reserve players: Shubman Gill, Rinku Singh, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan  $\checkmark$
- Q. Who is the 26th Chief of Naval Staff of the Indian Navy?
  - A) R K Dhawan
  - **B) Karambir Singh**
  - C) Dinesh Kumar Tripathi
  - D) R Harikumar

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Admiral Dinesh Tripathi take charge as 26th Naval Chief
- ✓ Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi assumed office as the 26th Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) on 30 April 2024. Admiral Dinesh Tripathi took the place of Admiral R.Hari Kumar, who demitted his office on 29 April 2024.
- ✓ Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi is an alumnus of Sainik School Rewa, Madhya Pradesh and the National Defence Academy. He was commissioned in the Indian Navy in 1985.
- ✓ About Indian Navy
- ✓ The Indian Navy is one of the three armed forces of India, the other being the Army and Air Force.
- ✓ It is responsible for guarding the maritime boundary and its maritime interests.
- ✓ The Indian Navy is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence, government of India. The President of India is the chief commander of the armed forces, including the Indian Navy.
- ✓ History of the Indian Navy
- ✓ The British established the modern Indian Navy as the Royal Indian Navy on 2 October 1934. On 26 January 1950, the Indian constitution was promulgated, and the Royal Indian Navy was renamed the Indian Navy.
- ✓ Admiral Sir Edward Parry was the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy. The post of Commander in Chief was changed to Chief of Naval Staff in 1955, and the first chief of Naval staff was Admiral Sir Edward Parry.
- Vice Admiral RD Katari assumed office as the first Indian Chief of the Naval Staff on 22 April 1958



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### NEW UPDATED LIST OF CHIEF AND DIRECTOR GENERAL

- Nalin Prabhat : National Security Guard (NSG)
- > Anish Dayal Singh : Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- > Rahul Rasgotra : Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan : Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)
- Daljit Singh Chawdhary : Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
- Nitin Agarwal : Border Security Force (BSF)
- > Pradeep Chandran Nair : Assam Rifles
- > Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari : Air Force Chief
- General Manoj Pande : Army Chief
- > Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi : Navy Chief
- Nina Singh : Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) [Nina Singh becomes 1st woman to head CISF]
- Rakesh Pal : Indian Coast Guard (ICG)
- Lieutenant General Gurbirpal Singh : National Cadet Corps (NCC)

#### Q. Who was appointed as the President of Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association (IVMA)?

A) Krishna M Ella

- B) Adar C Poonawala
- C) Sreelakshmi Suresh D) Farrhad Acidwalla

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Bharat Biotech co-founder Krishna M Ella was appointed president of the Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association (IVMA) for a two-year term from April 2024 to 2026.
- ✓ Krishna M Ella has taken over from Adar C Poonawala.
- Krishna M Ella aims to strengthen collaboration between vaccine manufacturers, researchers. Policymakers have been asked to accelerate vaccine development and improve production. The Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association (IVMA) also wants to support developing countries' access to affordable vaccines
- ✓ Adar Poonawalla has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Serum Institute of India (SII) since 2011.
- SII became the first Indian company to introduce AstraZeneca and Oxford vaccines under the brand name Covishield during Covid-19.



✓ Krishna M Ella takes over as chairman from Adar C Poonawalla, who held the post from 2019 to March 2024

#### Q. Which Indian company's spices have been banned by the health authorities of Singapore and Hong Kong in April 2024?

- A) Badshah and MDH **B) MDH and Everest**
- C) Catch and Zoff

D) Ramdev and Catch

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#### Answer : B

- ✓ FSSAI to check Spices after Singapore & Hong Kong Ban Indian Spices.
- Indian food regulator FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) has announced that it will start checking the quality of spices and culinary herbs within the country.
- ✓ The FSSAI announcement comes after Hong Kong and Singapore banned the four spices mixes of two Indian companies, Everest and MDH, for containing carcinogenic substances.
- ✓ The Maldivian government has also banned the sale of Everest and MDH companies' spices in the country.
- The United States has also said that it will conduct a quality check of the spices made by the two Indian  $\checkmark$ companies.
- ✓ Spices of Everest and MDH banned by Singapore and Hong Kong
- ✓ The health authorities in Hong Kong and Singapore banned the sale of four spice mixes of Everest and MDH due to the presence of the cancer-causing pesticide ethylene oxide above the acceptable limits.
- ✓ The International Agency for Research on Cancer has identified ethylene oxide as a major carcinogen that causes cancer in humans.
- ✓ In Hong Kong, three of the four failed products belonged to the MDH brand and one to Everest. Singapore's food safety department banned the Fish Curry Masala manufactured by spice maker Everest due to the high presence of ethylene oxide
- ✓ Spice Trade and India
- ✓ India is the largest producer, consumer, and exporter of spices in the world. During 2022-23, the country exported 1404357 tons of spices/spice products valued at Rs.31761 crore (3952.60 million US\$).
- ✓ During 2022-23, the single largest spice exported from India was chilli, followed by cumins and Oleoresins.
- ✓ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was set up in 2008 under the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006.



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- ✓ FSSAI is a statutory body which is under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ✓ FSSAI has been created to lay down science-based standards for food and to regulate its manufacture, storage, distribution, sale, and import to ensure the availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.
- ✓ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ✓ Regional Offices: Delhi, Guwahati, Mumbai, Kolkata, Cochin and Chennai

## FSSAI IN NEWS 2023-24

- ▶ FSSAI to check Spices after Singapore & Hong Kong Ban Indian Spices.
- FSSAI is working towards creating a network of 34 microbiology labs across the country that will be equipped to test food products for 10 pathogens.
- FSSAI has awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification to 150 railway stations so far for ensuring safe, hygienic and nutritious food options for passengers.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) introduced a new provision called 'Special Category' in the FOSCOS portal.
- FSSAI has recently recognized the Mithun as a 'food animal,' opening doors for its commercial use found in Arunachal Pradesh.
- > Defence ministry, FSSAI to promote use of millets, healthy eating habits among armed forces.
- Guwahati Railway Station of the Northeast Frontier Railway has been awarded the 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI, for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.
- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated the stateof-the-art National Training Centre for Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- Varanasi Cantt Railway Station of the Indian Railways has been awarded the 5-Star 'Eat Right Station' certification for providing high quality nutritious food to the passengers.
- The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has awarded the food provided by the Bulandshahr prison of Uttar Pradesh a five-star rating and the tag 'Eat Right Campus'. Bulandshahr Jail is the second prison after Farrukhabad jail to get this tag from Uttar Pradesh..
- G Kamala Vardhana Rao was appointed the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).



### > FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which is a consolidating statue related to food safety and regulation in India.

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- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- ➢ Founded : 2008
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Chairperson : Rajesh Bhusan
- CEO : G Kamala Vardhana Rao
- Consider the following statements regarding the 'Inflation Expectations Survey of Households' and Q. 'Consumer Confidence Survey'.
  - 1. They are conducted by NITI Aayog to provide useful inputs for monetary policy.
  - 2. Both surveys are conducted in all of Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only B) 2 only

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

#### Answer : D

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently announced the launch of 'Inflation Expectations Survey of Households' and 'Consumer Confidence Survey' which will provide key inputs for the bi-monthly monetary policy.
- ✓ About 'Inflation Expectations Survey of Households' and 'Consumer Confidence Survey':
- ✓ They are launched by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The results of the surveys provide useful inputs for the bi-monthly monetary policy.  $\checkmark$
- ✓ Inflation Expectations Survey of Households:
- ✓ It aims at capturing subjective assessments on price movements and inflation, based on their individual consumption baskets.
- ✓ This survey spans 19 cities, including Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Thiruvananthapuram.
- This survey will also be conducted in 19 cities, including Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, and Delhi



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Q. What is the primary purpose of 'acceptance sampling' in quality control?

- A) To ensure 100% defect-free products
- B) To eliminate all defects in the production process
- C) To select a representative sample for testing for defects.
- D) To reduce the production costs

#### Answer : C

- ✓ The VVPAT-based audit of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) is a typical case of "lot acceptance sampling", a statistical quality control technique widely used in industry and trade.
- ✓ About Acceptance Sampling:
- ✓ It is a statistical measure used in quality control.
- ✓ It allows a company to determine the quality of a batch of products by selecting a specified number for testing.
- ✓ It tests a representative sample of the product for defects.
- ✓ The quality of this designated sample will be viewed as the quality level for the entire group of products.
- ✓ The process involves first, determining the size of a product lot to be tested, then the number of products to be sampled, and finally the number of defects acceptable within the sample batch.
- ✓ Products are chosen at random for sampling.
- $\checkmark$  It does not assure the quality of the complete set of products from which the sample is derived
- Q. TacticAI, recently seen in news, is developed by:

A) Microsoft	B) Google
C) Nvidia	D) Facebook

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Google's DeepMind developed and evaluated TacticAI in a multi-year research collaboration with experts from Liverpool Football Club.
- ✓ It is an AI system that can provide experts with tactical insights, particularly on corner kicks (football), through predictive and generative AI.
- $\checkmark$  This AI tool can be used by football team managers as an assistant for tactics.



It has been incorporated both a predictive and generative component to allow coaches to effectively sample  $\checkmark$ and explore alternative player setups for each corner kick, and to select those with the highest predicted likelihood of success.

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- It is developed by Google's DeepMind.  $\checkmark$
- **Consider the following:** Q.

1. Canada	2. Russia
3. Japan	4. Germany
5. Australia	
How many of the above are	part of Group of Seven (G7)?
A) Only two	B) Only three
C) Only four	D) All five

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, G7 energy ministers discussed a possible time frame for phasing out coal-fired power plants.
- ✓ It is an intergovernmental organisation of leading industrialised nations formed in 1975.
- Member countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United State.  $\checkmark$
- ✓ Apart from the 7 member countries, the European Union (EU) has also participated fully in the G7 since 1981 as a "non-enumerated" member.
- ✓ It meets annually to discuss issues such as global economic governance, international security, and energy policy.
- ✓ Presidency: The host of the G7 summit, also known as the presidency, rotates annually among member countries.
- ✓ It was formerly referred to as the G-8 until Russia was suspended from the group in 2014 after annexing Crimea.
- ✓ Some of the key principles of the G7 include
- ✓ Democracy: G7 countries promote democratic values and institutions, including free and fair elections, the rule of law, and the protection of individual rights and freedoms.
- ✓ Human rights: They support the protection and promotion of human rights around the world, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights.



 $\checkmark$  Free and fair trade: They are committed to promoting international trade and investment based on open, transparent, and non-discriminatory rules.

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- ✓ Environmental protection: They are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting biodiversity, and addressing other environmental challenges.
- ✓ Peace and security: They are committed to promoting international peace and security, and to preventing and resolving conflicts through diplomatic means.
- Tata Motors has tied up with which bank to offer financing solutions to its commercial vehicle Q. customers and dealerships?
  - A) Karur Vyasya Bank **B)** Karnataka Bank

C) Axis Bank

D) South Indian Bank

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Tata Motors has tied up with South Indian Bank to offer financing solutions to its commercial vehicle customers and dealerships.
- ✓ Objective To empower fleet owners and dealerships to achieve their business goals.
- ✓ As part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), South Indian Bank will offer financing solutions across the auto major's entire commercial vehicle portfolio.
- Reserve Bank kept the limits for FPI investment in government securities (g-secs), state government Q. securities (SGSs) and corporate bonds will remain unchanged at \_\_\_\_\_, respectively, of outstanding stocks of securities for the current fiscal (2024-25).
  - A) 6%, 15% and 2%
  - B) 2%, 6% and 15%
  - C) 6%, 12% and 15%
  - D) 6%, 2% and 15%

#### Answer : D

- ✓ FPI limit in G-sec unchanged at 6% of outstanding stocks of securities: RBI
- ✓ Reserve Bank kept the limits for FPI investment in government securities (g-secs), state government securities (SGSs) and corporate bonds will remain unchanged at 6 per cent, 2 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively, of outstanding stocks of securities for the current fiscal (2024-25).



✓ As of now, all investments by eligible investors in the 'specified securities' will be reckoned under the fully accessible route (FAR).

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- ✓ The allocation of incremental changes in the g-sec limit over the two sub-categories 'General' and 'Longterm' - shall be retained at 50:50 for 2024-25.
- ✓ Further, the aggregate limit of the notional amount of Credit Default Swaps sold by FPIs shall be 5 percent of the outstanding stock of corporate bonds. Accordingly, an additional limit of Rs 2,54,500 crore has been set.
- Q. Who has been conferred Honorary Doctorate by the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) in April 2024?

A) K.V. Kamath	B) Urjit Patel
C) Raghuram Rajan	D) C. Rangarajan

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) held a special convocation in Manipal to confer an honorary doctorate upon KV Kamath, Chairman of National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) and Chairman of Jio Financial Services Ltd.
- This honorary doctorate signifies the profound impact Mr Kamath has had, and we are confident his example will continue to inspire our students to pursue excellence in their chosen fields.
- When is the International Workers' Day observed? Q.

A) May 02	B) May 01
C) May 03	D) May 04

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Every year, 1st May is observed as International Labour Day /Workers Day, or May Day, in many countries of the world, including India.
- The day is observed to mark the contribution of the working people and the labour movement that fought  $\checkmark$ for the rights of the working class.
- ✓ The genesis of International Labour Day is traced to a strike by the labour union in the American industrial city of Chicago on 1 May 1886. The workers were demanding eight hours working day and other amenities for the labour class.
- Steps Taken for Labour Welfare in India  $\checkmark$



- The government of India has taken a number of steps for the welfare of the working class in India.
- Simplified Labour laws
- ✓ In order to simplify labour laws, the government has merged 29 separate labour-related regulations into four Codes: the Wage Code, the Social Security Code, the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, and the Industrial Relations Code.

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- ✓ Schemes for Workers
- ✓ E-Shram Portal: The E-Shram Portal for registering Unorganized Workers across the Country was launched by the government of india on 26 August 2021. It has been developed to create a database of unorganized workers in India.
- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana: Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana is a government of India scheme to provide old age protection and social security for Unorganized workers.
- ✓ It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme under which the beneficiary receives a minimum assured pension of Rs 3000/—per month after attaining the age of 60.
- ✓ If the beneficiary dies, the beneficiary's spouse is entitled to receive 50% of the pension as a family pension.
- Ayushman Bharat Diwas is celebrated annually on which day in India to raise awareness of the Q. objectives of the government's Ayushman Bharat Yojana?

A) 30 April	B) 29 April
C) 28 April	D) 27 April

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Ayushman Bharat Diwas is celebrated annually on 30 April in India to raise awareness of the objectives of the government's Ayushman Bharat Yojana.
- ✓ The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) is also known as the Ayushman Bharat Yojana.
- ✓ It is a healthcare scheme launched by the Indian government to provide affordable and accessible healthcare to about 50 crore people who are economically disadvantaged.
- ✓ The government introduced Ayushman Bharat Yojana scheme after it saw the problem of many people facing difficulties in accessing essential medical care due to financial constraints.
- ✓ Under this scheme, the government will provide medical expenses of up to Rs 5 lakh annually to people who are financially backward.
- ✓ <u>History of Ayushman Bharat Diwas</u>



✓ The Ayushman Bharat Yojana (PM-JAY) is a healthcare scheme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018.

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- ✓ Under this scheme, free health insurance of Rs 5 lakh is provided to more than 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families every year under the PM-JAY scheme.
- Through this scheme, the government provides three days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days of prehospitalization care to the patients.

Q.	When is the Maharashtra Day observed each year?	
	A) May 04	B) May 03
	C) May 02	D) May 01

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Every year Maharashtra Day and Gujarat Day is marked on 1st of May, to commemorate the formation of the state of Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- ✓ In 1960, the Bombay State was bifurcated into two separate states namely, Gujarat and Maharashtra, with the enactment of Bombay Reorganisation Act in 1960
- ✓ Initially, the state of Bombay had mainly four major languages namely, Marathi, Kutchi, Gujarati, and Konkani.
- ✓ After bifurcation, the Marathi and Konkani-speaking population became a part of the state of Maharashtra, while the Kutchi and Gujarati-speaking population became a part of the state of Gujarat.
- ✓ The Day is commonly marked with parades and political speeches and ceremonies, as well as various other public and private events to celebrate the history, culture, values and traditions of both these states.
- According to the Asian Development Bank's Annual Report for 2023, what portion of its financial 0. commitment was dedicated to climate action initiatives?
  - A) USD 9.8 billion

B) USD 13.8 billion

C) USD 23.6 billion

D) USD 33.4 billion

#### Answer : A

- ✓ ADB operations reach USD23.6 billion in 2023, achieve record climate finance of USD9.8 billion.
- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) committed USD 23.6 billion from its own resources in 2023, including USD 9.8 billion for climate action, to help Asia and the Pacific progress on sustainable development.)



These figures are among the financial and operational results published in ADB's Annual Report 2023. The  $\checkmark$ report summarises how ADB supported its developing member countries (DMCs) to address the worsening climate crisis as well as the impacts of conflicts, food insecurity, and increased debt burdens, among other challenges.

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The \$23.6 billion comprised loans, grants, equity investments, guarantees, and technical assistance provided to governments and the private sector. Supplementing its own resources, ADB mobilized an additional \$16.4 billion in cofinancing through its strong partnership

### **ADB IN NEWS 2023-24**

- ADB operations reach USD23.6 billion in 2023, achieve record climate finance of USD9.8 billion.
- Government of India and ADB have signed a \$23 million loan agreement to strengthen the fintech ecosystem in India.
- > India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have collaboratively signed a \$181 million loan agreement targeting the improvement of infrastructure and services in the peri-urban areas surrounding Ahmedabad city in Gujarat.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently appointed Mio Oka as the new director of the bank in India, replacing Takeo Konishi.
- Vikas Sheel has been appointed as Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- India, ADB sign \$200 million loan agreement for Uttarakhand power system project.
- > Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a substantial \$170 million loan to catalyze the modernization of water supply services in Kochi, a rapidly growing city in the southern Indian state of Kerala.
- India & ADB sign \$400 million loan to support urban reform agenda.
- > ADB to Support Improvement of Urban Infrastructure and Services in Peri-urban Areas of Ahmedabad, India.
- > ADB Capital Management Reforms Bring \$100 Billion Benefits Over Next Decade to Asia-Pacific.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced the allocation of US \$ 400 million for welfare work with a special focus on women and girls in Afghanistan.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Fourth Partner Energy Private Limited (Fourth Partner) signed a long-term loan of up to 1.2 billion Indian rupees (about \$14.7 million).



ADB Approves USD 40.5 Million Loan to Enhance Childhood Development and Maternal Mental Health in Meghalaya.

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- > Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$200 million loan as additional financing for the ongoing Rajasthan.
- ADB approves \$295mn loan to improve Transport Connectivity in Bihar.
- > ADB gives 130 million dollars to increase horticulture in Himachal Pradesh.
- ➢ ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)
- ► Founded : 19 December 1966
- > HQ : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa (Japan)
- Vice President : Ashok Lavasa (Indian)
- Director of ADB for India : Mio Oka (Japan)
- Executive Director : Sameer Kumar
- Member Countries : 68 (Nuie).
- > ADB has grown to encompass 68 members; of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- > Japan is the largest contributor in the subscribed capital of the country.
- > Asian Development Outlook, reports published by ADB.
- > It is a regional multilateral financial institution focused on countries in the Asia and Pacific region.
- ▶ It currently has 68 members of which 49 are from the Asia and Pacific region and 19 from outside.

Which event has EaseMyTrip partnered with as the presenting partner, starting on July 3, 2024, at **Q**. **Edgbaston Stadium in Birmingham, UK?** 

A) FIFA World Cup

**B) ICC Cricket World Cup** 

C) None of these

D) World Championship of Legends (WCL)

#### Answer : D

- ✓ EaseMyTrip becomes presenting partner of World Championship of Legends.
- ✓ EaseMyTrip has announced its partnership as the presenting partner of the World Championship of Legends (WCL), set to commence on July 3, 2024 at Edgbaston Stadium in Birmingham, UK.



This partnership underscores our unwavering dedication to championing sporting excellence and curating  $\checkmark$ unforgettable experiences for cricket enthusiasts around the globe.

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- ✓ Six teams will be vying for glory, including India Champions, Australia Champions, Pakistan Champions, England Champions, South Africa Champions, and West Indies Champions
- Which company has partnered with the State Bank of India for its digital transformation? Q. A) TCS **B)** Infosys C) HCLSoftware **D)** Wipro

#### Answer : C

- ✓ SBI partners with HCLSoftware for digital transformation.
- ✓ The country's largest lender, the State Bank of India, partnered with HCLSoftware, the software business unit of HCLTech, for the bank's digital transformation.
- ✓ As part of the five-year agreement, HCLSoftware will deploy the HCL Unica platform to enable SBI to digitally transform its customer interaction framework and provide hyper-personalized communication across the bank's diverse digital marketing channels, while adhering to the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA) and other stringent security requirements.
- HCL Unica, with its advanced Customer Data Platform, AI capabilities and comprehensive campaign  $\checkmark$ management tools, would leverage real-time data to significantly improve SBI's ability to engage with its customers. It will help facilitate complex, multi-channel digital marketing campaigns, enhancing customer engagement precision and relevance.

#### **SBI IN NEWS 2023-24**

- SBI partners with HCLSoftware for digital transformation.
- Aurionpro secures a significant deal with SBI for iCashpro+, a cash management platform. Valued at Rs 100 crore, it involves phased delivery over 12 months, followed by 6-year maintenance.
- LIC emerged as the most valued Indian PSU firm, surpassing SBI.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a Line of Credit (LOC) of Euro 70 million (about Rs 630 crore) with German development bank KfW to promote solar projects in the country.
- SBI Mutual Fund got permission from the RBI to buy up to a 9.99% share in Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates SBI branch in Sri Lanka.
- State Bank of India ropes in MS Dhoni as brand ambassador.



SBI has launched a 'Mobile Handheld Device' as part of its financial inclusion drive in a bid to improve accessibility and convenience.

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- > The tenure of State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Dinesh Khara has been extended till August 2024.
- State Bank of India has introduced a digital facility for Non-Resident Indians to effortlessly open Non-Residential External and Non-Resident Ordinary accounts through its mobile app YONO.
- State Bank of India has launched its 'Nation First Transit Card', a RuPay prepaid instrument under the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) that can be used nationwide.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has raised Rs 10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.54 percent through its third infrastructure bond issuance.
- STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI)
- ► Founded : 1 July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara
- Imperial Bank of India was previous name of SBI
- The presidency Banks of Bengal, Bombay and Madras with merged in 1921 to Imperial Bank of India.  $\geq$
- Tagline of State Bank of India
  - (1) Pure Banking Nothing Else
  - (2) With you all the way
  - (3) A bank of the common man
  - (4) The banker to every Indian
  - (5) The Nation banks on us.
- It is one of the largest and oldest banks in India.

#### Where will the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting be held in India? Q.

A) Visakhapatnam

**B) Kochi** 

C) Mumbai

D) Hyderabad

Answer : B

✓ India to host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting.



✓ India will host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46) and the 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP 26) from May 20 to 30, 2024, in Kochi, Kerala.

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- ✓ The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Union Ministry of Earth Science, will host the meeting.
- ✓ Over 350 delegates from more than 60 countries are expected to attend the 46th ATCM and 26th CEP meetings.
- ✓ The Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting is a forum where the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties and other stakeholders meet to discuss the environmental, scientific, and governance issues affecting Antarctica.
- ✓ Antarctic Treaty
- ✓ The Antarctic Treaty was signed in 1959 in Washington, D.C., by 12 countries and came into force in 1961. At present, 56 countries have signed the Antarctic Treaty.
- ✓ The permanent secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty is in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- ✓ India And Antarctica
- ✓ India signed the Antarctic Treaty in 1983. India enacted the Antarctic Act in 2022.
- ✓ India started its scientific expedition to Antarctica in 1981 to carry out research in the area.
- ✓ The government of India established the first Antarctic research station, Dakshin Gangotri, in 1983 to facilitate research expeditions in the area.
- ✓ At present, India operates two research stations: Maitri (1989) and Bharati (2012)
- ✓ National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)
- ✓ The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research is the nodal body for conducting research in the polar regions (the Arctic and Antarctic), the Himalayas, and the Southern Ocean.
- The Center is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Earth Science, Government of India.  $\checkmark$
- ✓ Headquarters: Vasco Da Gama, Goa
- What is the name of the torpedo developed by DRDO? Q.
  - A) Varunastra
  - C) Dhanush

**B)** Prahaar

**D)** Astra

#### Answer : A

- ✓ DRDO successfully test SMART missile system for Indian Navy.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the next-generation Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system on 1 May 2024 from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.



✓ According to DRDO, several state-of-the-art mechanisms, such as symmetric separation, ejection and velocity control, were validated during the test.

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- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and DRDO chief Dr Samir V Kamat lauded the efforts of the entire SMART team.
- ✓ <u>About SMART Missile System</u>
- ✓ The SMART (Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo) system is a next-generation missile-based lightweight torpedo delivery system being developed by DRDO for the Indian Navy. It is likely to boost the anti-submarine capability of the Indian Navy.
- ✓ The SMART missile system comprises a long-range supersonic missile carrier that can travel up to 643 km, a lightweight torpedo with a range of 20 km, and a 50 kg high-explosive warhead as the payload.
- ✓ What is a Torpedo?
- ✓ A torpedo is a cigar-shaped, self-propelled underwater missile launched from a submarine, ship, or aeroplane. It is designed to explode upon contact with submarines or surface ships.
- ✓ DRDO Torpedo Varunastra
- ✓ DRDO has developed an indigenous torpedo, Varunastra. It is a ship-launched anti-submarine torpedo that was inducted into the Indian Navy in 2016.
- ✓ Varubastra has a range of 40-50 kilometres and is a subsonic missile.
- ✓ Varunastra can hit submarines in deep and shallow waters and quiet submarines.
- ✓ Varunastra can be fired from any Anti-Submarine Ship of the Indian Navy capable of firing heavyweight torpedoes.

#### **DRDO IN NEWS 2023-24**

- > DRDO successfully tested the next-generation Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system on 1 May 2024 from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- > Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is reported to be testing a prototype of its DURGA-2 (Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array) system.
- > DRDO successfully tested the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from Chandipur, Odisha.



Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out successful trials of the Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System at Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan

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- > Recently, Strategic Forces Command and DRDO successfully tested the new generation ballistic missile Agni-Prime off the coast of Odisha.
- > DRDO successfully conducted two flight tests of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile.
- DRDO successfully conducted four flight trials of the high-speed expendable aerial target 'ABHYAS' recently.
- > Defence Ministry has cleared the proposal of buying a regiment of Pralay tactical ballistic missiles for the Indian Army which can strike targets at 150–500 km.
- DRDO organises 'Anusandhaan Chintan Shivir' to encourage Defence R&D.
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have formed a partnership to create an Indigenous Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System for the submarines in the Indian Navy.
- DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.
- Indian Navy and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) collaborated to conduct the first successful test trial of a locally-made Air Droppable Container called 'ADC-150' from the IL 38SD aircraft off the coast of Goa.
- > Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated its 66th foundation day on 1st January 2024.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Founded : 1 January 1958
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Motto : "Strength's Origin is in Knowledge"
- Chairman : Sameer V Kamat

#### Which of the following States of India are known for 'Patachitra painting'? Q.

A) Bihar and Uttar Pradesh	<b>B)</b> Assam and Tripura
C) Odisha and West Bengal	D) Kerala and Tamil Nadu



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### Answer : C

- ✓ The first-generation women patachitra artists of West Bengal's village of Naya sell their work online and are recognised the world over, encouraging future generations to stay in the profession.
- ✓ About Patachitra Painting:
- Patachitra, or Pattachitra, is a general term for traditional, cloth-based scroll painting based in the eastern Indian States of Odisha and West Bengal.
- $\checkmark$  It is believed to have originated as early as the 12th century.
- ✓ In the Sanskrit language, "Patta" literally means "cloth" and "Chitra" means "picture".
- Pattachitra paintings are made on a special canvas where cotton sarees are layered with tamarind paste and then coated with clay powder
- Q. In context of financial markets, the term 'front-running' refers to:
  - A) buying and selling of securities simultaneously
  - B) using non-public information concerning a significant transaction to execute trades
  - C) increase in investment in high-risk assets
  - D) investment in securities through Participatory Notes (P-Notes)

#### Answer : B

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) recently approved changes in mutual fund regulations to prevent front-running in asset management companies (AMCs).
- ✓ About Front-running:
- ✓ Front-running is when a broker or an investor joins a trade because they have pre-existing non-public information concerning a significant transaction that may change the asset's price, equity, or derivative to obtain economic benefits.
- ✓ It is also known as forward-trading or tailgating.
- ✓ It is illegal in India.
- ✓ Front-running can occur in various forms and contexts, including the stock market, commodities market, and other financial markets.
- ✓ The strategies commonly used to front-run trades are the Buy-Buy-Sell (BBS) trading pattern and the Sell-Sell-Buy (SSB) trading pattern.
- ✓ What is Buy-Buy-Sell (BBS) trading pattern?



 $\checkmark$  In this trade pattern, the alleged front-runner, by using the non-public information regarding an impending buy order of the big client, places his buy order before the big client's buy order

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- ✓ What is the Sell-Sell-Buy (SSB) trading pattern?
- ✓ In this trading pattern, the alleged front-runner by using the non-public information regarding an impending sell order of the big client, places his sell orders before the big client's sell order
- With reference to Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, Q. 2014, consider the following statements:
  - 1. It was enacted in order to legalise the vending rights of Street Vendors (SVs).

2. It commits to accommodating all 'existing' vendors in vending zones and issuing Vending Certificates (VCs).

3. It establishes a participatory governance structure through Town Vending Committees (TVCs).

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

#### Answer : C

- ✓ A decade has passed since the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act came into effect on May 1, 2014.
- ✓ About Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014:
- ✓ It was enacted in order to legalise the vending rights of street vendors (SVs).
- ✓ It aimed to protect and regulate street vending in cities, with State-level rules and schemes, and execution by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) through by-laws, planning, and regulation.
- ✓ The Act clearly delineates the roles and responsibilities of both vendors and various levels of government.
- ✓ It commits to accommodating all 'existing' vendors in vending zones and issuing vending certificates (VCs).
- $\checkmark$ The Act establishes a participatory governance structure through Town Vending Committees (TVCs).
- ✓ It mandates that street vendor representatives must constitute 40% of TVC members, with a subrepresentation of 33% of women SVs.
- ✓ These committees are tasked with ensuring the inclusion of all existing vendors in vending zones.
- It provides that the States/ULBs conduct a survey to identify SVs at least once every five years



Q. Consider the following statements regarding Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome:

1. It is characterized by blood clots combined with low levels of platelets in human body.

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2. It is more common among younger age groups.

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, AstraZeneca (AZ) has admitted its Covid vaccine may cause Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS).
- ✓ It is characterized by blood clots (thrombosis) combined with low levels of platelets (thrombocytopenia), which are necessary for blood clotting.
- ✓ It often involves unusual blood clot locations, such as in the brain (cerebral venous sinus thrombosis) or abdomen.
- ✓ Symptoms of TTS: Severe or persistent headaches, blurred vision, Shortness of breath, Chest pain, Leg swelling, Persistent abdominal pain and Easy bruising or tiny blood spots under the skin beyond the injection site etc.

#### Q. La Cumbre volcano, recently in news, is located in:

- A) Andaman and Nicobar B)
  - **B)** Galápagos Islands

C) Baffin Island

D) Sicily Island

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Recent lava spewing from La Cumbre volcano on Galápagos Islands destroying habitat of rare land iguanas.
- ✓ It is located on Fernandina Island the third largest island in the Galápagos Islands.
- ✓ It lies directly atop the mantle plume, or hot spot, that produced all of the Galápagos Island.
- $\checkmark$  It is located around 1,125 kilometres off mainland Ecuador and erupted for the first time since 2020.
- ✓ The volcano has a large crater, or caldera, at its summit that harbors a permanent crater lake.
- ✓ This lake attracts a wide variety of animals including tens of thousands of Galápagos land iguanas (Conolophus subcristatus) that lay their eggs in nests within the caldera



Q. The Ministry of Mines has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which of the following to enhance the knowledge base of the critical minerals processing industry in India?

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- A) ReNew Power
- **B)** Adani Enterprises
- C) NTPC Limited
- D) Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation

#### Answer : D

- The Ministry of Mines has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the non-profit, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, to enhance the knowledge base of the critical minerals processing industry in India.
- This partnership will help in creating a robust domestic critical minerals processing sector to support the country's economic growth and enable a transition to clean sources of energy.
- ✓ The partnership will help promote India as a global hub for critical minerals processing and make it a selfreliant and globally competitive player in the critical minerals arena.
- ✓ The pact will help create a sustainable ecosystem for the growth of the critical minerals industry while ensuring environmental protection
- Which company has signed an MoU with Norwegian company M/s Ocean Sun for the Q. implementation of Floating Solar Energy Technology in India?

A) SJVN Limited	B) NTPC Limited
C) NHPC Limited	D) ReNew Power

#### Answer : C

- ✓ NHPC Limited to collaborate with Ocean Sun for implementation of Floating Solar Energy Technology
- ✓ NHPC Limited, the largest organization for hydropower development in India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with M/s Ocean Sun, a Norwegian company operating as a technology provider to the floating solar industry.
- As per the MoU, NHPC and Ocean Sun will explore key areas of cooperation for demonstration of Ocean Sun's floating solar energy technology based on photovoltaic panels. The panels would be mounted on hydro-elastic membranes, at relevant sites to be identified by NHPC.



Q. Isidro Pablo Porqueras Orea has been appointed as the Chief of Transformation for which airline company?

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- A) IndiGo
- **B)** Air India
- C) SpiceJet
- D) Akasha

#### Answer : A

- ✓ IndiGo has named Isidro Pablo Porqueras Orea, former COO of European airline Volotea, as a chief of transformation.
- ✓ Orea has 25 years of professional experience in different functional areas such as operations, commercial, strategy and finance.
- ✓ He was with European airline Volotea from 2016-2023 and served as their COO for the last 5 years.
- Currently, Wolfgang Prock-Schauer is the COO of India's largest airline
- India will host the Badminton World Junior Championships 2025 in which city? 0.
  - A) Guwahati
  - **B)** New Delhi
  - C) Bengaluru
  - **D)** Ahmedabad

#### Answer : A

- ✓ India will host the BWF World Junior Championships 2025 at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati.
- ✓ The 2025 edition in India will mark the return of the BWF Junior World Championships to the country for the first time since 2008 when Pune hosted the event.
- ✓ The team as well as individual events will be held at the National Centre of Excellence, which was inaugurated by the Badminton Association of India (BAI) last year. It boasts 16 badminton courts, a 4,000 square feet gymnasium, a hostel for players and a dedicated 2,000 square feet physiotherapy centre.
- The 2026 edition of the BWF Thomas and Uber Cup Finals, meanwhile, will head to the Danish city of Horsens



Q. Which organization was granted Navratna Status by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), allowing it to operate more independently and efficiently?

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- A) Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO)
- B) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)
- C) National Housing Bank (NHB)
- D) Urban Development Corporation (UDC)

#### Answer : A

- ✓ HUDCO granted 'Navratna status' by Department Of Public Enterprises
- The Department of Public Enterprises (OPE) granted the Navratna Status to Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO). This status allows IREDA to operate more independently and efficiently.
- ✓ The 'Navratna status' is accorded to Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) who are authorized to take up investments of up to ₹1,000 crore without Central nod.
- They have the room to invest up to 30% of their net worth within a year as long they adhere to the ₹1,000  $\checkmark$ crore threshold
- Which city has been identified as the most polluted in the world according to IQAir's real-time Q. pollution measurements?

A) New Delhi	B) Kathmandu
C) Chiang Mai	D) Hanoi

#### Answer : B

- ✓ According to IQAir, an organization that measures the real-time pollution of 101 cities in the world, Kathmandu was found to be the most polluted city in the world. In terms of pollution, Kathmandu, New Delhi, Chiang Mai in Thailand,
- ✓ Hanoi in Vietnam, Bangkok in Thailand and Dhaka in Bangladesh are ranked first, second, third, fourth and fifth respectively.
- ✓ According to the 'World Air Quality Index-Ranking', which measures the level of air pollution around the world, Kathmandu's air is at the top of the world's unhealthy air list. Air pollution affects the heart and blood vessels, lungs, brain, eyes, nose, ears, and throat and also increases the risk of asthma, cancer and other diseases.



- ✓ As there is a high possibility of heat waves in the Terai region during summer, the Ministry has requested that people should not go outside unnecessarily during the day and drink more water and take liquid food
- Q. Which port in the Northern part of Sri Lanka is set to undergo renovation with the support of an **Indian financial grant?** 
  - A) Hambantota Port

**B)** Colombo Port

C) Galle Port

**D)** Kankesanthurai Port

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#### Answer : D

- ✓ Sri Lanka's Cabinet has approved the plan to renovate the Kankesanthurai port in the Northern part of the island. The project will be executed under an Indian financial grant.
- The project had faced delays as estimated costs surpassed available funds. Recognizing the project's significance, India has pledged to cover the entire estimated cost of the project(USD 61.5 million). Situated in the northern region of Sri Lanka, the Kankesanthurai Port or the KKS Port, with an area of approximately 16 acres, is located at a distance of 104 km (56 nautical miles) from Karaikal Port in Puducherry.
- Which organizations have announced a two-year strategic partnership to drive innovation in Mobile Q. Financial Services (MFS) and Fintech solutions?
  - A) Ericsson and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur
  - **B)** Ericsson and Fintech Solutions Development Institute
  - C) Ericsson and Foundation for Innovation & Research in Science & Technology (F.I.R.S.T)
  - D) Ericsson and Fintech Solutions Development Institute

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Ericsson and IIT Kanpur partner to drive innovation in mobile financial services.
- ✓ Ericsson and the Foundation for Innovation & Research in Science & Technology (F.I.R.S.T) at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur have announced a two-year strategic partnership to drive innovation in Mobile Financial Services (MFS) and Fintech solutions.
- ✓ This collaboration comes at a pivotal moment as the digital wallet market is predicted to surpass \$16 trillion in transactions by 2028.
- Ericsson's Wallet Platform is claimed to support over 400 million registered mobile wallets, processing 2.8 billion transactions valued at over \$40 billion monthly.



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### IIT KANPUR IN NEWS 2023 – 24

- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT) and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) have joined forces to establish the Kotak School of Sustainability.
- > IIT Kanpur Collaborated with Indian Navy to Promote Technology Development
- IITK has established a Center of Excellence (CoE) named ATMAN (Advanced Technologies for Monitoring Air-quality iNdicators)
- Sandeep Jain, an auto-component manufacturer and alumnus of IIT-Kanpur, has been unanimously elected as the President of the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) for the year 2024-25
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) and Airbus have formalized their partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Q.	Which day of the year is observed as the	e World Tuna Day?
	A) May 04	B) May 03
	C) May 02	D) May 01

#### Answer : C

- ✓ The World Tuna Day is observed on May 2 every year to raise awareness about the Tuna fish and its importance to humans and earth and also to promote more sustainable fishing practices.
- ✓ Theme 2023: Yes We Can.
- $\checkmark$  The United Nations (UN) officially recognised the World Tuna Day in 2017.
- ✓ The first World Tuna Day was observed in the year 2017.
- ✓ Tuna is a saltwater fish comprising of some 15 different species across five genera
- Q. The Space Applications Centre (SAC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is located in which one of the following cities?
  - A) Bengaluru B) Hyderabad
  - C) Thiruvananthapuram D) Ahmedabad

Answer : D

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39



✓ A study carried out by the scientists at the Space Applications Centre suggests that the extent of water ice in the northern polar region is twice that in the southern polar region of the Moon.

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- ✓ About Space Applications Centre (SAC):
- ✓ It is a major research and development centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ✓ Located in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, SAC is spread across two campuses with multi-disciplinary activities.
- $\checkmark$  Genesis:
- ✓ The genesis of the centre dates back to 1966, with the establishment of the Experimental Satellite Communication Earth Station (ESCES) by the late Dr. Vikram Sarabhai in Ahmedabad.
- ✓ Later in 1972, the different units of ISRO in Ahmedabad pursuing research in applications of space technology were merged to form SAC.
- ✓ Besides these, the centre also contributes significantly to scientific and planetary missions of ISRO like Chandrayan-1, the Mars Orbiter Mission, etc.

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

- > Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Chairman S Somanath announced on 16 April 2024 that India aims to achieve debris-free space by 2030.
- Proba-3 Mission of Proba-3 Mission of ESA to Study Sun will be Launched by ISRO
- to Study Sun will be Launched by ISRO
- > Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chandrayaan -3 mission team was awarded the 2024 John L "Jack" Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration by the US-based Space Foundation.
- > 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.

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- > 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. What regulatory approval has Groww Pay, the UPI payments platform of broking firm Groww, received from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

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- A) Authorization to issue credit cards.
- B) Permission to operate as a Payments Aggregator (PA).
- C) License to provide insurance services.
- D) Approval to offer investment advisory services.

#### Answer: B

- ✓ RBI grants in-principle nod to Groww to operate as payments aggregator.
- ✓ Groww Pay, the UPI payments platform of broking firm Groww, has received in-principle authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Payments Aggregator (PA).
- ✓ This licence will allow the company to enable e-commerce transactions through its UPI app Groww Pay.
- In July last year, the broking firm rolled out UPI payment services through the Groww Pay Private Limited feature to expand its financial services.

Q. Who recently became the third Indian female Grandmaster after being awarded the title by FIDE, the International Chess Federation?

- A) Tania Sachdev
- **B)** Mary Ann Gomes
- C) Vaishali Ramesh Babu
- **D)** Padmini Rout

### Answer : C

- ✓ International Chess Federation Awards Grandmaster Title To Indian Chess Prodigy Vaishali Ramesh Babu.
- ✓ Indian Chess Prodigy, Vaishali Ramesh Babu, has officially been awarded the title of Grandmaster by FIDE, the International Chess Federation. This remarkable achievement makes Vaishali the third Indian female Grandmaster, joining Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli.
- ✓ Vaishali's promotion to Grandmaster title carries a unique distinction, as she and her brother, Rameshbabu
   Praggnanandhaa, became the world's first Grandmaster brother-sister duo.



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### **CHESS GRANDMASTER IN NEWS 2023-24**

- International Chess Federation Awards Grandmaster Title To Indian Chess Prodigy Vaishali Ramesh Babu.
- > Indian young chess player Rameshbabu Praggnanand has defeated world chess champion Ding Liren in the 'Tata Steel Masters' held in Netherlands.
- > Vaishali Rameshbabu has become the 84th Grandmaster of India.
- Raunak Sadhwani (Maharashtra) won FIDE World Junior Rapid Chess Championship.
- > India's Karthikeyan Murali became the third Indian chess player to defeat World No 1 Magnus Carlsen in classical chess after he prevailed over the Norwegian at the Qatar Masters tournament.
- > Divya Deshmukh (Maharashtra ) Emerges Winner Of 2023 Tata Steel Chess India Women's Rapid Tournament defeated Koneru Humpy.
- Magnus Carlsen (Norway) wins the Chess World Cup Final 2023.
- Aditya Samant becomes India's 83rd Grandmaster.
- > Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa has won the title of V Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM Chess Tournament 2023.

India was ranked as the third-largest country globally for phishing attacks. Which sector in India Q. faced nearly 33 per cent of all such attacks, making it the most targeted industry?

A) Healthcare

**B)** Finance

C) Technology

**D)** Education

#### Answer : C

- ✓ India ranks third globally for phishing attacks: Report
- ✓ India ranked as the third-largest country globally for phishing attacks after the US and UK, with its technology sector facing nearly 33 per cent of all such strikes, marking it as the most targeted industry, according to a report.
- ✓ The report by cybersecurity firm Zscaler showed a 60 per cent rise in global phishing attacks over the past year. The ThreatLabz 2024 Phishing Report gathered insights from 2 billion blocked phishing transactions between January and December 2023.



✓ In 2023, phishing scams targeted the United States (55.9 per cent), United Kingdom (5.6 per cent), and India (3.9 per cent) the most. India experienced over 79 million phishing attacks, making it the third most targeted country, it noted.

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#### Where was the country's first Constitution Park, developed jointly by the Indian Army and Punit Q. Balan Group, inaugurated?

A) Mumbai	B) Pune
C) Delhi	D) Kolkata

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Indian Army & Punit Balan Group develop country's first Constitution Park.
- ✓ The country's first Constitution Park, developed jointly by the Indian Army and Punit Balan Group, was inaugurated by GOC-in-C, Southern Command, Lt Gen Ajai Kumar Singh in Pune.
- ✓ Lt. Gen. Ajai Kumar Singh highlighted the global significance of the Indian Constitution, which not only grants Fundamental Rights but also underscores Fundamental Duties.
- He stressed the need for citizens to comprehend their rights and fulfill their duties, as outlined in the Constitution, for the realization of a developed India by 2047.

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

- > Indian Army and the Punit Balan Group joined hands to inaugurate the nation's first Constitution Park in Pune
- Adani Group's Vizhinjam Port in Kerala has received approval from the shipping ministry to operate as India's first transshipment port
- > SJVN Limited has commissioned India's first multipurpose (heat and power) green hydrogen pilot project at the 1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station at Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh.
- > Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has launched India's first medical devices calibration facility on wheels.
- > 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.

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- > 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.

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- Hitachi Payment Services launched India's first UPI-ATM.
- India's first Vedic-themed park unveiled in Noida.
- Worldline ePayments India obtained authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function Q. as what?
  - A) Mobile wallet provider **B)** Payment gateway
  - C) Online Payment Aggregator (PA) D) Digital currency exchange

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Worldline ePayments India gets RBI nod to operate as payment aggregator.
- ✓ Worldline ePayments India, a player in digital payments, on Tuesday said it received authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an Online Payment Aggregator (PA) under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act of 2007.
- ✓ The authorisation from RBI is a testimony of our commitment to the Indian market and affirming our focus on compliance and highlighting the significance of a well-regulated payments landscape.
- ✓ Worldline ePayments India offers solutions for all kinds of payment needs offering in-store, online, and omnichannel payments to its customers. Since late last year, the RBI has approved multiple online payment gateway companies to be PAs including DigiO, PayU, CRED, CC Avenue, Mswipe, Razorpay, Cashfree, Decentro, Zoho, Tata Pay, Google Pay, and EnKash, among others.
- How did the value of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions compare to the record high Q. observed in March 2024?
  - A) It was 0.7% higher
  - C) It remained the same
- B) It was 0.7% lower
- D) It increased by 40%

#### Answer : B

- ✓ UPI transactions moderate from March peak to ₹19.6-lakh crore.
- $\checkmark$ The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) saw both the number and value of transactions moderating by about 1 per cent on month from the record high seen in March 2024.
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Transactions worth ₹19.64 lakh crore were processed during April 2024, 0.7 per cent lower than the record of ₹19.78-lakh crore seen in the previous month. The value of transactions was 40 per cent higher compared with April 2023, as per data by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

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- The end of a financial year traditionally sees a lot of transactions closer to the 1 lakh limit as a lot of  $\checkmark$ merchants, business owners and individuals square off transactions leading to higher value and volume of transactions.
- The number of transactions on the UPI network fell 1.0 per cent to 1,330 crore during the month from the  $\checkmark$ March peak level of 1,344 crore transactions. On year, the volume of transactions was 50 per cent higher.
- Q. According to the latest data by 1Lattice, which bank held the highest market share in the Debit cards market in March 2024?
  - A) Bank of Baroda

**B)** Canara Bank

C) Union Bank

D) State Bank of India

#### Answer : D

- ✓ HDFC and SBI dominate credit and debit cards market, BoB records highest growth in Mar'24
- ✓ India's largest public sector lender, the State Bank of India, remained the front runner in the Debit cards market, holding a 24 per cent share in March 2024, revealed latest data by 1Lattice.
- ✓ Top banks followed the list like Bank of Baroda which held about 10 per cent market share, followed by Canara Bank, Union Bank and HDFC Bank with approximately 6 per cent market share each and Bank of India with a 5 per cent market share.
- ✓ In the Debit cards segment, Bank of Baroda recorded the highest growth, of approximately 16 per cent yearon-year, while Axis Bank recorded 15 per cent growth and Canara Bank recorded 12 per cent growth. Thereafter, following the lead, Union Bank and HDFC bank registered a growth of 8 per cent each.
- ✓ It is expected that card-based transactions will continue to witness steady growth, at almost 16 per cent year on year for the next four years
- Where did American Express recently inaugurate its expansive nearly one-million-square-feet Q. campus?
  - A) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- B) Bangalore, Karnataka
- C) Gurugram, Haryana
- D) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Answer : C



### ✓ American Express opens its largest office worldwide in India.

 $\checkmark$  American Express, a global payments company, has announced the inauguration of its expansive, nearly one-million-square-foot campus in Gurugram, Haryana. The new campus will serve as a hub for American Express operations in India and will be the largest campus opened by the company to date.

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- Situated in sector 74A Gurugram, the new office will be an addition to its existing facilities in Gurugram, Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Pune.
- With which entity has NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) signed an agreement to support Q. the development of an instant payment system similar to India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) for Namibia?
  - A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **B)** Bank of Namibia (BoN)
  - C) South African Reserve Bank (SARB) D) Central Bank of India (CBI)

#### Answer: B

- ✓ NPCI inks pact with Bank of Namibia for developing UPI-like instant payment system.
- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has signed an agreement with the Bank of Namibia (BoN) to support them in developing an instant payment system like Unified Payment Interface (UPI) for Namibia. By leveraging technology and experiences from India's UPI, the partnership seeks to help Namibia modernize its financial ecosystem.
- This includes improving accessibility, affordability and connectivity with both domestic and international  $\checkmark$ payment networks, and interoperability.
- ✓ Through this collaboration, BoN will gain access to best-in-class technology and insights from NIPL, enabling the creation of a similar platform in Namibia for the digital welfare of its citizens
- Who has recently resigned from the position of joint Managing Director at Kotak Mahindra Bank Q. and is expected to join Federal Bank, as per reports?
  - A) Uday Kotak

**B) KVS Manian** 

C) Aditya Puri

D) Shikha Sharma

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank Joint MD KVS Manian resigns with immediate effect.
- ✓ KVS Manian, joint MD at Kotak Mahindra Bank, has stepped down from his position with immediate effect, the bank informed the exchanges. He is now likely to join Federal Bank, according to reports.



✓ Manian had been with the Kotak Group for a long time and played key roles in taking forward the group's success, and foray into various financial services business.

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

- KVS Manian, joint MD at Kotak Mahindra Bank, has stepped down from his position with immediate effect, the bank informed the exchanges. He is now likely to join Federal Bank.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed Jaideep Hansraj, current MD and CEO of Kotak Securities, as Group President of 'One Kotak' with effect from April 1, 2024.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has sold a 2% stake in KFin Technologies through the open market for Rs 208 crore.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched 'Smart Choice Gold Loan' for customers.
- CCI approves Zurich Insurance's acquisition of 70% stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance.
- > Kotak Mahindra Bank Partners with IITK to Launch Kotak School of Sustainability. The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT) and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) have joined forces to establish the Kotak School of Sustainability.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of CS Rajan as part-time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has partnered with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) on the latter's platform.
- Ashok Vaswani is next Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to acquire 100% stake in micro-lender Sonata Finance.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty or ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank
- ➢ Founded 1985
- Founders : Uday Kotak
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Ashok Vaswani
- Tagline : Let's Make Money Simple Ab Kona Kona Kotak.



Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai.

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- > It is India's third largest private sector bank by market capitalisation after HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank.
- ▶ As of 31 March 2023, the bank has a national footprint of 1,780 branches and 2,963 ATMs.
- Kotak Mahindra Finance was then renamed Kotak Mahindra Bank. At the time, Uday Kotak had a 56% stake in the company while Anand Mahindra held a 5% stake .
- Q. Who was honored by the Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankar, for her 'Outstanding Contribution to the cause of Corporate Social Responsibility'?

A) Nita Ambani

C) Dr. Bina Modi

**B)** Priva Patel

D) Anjali Sharma

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Dr. Bina Modi Felicitated by Vice President of India for Contributions to SIL.
- ✓ Dr. Bina Modi, Chairperson and Managing Director of Modi Enterprises KK Modi Group, was honoured by the esteemed Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankar, for her 'Outstanding Contribution to the cause of Corporate Social Responsibility'.
- ✓ The event marked the inauguration of the new building for the Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF), with the Vice President gracing the occasion as the chief guest.
- ✓ Dr. Modi has been actively engaged in various Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives aimed at uplifting communities and fostering sustainable development. Since 2015, she has been supporting the marginalized farmer community in Andhra Pradesh through multifaceted interventions.
- ✓ Dr. Bina Modi, the esteemed Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, has been honored with the prestigious 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year' Award
- Consider the following statements with reference to Project ISHAN: Q.
  - 1. It aims to streamline and enhance air traffic management.

2. It unifies four Flight Information Regions to single continuous airspace in Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only	B) 2 only
	<b>B</b> ) 2 0 my

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



#### Answer : A

✓ India has kickstarted the process of unifying its four airspace regions into one spanning the entire nation under Project ISHAN.

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- ✓ The Indian Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management (ISHAN) initiative aims to streamline and enhance air traffic management.
- ✓ India is planning a major move to unify its four Flight Information Regions (FIRs) in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai into one continuous airspace in Nagpur and have harmonized Air Traffic Management from Nagpur.
- ✓ The Airports Authority of India (AAI), the public entity invited expressions of interest (EoI) for the preparation of a detailed project report.
- ✓ Currently, Indian airspace is divided into four flight information regions (FIRs) in Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi,
   Chennai, and a sub-FIR in Guwahati each managed separately.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Kutch Ajrakh:
  - 1. It is a textile craft created on cotton cloth with intricate designs.
  - 2. It was introduced in India by the Mughal empire.
  - Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only	B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

# Answer : A

✓ Recently, the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks (CGPDTM) has bestowed the Geographical Indication (GI) certificate upon the traditional artisans of 'Kutch Ajrakh,' hailing from the vibrant region of Kutch in Gujarat.

D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ✓ The Ajrakh is a textile craft, holds deep roots in the cultural tapestry of Gujarat, particularly in the regions of Sindh, Barmer, and Kutch, where its legacy spans millennia.
- The art of Ajrakh entails a meticulous process of hand-block printing on treated cotton cloth, culminating in intricate designs infused with rich symbolism and history.



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Q. With reference to Navratna Public Sector Undertakings (PSU), consider the following statements:

- 1. They can invest up to Rs 1,000 crore without seeking approval from the Central Government.
- 2. They can enter into technology joint ventures with other companies.
- 3. They have autonomy to incur capital expenditure on purchase of new items.
- How many of the above statements are correct?
- A) Only one B) Only two
- C) All three D) None

#### Answer : C

- Recently, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency public sector undertaking company was granted 'Navratna status' from the department of public enterprises.
- The government categorises all Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) into three categories, namely Maharatna, Navratna, and Miniratna.
- ✓ The Government had introduced the 'Navratna' scheme in 1997.
- ✓ Criteria for Navratna status
- A PSU should be a Miniratna-I, Schedule 'A' company, should have obtained an 'excellent' or 'very good' MoU rating in three of the last five years, and must have a composite score of 60 in six performance indicators.
- ✓ It must report a net profit of more than Rs 5,000 crore for three consecutive years, and maintain an average annual turnover of Rs 25,000 crore for three years, or have an annual average net worth of over Rs 15,000 crore for three years.
- ✓ Benefits
- ✓ Financial Independence: They invest up to ₹1,000 crore without seeking approval from the Central Government.
- ✓ Navratna companies are also allowed to invest up to 15% of their net worth on a single project, or 30% of their net worth in a given year, subject to a cap of ₹1,000 crore.
- ✓ To incur capital expenditure on purchase of new items or for replacement, without any monetary ceiling..
- ✓ To enter into technology joint ventures or strategic alliances



#### India has cut its windfall tax on petroleum crude to \_\_\_\_\_ Indian rupees a metric ton from 9,600 rupees **Q**. with effect from May 1.

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A) 9000	<b>B) 8000</b>
---------	----------------

**C) 8400 D) 8800** 

#### Answer : C

- ✓ India has cut its windfall tax on petroleum crude to 8,400 Indian rupees (\$100.66) a metric ton from 9,600 rupees with effect from May 1.
- ✓ The tax, which is revised every fortnight, was left unchanged at zero for diesel and aviation turbine fuel.
- ✓ The government had on April 16 raised the windfall tax on petroleum crude to 9,600 rupees a metric ton from 6,800 rupees.
- ✓ This tax is levied as the Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED).
- ✓ The windfall tax remains unchanged at zero for diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF).
- ✓ The Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) on the export of diesel, petrol, and jet fuel (ATF) remains at nil
- National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) expects its loan sanctions Q. pipeline to swell to about \_\_\_\_ by March-end 2025 against about ₹1 lakh crore as of March-end 2024.

A) ₹2 lakh crore	B) ₹3 lakh crore
C) ₹4 lakh crore	D) ₹5 lakh crore

#### Answer : A

- ✓ NaBFID expects cumulative loan sanctions to top ₹2-lakh cr in FY25
- ✓ The Government-owned National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) expects its loan sanctions pipeline to swell to about ₹2 lakh crore by March-end 2025 against about ₹1 lakh crore as of March-end 2024.
- ✓ To support loan growth, the development financial institution (DFI) is planning to mop up about ₹53,000 crore this year via bond market, bank and multilateral credit lines.
- ✓ The All India Financial Institution was set up in 2022 under the NABFID Act, 2021, as the principal entity for infrastructure financing in the country.
- ✓ NaBFID sanctioned ₹18,560 crore in the January-March 2023 quarter and ₹83,280 crore in FY24. NaBFID crossed ₹1 lakh crore (cumulative) loan sanctions mark in March 2024.



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Q. How much lakh crore rupees were GST collected in April 2024?

A) Rs 2.35 lakh cr B) Rs 2.10 lakh cr

C) Rs 2.80 lakh cr D) Rs 2.76 lakh cr

#### Answer : B

- ✓ GST revenue collection hits record high of Rs 2.10 lakh cr in April
- ✓ India's Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections hit a record high of Rs 2.10 lakh crore in April, growing 12.4 per cent on year-on-year basis.
- ✓ GST collection in March stood at Rs 1.78 lakh crore. Previously, the highest-ever GST collection figure stood at Rs 1.87 lakh crore in April 2023.
- ✓ This is also the first time GST collection has crossed the ₹2 trillion mark, since the unified indirect tax regime was rolled out seven years ago.
- Q. Who has been appointed as the Director of the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)?

A) Pratima Singh	B) Rajesh Singh
C) Deepak Singh	D) Ramesh Chandra

#### Answer : A

- Pratima Singh (IRS) has been selected for the appointment as Director of the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- ✓ She has been selected for the appointment under the Central Staffing Scheme for a period of five years.
- ✓ Singh is an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of 2009-batch. She was recommended for the Central deputation by the Department of Revenue.
- Q. Which IIT was awarded a patent by the Government of India on indigenously developed compact inverter?
  - A) IIT Varanasi

C) IIT Delhi

B) IIT Patna

D) IIT Mumbai

Answer : B

✓ Indian Institute of Technology-Patna (IIT Patna) has been awarded a patent by the Patent Office of the Government of India on an indigenously developed lightweight, compact and easy-to-port inverter.



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✓ IIT Patna will have the copyright on the commercial use of this technology for 20 years.

#### Q. Who recently took over as the Vice Chief of the Indian Navy?

- A) Krishna Swaminathan B) Vinod Kumar
- C) Abhinav Kumar D) Abhay Kohli

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan assumed charge as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff on 01 May 2024.
- ✓ He was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 Jul 87.
- ✓ He is an expert in communications and electronic warfare.
- ✓ He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla.
- Q. When is the World Press Freedom Day commemorated all over the world?

A) 01 May	B) 02 May
C) 04 May	D) 03 May

#### Answer : D

- ✓ The World Press Freedom Day is observed on May 3 annually to raise awareness of the importance of freedom of the press and remind governments of their duty to respect and uphold the right to freedom of expression.
- ✓ The Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993.
- ✓ The 2024 World Press Day is the 31st World Press Day.
- ✓ The theme of the 31st World Press Day is A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis.
- ✓ Freedom of Press in India
- The Indian constitution does not mention freedom of the press as a fundamental right. However, Article 19
   1(a) of the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression to all citizens of India.
- ✓ The Supreme Court, in the Indian Express vs. Union of India case in 1984, held that though freedom of the press is not mentioned in the constitution, nevertheless the freedom of the press is a fundamental right.
- $\checkmark$  The court held that freedom of the press is included in Article 19 1(a) of the constitution



With which financial services provider did YES Bank collaborate to introduce two co-branded credit **Q**. cards named Pi and Phi?

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A) Axis Bank	B) HDFC Bank
C) ICICI Bank	D) ANQ

#### Answer : D

- ✓ YES Bank collaborates with ANQ to launch 2 co-branded credit cards Pi, Phi.
- ✓ YES Bank has partnered with Bengaluru-based financial services provider, ANQ, to unveil two co-branded credit cards — Pi and Phi.
- ✓ The strategic partnership aims to bridge the gap between traditional banking and the fintech industry, offering innovative solutions to meet evolving consumer needs, a release said.
- ✓ The YES Bank-ANQ Pi credit card is a digital-only card that offers credit on UPI for domestic transactions, providing users with convenient and secure payment options. The credit card caters to both domestic and international purchases with its physical card format, offering users versatility in their spending options

### YES BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- > YES Bank collaborates with ANQ to launch 2 co-branded credit cards Pi, Phi.
- > YES Bank has partnered with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024.
- Yes Bank becomes first Indian bank to conduct export finance transactions on RXIL's ITFS.
- > Yes Bank Launches SmartFin With Veefin Solutions, An Advanced Digital Platform To Boost MSMEs.
- Yes Bank becomes first lender to offer 'ONDC Network Gift Card'.
- > Yes bank partnered with fintech Zaggle for next-gen corporate credit card.
- > YES Bank goes live with UPI interoperability on Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).
- Yes Bank Launches All-In-One 'IRIS' Mobile App.
- > Reliance General Insurance becomes first insurer to accept Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) e-Rupee (e) in tie-up with YES Bank
- YES Bank announced the unveiling of its new logo, which forms part of its "refreshed brand identity." YES BANK launches new logo, to roll out campaign 'Life Ko Banao Rich'.



### Yes Bank is an Indian bank headquartered in Mumbai, India and was founded by Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapoor in 2004.

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- ➢ YES BANK
- ➢ Founded : 2004
- Founder : Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapoor
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Sunil Mehta
- MD & CEO : Prashant Kumar
- YES BANK launches new logo, to roll out campaign 'Life Ko Banao Rich'.

#### Who has been elected as the new Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands by the legislators, formerly Q. serving as the Foreign Minister?

A) John Moffat Fugui **B)** Manasseh Sogavare

C) Jeremiah Manele

D) Rick Houenipwela

Answer : C

- ✓ Solomon Islands elects Jeremiah Manele as new prime minister.
- ✓ Legislators in the Solomon Islands have elected former Foreign Minister Jeremiah Manele as their new prime minister.
- ✓ Manele, who has pledged to continue the Pacific nation's China-friendly foreign policy, won 31 votes in a secret ballot. His opponent, longtime opposition leader Matthew Wale, secured 18 votes.

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

- Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah : Kuwait  $\triangleright$
- Simon Harris : Ireland  $\geq$
- Bjarni Benediktsson : Iceland
- Luis Montenegro : Portugal
- Mohammad Mustafa : Palestine
- Olzhas Bektenov : Kazakhstan
- Gabriel Attal : France
- Donald Tusk : Poland

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- 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. Who won the 2024 Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize for designing the cover of "The Book Beautiful" written by Pradeep Sebastian and published by Hachette India?

A) Bhavi Mehta	B) Pradeep Sebastian
C) Hachette India	D) Oxford Bookstores

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Bhavi Mehta wins 2024 Oxford Book Cover Prize for designing Pradeep Sebastian's 'The Book Beautiful'.
- Oxford Bookstores announced Bhavi Mehta as the winner of the 2024 Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize. She won the prize for designing The Book Beautiful written by Pradeep Sebastian and published by Hachette India.
- The winner, announced at India Habitat Centre (IHC) here, was felicitated with a trophy, certificate and one lakh rupees cash prize by art historian and the chair of the jury Alka Pande, author-politician Shashi Tharoor, Ambassador of Norway to India May-Elin Stener and CEO of Apeejay Oxford Bookstores Swagat Sengupta.
- Q. Which company will be the lead arm sponsor for USA's cricket team in ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024?

A) Amul	B) Mother Dairy
C) Tata	D) Dream 11
Answer : A	



✓ Amul will be the lead arm sponsor for USA's cricket team that will participate in ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 which commences on June 1.

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- ✓ The opening match of the tournament will be played between USA and Canada in Dallas.
- This association with Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), responsible for  $\checkmark$ marketing milk and milk products under the brand name Amul, signifies a significant step towards expanding and popularizing cricket across the nation

### **SPONSOR IN NEWS 2024**

- Amul will be the lead arm sponsor for USA's cricket team that will participate in ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 which commences on June 1
- Aramco company would sponsor major FIFA tournaments until 2027.
- > IndusInd Bank, a leading financial institution in India, has announced a significant multi-year sponsorship deal with the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Nandini's Sponsorship of Ireland and Scotland Cricket Teams Sparks Debate
- Tata Group Secures IPL Title Sponsorship for Next 5 Years spanning 2024 to 2028.
- > Indian Cricket Board announced that the IDFC First Bank has grabbed the title rights for home international series of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for three years.
- > Dream11 has reportedly taken over as the main jersey sponsor for the Indian cricket team from July 2023 to March 2026, replacing Byju's.

Indian wildlife biologist, Purnima Devi Barman has been conferred with the Whitley Gold Award Q. 2024 in May 2024. She is from which state?

A) Uttarakhand

**B)** Assam **D)** Tripura

### C) Haryana Answer : B

- ✓ Purnima Devi Barman received 'Green Oscar' Whitley Gold Award 2024
- ✓ A wildlife biologist from Assam, Dr Purnima Devi Barman has won her second Whitley Gold Award, also known as the Green Oscar.
- She was honoured for her conservation effort of the endangered bird, Hargila or Greater Adjutant Stork and its wetland habitat.

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This is the second time that Dr Barman has been honoured with the Whitley Gold Award. She was also  $\checkmark$ awarded the prize in 2017.

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- ✓ Ms Barman received the trophy from charity patron Princess Anne the Princess Royal, the sister of King Charles III, in recognition of her conservation of the stork known locally as "Hargila" in Assamese.
- The Whitley Awards also celebrated six other grassroots conservationists from Guyana, Papua New Guinea, Bhutan, Cameroon, Nepal and Brazil - for their locally-led solutions to the global biodiversity and climate crises.
- Winner of the 2024 Whitley Gold Awards  $\checkmark$
- The first Indians to get the Whitley Gold Award were Archana Godbole and Brad Norman in 2007.  $\checkmark$

Serial no	Winner	Country	Conservation Work
1	Naomi Longa	Papua New Guinea	Marine
2	Raju Sharma	Nepal	Terrestrial
3	Aristide Kamla	Cameroon	Wetlands and Freshwater
4	Kuenzang Dorji	Bhutan	Terrestrial
5	Fernanda Abra	Brazil	Terrestrial
6	Leroy Ignacio	Guyana	Terrestrial
7	Purnima Barman	India	Terrestrial

High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS), recently seen in the news, is developed by which Q. one of the following countries?

A) USA	B) Russia
C) Israel	D) India
Answer : A	



✓ Russia's government recently published new footage claiming to show the targeting of two Ukrainian High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) shortly after the U.S. authorized a significant new chunk of military aid for Ukraine.

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- ✓ About High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS):
- $\checkmark$  It is a light, multiple rocket launcher.
- ✓ It is manufactured by Lockheed Martin Corporation, a US-based security and aerospace company.
- ✓ HIMARS is intended to engage and defeat artillery, air defence concentrations, trucks, light armour, and personnel carriers, as well as support troop and supply concentrations.
- ✓ It is an air-transportable wheeled launcher mounted on a 5-ton Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV).
- ✓ It can carry either a launcher pod of six rockets or one MGM-140Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS), which have a range of 300 km (186 miles).
- Consider the following statements regarding the Commission on Population and Development: 0.
  - 1. It was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
  - 2. It consists of 47 member countries elected for a period of four years.
  - 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 Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund is organizing event titled "Localizing the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way" during the 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD57).
- ✓ It was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946, which was renamed as the Commission on Population and Development by the General Assembly in 1994.
- ✓ Members: It is composed of 47 member countries.
- ✓ Term: Member countries are elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of four years on the basis of geographic distribution.



 $\checkmark$  It was constituted as three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that plays the primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of the programme of action at the national, regional and international levels and advise the Council thereon.

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- The meetings of commission were held typically every two or three years until 1994, after which it has been held once a year.
- ✓ It is not a United Nations affiliated body.
- ✓ The government of India has selected three elected women representatives Neeru Yadav, Supriya Das Datta, and Kunuku Hema Kumari, to represent India at the United Nations' "Localising the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way" event. The event will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 3 May 2024.
- ✓ Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, is leading the Indian delegation to the United Nations event
- ✓ The "Localising the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way" event in New York is being organised by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, along with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
- ✓ The Indian-organised event will be held alongside during the 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD57), which will be held from 29 April - 3 May 2024 in New York, United States of America.
- The United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030, all people will enjoy peace and prosperity. The United Nations has set a target to achieve the 17 SDG goals by 2030
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to C295 Transport Aircraft:

1. It is a new-generation tactical airlifter indigenously designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

2. It is powered by turboprop engines and designed to provide low-level flight characteristics.

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

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- The Indian Air Force (IAF) recently received delivery of the second of the 56 C295 aircraft.
- About C295 Transport Aircraft:
- ✓ It is a new-generation tactical airlifter in the light and medium segment.
- ✓ It was designed and built by Airbus, a European multinational aerospace corporation.
- It is a reliable and highly versatile tactical transport that is tailored for missions that range from carrying troops and cargo, maritime patrol, airborne warning, surveillance and reconnaissance to signals intelligence, armed close air support, medical evacuation, Air-to-Air refuelling, VIP transport, and airborne firefighting.

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- ✓ In 2021, India formalised the acquisition of 56 C295 aircraft to replace the legacy Avro fleet of the IAF at a cost of Rs 21,935 crore.
- ✓ Under the deal, Airbus will deliver the first 16 aircraft in 'fly-away' condition from its final assembly line in Seville by 2025, and the subsequent 40 aircraft will be manufactured and assembled by Tata Advanced Systems (TASL) in India as part of an industrial partnership between the two companies.

#### Which organization organized the #PlayTrue Campaign in India to commemorate WADA's Play Q. True Day?

- A) UNESCO
- **B) WHO**
- C) NADA
- **D) UNICEF**

#### Answer : C

- ✓ NADA India organized #PlayTrue Campaign to create awareness about clean sports.
- ✓ The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), India concluded #PlayTrue Campaign, with turnout of more than 12,133 participants.
- The campaign commemorated WADA's Play True Day and aimed at fostering awareness about the  $\checkmark$ importance of clean sport and anti-doping practices in India, received overwhelming participation and support from athletes, coaches, and sports enthusiasts nationwide.
- The #PlayTrue Campaign highlights NADA India's commitment to equipping athletes, coaches, and the entire sporting community with a thorough understanding of anti-doping regulations, empowering them to champion clean play in India. The campaign was held from 15th to 30th April, 2024



Q. What is the name of the portal launched by the government's Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare in collaboration with Bank of India?

- A) PensionEase Portal B) Pensioners' Bank Portal
- C) Integrated Pensioners' Portal

D) PensionerConnect Portal

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#### Answer : C

- ✓ Pension department launches integrated portal for govt retirees.
- ✓ The government's Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has started a portal in collaboration with Bank of India. The Integrated Pensioners' Portal of Bank of India combines the pension processing and payment services of five banks into a single window, said the Press Information Bureau (PIB) in a statement.
- ✓ A key feature of the portal, made possible by the department's collaboration with Bank of India, is that retirees can access their monthly pension slips, check the status of life certificates, submit Form 16, and view statements of arrears paid.
- ✓ Integrating the portal, which is also known as Bhavishya Portal, with the relevant services of State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank and Canara Bank has been completed. Most pensiondisbursing banks will be integrated with the portal later
- Q. What interest rate did the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announce for the Government of India Floating Rate Bond 2034 (GOI FRB 2034) for the half-year period from April 30, 2024, to October 29, 2024?
  - A) 6%
  - **B) 7%**
  - **C) 8%**
  - D) 9%

#### Answer : C

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced an 8 percent interest on Government of India Floating Rate Bond 2034 (GOI FRB 2034) for the half year April 30, 2024 to October 29, 2024.
- ✓ It may be recalled that FRB 2034 carries a coupon, which has a base rate equivalent to the average of the Weighted Average Yield (WAY) of last three auctions (from the rate fixing day i.e., April 30, 2024) of 182 Day T-Bills, plus a fixed spread (0.98 per cent), the RBI said in a release



Q. Which investors have backed the neobanking startup Fi, enabling it to secure a non-banking finance company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India?

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- A) HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank B) Peak XV and Temasek
- C) Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank D) SBI and PNB

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Neobanking startup Fi secures NBFC licence from RBI.
- ✓ Neobanking startup Fi, backed by investors such as Peak XV and Temasek, has secured a non-banking finance company (NBFC) licence from the Reserve Bank of India, enabling it to provide loans from its own books.
- ✓ With this, Fi has joined the likes of Jupiter, Groww and Cred, all of which got into the lending business either by getting a fresh licence or by acquiring another NBFC.
- ✓ In recent years, fintech startups have pursued NBFC licences to streamline their entry into lending, given the RBI's stringent regulations on online credit disbursal.
- Q. Which IT company has recently announced a partnership with Spain-based Atento to deliver generative AI-powered solutions and services to global enterprises?
  - A) Wipro
  - B) TCS
  - C) Infosys
  - D) Tech Mahindra

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Tech Mahindra, Atento join hands to offer GenAI-powered services.
- IT company Tech Mahindra said it has partnered with Spain-based Atento to provide generative AI-powered solutions and services to global enterprises.
- ✓ Atento is a customer relationship management (CRM) and business transformation outsourcing (BTO) company in Latin America.
- ✓ The partnership will deliver end-to-end business transformation solutions and services that leverage.
- ✓ Generative AI-powered technologies, as well as customer experience (CX) consulting for customers in the United States, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa and Latin American regions.



Q. Who emerged victorious in the men's and women's categories at the 16th edition of the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) World 10K Bengaluru?

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- A) Peter Mwaniki and Lilian Kasait B) Eliud Kipchoge and Brigid Kosgei
- C) Joshua Cheptegei and Hellen Obiri D) Geoffrey Kamworor and Faith Chepngetich

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Kenyan athletes triumph at TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2024.
- The 16th edition of the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) World 10K Bengaluru witnessed a display of exceptional athleticism as Kenyan runners, Peter Mwaniki and Lilian Kasait, claimed victory in the men's and women's categories respectively.
- Mwaniki, touted as a favourite contender, secured the men's title with a commanding performance, crossing  $\checkmark$ the finish line with a time of 28:15. His strategic surge in the final stretch propelled him ahead of his compatriot Hillary Chepkwony, who finished closely behind at 28:33. Notably, 17-year-old debutant Hagos Eyob impressed with a time of 28:39, securing the third position.
- ✓ In the women's category, Kasait showcased her prowess early on, seizing the lead and maintaining a relentless pace throughout the race. While falling just short of the event record, Kasait's determined run culminated in a victory with a time of 30:56.
- The Indian elite category saw Kiran Matre and Sanjivani Jadhav emerge as the victors, both setting new event records. Matre's resilient effort resulted in a first-place finish with a time of 29:32, breaking the previous record
- Who has been appointed as the Managing Director & CEO designate for Mahindra and Mahindra Q. Financial Services Limited (MMFSL), set to assume office upon the retirement of Ramesh Iyer on April 29, 2024?
  - A) Ramesh Iyer
  - C) Anand Mahindra

- **B)** Raul Rebello
- D) Pawan Goenka

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Raul Rebello appointed MD & CEO of Mahindra Finance.
- The Board of Directors of Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Limited (MMFSL Company) announced Raul Rebello as the MD & CEO designate for MMFSL. Raul will take over as MD & CEO when Ramesh Iyer retires, on 29th April 2024.



Raul, aged 45 years, joined MMFSL on 1st September 2021 as the Chief Operating Officer of the Company.  $\checkmark$ Over the past 17 months, Raul has capably led the growth and transformation journey in MMFSL, demonstrating strong leadership.

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#### The National Coal Miners Day is observed in India on which day? Q.

A) May 01	B) May 04
C) May 02	D) May 03

#### Answer : B

- ✓ In India, the Coal Miners Day is celebrated on May 4 every year, to recognize the hard work of some of the great unsung heroes of Industrial Revolution.
- ✓ The day aims to show appreciation for the coal miners and honour their accomplishments, who spend most of the days digging, tunnelling and extracting coal from the mines.
- ✓ Though coal miners have been working for centuries, they became significantly important due to the Industrial revolution between 1760 and 1840 when coal was used on a large scale to fuel stationary and locomotive engines and heat buildings.
- ✓ Indian states such as Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra are the significant coal suppliers

0. The International Firefighters' Day (IFFD) is marked annually on

- A) May 02
- **B) May 03**
- C) May 04
- **D) May 01**

Answer : C

- ✓ The International Firefighters' Day (IFFD) is observed on May 4 every year since 1999, to recognise and honour the sacrifices that firefighters make to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible.
- The day was instituted, after the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia on 2 December 1998.



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Q. Koothandavar festival, recently in news, is celebrated in:

- A) Gujarat B) Manipur
- C) Maharashtra D) Tamil Nadu

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Koothandavar festival at Koovagam in Tamil Nadu plays out a tale of marriage and widowhood, all in a day.
- ✓ In the Tamil month of Chithirai (mid-April to mid-May), the 18-day Koothandavar festival takes place in Koovagam of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ It is the annual event, steeped in tradition, garners global attention for its unique celebration of the transgender identity.

### **FESTIVAL IN NEWS 2023-24**

- Koothandavar Festival : Tamil Nadu
- Seng Khihlang Festival : Meghalaya
- Gorsam Kora festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- Chapchar Kut Festival : Mizoram
- Orange Festival : Nagaland
- > Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- Ethnic Mamani Festival : Ladakh
- International Camel Festival : Bikaner, Rajasthan
- Chandubi Festival : Assam
- International Purple Fest 2024 Goa
- National Street Food Festival : New Delhi
- Kuno Forest Festival : Madhya Pradesh
- Shar Amartala Torgya' Festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- > 24th Hornbill Festival : Nagaland
- Dhillo festival : Goa
- India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023 : Faridabad, Haryana
- Arattu festival : Kerala
- Banni festival : Andhra Pradesh



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- Zanskar Festival : Ladakh
- Indo-Latin America Cultural Festival : New Delhi
- Nuakhai festival : Odisha
- Nadi Utsav : Delhi
- > Karnataka Cultural Festival : Sri Lanka .
- Unmesha' International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts : Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- > Festival of Libraries 2023 : New Delhi .
- > Chachin Grazing Festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- Harela Festival : Uttarakhand
- Bonalu Festival : Telangana
- Kharchi Puja : Tripura
- Palkhi festival : Maharashtra
- Raja festival : Odisha

Q. Where did REC Limited receive regulatory approval to set up its wholly owned subsidiary, as announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

A) Mumbai	B) New Delhi
C) Gandhinagar	D) Bangalore

#### Answer : C

- ✓ REC gets RBI nod to set up subsidiary in GIFT City, Gujarat.
- REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has received a 'No Objection Certificate' from the Reserve Bank of India(RBI), for setting up a wholly owned subsidiary in International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), Gujarat International Finance Tec-City ("GIFT"), Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ✓ The decision to expand operations into GIFT, a burgeoning hub for financial services in India, comes as REC continues to diversify its portfolio and explore new avenues for growth.
- ✓ The proposed subsidiary will engage in a range of financial activities as a finance company within GIFT, including lending, investment, and other financial services.



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### **REC LTD IN NEWS 2023-24**

- > REC gets RBI nod to set up subsidiary in GIFT City, Gujarat
- REC Limited, a Ministry of Power entity, clinched the SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in 'Renewable Energy Financing'.
- > REC Limited joins hands with UNISED to support Education of Children.
- REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been honoured with the 'Innovative Technology Development Award' at the 'Building India 2047:Technology for Better Tomorrow', an IIT Madras CSR Summit.
- REC Limited has been awarded the prestigious Best Green Bond Corporate Award at The Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance 2024.
- REC will lend up to ₹1.2 trillion for the installation of rooftop solar panels under the Pradhan Mantri Suryoday Yojana.
- REC Limited issues inaugural Yen Denominated Green Bonds aggregating to 61.1 Billion Japanese Yen.
- REC sets ₹1 lakh crore sanction target for infrastructure space including roads and highways in FY24.
- ▶ REC Invests Rs. 35,000 Cr In Multi-Modal Projects With Rail Vikas Nigam For 5 Years.
- > REC Honoured with 'Best Employer in Diversity & Inclusion' Award by Assocham.
- RailTel has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with REC Ltd extending up to Rs 30,000 crore as financial assistance for telecom, IT and railway signaling infrastructure projects.
- > REC Ltd gets Golden Peacock Award for Disaster Management.
- REC Limited, the Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise launched a SUGAM REC mobile application.
- REC Limited and Punjab National Bank have signed an MoU to explore funding possibilities in the Power Infrastructure and logistics sectors.
- > The consortium arrangement will co-finance loans worth Rs 55,000 crores over the next three years.
- > REC Ltd has become the 12th company to attain the Maharatna status
- > REC Limited, formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited
- ➢ Founded : 1969
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- CMD : Vivek Kumar Dewangan



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- > REC was formerly known as Rural Electrification Corporation Limited.
- ▶ REC Limited is an NBFC focused on financing and development of the power sector across India.
- > REC Limited has also recently started services in the financing infrastructure and logistics sector.
- REC funding lights every fourth bulb in India. REC is a 'Maharatna' company under the Ministry of Power.
- Q. Who has been named as the laureates of the 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize?
  - A) Chilean journalists reporting on corruption
  - B) Palestinian journalists covering Gaza
  - C) Indian journalists advocating for press freedom
  - D) Nigerian journalists promoting investigative journalism

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Palestinian journalists covering Gaza awarded 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
- Palestinian journalists covering Gaza have been named as laureates of the 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, following the recommendation of an International Jury of media professionals. The Award Ceremony taken place the margins of the World Press Freedom Conference in Santiago, Chile.
- ✓ The ongoing conflict in Gaza is having grave consequences for journalists. Since 7 October 2023, UNESCO has condemned and deplored the deaths of 26 journalists and media workers in the line of work, based upon information from its international NGO partners. The Organization is reviewing dozens of other cases.
- ✓ UNESCO is supporting journalists reporting from conflict and crisis zones. The Organization is distributing essential supplies to journalists in Gaza, and has established safe working spaces and provided emergency grants for journalists in Ukraine and Sudan.

### UNESCO IN NEWS 2023-24

- Palestinian journalists covering Gaza awarded 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize
- A multibillion-dollar dam project underway across the Mekong River in Laos has prompted concerns that it could result in Luang Prabang City losing its UNESCO World Heritage Site status.

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India has nominated the "Maratha Military Landscapes", a network of forts that showcase the strategic military powers of Maratha rule, for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage list for 2024-25.

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- ▶ 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will take place from July 21 to 31, 2024 in New Delhi, India.
- Gujarat's Garba Dance Enters UNESCO's 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' List.
- > Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has secured recognition as one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports' and has been awarded the 'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023' by the UNESCO's Prix Versailles.
- ➢ 'Garba of Gujarat' has been inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity by UNESCO.
- Garba dance is the 15th intangible cultural heritage of India to be included in this list.
- Kozhikode in Kerala has been designated as the UNESCO 'City of Literature' and Gwalior as the 'City' of Music' in the latest UNESCO list of Creative Cities Network.
- > temples of the Hoysala Empire in Karnataka, India were officially added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites, marking India's 42nd addition to the prestigious heritage list.
- > Three Hoysala-era temples in Karnataka [Chennakeshava (Belur), Hoysaleswara (Halebidu) and Keshava Temple (Somanathapura, Mysuru)] recently made it to UNESCO's World Heritage List, under the collective entry of 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas'.
- Santiniketan, located in West Bengal, India, has achieved the prestigious status of being recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site .
- Santiniketan as the 41st World Heritage Property in India.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Formation : 16 November 1945
- Headquarters : Paris, France
- Director-General : Audrey Azoulay (France)
- ➢ Member countries : 193



Q. Who has been announced as the new National Ambassador for Unicef India, after previously serving as a Celebrity Advocate for the organization?

A) Kareena Kapoor Khan

**B)** Priyanka Chopra Jonas

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C) Deepika Padukone

D) Aishwarya Rai Bachchan

### Answer : A

- ✓ UNICEF India appoints Kareena Kapoor Khan as National Ambassador #ForEveryChild.
- ✓ Unicef India announced Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan as its new National Ambassador.
- ✓ Kareena had earlier served as a Celebrity Advocate for Unicef India.
- ✓ The "Crew" star, who has been associated with Unicef India since 2014, will support the not-for-profit organisation in furthering every child's right to early childhood development, health, education and gender equality.
- ✓ The four advocates are Gauranshi Sharma from Madhya Pradesh on right to play and disability inclusion; Kartik Verma from Uttar Pradesh on climate action and child rights advocacy; singer Nahid Afrin from Assam on mental health and early childhood development; and Vinisha Umashankar from Tamil Nadu is a budding innovator and STEM pioneer.

### LATEST BRAND AMBASSADOR IN NEWS 2023-24

- Kareena Kapoor Khan : UNICEF India National Ambassador #ForEveryChild
- Yuvraj Singh : ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024
- Usain Bolt : 2024 ICC T20 World Cup
- Sana Mir : ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : Citroen
- Sanjana Sanghi : SPACE India
- > Narendra Kumar Yadav : "Fit India" Movement as Brand Ambassador
- Katrina Kaif : Chennai Super Kings as Brand Ambassador for IPL 2024
- Ranveer Singh : boAt
- Deepika Padukone : TECNO
- ➢ R Madhavan : Acko
- Sourav Ganguly : brand ambassador of Tripura state to promote tourism
- Sourav Ganguly : Brand Ambassador of Bengal



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- Pankaj Tripathi : 'UPI Safety Ambassador
- > Mahendra Singh Dhoni : State Bank of India (SBI)
- Katrina Kaif : Luxury Swiss watch brand 'Rado'
- > Chetan bhagat : Henry Harvin Education
- Mohammed Shami : Puma
- Sachin Tendulkar : ICC as the global ambassador of ODI World Cup 2023
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : JioMart
- Katrina Kaif : Uniqlo
- Hrithik Roshan : lubricants brand Mobilil
- Anushka Sharma : W
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : Swaraj Tractors
- Iga Świątek : Infosys
- Rafael Nadal : Infosys
- Rahul Dravid : Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
- Shah Rukh Khan : ICC World Cup 2023
- > Shraddha Kapoor: Asics India Private Limited
- > Rashmika Mandanna : Printer company Epson India
- Smriti Mandhana : Wrangler
- Hrithik Roshan : Zebronics TV
- Sachin Tendulkar : Smile Ambassador
- Sania Mirza : Sony Sports Network
- Sourav Ganguly : Brand ambassador of Tripura Tourism
- Virat Kohli : Duroflex
- > Alia Bhatt : Gucci, the luxury fashion brand from Italy
- > Ayushman Khurana : Wakefit
- Rishabh Pant : Star Sports
- Rohit Sharma : JioCinema
- Virat Kohli : HSBC India
- Ranveer Singh : Star Sports Network
- > Shreya Ghodawat : India's ambassador for She Changes Climate



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

### Q. 'MQ-9B Predator', recently seen in news, is a:

- A) next-generation space exploration rover
- B) nuclear-powered submarine
- C) high-altitude Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- D) cutting-edge military stealth fighter jet

### Answer : C

- The MQ-9B Predator drones India will be buying from the United States will be placed in two States: Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ About MQ-9B Predator:
- ✓ It is a high-altitude, long-endurance armed Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), capable of remotely controlled or autonomous flight operations.
- ✓ It is a variant of the MQ-9 "Reaper" developed by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems (GA-ASI), with its primary purpose being for the United States Air Force (USAF).
- ✓ The United States uses these drones for surveillance, intelligence gathering, and airstrikes.



✓ The MQ-9B drone has two variants: SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian. The latter has been in operation by the Indian Navy since 2020.

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- ✓ Features:
- It can carry up to 5,670 kg and has a fuel capacity of 2,721 kg.  $\checkmark$
- It can operate at altitudes exceeding 40,000 feet.  $\checkmark$
- With reference to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), consider the following statements: Q.
  - 1. They can only accept demand deposits from the public.

2. They do not form part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on itself.

3. Deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is not available to depositors of NBFCs.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

### Answer : B

- ✓ Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) are increasing their fixed deposit (FD) rates to mop up funds that can make up for lower bank borrowings.
- ✓ About Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC):
- ✓ An NBFC is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956, engaged in the business of loans and advances, the acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/debentures/securities issued by the Government or local authority or other marketable securities of a like nature, leasing, hire-purchase, insurance business, chit business.
- It does not include any institution whose principal business is that of agriculture activity, industrial activity, the purchase or sale of any goods (other than securities) or providing any services and sale/purchase/construction of immovable property.
- A non-banking institution which is a company and has the principal business of receiving deposits under any scheme or arrangement in one lump sum or in installments by way of contributions, or in any other manner, is also an NBFC (Residuary non-banking company).
- They cannot accept deposits for a period less than 12 months and more than 60 months.



✓ NBFCs cannot offer interest rates higher than the ceiling rate prescribed by RBI from time to time. The present ceiling is 12.5 per cent per annum.

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- $\checkmark$  NBFCs also provide a wide range of monetary advice like chit-reserves and advances.
- ✓ NBFCs do not have a banking license;
- ✓ NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits;.
- $\checkmark$  Regulation:
- ✓ The functions of the NBFCs are managed by both the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and the RBI.
- ✓ The RBI has the authority to issue licenses to NBFCs, regulate their operations, and ensure that they adhere to the established norms and regulations.
- ✓ NBFCs are categorized
- ✓ in terms of the types of liabilities into Deposit and Non-Deposit accepting NBFCs,
- ✓ non-deposit taking NBFCs by their size into systemically important and other non-deposit holding companies (NBFC-NDSI and NBFC-ND) and by the kind of activity, they conduct.
- ✓ What are systemically important NBFCs?
- ✓ NBFCs whose asset size is ₹ 500 crore or more as per the last audited balance sheet are considered systemically important NBFCs.
- ✓ Examples of NBFCs include investment banks, mortgage lenders, money market funds, insurance companies, equipment leasing companies, infrastructure finance companies, hedge funds, private equity funds, and P2P lenders
- What is the primary objective of a Nifty Non-Cyclical Index Fund, recently seen in the news? Q.
  - A) To generate short-term profits through speculative trading
  - B) To capitalize on market trends during economic downturns
  - C) To focus on high-risk, high-return investments
  - D) To invest in securities of companies that are not impacted by economic instability

Answer : D

- ✓ Groww Mutual Fund recently launched India's first Nifty Non-Cyclical Consumer Index Fund.
- ✓ About Nifty Non-Cyclical Index Fund:
- ✓ It is a type of mutual fund that aims to generate long-term capital growth by investing in securities of the Nifty Non-Cyclical Consumer Index (TRI).



This index contains 30 companies that are not majorly impacted by economic instability and are in regular demand, making them a good investment option during economic downturns.

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- ✓ Non-cyclical stocks are also known as defensive stocks; these stocks outperform their industry in the stock market despite economic instability.
- $\checkmark$  They are not affected by cyclical changes and are in constant demand due to the everyday needs of consumers, such as food, water, and other utilities.
- ✓ Key Facts about NIFTY:
- ✓ NIFTY is a market index introduced by the National Stock Exchange (NSE), India's largest stock exchange.
- ✓ It is a blended word: National Stock Exchange and Fifty coined by the NSE.
- ✓ Nifty was established in 1996 with the name CNX Nifty. Further, in 2015, it was renamed Nifty 50.
- ✓ NIFTY 50 is a benchmark-based index and also the flagship of NSE.
- ✓ It represents the performance of the 50 largest and most actively traded stocks listed on the NSE.
- ✓ It includes stocks of companies from 12 sectors, such as financial services, information technology, consumer goods, metals, pharmaceuticals, energy, etc, and collectively represents the stock market and economic trends of India.
- ✓ NSE ranks companies based on free-float market capitalisation.
- ✓ It is one of the two main stock market indices in India, the other being SENSEX, a product of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Participatory Notes:
  - 1. These are financial instruments used by investors to invest in the Indian securities.
  - 2. These are issued by the Reserve Bank of India to overseas investors.
  - 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

- ✓ Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) domiciled at the GIFT International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) and registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have been allowed to issue participatory notes.
- These are often referred to as PNs or P-Notes.



✓ These are financial instruments used by investors and hedge funds to invest in the Indian securities, and no registration is required with the Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

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- ✓ Investments flowing in through PNs are considered as offshore derivative investments.
- ✓ These are issued by registered FPIs to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly.
- ✓ While the FIIs have to report all such investments each quarter to SEBI, they need not disclose the identity of the actual investors.
- ✓ What is Foreign Portfolio Investment?
- ✓ It refers to the purchase and holding of a wide array of foreign financial assets by investors seeking to invest in a country outside their own.
- ✓ Foreign portfolio investors have access to a range of investment instruments such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, derivatives, fixed deposits, etc.
- ✓ FPI generally intends to invest money into the foreign country's stock market to generate a quick return.
- ✓ In India, foreign portfolio investment is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- With reference to Sahyadri Tiger reserve, consider the following statements: Q.
  - 1. It has the presence of barren rocky and lateritic plateaus locally called Sadas.
  - 2. It is located in the State of Karnataka.
  - 3. It includes the area around Koyna Dam and Warna river.
  - How many of the above statements are correct?
  - A) Only one B) Only two
  - C) All three D) None

### Answer : B

- ✓ The Maharashtra forest department is gearing up for translocation of a few tigers from the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Chandrapur to Sahyadri Tiger reserve.
- ✓ It is located in the Sahyadri Ranges of the Western Ghats in Maharashtra.
- ✓ It was notified in 2010 by amalgamating the Chandoli national park and Koyna wildlife sanctuary.
- The region of this Tiger Reserve includes the area around the Koyna Dam, the Warna River, and many  $\checkmark$ other small rivers and streams originating from the Western Ghats and flowing to the east.



Other tiger reserves of Maharashtra: Melghat Tiger Reserve, Bor Tiger Reserve, Nawegaon-Nagzira Tiger  $\checkmark$ Reserve, Pench Tiger Reserve and Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve

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- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 3 are correct
- Bhavishya platform, recently launched by the Government of India, primarily aims to: Q.
  - A) facilitate online voter registration
  - B) track pension sanction and payment process online
  - C) simplify the process of issuance of passport
  - D) streamline the income tax returns filing process

### Answer : B

- ✓ The Government's Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare recently started the Integrated Pensioners' Portal in collaboration with Bank of India.
- ✓ About Integrated Pensioners' Portal:
- The portal is specifically designed to ensure complete digitization of the pension processing and payment system.
- ✓ It combines the pension processing and payment services of five banks (Bank of India, State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, and Canara Bank) into a single window.
- ✓ Most pension-disbursing banks will be integrated with the portal later.
- ✓ Its primary objective is to achieve transparency and efficiency in pension-related services.
- ✓ With this system, the pensioner's personal and service particulars can be captured, which enables the online submission of pension forms.
- ✓ Retirees will also be notified of the progress of their pension sanction through SMS or email, keeping them informed throughout the process.
- ✓ The portal has a Bhavishya platform and a Centralised Pension Grievances Redress and Monitoring System (CPENGRAMS).
- ✓ Bhavishya platform:
- It is an online Pension Sanction & Payment Tracking System launched by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare.



 $\checkmark$  It provides online tracking of pension sanction and payment process by the individual as well as the administrative authorities for all actions preparatory to grant pension and other retirement benefits, as well as payment of monthly pension after retirement.

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- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Lakshya Aircraft:
  - 1. It is a re-usable high subsonic aerial target system powered by a gas turbine engine.
  - 2. It is designed and built by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

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

- ✓ Aeronautical Development Establishment, a Bengaluru-based Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) lab that developed the Lakshya aircraft, has been visited by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- ✓ About Lakshya Aircraft:
- ✓ It is an indigenously developed micro-light and pilot-less target aircraft.
- ✓ It designed and built by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), a subsidiary of DRDO, for the Indian Armed Forces.
- ✓ The Lakshya was inducted into the Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, and Indian Army in 2000, 2001, and 2003, respectively.
- ✓ The Lakshya was inducted into the Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, and Indian Army in 2000, 2001, and 2003, respectively.
- $\checkmark$  It is a cost-effective re-usable high subsonic aerial target system powered by a gas turbine engine.
- ✓ The engine is designed and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Bangalore.
- ✓ It is required for evaluation and development trials of new surface-to-air and air-to-air weapon systems.
- ✓ It carries two tow targets of tow lengths of 1.5 km each, having radar, IR or visual signature augmentation, and a Miss Distance Indication Scoring System.
- Q. Which Indian state surpassed Karnataka in total private equity investments for the fiscal year 2023-24?

A) Karnataka

B) Haryana



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### C) Maharashtra

### D) Tamil Nadu

### Answer : C

- ✓ Maharashtra leads in private equity investments in FY24 while overall investment drops.
- Maharashtra has emerged as the top state, surpassing Karnataka in total money flow for the fiscal year 2023-24 in terms of private equity investments (PE funds) in India. In 2022-23, Karnataka has topped the list for maximum PE investments in the state.
- ✓ Mumbai, the financial capital of India, has clinched the spotlight by becoming the leading city for investments after receiving an investment of \$7.3 billion, according to a report titled 'India Invests' by Wealth 360 One.
- ✓ Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana, Delhi, and Tamil Nadu are the top five states to attract substantial investments from private equity funds.
- ✓ Mumbai has surpassed India's Silicon City Bengaluru in attracting PE funds, as startup funding has substantially lowered in FY24

Q. What is the name of India's first indigenous bomber UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) aircraft developed by Flying Wedge Defence, a leading company in India's defense and aerospace technology sector?

A) FWD-100A	B) FWD-200B
C) FWD-300C	D) FWD-400D

#### Answer : B

- ✓ India's first indigenous bomber UAV unveiled in Bengaluru.
- ✓ India's first indigenous bomber UAV aircraft- FWD-200B developed by Flying Wedge Defence, one of the pioneers in India's defence and aerospace technology sector, was unveiled.
- ✓ The Flying Wedge Defence's state-of-the-art manufacturing unit where the FWD-200B was meticulously crafted, is over 12000 sq.ft built on 1.5 acre land and is located at Electronic City.
- ✓ The FWD-200B has a payload capacity of 100 kgs and is classified as a MALE Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (medium-altitude, long-endurance). The Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) consists of optical surveillance payloads and is integrated with missile-like weapons for precision air strikes. While having a max speed of 200 kts/370 kmph, it has an endurance capacity of 12-20 hours.



Which actor, known for his roles in "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" and "Titanic," Q. has passed away at the age of 79?

A) Bernard Hill

B) Ian McKellen

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C) Leonardo DiCaprio D) Viggo Mortensen

### Answer : A

- ✓ Actor Bernard Hill, of 'Titanic' and 'Lord of the Rings,' passes away
- ✓ Actor Bernard Hill, who delivered a rousing cry before leading his people into battle in The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" and went down with the ship as the captain in Titanic, has died. He was 79.
- ✓ Hill joined The Lord Of The Rings franchise in the second film of the trilogy, 2002's The Two Towers, as Thoden, King of Rohan. The following year, he reprised the role in Return of the King, a movie that won 11 Oscars.
- ✓ He was nominated for an award in 1983 from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts for the role, and the show won the BAFTA for best drama series

Who, known for leading Argentina to victory in the 1978 FIFA World Cup, has passed away at the **Q**. age of 85?

- A) Lionel Messi
- **B)** Diego Maradona
- C) Gabriel Batistuta
- D) Cesar Luis Menotti

### Answer : D

- ✓ Argentina's FIFA World Cup-Winning Coach Menotti Dies Aged 85.
- ✓ Cesar Luis Menotti, who led a dashing Argentina team to victory in the 1978 FIFA World Cup, has died aged 85, the country's football federation announced.
- ✓ Menotti played for Rosario Central, Boca Juniors and Santos. He began his coaching career at Newell's Old Boys and won the Argentine championship with Huracan in 1973, before taking over as head coach of the Argentine national team in 1974.
- ✓ Menotti, who left the national side after the 1982 World Cup, went on to coach Barcelona, where he guided the side to the Copa Del Rey success in 1983.



Q. The Appointment committee of Cabinet has approved the appointment of \_\_\_\_\_ as President GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) for 4 years.

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- A) Ranveer Arora B) Akhilendra Sahu
- C) Kavita Shukla D) Sanjaya Kumar Mishra

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Sanjaya Kumar Mishra appoints as head of GST Appellate Tribunal
- ✓ The Appointment committee of Cabinet has approved the appointment of Sanjaya Kumar Mishra as President GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) for 4 years.
- ✓ Mishra is a former Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court.
- ✓ The selection was made on the recommendations of a Search-Cum-Selection Committee. This will speed up the process of making the GSTAT functional at earliest.
- ✓ GSTAT will have one Principal Bench located at Delhi and 31 State benches located at various locations across States.
- ✓ In February 2024, the Department of Revenue invited applications for appointments to the posts of the 63 posts of judicial members and 32 posts for the technical Members (Centre) in Principal Bench of GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT).
- ✓ The eligibility criteria was being a judge of the High Court, or serving a retired District Judge or Additional District Judge with 10 years of combined experience, or Lawyer with 10 years of experience with substantial experience in litigation in matters relating to indirect taxes
- Which company has secured USD 400 million finance from a consortium of five international banks Q. for its under-construction solar projects of 750 MW in Gujarat and Rajasthan?
  - A) NTPC Limited

**B) REC Limited** 

**C)** ReNew Power

D) Adani Green Energy

### Answer : D

- ✓ Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has secured USD 400 million finance from a consortium of five international banks for its under-construction solar projects of 750 MW in Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- One of the projects is being developed in Rajasthan with 500 MW capacity and has a long-term power purchase agreement (PPA) with Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).



The second one, with 250 MW capacity, is a standalone merchant power project being implemented at the  $\checkmark$ world's largest RE cluster in Khavda, Gujarat.

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✓ The consortium of lenders includes Cooperative Rabobank U.A., DBS Bank Ltd, Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A., MUFG Bank, Ltd., and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

#### Who has been appointed as MD of Raymond for 5 years? Q.

- A) Farrhad Acidwalla B) Akhilendra Sahu
- C) Gautam Hari Singhania **D)** Nithin Kamath

### Answer : C

- ✓ Gautam Singhania appointed as MD of Raymond
- ✓ Raymond has re-appointed Gautam Hari Singhania as its managing director for a term of five years effective from July 1, 2024.
- ✓ Singhania, a commerce graduate, assumed the role of chairman and managing director of Raymond in September 2000.
- ✓ Over the years, he has been instrumental in strategically restructuring the Raymond Group, including the divestment of its non-core businesses of Steel, Cement, and Synthetics.
- Q. Carol Furtado has been appointed as executive director of which Small Finance Bank in May 2024?
  - A) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank **B)** Shivalik Small Finance Bank
  - C) Suryoday Small Finance Bank **D)** Capital Small Finance Bank

### Answer : A

- ✓ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has appointed Carol Furtado as executive director for three years with effect from May 1.
- ✓ Ms Furtado has been with the bank since its inception and assumed various key positions including chief human resource officer, head of operations and service quality and chief business officer.
- ✓ Furtado has over 29 years of banking experience in retail banking and non-banking finance company domains. She was instrumental in the organisation's transition from NBFC-MFI to a small finance bank.
- 0. Which day of the year is observed as the International Day of the Midwife?

A) 02 May	B) 05 May	
<b>C) 03 May</b>	<b>D) 04 May</b>	



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### Answer : B

- ✓ Every year the, International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) celebrates the International Day of the Midwife on 5 May.
- ✓ The first International Day of the Midwife was celebrated in 1992.
- The main objective of this day is to recognise the work of midwives and raise awareness about the status of midwives for the essential care they provide to mothers and their newborns.

Q.	Coal Miners D	Dav is observed	every year on	which day in India?
<b>~</b> •	Cour minero E	uj 15 00501 /04	cici j jeur on	Whiteh way in himitat

A) May 5	<b>B)</b> May 3
<b>C)</b> May 4	D) May 2

### Answer : C

- In India, the Coal Miners Day is celebrated on May 4 every year, to recognize the hard work of some of the great unsung heroes of Industrial Revolution.
- ✓ The day aims to show appreciation for the coal miners and honour their accomplishments, who spend most of the days digging, tunnelling and extracting coal from the mines.
- ✓ Though coal miners have been working for centuries, they became significantly important due to the Industrial revolution between 1760 and 1840 when coal was used on a large scale to fuel stationary and locomotive engines and heat buildings.
- ✓ Indian states such as Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra are the significant coal suppliers

B) May 5

D) May 6

### Q. When is the International No Diet Day celebrated?

A) May 7	
----------	--

**C)** May 4

### Answer : D

- ✓ International No Diet Day is observed on May 6, and its symbol is a light blue ribbon.
- ✓ It is an annual celebration of body acceptance, including fat acceptance and body shape diversity. It means recognising that your body is beautiful exactly as it is and worry less about your weight, body shape and more about being healthy and active.



- The day is dedicated to promoting a healthy life style with a focus on health at any size and in raising  $\checkmark$ awareness of the potential dangers of dieting and the unlikelihood of success
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the FWD-200B, recently seen in the news:
  - 1. It is an indigenous military-grade bomber Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).
  - 2. It is designed and manufactured by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

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- 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

- ✓ India's first indigenous bomber UAV aircraft, the FWD-200B, developed by Flying Wedge Defence, an Indian defence and aerospace company, was unveiled recently.
- ✓ About FWD-200B:
- ✓ It is an indigenous military grade bomber Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).
- ✓ It is India's first indigenous unmanned bomber aircraft.
- ✓ It is designed and manufactured by Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace Technologies, an Indian defence and aerospace company.
- ✓ It has a payload capacity of 100 kg and is classified as a MALE (medium-altitude, long-endurance) Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle.
- ✓ The Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) consists of optical surveillance payloads and is integrated with missilelike weapons for precision air strikes.
- ✓ It has a maximum speed of 370 kmph (200 knots), an endurance capacity of 12 to 20 hours, and a ground control station range of 200 km.
- ✓ At six metres long, with an eight-metre wingspan, the aircraft can carry a maximum take-off weight of 498 kg and has an operational altitude of 9,000 feet above mean sea level.

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

India's first indigenous bomber UAV aircraft, the FWD-200B, developed by Flying Wedge Defence, an Indian defence and aerospace company, was unveiled recently.



Indian Army and the Punit Balan Group joined hands to inaugurate the nation's first Constitution Park in Pune

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- Adani Group's Vizhinjam Port in Kerala has received approval from the shipping ministry to operate as India's first transshipment port
- SJVN Limited has commissioned India's first multipurpose (heat and power) green hydrogen pilot project at the 1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station at Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has launched India's first medical devices calibration facility on wheels.
- > 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 .



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- > 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. Iga Swiatek, who won the 2024 Madrid Open Tennis Women's singles title, belongs to which country?

A) Belarus	B) Poland
C) Norway	D) Australia

### Answer : B

- ✓ World no.1 women's tennis players Iga Swiatek and Andrey Rublev won the women's and men's singles titles at the 2024 Madrid Open, respectively.
- This was the first Madrid Open title for Iga Swiatek of Poland, while it was the second Madrid Open title for Andrey Rublev.
- ✓ The Madrid Open Tennis was held in the Spanish capital city of Madrid from 22 April to 5 May 2024.
- ✓ Iga Swiatek defeated Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (9/7) to win her first Madrid Open title. Last year, she lost in the final to Aryna Sabalenka.



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- ✓ Andrey Rublev of Russia won the singles title of the ATP Madrid Open Masters 1000, beating Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada 4-6, 7-5, 7-5, to win his second ATP Masters title.
- Q. Who has won the 2024 Thomas Cup badminton title?
  - A) China B) Indonesia
  - C) India D) Malaysia

### Answer : A

- ✓ China wins both Thomas and Uber Cup Badminton titles
- ✓ The Chinese badminton team confirmed its domination of the sport by winning both the men's Tomas Cup and the women's Uber Cup. The final of the 2024 BWF Thomas and Uber Cup was played in the Chinese city of Chengdu on May 5, 2024.
- ✓ Thomas and Uber Cup is held every two years and is organised by the world badminton governing body, the Badminton World Federation (BWF).
- ✓ In both the Thomas and Uber Cup, three singles and two doubles matches are played. However, if a team wins the first two singles and the first doubles, then no other matches are played.
- ✓ The 2024 edition of the Thomas and Uber Cup was held in Chengdu, China, from 27 April to 5 May 2024.
- ✓ 2024 BWF Thomas and Uber Cup
- ✓ For the first time since 2012, Chinese badminton has won both the men's and women's titles at the world team championships.
- ✓ Thomas Cup
- ✓ China defeated Indonesia 4-1 to win the Thomas Cup for the 11th time.
- ✓ 16 teams participated in the Thomas Cup, including India. However, the Indian team lost to China in the quarterfinals 3-1 to crash out of the championship. India was the defending champion.
- ✓ The Indian team won the Thomas Cup held in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2022.
- ✓ Uber Cup
- ✓ The Chinese women's team defeated Indonesia 3-0 to win the Uber Cup for the 16th time. The Chinese women's team dominated the event by winning 24 straight games throughout the tournament.
- ✓ The Indian women's team lost in the quarter-finals to Japan 3-0.
- ✓ About Thomas Cup
- $\checkmark$  The Thomas Cup is also known as the World Men's Badminton Team Championship.
- ✓ The first Thomas Cup was held in 1948-49, and Malaysia won it by defeating Denmark in the final.



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- ✓ To date, only six countries have won the Thomas Cup
- ✓ Indonesia has been the most successful team in the event, winning it 15 times. China has won the title 11 times. Malaysia has won it 5 times, Japan has won it once, and India has won it once in 2022.
- ✓ The only non-Asian country to win the Thomas Cup was Denmark in 2016.
- ✓ The 2024 Thomas Cup champion team is China
- ✓ About Uber Cup
- ✓ The Women's Badminton Team Championship is also popularly known as Uber Cup. The trophy has been named after England's great badminton player Betty Uber who designed and donated the trophy.
- ✓ Since 1984, Uber has been held along with the Thomas Cup at the same venue. It is also held every two years.
- ✓ The first Uber Cup was held in 1956-57 and it was won by the USA team.
- China is the most successful team, having won it 16 times, and Japan has won it 6 times. The Indian women's team has never won the Uber Cup.
- ✓ The 2024 champion team is China

### Q. Who has won the 2024 Uber Cup badminton title?

A) Japan	B) India
C) Indonesia	D) China

### Answer : D

Q.	Which team has won the 2023-24 Indian Super League	
	A) Mohun Bagan Super Giant	B) Mumbai City FC
	C) FC Goa	D) Odisha FC

### Answer : B

- ✓ Mumbai City FC defeat Mohun Bagan Super Giant to win the ISL 2023-24
- Mumbai City FC football club defeated Mohun Bagan Bagan Super Giant by 3-1 goals to win the 2023-24 Indian Super League (ISL) final, which was played at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan Stadium in Kolkata (West Bengal). This was Mumbai City FC's second title.
- ✓ Incidentally, Mumbai City FC won its first ISL title in 2020-21 by defeating the Mohun Bagan team
- ✓ The winner of the ISL 2023-24 Mumbai City FC took Rs 6 crore as the prize money, and the runners-up, Mohun Bagan Super Giant, got Rs 3 crore as prize money.

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91



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Q. Who has won the 2024 Men's AFC U23 title?

- A) Japan B) Uzbekistan
- C) India

D) Thailand

### Answer : A

- ✓ Japan win 2024 Men's AFC U-23 Title by beating Uzbekistan in final
- ✓ Japan defeated Uzbekistan in the final to win the Men's AFC U-23 Asian Cup for the second time. Japan had earlier won the tournament title in 2016.
- ✓ In the final match played at the Jassim bin Hamad Stadium in Doha, Qatar, Japan won by a solitary goal and also qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics
- ✓ The 6th edition of AFC U-23 was held in Qatar from 15 April -3 May 2024.
- ✓ Gold for Japan, Silver for Uzbekistan, and Bronze for Iraq
- ✓ Performers at the 2024 AFC U 23
- ✓ Fair Play Award Uzbekistan. The award was received by Uzbekistan's captain Jaloliddinov.
- ✓ Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament- Uzbekistan's goalkeeper Nematov.
- ✓ Top Goalscorer of the Tournament Ali Jasim of Iraq. He scored four goals during the tournament.
- ✓ Most Valuable Player of the Tournament Japanese team captain Fujita
- ✓ 2024 Men's AFC U 23
- The 6th edition of the 2024 men's AFC U-23 was held in Doha, Qatar, from 15 April -3 May 2024. 16 teams from Asia participated in the tournament.
- The 2024 Men's AFC U 23 Asian Cup was organised by the Asian Football Confederation along with the host Qatar Football Association.
- ✓ The men's AFC U 23 is organised every two years.
- ✓ The first championship was organised in 2013 in Oman which was won by Iraq.
- ✓ In the 2022 championship, Saudi Arabia won the title.
- ✓ Japan is the most successful team, having won it in 2016 and 2024.
- Q. Which team has won the 2023-24 season La Liga title?
  - A) Barcelona

B) Sevilla

C) Forward

D) Real Madrid

Answer : D

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- ✓ 36th La Liga Title for Real Madrid football club
- The Spanish football club Real Madrid has been crowned the La Liga 2023-24 season title after beating Cadiz 3-0. In the other match, which had a bearing on the title, the Girona football club defeated Barcelona 4-2 to ensure that Real Madrid won its 36th La Liga title.
- ✓ Real Madrid, also known as Los Blancos by its supporters, leads the 2023-24 La Liga season with 87 points, with four games still to play.
- ✓ Real Madrid has taken an unassailable lead of 13 points over its nearest rival, Girona.
- ✓ Brahim Diaz, Jude Bellingham and Joselu scored the goals for Real Madrid in the match against Cadiz. La Liga is the top domestic men's professional football tournament in Spain.

### Q. India's premier biennial motor show "Auto Expo" will be held in which city in 2025?

A) Hyderabad	B) Mumbai
C) Chennai	D) New Delhi

### Answer : D

- ✓ Auto Expo set to move back to New Delhi in 2025
- ✓ The Auto Expo is set to return to the national capital in 2025, after a decade.
- ✓ India's flagship biennial motor show will be organized next year under the Bharat Mobility umbrella in New Delhi's Pragati Maidan, 10 years after the exhibition was moved to Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, in 2014.
- ✓ Under the Bharat Mobility umbrella, automotive industry body Society of Indian Automobile Manufactutrers (SIAM) will organize the customer-focused motor show.
- ✓ It is typically a ticketed event attracting retail footfall at Bharat Mandapam in Pragati Maidan, while the global components expo will be organized by Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) at Yashobhoomi in Dwarka.

### SUMMIT & CONFERENCE IN NEWS 2023-24

- A Ministerial round table conference was held on April 24th, 2024, during the 26th World Energy Congress in Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure's 6th edition has begun in New Delhi.
- > The conference's theme is "Investing today for a more resilient tomorrow".
- > The 16th World Future Energy Summit has recently commenced in Abu Dhabi, UAE.



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- > 3rd Summit for Democracy being hosted by South Korea
- 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



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Q. In which country will the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 be organized?

A) India	B) Bangladesh

C) England

D) Australia

### Answer : B

- ✓ International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the schedule of the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup 2024.
- ✓ This will be the ninth edition of the Women's T20 World Cup which will be held in Bangladesh between 3 to 20 October.
- ✓ The Indian cricket team will take on arch-rival Pakistan on October 6
- Q. Which company will launch the world's first compressed natural gas (CNG) motorcycle in June 2024?

A) Honda	B) Hyundai
C) Bajaj Auto	D) Ola

### Answer : C

- ✓ Bajaj Auto will launch the world's first compressed natural gas (CNG) motorcycle on June 2024.
- This move marks a significant shift in the industry, providing customers with a cost-effective and eco-friendly alternative to traditional petrol motorcycles.
- ✓ With the new CNG-powered bikes, customers can expect a significant reduction in operational costs, making it an attractive proposition in today's market.
- ✓ Bajaj Auto plans to initiate production with an initial capacity of 20,000 CNG motorcycles, a cautious step considering the varied response the initiative has garnered thus far.
- ✓ The CNG-powered bike is to be named Bruzer 125 CNG.

Q. Sunita Williams is ready to fly into space, how many times has she traveled to space before?

A) Once

**B)** Twice

**D)** Four times

C) Three times

Answer : B

 Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams is set to fly into space for the third time as a pilot in the first crewed test flight of Boeing's Starliner spacecraft. Boeing's Starliner will fly to the International Space Station from



Cape Canaveral, Florida. Butch Wilmore will travel to the International Space Station with 58-year-old Williams.

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### FIRST'S FEMALE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Professor Naima Khatoon has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University  $\geq$ (AMU).
- Democratic Republic Of Congo Appoints Judith Suminwa Tuluka As African Nation's First Woman Prime Minister.
- Suman Kumari has become the first woman sniper of the Border Security Force (BSF).  $\geq$
- Maryam Nawaz was sworn in as the first woman Chief Minister (CM) of Pakistan's Punjab province.
- > Justice Ritu Bahri was today sworn in as the first woman Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court.
- Nina Singh becomes first woman to be appointed as DG of CISF.
- $\geq$ Captain Fatima Wasim has become the first woman medical officer to be posted at the operational post of Siachen Glacier.
- Captain Geetika Kaul of Snow Leopard Brigade had become the first woman medical officer to be  $\geq$ deployed in Siachen.
- Commander Prerna Deosthalee has been appointed as the first woman officer to command a warship in the Indian Navy (INW).
- Sue Redfern became the first woman to stand as an umpire in a men's first-class cricket match in England and Wales.
- > Jaya Varma Sinha has been appointed as the new Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Railway Board (Ministry of Railways) w.e.f Sept 01, 2023. She has replaced AK Lahoti.
- She is the first woman to be appointed to this Apex post of Indian Railways.  $\geq$
- Geetika Srivastava is first woman to head Indian mission in Pakistan.
- > Phangnon Konyak became the first woman to chair the Rajya Sabha from Nagaland.
- > Tenzing Yangki has become the first female IPS officer of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Lisa Franchetti becomes 1st woman to be top Navy officer in US history.  $\geq$
- Nusrat Chowdhary will become the first Muslim woman federal judge in US history.
- Celeste Saulo of Argentina has been appointed as the first female Secretary-General of the World  $\triangleright$ Meteorological Organization (WMO).



Shalini Singh from Lucknow has become the first woman NCC cadet in India to complete a mountaineering course in the Himalayan region of Uttarakhand.

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- > Parminder Chopra becomes first woman Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Finance Corporation.
- Amy Pope of the United States has been selected as the first female Director-General of the United Nations Migration Agency.
- Lieutenant Shivangi Singh is the first woman Rafale pilot to take part in Orion Exercise 2023.
- > Wing Commander Deepika Mishra has become the first woman Air Force officer to receive the Gallantry Medal.
- New Zealand-born Kim Cotton has become the first female umpire to officiate in a Men's T20 International (T20I) cricket match involving two ICC full-member nations.
- Sheenu Jhawar becomes first woman president of TiE Rajasthan.
- > American Space Agency, NASA has selected the first woman astronaut, Christina Koch for its Artemis II mission.
- Surekha Yadav, Asia's 1st woman loco pilot who now operates Vande Bharat, From Solapur to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminal (CSMT) in Maharashtra.
- Shalija Dhami becomes first woman officer to command a fighter unit in Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Colonel Geeta Rana became the first woman officer to command a field workshop.
- > Captain Shiva Chauhan becomes the first women officer to be operationally deployed in the highest battleground in Kumar Post on the Siachen glacier.
- > The first woman officer to be posted on foreign assignment in the Border Roads Organization (BRO) - Captain Surabhi Jakhmola.
- Rae Bareli's hockey stadium is named after hockey star Rani Rampal, first woman player from India to achieve this feat.
- Hekani Jakhalu became the first female MLA of Nagaland Assembly.
- Equatorial Guinea appoints Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM.
- > Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh sworn in as 1st female Sikh judge of USA.
- Santhi Kumari Appointed as First Woman Chief Secretary of Telangana.  $\triangleright$
- Saudi Arabia's Rayna Barnawi first female astronaut is set to go into space this year.
- Dina Boluarte became Peru's first female president.



> FIFA has announced that Stephanie Frappart of France will be the first woman to referee a men's' World Cup match.

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> PT Usha Become First Women President of Indian Olympic Association.

India's Tejaswin Shankar, who was seen in news in May 2024 for achieving a remarkable **Q**. achievement, is associated with which of the following sport?

A) Hockey

**B)** Badminton

C) Weightlifting

D) High Jump

### Answer : D

- ✓ India's Tejaswin Shankar clinched victory in the men's High Jump event at the USATF Festival in Tucson, Arizona, USA.
- ✓ The National record holder Tejaswin cleared 2.23 metres in his first attempt to secure the top spot at the World Athletics Continental Tour – Silver event. With this jump, he equaled his season-best effort.
- ✓ Earnie Sears of USA finished second, while Roberto Vilches of Mexico was third. Another Indian athlete, Sarvesh Kushare cleared 2.13m to finish fifth

#### When is the World Athletics Day 2024 being observed by the IAAF? Q.

A) 06 May	B) 03 May
C) 05 May	D) 07 May

### Answer : D

- ✓ World Athletics Day is celebrated globally on May 7.
- ✓ The day aims to boost participation in athletics among youngsters and make people aware of the various health issues and create awareness about the importance of fitness.
- ✓ World Athletics Day was introduced in 1996 by then-president of International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) Primo Nebiolo.
- ✓ The date to celebrate this day is different every year and is decided by IAAF, but the month remains the same which is May.



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### Aparchit May 2nd Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts By :- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir

- Q. Which bank has rolled out a new facility allowing its non-resident Indian (NRI) customers to make Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in India using their international mobile numbers?
  - A) Yes Bank

**B)** Axis Bank

C) HDFC Bank

D) ICICI Bank

### Answer : D

- ✓ ICICI Bank introduces UPI for NRIs through international mobile numbers
- ✓ ICICI Bank has rolled out a new facility allowing its non-resident Indian (NRI) customers to make Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in India using their international mobile numbers.
- Previously, NRIs had to register an Indian mobile number with their Non-Resident External (NRE) or Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) bank accounts to use UPI, limiting their ability to make payments conveniently.
- ✓ The new facility allows ICICI Bank's NRI customers to use their international mobile numbers registered with their NRE/NRO accounts for UPI payments.
- ✓ This change applies to customers residing in ten countries, including the USA, UK, UAE, Canada, Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ This service is available through its mobile banking app, iMobile Pay, providing an easy way for NRIs to make utility payments, merchant and e-commerce transactions, and other financial activities without switching to an Indian mobile number.
- Customers can make payments by scanning any Indian QR code, sending money to a UPI ID, or sending to an Indian bank account.

### ICICI BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- ICICI Bank introduces UPI for NRIs through international mobile numbers.
- > Pradeep Kumar Sinha to take over as Non-Executive Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank.
- > HDFC Bank to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank.
- > ICICI Bank Canada Launches 'Money2India (Canada)' Mobile Banking App.
- iVIS, a subsidiary of Magellanic Cloud, has announced its empanelment with ICICI Bank for the delivery of e-surveillance services across branches.
- > ICICI Bank receives RBI's nod to make Securities a wholly-owned subsidiary.



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- > ICICI Bank Introduces 'iFinance,' A One-Stop Solution for Multi-Bank Account Access.
- IIT Kanpur has signed an MoU with private lender ICICI Bank to support the startup ecosystem in the institute.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken strict measures against two prominent banking institutions, Kotak Mahindra Bank penalty of Rs 3.95 crore and ICICI Bank penalty of Rs 12.19 crore, by imposing significant penalties.
- RBI approves reappointment of Sandeep Bakshi as ICICI Bank MD & CEO for three more years till October 2026.
- > ICICI Bank gets RBI nod to make I-Process Services as wholly-owned subsidiary.
- Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) BANK
- ➢ Founded : 1994
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sandeep Bakhshi
- > Tagline : Hum Hai Na Khayal Apka.
- Q. Shinkun La Tunnel, is an upcoming motorable tunnel, that connects which one of the following regions?
  - A) Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand
  - B) Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab
  - C) Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh
  - D) Ladakh and Uttarakhand

### Answer : C

- ✓ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is preparing to commence the construction of the Shinkun La Tunnel.
- ✓ About Shinkun La Tunnel:
- ✓ It is an upcoming motorable tunnel under the 16,580 feet high Shinku-La pass between Himachal's Lahaul valley and Ladakh's Zanskar valley.
- ✓ It is located on the Nimu-Padam-Darcha Road link.
- ✓ The length of the tunnel will be 4.1 km.
- ✓ After completion, the Shinku-la tunnel will be the longest high altitude highway tunnel in the world.



The Border Roads Organization (BRO) will construct the tunnel at a cost of Rs. 1,681.5 crores.

✓ It will provide all-weather road connectivity to Ladakh, and this will be the shortest route to the border areas of Ladakh.

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- ✓ It is expected to streamline the transportation of heavy machinery to strategic locations such as Kargil, Siachen and the Line of Control (LOC), reducing travel distances by approximately 100 km.
- $\checkmark$  The traffic movement in the tunnel will not be vulnerable to long-range artillery shelling or missile firings, either by China or Pakistan.
- What is the rank of India in the World Press Freedom Index 2024? Q.

A) 139	B) 142
<b>C)</b> 127	D) 159

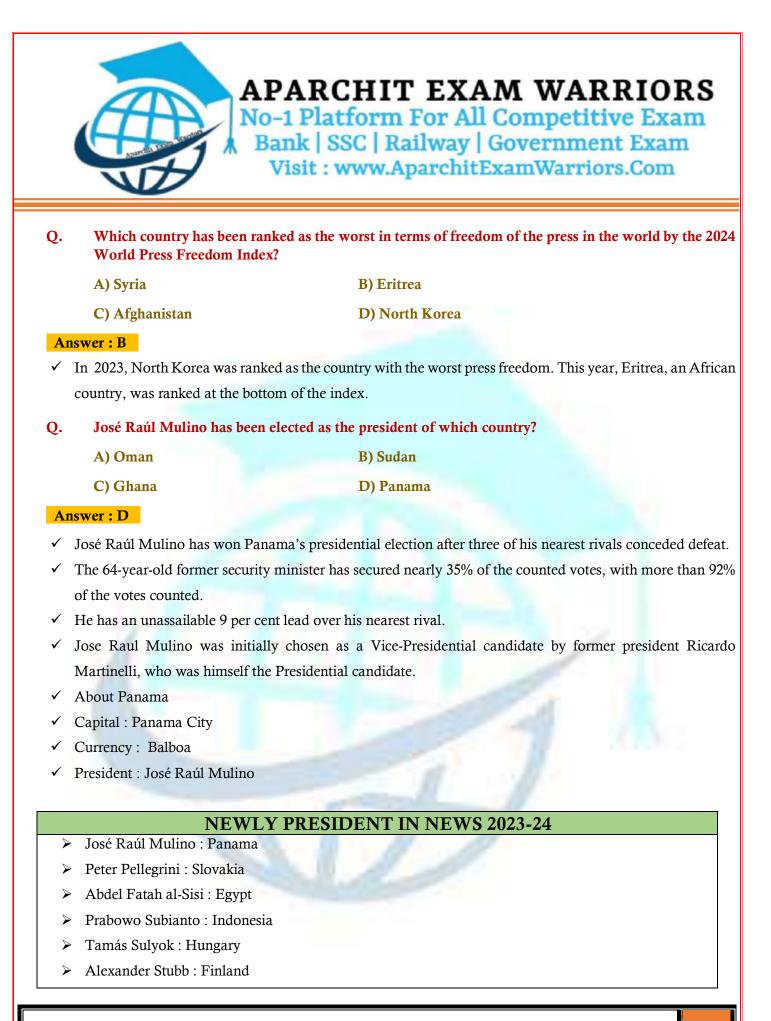
Answer : D

- ✓ India has improved its ranking on the World Press Freedom Index 2024 by two positions. India, which was ranked 161 out of 180 countries in the world in 2023, improved its position to 159 in 2024, a jump of two ranks.
- ✓ The World Press Freedom Index was released by a French non-governmental organisation, Reporters sans Frontieres (RSF) which is also known as Reporters Without Border.
- ✓ In its report, the RSF said that the maximum threat to the freedom of the press was from the government
- ✓ The World Press Freedom Index uses five indicators to compile the Index.
- ✓ These five indicators are political, legal framework, economic context, sociocultural context and safety of the Journalist
- ✓ India has been ranked behind countries like Pakistan, which has been ranked 152, Sri Lanka, which is ranked 150; and Turkey, which is ranked 158.
- The World Press Freedom Index is published annually by which organisation? Q.
  - A) Transparency International
  - **B) World Economic Forum**
  - **C)** Economist Intelligence Unit
  - **D)** Reporters Without Borders

Answer : D

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- Azali Assoumani : Comoros
- Bernardo Arevalo : Guatemala
- William Lai : Taiwan
- Daniel Noboa : Ecuador
- Mohammed Muizzu : Maldives
- Bharatvanshi Tharman Shanmugaratnam : Singapore
- Emmerson Mnangagwa : Zimbabwe
- Edgars Rinkevics : Latvian
- Tayyip Erdogan : Turkey
- Bola Tinubu : Nigeria
- Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu : Bangladesh
- Ram Chandra Paudel : Nepal
- > Xi Jinping : China (third term)
- Vo Van Thuong : Vietnam

# Q. Under which initiative Thomas Cook India has launched video KYC for its retail foreign exchange customers for a safe digital transactions?

- A) No Jhanjhat Forex Fatafat B) KYC Aapke Dwar
- C) Ab Forex Dur Nhi

D) Ab Forex Ghar Baithe

- Answer : D
- ✓ Thomas Cook India has launched video KYC for its retail foreign exchange customers for a safe digital transaction.
- The company said that the new initiative, 'Ab Forex Ghar Baithe', offers customers a paperless means to buy forex without stepping out of home.
- ✓ The Aadhaar-based video KYC verification ensures doorstep delivery within two hours. Customers can complete the transaction online, including loading/topping up of prepaid forex cards, fund transfers, and foreign exchange transactions.



Q. Researchers have discovered the world's deepest blue hole named Taam Ja' Blue Hole (TJBH) in which country?

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A) China **B) USA** 

**C)** Russia D) Mexico

### Answer : D

- ✓ Researchers have discovered the world's deepest blue hole located in Mexico's Chetumal Bay, named Taam Ja' Blue Hole (TJBH).
- ✓ Initially thought to be the second deepest, recent measurements have now recorded it at depths exceeding 420 meters below sea level (mbsl), surpassing all known blue holes to date
- ✓ A blue hole is a large marine cavern or sinkhole, which is open to the surface and has developed in a bank or island composed of a carbonate bedrock.
- ✓ What are blue holes and how are they formed?
- ✓ Blue holes are large marine caverns or sinkholes, typically formed in limestone or other carbonate rock beds.
- They stand out dramatically as dark blue water-filled pits, contrasting sharply with the lighter blue of  $\checkmark$ surrounding shallow waters.

Where are the rocks that provided the oldest evidence of Earth's magnetic field collected? 0.

A) Andes	B) Antarctica
A) Allues	D) Antarctica

C) Greenland

**D)** Atlas Mountains

### Answer : C

- ✓ Oldest evidence of Earth's magnetic field found in Greenland rocks
- ✓ Geologists from MIT and Oxford University discovered the oldest evidence of Earth's magnetic field in 3.7billion-year-old rocks from Greenland's Isua Supracrustal Belt.
- ✓ Researchers determined them to be approximately 3.7 billion years old, showing remnants of a magnetic field with a strength of at least 15 microtesla, comparable to today's magnetic field.
- ✓ This finding suggests Earth's conditions may have been habitable earlier than thought, with a stable magnetic shield playing a crucial role
- $\checkmark$  The magnetic field protects the planet from harmful solar radiation and cosmic rays, sustains the atmosphere, and allows liquid water essential for life.



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Q. Frank Shrontz passed away recently at the age of 92. He was former CEO of which company?

A) Boeing

C) Blue Origin

B) Qatar Airways

D) Lockheed Martin

### Answer : A

- ✓ Former Boeing CEO Frank Shrontz passed away at the age of 92.
- ✓ Shrontz, an attorney by training, was Boeing's chief executive officer from 1986 to 1996.
- ✓ It was an era of innovation, from designing ground-breaking new jets such as the Boeing 777 to elevating quality standards after he studied processes pioneered by Japanese automakers such as Toyota Motor Corp.
- Q. Border Road Organization (BRO), recently celebrated its 65th raising day, comes under which ministry?
  - A) Ministry of Civil Aviation
  - **B)** Ministry of Earth Sciences

C) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

D) Ministry of Defence

### Answer : D

- The Border Road Organisation (BRO) marked its 65th raising day on May 7, 2024, with a ceremony in New Delhi, led by Union Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane.
- ✓ Established in 1960 by the Nehru government, BRO undertakes critical road projects for the Army.
- Notably, Project Tuskar, now Project Vartak, connects Bhalukpong to Tenga in Arunachal Pradesh, while Project Beacon focuses on Kashmir.
- Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan currently heads BRO, operating under the Ministry of Defence with the motto:
   "In the Silence of Our Great Mountains Work Speaks."
- Q. Pakistan recently launched its first-ever lunar mission, iCube-Qamar, in collaboration with which country?

A) Russia	B) India
C) China	D) Iran

Answer	:	С	
	•	-	

✓ Pakistan and China jointly launched iCube-Qamar, Pakistan's inaugural lunar mission.

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105



The 7kg satellite, developed by Pakistan's Institute of Space Technology (IST), SUPARCO, and China's SJTU, is part of China's Chang'e-6 mission.

Equipped with two optical cameras, it orbits the moon, enabling Pakistan to conduct satellite-based research on lunar surface imagery independently

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Which country has recently introduced an AI generated spokesperson, named Victoria Shi? Q.

A) Russia	B) Iran

**D)** Ukraine C) Iraq

### Answer : D

- ✓ Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has introduced an AI-generated avatar, Victoria Shi, as its digital spokesperson.
- ✓ Shi, clad in professional attire, presents updates on consular affairs via social media.
- ✓ While her appearance is AI-generated, the content she delivers is human-written and verified. Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba lauds Shi's introduction as a groundbreaking move, highlighting time and resource savings.
- $\checkmark$ Ukraine showcases its embrace of innovative tech in diplomatic operations
- 2024 World Press Freedom Day Global Conference being held in Which of the following Country? Q.

A) China	B) Chile
C) Japan	D) USA

### Answer : B

- ✓ Environment journalists worldwide are facing increasing violence, with as many as 44 journalists killed in 15 years, according to a new report released by UNESCO on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, 2024.
- ✓ Over 70 per cent of the total 905 journalists and agencies surveyed from 129 countries informed that they had been attacked, threatened or pressured, according to the report Press and Planet in Danger.
- ✓ The report was launched at the 2024 World Press Freedom Day Global Conference being held in Santiago, Chile from May 2-4, 2024.



\_\_\_\_\_ is a bank account held in another country by a domestic bank, but in the currency of the foreign **Q**. country.

B) Non-Residential Ordinary (NRO) Account A) Loro Account

**C)** Vostro Account

**D)** Nostro Account

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### Answer : D

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that standalone primary dealers (SPDs) may borrow in foreign currency from their parent companies and other authorised entities.
- ✓ Standalone primary dealers will also be allowed to access overdraft facilities in nostro accounts solely for operational use.
- ✓ Nostro is a bank account held in another country by a domestic bank, but in the currency of the foreign country.
- ✓ The circular titled 'Master Direction Risk Management and Inter-Bank Dealings: Amendments' further noted that "such borrowings shall be within the limit for foreign currency borrowings" prescribed in the RBI.
- Which of the following Organisation teamed up with Microsoft to launch a suite of cognitive **Q**. assistants for financial services powered by generative artificial intelligence (GenAI)?

A) Reliance	B) HCL
C) TCS	D) Wipro

### Answer : D

- ✓ IT major Wipro announced that it has teamed up with Microsoft to launch a suite of cognitive assistants for financial services powered by generative artificial intelligence (GenAI).
- ✓ These assistants, named Wipro GenAI Investor Intelligence, Wipro GenAI Investor Onboarding, and Wipro GenAI Loan Origination, aim to revolutionise how financial professionals operate.
- Q. According to a UBS report, India is set to become the third largest consumer market in

A) 2029	B) 2028
C) 2026	D) 2030

Answer : C

✓ India is set to become the third largest consumer market in 2026, surpassing Germany and Japan, according to a UBS report.

107



 $\checkmark$  The report predicts that the affluent category will double in the next five years, with 88 million people with over \$10,000 annual income by 2028.

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✓ Consumption growth is expected to remain muted at 4-5% in the current and next fiscal, below the 6.5-7% average annual growth seen during FY11 and FY20.

### **TARGET YEAR IN NEWS 2023-24**

- ▶ India is set to become the third largest consumer market in 2026, surpassing Germany and Japan, according to a UBS report.
- > India has made a declaration to achieve debris-free space missions by 2030.
- ▶ India plans to build its first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) by 2029-30.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared India's plan to establish its own space station by 2035.
- National Strategic Plan & Roadmap for Leprosy (2023-27) to achieve zero transmission of leprosy by 2027.
- India self-reliant in pulses by December 2027
- ▶ Indian Consumer Tech To Touch \$300 Bn By 2027.
- > India is expected to overtake Japan and Germany to emerge as the third largest economy in the world by 2027.
- > Members of the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) collectively have set an "aspirational target" of 5% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) usage by 2030.
- India to push developed nations to become carbon-negative before 2050.
- > This 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023' event will help the country to achieve its commitment of becoming a global drone hub by 2030.
- > Vaccine manufacturer Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) expects to commercially launch its dengue fever vaccine by early 2026.
- > Group Chief Economic Advisor at the State Bank of India (SBI), Soumya Kanti Ghoshon has reiterated that India is likely to become the third-largest economy by 2027.
- > The Ministry of Coal has set a target to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by FY 2030.
- According to the report of Goldman Sachs Research, by the year 2075, India will become the second largest economy in the world after China leaving behind not only Japan and Germany but also America.



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- > UNEP suggests measures to reduce 80% of world's plastic pollution by 2040.
- > India aims to become one trillion dollar tourism economy by 2047.
- The government announced a plan to add 250 GW of renewable energy capacity in the next five years to achieve its target of 500 GW of clean energy by 2030.
- India has set targets for half of its installed electricity capacity to be from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 and for the country to attain net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.
- 2023 foreign trade policy has the vision to take India's goods and services exports to \$2 trillion by 2030.
- > India to get 9% of Electricity from Nuclear Sources by 2047.
- > India sets target to become 'Global Hub for Green Ship' building by 2030
- > Indian Railways to become Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030.
- > India to produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030.
- > India has set a target to replace the use of diesel by renewable energy in the agriculture sector by 2024.
- > Indian Government has set a target to eliminate TB in India by 2025.
- > India targets ₹25,000-cr worth defence exports by 2024.
- Reserve Bank of India's 2023 monetary policy objective is to hold inflation within the mandated tolerance band and guide it towards the medium-term target of 4% by 2024.

Q. Which of the following actor has been appointed as ambassador of Sports brand Puma India?

A) Shah Rukh Khan

B) Aamir Khan

C) Ibrahim Ali Khan D) Salman Khan

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Sports brand Puma India has announced actor, Ibrahim Ali Khan Pataudi, as its newest ambassador and said with a legendary legacy in both the realms of sports and cinema, he is the perfect addition to the brand's family
- Q. Who has been appointed by global digital payments platform Visa as the new Country Manager in India?

109

A) Abhay Kumar	B) Sujai Raina
C) Vikram Saxena	D) Deepak Anand



### Answer : B

✓ Global digital payments platform Visa announced that it has appointed Sujai Raina as its new country manager for India.

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✓ Sandeep Ghosh will continue in his role as Group Country Manager for India and South Asia

### Q. The World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed annually on which day?

- A) 08 May
- B) 06 May
- C) 07 May
- D) 05 May

#### Answer : A

- ✓ The World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed every year on 8 May.
- ✓ The day aims to celebrate the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, to reduce the suffering of people and enabling them to lead a dignified life with independence, humanity, impartiality, universality, unity and neutrality.
- ✓ The theme of the 2024 World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is Everything we do comes # from the heart
- ✓ The day also marks the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant (8 May 1828), who was the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- ✓ He was the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.

### Q. When is the World Thalassemia Day observed?

A) May 07	B) May 08
C) May 06	D) May 05

### Answer : B

- ✓ World Thalassemia Day is celebrated on May 8 every year to commemorate Thalassemia victims and to encourage those who struggle to live with the disease.
- ✓ Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder which is characterised by less haemoglobin and lesser than normal blood cells.
- $\checkmark$  A person suffering from thalassemia has at least one of the parents as carrier of the disease

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Q. Which institution released the 'Aging well in Asia: Asian Development Policy Report'?

A) World Bank

B) Asian Development Bank (ADB)

C) European Investment Bank (EIB) D) African Development Bank (AfDB)

### Answer : B

- ✓ The Asian Development Bank's report on Aging well in Asia highlights four vital aspects of older persons' well-being: health, productive work, economic security, and social engagement.
- $\checkmark$  It reveals that developing Asia faces rapid aging, with the older population set to almost double to 25.2% by 2050.
- ✓ India's challenges include low health insurance coverage (21%) for older individuals and heavy reliance (80%–90%) on private income and assets for retirement.

### **ADB IN NEWS 2023-24**

- ADB operations reach USD23.6 billion in 2023, achieve record climate finance of USD9.8 billion.
- Government of India and ADB have signed a \$23 million loan agreement to strengthen the fintech ecosystem in India.
- > India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have collaboratively signed a \$181 million loan agreement targeting the improvement of infrastructure and services in the peri-urban areas surrounding Ahmedabad city in Gujarat.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently appointed Mio Oka as the new director of the bank in India, replacing Takeo Konishi.
- Vikas Sheel has been appointed as Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- > India, ADB sign \$200 million loan agreement for Uttarakhand power system project.
- > Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a substantial \$170 million loan to catalyze the modernization of water supply services in Kochi, a rapidly growing city in the southern Indian state of Kerala.
- ▶ India & ADB sign \$400 million loan to support urban reform agenda.
- > ADB to Support Improvement of Urban Infrastructure and Services in Peri-urban Areas of Ahmedabad, India.
- > ADB Capital Management Reforms Bring \$100 Billion Benefits Over Next Decade to Asia-Pacific.



Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced the allocation of US \$ 400 million for welfare work with a special focus on women and girls in Afghanistan.

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- > The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Fourth Partner Energy Private Limited (Fourth Partner) signed a long-term loan of up to 1.2 billion Indian rupees (about \$14.7 million).
- ADB Approves USD 40.5 Million Loan to Enhance Childhood Development and Maternal Mental Health in Meghalaya.
- Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$200 million loan as additional financing for the ongoing Rajasthan.
- ADB approves \$295mn loan to improve Transport Connectivity in Bihar.
- > ADB gives 130 million dollars to increase horticulture in Himachal Pradesh.
- ➢ ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)
- Founded : 19 December 1966
- > HQ : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa (Japan)
- Vice President : Ashok Lavasa (Indian)
- Director of ADB for India : Mio Oka (Japan)
- Executive Director : Sameer Kumar
- Member Countries : 68 (Nuie).
- > ADB has grown to encompass 68 members; of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- Japan is the largest contributor in the subscribed capital of the country.
- Asian Development Outlook, reports published by ADB.
- > It is a regional multilateral financial institution focused on countries in the Asia and Pacific region.
- ▶ It currently has 68 members of which 49 are from the Asia and Pacific region and 19 from outside.

Which operation has been started by the Indian Air Force to extinguish the forest fire near Nainital Q. in Uttarakhand?

- A) Vishu Bucket Operation
- **B)** Water Bucket Operation

**C)** Swift Operation

D) Bambi Bucket Operation

Answer : D

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✓ The Indian Air Force had deployed its Mi17 V5 helicopters to undertake Bambi Bucket operations to douse the forest fires near Nainital, Uttarakhand.

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- ✓ These helicopters efficiently transported and released over 4,500 liters of water over the affected areas, a crucial effort made in close coordination with the Uttarakhand government.
- The swift and coordinated action by the Indian Air Force played a pivotal role in supporting the groundbased firefighting crews.

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

- > OPERATION INDRAVATI
- India has started Operation Indravati to evacuate its nationals from Haiti to the Dominican Republic.
- > OPERATION SANKALP
- > Indian Navy has launched 'Operation Sankalp' in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman with the aim of ensuring the security of Indian ships.
- > OPERATION RISING SUN
- > Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) busted a big syndicate involved in smuggling of foreignorigin gold worth around Rs. 40 crorein its operation code named 'Rising Sun' on 12th nd 13th March, 2024
- > OPERATION KAMDHENU
- > Jammu and Kashmir police launched Operation Kamdhenu to curb cattle smuggling.
- > OPERATION PROSPERITY GUARDIAN
- > Operation Prosperity Guardian is a United States-led military operation by a multinational coalition formed in December 2023 to respond to Houthi-led attacks on shipping in the Red Sea.
- > OPERATION AJAY.
- > India has launched 'Operation Ajay' to facilitate the return from Israel of those Indians who wish to come back home.
- > OPERATION IRON SWORD
- > Israel has named the ongoing fight against Hamas as Operation Iron Sword. Hamas is a Palestinian militant group that controls some areas of the Gaza Strip.
- **OPERATION SAJAG**



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

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- > OPERATION BROADER SWORD.
- > India and the USA, jointly conducted an 'Operation Broader Sword' to stop the illegal shipment of drugs through the International Mail System.
- > OPERATION KARUNA
- > India launched "Operation Karuna" to provide humanitarian assistance for people in Myanmar, which is affected by Cyclone Mocha.
- > OPERATION KAVERI
- India launches Operation Kaveri to evacuate Indian citizens stranded in Sudan
- > OPERATION DOST
- > Due to the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria, India has launched a campaign named 'Operation' Dost' to help the affected people.
- > OPERATION GARUDA
- > Central Bureau of Investigation has launched a multi-phase 'Operation Garuda' against illicit drug trafficking network.
- > OPERATION YATRI SURAKSHA
- > To give assurance of the safety to the passengers, the Indian railways with the coordination of Railway Protection Force has launched a pan India drive under the code name Operation Yatri Suraksha.
- > OPERATION "NARCOS"
- Railway Protection Force (RPF) recently recovered narcotic products worth Rs 7.40 crore under "Operation Narcos".
- > OPERATION SANKALP
- > Indian Navy's stealth Frigate, INS Talwar is presently deployed for Op-Sankalp commemorating the 3rd continuous year of Indian Navy's presence in the Gulf.
- > OPERATION SATARK
- Railway Protection Force (RPF) has recently started "Operation Satark" taking action against illicit liquor, fake currency circulation, etc.
- **OPERATION GANGA**
- India launches mission named Operation Ganga to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine

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Q. Which is the wealthiest city in the world as per the Wealthiest Cities Report 2024?

A) New York City B) Tokyo

C) London

D) Los Angeles

Answer : A

- ✓ Mumbai & Delhi Among 50 Wealthiest Cities of World: Henley & Partners
- ✓ In a reflection of the continued economic growth in India, two Indian cities, Mumbai and Delhi, have been included for the first time in the top 50 world's wealthiest cities of the world. Mumbai was ranked 24th, and Delhi was 37th in the world in the Wealthiest Cities Report 2024 which was released recently.
- ✓ Wealthiest Cities Report 2024
- ✓ The Wealthiest Cities Report 2024 has been compiled by Henley & Partners in collaboration with New World Wealth, a global data intelligence firm.
- ✓ The wealthiest person has been defined as HNWIs (High worth individuals) who have a liquid investable wealth of USD 1 million or more. Centi millionaires are those individuals with a wealth of more than USD 100 million to invest, and billionaires have more than USD 1000 million to invest.
- ✓ According to the Henly report, the Indian financial capital city Mumbai has 58,800 millionaires, 236 centimillionaires and 29 billionaires. Mumbai was ranked as the 24th wealthiest city in the world.
- The other city in the top 50 was Delhi, with 30,700 millionaires, 123 centi-millionaires, and 16 billionaires.
   Delhi was ranked 37th in the wealthiest cities list.
- ✓ Top 10 Wealthiest Cities

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Rank	City/Area	Country	Millionaires
1	New York City	USA	349,500
2	The Bay Area	USA	305,700
3	Tokyo City	Japan	298,300
4	Singapore	Singapore	244,800
5	London	United Kingdom	227,000
6.	Los Angeles	USA	212,100
7.	Paris	France	165,000
8	Sydney	Australia	147,000
9	Hong Kong	China	143,400
10.	Beijing	China	125,600

Q. Which Indian city/cities have been included in the top 50 wealthiest cities of the world by the Wealthiest Cities Report 2024?

- A) Mumbai & Delhi B) Chennai & Hyderabad
- C) Bengaluru & Kolkata D) Pune & Bengaluru

Answer : A

Q. According to the Global Electricity Review report, what was the rank of India in the world in Solar power production in 2023?

**B) 2nd** 

**D)** 4th

A) 1st

**C)** 3rd

Answer : C

 $\checkmark$  India, 3rd-highest solar power generator in the world, overtakes Japan

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✓ Due to rapid growth in installed solar power capacity, India became the third-largest solar power generator in 2023. The 5th "Global Electricity Review" report published by the United Kingdom-based global think tank Ember said that India, which was ranked ninth in 2015, jumped to third position in 2023, overtaking Japan.

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- ✓ Main Points of the Global Electricity Review
- ✓ The Global Electricity Review report covers 80 countries, representing 92 per cent of the global electricity demand. The main points of the report are as follows:
- ✓ Solar is the fastest-growing electricity source in the world for the 19th year in a row.
- ✓ Solar added twice as much new electricity in 2023 as coal
- $\checkmark$  The contribution of solar power to the world's electricity was 5.5 per cent in 2023.
- ✓ Out of the total electricity produced in India in 2023 the contribution of solar was 5.8 per cent.
- ✓ The contribution of solar power to total national electricity production in India increased from 0.5 per cent in 2015 to 5.8 per cent in 2023.
- ✓ The largest increase in solar generation in 2023 was in China (an increase of 156 Terawatt hours (TWh)). After China, the largest solar generation was in the United States (+33 TWh), followed by Brazil (+22 TWh) and India (+18 TWh).
- ✓ At the 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference, a target of limiting the average global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius was set. This is expected to prevent further worsening of global warming and climate change.
- ✓ According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), if the world is to achieve a "Net Zero Emissions" scenario, solar power's contribution to total global electricity production must increase to 22 per cent by 2030.
- ✓ At the United Nations COP28 climate change conference held in Dubai, UAE, in December 2023, an agreement was reached to triple the global renewable energy capacity by 2030.
- ✓ India has committed to achieving 50 per cent of its cumulative electric power installed capacity from nonfossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

117

#### Which country is the largest producer of solar power in the world in 2023? Q.

A) Japan	B) China
C) United States	D) Russia

Answer : B

✓ Top 10 Solar Power-Generating Countries in the World

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Following are the top 10 solar power-producing countries in the world in 2023 as per the Ember "Global Electricity Review'.

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1- China	2- United States of America
3- India	4- Japan
5- Germany	6-Brazil
7-Australia	8-Spain
9-Italy	10- South Korea

Which startup of IIT Madras has launched first India-made high-performance SoC (system on chip)? 0.

**B)** Sociodent Private Limited. A) CysterCare Pvt Ltd.

C) Clinfo Trialmate Pvt Ltd. **D)** Mindgrove Technologies

Answer : D

- ✓ IIT Madras startup Mindgrove launches first India-made microcontroller chip
- India is finally set to have a made-in-India microcontroller chip powering electronic device.  $\checkmark$
- ✓ Mindgrove Technologies, incubated by IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation and IIT Madras Incubation Cell, and supported by Peak XV Partners, has launched Secure IoT, India's debut highperformance SoC (system on chip).
- ✓ A system-on-chip (SoC) combines many electronic parts into one chip, like a mini-computer. It goes into the printed circuit board (PCB) and is used in various devices, making them smaller and more efficient

### **IIT IN NEWS 2023-24**

- > Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) and IIT Guwahati incubation center sign MoU to boost startup ecosystem
- Experimental Licence Module for 100 5G Labs' launched at IIT Madras
- > President of India Draupadi Murmu launched India's first domestic gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay.
- > 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

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- > 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 dronebased synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system, Ahead of their planned satellite launch in 2024.

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- > 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.
- With reference to World Migration Report 2024, consider the following statements: Q.
  - 1. It is published by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
  - 2. China is the origin of the largest number of international migrants.
  - 3. India is the top remittance recipient country in the world.
  - How many of the above statements are correct?
  - A) Only one **B)** Only two
  - C) All three

### Answer : A

✓ India received over USD 111 billion in remittances in 2022, becoming the first country to reach and even surpass the USD 100 billion mark, according to the World Migration Report 2024.

D) None

- ✓ About World Migration Report:
- ✓ It is a bi-annual report published by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- ✓ It presents key data and information on migration, as well as thematic chapters on highly topical migration issues.
- ✓ Highlights of the 2024 Report:
- ✓ Overall, the estimated number of international migrants has increased over the past five decades.
- ✓ The current global estimate is that there were around 281 million international migrants in the world in 2020, which equates to 3.6 percent of the global population.
- ✓ India is the origin of the largest numbero f international migrants-nearly 18 million-with a large diaspora in UAE, US and Saudi Arabia.
- There were 3.47 million Indians in UAE, followed by 2.7 million in US and 2.5 million in Saudi Arabia.



✓ There is an overall increase in remittances in recent decades, from \$128 billion in 2000 to \$831 billion in 2022.

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- ✓ In 2022, India, Mexico, China, the Philippines and Egypt were (in descending order) the top five remittance recipient countries, followed by the Philippines, France, and Pakistan.
- ✓ India received over USD 111 billion in remittances in 2022, the first country to surpass USD 100 billion threshold.
- ✓ The United States is the top remittance-sending country, with a total outflow of \$79 billion in 2022, followed by Saudi Arabia (\$39 billion), Switzerland (\$31.9 billion), and Germany (\$25.6 billion).
- Q. Agenda 2063 is related to which one of the following organisations?
  - A) European Union (EU)
  - **B)** African Union (AU)
  - C) Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
  - D) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

### Answer : B

- ✓ The African Union recently condemned the Israeli military's moves into southern Gaza's Rafah, calling for the international community to stop "this deadly escalation" of the war.
- ✓ About African Union (AU):
- $\checkmark$  It is a continental body consisting of the 55 member states that make up the countries of the African Continent.
- ✓ It was officially launched in 2002 and replaced its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which was founded in 1963.
- ✓ Primary Objective: To promote unity, cooperation, and development among African nations while advancing the continent's interests on the global stage.
- ✓ The AU is guided by its vision of "An Integrated, Prosperous, and Peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena."
- To ensure the realisation of its objectives and the attainment of the Pan African Vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, Agenda 2063 was developed as a strategic framework for Africa's long term socio-economic and integrative transformation.



✓ Agenda 2063 calls for greater collaboration and support for African led initiatives to ensure the achievement of the aspirations of African people.

- ✓ Headquarters: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Widal Test, recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following? Q.
  - A) Monitoring glucose levels
  - C) Diagnosis of typhoid fever
- **B)** Soil analysis
- D) Financial risk assessment

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#### Answer : C

- ✓ The Widal Test's propensity for erroneous results is obfuscating India's typhoid burden, increasing expenses and risking more antimicrobial resistance.
- ✓ About Widal Test:
- $\checkmark$  It is a test done for diagnosing typhoid fever.
- ✓ Typhoid fever, also known asenteric fever, is a bacterial infection caused by the bacterium Salmonella Typhi, and it is commonly spread through contaminated food or water.
- ✓ A person with typhoid fever will experience symptoms like fatigue, high fever, headache, diarrhoea or constipation, abdominal pain, weight loss, and red spots.

#### AlphaFold, an AI model that can predict the interactions of all life's molecules, is developed by: Q.

- A) Microsoft **B)** Intel
- C) Meta

**D)** Google Deepmind

### Answer : D

- ✓ Google Deepmind has unveiled the third major version of its "AlphaFold" artificial intelligence model, designed to help scientists design drugs and target disease more effectively.
- ✓ It is a new AI model developed by Google DeepMind and Isomorphic Labs.
- ✓ It is a revolutionary model that can predict the structure and interactions of all life's molecules with unprecedented accuracy and even it mapped the behaviour for all of life's molecules, including human DNA.
- $\checkmark$  It can generate molecules joint 3D structure, revealing how they all fit together.
- ✓ It models large biomolecules such as proteins, DNA and RNA, as well as small molecules, also known as ligands — a category encompassing many drugs.
- ✓ Furthermore, AlphaFold 3 can model chemical modifications to these molecules which control the healthy functioning of cells, that when disrupted can lead to disease.

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Q. Which of the following has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on Go Digit General Insurance for nondisclosure of a change in the conversion ratio of compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS)?

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A) IRDAI B) SEBI

C) SIDBI D) NABARD

#### Answer : A

- ✓ IRDAI imposes a fine of Rs 1 crore on IPO-bound Go Digit Insurance
- ✓ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on Go Digit General Insurance for non-disclosure of a change in the conversion ratio of compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS).
- ✓ The company had not furnished the full particulars of the revision to the regulator, violating Section 26 of the Insurance Act.
- ✓ The insurance regulator had earlier issued a show cause notice after noticing that Go Digit had changed its conversion ratio of 63,00,000 CCPS issued by Go Digit Infoworks Services Pvt Ltd (GDISPL), the parent company of the general insurer, to FAL Corporation, owned by Fairfax Group
- ✓ It was changed from "1 CCPS for 2.324 equity shares" to "2.324 CCPS for each equity share

### PENALTY IN NEWS 2023-24

- > IRDAI imposes a fine of Rs 1 crore on IPO-bound Go Digit Insurance
- ➤ RBI has imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on IDFC First Bank for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions'.
- RBI imposes Rs 1.31 cr fine on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.4 crore on Bank of India for noncompliance with certain regulatory norms.
- ➤ Paytm's trouble escalated further with the Financial Intelligence Unit-India slapping a ₹5.49 crore penalty on Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) for violating Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) obligations
- ➤ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to waive the ₹5 crore penalty that was previously imposed on Bank of Baroda.
- ▶ RBI imposes Rs 8.8 lakh penalty on Power Finance Corporation for non-compliance.



> Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has fined Air India ₹1.1 crore for safety violations on certain flights.

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- RBI took regulatory action imposing penalties on Bank of America, N.A. and HDFC Bank Ltd. for violations of specific norms.
- > RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs. 10,000 on Bank of America, N.A. for violating the reporting requirements under the liberalized Remittances Scheme of FEMA 1999.
- > HDFC Bank Ltd also faced a penalty of Rs.10,000 for violating directions related to the acceptance of deposits from non-residents.
- ▶ RBI Imposes ₹2.5 Crore Penalty On L&T Finance For Non Compliance.
- > This penalty has been levied due to non-compliance with specific provisions of the Non-Banking Financial Company.
- ➢ RBI Imposes ₹5.4 Crore Penalty On Paytm Payments Bank.
- > Paytm Payments Bank was penalized for "non-compliance with certain provisions of the 'Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016'."
- > Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty or ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.

#### Which bank has been recognized as a 'Best Employer' 2023 by Kincentric for the fourth consecutive Q. vear?

A) Axis Bank	<b>B) DBS Bank India</b>
C) HDFC Bank	D) ICICI Bank

### Answer : B

- ✓ DBS Bank India has been recognized as a 'Best Employer' 2023 by Kincentric for the fourth consecutive year.
- ✓ The award acknowledges organizations with exceptional employee experiences and a strong culture of engagement.
- The Kincentric Best Employers study is one of the most respected annual studies with a robust evaluation  $\checkmark$ methodology designed to understand alignment across business objectives, people process, and employee experience.



- The jury evaluates shortlisted organizations and selects the Best Employers, who are recognized by  $\checkmark$ Kincentric.
- Q. The payments platform of fintech firm Infibeam Avenues, CCAvenue has partnered with which Small Finance Bank to provide merchants access?
  - A) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- **B) Shivalik Small Finance Bank**

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- C) Fincare Small Finance Bank
- **D)** Capital Small Finance Bank

### Answer : B

- ✓ CCAvenue, the payments platform of fintech firm Infibeam Avenues, will partner with Shivalik Small Finance Bank to provide merchants registered with it to access to SFB's customer base.
- ✓ The partnership would integrate Shivalik SFB's internet banking service with its payment platform.
- ✓ Account holders with the bank will be able to make payments on websites "powered" by CCAvenuee, the payments platform of fintech firm Infibeam Avenues, will partner with Shivalik Small Finance Bank to provide merchants registered with it to access to SFB's customer base.
- Which Insurance company has launched Unit Linked Investment Plan (ULIP) having fund value-Q. based distributor payouts?
  - A) Universal Sompo General Insurance B) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
  - C) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance D) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

### Answer : C

- ✓ ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched ICICI Pru Platinum, a Unit Linked Investment Plan (ULIP) that ties the distributor's commission to their customers' Assets Under Management (AUM).
- ✓ According to the product specifications, customers have unlimited free switches between asset classes without any cost or tax implications.
- ✓ Customers can choose from an array of 21 funds under this product, which includes 13 equity funds, four debt funds, and four balanced funds. Additionally, they can choose from four portfolio strategies
- ✓ According to the insurer, this product, which provides a cost- and tax-efficient way to build long-term wealth, will also incentivise distribution partners to encourage their customers to stay invested throughout the policy term



Q. Which trading platform has secured the prestigious title of Best Trading Platform in India for the second consecutive year?

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- **B)** AngelOne A) UnoCoin
- **C)** Groww D) QuantPower

#### Answer : D

- ✓ QuantPower Emerges as Best Trading Platform in India
- ✓ QuantPower, the most innovative AI-enabled trading platform, has secured the prestigious title of Best Trading Platform in India for the second consecutive year.
- ✓ This milestone reaffirms QuantPower's position as the preferred software for Indian investors, offering an unparalleled suite of features that consolidate various trading tools into one comprehensive solution.
- ✓ Under the umbrella of Wisdom Tree Ventures Pvt Ltd., QuantPower.tech has revolutionized the trading landscape by providing a unified platform that caters to diverse trading styles.
- ✓ By seamlessly integrating advanced features such as Strategy Builder, Algo Bots, and Backtesting for algorithmic traders, alongside Advanced Charting, Trading from Charts, and Chart Alerts for manual traders, QuantPower empowers investors to make informed decisions with confidence.
- Deb Mukherjee, the Group CEO of Wisdom Group, also celebrated the recognition of Wisdom Tree Ventures as the Top Fintech Company of the Year 2024 by Entrepreneur India.

#### Q. Which state government has launched the Pirul Lao-Paise Pao campaign?

A) Himachal Pradesh

**B)** Uttarakhand

C) Madhya Pradesh

**D)** Uttar Pradesh

### Answer : B

- ✓ Uttarakhand Government Launches Pirul Lao Paise Pao Campaign
- ✓ Uttarakhand government has launched the Pirul Lao-Paise Pao campaign to contain the raging forest fire in the state. The Supreme Court recently expressed concern about the raging forest fire in the state, which has already killed five people. The forest fires have already destroyed trees, medicinal plants and wildlife in the area, besides creating air pollution due to thick smoke and soot.
- ✓ Under the Pirul Lao-Paise Pao campaign, the local youth and villagers will collect dry Pirul (Pine tree leaves) in the forest and take them to the designated Pirul collection centre. The Tehsildar in their respective areas will manage the pirul collection centre under the supervision of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate.

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The Pirul will be weighed and stored at the collection centre, and the villagers or youth will be paid Rs 50  $\checkmark$ per kg, which will be directly transferred to the bank accounts.

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- ✓ The collected Pirul will be packed and processed, and sold to the industries for further use.
- Indian Coast Guard has signed an MoU with which company for the supply of indigenous marine-**Q**. grade steel?

A) Tata Steel

**B) JSW Energy** 

C) Jindal Steel and Power

**D)** ReNew Power

### Answer : C

- ✓ Indian Coast Guard and Jindal Steel & Power sign MoU to enhance indigenous shipbuilding
- ✓ The Indian Coast Guard and Jindal Steel & Power Ltd signed an MoU for the supply of indigenous marinegrade steel.
- ✓ The MoU highlights the critical role of public-private partnerships in tackling intricate security challenges, emphasising the necessity of cooperation between governmental bodies and the private sector.

### SIGNS MoU IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian Coast Guard and Jindal Steel & Power sign MoU to enhance indigenous shipbuilding
- India signs MoU with Bulgaria to enhance collaboration, exchange auditing expertise.  $\geq$
- > India and Mauritius recently amended their Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) to combat tax evasion and avoidance.
- India and Nepal agree to promote Sanskrit research and education.
- India and Bhutan signed MoU in the field of Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Measures.
- India, Colombia sign MoU on Cooperation in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions.
- India Signs Agreement for Lithium Exploration & Mining Project in Argentina.
- Cabinet approves the Migration and Mobility Agreement between India and Italy
- > India and Italy sign Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement to facilitate movement of workers.
- India-Japan pact on semiconductor supply chain gets Cabinet green light.
- India, Italy sign defence agreement.
- > India and Tanzania elevate ties to Strategic Partnership; Agree on 5 year roadmap for defence cooperation.
- ▶ India, Tanzania to sign 15 agreements with eye on USD 10 billion trade.

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- > India And Saudi Arabia Tie Up For Green Hydrogen.
- > India And Saudi Arabia Sign Agreement On Cooperation In Energy Sector.
- > India, New Zealand Sign MoU To Enhance Cooperation In Civil Aviation.
- India and Trinidad and Tobago have entered a partnership by signing an MoU to share INDIA STACK.
- India, Moldova agree to sign MoU for cooperation in agriculture
- India, UAE sign MoU on linking of India's Unified Payments Interface with Instant Payment Platform of UAE.
- > India, Panama sign MoU on electoral cooperation.
- India and Singapore extend MoU on cooperation for 5 years.
- Israel signed an agreement with India to enhance technological advancements and sustainable practices cooperation in the fields of water and agriculture.
- > India and US To Establish Monitoring Group to Boost High-Tech Trade and Tech Partnership.
- > India and Australia Sign Agreements on Migration and Green Hydrogen Task Force.
- > India, Israel sign MoU for industrial research and development cooperation.
- > NET Zero' Innovation Virtual Centre to be jointly created by India-UK.
- > India, UK sign agreement to collaborate on science and innovation.
- > Nepal and India to Sign Agreement for Cross-Border Digital Payments.
- > India and Romania sign first Defence Cooperation Agreement to strengthen bilateral relations.
- > India, US to sign memorandum of understanding on semiconductors.
- > Australia, India agree on strengthening economic, defence ties.

Q.	Pulitzer Prize is awarded for which of the following fields?	
	A. Journalism	B. Story-Poetry
	C. Drama	D. Music
	E. Science and Technology	
	A) Only A	<b>B) A</b> , <b>C</b> , <b>D</b> , <b>E</b>
	<b>C) B</b> , <b>D</b> , <b>E</b>	D) A, B, C, D
Ans	swer : D	



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- ✓ Columbia University of the United States of America announced the 2024 Pulitzer Prize winners
- ✓ Columbia University announced the winners on the recommendation of the Pulitzer Prize Board.
- ✓ The award will be conferred by the president of Columbia University in a ceremony later.
- $\checkmark$  The Pulitzer Award is considered the most prestigious prize in the field of Journalism.
- ✓ It recognises work in 15 journalism categories and eight arts categories. It also gives special citations and awards.
- ✓ Some of the important winners of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize are as follows.
- ✓ Journalism Category
- ✓ Some of the important award winners in the journalism categories are as follows.
- ✓ Public Service Pro Publica. Pro Publica is a non-profit investigative journalist body in California. It was given the award for the investigative work of its reporters Joshua Kaplan, Justin Elliott, Brett Murphy, Alex Mierjeski and Kirsten Berg.
- ✓ Investigative Reporting Hannah Dreier of The New York Times
- ✓ International Reporting Staff of The New York Times. The award was given for its
- ✓ wide-ranging and revelatory coverage of Hamas' lethal attack in southern Israel on October 7, Israel's intelligence failures and the Israeli military's response in Gaza.
- ✓ Editorial Writing David E. Hoffman of The Washington Post Newspaper.
- ✓ Breaking News Photography Photography Staff of Reuters news agency.
- ✓ Feature Photography Photography Staff of Associated Press news agency.
- ✓ Audio Reporting Staff of the Invisible Institute and USG Audio.
- ✓ Book Drama and Music Category
- ✓ Fiction Night Watch. The novel has been written by American novelist Jayne Anne Phillips.
- ✓ Drama Primary Trust. The Primary Trust has been written by American playwright Eboni Booth,
- ✓ History No Right to an Honest Living: The Struggles of Boston's Black Workers in the Civil War Era. The book was written by American historian Jacqueline Jones.
- ✓ Biography two books have been chosen this time.
- ✓ King: A Life, by Jonathan Eig, is a biography of American Black civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr.
- ✓ Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom, by Ilyon Woo
- Memoir and Autobiography Liliana's Invincible Summer: A Sister's Search for Justice, by Cristina Rivera Garza.



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- ✓ Poetry Tripas: Poems, by Brandon Som. Brandom Som is an American poet.
- ✓ Music Adagio (For Wadada Leo Smith), by Tyshawn Sorey.
- ✓ Special Awards and Citation
- ✓ Greg Tate A special citation has been issued to the late writer and critic Gregory Stephen Tate, also popularly known as Greg Tate. Greg Tate was an American writer, musician, and producer.
- ✓ Journalists and Media Workers Covering the War in Gaza
- ✓ <u>Pulitzer Prize</u>
- ✓ The Pulitzer Prize was instituted by Joseph Pulitzer.
- ✓ He was a newspaper owner who, in 1904, provided for the foundation of the Pulitzer Prize as an incentive for excellence in Journalism, art, and culture.
- ✓ He donated money to the Faculty of Journalism to administer the prizes.
- ✓ The Prize winners are selected by the Pulitzer Prize Board.
- ✓ The first Prize was provided in 1917
- Q. Which bank has supported social sector startups in India with grants worth Rs 19.6 crore in FY24, in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission (under NITI Aayog)?
  - A) HDFC Bank
  - B) Yes Bank
  - C) Axis Bank
  - D) ICICI Bank

### Answer : A

- ✓ HDFC Bank, Atal Innovation Mission empower social sector startups with Rs 19.6 crore grants
- ✓ HDFC Bank has supported social sector startups in India with grants worth Rs 19.6 crore in FY24, in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission (under NITI Aayog).
- ✓ In FY 2023-24, 170 social start-ups received funding via 41 incubators, with a total of Rs 19.6 crore in the 'Parivartan Start-up Grants programme.'
- ✓ The focus areas for the 2024 grants included climate innovation, financial inclusion, agriculture and sustainable rural economy, accessible and affordable healthcare, education and livelihood enhancement, gender diversity and inclusion.
- ✓ Over a half of the 170 startups hail from over 60 tier 2 and 3 cities.



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### HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- HDFC Bank, Atal Innovation Mission empower social sector startups with Rs 19.6 crore grants.
- Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (MUFG) will to acquire a 20 per cent stake in HDB Financial Services, a non-banking subsidiary of HDFC Bank, at a valuation of \$9-10 billion.
- > HDFC becomes first private bank to open branch in Lakshadweep.
- > HDFC Bank proposes to sell 100% stake in its subsidiary HDFC Education.
- HDFC Bank has appointed Sumant Rampal as Group Head of Mortgage Business, in the place of Arvind Kapil.
- > HDFC Bank Raises \$300 Million via Bond Issue to Fund Green Loans.
- > HDFC Bank to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank.
- > LIC gets RBI nod for 9.99% stake buy in HDFC Bank.
- > HDFC Bank first lender to issue 20 million credit cards.
- > HDFC Bank approves re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as chairman for 3 years.
- > HDFC Bank has recently raised Rs 7,425 crore through infrastructure bond issue.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as HDFC Bank MD
   & CEO for a period of three years.
- HDFC Bank Launches India's First Co-Branded Hotel Credit Card named 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card' in partnership with Marriott International.
- > HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is highest paid bank CEO in FY23 with Rs 10.55 crore pay.
- > HDFC Bank overtakes SBI in CRISIL's corporate banking ranking for 2023.
- > Food delivery platform Swiggy has joined hands with HDFC Bank to launch a co-branded credit card.
- HDFC BANK
- ➢ Founded : 1994
- Founder : Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- > Tagline : We understand your world



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Q. Which Indian wrestler has been banned by the global governing body of wrestling?

A) Deepak Kumar

C) Bajrang Punia

B) Vijay Dahiya

D) Jitendra Kumar

### Answer : C

- ✓ Bajrang Punia suspended till 2024 by Global Wrestling Body UWW.
- The world wrestling governing body United World Wrestling (UWW) has provisionally suspended Tokyo bronze medallist Bajrang Punia till 31st December 2024. The UWW has cited the suspension of Bajrang Punia by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) of India as the reason for the provisional suspension. It puts into jeopardy his participation in the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics
- ✓ What is the Issue behind Bajrang Suspension?
- ✓ NADA provisionally suspended Bajrang Punia on 23 April 2024 after Bajrang Punia refused to give his sample for an anti-dope test.
- Dope refers to the use of prohibited performance-enhancing drugs taken by athletes. Under the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) a sportsman has to give his location to the national anti-doping agencies and sample when demanded.
- Bajrang Punia refused to give his sample to NADA during the selection trials held in Sonepat, Haryana, on 10 March 2024. A notice was served on Punia to reply by 7th May 2024 which he failed to reply..
- ✓ If NADA clears Bajrang Punia of all charges, then there is hope that he may still participate in the Paris Olympics, which starts on 26 July 2024.
- ✓ About Bajrang Punia and His Achievement
- ✓ Bajrang Punia was born into a wrestler family in Jhajjar, Haryana. He was mentored by Olympic medalist Yogeshwar Dutt, who is also from the same state. He has brought many laurels to the country in wrestling.
- ✓ Some of his prominent achievements are as follows.
- ✓ He is the first Indian wrestler to be ranked world no.1 and first to win four world championship medals.
- ✓ He won a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ His first significant international success was winning a bronze medal at the 2013 Asian Wrestling Championship in New Delhi.
- ✓ <u>Medal at the Commonwealth Games</u>
- ✓ Bajrang has won a silver medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow, Scotland.
- ✓ He won a gold medal at the 2016 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.



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- ✓ He won a gold medal at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games.
- ✓ <u>Medals at the World Championship</u>
- ✓ He won a bronze medal at the 2013 World Wrestling Championship in Budapest, Hungary.
- ✓ He won a silver medal at the 2018 World Wrestling Championship in Budapest, Hungary.
- ✓ He won a bronze medal at the world wrestling championship at Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
- ✓ He won his fourth medal at the 2022 world wrestling championship held in Belgrade, Serbia by winning a bronze medal
- ✓ <u>Medals at the Asian Championship</u>
- ✓ He won a bronze medal at the 2013 Asian Championship held in New Delhi in 2013.
- ✓ He won a silver medal at the 2014 Asian Championship in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- ✓ He won a gold medal at the 2017 Asian Championship held in New Delhi.
- ✓ He won a silver medal at the 2021 Asian Championship held at Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- ✓ Medals at the Asian Games
- ✓ He won a silver medal at the 2014 Incheon Asian Games.
- ✓ He won a gold medal at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games.
- ✓ Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award
- ✓ Bajrang Punia was awarded India's highest sports award Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award in 2019.
- ✓ <u>United World Wrestling (UWW)</u>
- ✓ The United World Wrestling (UWW) is an international body that governs amateur wrestling in the world.
- ✓ Headquarters : Corsier-sur-Vevey,Switzerland
- ✓ President: Nenad Lalović
- Q. Vladimir Putin was sworn in as president of the Russian Federation for the fifth time. What is the term of the President of Russia?
  - A) 5 years

C) 7 years

B) 6 years

D) 4 years

### Answer : B

- ✓ Vladimir Putin was sworn in as president of the Russian Federation for the fifth time for a six-year term.
- $\checkmark$  He took the oath of office at a ceremony held at the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow.
- ✓ The ceremony was attended by Russia's top military and political leadership, but the United States and many European nations boycotted the ceremony, saying that the presidential election was a fraud.

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- Putin, in power as president or prime minister since 1999. In 1999, after President Boris Yeltsin's resignation,
   Putin was appointed interim president of Russia
- ✓ About Russia
- ✓ Capital : Moscow
- ✓ Currency : Rubel
- ✓ President : Vladimir Putin
- ✓ Prime Minister : Mikhail Mishustin

Q. In which one of the following States is Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary located?

A) Meghalaya	B) Odisha
C) Gujarat	D) Assam

## Answer : D

- ✓ National Green Tribunal (NGT) recently asked Assam's Chief Secretary to provide details of officers who let polling stations, schools, and other construction activities in Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ✓ About Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary:
- ✓ It is a protected area located in the north-western area of Sonitpur district of Assam.
- ✓ It is located along the foothills of the Great Himalayan Range
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA):
  - 1. It is a multi-stakeholder alliance of Governments, International Organizations and Industries.
  - 2. It is an initiative by the United Nations to position biofuels as a key to the energy transition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

### Answer : A

- The Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) has adopted a work plan focused on assessing country landscapes, drafting policy frameworks, and conducting biofuel workshops, petroleum and natural gas ministry officials said recently.
- ✓ About Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA):
- ✓ GBA is a multi-stakeholder alliance of Governments, International Organizations, and Industries.



 $\checkmark$  It is an initiative by India, bringing together the biggest consumers and producers of biofuels to drive the development and deployment of biofuels.

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- ✓ It was launched on the sidelines of the 2023 G20 summit in New Delhi.
- The initiative aims to position biofuels as a key to the energy transition and contribute to jobs and economic  $\checkmark$ growth.
- Consider the following statements with reference to the Indian Agricultural Research Institute Q. (IARI):
  - 1. It is administered by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
  - 2. It has been granted the status of 'Deemed University'.

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 Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) recently introduced a new high-yielding wheat seed variety, HD 3386.
- ✓ About Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI):
- ✓ It is India's largest and foremost institute in the field of research and higher education and training in agricultural sciences.
- ✓ The Institute is situated in Delhi and is administered by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- ✓ History:
- ✓ IARI, popularly known as Pusa Institute, began in 1905 at Pusa (Bihar) with a generous grant of 30,000 pounds from an American philanthropist, Henry Phipps.
- The institute was then known as the Agricultural Research Institute (ARI), which functioned with five  $\checkmark$ departments, namely Agriculture, Cattle Breeding, Chemistry, Economic Botany and Mycology. Bacteriology unit was added in 1907.
- ✓ The name of ARI was changed to Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research in 1911 and in 1919 it was renamed Imperial Agricultural Research Institute.
- It attained the status of a Deemed University in the year 1958.  $\checkmark$
- The IARI was responsible for the research leading to the "Green Revolution in India" of the 1970s

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### **SEED VARIETY IN NEWS 2023-24**

- Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) recently introduced a new high-yielding wheat seed variety, HD 3386.
- An international team of scientists has discovered a new drought-resilient semi-dwarf wheat gene named 'Rht13.'
- Scientists of Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune in collaboration with Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) have developed a new high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean named MACS 1407

Q. Which country has signed 20-Year Power Deal with Adani Green Energy for Wind Stations?

A) Sri Lanka	B) Bhutan
C) Bangladesh	D) Maldives

### Answer : A

- ✓ Sri Lanka has sealed a 20-year power deal with Adani Green Energy Ltd of India.
- ✓ Sri Lanka's Cabinet of Ministers have approved the project under which two wind power stations will be developed by Adani, marking a crucial step towards sustainable energy solutions.
- ✓ The approval granted last year for Adani's \$442 million investment in 484 megawatts wind power plants underscores the growing partnership between the two nations in the renewable energy sector.
- ✓ As part of the deal, Adani will receive 8.26 cents per kilowatt-hour that is approximately 7 rupees. This collaboration comes amidst Sri Lanka's efforts to address energy challenges, including power blackouts and fuel shortages experienced during its economic crisis in 2022
- Q. Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of additional shares in Sikkim Urja Limited by Greenko Energies Private Limited. Greenko Energies is a limited liability company incorporated in which country?

A) Bhutan

B) Bangladesh

C) Nepal

D) Mauritius

### Answer : D

✓ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of additional shares in Sikkim Urja Limited (formerly Teesta Urja Limited) by Greenko Energies Private Limited.

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 $\checkmark$  Sikkim Urja Ltd is a special purpose vehicle incorporated for the purpose of the implementation of the 1,200 MW hydropower project in North Sikkim.

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- ✓ According to the CCI, Greenko Energies, an indirect company wholly owned by Greenko Mauritius, will acquire the additional shares in the capacity of 6 units of 200 MW each in the hydro power project.
- ✓ The project will be executed by Greenko Mauritius, a wholly owned subsidiary of Greenko Energy Holdings (GEH).
- Which bank has formed an association with Northern Arc Capital aiming to explore and maximize Q. commercial prospects by combining efforts in loan origination, underwriting, disbursement, collection, and reconciliation procedures?
  - A) Indian Overseas Bank **B)** South Indian Bank C) Kotak Mahindra Bank **D)** Canara Bank

### Answer : B

- ✓ South Indian Bank and Northern Arc Capital join hands to set new benchmarks in the financial sector
- South Indian Bank has formed an association with Northern Arc Capital aiming to explore and maximise commercial prospects by combining efforts in loan origination, underwriting, disbursement, collection, and reconciliation procedures.
- The collaboration between South Indian Bank and Northern Arc Capital is aimed to create an ecosystem that promotes innovation and allows the seamless flow of credit across many sectors.
- ✓ The cooperation will allow South Indian Bank to use nPOS, Northern Arc's unique technology platform for co-origination, co-lending, and pool buyouts, as well as interact with numerous originators for loan origination, underwriting, disbursement, and reconciliation.

Q. Which of the following company has launched 'The Complete Home Loan' facility?

- A) L&T Finance Ltd
- C) Muthoot Finance

- **B) LIC Housing Finance**
- D) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services

### Answer : A

- ✓ L&T Finance Ltd (LTF) has launched 'The Complete Home Loan', offered through a digitised process, along with a dedicated relationship manager and optional home décor finance.
- ✓ Home décor finance aims to provide flexibility and convenience in acquiring essential furnishings for a comfortable living space.

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The loan will be given against an architect's certificate or contract certification when the house is ready for interior decoration. It will be about 15 per cent of the entire home loan, not exceeding ₹75 lakh, and can go up to 10 years.

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Q. The renowned Urdu litterateur and academician, Shaikh Abdussalam Abdurrazzaq passed away recently. Razzaq won the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu literature for his acclaimed short stories collection, 'Shikasta Buton Ke Darmiyan' in which year?

A) 2003	B) 2004
C) 2005	D) 2006

#### Answer : B

- ✓ The renowned Urdu litterateur and academician, Shaikh Abdussalam Abdurrazzaq passed away at the age of 83.
- ✓ He was popularly known by his pseudonym Salam Bin Razzaq.
- ✓ Razzaq won the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu literature for his acclaimed short stories collection, 'Shikasta Buton Ke Darmiyan', in 2004.
- ✓ Born in 1941 at Panvel in Raigad district, Razzaq had a very humble beginning in life. He was deeply inspired by the trials and travails of the common masses which reflected in his writings, both prose and poetry.

Q.	Where will the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting be held	?

A) Mumbai	B) Kochi	
C) Chennai	D) Ahmedabad	

### Answer : B

- ✓ India to host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting
- ✓ India will host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46) and the 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP 26) from May 20 to 30, 2024, in Kochi, Kerala. The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Union Ministry of Earth Science, will host the meeting.
- ✓ Over 350 delegates from more than 60 countries are expected to attend the 46th ATCM and 26th CEP meetings.
- ✓ The Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting is a forum where the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties and other stakeholders meet to discuss the environmental, scientific, and governance issues affecting Antarctica.

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- ✓ Antarctic Treaty
- The Antarctic Treaty was signed in 1959 in Washington, D.C., by 12 countries and came into force in 1961.
   At present, 56 countries have signed the Antarctic Treaty,
- ✓ The Antarctic Treaty made Antarctica a non-military Zone. It was declared a zone of peace dedicated to peaceful purposes, scientific cooperation, and environmental protection.
- ✓ The Committee for Environmental Protection was established under the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (the Madrid Protocol) in 1991.
- ✓ The permanent secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty is in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- ✓ India And Antarctica
- ✓ India signed the Antarctic Treaty in 1983. India enacted the Antarctic Act in 2022.
- ✓ India started its scientific expedition to Antarctica in 1981 to carry out research in the area.
- ✓ The government of India established the first Antarctic research station, Dakshin Gangotri, in 1983 to facilitate research expeditions in the area.
- ✓ At present, India operates two research stations: Maitri (1989) and Bharati (2012).

### SUMMIT & CONFERENCE IN NEWS 2023-24

- A Ministerial round table conference was held on April 24th, 2024, during the 26th World Energy Congress in Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- > International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure's 6th edition has begun in New Delhi.
- > The conference's theme is "Investing today for a more resilient tomorrow".
- > The 16th World Future Energy Summit has recently commenced in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- > 3rd Summit for Democracy being hosted by South Korea
- 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.

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- > 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

Which country has recently extended the deadline for visa-free entry for Indians? Q.

- A) Vietnam
- C) Sri Lanka

**B)** Malaysia

**D)** France

### Answer : C

- ✓ Sri Lanka has recently extended the deadline for visa-free entry for Indians once again.
- Under this initiative of Sri Lanka, citizens of India, China, Russia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia can travel to Sri Lanka for 30 days without visa.
- ✓ This scheme was launched in October with the aim of attracting more tourists.

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Q.	Q. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of HDFC Life?		
	A) Ashok Sinha	B) Rahul Shetty	
	C) Vijay Kamath	D) Keki Mistry	
Answer : D			
✓	The appointment of Keki Mistry as the Chairman of HDFC Life has been approved by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI).		
✓ √			
~	He was the Vice Chairman and CEO of Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Limited		
Q.	India has recently withdrawn its military personnel from which country?		
	A) Maldives	B) Nepal	
	C) Bangladesh	D) Iran	
Answer : A			
√	✓ The Indian Foreign Ministry has recently announced the withdrawal of Indian military personnel from Maldives.		
$\checkmark$	✓ Indian military personnel were operating two helicopters and a Dornier aircraft to provide humanitarian		
	and medical evacuation services in the Maldives.		
✓ The Maldives government led by Mohammed Muizzu had formally requested India to withdraw its troops.			
Q.	Q. Consider the following statements with reference to PS4 engine:		
	1. It is used in uppermost stage of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).		
	2. It uses a bipropellant combination of nitrogen oxide as the oxidizer and monomethyl hydrazine as the fuel.		
	Which of the statements given above is/are correct?		
	A) 1 only	B) 2 only	
	C) Both 1 and 2	D) Neither 1 nor 2	
Answer : A			
✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) achieved yet another milestone in design and manufacturing by successfully conducting a long duration test of the PS4 engine of the PSLV stage.			

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✓ It is the uppermost stage of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), comprising of two Earth storable liquid engines.

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- $\checkmark$  It uses a bipropellant combination of nitrogen tetroxide as the oxidizer and monomethyl hydrazine as the fuel. It was developed by Isro's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre.
- ✓ The same engine is also used in the Reaction Control System (RCS) of the first stage (PS1) of PSLV.
- $\checkmark$  ISRO redesigned the conventionally manufactured PS4 engine to make it compatible with additive manufacturing techniques and this innovative approach, known as Design for Additive Manufacturing, has yielded remarkable advantages.

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

- ▶ ISRO achieved yet another milestone in design and manufacturing by successfully conducting a long duration test of the PS4 engine of the PSLV stage.
- > Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Chairman S Somanath announced on 16 April 2024 that India aims to achieve debris-free space by 2030.
- Proba-3 Mission of Proba-3 Mission of ESA to Study Sun will be Launched by ISRO
- to Study Sun will be Launched by ISRO
- > Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chandrayaan -3 mission team was awarded the 2024 John L "Jack" Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration by the US-based Space Foundation.
- > 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

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- > 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



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- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the FLiRT Variants:
  - 1. They are dominant strains related to the Hepatitis b disease.
  - 2. These can spread via respiratory droplets of the person to others.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only B) 2 only

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

### Answer : B

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have found that there is an unfamiliar set of COVID-19 variants spreading across the US and they are collectively called FLiRT.
- ✓ KP.2 and KP1.1, dubbed 'FLiRT' variants, are descendants of the Omicron JN.1 which spread globally over the winter last year.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ The variants appear to outstrip their ancestor and other Omicron variants. KP.2 is the more dominant strain of the two and it is believed to leap past immunity built up from vaccines and previous infections.
- ✓ The FLiRT' variants are descendants of the JN.1 variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus with two new added spike mutations.
- ✓ How it spreads? This variant spreads via respiratory droplets of the person to others, or touching infected surfaces such as faucets, furniture, elevator buttons etc.
- ✓ Symptoms of FLiRT
- ✓ The symptoms of the new variant are similar to those of other Omicron subvariants: sore throat, cough, nausea, congestion, fatigue, headache, muscle or body ache, loss of taste or smell.
- ✓ Prevention: Vaccination and preventive measures are advised to curb the spread.

Q. Joint military exercise Shakti is conducted by the Indian Army with which country's Army?

A) France

B) Russia

C) Singapore

D) Malaysia

Answer : A

✓ Joint military Exercise Shakti between the Indian and the French forces will be held at the Joint Training Node of the Indian Army in Umroi, Meghalaya, from 13 -26 May 2024

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The opening ceremony of the 7th edition of Exercise Shakti will be attended by the French Ambassador to India, Thierry Mathou. Brigadier Mayur Shekatkar, Commander of the 24 Mountain Brigade, and other civilian and military dignitaries.

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The 7th edition will be hosted by India at the Joint Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya, from 13 -26 May 2024.

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

- > Joint military Exercise Shakti between the Indian and the French forces will be held at the Joint Training Node of the Indian Army in Umroi, Meghalaya, from 13 -26 May 2024
- > The 5th edition of the 'Dustlik' joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan begins in Uzbekistan
- Recently, a two-day 'Sagar Kavach' exercise was organised in the Lakshadweep Islands.
- > A bilateral tri-service exercise Tiger Triump-24 between India and the US will be held on the Eastern Seaboard in the US from March 18 to 31.
- An Indian Army contingent on Monday departed for Seychelles to participate in the 10th edition of joint military exercise "LAMITIYE-2024" with Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF). The joint exercise will be conducted in Seychelles from March 18-27, 2024.
- > The naval forces of China, Iran, and Russia recently launched a joint exercise called the "Maritime Security Belt-2024" near the Gulf of Oman.
- > The joint exercise 'Bharat-Shakti' of the three armies of India (Army, Navy and Air Force) will be organized in Asia's largest field firing range located in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- > The United States Coast Guard's (USCG) Bertholf ship reached Port Blair ahead of the 'Sea Defenders-2024' joint exercise.
- Exercise Samudra Laksamana kicked off on February 28 and will continue until March 2, taking place at or off the coast of Visakhapatnam
- > North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) started its largest military exercise in Europe, the Steadfast Defender 2024, recently.
- > The 5th edition of the joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' is being organized at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.



> Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships reached the Maldives recently to take part in the trilateral coast guard exercise Dosti 16

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



> Exercise CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 - 09 Nov 2023.

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- Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 commenced in Umroi Cantonment, India.
- > It is a joint bilateral training exercise between Indian & Malaysian Armed Forces.
- > The 19th edition of "EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS" will be conducted from 25th September to 8th October
- 2023 in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.  $\geq$

Which country was the largest export destination for Indian merchandise goods in 2023-24? Q.

A) UAE

**B)** Saudi Arabia

**C)** United States

**D)** United Kingdom

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Indian export to 115 countries shows positive growth in 2023-24.
- ✓ According to the latest data released by the Union Ministry of Commerce, India's exports have recorded positive growth in 115 countries out of the total 238 countries/territories it exported in 2023-24.
- ✓ A positive growth rate in exports was recorded in the major export markets of the United States of America, the United Arab Emirates, the Netherlands, China, The United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Bangladesh, Germany and Italy.
- ✓ Out of the 229 countries/territories from which India imports goods and services ,import has declined from 124 countries during 2023-24.
- <u>Highlights of the 2023-24 Indian Export Data</u>
- ✓ In 2023-24, Indian exports to 10 major export destinations increased by 13 percent compared to 2022-23.
- ✓ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) was India's largest export market in 2023-24, registering a growth rate of 12.71 per cent.
- ✓ India's merchandise export to UAE was \$ 35.6 billion.
- ✓ Exports to Singapore increased by 20.19 per cent to \$14.4 billion and to China to \$16.7 billion, a growth of 8.70%.
- ✓ A sharp increase in export growth was registered to Albania (234.97 per cent), Romania (138.84 per cent) and Russia (35.41 per cent).

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Q. Which company will sponsor Sri Lanka Men's Team in the ICC T20 World Cup 2024?

A) Mother Dairy B) Rummy

C) Deream11

D) Amul

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Amul to Sponsor Sri Lanka Men's T20 World Cup Team
- ✓ Sri Lanka has announced Amul, one of India's iconic diary brands with a global footprint, as their sponsor for the ICC T20 World Cup 2024, starting June 2 in the USA and the West Indies.
- ✓ Sri Lanka, former champions of the T20 World Cup, will become the third team after South Africa and USA to be sponsored by Amul at the showpiece T20 tournament.
- ✓ Amul has a history of sponsoring cricket teams during ICC tournaments, having previously collaborated with the New Zealand and the Netherlands national sides for the 2017 Champions Trophy and 2011 Cricket World Cup, respectively

✓ Additionally, Amul was one of the sponsors of the Women's Premier League in its inaugural edition.

### **SPONSOR IN NEWS 2024**

- Sri Lanka has announced Amul, one of India's iconic diary brands with a global footprint, as their sponsor for the ICC T20 World Cup 2024
- Amul will be the lead arm sponsor for USA's cricket team that will participate in ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 which commences on June 1
- > Aramco company would sponsor major FIFA tournaments until 2027.
- IndusInd Bank, a leading financial institution in India, has announced a significant multi-year sponsorship deal with the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- > Nandini's Sponsorship of Ireland and Scotland Cricket Teams Sparks Debate
- > Tata Group Secures IPL Title Sponsorship for Next 5 Years spanning 2024 to 2028.
- Indian Cricket Board announced that the IDFC First Bank has grabbed the title rights for home international series of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for three years.
- Dream11 has reportedly taken over as the main jersey sponsor for the Indian cricket team from July 2023 to March 2026, replacing Byju's.



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- Q. With reference to DigiLocker, consider the following statements:
  - 1. It is the flagship initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.

2. The issued documents in the DigiLocker system are not deemed to be at par with the original physical documents.

3. It has the feature of 2048 Bit encryption and multi-factor authentication.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

### Answer : B

- DigiLocker has become a digital placeholder for administrative and government-related documents and now students have the option of viewing their scores and even obtaining their verified marksheets.
- ✓ It is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) under the Digital India Programme in 2015.
- ✓ It is a government approved application and is ideally maintained with strict security protocols framed by officials.
- ✓ It operates as an app to store users' digital records. The app can be used when applying for a passport, reviewing marksheets, or proving one's identity during travel.
- ✓ The app is part of the Indian Government's paper-free initiative aimed at letting users access, verify, and store essential documents in a digital wallet so that they are easy to retrieve and present to officials when required.
- ✓ The issued documents in DigiLocker system are deemed to be at par with original physical documents as per Rule 9A of the Information Technology (Preservation and Retention of Information by Intermediaries providing Digital Locker facilities) Rules, 2016.
- ✓ It has standard security measures in place including 2048 Bit RSA SSL encryption, multi-factor authentication (OTP verification), consent systems, timed log outs, and security audits.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 3 are correct.



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Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Hanooman AI platform:

- 1. It is a largest Generative Artificial Intelligence platform.
- 2. It can perform complex technical tasks like coding and tutoring.

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, 3AI Holding Limited and SML India, announced the launch of 'Hanooman', India's homegrown multilingual GenAI platform.
- ✓ It is the largest multilingual and most affordable Gen AI platform.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ It is available in 98 global languages, of which, 12 are Indian languages.
- The 12 Indian languages that the web version and app are currently available in include Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali, Kannada, Odia, Punjabi, Assamese, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Sindhi.
- ✓ It can handle everything from a casual chat to offering professional advice as well as performing complex technical tasks like coding and tutoring.
- ✓ The Gen AI platform will offer its multimodal and multilingual capabilities, including text, voice, image, and code to users.
- ✓ It aims to cater to four sectors: healthcare, governance, financial services, and education. It offers an opensource alternative to commercially accessible Large Language Models (LLMs).
- ✓ What is Generative Artificial Intelligence?
- It refers to deep-learning models that can take raw data and "learn" to generate statistically probable outputs when prompted.
- ✓ It is powered by foundation models (large AI models) that can multi-task and perform out-of-the-box tasks, including summarization, Q&A, classification, and more.
- Q. Where will the 22 Asian Team Squash Championship be held?

A) China	B) Russia
C) Japan	D) Kazakhstan



#### Answer : A

✓ The Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) has announced the Indian team, which will participate in the 22nd Asian Team Squash Championships, which will be held in Dalian, China, from 12 to 16 June 2024.

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- The Indian men's team is the current Asian Team Champion, having won the 2022 event in Cheongju, South Korea.
- ✓ Velavan Senthilkumar will lead the Indian men's team, and Rathika Seelan will lead the women's team. The Indian team is highly optimistic after its spectacular performance in the 19th Hangzhou Asian Games. India won five medals—two gold, one silver, and two bronze at the Hangzhou Asian games.

#### Q. Which bank has announced that it will close inoperative accounts of customers on 1 June 2024?

A) State Bank of India

**B)** Punjab National Bank

D) Bank of Baroda

C) Kotak Mahindra Bank

#### Answer: B

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has announced that it will close all its customers' inactive bank accounts on 1 June 2024.
- Customers whose accounts have become inactive can activate their accounts by completing their KYC (Know Your Customer) by 31 May 2024.
- $\checkmark$  The bank has taken this step to reduce expenses and prevent fraud in such accounts.
- ✓ Which Inactive accounts will be closed and which will not
- ✓ Accroding to the PNB, those customers' accounts will be closed where there has been no transaction(deposit or withdrawal) by the customer for the past three years, and the account balance has been zero.
- ✓ The bank said that if these account holders do not complete their KYC by 31 May 2024, then they will not be given further notice, and their account will be closed permanently on 1 June 2024.
- ✓ <u>Accounts not be closed.</u>
- ✓ However, the bank said that it will not close certain inactive accounts. The exempted accounts are student accounts for customers under the age of 25, Minor accounts, accounts opened for specific schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY), Atal Pension Yojana, and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), and those frozen by statutory authorities like court orders, income tax department orders, etc.

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The bank will also not close bank accounts linked with Demat accounts, lockers, or active standing instructions accounts.

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- ✓ How to activate the inactive account
- ✓ According to the RBI, an inactive customer account can be activated by performing a fresh KYC of the customer. Under the KYC the customer has to submit his/her fresh photograph. One approved Identity proof and one address proof. These could be Voters ID cards, Aadhaar cards, passports, etc.
- ✓ Punjab National Bank (PNB)
- ✓ Punjab National Bank is the third largest public sector bank after the State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda.
- ✓ The Punjab National Bank was established as a private bank in 1894 and commenced operation in 1895.
- ✓ It is the first bank to set up with Indian capital.
- Lala Lajpat Rai was the first person to open an account in the bank.  $\checkmark$
- It was nationalised in 1969, and presently, the government of India has a majority stake.  $\checkmark$
- Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Atul Kumar Goel  $\checkmark$
- Headquarters: New Delhi  $\checkmark$
- Tagline of the Bank: A name you can bank upon.
- Mahamat Idris Deby Itno has been recently elected as the president of which country? **Q**.
  - A) Chad

**B)** Ethiopia

D) Kenya

C) Nigeria

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Chad military dictator Idriss Deby win's Presidential election.
- ✓ The Military dictator and interim president of the Central African Country of Chad, Mahamat Idris Deby Itno has won the presidential election held on 6 May 2024.
- ✓ The provisional result was declared by the country's National Election Management Agency on 10 May 2024
- ✓ The election will legitimise the rule of Mahamat Idris Deby Itno for another six years.
- ✓ Republic of Chad
- ✓ Chad is a landlocked country situated in north-central Africa. It is the fifth largest country in Africa in area.
- ✓ President is the head of the state and the head of the government in Chad.
- The president has a six-year term, and a person can be president for only two terms.  $\checkmark$
- Capital: N'Djamena  $\checkmark$



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- Currency: CFA franc
- ✓ President: Mahamat Idris Deby Itno
- Q. Who is Moosa Zameer, who visited India recently?
  - A) Foreign Minister of Maldives
    - B) Foreign Minister of Malaysia
  - C) Foreign Minister of Singapore D) Foreign Minister of UAE

#### Answer : A

- ✓ The foreign minister of Maldives Moosa Zameer visited India on 9 May 2024.
- ✓ It was the first high ranking official visit from Maldives to India after coming into power of Maldives' pro-China president Mohamed Muizzu six months ago.
- ✓ The Maldivian foreign minister met the Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during his visit.
- ✓ The visit comes in the background of strained India-Maldives ties due to President Muizzu's pro-China policies and being associated with the India Out campaign in Maldives.
- ✓ Purpose of Moosa Zameer's Visit to India
- ✓ The main purpose of Moosa Zameer's visit to India was to seek debt relief from India.
- ✓ India has provided over \$ 2 billion in loans to Maldives, which involves loans given for the development of various infrastructure and connectivity projects in the island nation.
- ✓ Maldives has to repay \$ 500 million of the loan amount to India in the near future. Maldives wants the Indian government to convert a part of loans into grants as it is in no position to repay the loans.
- ✓ President Muizzu has accused the previous Solih government of taking massive loans from India which has pushed Maldives into debt trap
- ✓ Maldives
- ✓ Maldives is a group of islands located in the north-central Indian Ocean. It is part of the South Asian region.
- ✓ Maldives is an archipelago of coral atolls built up from the crowns of a submerged ancient volcanic mountain range.
- ✓ Eight-degree channels separate Maldives from Minicov island of Lakshadweep.
- ✓ Due to rising sea levels, Maldives faces a danger of being submerged in the Indian Ocean.
- Capital: Male √
- ✓ Currency: Rufiyaa
- ✓ President: Mohamed Muizzu

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Q. Which organization adopted the first law to tackle violence against women?

A) European Union (EU) B) United Nations (UN)

C) African Union (AU) D) ASEAN

#### Answer : A

- ✓ The European Union (EU) adopted its first law to combat violence against women.
- ✓ The law requires EU countries to criminalize female genital mutilation, forced marriage, and online harassment.
- ✓ However, the law does not include a common definition of rape.
- $\checkmark$  The EU Commission proposed the law in 2022.
- Q. Which organization recently released a report titled 'Amplifying the Global Value of Earth Observation'?
  - A) International Monetary Fund B) World Bank
  - C) World Economic Forum D) World Meteorological Organization

Answer : C

- ✓ The World Economic Forum's report titled 'Amplifying the Global Value of Earth Observation' highlights Earth Observation (EO) technologies' economic potential, estimating a \$3.8 trillion contribution to global GDP from 2023-2030.
- ✓ EO encompasses remotely-sensed and in-situ data collection, offering insights across sectors.
- ✓ Agriculture benefits from precision techniques, while energy sectors utilize EO for forecasting and operations management. Mining gains insights for mineral exploration.
- ✓ EO also aids climate efforts, with applications like early wildfire detection and greenhouse gas monitoring, potentially reducing over 2 billion tonnes of CO2 annually by 2030.
- Q. Which company has launched India's first crowd-supported weather network with over 650 weather stations, the largest private setup in India, for real-time local weather data?

A) Domino's

**B)** Food Panda

C) Swiggy

Answer : D

D) Zomato

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✓ Zomato CEO Deepinder Goyal has launched India's first crowd-supported weather network with over 650 weather stations, the largest private setup in India, for real-time local weather data.

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- $\checkmark$  These weather stations, developed by Zomato, provide localised, real-time information on key weather parameters such as temperature, humidity, wind speed, rainfall, among others can be seen at http://weatherunion.com.
- ✓ Initially available in 45 major cities, plans are underway for expansion.
- Indian Coast Guard has signed MoU with which company for manufacturing and supply of Q. indigenous marine-grade aluminium for construction of ships?
  - A) Tata Advanced Systems **B)** Reliance Industries Limited

C) Larsen & Toubro (L&T) D) Hindalco Industries

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Indian Coast Guard has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindalco Industries for manufacturing and supply of indigenous marine-grade aluminium for construction of ships.
- ✓ The Indian Coast Guard fleet is presently operating 67 ships with aluminium hull with capability of operating in shallow waters.
- ✓ Indian Coast Guard has planned to induct more such vessels where the indigenously manufactured marinegrade aluminium will be utilized.

#### Q. Who has been appointed as the President of Larsen and Toubro (L&T)?

- A) R Shankar Raman **B)** Rakesh Sharma
- C) Rajesh Singh D) Umesh Nath Singh

#### Answer : A

- ✓ R Shankar Raman elevated as President of L&T
- ✓ Larsen and Toubro was elevated R Shankar Raman as the Preaident of the engineering and construction conglomerate.
- ✓ Post the promotion, Raman will continue to hold the position of the whole-time Director and CFO of the company as well.
- ✓ Raman joined the L&T Group in November 1994 to set up L&T Finance Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary. He later assumed the role of CFO at L&T and was appointed to the board in October 2011.

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Q. Who has been bestowed with the prestigious Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024 for Outstanding Social Work?

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- A) Pawan Sindhi **B)** Tilak Mehta
- C) Advait Thakur D) Kunal Shah

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Pawan Sindhi honored with Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024
- ✓ Social worker Pawan Sindhi was bestowed with the prestigious Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024 for Outstanding Social Work.
- ✓ The award night witnessed a gathering of like-minded individuals who came together to promote the values of humanity, peace, and prosperity.
- Q. Which platform has secured Gold in the 'Best Product Iteration' category at the INMA Awards 2024?

A) Netflix	<b>B) OTTplay</b>
C) Amazon Prime	D) Disney

#### Answer: B

- ✓ OTTplay has bagged the Gold for Best Product Iteration and Silver in Best Use of an Event at INMA 2024.
- ✓ OTTplay has won Gold (first place) in the Best Product Iteration category and Silver (second place) in the category for Best Use of an Event to Build a News Brand.
- ✓ The platform's transition to an OTT aggregator, addressing the challenge of multiple subscriptions, was celebrated for its innovation.
- ✓ About OTTplay
- ✓ OTTplay is India's pioneering OTT aggregator that uses AI-based recommendations to revolutionise content discovery and consumption.
- ✓ With the introduction of OTTplay Premium, the platform now offers a curated selection of content from 37 premier OTT platforms which are personalized based on each user's unique preferences.
- Which company has been recognized and honored by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for its Q. outstanding commitment to quality and branding excellence?

156

A) Juplay **B)** Genius Box C) Giggles D) CreativeKidz



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#### Answer : B

- ✓ Genius Box honored by BIS for quality and branding excellence
- ✓ Genius Box, a leading brand specializing in innovative DIY educational kits for children, has been recognized and honored by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for its outstanding commitment to quality and branding excellence.
- ✓ The prestigious recognition comes alongside Genius Box's distinguished feat of maintaining a flawless record of nil sample failures over the past three years.
- ✓ Genius Box stands as a pioneer in revolutionizing children's education through its "Play-full-learning" approach. With a mission to engage children in immersive learning experiences, the brand offers thoughtfully curated kits and games designed to foster curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking skills.

#### Q. India clinched how many gold medals at the Asian Open Pickleball Championships in Vietnam?

A) 3		<b>B) 4</b>
<b>C)</b> 5		<b>D) 6</b>

#### Answer : A

- ✓ India clinched three gold and two bronze medals at the Asian Open Pickleball Championships in Vietnam.
- ✓ Sachin Pahwa and Priyanka Chabbra led India to its first gold medal, defeating Ruben Hellberg and Chitlada Hemasee 11-9, 5-11, 11-9, in the mixed doubles intermediate 35+ category final.
- ✓ While in the women's doubles open category, the pair of Isha Lakhani and Pei Chuan Kao bagged the gold medal with a dominating 15-7, 15-3 win against Dang Kim Ngan and Tyak K.
- ✓ In the men's doubles, India's Aniket Patel and Rohit Patil claimed the yellow metal despite losing the opening game. The duo defeated Nik Alessandro Isagan and Lester Ga 5-11, 11-6, and 11-8 in the final
- ✓ In the men's singles advance 35+ category, Vijay Menon defeated Yu Hsuan Cher to secure the bronze, while in the women's singles intermediate 35+ event, Priyanka Chhabra defeated Marissa Phongsirikul, earning India another bronze medal
- Q. Nine projects sanctioned from the electronics and communication systems (ECS) cluster of DRDO were handed over to which IIT?
  - A) IIT Bhubaneswar

B) IIT Patna

157

C) IIT Kanpur

- D) IIT Roorkee

Answer : A



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- ✓ DRDO hands over nine defence tech projects to IIT-Bhubaneswar
- ✓ Nine projects sanctioned from the electronics and communication systems (ECS) cluster of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) were handed over to IIT-Bhubaneswar.
- ✓ Seven more projects are in the process of being sanctioned from ECS with a funding of Rs 18 crore.
- ✓ The IIT-Bhubaneswar will work on these sanctioned projects, which would be beneficial in electronics warfare, AI-driven surveillance, power systems and radar systems.
- This form of collaboration will enhance the sustainability of defence research programmes and will be part of the ecosystem for nation building

### **DRDO IN NEWS 2023-24**

- > DRDO hands over nine defence tech projects to IIT-Bhubaneswar
- DRDO successfully tested the next-generation Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system on 1 May 2024 from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is reported to be testing a prototype of its DURGA-2 (Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array) system.
- DRDO successfully tested the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from Chandipur, Odisha.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out successful trials of the Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System at Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan
- Recently, Strategic Forces Command and DRDO successfully tested the new generation ballistic missile Agni-Prime off the coast of Odisha.
- DRDO successfully conducted two flight tests of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile.
- DRDO successfully conducted four flight trials of the high-speed expendable aerial target 'ABHYAS' recently.
- Defence Ministry has cleared the proposal of buying a regiment of Pralay tactical ballistic missiles for the Indian Army which can strike targets at 150–500 km.
- > DRDO organises 'Anusandhaan Chintan Shivir' to encourage Defence R&D.



Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have formed a partnership to create an Indigenous Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System for the submarines in the Indian Navy.

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- > DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.
- Indian Navy and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) collaborated to conduct the first successful test trial of a locally-made Air Droppable Container called 'ADC-150' from the IL 38SD aircraft off the coast of Goa.
- > Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated its 66th foundation day on 1st January 2024.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- ➢ Founded : 1 January 1958
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Motto : "Strength's Origin is in Knowledge"
- Chairman : Sameer V Kamat

	Q.	Which day is celebrated as 'National Technology Da	ay' every year?
--	----	--	-----------------

A) 10 May	B) 11 May
C) 12 May	D) 13 May

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Every year, India observes 11th May as the National Technological Day to celebrate its technological and scientific prowess. The day aims to inspire youngsters and to create awareness about the country's scientific and technological achievements.
- ✓ It commemorates India's success in using science and technology to address the challenges facing the country.
- ✓ On this day, the government of India announces the names of the winners of the Rashtriya Vigyan Purashkar, or the National Science Awards
- The first National Technological Day was observed on 11 May 1999, commemorating the anniversary of the Pokhran nuclear test conducted on 11 May 1998.



✓ The decision to observe 11 May as National Technological Day was announced by the National Council for Technology Development during Atal Bihari Vajpayee's prime ministership.

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- ✓ Significance of the 1998 Pokhran Nuclear Test
- ✓ India conducted five nuclear tests in Pokhran, Rajasthan, on 11 and 13 May 1998. The test was code-named Operation Shakti.
- ✓ It was conducted jointly by the Atomic Energy Commission and the Defence and Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the leadership of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- ✓ Four nuclear weapons and one thermonuclear (Hydrogen) weapon were successfully tested by India.
- ✓ India became the sixth country after the United States of America, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, France and China to possess nuclear weapons.
- ✓ Pakistan tested its nuclear weapon in 1998, and North Korea in 2006. Israel has not tested any nuclear weapon but it is believed to have a nuclear weapon. Thus, at present, nine countries are believed to have nuclear weapons.
- India had earlier conducted a Nuclear test code-named Smiling Budha on 18 May 1974 at Pokhran. India claimed that the test was a Peaceful Nuclear Explosion (PNE), a scientific experiment for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and was not meant for making nuclear weapons.
- The theme for National Technology Day 2024 is "From Schools to Startups: Igniting Young Minds to Innovate.

#### Who has won the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Trophy 2024? Q.

A) Japan	B) Pakistan
C) Malaysia	D) India

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Japan defeated Pakistan to win the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy.
- ✓ Japan won its maiden Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey trophy by defeating Pakistan 4-1 in the penalty shoot-out in the final. The final was played at the Azlan Shah Stadium in Ipoh, Malaysia, on 11 May 2024.
- ✓ First Sultan Azlan Shah Title for Japan
- The Japanese men's hockey team defeated Pakistan to claim its first Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy. In the final, the match ended at 2-2 after the end of the normal. In the penalty shoot-out, Japan defeated Pakistan by 4-1.

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The Pakistani team, also popularly called the Green Shirts, was appearing in the final of the Azlan Shah for  $\checkmark$ the 10th time. It last played the final in 2011, which it lost to Australia. Pakistan has won the Sultan Azlan Shah trophy three times

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- Six teams, Japan, Pakistan, Canada, South Korea, New Zealand, and the host team, Malaysia, participated in the 2024 event.
- ✓ India and Azlan Shah Trophy
- ✓ Sultan Azlan Shah is considered a prestigious Hockey tournament in Asia that has attracted the world's top men's national hockey teams.
- ✓ India has been a regular participant in the Sultan Azlan Shah Tournament.
- ✓ India has won the Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy 5 times in 1985, 1991, 1995, 2009, 2010.
- $\checkmark$  This time, the Indian team skipped the tournament as they were more focused on preparing for the 2024 Paris Olympics, which start on 26 July 2024
- ✓ Australia is the most successful team, having won it 10 times. India is the second most successful team, with 5 titles, and Pakistan has 3 titles

### **SPORTS IN NEWS 2024**

- ▶ Japan defeated Pakistan to win the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy.
- Spanish football club Real Madrid has been crowned the La Liga 2023-24 season title after beating Cadiz 3-0.
- > World no.1 women's tennis players Iga Swiatek and Andrey Rublev won the women's and men's singles titles at the 2024 Madrid Open, respectively
- Mumbai City FC defeat Mohun Bagan Super Giant to win the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24
- China wins both Thomas and Uber Cup Badminton 2024 titles
- > Japan defeated Uzbekistan in the final to win the Men's AFC U-23 Asian Cup for the second time.
- > Paris Saint-Germain football club was confirmed as the champion of the 2023-24 Ligue-1 Season
- National men's Squash champion Velavan Senthilkumar defeated Melvil Scianimanico of France to win the Batch Open Challenger Squash
- Yuvraj Singh becomes ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador



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Q. Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy is related to which sport?

A) Cricket	<b>B)</b> Badminton
------------	---------------------

C) Tennis

D) Hockey

#### Answer : D

- ✓ The Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy is organised by the Malaysia Hockey Confederation and invites six countries to play in it. It started as a biennial tournament in 1983 and, after its popularity, was converted into an annual event in 1999.
- The trophy is named after the former Sultan of the state of Perak Malaysia, Sultan Azlan Shah. Sultan Azlan Shah was a pioneer of Hockey in Asia. He was the president of the Asian Hockey Federation from 1990 till his death in 2014.
- ✓ The Trophy named after him is played annually at Ipoh the capital of Perak state of Malaysia
- Q. Who is the first person in the world to climb Mount Everest 29 times?
  - A) Sangeetha Sindhi Bahi B) S
    - B) Sherpa Tenzing Norgay

C) Pasang Dawa

### D) Kami Rita

### Answer : D

- ✓ Kami Rita of Nepal climbs Mount Everest for record 29th times.
- ✓ Kami Rita of Nepal has broken his own world record by climbing Mount Everest 29 times. This is the 29th time in the last 30 years that he has climbed the world's highest mountain.
- ✓ According to the Mingma Sherpa of the Seven Summits Treks, Kami Rita reached the peak on 12 May 2004.
- ✓ Mount Everest is the world's highest peak, with a height of 8,848.86 metres or 29,031.69 feet.
- ✓ Legendary Mountaineer Kami Rita
- ✓ Kami Rita is a citizen of Nepal and was born on 17, 1970. He is currently a senior mountain sherpa (guide) with Seven Summit Treks.
- ✓ Kami Rita started his mountaineering career in 1992 as a supporting crew member.
- ✓ Kami Rita first conquered the Everest peak in 1994 and has been climbing the mountain peak almost every year. In 2023, he climbed the mountain peak twice.
- $\checkmark$  He is popularly known as the Everest Man.
- Another Nepalese Mountaineer, Pasang Dawa, is Kami Rita's closest competitor, who has climbed Mount Everest 27 times.

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### ✓ About Mount Everest

✓ Mount Everest is the world's highest mountain peak, situated in the Great Himalayas region of the Himalayas. It lies on the boundary of Nepal and Tibet.

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- ✓ In Tibet, Mount Everest is known as Chomolungma which means"Goddess Mother of the World" or "Goddess of the Valley". It is known as Sagarmatha in Nepal.
- ✓ The present height of Mount Everest is estimated to be 8,848.86 metres or 29,031.69 feet
- ✓ Indian Climbers on Mount Everest
- ✓ On 29 May 1953, New Zealand's Sir Edmund Hillary became the first person in the world to climb Mount Everest. He was accompanied by Nepali-Indian Sherpa Tenzing Norgay.
- ✓ The Government of India established the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award in his memory in 1994.
- ✓ The first woman to climb Mount Everest was Junko Tabei of Japan. She climbed the peak on 16 May 1975.
- ✓ The first Indian woman to climb Mount Everest was Bachendri Pal on 23 May 1984.
- $\checkmark$  The first woman to climb Mount Everest twice Santosh Yaday in 1992 and 1993.
- The first amputee in the world to climb Mount Everest Arunima Sinha in 2013
- ✓ The youngest girl in the world to climb Mount Everest -Malvanath Poorna in 2014. She was 13 years and 11 months old.
- ✓ The oldest woman in the world to climb Mount Everest Sangeetha Sindhi Bahi, in 2018 at the age of 53 years.
- In which prestigious athletic event did Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finish in second place Q. to commence his 2024 season?
  - **B)** Doha Diamond League A) Tokyo Olympics
  - C) World Athletics Championships **D)** Commonwealth Games

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Neeraj Chopra finishes second in Doha Diamond League
- ✓ Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, the reigning Olympic and world champion, started his 2024 season with a second-place finish at the Doha Diamond League 2024.
- The 26-year-old Chopra trailed Czech Republic veteran Vadlejch, who won the title with his third round  $\checkmark$ throw of 88.38m all through the competition.

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Chopra made a last ditch effort but his final round throw fell 2cm short of Vadlejch's mark as the Indian superstar failed to defend the title he had won won last year . Two-time world champion Anderson Peters took the third sport with a best throw of 86.62m

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### **NEERAJ CHOPRA IN NEWS 2023-24**

- Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, the reigning Olympic and world champion, started his 2024  $\geq$ season with a second-place finish at the Doha Diamond League 2024.
- Neeraj Chopra has been honoured with a plaque at the famous Ice Palace at Jungfraujoch, known as the 'Top of Europe', in Switzerland.
- > Olympic and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was shortlisted for men's 'World Athlete of the Year' award.
- > Neeraj Chopra, India's star javelin thrower, won a gold medal in the Asian Games with a massive throw of 88.88m.
- > Neeraj Chopra finishes second in Eugene Diamond League with a throw of 83.80m, failing to defend his title. Jakub Vadlejch becomes champion.
- > Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won the first gold medal for India at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary with a throw of 88.17 meters.
- > Neeraj Chopra, will lead the country's challenge at the World Athletics Championships from August 19 to 27, 2023 in Budapest.
- India observes 3rd 'Javelin Throw Day' on August 07, 2023.
- > Neeraj Chopra wins second straight Diamond League title in Lausanne, Switzerland with 87.66m throw.
- > Olympic gold medal winner Neeraj Chopra has secured victory with 88.67 m throw at Doha Diamond League 2023.
- Neeraj Chopra makes history, becomes World No 1 in men's javelin throw.
- > Neeraj Chopra is on top with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Anderson Peters of Granada.
- The Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) accepted Neeraj Chopra's proposal to train in Kuortane, Finland.  $\geq$
- The men's javelin must weigh at least 800g and be 2.6m-2.7m long while the women's javelin must  $\triangleright$ weigh 600g and be 2.2m-2.3m long.
- > Neeraj Chopra presently holds the rank of Subedar in the Indian Army.
- Neeraj Chopra is from Khandra village, Panipat district, Haryana



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- Q. The Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched a pilot project for the Namo Drone Didi project with which company?
  - A) Ashok Leyland B) Mahindra & Mahindra Limited
  - C) Larsent & Toubro Limited D) Dabur India Limited

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Mahindra & Mahindra Sign MoU with MSDE for 'Drone Didi' Pilot Project
- ✓ To boost rural women's empowerment, the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. to conduct two Pilot Projects under the Drone Didi Yojana at Noida And Hyderabad.
- ✓ The MoU was signed in New Delhi in the presence of Mahindra Group CEO and MD Dr Anish Shah and Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- The pilot projects to train women to operate drones for agricultural purposes will be held at the National Skill Training Institute in Noida and Hyderabad.
- ✓ Drone Didi programme
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Namo Drone Didi scheme under the Sashakt Nari-Viksit Bharat programme on 11 March 2024 at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi.
- ✓ Under the Drone Didi scheme, the government aims to train and equip 15000 women-led Self Help Groups with agricultural drones to assist in tasks such as crop monitoring, spraying fertilisers and sowing seeds.
- Q. Which of the following is not an objective of the Vibrant Village Programme?
  - A) Enhancing the quality of life in border villages
  - B) Reversing the outmigration from border areas
  - C) Improving security of the border areas
  - D) Comprehensive development of villages along coastal states

#### Answer : D

- ✓ The Home Ministry recently sanctioned 113 roads under the Vibrant Village Programme in Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim to improve connectivity in areas along the border.
- ✓ About Vibrant Village Programme:
- ✓ It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented over the financial years 2022-23 to 2025-26.
- ✓ Objective:



 $\checkmark$  Comprehensive development of villages and blocks on the northern border, thus improving the quality of life of people living in identified border villages.

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- $\checkmark$  This will help in encouraging people to stay in their native locations in border areas and reversing the outmigration from these villages, adding to improved security of the border
- The programme will provide funds for the development of essential infrastructure and the creation of livelihood opportunities in 2967 villages in 19 Districts and 46 Border blocks of 4 States and 1 UT along the northern land border of the country: Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and the UT of Ladakh.
- ✓ The programme envisages focused areas of intervention in the select villages for the creation of opportunities for livelihood generation through promotion of tourism and cultural heritage, skill development and entrepreneurship, and development of cooperative societies, including agriculture/horticulture, cultivation of medicinal plants/herbs etc.
- ✓ Vibrant Village Action Plans will be created by the district administration with the help of Gram Panchayats, and 100 % saturation of Central and state schemes will be ensured.
- There will be no overlap with the Border Area Development Programme.
- Q. With reference to Credit Information Companies (CICs), consider the following statements:
  - 1. They are licensed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

2. Both banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) can refer to the CIC report to assess the creditworthiness of borrowers.

3. Every Credit Institution (like banks) should be a member of at least one CIC.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

D) None

C) All three

#### Answer : C

- ✓ The Supreme Court recently issued notice in a plea alleging right to privacy violations by four foreign credit information companies operating in India.
- ✓ About Credit Information Companies (CICs):
- ✓ CICs collect public data, credit transactions, and payment histories of individuals and companies regarding loans and credit cards, among others.

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Their primary function is to gather data from various sources, such as banks, financial institutions, lenders, and other credit-granting entities, and based on the collected data, CICs form a credit report and generate a score.

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- ✓ Banks and non-banking financial institutions refer to the CIC's report and score to decide borrowers' creditworthiness before granting a loan or issuing a credit card.
- $\checkmark$  The credit score ranges from 350 to 850, and anything above 750 is considered a good score.
- ✓ CICs in India are licensed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and governed by the Credit Information Companies Regulation Act, 2005 (CICRA) and various other rules and regulations issued by the RBI.
- ✓ As per Section 15 of the CICRA, every Credit Institution (like banks) should be a member of at least one CIC.
- ✓ As per the RBI's notification, each customer/individual should be provided with one base-level Credit line Information Report (CIR) free of cost per year by a Credit Information Company (CIC).
- ✓ The CIC's have their own procedure through which individuals can apply for a credit report at a specified fee.
- ✓ At present, there are four well known CICs in India. These companies are Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited (CIBIL), Equifax Credit Information Services Private Limited, Experian Credit Information Company of India Private Limited, and CRIF High Mark Credit Information Services Private Limited.
- Rat-Hole Mining is a method of manual drilling most common in which one of the following States Q. in India?

A) Odisha	B) Meghalaya
C) Jharkhand	D) Bihar

#### Answer: B

- ✓ A one-member panel appointed by the High Court of Meghalaya to handle coal-related issues has flagged the lack of progress in restoring the environment damaged by rat-hole coal mining in the State.
- ✓ About Rat-Hole Mining:
- ✓ It is a method of manual drilling most common in Meghalaya, especially in the West Jaintia Hills, East Jaintia Hills, and West Khasi Hills.
- The term "rat hole" refers to the narrow pits dug into the ground, typically just large enough for one person  $\checkmark$ to descend and extract coal.
- The coal is manually extracted using primitive tools such as pickaxes, shovels, and baskets.  $\checkmark$

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#### Rat-hole mining is broadly classified into two categories: Side-cutting procedure and box-cutting.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned rat-hole mining in 2014 for being unscientific, although the practice remains widespread

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#### Consider the following statements with reference to the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement: Q.

- 1. It was signed at the 7th ASEAN Economic Ministers-India Consultations in Bangkok in 2009.
- 2. It only applies to trade in physical goods and does not apply to trade in services.
- 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 4th Joint Committee meeting for the review of AITIGA (ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement) was held in Putrajaya, Malaysia from 7-9 May 2024.
- ✓ It is a trade deal between the ten member states of ASEAN and India.
- ✓ It was signed at the 7th ASEAN Economic Ministers-India Consultations in Bangkok, Thailand in 2009.
- ✓ The agreement, which came into effect in 2010, is sometimes referred to as the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement.
- ✓ The Agreement covers trade in physical goods and products; it does not apply to trade in services.
- ✓ ASEAN and India signed a separate ASEAN-India Trade in Services Agreement in 2014.
- ✓ What is ASEAN?
- ✓ It is a group of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which was established in 1967 with the signing of the Bangkok declaration.
- ✓ Founding members: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- ✓ Presently ASEAN comprises 10 member states namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam.
- ✓ It promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and sociocultural integration between its members and other countries in Asia.



### Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Indian Ocean Basin-Wide (IOBW) index:

1. It indicates the average sea-surface temperature variations across the tropical Indian Ocean.

2. It has a stronger association with the Northern Hemisphere than the Southern Hemisphere of Earth.

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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

- ✓ According to the study Indian Ocean basin-wide (IOBW) index exhibits a close association with dengue outbreaks in both the Northern and Southern hemispheres.
- ✓ It represents the average sea-surface temperature variations across the tropical Indian Ocean.
- ✓ It has emerged as a key indicator for predicting the magnitude and timing of dengue epidemics in each country.
- ✓ IOBW index's association with the Southern Hemisphere is stronger than that with the Northern Hemisphere.
- ✓ The index has a more pronounced impact on temperatures in tropical regions. Brazil, for example, bears a higher burden of dengue in the Southern Hemisphere.
- ✓ The Northern Hemisphere witnesses a peak dengue epidemic period between July and October and the Southern Hemisphere in February and April, both in the summers.

Q. Which of the following fintech platforms has launched its 'Digital Credit' as a service for banks in India?

A) PhonePe

C) Zeta

#### **B)** GooglePay

D) Instamojo

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Fintech platform Zeta has launched its 'Digital Credit' as a service for bank in India.
- Zeta's offering is underpinned by the National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) credit line on UPI scheme which harnesses the power of the UPI network to turbo-charge credit issuance in India.

169



Zeta estimates that the transaction volume on this scheme will exceed \$1 trillion by 2030 and aims to capture 50% of this market opportunity with its end-to-end solution that can help banks conceive and rapidly launch multi-form credit products

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#### RBI has appointed R Lakshmi Kanth Rao as Executive Director (ED). As executive director, Rao Q. will handle which of the following department?

A) DICGC	B) ReBIT
C) IFTAS	D) BRBNMPL

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed R Lakshmi Kanth Rao as executive director (ED).
- ✓ As executive director, Rao will handle the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), the Right to Information Act (FAA), and the Department of Communication.
- Rao was previously serving as chief general manager in charge in the Department of Regulation.
- ✓ He also served as a banking ombudsman at RBI Chennai and as regional director of Uttar Pradesh in Lucknow.
- Omnichannel forex services company Thomas Cook India launched a new digital service for Q. International Money Transfers. What is the name of this digital service?

A) BCPay	B) TCPay
C) UPay	D) CPay

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Omnichannel forex services company Thomas Cook India has launched TCPay, a new digital service that brings ease and efficiency to international money transfers.
- ✓ Traditionally, sending money abroad was considered an arduous process, that involved visits to branches, cumbersome paperwork and limited operating hours.
- ✓ Recognising the challenges, Thomas Cook has introduced TCPay that offers multiple benefits to transform the way individuals transfer funds.
- The simple digital platform coupled with Thomas Cook's recently launched Video KYC process, empowers  $\checkmark$ customers with paperless transfers from the comfort and convenience of their home.



Q. Who among the following individuals will be honored with an honorary doctorate by McGill University as part of the Spring 2024 Convocation ceremonies?

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- A) Dr. Anthony Fauci
- B) Dr. Soumya Swaminathan
- C) Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- D) Dr. Deborah Birx

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Dr Soumya Swaminathan to be awarded honourary doctorate by Canada's McGill University
- ✓ Dr Soumya Swaminathan, most recently WHO's Chief Scientist, has been named among the 10 exceptional individuals who will receive honorary degrees from Canada's prestigious McGill University as part of the Spring 2024 Convocation ceremonies.
- ✓ In 2017, Swaminathan joined the World Health Organisation (WHO) as Deputy Director General (Programmes), and, in March 2019, was named its first Chief Scientist, a role she filled through the Covid-19 pandemic until late 2022.

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

- > Chhattisgarh's environmental activist and convenor of Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan Alok Shukla has been selected for the 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize
- Noted Hindi film superstars Hema Malini and Saira Banu as well as other prominent personalities from the fields of art and culture, will be honoured with the prestigious Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award
- > Tata Group Chairman Ratan Tata was honoured with the prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award 2021.
- Amitabh Bachchan will receive Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award
- > Kannada poet, Mamta Ji Sagar was honored with the World Literary Prize for her contribution to literature by the World Organization of Writers (WOW)
- > India's premier national space agency, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chandrayaan -3 mission team was awarded the 2024 John L "Jack" Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration by the US-based Space Foundation.
- > SJVN Limited was awarded the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award 2024 for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Contribution



Renowned economist Utsa Patnaik receives the 2023 Malcolm Adiseshiah Award, an honor granted annually by the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust.

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- Nishant, a young poet and critic, is awarded the 29th Devi Shankar Awasthi Award in 2023 for his book 'Kavita Pathak Aalochna'.
- > Narendra Modi receives Bhutan's Order of the Druk Gyalpo Award.
- > Amitav Ghosh has been awarded the 'Erasmus Prize' 2024 for highlighting the climate change crisis
- Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal has become the first Indian to be awarded an honorary knighthood by Britain's King Charles III
- Shashi Tharoor, a prolific author and a diplomat-turned-politician, was conferred France's highest civilian honour 'Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur'.
- PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and MS Swaminathan are set to receive India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna.
- ➢ Karpoori Thakur, a renowned socialist leader and former Chief Minister of Bihar, is set to be posthumously conferred with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.
- > Another recipient of the Bharat Ratna Award for the year 2024 is Lal Krishna Advani.
- Dr. Bina Modi, the esteemed Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, has been honored with the prestigious 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year' Award.
- > REC Secures Best Green Bond Corporate Award At The Asset Triple A Awards 2024.
- > PT Usha Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award by SJFI and DSJA
- > Priest Ishwari Prasad Namboodiri Honored with the Shankar Smriti Award
- > The 69th edition of the Filmfare Awards 2024 took place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Best Film 12th Fail
- Best Director Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
- > Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)
- > Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
- Australia skipper Pat Cummins was announced as the winner of the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2023.
- > Veteran Indian batter Virat Kohli was crowned the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2023.
- Skyways Air Services wins Best Cargo Services Award at Wings India Awards.
- ▶ REC Limited Wins ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting FY 2022-23.



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- ▶ US Air Force Officer Madison Marsh Becomes First Active-Duty Winner Of Miss America 2024
- > Savita Kanswal Posthumously Honored With Tenzing Norgay Award
- Singapore's Changi Airport Earns The Title Of World's Best Airport For 2023
- > Hero MotoCorp's facility wins CII National Award for water management
- > Prof B R Kamboj Honoured With M S Swaminathan Award
- > Poet Sukrita Paul Kumar Wins Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for 'Salt & Pepper'
- Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport Terminal 2 Recognized Among UNESCO's 'Most Beautiful Airports'
- > IREDA's Pradip Kumar Das Wins 'CMD Of The Year' For The Second Straight Year.
- > Poonam Khetrapal Singh Honored with Bhutan's National Order of Merit.
- Indira Gandhi Peace Prize Awarded to Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad"
- Noted Hindi Writer Pushpa Bharati to Receive 33rd Vyas Samman for her 2016 memoir, "Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein."
- > Federal Bank Titled "Bank of the Year 2023" in India : The Banker
- Argentina's football icon, Lionel Messi, has been named Time magazine's Athlete of the Year for 2023
- > Abdullahi Mire, a Somali refugee, has been named the 2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award
- > Paul Lynch who is an Irish author won the 2023 Booker prize for his fifth novel 'Prophet Song'
- > Tamil writer Perumal Murugan's 'Fire Bird' Wins 2023 JCB Prize for Literature

Q. Which space-tech start-up recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) to utilize co-working and testing facilities in Ahmedabad?

A) GalaxEye

C) Stellar Horizon

- B) AstroTech Solutions
  - D) CosmoLaunch Technologies

173

#### Answer : A

- ✓ GalaxEye signs MoU with IN-SPACe for co-working and testing facilities
- ✓ Space-tech start-up GalaxEye has gained access to the co-working and testing facilities of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) in Ahmedabad.



The start-up signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IN-SPACe, an autonomous agency under the Department of Space, on May 01, 2024 to formalise the collaboration. The partnership facilitates the utilisation of ISRO's laboratories and testing facilities

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- GalaxEye is planning to build multi-sensor earth observation (EO) satellites and is set to launch their first satellite, Drishti Mission, within a year from now. In 2023, GalaxEye developed a UAV SAR system for defence markets and completed over 200 successful flights with UAV SAR Payload.
- Further, GalaxEye has introduced the "Drishti Sensor", a sensor technology which helps with cloud cover  $\checkmark$ and provides high quality images with detailed and timely data that is required for mission preparation, border patrols, and disaster management.
- Q. Who were named the Player of the Year for 2023 in men's and women's categories, respectively, at the sixth annual Hockey India awards?
  - A) Manpreet Singh and Rani Rampal **B)** Hardik Singh and Salima Tete
  - C) Harmanpreet Singh and Savita Punia D) Akashdeep Singh and Vandana Katariya

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Hardik Singh and Salima Tete named the Player of the Year for 2023.
- ✓ Hardik Singh and Salima Tete were named the Player of the Year for 2023 among men and women respectively at the sixth annual Hockey India awards even as the federation announced the revival of Hockey India League (HIL) in January 2025.
- ✓ With a total prize pool of ₹7.56 crores, the awards saw teams and individuals felicitated for their achievements in the past year. Interestingly, even the 2016 Junior World Cup winning men's team was honoured at the event, eight years since the triumph.
- ✓ Hockey India Awards 2023 winners
- Hockey India Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award: Ashok Kumar  $\checkmark$
- ✓ Hockey India Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award: Ashok Kumar
- Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr Award for Player of The Year (Men): Hardik Singh  $\checkmark$
- Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr Award for Player of The Year (Women): Salima Tete
- ✓ Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year: PR Sreejesh
- Hockey India Pargat Singh Award for Defender of the Year: Harmanpreet Singh  $\checkmark$
- Hockey India Ajit Pal Singh Award for Midfielder of the Year: Hardik Singh  $\checkmark$
- Hockey India Dhanraj Pillay Award for Forward of the Year: Abhishek  $\checkmark$

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- ✓ Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Women Under 21): Deepika Soreng
- ✓ Hockey India Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Men Under 21): Araijeet Singh Hundal
- Q. What significant approval did Hinduja Group's IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL) recently receive from the IRDAI?
  - A) Approval to launch a new insurance product
  - B) Approval to expand its insurance operations internationally
  - C) Approval to merge with a leading insurance company
  - D) Approval for the acquisition of Reliance Capital

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Hinduja Group gets IRDAI approval for Reliance Capital acquisition.
- ✓ Hinduja Group's IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL) received the long-awaited Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (IRDAI) approval for the acquisition of Reliance Capital.
- ✓ The acquisition will include the takeover of Reliance Capital's insurance arms wholly-owned subsidiary Reliance General Insurance and 51:49 JV with Nippon Life, Reliance Nippon Life Insurance.
- ✓ The insurance regulator has cleared the transfer of Reliance Capital's 26 per cent stake in Reliance Nippon Life to Aasia Enterprises. Post the transaction, Reliance Capital, Nippon Life Insurance and Aasia Enterprises LLP will be the promoters of the company.
- Q. Colin Munro, who recently retired from international cricket after representing his national team in 123 matches, played for which country?
  - A) Australia

**B)** England

**C)** South Africa

D) New Zealand

#### Answer : D

- ✓ New Zealander Colin Munro retires from international Cricket
- ✓ Veteran New Zealand cricket player Colin Munro has announced his retirement from international cricket, ending his 123-match career with the Black Caps. The New Zealand cricket team is also called the Black Caps.



✓ Munro announced his retirement after he was not chosen in the New Zealand squad for the 9th ICC Men's T 20 World Cup, which will be held in the West Indies and the United States of America from June 1 to 29, 2024.

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- Which innovative initiative was unveiled by Zomato co-founder Deepinder Goyal to offer localized, Q. real-time weather information in India?
  - A) Weather Nexus

**B)** Weather Union

C) WeatherConnect

**D)** WeatherSphere

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Zomato unveils 'India's first' crowd-supported weather infrastructure
- ✓ Zomato co-founder Deepinder Goyal unveiled India's first crowd-supported weather infrastructure 'Weather Union' to provide localised, real-time information on key weather parameters.
- $\checkmark$  He also informed that the online food-delivery giant is opening up access to the data of this weather infrastructure to everyone for the public good as a part of 'Zomato Giveback'.
- ✓ These weather stations, developed by Zomato, provide localised, real-time information on key weather parameters such as temperature, humidity, wind speed, rainfall etc.
- Q. Which prestigious awards did OTTplay win in 2024, solidifying its standing in the digital media industry?
  - A) Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity
  - **B) INMA Global Media Awards**
  - **C)** Webby Awards
  - **D)** Golden Globe Awards

#### Answer : B

- ✓ OTTplay shines on the global stage, wins big at INMA Global Media Awards 2024
- ✓ HT Labs-backed OTTplay has scored big at the esteemed INMA Global Media Awards 2024, reaffirming its position in the digital media landscape. OTTplay has won Gold (first place) in the Best Product Iteration category and Silver (second place) in the category for Best Use of an Event to Build a News Brand.
- ✓ OTTplay's pioneering effort in product iteration was duly recognised as it managed to beat Germany's WeltN24 ("Revitalizing the Welt Community") and Chile's La Tercera ("The Match Project") for the top spot.

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A	Ŧ	B
	D	9

#### Q. India signed an MoU with which country for the conservation of sharks and rays in the Arabian Sea?

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A) Oman
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C) Qatar

B) KuwaitD) Saudi Arabia

#### Answer : A

- ✓ India and Oman to jointly undertake research on sharks and rays in Arabian Sea
- ✓ A joint initiative between India and Oman to boost research and conservation of sharks and rays in the Arabian Sea will be launched at an upcoming workshop at ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

#### Q. India signed an agreement with which country for Visa Waiver on Diplomatic and Official Passports?

A) Moldova	B) Maldives
C) Mauritius	D) Singapore

#### Answer : A

- ✓ India, and Moldova sign agreement for Visa Waiver on Diplomatic Passports
- ✓ India and Moldova signed an agreement allowing holders of diplomatic and official passports from either country to travel to the other without requiring a visa.
- ✓ This Agreement will add further momentum to the friendly and cordial relations between the two countries.
- ✓ Diplomatic relations between India and Moldova were established on March 20, 1992.

Q. India has contributed \_\_\_\_\_\_ to the U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund, underscoring its unwavering commitment to support multilateral efforts in the global fight against the scourge of terrorism.

A) \$1,00,000B) \$50,000C) \$5,00,000D) \$5000

## Answer : C

- ✓ India contributes \$5,00,000 to U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund
- ✓ India has contributed \$500,000 to the U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund, underscoring its unwavering commitment to support multilateral efforts in the global fight against the scourge of terrorism.
- ✓ India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj handed over to Under Secretary General, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Vladimir Voronkov the country's voluntary financial contribution of half a million dollars towards the U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund (CTTF).

177



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- ✓ UNITED NATIONS (UN)
- ✓ Founded : 24 October 1945
- ✓ Headquarteres : New York, US
- ✓ Official languages : Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian & Spanish
- ✓ Membership : 193 member states & 2 observer states
- ✓ 1st Secretary General : Trygve Halvdan Lie (Norway)
- ✓ 7th Secretary General : Kofi Annan (Ghana)
- ✓ 8th Secretary General : Ban Ki-moon (South Korea)
- ✓ 9th Secretary-General : António Guterres (Portugal)
- ✓ Deputy Secretary-General : Amina J. Mohammed (Nigeria)
- ✓ United Nations Day is celebrated on October 24 every year.
- Q. World Migratory Bird Day is observed every year on the second Saturday of May. This year was celebrated on 11 May. What is the theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2024?
  - A) Insects
  - **B)** Fishes
  - C) Dolphin
  - **D)** Animals

#### Answer : A

- World Migratory Bird Day is observed every year on second Saturday of May. This year was celebrated on 11 May.
- ✓ Objective To raise awareness about the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.
- ✓ Theme 2024 Insects
- World Migratory Bird Day was first established in 1993 by visionaries from the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center.
- ✓ The initial celebrations were organized by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation along with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2007, the responsibility for the day was transferred to the non-profit organization 'Environment for the Americas'.
- WMBD is celebrated annually on the second Saturday in May and October to accommodate the varying migration patterns in different regions.

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Q. When is the International Nurses Day celebrated? A) May 10 B) May 11

C) May 12 D) May 09

#### Answer : C

- ✓ The International Nurses Day is celebrated on May 12, every year to mark the contributions and hard work of nursing staff around the world.
- ✓ The theme for International Nurses Day 2024 is Our Nurses. Our Future. The economic power of care
- ✓ The day was created by the International Council of Nurses, and is celebrated globally since January 1974.
- This day also marks the birth anniversary of nursing pioneer Florence Nightingale, who was born on May 12, 1820.
- Q. The International Nurses Day marks the birth anniversary of which social reformer?
  - A) Clara BartonB) Florence NightingaleC) Marie CurieD) Mother Teresa

#### Answer: B

- Q. Which literary works have been included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register, confirming India's rich literary heritage and cultural legacy?
  - A) Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Bhagavad Gita
  - B) Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahrdayāloka-Locana
  - C) Rigveda, Atharvaveda, and Upanishads
  - D) Arthashastra, Manusmriti, and Meghaduta

#### Answer : B

- Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahrdayāloka-Locana of India is among 20 items of the Asia Pacific region which has been included in the 2024 cycle of the 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register
- ✓ The Memory of the World Asia Pacific Committee recognises and honours the Asia-Pacific achievements in genealogy, literature, and science, among other categories.

179



The decision to include Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahrdayāloka-Locana was taken at the 10th General Meeting of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP), held from 7 and 8 May, in Ulaanbaatar, capital of Mongolia.

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- The 10th General Meeting of MOWCAP was hosted by the Mongolian government's Ministry of Culture,  $\checkmark$ the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, and the Bangkok Regional Office of UNESCO.
- ✓ The meeting was attended by 38 representatives from member states convened alongside 40 observers and nominees.
- Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahrdayaloka-Locana
- Ramcharitmanas was written by Tuslidas in the 16th century A.D in the Awadhi dialect. It is different from  $\checkmark$ Ramanaya which was written by Sage Valmiki in Sanskrit language. The Ramcharitmanas is written in Chaupai form.
- ✓ Panchatantra is one of the oldest collections of fables in the world, composed in Sanskrit. Vishnusharma, the court scholar of King Amar Shakti of Mahilaropya, is credited with compiling it.
- ✓ It was probably composed around 300 BCE. It was translated into Pahlavi (Iranian language)in 550 BCE.
- 'Sahrdayaloka-Locana' has been composed by Acharya Anandvardhan in Sanskrit. He lived in Kashmir during the second half of the 10th century and the first half of the 11th century AD.

### **UNESCO IN NEWS 2023-24**

- Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahrdayaloka-Locana of India is among 20 items of the Asia Pacific region which has been included in the 2024 cycle of the 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register
- > Palestinian journalists covering Gaza awarded 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize
- A multibillion-dollar dam project underway across the Mekong River in Laos has prompted concerns that it could result in Luang Prabang City losing its UNESCO World Heritage Site status.
- > India has nominated the "Maratha Military Landscapes", a network of forts that showcase the strategic military powers of Maratha rule, for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage list for 2024-25.
- ▶ 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will take place from July 21 to 31, 2024 in New Delhi, India.



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- > Gujarat's Garba Dance Enters UNESCO's 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' List.
- Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has secured recognition as one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports' and has been awarded the 'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023' by the UNESCO's Prix Versailles.
- 'Garba of Gujarat' has been inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity by UNESCO.
- > Garba dance is the 15th intangible cultural heritage of India to be included in this list.
- Kozhikode in Kerala has been designated as the UNESCO 'City of Literature' and Gwalior as the 'City of Music' in the latest UNESCO list of Creative Cities Network.
- temples of the Hoysala Empire in Karnataka, India were officially added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites, marking India's 42nd addition to the prestigious heritage list.
- Three Hoysala-era temples in Karnataka [Chennakeshava (Belur), Hoysaleswara (Halebidu) and Keshava Temple (Somanathapura, Mysuru)] recently made it to UNESCO's World Heritage List, under the collective entry of 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas'.
- Santiniketan, located in West Bengal, India, has achieved the prestigious status of being recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- > Santiniketan as the 41st World Heritage Property in India.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Formation : 16 November 1945
- Headquarters : Paris, France
- Director-General : Audrey Azoulay (France)
- Member countries : 193

Q. Where was the World Hydrogen Summit and Exhibition 2024 held?

### A) Netherlands

B) Belgium

C) Norway

D) Sweden

Answer : A

- ✓ India has set up its maiden pavilion at the World Hydrogen Summit and Exhibition 2024.
- The Pavilion was set up by the Union Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, and it was inaugurated by the Secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Bhupinder Singh Bhalla, on May 12, 2024.



✓ The World Hydrogen Summit 2024 is being held in Rotterdam, Netherlands, from 13-15 May 2024. The Summit is being attended by 15,000 delegates from around the world..

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- ✓ World Hydrogen Summit and Exhibition 2024
- ✓ The World Hydrogen Summit and Exhibition has been organised by the Sustainable Energy Council in partnership with the Netherlands government, the province of Zuid-Holland, the City of Rotterdam and the Port of Rotterdam.
- ✓ National Hydrogen Mission
- ✓ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the National Hydrogen Mission on 4 January 2022. The government of India has approved an outlay of Rs 19,744 crore for the Mission.
- ✓ Development of green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonne) per annum,
- ✓ 125 GW of renewable energy capacity addition,
- ✓ Investment of over Rs. Eight lakh crore,
- $\checkmark$  Creation of over six lakh jobs,
- ✓ Reduction in fossil fuel imports over Rs. One lakh crore,
- ✓ Reduction in nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions
- Who is the 85th Chess Grandmaster of India? **Q**.
  - A) Vidit Gujrathi
- B) Pentala Harikrishna

C) P Shyaamnikhil

D) Arjun Erigaisi

### Answer : C

- ✓ Tamil Nadu's P Shyaamnikhil became India's 85th chess Grandmaster(GM).
- ✓ The 31-year-old chess prodigy, who started his career at the age of eight, finally secured his third and final GM norms at the 2024 Dubai Police Masters Chess Tournament.
- ✓ R Vaishali was the 84th Indian GM.
- ✓ P Shyaamnikhil was born in Nagercoil in Tamil Nadu in 1992 and he later shifted to Chennai to pursue his passion in chess.
- ✓ <u>Grandmaster</u>
- ✓ Grandmaster is the highest title in chess, just below the world champion title.
- ✓ A male chess player must earn at least a FIDE 2500 Elo rating point in established classical or standard chess and three Grandmaster's norms in international competition.



✓ For the women chess player the player has to earn a minimum FIDE 2300 ELO rating points and three women Grandmaster's norm.

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- ✓ Chess Grandmaster of India
- ✓ Manuel Aaron was the first Indian chess player to get the International Master title in 1961.
- ✓ Vishwanathan Anand was the first Indian to become the Grandmaster in 1988.
- ✓ Jayshree Khadikar was the first Indian woman to get the Women International Master in 1979.
- ✓ Koneru Humpy was the first women Grandmaster of India. She is also the world's youngest female player ever to become women GM, at the age of 15 years..
- ✓ There are three female Indian Grandmasters Koneru Humpy, Dronavalli Harika and R. Vaishali.

### **CHESS GRANDMASTER IN NEWS 2023-24**

- > P Shyaamnikhil of Tamil Nadu becomes India's 85th Chess Grandmaster.
- > International Chess Federation Awards Grandmaster Title To Indian Chess Prodigy Vaishali Ramesh Babu.
- > Indian young chess player Rameshbabu Praggnanand has defeated world chess champion Ding Liren in the 'Tata Steel Masters' held in Netherlands.
- > Vaishali Rameshbabu has become the 84th Grandmaster of India.
- Raunak Sadhwani (Maharashtra) won FIDE World Junior Rapid Chess Championship.
- > India's Karthikeyan Murali became the third Indian chess player to defeat World No 1 Magnus Carlsen in classical chess after he prevailed over the Norwegian at the Qatar Masters tournament.
- Divya Deshmukh (Maharashtra ) Emerges Winner Of 2023 Tata Steel Chess India Women's Rapid Tournament defeated Koneru Humpy.
- Magnus Carlsen (Norway) wins the Chess World Cup Final 2023.
- Aditya Samant becomes India's 83rd Grandmaster.
- > Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa has won the title of V Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM Chess Tournament 2023.
- With reference to Chabahar Port, consider the following statements: 0.
  - 1. It is the only Iranian port with direct access to the Indian Ocean.
  - 2. It is situated on the Persian Gulf.



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3. It is a key transit center on the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

#### Answer: B

- ✓ India recently signed a 10-year agreement with Iran to develop and manage the Chabahar port, marking a pivotal development in bilateral ties between the two nations.
- ✓ About Chabahar Port:
- ✓ It is a deep-water port located in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan province.
- ✓ It is on the Gulf of Oman at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz.
- ✓ It is the only Iranian port having direct access to the Indian Ocean.
- ✓ It consists of two separate ports called Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari.
- ✓ It's geographic proximity to countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, as well as its status as a key transit center on the burgeoning International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), gives it the potential to develop into one of the most important commercial hubs in the region.
- Q. In India, which one of the following organizations regulates the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX)?
  - A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
  - B) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
  - **C)** Ministry of Finance
  - D) International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA)

#### Answer : D

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) recently announced it has become the first trading-cum-clearing member at the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX).
- ✓ About India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX):
- ✓ It is India's first International Bullion Exchange.
- ✓ It is based at GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tech City) IFSC (International Finance Services Center), Gandhinagar, Gujarat.



✓ IIBX has been conceptualized to provide a gateway to import bullion into India and provide a world class bullion exchange ecosystem to promote bullion trading, investment in bullion financial products and vaulting facilities in IFSCs.

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- ✓ It will facilitate Transparent Price Discovery, Responsible sourcing and supply chain integrity, Quality Assurance and Standardization.
- ✓ The IIBX is regulated by the International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA), a unified authority for the development and regulation of financial products, financial services, and financial institutions at IFSCs.
- ✓ Products and technology offered at IIBX are diversified, and available at a cost that is far more competitive than those at Indian exchanges, as well as global exchanges in Hong Kong, Singapore, Dubai, London, and New York.

#### Senior IPS Officer Idashisha Nongrang has been appointed as first woman Director General of Police Q. (DGP) of which state?

A) Nagaland	B) Tripura
C) Arunachal Pradesh	D) Meghalaya

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Senior IPS Officer Idashisha Nongrang has been named first woman Director General of Police (DGP) of Meghalaya state.
- ✓ A 1992 batch Indian Police Service officer, she will replace Lajja Ram Bishnoi who will retire on May 19.
- ✓ She will serve as the State's police chief till May 19, 2026.
- ✓ Nongrang is also the first tribal woman to ascend to this prestigious rank.

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

- > Idashisha Nongrang has been named first woman Director General of Police (DGP) of Meghalaya state.
- > Professor Naima Khatoon has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).
- Democratic Republic Of Congo Appoints Judith Suminwa Tuluka As African Nation's First Woman Prime Minister.
- Suman Kumari has become the first woman sniper of the Border Security Force (BSF).

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> Maryam Nawaz was sworn in as the first woman Chief Minister (CM) of Pakistan's Punjab province.

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- > Justice Ritu Bahri was today sworn in as the first woman Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court.
- > Nina Singh becomes first woman to be appointed as DG of CISF.
- Captain Fatima Wasim has become the first woman medical officer to be posted at the operational post of Siachen Glacier.
- Captain Geetika Kaul of Snow Leopard Brigade had become the first woman medical officer to be deployed in Siachen.
- Commander Prerna Deosthalee has been appointed as the first woman officer to command a warship in the Indian Navy (INW).
- Sue Redfern became the first woman to stand as an umpire in a men's first-class cricket match in England and Wales.
- Jaya Varma Sinha has been appointed as the new Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Railway Board (Ministry of Railways) w.e.f Sept 01, 2023. She has replaced AK Lahoti.
- > She is the first woman to be appointed to this Apex post of Indian Railways.
- > Geetika Srivastava is first woman to head Indian mission in Pakistan.
- > Phangnon Konyak became the first woman to chair the Rajya Sabha from Nagaland.
- > Tenzing Yangki has become the first female IPS officer of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Nusrat Chowdhary will become the first Muslim woman federal judge in US history.
- Celeste Saulo of Argentina has been appointed as the first female Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- Shalini Singh from Lucknow has become the first woman NCC cadet in India to complete a mountaineering course in the Himalayan region of Uttarakhand.
- Parminder Chopra becomes first woman Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Finance Corporation.
- Amy Pope of the United States has been selected as the first female Director-General of the United Nations Migration Agency.
- Lieutenant Shivangi Singh is the first woman Rafale pilot to take part in Orion Exercise 2023.
- Wing Commander Deepika Mishra has become the first woman Air Force officer to receive the Gallantry Medal.



New Zealand-born Kim Cotton has become the first female umpire to officiate in a Men's T20 International (T20I) cricket match involving two ICC full-member nations.

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- > American Space Agency, NASA has selected the first woman astronaut, Christina Koch for its Artemis II mission.
- Surekha Yadav, Asia's 1st woman loco pilot who now operates Vande Bharat, From Solapur to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminal (CSMT) in Maharashtra.
- Shalija Dhami becomes first woman officer to command a fighter unit in Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Colonel Geeta Rana became the first woman officer to command a field workshop.
- Captain Shiva Chauhan becomes the first women officer to be operationally deployed in the highest battleground in Kumar Post on the Siachen glacier.
- > The first woman officer to be posted on foreign assignment in the Border Roads Organization (BRO) - Captain Surabhi Jakhmola.
- Rae Bareli's hockey stadium is named after hockey star Rani Rampal, first woman player from India to achieve this feat.
- > Hekani Jakhalu became the first female MLA of Nagaland Assembly.
- Equatorial Guinea appoints Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM.
- Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh sworn in as 1st female Sikh judge of USA.
- Santhi Kumari Appointed as First Woman Chief Secretary of Telangana.  $\geq$
- Saudi Arabia's Rayna Barnawi first female astronaut is set to go into space this year.
- Dina Boluarte became Peru's first female president.
- > FIFA has announced that Stephanie Frappart of France will be the first woman to referee a men's' World Cup match.
- > PT Usha Become First Women President of Indian Olympic Association.

Chabahar Port, which was in the news recently, is located in which country? Q.

A) Pakistan	B) Qatar
C) UAE	D) Iran

### Answer : D

✓ India and Iran have signed a 10-year bilateral contract aimed at enhancing the operations of Chabahar Port.

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- ✓ This decision underlines India's strategic interests in Central Asia and parts of Europe.
- $\checkmark$  Chabahar Port is a port in Chabahar, located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman
- Q. In line with the Income Tax laws, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised NBFC firms to limit cash disbursements exceeding Rs 20,000 for loans against gold. Which specific section of the Income Tax Act does this advisory align with?

A) Section 269TT	B) Section 269UU
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C) Section 269SS

D) Section 269RR

#### Answer : C

- ✓ RBI asks NBFCs to stick to gold loan cash payment of Rs 20000 ceiling.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank has asked NBFC firms not to disburse cash component in excess of Rs 20,000 on loans against gold in line with the Income Tax laws.
- ✓ In an advisory issued to gold loan financiers and microfinance entities earlier this week, the Reserve Bank of India has advised them to follow Section 269SS of the Income Tax Act.
- ✓ The advisory comes weeks after the Reserve Bank barred IIFL Finance from sanctioning or disbursing gold loans after certain material supervisory concerns were observed in its gold loan portfolio.
- Q. Which country emerged as India's largest trading partner, narrowly surpassing the United States?

A) China	B) UAE
C) Japan	D) Russia

#### Answer : A

- ✓ China overtakes US to become India's top trading partner in FY24
- ✓ China has emerged as India's largest trading partner in the FY 2023-24 with \$118.4 billion two-way commerce, narrowly edging past the US, according to the data of economic think tank GTRI.
- ✓ The bilateral trade between India and the US stood at \$118.3 billion in 2023-24. Washington was the top trading partner of New Delhi during 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- ✓ According to the report, India's exports to China rose by 8.7 per cent to \$16.67 billion in the last fiscal. The main sectors which recorded healthy growth in exports to that country include iron ore, cotton yarn/fabrics/madeups, handloom, spices, fruits and vegetables, plastic and linoleum.Imports from the neighbouring country increased by 3.24 per cent to \$101.7 billion.



✓ Meanwhile, exports to the US dipped by 1.32 per cent to \$77.5 billion in 2023-24 as against \$78.54 billion in 2022-23, while imports dipped by about 20 per cent to \$40.8 billion, the report showed.

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- Where did the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully test the new liquid rocket **Q**. engine manufactured through Additive Manufacturing technology?
  - A) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Kerala
  - B) Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
  - C) ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu
  - D) U R Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru, Karnataka

#### Answer : C

- ✓ ISRO Successfully Tests New Liquid Rocket Engine In Tamil Nadu
- The Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO successfully tested the new liquid rocket engine  $\checkmark$ manufactured through Additive Manufacturing technology. The test was successfully carried out at ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri in Tamilnadu.
- This new redesigned PS4 engine has brought down the number of parts from 14 to a single piece and eliminated 19 weld joints. This will significantly save on the raw material usage per engine, reduce metal powder from 565 kgs to 13.7 kgs and reduce the production time by 60 percent.
- ✓ This new redesigned engine will be used for the fourth stage of PSLV launch vehicle and also in the Reaction Control System of the First Stage in PSLV.
- ✓ ISRO is planning to induct this PS4 engine into the regular PSLV program. Additive Manufacturing technology means 3D printing of PS4 engines. The Private partner Wipro 3D joined hands with ISRO to successfully carry out the hot testing of the 3D printed PS4 engine.

Q. Who has been elected as a director of IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-op Ltd.)?

A) Umesh Nath

B) Vivek Bipindada Kolhe

C) Rajesh Sharma

**D)** Dinesh Singh

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Vivek Bipindada Kolhe has been elected as a director of IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-op Ltd.) New Delhi.
- ✓ He is currently working as the Chairman of Sahkar Maharshi Shankarao Kolhe Co-operative Sugar Factor.

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✓ Kolhe's extensive experience in the cooperative sector, coupled with his past role as RGB of IFFCO, positions him as a formidable advocate for farmers' rights and interests.

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- ✓ With Kolhe assuming his new responsibilities, the future of cooperative farming in Maharashtra looks bright.
- ✓ IFFCO, the cornerstone of India's agricultural landscape, stands as a beacon of support for farmers nationwide
- ✓ IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Corporation)
- Founded: 1967  $\checkmark$
- Founder : Udaybhansinhji Natwarsinhji Jethwa
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ CEO : Udai Shanker Awasthi
- ✓ Director : Vivek Bipindada Kolhe
- Hemant Khatri has been honoured with 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect in May 2024. Khatri Q. is currently CMD of which company?
  - A) Cochin Shipyard Limited **B) ABG Shipyard**
  - C) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders **D)** Hindustan Shipyard

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Hindustan Shipyard Limited's (HSL) Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Hemant Khatri has been honoured with the esteemed 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect at the award cerezony held in New Delhi.
- ✓ The 'PSU Samarpan Award' acknowledges the significant contributions of Public Sector Undertakings to the country's progress.
- ✓ 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect, an initiative by ilouge Media, recognised the exemplary leadership of HSL's CMD for driving the transformation of the shipyard and inspiring countless individual within the industry.
- Which day has been declared as the World Football Day by the United Nations? Q.

A) 14 May	B) 25 May
<b>C) 20 May</b>	D) 21 May

Answer: B



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- ✓ 25th May declared as World Football Day by the UN
- ✓ The 193 member United Nations General Assembly has passed a resolution on 7 May 2024 to observe 25 May, every year as World Football Day . The resolution was adopted by consensus by the members of the United Nations General Assembly.
- ✓ Libyan Resolution on World Football Day
- ✓ The resolution to mark 25th May of every year as World Football Day was introduced by Libya's ambassador to the United Nations Taher El-Sonni. It was co-sponsored by more than 160 members of the United Nations.
- ✓ Introducing the resolution the Libyan ambassador said football or soccer is played across the globe in towns, cities and villages. It is the most popular sport on earth.

### Q. Who has become the first Indian male wrestler to secure quota for Paris Olympics 2024?

A) Aman Sehrawat	B) Vivek Chopra
C) Deepak Dahiya	D) Bajrang Punia

### Answer : A

- ✓ Aman Sehrawat has become the first Indian male wrestler to secure a quota for the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- Asian champion Sehrawat secured the Paris quota in the men's 57kg freestyle category at the World Wrestling Olympic Qualifiers in Istanbul, Turkey.

### Q. Where is the Senior Nationals Sailing Championship 2024 being organized?

- A) Mumbai
- B) Chennai
- C) Cuttack
- D) Visakhapatnam

### Answer : A

- ✓ The Senior Nationals Sailing Championship 2024 is being organized at Mumbai Port.
- ✓ It is being organised by the Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre (INWTC), Mumbai from 12 to 18 May 2024.
- ✓ Indian Navy Sailing Association (INSA) is also cooperating in this.
- $\checkmark$  82 participants from 10 major sailing clubs across the country have registered for the event



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Q. Which England cricketer recently announced his retirement from international cricket?

A) Jos Buttler B) Adil Rashid

C) Moeen Ali

D) James Anderson

#### Answer : D

- ✓ England's legendary fast bowler James Anderson has announced his retirement from international cricket.
- ✓ He will say goodbye to cricket after the test match against West Indies to be played at Lord's.
- ✓ Anderson, who turns 42 in July, made his Test debut against Zimbabwe at Lord's in 2003.
- ✓ He has taken 700 wickets, the most by any fast bowler in Test history.
- ✓ Jimmy has 269 wickets to his name in ODIs.

# Q. Who recently became the first Indian to win a medal at the Asian Trampoline Gymnastics Championships?

A) Srishti Khandagale	B) Dipa Karmakar
C) Pranati Nayak	D) Aruna Reddy

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Gymnast Srishti Khandagale Wins Silver At Asian Championships.
- In Trampoline, India's Srishti Khandagale scripted history by becoming the first ever Indian to win a medal at the Asian Trampoline Gymnastics Championships.
- ✓ She clinched the silver medal in Women's Individual Age group category at the 6th Asian Trampoline Gymnastics Championship held in Hong Kong, China.
- However, she did not qualify for the upcoming Paris Olympics, as she was competing in an age group event.
   Kazakhstan's Dolgopolova secured the gold medal, while Hong Kong's S Hung won the bronze
- Q. Which country emerged victorious in the Eurovision Song Contest 2024, beating Croatia as the runner-up, after being among the top three favorites according to bookmakers?

A) Sweden	B) Germany
	D) 6 1 . 1

C) Norway

D) Switzerland

192

#### Answer : D

✓ Switzerland Wins Eurovision Song Contest Amid Gaza Protests.



✓ Switzerland won the Eurovision Song Contest 2024 in Swedish host city Malmo, beating runner-up Croatia, after having been among bookmakers' top-three to win the competition.

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- ✓ Billed as a feel-good celebration of European diversity, this year's contest has been thrust into the political spotlight with calls for Israel to be excluded over its military campaign in Gaza, triggered by Hamas' deadly attack on Oct. 7 in Israel.
- ✓ Swiss rapper and singer Nemo, 24, won the contest with "The Code", a drum-and-bass, opera, rap and rock song, about Nemo's journey of self-discovery as a non-binary person.
- Who recently passed away at the age of 72 due to cancer, and served as the Deputy Chief Minister of Q. Bihar for approximately 11 years under Janata Dal (United) chief and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar?
  - A) Sushil Kumar Modi **B)** Lalu Prasad Yadav
    - C) Rabri Devi **D)** Nitish Kumar

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Sushil Modi, former Bihar deputy CM, passes away at 72.
- ✓ Former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister, Sushil Kumar Modi, passed away at the age of 72 due to cancer.
- ✓ Modi served as deputy to Janata Dal (United) chief and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for approximately 11 years. He emerged victorious in the Bihar assembly elections three times between 1990 and 2004.
- ✓ From 1996 to 2004, he served as the Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar assembly. In 2003, he was appointed as BJP's national vice president, a position he held until 2005.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope:
  - 1. It monitors millions of stars that haunt the outskirts of our solar system.
  - 2. It is developed by the European Space Agency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

C) Both 1 and 2

B) 2 only

D) Neither 1 nor 2

193

#### Answer : A

- ✓ NASA's upcoming Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, which is poised to embark on a groundbreaking mission of hunting for primordial black holes dating back billions of years to the Big Bang.
- ✓ It will provide one of the deepest-ever views into the heart of our Milky Way galaxy.



Objectives: The mission will monitor hundreds of millions of stars in search of tell-tale flickers that betray the presence of planets, distant stars, small icy objects that haunt the outskirts of our solar system, and isolated black holes.

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### **NASA IN NEWS 2023-24**

- > NASA confirmed the Dragonfly rotorcraft mission to Saturn's moon Titan with a \$3.35 billion budget, launching in July 2028.
- > NASA is now publicly distributing science-quality data from its newest Earth-observing PACE satellite.
- > NASA has been tasked with establishing Coordinated Lunar Time (LTC) as a unified standard for timekeeping on the Moon and other celestial bodies
- American space agency NASA has discovered a "super-Earth" planet, dubbed TOI-715 b, that could potentially support life. It is located 137 light-years away and was found by NASA's planet-hunting Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission.
- NASA Re-Establishes Contact With Ingenuity Helicopter On Mars After Outage
- > NASA has invited people to send their names to the surface of the Moon aboard the agency's first robotic lunar rover VIPER - short for Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover.
- > NASA is gearing up to enhance our understanding of Earth's atmosphere with the upcoming Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, Ocean Ecosystem (PACE) mission, scheduled for launch in early 2024.
- > NASA renames mission going to asteroid Apophis after returning rocks from Bennu.
- About OSIRIS-APEX:
- > It is a mission to study the physical changes to asteroid Apophis that will result from its rare close encounter
- ▶ with Earth in April 2029.
- A NASA experiment on the Psyche spacecraft has beamed back a near-infrared laser that contains test data from almost 16 million kilometres away.
- $\succ$  16 Psyche:
- > It is currently orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.
- NASA is set to launch the Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE) to study 'airglow' to understand space



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- ➤ weather.
- NASA's James Webb Telescope recently discovered a new exoplanet named 'Wasp-107b', which is the size
- ➢ of Jupiter.
- > NASA's Lucy spacecraft successfully completed its first flyby of an asteroid named Dinkinesh.
- About Lucy Mission:
- > It is a first-of-its-kind mission of NASA that will explore Jupiter's elusive Trojan asteroids.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched a sounding rocket as part of its INFUSE mission.
- > NASA's Subsurface Water Ice Mapping (SWIM) project released its fourth set of maps.
- > NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- ➢ Founded : 1958
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C
- Administrator : Bill Nelson

Q. 'Exercise Tarkash, a joint counter terrorism exercise is held between India and:

A) Japan

- **B)** United States of America
- C) United Kingdom
- D) Nepal

### Answer : B

- ✓ The India-U.S joint exercise in conducting coordinated operations in urban counter terrorism contingencies will conclude in Kolkata.
- ✓ It is the seventh edition of the India-United States of America's joint counter terrorism exercise.
- ✓ It is held between the elite National Security Guard (NSG) and the U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) commenced on April 22, 2024.
- ✓ The previous edition of the exercise was conducted at Chennai in January 2023.
- ✓ This exercise encompassed intense training and mock drills in urban counter terrorism scenarios.

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Q. The Great Pyramid of Giza, recently seen in the news, is located in which one of the following countries?

D) Iraq

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A) Peru	B) Mexico

C) Egypt

### Answer : C

- ✓ A recent discovery of a mysterious structure buried beneath the sands near the iconic Great Pyramid of Giza might likely change the way we perceive these ancient structures.
- ✓ About Great Pyramid of Giza:
- ✓ The Great Pyramid of Giza, also called Great Pyramid and Great Pyramid of Khufu, is an ancient Egyptian pyramid that is the largest of the three Pyramids of Giza.
- ✓ Location: It is located on the Giza plateau, five miles to the west of the Nile River, near the city of Cairo, Egypt.
- ✓ It was built by Khufu (Cheops), the second king of Egypt's 4th dynasty (c. 2575–c. 2465 BCE).
- ✓ Until the Eiffel Tower was completed in Paris, France, in 1889, the Great Pyramid was the tallest structure made by human hands in the world; a record it held for over 3,000 years.

Sariska Tiger Reserve is located in which one of the following States? Q.

A) Odisha	B) Gujarat
C) Assam	D) Rajasthan

### Answer : D

- ✓ Even 46 years after it was notified as a Tiger Reserve, Sariska, among the first 12 in the country, awaits rightful ownership of its land in the state's revenue records.
- ✓ About Sariska Tiger Reserve:
- ✓ Location: It is located in the Alwar district of Rajasthan.
- ✓ It is well nestled in the Aravali Hills, covering an area of 800 sq km.
- ✓ It was once a hunting ground of the Maharaja of Alwar before being proclaimed a natural reserve in 1955 and a national park in 1979.
- $\checkmark$  It is the first reserve in the world to successfully relocate tigers.



Sariska is also famous for old temples, palaces, and lakes such as Pandu Pol, Bhangarh Fort, Ajabgarh, Pratapgarh, Siliserh Lake, and Jai Samand Lake

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### **TIGER RESERVE IN NEWS 2023-24**

- Pench Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra has become India's first and Asia's fifth tiger reserve with 'Dark Sky Park'.
- > Arunachal Pradesh approves constitution of Special Tiger Protection Force for three Tiger Reserves.
- Bihar's second tiger reserve to come up in Kaimur sanctuary
- > After the Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in West Champaran district, Bihar is set to get a second tiger reserve in Kaimur district (Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary) by the end of the year.
- > Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve becomes the 7th tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh and 55th in India.
- > India got its 54th tiger reserve in Rajasthan's Karauli and Dholpur districts with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approving a proposal.
- ▶ India's Tiger Population Reaches 3,925 with 6.1% Annual Growth Rate, Holds 75% of Global Wild Tiger Population.
- Project Tiger is a tiger conservation programme launched on April 1,1973.
- With reference to the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), consider the following statements: Q.

1. It measures the changes in the prices of goods and services sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses.

2. It is calculated and published by the Office of Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

3. It is published quarterly and is used to measure the level of wholesale inflation in both goods and services.

How many of the above given statements are correct?

A) Only one	B) Only two
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C) All three

D) None

#### Answer : B

✓ Inflation in India's wholesale prices rose to a 13-month high of 1.26% in April, owing to an uptick in food inflation and a 1.4% year-on-year rise in fuel and power prices after several months of deflation.

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- ✓ About Wholesale Price Index (WPI):
- ✓ WPI measures the changes in the prices of goods sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses.
- ✓ It is calculated and published by the Office of Economic Advisor, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ✓ CPI data is published monthly, with the index value representing an estimate of the price level for the month as a whole, rather than a specific date.
- ✓ Difference between WPI and CPI inflation:
- ✓ While the WPI keeps track of the wholesale price of goods, the CPI measures the average price that households pay for a basket of different goods and services.
- ✓ WPI is restricted to only goods, while CPI is for both goods and services.
- Even as the WPI is used as a key measure of inflation in some economies, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) no longer uses it for policy purposes, including setting repo rates. The RBI currently uses CPI, or retail inflation, as a key measure of inflation to set monetary and credit policy.
- ✓ New series of WPI: With an aim to align the index with the base year of other important economic indicators such as GDP and IIP, the base year was updated to 2011-12 from 2004-05 for the new series of WPI, effective from April 2017.
- ✓ How do you calculate WPI?
- ✓ It is calculated by taking a weighted average of the prices of a basket of goods, with each item's weight determined by its share of total wholesale sales.
- ✓ The basket of goods comprises three major groups:
- ✓ Primary Articles (Weight 22.62%)
- ✓ Fuel and Power (Weight 13.15%)
- ✓ Manufactured Products (Weight 64.23%)
- ✓ The prices of a total of 697 items are tracked under the 2011-12 series of the WPI, which includes 117 primary items, 16 items of fuel and power, and 564 manufactured products.
- Q. With reference to Memory of the World programme, consider the following statements:
  - 1. It is an initiative launched by UNESCO.
  - 2. It aims to facilitate preservation of the world's documentary heritage.
  - 3. Ramcharitmanas written by Tulasidas has been included under this programme.



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#### How many of the above statements are correct?

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

### Answer : C

- Recently, the Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahrdayāloka-Locana have been included in 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register'.
- ✓ It is part of an international initiative launched by UNESCO in 1992 to safeguard the documentary heritage of humanity.
- ✓ This programme aims to recognise significant documentary heritage in a similar fashion to the way UNESCO's World Heritage Convention and World Heritage List recognises significant natural and cultural sites.
- ✓ The Memory of the World Programme (MoW) aims to:
- ✓ Facilitate preservation of the world's documentary heritage, particularly in areas affected by conflict and/or natural disaster.
- ✓ Enable universal access to documentary heritage worldwide.
- ✓ Enhance public awareness about the significant of documentary heritage among the wider public.
- ✓ Governance: The International Advisory Committee (IAC) is the main body responsible for advising UNESCO on the planning and implementation of this MoW Programme as a whole.
- ✓ It comprises 14 members serving in a personal capacity, appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO, and chosen for their authority in the field of documentary heritage.
- ✓ Governance: The International Advisory Committee (IAC) is the main body responsible for advising UNESCO on the planning and implementation of this MoW Programme as a whole.
- ✓ It comprises 14 members serving in a personal capacity, appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO, and chosen for their authority in the field of documentary heritage.
- ✓ Nomination for MoW: The call for nominations and inscriptions on the Asia Pacific Register is made every two years unless unexpected circumstances make this impractical. Nominations will normally be called for in the even-number years (to alternate with the International Register).
- ✓ India's 3 items included in Mow are
- Ramcharitmanas: It was written by Tulasidas in the 16th century in the Awadhi dialect, which is primarily spoken in the districts of Lucknow, Prayagraj, and Ayodhya.

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Panchatantra: The Panchatantra of ancient India is a collection of fables originally written in Sanskrit. It has five distinct sections, each of which is focused on a specific principle and is believed to have been written by Vishnu Sharma.

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- Sahrdayāloka-Locana: It is a Sanskrit commentary on the Dhvanyaloka. ✓
- Defence Secretary Giridhar Armane released a Rs 250 commemorative coin to celebrate the 250th Q. foundation of which institution?
  - A) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers
  - **B)** Cochin Shipyard
  - **C)** Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
  - D) Hindustan Shipyard Limited

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane released a commemorative Rs 250 coin on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the foundation of Mazagaon Dock Limited (MDL).
- The defence secretary was the chief guest of the function, which was organised by the MDL in New Delhi on 14 May 2024 to mark the 250th anniversary of the MDL.
- ✓ About MDL
- The Mazagaon Dock Limited started its journey as a dry dock in 1774, constructed in Mazagaon, Mumbai. In 1934, the company was incorporated as a private limited company. It was nationalised and taken over by the government of India in 1960.
- It is a premier naval shipyard under the Union Ministry of Defence. √
- It was accorded Mini-Ratna 1 status by the government of India in 2006.  $\checkmark$
- The MDL has become the premier yard for building warships, submarines for the Indian Navy, and other  $\checkmark$ vessels for the Coast Guard
- To which country the government of India has announced humanitarian assistance worth one million Q. dollars to deal with floods?

200

A) Nigeria	B) Zimbabwe
C) Kenya	D) Maldives

Answer : C

✓ India grants \$ 1 million humanitarian assistance to flood hit Kenya



The government of India has announced humanitarian assistance worth \$ one million to the government of  $\checkmark$ Kenya to deal with the devastation caused by the floods in the country. More than 267 people in the country have been killed by the devastating flood, which has displaced more than 3,80,00 people in the country

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- ✓ Republic of Kenya
- The Republic of Kenya is a country in East Africa. It is famous for its scenic landscape and its wildlife.
- ✓ It gained independence from England in 1963.
- ✓ The United Nations Environment Programme headquarters is situated in Nairobi.
- President : William Ruto  $\checkmark$
- Capital: Nairobi  $\checkmark$
- ✓ Currency: Kenyan Shilling
- Which space organization announced plans to build the first railway station on the moon for efficient Q. payload transportation?

A) NASA	B) ISRO
C) JAXA	D) ESA

### Answer : A

- ✓ NASA announced FLOAT (Flexible Levitation on a Track), the first lunar railway system, aiming to transform cargo transfer on the Moon.
- ✓ FLOAT, part of NASA's Moon to Mars initiative, utilizes unpowered magnetic robots on a three-layer flexible film track.
- ✓ These robots levitate above the track, reducing wear from moon dust and offering dependable transportation for sustainable lunar colonies.
- ✓ The system integrates diamagnetic levitation, electromagnetic propulsion, and optional solar panels for power generation.
- Where did the Indian Air Force airdrop-test indigenous mobile hospital 'Bhishma' Cube? Q.
  - A) New Delhi **B)** Agra
  - C) Jaipur

### Answer : B

✓ The Indian Air Force has tested the state-of-the-art indigenous mobile hospital 'BHISHM Cube' for airdrop in Agra.

201

**D)** Patna



### ✓ Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said, this innovative technology is capable of providing quick and comprehensive medical assistance during emergencies anywhere.

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✓ It has been prepared to treat 200 injured people.

#### Who has appointed Davide Salvagnini as its first Chief AI Officer? Q.

A) Tesla	B) UN
C) NASA	D) Google

#### Answer : C

- ✓ US space agency NASA has appointed David Salvagnini as its first Chief AI Officer.
- ✓ Earlier, David Salvagnini was NASA's chief data officer.
- In a goodwill gesture, India has decided to extend vital budgetary support to which country's Q. government with the rollover of a USD 50 million Treasury Bill for another year?

A) Maldives	B) Thailand
C) Sri Lanka	D) Argentina

### Answer : A

- ✓ India extends budgetary support of \$50m to Maldives
- ✓ In a goodwill gesture, India has decided to extend vital budgetary support to the Maldives government with the rollover of a USD 50 million Treasury Bill for another year on the Maldivian government's special request.
- ✓ The State Bank of India has subscribed for one more year to the USD 50 million Government Treasury Bill, issued by the Ministry of Finance of Maldives, upon maturity of the previous subscription.
- These Government Treasury Bills are subscribed by SBI under government-to-government, a unique arrangement at zero cost (interest-free) to the Government of Maldives.

#### Q. Who has been appointed as Chairman of Tata Electronics?

A) Subramanian Ramadorai	B) T. V. Narendran

C) Pranav Chandrasekaran D) N. Chandrasekaran

#### Answer : D

The current chairman of Tata Sons, N. Chandrasekaran will also serve as the chairman of Tata Electronics.

 $\checkmark$ Chandrasekaran will replace Banmali Agarwal in this role, pending regulatory approval.



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- Q. Wipro has appointed whom as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Asia Pacific, India, Middle East, and Africa (APMEA) strategic market unit (SMU)?
  - A) Kunal Shah B) Nithin Kamath
  - C) Vinay Firake D) Deepak Ravindran

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Wipro appoints Vinay Firake as CEO for APMEA region
- ✓ Wipro, a leading IT major, has appointed Vinay Firake as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Asia Pacific, India, Middle East, and Africa (APMEA) strategic market unit (SMU)
- ✓ Mr. Firake will report to Srini Pallia and will also join Wipro's executive board.
- ✓ He succeeds Anis Chenchah, who is stepping down to pursue opportunities outside the organisation, the company said in a statement.
- Q. Which Indian company has announced the creation of a Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in Paris, during the Choose France Summit?

A) Accenture	B) Wipro
C) Infosys	D) Tata Consultancy Services

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Tata Consultancy Services announced the creation of a Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in Paris, during the Choose France Summit.
- ✓ The TCS AI Centre of Excellence in Paris will leverage TCS' global ecosystem of startups, academia, and research organisations to bring the best of global capabilities to French companies.
- The new AI centre will be based in the upcoming TCS PacePort in the La Défense area of Paris, which will be inaugurated in June 2024, becoming the seventh such facility in TCS' global Pace network, following Amsterdam, London, New York, Pittsburgh, Toronto, and Tokyo

### **TCS IN NEWS 2023-24**

- Tata Consultancy Services announced the creation of a Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in Paris, during the Choose France Summit.
- BSNL has placed an order worth ₹15,000 crore to tech firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to further expand the 4G network in India.

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- > No TCS on LRS transactions upto Rs 7 lakh via international debit, credit cards from July 1, 2023.
- ▶ When the scheme was introduced in the year 2004, that time this limit was of USD 25,000.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a leading global IT services company, has expanded its partnership with Google Cloud and unveiled a new offering called TCS Generative AI.
- > K Krithivasan Appointed CEO Designate of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).
- Telefónica Germany Selects TCS as Transformation Partner to Build Future-Ready Operations Support.
- Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys grew their brand value to retain their positions as the second and third most valuable IT services brands, according to the 'IT Services 25' list prepared by UK-based consultancy Brand Finance for the year 2023.
- > Accenture retained the top slot for the fifth year straight, with a brand valued at \$39.8 billion.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been named to FORTUNE® magazine's list of the World's Most Admired Companies.
- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) received a nod from Central Government to go ahead with Rs 26,821 crore deal with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) paving its way to launch 4G services in India.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has partnered with a subsidiary of Financial Institutions, Inc. 'Five Star Bank' on its digital transformation journey..
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
- Founded : 1968
- > Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- > MD & CEO : Kriti Krithivasan

Q. Which cooperative society has recently signed an agreement with Marut Dronetech Private Ltd to launch Drone-as-a-Service operations in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?

- A) Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO)
- B) Amul
- C) Anyonya Co-operative Bank Limited
- D) Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (KCMMF)

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### Answer : A

- ✓ IFFCO partners with Marut Dronetech for Drone-as-a-Service (DAAS) in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, aiming to boost rural entrepreneurship and youth engagement.
- ✓ The collaboration targets to cover five lakh acres for agri input spraying.
- ✓ Marut Dronetech will deploy drones to dispense IFFCO agri-products. DAAS facilitates affordable drone tech access for farmers through rural entrepreneurs, promoting accessibility.
- Q. Recently, the 'ASHVA' range of All-Terrain Vehicles with Military Potential was developed in which city?

A) Jaipur	B) Indore
C) Bengaluru	D) Varanasi

#### Answer : C

- ✓ The "ASHVA" range of All-Terrain Vehicles, developed by All Terrain Private Limited (A-THON) in Bengaluru, provides effective transportation for troops and supplies in challenging environments.
- Tailored for military purposes, these vehicles address operational needs of the Indian Army and Air Force, reducing reliance on imports. Additionally, they hold promise for applications in the Indian agricultural sector, marking a strategic development in domestic manufacturing and defense capabilities





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

Q. Who is investing €4 billion to expand its artificial intelligence and cloud infrastructure in France?

D) Apple

- A) Google B) Amazon
- C) Microsoft

### Answer : C

- ✓ Microsoft invests €4 billion to drive AI growth in France.
- ✓ Microsoft is investing €4 billion (\$4.3 billion) to expand its artificial intelligence and cloud infrastructure in France, deliver AI training to one million people and support 2,500 French startups.
- ✓ First, Microsoft will supply up to 25,000 graphics processing units to expand its data centre sites in the Paris and Marseille regions by the end of 2025.
- New data centre facilities will also be built in the Grand Est Region in Mulhouse to provide Microsoft cloud and AI services to private and public sector organisations in these areas

### MICROSOFT IN NEWS 2023-24

- ➤ Microsoft invests €4 billion to drive AI growth in France.
- Microsoft unveiled the latest version of its 'lightweight' AI model the Phi-3-Mini.
- Microsoft announces VASA-1 AI model to turn images into videos.
- Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella pledges to skill 2 million Indians by 2025
- Microsoft Hits The \$3 Trillion Valuation Mark But Apple Still Remains Most Valuable Company.
- Microsoft India has unveiled the 'AI Odyssey' initiative, aiming to train 100,000 Indian developers in the latest AI technologies.
- Microsoft Completes \$69 Billion Acquisition of Activision Blizzard
- Microsoft has appointed Puneet Chandok as the new Corporate Vice President of Microsoft India and South Asia.
- > Infosys And Microsoft Collaborate For Adoption Of Generative Artificial Intelligence.
- Microsoft has recently announced the appointment of Aparna Gupta as the new Global Delivery Center (GDC) leader
- Meta and Microsoft have jointly announced the expansion of their artificial intelligence partnership by introducing their new large language model (LLM) called "Llama 2".

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- ➢ MICROSOFT
- ➢ Founded : 1975
- > Founders : Bill Gates and Paul Allen
- Headquarters : Washington DC
- Chairman : Satya Nadella
- CEO : Satya Nadella
- President : Brad Smith

Q. Public sector banks' cumulative profit crossed \_\_\_\_\_ in the financial year ended March 2024.
A) ₹1.6 lakh crore B) ₹1.5 lakh crore

C) ₹1.4 lakh crore

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Public sector banks' total profit crosses ₹1.4 lakh crore in FY24
- ✓ Public sector banks' cumulative profit crossed ₹1.4 lakh crore in the financial year ended March 2024, recording a growth of 35 per cent over the previous year on a high base of ₹1 lakh crore.

D) ₹1.7 lakh crore

- ✓ The 12 public sector banks (PSBs) together had earned a net profit of ₹1,04,649 crore in 2022-23. Out of the total profit of ₹141,203 crore earned during the FY24, market leader State Bank of India (SBI-₹61,077 crore) alone contributed over 40 per cent of the total earnings, as per the published numbers on exchanges.
- ✓ In percentage terms Delhi-based Punjab National Bank had the highest net profit growth with 228 per cent to ₹8,245 crore, followed by Union Bank of India with a 62 per cent rise to ₹13,649 crore and Central Bank of India with a 61 per cent increase to ₹2,549 crore.
- ✓ Among the banks which recorded over 50 per cent jump in net profit included Bank of India with a 57 per cent growth to ₹6,318 crore while Bank of Maharashtra with a 56 per cent rise to ₹4,055 crore and Chennai-based India Bank recorded a 53 per cent improvement to ₹8,063 crore

Q. Which bank has introduced the 'ARISE ComeAsYouAre' talent acquisition programme to recruit individuals from the LGBTQIA+ community across India for careers in banking?

A) Yes Bank

B) Axis Bank

C) HDFC Bank

D) ICICI Bank

Answer : B

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- ✓ Axis Bank to groom LGBTQIA+ talent for careers in banking
- ✓ Axis Bank has introduced the 'ARISE ComeAsYouAre' talent acquisition programme to recruit individuals from the LGBTQIA+ community across India for careers in banking. The initiative focuses on skills-based hiring, offering equal opportunities to fresh graduates and professionals up to 5 years of experience.
- ✓ The 'ARISE ComeAsYouAre' open campus programme is focused on skills-based hiring that prioritises skill set and potential of an individual over traditional factors such as a specific degree or college pedigree.
- ✓ Fresh graduates and professionals with up to 5 years of experience will get an equal opportunity to launch their career in a dynamic and inclusive environment that focuses on their skills, potential, and fresh perspective. It will also provide them with ample learning opportunities to help develop their skills and knowledge of the banking sector.

### AXIS BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- > Axis Bank to groom LGBTQIA+ talent for careers in banking.
- Axis Bank has recently reappointed Amitabh Chaudhry as the MD and CEO of the bank.
- Axis Bank has launched the digital US dollar Fixed Deposits (FD) tailored for Non-Resident Indian (NRI) customers at the IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) situated in GIFT City, Gujarat.
- > Axis Bank to support Tata Memorial-supported National Cancer Grid.
- Axis Bank has appointed Pranam Wahi as an additional independent director of the bank for four years.
- > Axis Bank signed MoU with IRMA to promote financial inclusion and literacy in India.
- > Axis Bank and Fibe Partner to launch India's First Numberless Credit Card.
- > Axis Bank Launched 'NEO For Business' Banking Platform For MSMEs.
- > Axis Bank Introduces 'Infinity Savings Account' with Zero Domestic Transaction Fees.
- > Axis Bank partners with RBI Innovation Hub to launch Kisan Credit cards.
- Axis Bank Partners with Kiwi to Bolster 'Credit on UPI' on RuPay Credit Cards.
- Axis Bank has launched the 'one-view' feature on its mobile application which enables account management across multiple bank accounts.
- Axis Bank has appointed NS Vishwanathan, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India, as non-executive chairman.
- Axis Bank launches Digital Onboarding platform 'Sarathi' for POS Terminals.



> Axis Bank and India Shelter Finance Corporation ltd announce strategic partnership under the colending model.

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- Axis Bank completes deal to buy Citibank's India consumer business.
- Axis Bank Partners with OPEN to Launch a Fully Digital Current Account.
- AXIS BANK
- ➢ Founded : 1993
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Rakesh Makhija
- MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhary
- Tagline : Badhti Ka naam Zindagi

Q.	In which country has	PhonePe recently launched UPI services?
	A) Nepal	B) Bangladesh

C) Sri Lanka	D) Thailand
-/	,

### Answer : C

- ✓ PhonePe launches its UPI in SriLanka in collaboration with LankaPay.
- ✓ PhonePe has announced that it has enabled UPI payment acceptance in collaboration with online payment platform LankaPay across LankaQR merchant points.
- ✓ This alliance is facilitated through LankaPay's partnership with NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL).
- ✓ Their account will be debited in INR, showing the currency exchange rate. These transactions are facilitated by the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and LankaPay National Payment Network.
- Which bank has launched its first virtual credit card 'PIXEL Play' and 'PIXEL Go'? Q.
  - A) Axis Bank
  - **B) HDFC Bank**
  - C) Yes Bank
  - **D) ICICI Bank**

Answer: B

✓ HDFC Bank launches Pixel Play, India's First Virtual Credit Card with Cashback

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✓ HDFC Bank has launched a new digital credit card called Pixel Play Credit Card that allows allows you to customize benefits to fit your lifestyle and select merchants of your choice to earn cashback, choose card design, and select your preferred billing cycle date.

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- It comes with a benefit of 5% of annual Cashback and Rs 500 Annual Fees. It is 100% digital. No  $\checkmark$ documentation, email, or calling required.
- ✓ The card is available in two variants: PIXEL Play and PIXEL Go and allows users to build their own cards with personalised benefits, offers, etc
- ✓ Simply convert to EMI and manage EMI repayments fully from your Payzapp. You can easily apply for the PIXEL Play Credit Card through the Payzapp

### HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- HDFC Bank launches Pixel Play, India's First Virtual Credit Card with Cashback.
- > HDFC Bank, Atal Innovation Mission empower social sector startups with Rs 19.6 crore grants.
- Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (MUFG) will to acquire a 20 per cent stake in HDB Financial Services, a non-banking subsidiary of HDFC Bank, at a valuation of \$9-10 billion.
- > HDFC becomes first private bank to open branch in Lakshadweep.
- > HDFC Bank proposes to sell 100% stake in its subsidiary HDFC Education.
- > HDFC Bank has appointed Sumant Rampal as Group Head of Mortgage Business, in the place of Arvind Kapil.
- HDFC Bank Raises \$300 Million via Bond Issue to Fund Green Loans.
- ▶ HDFC Bank to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank.
- LIC gets RBI nod for 9.99% stake buy in HDFC Bank.
- ▶ HDFC Bank first lender to issue 20 million credit cards.
- > HDFC Bank approves re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as chairman for 3 years.
- > HDFC Bank has recently raised Rs 7,425 crore through infrastructure bond issue.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as HDFC Bank MD & CEO for a period of three years.
- > HDFC Bank Launches India's First Co-Branded Hotel Credit Card named 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card' in partnership with Marriott International.
- ▶ HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is highest paid bank CEO in FY23 with Rs 10.55 crore pay.



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- > HDFC Bank overtakes SBI in CRISIL's corporate banking ranking for 2023.
- > Food delivery platform Swiggy has joined hands with HDFC Bank to launch a co-branded credit card.
- ➢ HDFC BANK
- ➢ Founded : 1994
- Founder : Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- > HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- > MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- > Tagline : We understand your world

Q. Bulava, an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), is developed by:

- A) Iran
- **B)** North Korea
- C) Russia
- D) China

### Answer : C

- Russian President has bolstered the country's military capabilities by ordering the addition of a new nuclearcapable missile known as the Bulava into the Russian military arsenal.
- ✓ About Bulava Missile:
- ✓ RSM-56 Bulava (NATO reporting name: SS-N-32) is a Russian submarine-launched intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).
- Designed by the Moscow Institute of Thermal Technology, development of the missile was launched in the late 1990s, and is designed to be deployed on Russia's Borei-class submarines.
- ✓ Bulava represents a core component of Russia's future strategic nuclear force.
- ✓ Bulava has a maximum range of 8,300 km (5,160 miles) and a payload of up to 10 multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles, or MIRVs, capable of delivering nuclear warheads to different targets.



# Q. With reference to Insurance Surety Bond, recently seen in the news, consider the following:

1. It is a financial instrument where insurance companies act as 'Surety' and provide the financial guarantee that the contractor will fulfil its obligations as per the agreed terms.

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2. In case the contractor fails to deliver his promise, monetary compensation is paid to the obligee by the insurer.

3. Unlike a bank guarantee, the insurance surety bonds do not require large collateral from the contractor.

How many of the above given statements are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Insurance companies have issued about 700 insurance surety bonds valued about ₹3,000 crore after Centre makes the instrument on par with bank guarantees for all government procurements.
- ✓ What is a Surety Bond?
- ✓ A surety bond is a promise to be liable for the debt, default, or failure of another.
- ✓ It is a three-party contractin which one party (the surety) guarantees the performance or obligations of a second party (the principal) to a third party (the obligee).
- ✓ About Insurance Surety Bonds:
- ✓ It is a financial instrument, where insurance companies act as 'Surety' and provides the financial guarantee that the contractor will fulfil its obligation as per the agreed terms.
- ✓ It is a risk transfer mechanism wherein an insurer provides a guarantee to a beneficiary or oblige that the principal or contractor will meet his contractual obligations.
- ✓ In case the principal fails to deliver his promise, a monetary compensation is paid to the obligee by the insurer.
- ✓ There are 3 parties involved:
- ✓ The Surety (Insurance Companies) will provide the financial guarantee to the Obligee /beneficiary.
- ✓ Obligee or Beneficiary (example-Government, Infrastructure Development Authorities etc.) -the party that needs the surety and is often the beneficiary of the surety bond.
- Principal (could be the owner or contractor)-the party that purchases the Surety bond from an insurer as a guarantee and undertakes a commitment to perform the obligations as per the contract entered.



### Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024:

1. It is an annual report published by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).

2. As of 2023, the number of people internally displaced due to disasters significantly outnumber the number of people internally displaced due to conflict and violence.

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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

- ✓ In 2023, the number of internally displaced people increased to 75.9 million, from 71.1 million in the preceding year, according to the Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024 (GRID-2024) released recently.
- ✓ About Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024:
- ✓ It is an annual report published by the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).
- ✓ It records internal displacements due to conflict and violence and disasters.
- ✓ Highlights of GRID-2024:
- ✓ In 2023, the number of internally displaced people (IDP) increased to 75.9 million, from 71.1 million in the preceding year.
- Report says 7.7 million displaced by disasters (one-fourth of it was caused by earthquakes) and 68.3 million by conflict and violence.
- Sudan, Syria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Colombia, and Yemen host nearly half of the world's IDPs.
- ✓ At 9.1 million, Sudan has the highest number of IDPs recorded for a single country.
- Most of the new displacement this year happened in Sudan, the Palestinian territories, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, accounting for almost two-thirds of all new displacement.
- ✓ South Asia:
- ✓ The IDMC said around 5.3 million people were living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence across South Asia at the end of 2023, 80 percent of whom were in Afghanistan.
- ✓ Conflict and violencetriggered69,000 displacements in South Asia in 2023, with Manipur violence alone accounting for 67,000.
- ✓ It is the highest number of displacements triggered by conflict and violence in India since 2018.



There is a sharp decline in IDP in 2023 from 2.5 million internal displacements due to natural disasters in  $\checkmark$ India in 2022. Internal displacements by natural disasters in 2023 was 528,000.

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#### Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Igla-S defence system:

- 1. It is a hand-held defence system that can be operated by an individual or crew.
- 2. It has a capacity of attacking targets up to an altitude of 3.5 kilometres.

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 Army is all set to begin receiving another set of Russian Igla-S very short range air defence systems (VSHORAD) by the end of May or early next month.
- ✓ It is a man-portable air defence system (MANPADS) developed by Russia.
- ✓ Capabilities:
- ✓ It is a hand-held defence system that can be operated by an individual or crew.
- ✓ It is designed to bring down low-flying aircraft and can also identify and neutralise air targets such as cruise missiles and drones.
- ✓ It comprises the 9M342 missile, the 9P522 launching mechanism, the 9V866-2 mobile test station, and the 9F719-2 test set. These components work together to provide a comprehensive air defence solution.
- ✓ A VSHORAD is the soldier's last line of defence against enemy combat aircraft, helicopters and UAVs in the multilayered air defence network.
- ✓ Range: It has a range of 500 metres to 6 kilometres and attack targets up to an altitude of 3.5 kilometres. The speed of the missile is 400 metres per second and the deployment time is 13 seconds.
- Significance: The acquisition of the Igla-S MANPADS marks a significant step in enhancing India's air  $\checkmark$ defence capabilities, particularly in mountainous regions.

214



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- Q. With reference to Kanwar lake, consider the following statements:
  - 1. It is a freshwater lake located in the Uttar Pradesh.
  - 2. It is a residual oxbow lake, formed due to the meandering of Gandak river.
  - 3. It is one of the inhibiting sites for critically endangered white-rumped vulture.
  - How many of the above given statements are correct?
  - A) Only one B) Only two
  - C) All three D) None

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Kanwar lake which was once a migratory bird paradise, now struggles for its survival.
- ✓ It is Asia's largest freshwater oxbow lake located in Bihar.
- $\checkmark$  It is also known as Kabartal jheel which is a rainfed lake.
- ✓ It is a residual oxbow lake, formed due to the meandering of Gandak river, a tributary of Ganga.
- ✓ It is covering the majority of the Indo-Gangetic plains in northern Bihar,
- The Wetland is an important stopover along the Central Asian Flyway, with 58 migratory waterbirds using it to rest and refuel.
- ✓ What is an oxbow lake?
- ✓ It is a curved lake formed alongside a winding river as a result of erosion and sediment deposition over time
- ✓ Hence only statement 1 and 2 are correct.
- Q. Neeraj Chopra won gold medal in Federation Cup 2024, where was it organized?
  - A) Guwahati B) Shimla
    - D) Bhubaneshwar

#### Answer : D

C) Patna

- ✓ Javelin star and Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal at the Federation Cup 2024 held in Bhubaneswar.
- Neeraj, who won gold at the Tokyo Olympics, won the gold medal by throwing the javelin 82.27 meters in the final event.

215

✓ Neeraj Chopra last participated in this event in 2021



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Q. Indian Pavilion inaugurated at Cannes Film Festival 2024, where is it being held?

- A) France B) Canada
- C) Germany

D) Australia

#### Answer : A

- ✓ The 77th Cannes Film Festival is being organised in France where the Indian Pavilion was also inaugurated.
- ✓ The Indian Pavilion at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival is organised every year by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.
- It was inaugurated by Information and Broadcasting Ministry Secretary Sanjay Jaju and Indian Ambassador to France Javed Ashraf
- Q. Which famous Indian footballer has announced his retirement from international football?
  - A) Sunil ChhetriB) Sahal Abdul SamadC) Lalengmawia RalteD) Manveer Singh

#### Answer : A

- ✓ India's most famous footballer Sunil Chhetri has announced his retirement from international football.
- ✓ The FIFA World Cup qualifier against Kuwait on June 6 in Kolkata will be his last match for the national team.
- ✓ Chhetri started his playing career with Mohun Bagan in 2002.
- ✓ Chhetri made his international debut in 2005 and scored his first goal against Pakistan.
- Q. Which company's agricultural drone has recently received certification from DGCA?
  - A) AITMC Ventures Limited B) NewSpace Research and Technologies
  - C) Skylark Drone D) Marut Drone

#### Answer : A

- ✓ AITMC Ventures Limited (AVPL International) has received DGCA certification for agricultural drone VIRAJ.
- ✓ Company CEO Himanshu Sharma said that AVPL's Viraj UAS (agricultural drone) has received the first type certification.



Q. Which of the following has been granted a three-year extension from SEBI to achieve 10% public shareholding?

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- A) IRDAI B) SIDBI
- C) LIC D) FICCI

### Answer : C

- ✓ LIC gets 3-yr extension from Sebi to achieve 10% public shareholding
- ✓ Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has been granted a three-year extension by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to achieve a 10 per cent public shareholding, the state-owned firm announced to the exchanges.
- ✓ LIC is required to increase its public shareholding to 10 per cent on or before May 16, 2027.
- ✓ According to SEBI norms, a company must attain a 10 per cent public shareholding within three years from the date of listing. LIC was listed on May 17, 2022.
- ✓ As of March 31, 2024, public shareholding in LIC stands at 3.5 per cent. The government still needs to divest another 6.5 per cent in the next three years for LIC to achieve the 10 per cent shareholding.

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

- LIC gets 3-yr extension from SEBI to achieve 10% public shareholding
- 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)

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- ➢ 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. New York-based private equity firm Warburg Pincus will acquire which company in a deal valued at ₹4,630 crore for equity and convertible instruments?
  - A) PNB Housing Finance Limited B) LIC Housing Finance
  - C) Shriram Housing Finance D) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services

### Answer : C

- ✓ New York-based private equity firm Warburg Pincus will acquire Shriram Housing Finance Ltd (SHFL) in a deal valued at ₹4,630 crore for equity and convertible instruments.
- ✓ Warburg Pincus will acquire the stake through its affiliate Mango Crest Investment Ltd.
- At present Shriram Finance Ltd holds a controlling stake in SHFL while private equity firm Valiant Partners
   L.P. (Valiant), Mauritius, holds the remaining ownership.
- As a part of this transaction, Valiant and Shriram Finance will completely divest its equity stake to Warburg Pincus.
- ✓ The company has a pan-India presence with 155 branches with an AUM of ₹13,762 crore, net worth of ₹1,924 crore and revenues of ₹1,430 crore, as of March 31, 2024.
- Q. Who has been honoured with the Global Excellence Award 2024 for Outstanding Contributions in Education?
  - A) Chandrakant Satija
- B) Rekha Srivastava

C) Shivani Sharma

D) Pallavi Gupta

### Answer : A

- ✓ Chandrakant Satija wins the Global Excellence Award 2024 for being the "Most Trusted Admission Consultant in Vidarbha Region".
- $\checkmark$  He is the founder and CEO of Chandra Admission Consultants.
- ✓ The award was presented to him by the famous Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra. He was adjudged as the Most Trusted Admissions Consultant in Vidarbha Region.

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Q. Abha Khatua, who was seen in news in May 2024 for achieving a remarkable achievement, is associated with which of the following sport?

A) Shotput B) Tennis

C) Archery D) Wushu

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Abha Khatua has set a national record and won gold medal in Women's Shot Put with a massive throw of 18.41 metres at National Federation Cup Athletics Competition in Bhubaneswar.
- ✓ While Uttar Pradesh's Kiran Baliyan finished second and Delhi's Srishti Vig stood at third position.
- ✓ Representing Maharashtra at the event, Abha was the joint record holder of 18.06 metres with Manpreet Kaur before this event.
- ✓ Abha was the joint record holder of 18.06 metres with Manpreet Kaur before this event
- Q. Kamla Beniwal, who died recently, belongs to which field?

A) Politician	B) Actress
C) Social Worker	D) Historian

### Answer : A

- ✓ Rajasthan's first woman minister, Kamla Beniwal, passed away on 15 May 2024 in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ✓ She was 97 years old. During her long political career, Kamla Beniwal, who was associated with the Congress party, held many constitutional posts
- ✓ <u>About Kamla Beniwal</u>
- ✓ Kamla Beniwal was born in 1927 in Jhunjhunu district's Gaurir village in a Jat family,
- ✓ In 1954, at the age of 27, she was appointed a minister in the Mohanlal Sukhadia government. Thus, she became the first woman to become a minister in Rajasthan. She later held various portfolios as a minister in different Congress governments in the state.
- ✓ In 2003, she was appointed the deputy chief minister in the Ashok Gehlot government.
- ✓ Kamal Beniwal also held the constitutional post of State Governor. She was Governor of Tripura, Gujarat and Mizoram. Her tenure as the Governor of Gujarat was controversial. Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat who, in 2011



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Q. When is the International Day of Living Together in Peace observed in the world?

A) 13 May	<b>B) 15 May</b>

**C) 16 May** 

D) 14 May

### Answer : C

- ✓ Every year, 16 May is observed as the International Day of Living Together in Peace.
- The Day is observed to highlight the importance of peace and living together in peace by the people of the world.
- ✓ The day also underscores the fact that though people in the world belong to different cultures and backgrounds, they can live together by accepting their differences and by developing the ability to recognise, listen and appreciate others..
- The Day aims to promote the desire to live and act together despite differences and diversity to build a sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony.
- ✓ The first International Day of Living Together in Peace was observed on 16 May 2018.

### Q. Which day is observed as the International Day of Lights?

A) 16 May	B) 15 May
C) 13 May	D) 14 May

### Answer : A

- ✓ Every year, 16 May is observed as the International Day of Light.
- The day recognises the importance of light in the life of an ordinary human being and the role it plays in shaping innovation, creativity, and technology.
- ✓ Light plays a crucial role in the understanding of science and the development of technology.
- ✓ <u>Background to the International Day of Light</u>
- ✓ On 16 May 1960, Physicist and Engineer Theodore Maiman of the United States of America created the first working Laser at the Hughes Research Laboratories in California, the United States of America.
- ✓ To mark the momentous discovery, the United Nations Educational and Scientific Organization (UNESCO) passed a resolution in 2017 to observe 16 May as the International Day of Light.
- ✓ The first International Day of Light was observed worldwide on 16 May 2018



Q. Ambaji White Marble, recently seen in the news, is predominantly quarried from which one of the following States?

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- A) Rajasthan
- **B)** Haryana
- C) Gujarat
- D) Odisha

### Answer : C

- ✓ Marble mined in Gujarat's Ambaji has recently been awarded the Geographical Indication, or GI tag, by the Central Government.
- ✓ About Ambaji White Marble:
- ✓ It is a type of marble known for its stunning white appearance and unique natural patterns.
- ✓ It is named after the town of Ambaji in the state of Gujarat, where it is predominantly quarried.
- ✓ It is also known as Amba White Marble and Ambe White Marble.
- ✓ It is characterized by its pristine white color, which often features subtle gray or beige veining.
- ✓ The veins can vary in intensity, ranging from fine and delicate to bold and pronounced, giving each slab a distinct and individualistic appearance

### GI TAG IN NEWS 2023-24

- Marble mined in Gujarat's Ambaji has recently been awarded the Geographical Indication, or GI tag, by the Central Government.
- The famous silver filigree (Rupa Tarakasi) of the millennium Cuttack city in Odisha recently received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- > Tripura's traditional tribal attire 'risa' gets received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently.
- Kachchhi Kharek, the indigenous variety of dates of Kutch, has become the second fruit of Gujarat to get a geographical indication (GI) tag.
- On December 4, 2023, Uttarakhand became the 1st state in the country to get GI certificates for a maximum of 18 products in a single day.
- > Till now, a total of 27 products of Uttarakhand have received GI tag.
- West Bengal achieves Geographical Indication tags for distinctive products, including 'Mouban' honey from Sunderbans, 'Prince of Rice' Black Nunia rice, and traditional Tangail, Gorod, etc.



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- 1. Recognition of Sunderbans Honey 'Mouban'
- 2. Black Nunia Rice 'Prince of Rice'
- 3. Distinctive Sarees Tangail, Gorod, and Kadiyal.
- As a part of the National GI Drive Mission, 'Kadiyal Sarees' of West Bengal have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Ladakh secures 4th GI tag for Sea Buckthorn.
- The famous Kadaknath chicken meat from Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh has now got a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ▷ Goan cashew (Fruit and Nut) was recently granted the geographical indication (GI) tag.
- Basohli Pashmina, a more than 100-year-old traditional craft from Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- > Tamil Nadu's Salem Sago gets GI tag.
- Bhaderwah Rajmash and Sulai honey of Doda and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir, have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
- > Chokuwa rice of Assam recently earned a GI (Geographical Indication) tag for its exquisiteness.
- The Matti banana variety, native to Kanniyakumari district was recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Mushkbudji rice, which was granted the GI tag along with eight other products from Jammu and Kashmir.
- GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (GI) :-
- GI tags are issued as per the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act,1999. This tag is issued by the Geographical Indication Registry under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- > Darjeeling Tea was the first Indian product to get the geographical indication tag in 2004.
- The second GI tag in India was given to Aranmula Kannadi (Handicraft) which is a mirror and made in Kerala.
- > A GI is registered for an initial period of ten years, which must be renewed after 10 years.



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Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Swachhata Pakhwada:

- 1. It is an initiative launched under the Swachh Bharat Mission in 2016.
- 2. It is monitored closely using the online monitoring system of Swachhata Samiksha.

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 Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) has taken a significant step towards promoting cleanliness and environmental sustainability with the launch of Swachhata Pakhwada and it will run from 16th May to 31st May 2024.
- ✓ It is an initiative launched in April, 2016 under the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- ✓ Objective: It was launched with the objective of bringing a fortnight of intense focus on the issues and practices of Swachhata by engaging the central government ministries/departments.
- Aim: It aims to include all ministries and departments through a common programme to contribute for Swachh Bharat Mission.
- The ministries observing Swachhata Pakhwada are monitored closely using the online monitoring system of Swachhata Samiksha where action plans, images, videos related to Swachhata activities are uploaded and shared.
- ✓ For the Pakhwada fortnight, observing ministries are considered as 'Swachhata Ministries' and are expected to bring qualitative swachhata improvements in their jurisdictions.
- ✓ Key facts about Swachh Bharat Mission
- ✓ The Indian government launched the swachh bharat mission on October 2, 2014.
- $\checkmark$  The mission covered all rural and urban areas.
- The urban component of the mission is implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development, and the rural component by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- ✓ The programme includes elimination of open defecation, conversion of unsanitary toilets to pour flush toilets, eradication of manual scavenging, municipal solid waste management and bringing about a behavioural change in people regarding healthy sanitation practices.



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Q. With reference to PREFIRE Polar Mission, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is developed by the NASA.
- 2. It reveals the full spectrum of heat loss from Earth's polar regions.
- 3. It helps in assessing how efficiently far-infrared heat is emitted by snow and sea ice.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

### Answer : C

- ✓ A NASA PREFIRE polar mission is set to be launched from New Zealand on May 22.
- ✓ The Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-InfraRed Experiment (PREFIRE) polar mission consists of twin satellites, each carrying one instrument and measuring the poles about six hours apart.
- ✓ Objective: The objective of the mission is to reveal the full spectrum of heat loss from Earth's polar regions for the first time, making climate models more accurate.
- ✓ Aim:
- ✓ The data from PREFIRE mission is aimed at addressing the gap in knowledge and provide data to improve predictions of climate change and sea level rise.
- Provide new information on how Earth's atmosphere and how ice influences the amount of heat being radiated out to space from the Arctic and Antarctic.
- Q. Sela Tunnel has been recognized as the highest tunnel of India by the International Book of Honour, England. Where is Sela Tunnel located?
  - A) Himachal Pradesh B) Ladakh
  - C) Arunachal Pradesh D) Uttarakhand

### Answer : C

- ✓ Sela Tunnel recognized as India's highest tunnel by International Book of Honour
- ✓ Sela Tunnel, constructed by BRO India, is officially recognized as the highest tunnel in the country by the International Book of Honour, England.
- ✓ The 2.598 Km long tunnel is situated at an altitude of 13000 ft on the Tezpur-Tawang Road.
- ✓ Situated at an altitude of 13,000 feet, the strategically important Sela Tunnel will ensure all-weather connectivity to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.



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### **TUNNEL IN NEWS 2023-24**

- Sela Tunnel, constructed by BRO India, is officially recognized as the highest tunnel in the country by the International Book of Honour, England.
- > Prime Minister Inaugurates Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Sela tunnel is an engineering feat that connects Tawang with the Balipara-Chariduar-Tawang road in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Border Roads Organization has built the world's longest bi-lane tunnel at an altitude of over 13,000 feet at a cost of Rs 825 crore.
- The Shinku La tunnel, located at an altitude of 15,800 feet, will serve as a crucial link between Manali and Leh Ladakh.
- The Indian Army inaugurated its first Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT) at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) in Himachal Pradesh.
- Border Roads Organisation will build the world's highest tunnel at Shinku La Pass, at 16,580 feet, to connect Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh.
- > India's First Underwater Metro Train Service Launched in Kolkata by PM Modi.
- The underwater metro route is part of the extensive 16.6 km Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section, remarkable for its passage beneath the Hooghly River.

Q. Lawrence Wong has been elected as the new Prime Minister of which country?

A) Malaysia

**B) Indonesia** 

C) Singapore

D) Hong Kong

### Answer : C

- ✓ Lawrence Wong to be Sworn in as Singapore's fourth PM
- ✓ Singapore's deputy leader Lawrence Wong is set to be sworn in as the nation's fourth Prime Minister.
- ✓ 51-year-old US-trained economist Wong will succeed 72-year-old Lee Hsien Loong, who stepped down after two decades at the helm.
- ✓ Lee's resignation marked the end of a family dynasty led by his father Lee Kuan Yew.
- ✓ Since becoming an independent nation in 1965, Singapore has only had three Prime Ministers all from the ruling People's Action Party.
- ✓ SINGAPORE

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- ✓ Capital : Singapore City
- ✓ Currency : Singapore dollar
- ✓ President : Tharman Shanmugaratnam
- ✓ Prime Minister : Lawrence Wong

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

- Lawrence Wong : Singapore
- Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah : Kuwait
- Simon Harris : Ireland
- Bjarni Benediktsson : Iceland
- 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 country has become the country with the highest data center capacity in the Asia-Pacific region, surpassing major countries like Australia, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Singapore, and Korea?

A) India	B) China
C) Russia	D) USA

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### Answer : A

- ✓ India overtakes Australia, Japan and Singapore in data centre capacity
- ✓ India has become the country with the highest data center capacity in the Asia-Pacific region, surpassing major countries like Australia, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Singapore, and Korea.
- ✓ The country is expected to record the highest capacity addition of 850 MW during the 2024-2026 period, higher than major APAC countries.
- In 2023, there was an addition of 255 MW of new supply, resulting in a total stock of approximately 1,030 MW by the end of the year.
- Q. Which defence force has launched Operation Sadbhavana' to provide essential aid and healthcare in North Sikkim?
  - A) Indian Navy

**B) Indian Army** 

C) Indian Air Force

D) Indian Coast Guard

### Answer : B

- ✓ 'Operation Sadbhavana': Army's support for North Sikkim's communities
- The Indian Army's Trishakti Corps under Operation Sadbhavana provided essential aid and healthcare to North Sikkim's Naga and Rangrang villages post-GLOF.
- Over 150 villagers received medical attention, and youths participated in educational sessions linked to the Agniveer Scheme for empowerment.
- These efforts, rooted in compassion, highlight the Army's commitment to fostering community development and strengthening bonds with border populations, ensuring sustained harmony and solidarity in the region.

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

### > OPERATION SADBHAVANA

- Indian Army's Trishakti Corps demonstrate unwavering support for North Sikkim's remote communities in Naga, Rangrang villages.
- > OPERATION INDRAVATI
- > India has started Operation Indravati to evacuate its nationals from Haiti to the Dominican Republic.
- > OPERATION SANKALP



Indian Navy has launched 'Operation Sankalp' in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman with the aim of ensuring the security of Indian ships.

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- > OPERATION RISING SUN
- > Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) busted a big syndicate involved in smuggling of foreignorigin gold worth around Rs. 40 crorein its operation code named 'Rising Sun' on 12th nd 13th March, 2024
- > OPERATION KAMDHENU
- > Jammu and Kashmir police launched Operation Kamdhenu to curb cattle smuggling.
- OPERATION PROSPERITY GUARDIAN
- > Operation Prosperity Guardian is a United States-led military operation by a multinational coalition formed in December 2023 to respond to Houthi-led attacks on shipping in the Red Sea.
- > OPERATION AJAY
- > India has launched 'Operation Ajay' to facilitate the return from Israel of those Indians who wish to come back home.
- > OPERATION IRON SWORD
- > Israel has named the ongoing fight against Hamas as Operation Iron Sword. Hamas is a Palestinian militant group that controls some areas of the Gaza Strip.
- > OPERATION SAJAG
- > Indian Coast Guard conducted 'Operation Sajag,' a comprehensive drill along the west coast, aimed at enhancing coastal security.
- > OPERATION BROADER SWORD
- > India and the USA, jointly conducted an 'Operation Broader Sword' to stop the illegal shipment of drugs through the International Mail System.
- > OPERATION KARUNA
- > India launched "Operation Karuna" to provide humanitarian assistance for people in Myanmar, which is affected by Cyclone Mocha.
- > OPERATION KAVERI
- India launches Operation Kaveri to evacuate Indian citizens stranded in Sudan
- > OPERATION DOST



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

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- > OPERATION GARUDA
- > Central Bureau of Investigation has launched a multi-phase 'Operation Garuda' against illicit drug trafficking network.
- > OPERATION YATRI SURAKSHA
- > To give assurance of the safety to the passengers, the Indian railways with the coordination of Railway Protection Force has launched a pan India drive under the code name Operation Yatri Suraksha.
- > OPERATION "NARCOS"
- ▶ Railway Protection Force (RPF) recently recovered narcotic products worth Rs 7.40 crore under "Operation Narcos".
- > OPERATION SANKALP
- > Indian Navy's stealth Frigate, INS Talwar is presently deployed for Op-Sankalp commemorating the 3rd continuous year of Indian Navy's presence in the Gulf.
- > OPERATION SATARK
- > Railway Protection Force (RPF) has recently started "Operation Satark" taking action against illicit liquor, fake currency circulation, etc.
- > OPERATION GANGA
- > India launches mission named Operation Ganga to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine
- What significant milestone has the Indian Army achieved in Eastern Ladakh? Q.
  - A) Deployment of over 500 tanks and infantry combat vehicles
  - B) Establishment of the world's highest tank repair facilities
  - C) Introduction of advanced combat training facilities
  - D) Construction of the longest military road in the region

### Answer : B

✓ Indian Army sets up one of world's highest tank repair facilities near China border.



✓ With over 500 of its tanks and infantry combat vehicles deployed in Eastern Ladakh, the Indian Army has created a record of sorts by setting up two of world's highest tank repair facilities in that area to support its operations there.

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- The Indian Army has set up two armoured vehicle maintenance and repair facilities near the China border in Nyoma and the DBO Sector in that region to at altitudes of over 14,500 feet in the area, which is the world's highest battlefield for tanks and infantry combat vehicles along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh
- Who inaugurated the IndiaSkills Competition 2024, which is aimed at showcasing the highest Q. standards of skilling in India?
  - A) Narendra Modi **B)** Atul Kumar Tiwari

C) Ramesh Pokhriyal **D)** Nirmala Sitharaman

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, inaugurated the IndiaSkills Competition 2024 - the country's biggest skill competition designed to demonstrate the highest standards of skilling.
- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organised an inauguration ceremony at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi which witnessed the participation of over 900 students from more than 30 states and Union Territories and over 400 industry experts.
- For the next three days, the participants will be competing in a variety of skills from Construction and Building Technology, Creative Arts and Fashion to Information and Communication Technology, Manufacturing and Engineering Technology, and Transportation and Logistics. The event will close on 19th May with a grand closing ceremony.
- ✓ Winners of IndiaSkills, with the help of the best industry trainers, will prepare for the WorldSkills Competition scheduled to take place in Lyon, France in September 2024 and will bring together 1,500 competitors from over 70 countries.
- Which two countries are collaborating to develop interceptors capable of shooting down hypersonic **Q**. missiles by the 2030s?
  - A) Russia and China

- B) Japan and South Korea
- C) United States and Russia
- D) Japan and the United States

Answer : D

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### Japan, US sign agreement to develop hypersonic missile interceptor.

✓ Japan and the United States are planning to develop interceptors to shoot down hypersonic missiles by the 2030s under a contract signed by the two countries.

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- ✓ The plan, which will reportedly cost more than \$3 billion, was first announced in August when the nations' leaders met at a summit with South Korea in Camp David outside Washington.
- ✓ The Japanese government has already included 75 billion yen (\$480 million) in its 2024 budget for development of the interceptors. The 75 billion yen is part of a record defence budget of 7.95 trillion yen approved last year, as tensions rise with China and North Korea.
- Q. For how long are India's Public Sector Banks (PSBs) planning to identify and concentrate efforts on one specialised "champion sector" as part of their business plans?

A) Until 2030-31	<b>B) Until 2025-26</b>
C) Until 2026-27	<b>D) Until 2035-36</b>

### Answer : C

- ✓ PSBs to identify one 'champion sector' in their business plans.
- ✓ India's Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are set to identify and concentrate efforts on one specialised "champion sector" each as part of their business plans until 2026-27.
- ✓ This strategic move aims to enable PSBs to expand their presence significantly in their chosen sectors by developing tailored capabilities.
- ✓ The banks will design segment-specific lending products and build internal capacities such as stress testing models and early warning signal systems for these champion sectors.
- This initiative falls under the 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) strategy for PSBs. It involves onboarding sector-specific advisors and developing credit underwriting models to expedite loan approvals in the identified champion sectors.
- Who won the first leg of the Grand Chess Tour (GCT) by defeating Grandmaster Wei Yi in the Q. Superbet Poland Rapid & Blitz tournament?

231

A) Viswanathan Anand B) Magnus Carlsen **C)** Fabiano Caruana D) Hikaru Nakamura

Answer : B

✓ World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen Wins Superbet Poland Rapid & Blitz



The first leg of the Grand Chess Tour (GCT) came to a thrilling conclusion as five-time World Champion and World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen beat tournament leader Grandmaster (GM) Wei Yi to win Superbet Poland Rapid & Blitz and \$40,000 for the first place finish.

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- Carlsen delivered a brilliant performance which included ten blitz wins in a row, defeating each of his competitors before overtaking Wei Yi in the final standings.
- Who has been appointed as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of 0. IndiaFirst Life Insurance for a term of five years, effective from July 1, 2024?
  - A) Rushabh Gandhi

- **B)** Anand Mahindra
- **C)** Nirmala Sitharaman
- **D)** Ratan Tata

### Answer : A

- ✓ IndiaFirst Life Insurance appoints Rushabh Gandhi as MD & CEO
- $\checkmark$ IndiaFirst Life Insurance's board has approved the appointment of Rushabh Gandhi as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) for five years effective July 1, 2024, or the date of regulatory approvals, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ Gandhi is the deputy chief executive officer of the insurer. Gandhi has over 29 years of experience in the financial services industry and across national and international markets.
- ✓ R M Vishakha, the current MD and CEO of the life insurer, will retire on June 30, 2024.
- What is the name of the guided multi-launch rocket system recently launched by Pakistan, capable of Q. engaging targets with high precision up to a range of 400 kilometres?

A) Fatah-I	B) Fatah-II
C) Ghaznavi	D) Shaheen

### Answer : B

- ✓ Pakistan conducts successful training launch of 'Fatah-II' rocket system.
- ✓ Pakistan conducted a successful training launch of guided multi-launch rocket system 'Fatah-II', which is capable of engaging targets with high precision up to a range of 400 kilometres, the army said.
- ✓ The launch of Fatah-II Guided Rocket System was aimed at perfecting the launch drills and procedures, the army said.
- ✓ Equipped with state-of-the-art navigation system, unique trajectory and manoeuvrable features, Fatah-II is capable of engaging targets with high precision and defeating any missile defence system

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Q. Which space agencies plan to continue operating an instrument on an X-ray astronomy satellite despite an issue affecting one of its instruments?

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- A) NASA and ESA **B) NASA and CNSA**
- C) NASA and Roscosmos **D)** NASA and JAXA

#### Answer : D

- ✓ NASA and JAXA to operate XRISM as-is despite instrument issue
- ✓ NASA and the Japanese space agency JAXA plan to operate an instrument on an X-ray astronomy satellite as-is for at least the next year and a half despite an issue affecting one of its instruments.
- ✓ JAXA launched the X-ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission (XRISM) in September 2023 and the spacecraft, whose instruments were developed in collaboration with NASA, has started its prime science mission. XRISM carries two instruments to conduct X-ray astronomy.
- ✓ That project, called CMB-S4, had planned to establish an observatory at the South Pole to study the cosmic microwave background, a signature of the Big Bang at microwave wavelengths, to better understand the early history of the universe as well as dark matter and dark energy.
- Asset protection firm, Aurm has partnered with which insurance company to provide comprehensive Q. insurance coverage to its customers for their valuables?
  - A) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance B) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
  - C) Tata AIG General Insurance D) Go Digit General Insurance

### Answer : C

- ✓ Aurm, an asset protection firm has partnered with Tata AIG General Insurance to provide comprehensive insurance coverage to its customers for their valuables.
- ✓ Under this partnership, Aurm's vaults will be fully insured for up to Rs 2.5 million, courtesy of TATA AIG, India's leading general insurance provider.
- ✓ Aurm partners with banks and real estate companies to offer state-of-the-art safe deposit storage facilities that are fully automated and available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- ✓ Aurm vaults are equipped with military-grade security infrastructure, active surveillance and intrusion detection system.



# Q. Canadian author and Nobel laureate Alice Munro passed away recently at the age of 92. In which year did he receive the Nobel Prize?

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- A) 2011 B) 2013
- C) 2014 D) 2019

### Answer: B

- ✓ Canadian author Alice Munro and Nobel laureate passed away at the age of 92.
- ✓ She wrote short stories for more than 60 years, often focusing on life in rural Canada. She was often compared to Russian writer Anton Chekhov for the insight and compassion found in her stories.
- Munro was recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2013. The Nobel committee called Munro a "master of contemporary short stories".
- ✓ Her first major breakthrough came in 1968, when her short story collection, Dance of The Happy Shades, about life in the suburbs of western Ontario, won Canada's highest literary honour, the Governor General's Award. It was the first of three Governor General's Awards she would win in her lifetime.

Q. When is the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) observed?

A) 18 May	B) 16 May
C) 17 May	D) 15 May

### Answer : C

- ✓ The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is observed every year on 17 May since 1969, to commemorate the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- ✓ The ITU was founded on 17 May 1865, when the first International Telegraph Convention was signed in Paris.
- ✓ The main objective of the day is to raise global awareness of the changes brought about by the Internet and new technologies in societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.
- ✓ International Telecommunication Union
- ✓ The International Telecommunication Union was established on 17 May 1865 as the International Telegraph Union.
- ✓ Members of the ITU: 193 countries
- ✓ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ Secretary General: Doreen Bogdan-Martin (USA)

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Q. World Hypertension Day (WHD) is observed on which day of the year?

- A) 17 May
- B) 14 May
- **C)** 15 May
- D) 16 May

### Answer : A

- ✓ The World Hypertension Day (WHD) is celebrated on 17 May worldwide to promote public awareness of increasing high blood pressure (BP) and to encourage citizens of all countries to prevent and control this silent killer.
- $\checkmark$  The day was held for the first time in May 2005.
- ✓ World Hypertension Day (WHD) is an initiative of the World Hypertension League (WHL), an affiliated section of the International Society of Hypertension.
- ✓ Hypertension is also popularly known as high blood pressure. When a person's blood pressure is 140/90 mmHg or higher, they are diagnosed as having hypertension
- ✓ The theme for 2024 World Hypertension Day is "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer!"
- Q. National Dengue Day is celebrated in India on which day?
  - A) 17 May
  - B) 16 May
  - **C) 14 May**
  - D) 15 May

### Answer : B

- $\checkmark$  In India, the National Dengue Day is observed every year on 16 May.
- ✓ The day is an initiative by the Ministry of Healthy and Family Welfare, to raise awareness about dengue and its preventive measures, and preparedness for control of the vector-borne disease before the transmission season begins.
- ✓ Dengue is caused by the bite of Aedes mosquito



Q. United Arab Emirates has recently launched a new visa program offering long-term residency to individuals who significantly contribute to environmental protection and sustainability efforts. What is the name of this Visa?

A) Green Visa

**B)** Green Residency Visa

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C) Golden Visa

D) Blue Residency Visa

### Answer : D

- ✓ United Arab Emirates has launched a 10-year Blue Residency visa for individuals who have made 'exceptional efforts and contributions to protecting the environment, whether marine or land'.
- ✓ The 10-year Blue Residency Visa aims to attract and retain global leaders in environmental research, activism, and technological solutions.
- ✓ This visa category extends beyond the UAE's borders, welcoming those who champion sustainability initiatives worldwide.
- ✓ This initiative strengthens the UAE's position as a global leader in sustainability and environmental stewardship.

### **UAE IN NEWS 2023-24**

- ▶ Indian Prime Minister will attend the World Government Summit 2024 as a guest of honour in UAE.
- > World Government Summit (WGS) 2024: Theme: "Shaping Future Governments".
- The joint military exercise 'Desert Cyclone' of India and United Arab Emirates is being organized in Mahajan, Rajasthan
- > India, UAE ink MoU to strengthen educational cooperation for students, faculty.
- India, UAE sign MoU on linking of India's Unified Payments Interface with Instant Payment Platform of UAE.
- > UAE becomes first Arab country to get observer status on Asia-Pacific money laundering.
- > United Arab Emirates (UAE) has emerged as the fourth largest investor in India during 2022-23.
- > Dubai Emerges as India's Top Choice for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- > UAE to Host World's Largest IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025.
- Etihad Airways, the national airline of the UAE, has been named the Environmental Airline of the Year 2023 for the second year in a row at the Airline Rating Awards.
- > UAE India's second largest export destination and third largest source of imports.



The first conference of I2U2 Business Forum, a joint initiative of India, Israel, the US and the United Arab Emirates, was held on 22 February 2023 in Abu Dhabi (UAE).

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- > United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the 13th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial meeting in February 2024.
- > UAE will host the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in November 2023.
- > Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) signed an agreement to set up its first overseas office in Abu Dhabi Global Market.
- ▶ UAE and India launched the UAE India Business Council UAE Chapter (UIBCUC) to strengthen economic ties and enhance bilateral trade and investment.
- > EDGE, UAE's leading defence group signed a Memorandum of Understanding with India's aerospace firm Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) at the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX).
- > India, France, UAE Establish Trilateral Cooperation Initiative, in fields including Energy, Defence & Economy.
- > India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is shortly to be connected to comparable networks in Indonesia, Mauritius, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- > RBI, Central Bank of UAE sign MoU to promote innovation in financial products and services.
- > Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan appointed President of UAE.
- Emaar, a Dubai-based real estate developer, has become the first foreign company to invest in a megamall spread over one million square feet in Srinagar.
- Indian Air Force contingent of 110 Air Warriors reached Al Dahfra airbase of United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 25 February for participating in Exercise 'Desert Flag VIII.
- > President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has appointed Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, his brother, as the Vice President of the country.
- > The 'Study in India Pavilion' at the Global Education & Training Exhibition (GETEX) in Dubai, UAE.
- > HDFC Bank and UAE-based financial services company Lulu Exchange, have partnered to strengthen cross-border payments between India and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.
- About UAE



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- > Official Language : Arabic
- Capital : Abu Dhabi
- Currency : Emirati Dirham
- > President of UAE : Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan
- > Prime Minister: Sheikh Mohammed ibn Rashid Al Maktoum
- Q. With reference to National Savings Certificate (NSC), consider the following statements:

1. It aims at encouraging users, who are primarily low- to mid-income investors, to invest as well as save taxes.

- 2. NSC certificates are accepted as collateral or security for secured loans in banks and NBFCs.
- 3. Non-resident Indians (NRIs) are not eligible to invest in NSC.

How many of the above given statements are correct?

A) Only oneB) Only twoC) All threeD) None

### Answer : C

- ✓ The Prime Minister recently declared Rs 9.12 lakh investment in the National Savings Certificate (NSC) scheme in his nomination filing.
- ✓ About National Savings Certificate (NSC):
- ✓ It is a fixed-income investment scheme launched by the government of India.
- ✓ It aims at encouraging users, who are primarily low- to mid-income investors, to invest as well as save taxes.
- ✓ You can invest in NSC from the nearest post officein your name, for a minor or with another adult as a joint account.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ Interest Rates: The certificates earn an annual fixed interest, which is revised every quarter by the government, thus guaranteeing a regular income for the investor.
- ✓ Maturity Period: Five years.
- $\checkmark$  The amount of NSCs that can be purchased has no upper limit.
- ✓ Tax Saver: As a government-backed tax-saving scheme, the principal invested in NSC qualifies for tax savings underSection 80C of the Income Tax Act up to Rs. 1.5 lakhs annually.

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✓ Accessible: It can be easily bought from any post office on submission of the required KYC documents. Also, it is easy to transfer the certificate from one POto another, as well as from one person to another, without impacting the interest accrual/maturity of the original certificate.

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- ✓ Loan Collaterals: NSC certificates are accepted as collateral or security for secured loans in Banks and NBFCs.
- ✓ Nomination: The investor can nominate any family member (even a minor) so that they can inherit it in the unfortunate event of the investor's demise.
- ✓ Premature Withdrawal: Generally, one cannot exit the scheme early except on the death of an investor, on a court order, or on forfeiture by a pledgee who is a Gazetted Government Officer for it.
- ✓ Eligibility Criteria for NSC:
- ✓ Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), Trusts, and Private and public limited companies are not eligible to invest in NSC.
- ✓ The individual must be a resident Indian citizen. Non-resident Indians (NRIs) are not eligible to invest in NSC.
- ✓ There is no age limit for individuals to purchase an NSC
- Consider the following statements with reference to the Bond Buyback: **Q**.
  - 1. It is a process in which central and state governments buy back their existing securities from holders by redeeming them prematurely.
  - 2. It is aimed to decrease the liquidity in the market.
  - Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - A) 1 only B) 2 only
  - C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

### Answer : A

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has responded to tight liquidity conditions in the banking system by announcing a significant reduction in the government's treasury bill sales and introducing a new selection of bonds for the Centre's buyback operations.
- ✓ Bond Buyback is a process whereby the central government and state governments buy back their existing securities, by redeeming them prematurely, from the holders.
- $\checkmark$ Bond buybacks is a liability management tools widely used in government securities markets to manage refinancing and liquidity risks.

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- ✓ It enables issuers to retire an outstanding debt before its maturity date against a cash payment.
- The objectives of buyback can be
- $\checkmark$  Reduction of cost (by buying back high coupon securities),
- ✓ Reduction in the number of outstanding securities and improving liquidity in the G-Secs market (by buying back illiquid securities) and

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- ✓ Infusion of liquidity in the system.
- $\checkmark$  What is a Bond?
- ✓ It is a debt instrument in which an investor loans money to an entity (typically corporate or government) which borrows the funds for a defined period of time at a variable or fixed interest rate.
- ✓ Bonds are used by companies, municipalities, states and sovereign governments to raise money to finance a variety of projects and activities. Owners of bonds are debt holders, or creditors, of the issuer.
- Consider the following statements with reference to the Materiovigilance Programme of India Q. (MvPI) platform:
  - 1. It is launched to monitor the safety of medical devices.
  - 2. The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission functions as National Coordination Centre.

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 Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) directed all medical device licence holders and manufacturers to report any adverse events related to life-saving medical equipment on the government's Materiovigilance Programme of India (MvPI) platform.
- ✓ It was launched on July 6, 2015 to monitor the safety of medical devices in the country.
- ✓ It aims to collect data on medical device related adverse events systematically and scientifically analyze them to aid in regulatory decisions and recommendations on safe use of medical devices.
- Objective: To improve Indian patient safety by monitoring, recording and analysing the root cause of adverse events or risks associated with the use of medical devices including in-vitro diagnostics by healthcare professionals or patients/users and suggesting regulatory bodies for appropriate action with the sole intention of improving patient safety.

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✓ It is an important program for reporting of adverse events, coordinated analysis etc related to the medical devices including in-vitro diagnostic devices.

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- ✓ The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) functions as National Coordination Centre (NCC) since 2018.
- ✓ It is regulated by the Central Drugs Standards Control Organization (CDSCO).
- ✓ Currently, all medical devices in India are regulated by the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Medical Device Rule, 2017.
- ✓ At present, India is 80% dependent on imports for medical devices.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry Of Health and Family Welfare
- Q. How much financing has the International Finance Corporation (IFC) provided to HDFC Bank for extending microloans to underserved women in rural and semi-urban India?
  - A) \$100 million

B) \$250 million

C) \$500 million

D) \$750 million

### Answer : C

- ✓ International Finance Corporation (IFC) has provided \$500 million loan to HDFC Bank for extending microloans to "underserved women" in rural and semi-urban India.
- ✓ HDFC Bank said it would use IFC's financing for on-lending as microloans to self-help groups (SHGs) and joint liability groups (JLGs) enrolled in the Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative (SLI).
- ✓ IFC's loan will further enable the Bank to grow its microcredit and microlending to women, especially allowing SHG and JLG borrowers to graduate to individual lending schemes

### HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- International Finance Corporation (IFC) has provided \$500 million loan to HDFC Bank for extending microloans to "underserved women" in rural and semi-urban India.
- > HDFC Bank launches Pixel Play, India's First Virtual Credit Card with Cashback.
- > HDFC Bank, Atal Innovation Mission empower social sector startups with Rs 19.6 crore grants.
- Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (MUFG) will to acquire a 20 per cent stake in HDB Financial Services, a non-banking subsidiary of HDFC Bank, at a valuation of \$9-10 billion.
- > HDFC becomes first private bank to open branch in Lakshadweep.
- HDFC Bank proposes to sell 100% stake in its subsidiary HDFC Education.



HDFC Bank has appointed Sumant Rampal as Group Head of Mortgage Business, in the place of Arvind Kapil.

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- > HDFC Bank Raises \$300 Million via Bond Issue to Fund Green Loans.
- > HDFC Bank to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank.
- > LIC gets RBI nod for 9.99% stake buy in HDFC Bank.
- > HDFC Bank first lender to issue 20 million credit cards.
- > HDFC Bank approves re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as chairman for 3 years.
- > HDFC Bank has recently raised Rs 7,425 crore through infrastructure bond issue.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as HDFC Bank MD & CEO for a period of three years.
- HDFC Bank Launches India's First Co-Branded Hotel Credit Card named 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card' in partnership with Marriott International.
- > HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is highest paid bank CEO in FY23 with Rs 10.55 crore pay.
- > HDFC Bank overtakes SBI in CRISIL's corporate banking ranking for 2023.
- ▶ Food delivery platform Swiggy has joined hands with HDFC Bank to launch a co-branded credit card.
- HDFC BANK
- ➢ Founded : 1994
- Founder : Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- > Tagline : We understand your world
- Q. Which sports organization did Puma India officially sign up as the official kit sponsor?
  - A) Indian Olympic Association (IOA)
  - B) Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)
  - C) Athletics Federation of India (AFI)
  - D) All India Football Federation (AIFF)

Answer : C



✓ Puma India signs up as official kit partner for Athletics Federation of India , will equip over 400 Indian athletes

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- ✓ In a strategic move, Puma India has signed up as the official kit sponsor of sports body, Athletics Federation of India (AFI).
- ✓ Under this multi-year deal, the sports brand will exclusively supply performance kits, speed suits and travel gear to all athletes under AFI and who represent India in track & field, jumps, throws, cross country running and marathons at both domestic and international tournaments.
- Q. Which company has signed a deal with the Athletics Federation of India to become its official kit sponsor?

A) PUMA India	B) Adidas
C) Reebok	D) Red Tape

#### Answer : A

- ✓ PUMA India has signed a deal with the Athletics Federation of India to become its official kit sponsor.
- ✓ Puma signed a multi-year deal to exclusively supply performance kits, speed suits and travel gear to every athlete under AFI representing India in track & field, jumps, throws, cross country running and marathons at both domestic and international tournaments.
- ✓ With the partnership, several international stars such as Neeraj Chopra (javelin throw), Kishore Kumar Jena (javelin throw), Parul Chaudhary (steeplechase), Subha Venkatesan (4x 400 m relay), Murali Sreeshankar (long jump), Jyothi Yarraji (hurdle), Priyanka Goswami (race walk) and Jeswin Aldrin (long jump) will benefit from PUMA's gear across sporting events.
- ✓ Kitting under this partnership does not include Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.

### **SPONSOR IN NEWS 2024**

- Puma signs deal with Athletics Federation of India for official kit sponsor  $\succ$
- Sri Lanka has announced Amul, one of India's iconic diary brands with a global footprint, as their sponsor for the ICC T20 World Cup 2024
- Amul will be the lead arm sponsor for USA's cricket team that will participate in ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 which commences on June 1
- Aramco company would sponsor major FIFA tournaments until 2027.



- IndusInd Bank, a leading financial institution in India, has announced a significant multi-year sponsorship deal with the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Nandini's Sponsorship of Ireland and Scotland Cricket Teams Sparks Debate
- Tata Group Secures IPL Title Sponsorship for Next 5 Years spanning 2024 to 2028.
- > Indian Cricket Board announced that the IDFC First Bank has grabbed the title rights for home international series of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for three years.
- > Dream11 has reportedly taken over as the main jersey sponsor for the Indian cricket team from July 2023 to March 2026, replacing Byju's.

#### RoseTTAFold, recently seen in the news, is a: Q.

A) dwarf planet

B) new variant of SARS-CoV-2

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C) newly discovered asteroid

D) AI-based prediction tool used for drug development

### Answer : D

- ✓ AI-based prediction tool RoseTTAFold has provided a major scientific breakthrough in the last four years in the area of computational drug development.
- ✓ It is developed by researchers at the University Of Washington, U.S.
- ✓ It uses generative diffusion-based architectures (one kind of AI model) to predict structural complexes.
- ✓ The tools' neural networks use massive amounts of input data to produce the desired output the threedimensional structures of proteins.
- It uses deep learning to quickly and accurately predict protein structures based on limited information. Without the aid of such software, it can take years of laboratory work to determine the structure of just one protein
- Q. Who handed over the first set of citizenship certificates under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, in New Delhi?
  - **B)** Ajay Kumar Bhalla

C) S. Jaishankar

A) Narendra Modi

- D) Nirmala Sitharaman

### Answer : B

✓ Centre Issues First Set Of Citizenship Certificates Under CAA.



✓ Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla handed over certificates under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 to the first 14 people in New Delhi. Digitally signed certificates are also being issued to other applicants through email.

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- ✓ The process involves granting Indian nationality to undocumented non-Muslims migrants, including Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh
- ✓ The CAA was enacted in December 2019 but the rules under which the citizenship was granted were issued only on March 11 this year, marking nearly four years of delay
- Which UK-based institution has AIIMS New Delhi partnered with to enhance medical research, Q. innovation, and education?
  - A) University of Oxford
  - B) University of Cambridge
  - C) University of Bolton Institute of Medicine
  - **D)** Imperial College London

### Answer : C

- ✓ AIIMS New Delhi Signed MoU With University Of Bolton Institute Of Medicine
- ✓ AIIMS New Delhi has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UK based University of Bolton Institute of Medicine to collaborate in the field of medical research, innovation and education.
- $\checkmark$  This strategic collaboration brings together two esteemed institutions renowned for their commitment to excellence in medical training, research, and patient care.
- ✓ These partnerships will encompass various initiatives such as staff/student exchanges, educational conferences and collaborative degree programmes, aiming to enrich the medical education landscape in both countries.
- How long has the Indian government extended the ban on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam Q. (LTTE)?
  - A) Two years
- **B)** Three years

C) Four years

D) Five years

Answer : D

- ✓ Centre Extends Ban Imposed On LTTE For Five More Years.
- The Centre has extended the ban on Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for further five years.

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The central government has taken the decision in view of the activities of the LTTE that continues to pose  $\checkmark$ a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India, particularly in Tamil Nadu.

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- ✓ The union home ministry imposed the ban invoking the sub-sections (1) and (3) of section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. In a notification, the home ministry said the central government is of the opinion that the LTTE is still indulging in activities which are prejudicial to the integrity and security of the country.
- Who recently became the first Indian woman to break into the top 25 of the world Women's singles Q. rankings in table tennis?
  - A) Pooja Sahasrabudhe
  - C) Manika Batra

**B)** Mouma Das

## D) Madhurika Patkar

### Answer : C

- ✓ Table Tennis, Manika Batra Becomes First Indian Woman To Break Into Top 25 Of World Women's Singles Rankings
- ✓ India's ace women's table tennis player Manika Batra became the first Indian woman paddler to break into the top 25 of the world Women's singles rankings. She rose to her career-best ranking of 24, following her success in the Saudi Smash, last week.
- She also equalled G. Sathyan's five year old record for the highest rank achieved by an Indian in singles table tennis. G Sathiyan, Manika's longtime mixed doubles partner, achieved world No. 24 in men's singles in 2019.
- The 28-year-old Khel Ratna awardee, who was in 39th spot before the tournament, jumped 15 spots following her run in Jeddah, where she reached the quarterfinals.

Who recently assumed the role of Director General of Akashvani? Q.

A) Ramesh Kumar

**B)** Maushumi Chakravarty

246

C) Sunil Sharma

**D)** Priya Singh

Answer : B

✓ Senior Indian Information Service officer, Maushumi Chakravarty assumed the charge as Director General of Akashvani.



✓ A 1991 batch IIS officer, Ms Chakravarty has a vast experience of working in several media organisations of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, including Press Information Bureau and Central Bureau of Communication

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- What was the total value of India's exports in the financial year 2023-24? Q.
  - A) USD 776.3 billion B) USD 800 billion
  - C) USD 778 billion D) USD 755 billion

### Answer : C

- ✓ India Registers Record Export At USD 778 Billion In 2023-24
- ✓ India registered record exports in the just concluded financial year 2023-24 at USD 778 billion, commerce ministry said. In the financial year 2022-23, the combined value of exported goods and services stood at USD 776.3 billion.
- ✓ In 2023-24, services exports increased from USD 325.3 billion to USD 341.1 billion, while merchandise exports marginally declined from USD 451.1 billion to USD 437.1 billion
- ✓ China, Russia, Iraq, UAE, and Singapore are among the countries where India's exports in the justconcluded financial year have risen substantially, though with a low base. The other countries in the Top 10 list are the UK, Australia, Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, and South Africa.
- ✓ Meanwhile, there was a decline in overall imports from USD 898.0 billion in 2022-23 to USD 853.8 billion in 2023-24.
- In which year did FIFA officially announce the scheduled dates for the inaugural Women's Club Q. World Cup tournament?

A) 2026	B) 2028
C) 2027	D) 2030

### Answer : A

- ✓ FIFA Confirm First Ever Women's Club World Cup Will Kick Off In 2026
- ✓ FIFA has officially announced the scheduled dates for the inaugural Women's Club World Cup tournament, slated to take place in January and February of 2026. The tournament's first edition is expected to feature 16 teams.



The Women's Club World Cup would likely allow top European teams from the UEFA Women's Champions League to face clubs from the United States' National Women's Soccer League, as well as sides from countries where the women's game is less developed.

#### Who has been approved as the Whole Time Director on the Board of IDFC FIRST Bank by the Q. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?**

A) Ravi Venkatesan	

**B)** Pradeep Natarajan

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C) Deepak Parekh

D) Vishwavir Ahuja

#### Answer : B

- ✓ RBI approves appointment of Pradeep Natarajan as IDFC FIRST Bank's Whole Time Director.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Pradeep Natarajan as Whole Time Director on the Board of IDFC FIRST Bank for a period of three years.
- ✓ The bank further said it will take the necessary steps to complete the formalities for the appointment of Natarajan as Executive Director.
- Which organization received the Geospatial World Forum (GWF) Leadership Award for "Public Q. Policy: Enabling Industry Development" at the 2024 event in Rotterdam, Netherlands?
  - A) ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)
  - B) IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre)
  - C) DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation)
  - D) BARC (Bhabha Atomic Research Centre)

### Answer : B

- ✓ IN-SPACe honoured with Geospatial World Forum Leadership Award.
- The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) has been honoured with the Geospatial World Forum (GWF) Leadership Award for "Public Policy: Enabling Industry Development" at the 2024 event in Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- ✓ The award recognizes their groundbreaking efforts in advancing India's space sector and supporting nongovernment entities.
- ✓ GWF Leadership Awards commend innovation and contributions to the global geospatial field since 2007



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Q. Which companies have collaborated to accelerate the adoption of generative AI (GenAI)?

A) Tech Mahindra and Google

**B) IBM and Infosys** 

C) Tech Mahindra and IBM D) IBM and TCS

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Tech Mahindra, IBM collaborate to accelerate adoption of GenAI
- ✓ IT company Tech Mahindra said it has collaborated with IBM to assist businesses worldwide in responsibly accelerating the adoption of generative AI (GenAI).
- Under the partnership, Tech Mahindra's amplifAI and IBM watsonx will integrate to bring new GenAI and governance capabilities to enterprises, according to a company statement.
- Q. Which country will host the 2027 Women's World Cup, as declared at the FIFA Congress?

A) Brazil	B) Belgium
C) Netherlands	D) Germany

### Answer : A

- ✓ Brazil to host 2027 Women's World Cup
- ✓ Brazil was declared the host of the 2027 Women's World Cup at the FIFA Congress, beating the joint bid of Belgium, Netherlands and Germany to become the first South American country to hold the tournament.
- ✓ The Brazil bid received the backing of 119 member associations of the FIFA Congress to host the 10th edition of the competition, compared to 78 votes for the European bid.
- The race was whittled down to two last month after the United States and Mexico withdrew their joint bid to pursue the 2031 tournament instead
- Q. Which company has signed an initial pact with European bank Societe Generale for up to \$1 billion financing as debt and advisory solutions over the next three years?
  - A) Torrent Power

**B) NTPC Limited** 

C) JSW Energy

D) ReNew

### Answer : D

✓ Energy firm ReNew has signed an initial pact with European bank Societe Generale for up to \$1 billion financing as debt and advisory solutions over the next three years.



The MoU aims to support the financing and development of the company's various strategic energy transition projects both in India and globally.

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✓ Both parties will leverage their respective expertise to strengthen the collaboration on utility-scale energy projects including solar, wind, complex renewables, green hydrogen, energy storage and solar modules manufacturing.

Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) has acquired how much per cent stake in Essar Transco Limited Q. for an Enterprise Value of INR 1,900 crore after obtaining necessary clearances?

A) 40%	B) 60	%
<b>C) 80%</b>	<b>D)</b> 10	00%

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) has acquired 100 per cent stake in Essar Transco Limited for an Enterprise Value of INR 1,900 crore after obtaining necessary clearances.
- ✓ This share acquisition follows agreements signed in June 2022.
- ✓ The acquisition covers the fully operational 400 kV, 673 circuit kilometres inter-state transmission line linking Mahan in Madhya Pradesh to Sipat pooling substation in Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ The project, which operates under the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission-regulated return framework, was commissioned in 2018.
- ✓ Adani Energy Solutions completed the acquisition through its wholly owned subsidiary Adani Transmission Step-Two Limited (ATSTL).
- Q. Name the operation launched Uttarakhand police for the smooth conduct of Kedarnath Dham Yatra 2024 in Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand?
  - A) Operation Sadbhavana
- **B)** Operation Maryada
- C) Operation Shraddha
- D) Operation Darshan

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Police launched Operation 'Maryada' for the smooth conduct of Kedarnath Dham Yatra 2024 in Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand.
- ✓ Under Operation Maryada, the police request pilgrims and tourists who consume drugs to maintain decorum in this area. Along with challan, the police is also registering a case against the rioters and drug users.

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Guptkashi DSP Harshvardhini Suman said, "Under Operation Maryada, we are taking strict action against  $\checkmark$ those who are using any kind of intoxicants, it is not good for the temple and the Dham.

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Q. Homegrown logistics services platform Porter has become \_\_\_\_\_ unicorn in India of 2024.

A) second	B) third
C) fourth	D) fifth

### Answer : B

- ✓ Porter becomes India's 3rd Unicorn of 2024
- ✓ Homegrown logistics services platform Porter has become the third unicorn (with a valuation of \$1 billion and above) in India this year.
- ✓ Earlier this year, fintech firm Perfios and Ola's AI venture Krutrim had turned unicorns.
- As per Tracxn, there were 113 unicorns in India as of earlier this month.
- ✓ PeakXV-backed Porter's earlier valuation was \$514 million, after it raised \$101 million in a Series E round from investors such as Tiger Global, Vitruvian Partners, Lightrock India and more. Till date, it has raised \$150 million over nine rounds, according to Tracxn data.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX):
  - 1. It is a collaborative endeavor between ISRO and NASA.

2. It aims to explore the moon's southern polar region and investigate the presence of water and other elements.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only B) 2 only

D) Neither 1 nor 2

### Answer : B

C) Both 1 and 2

- The India-Japan partnership for their joint moon mission, Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX), is likely to take flight in a few years, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said in an interview recently.
- ✓ About Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX):
- It is a collaborative endeavor between ISRO and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).  $\checkmark$
- The mission is scheduled to launch in 2025.

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### This mission will take off aboard Japan's H3 rocket.

✓ Primary Goal: To explore the moon's southern polar region, investigating the presence of water and other elements, potentially in the form of surface ice.

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- ✓ It aims to showcase innovative surface exploration technologies. The special focus is on vehicular transport and lunar night survival.
- ✓ It features both a lander and a rover. JAXA is responsible for developing and operating the rover, and ISRO for developing and operating the lander that will carry the rover.
- ✓ The rover will be equipped with instruments for measuring the water content of regolith (lunar sand), drilling, and sampling, as well as with other world-first and world-leading technologies for the driving system and batteries.
- ✓ The roverwill carry not only the instruments of ISRO and JAXA but also those of the US space agency NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA).
- 0. Which of the following is the name of the premium banking services program recently launched by Yes Bank, specifically targeting affluent customers?
  - **B) Yes Excellence** A) Yes Privilege

**C) Yes Prestige D) Yes Grandeur** 

### Answer : D

- ✓ Yes Bank launches premium services under 'Yes Grandeur' for affluent, elite customers
- ✓ Yes Bank has launched premium banking services under the label 'Yes Grandeur' targeting elite and rising affluent class to drive business growth.
- ✓ So, only banking customers with an average monthly balance (AMB) of Rs 5 lakh or a net relationship value (NRV) of Rs 20 lakh will be eligible for the program, with additional consideration to loan relationships.
- ✓ YES Grandeur is aimed at enhancing and personalising the customer experience by offering unique banking, travel and lifestyle privileges

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

- Yes Bank launches premium services under 'Yes Grandeur' for affluent, elite customers.
- > YES Bank collaborates with ANQ to launch 2 co-branded credit cards Pi, Phi.
- > YES Bank has partnered with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024.

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- > Yes Bank becomes first Indian bank to conduct export finance transactions on RXIL's ITFS.
- Yes Bank Launches SmartFin With Veefin Solutions, An Advanced Digital Platform To Boost MSMEs.
- > Yes Bank becomes first lender to offer 'ONDC Network Gift Card'.
- > Yes bank partnered with fintech Zaggle for next-gen corporate credit card.
- > YES Bank goes live with UPI interoperability on Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).
- > Yes Bank Launches All-In-One 'IRIS' Mobile App.
- Reliance General Insurance becomes first insurer to accept Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) e-Rupee (e₹) in tie-up with YES Bank
- YES Bank announced the unveiling of its new logo, which forms part of its "refreshed brand identity." YES BANK launches new logo, to roll out campaign 'Life Ko Banao Rich'.
- Yes Bank is an Indian bank headquartered in Mumbai, India and was founded by Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapoor in 2004.
- > YES BANK
- ➢ Founded : 2004
- Founder : Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapoor
- > Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Sunil Mehta
- MD & CEO : Prashant Kumar
- > YES BANK launches new logo, to roll out campaign 'Life Ko Banao Rich'.

Q. Which Indian public sector companies are set to actively search for critical mineral assets overseas, according to the government announcement?

A) Coal India, NTPC, Indian Oil Corporation

B) NMDC, ONGC Videsh Ltd, GAIL (India) Limited

C) Coal India, NMDC, ONGC Videsh Ltd

D) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Oil India Limited, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited

Answer : C

✓ Coal India, NMDC, ONGC Videsh to actively scout for critical mineral assets abroad: Govt

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✓ The government said public sector companies Coal India, NMDC and ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), will start looking actively for critical mineral assets overseas.

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- ✓ ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) is the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation. These PSUs already have some kind of presence abroad.
- Meanwhile, Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL) is a joint venture of three PSUs formed to scout for mineral assets overseas. It is owned by three public sector undertakings National Aluminium Company Ltd (Nalco), Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) and Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Ltd (MECL).
- ✓ The government-backed initiative ONDC (open network for digital commerce) has started getting traction in the e-commerce sector and so far five lakh sellers have been onboarded on the platform
- ✓ Five lakh sellers have on-boarded of which 70 per cent are small and medium sellers. In April, ONDC facilitated 7.22 million transaction
- By how many basis points (bps) did State Bank of India (SBI) increase interest rates on retail domestic Q. term deposits of less than one year tenor?

A) 10-50 bps	B) 50-100 bps
C) 75-125 bps	D) 25-75 bps

#### Answer : D

- ✓ SBI raises short-term retail fixed deposit rates by up to 75 bps
- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) has increased interest rates on retail domestic term deposits (Below ₹2 crore) by 25-75 basis points on deposits of less than one year tenor.
- ✓ India's largest bank also increased interest rates on domestic bulk term deposits (₹2 crore and above) by 10-50 basis points on five out of eight maturity buckets.
- ✓ The new interest rates are effective from May 15, 2024. This deposit rate hike comes against the backdrop of credit growth outstripping deposit growth.
- ✓ On retail domestic TDs, SBI has upped the interest rate on deposits of 46 days to 179 days from 4.75 per cent to 5.50 per cent (or by 75 basis points/bps); on deposits of 180 days to 210 days from 5.75 per cent to 6 per cent (up 25 bps); and deposits of 211 days to less than 1 year from 6 per cent to 6.25 per cent (up 25 bps).

### **SBI IN NEWS 2023-24**

State Bank of India (SBI) has increased interest rates on retail domestic term deposits (Below ₹2 crore) by 25-75 basis points on deposits of less than one year tenor.

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State Bank of India (SBI) recently announced it has become the first trading-cum-clearing member at the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX).

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- > SBI partners with HCLSoftware for digital transformation.
- Aurionpro secures a significant deal with SBI for iCashpro+, a cash management platform. Valued at Rs 100 crore, it involves phased delivery over 12 months, followed by 6-year maintenance.
- > LIC emerged as the most valued Indian PSU firm, surpassing SBI.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a Line of Credit (LOC) of Euro 70 million (about Rs 630 crore) with German development bank KfW to promote solar projects in the country.
- > SBI Mutual Fund got permission from the RBI to buy up to a 9.99% share in Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.
- > Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates SBI branch in Sri Lanka.
- State Bank of India ropes in MS Dhoni as brand ambassador.
- SBI has launched a 'Mobile Handheld Device' as part of its financial inclusion drive in a bid to improve accessibility and convenience.
- > The tenure of State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Dinesh Khara has been extended till August 2024.
- State Bank of India has introduced a digital facility for Non-Resident Indians to effortlessly open Non-Residential External and Non-Resident Ordinary accounts through its mobile app YONO.
- State Bank of India has launched its 'Nation First Transit Card', a RuPay prepaid instrument under the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) that can be used nationwide.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has raised Rs 10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.54 percent through its third infrastructure bond issuance.
- > STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI )
- Founded : 1 July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara
- Imperial Bank of India was previous name of SBI
- > The presidency Banks of Bengal, Bombay and Madras with merged in 1921 to Imperial Bank of India.
- > Tagline of State Bank of India
  - (1) Pure Banking Nothing Else
  - (2) With you all the way
  - (3) A bank of the common man



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- (4) The banker to every Indian
- (5) The Nation banks on us.
- > It is one of the largest and oldest banks in India.

Q. Cristiano Ronaldo topped Forbes' list of highest-paid athletes for the fourth time in his career. He is from which country?

A) Portugal

B) Spain

C) Norway

**D)** Netherlands

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo topped Forbes' list of highest-paid athletes for the fourth time in his career while Spanish golfer Jon Rahm moved up to second following his sensational switch to Saudi-backed LIV Golf.
- ✓ Ronaldo became the world's highest-paid athlete after his move to Saudi Arabian side Al-Nassr and Forbes said the 39-year-old's estimated total earnings were in the region of \$260 million, an all-time high for a soccer player.
- ✓ His on-field earnings amounted to \$200 million while his off-field earnings were \$60 million thanks to sponsorship deals where brands make use of his 629 million Instagram followers
- ✓ Third on the list is record eight-times Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi, who made a lucrative switch to Major League Soccer side Inter Miami, helping the Argentine World Cup winner earn \$135 million. The 36-year-old has earned \$65 million in on-field earnings but \$70 million off it thanks to deals with major sponsors such as Adidas and Apple.
- ✓ Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James is fourth at \$128.2 million and although the 39-year-old.
- ✓ World's top 10 highest paid athletes 2024
  - 1. Cristiano Ronaldo, football: \$260m
  - 2. Jon Rahm, golf: \$218m
  - 3. Lionel Messi, football: \$135m
  - 4. LeBron James, basketball: \$128.2m
  - 5. Giannis Antetokounmpo, basketball: \$111m
  - 6. Kylian Mbappe, football: \$110m
  - 7. Neymar, football: \$108m



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- 8. Karim Benzema, football: \$106m
- 9. Stephen Curry, basketball: \$102m
- 10. Lamar Jackson, American football: \$100.5m
- Q. Which organization recently unveiled the carbon reduction initiative of SFO Technologies?

A) DRDO	B) BHEL
C) ISRO	D) CSIR

#### Answer : C

- ✓ ISRO Chairman S Somanath unveiled SFO Technologies' carbon reduction initiative, aiming for a 50% reduction by 2035 and zero emissions by 2040.
- ✓ At NeST HiTek Park, he planted a sapling and unveiled a Chandrayaan replica, highlighting SFO's cooperation with ISRO.
- ✓ Somanath also discussed the Indian space sector's growth, projecting it to reach USD 9-10 billion in 5-10 years from its current USD 2 billion.

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

- ISRO Chairman S Somanath unveiled SFO Technologies' carbon reduction initiative, aiming for a 50% reduction by 2035 and zero emissions by 2040.
- ISRO achieved yet another milestone in design and manufacturing by successfully conducting a long duration test of the PS4 engine of the PSLV stage.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Chairman S Somanath announced on 16 April 2024 that India aims to achieve debris-free space by 2030.
- Proba-3 Mission of Proba-3 Mission of ESA to Study Sun will be Launched by ISRO
- to Study Sun will be Launched by ISRO
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chandrayaan -3 mission team was awarded the 2024 John L "Jack" Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration by the US-based Space Foundation.
- 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.

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- > 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

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- > 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. Project Astra, a multimodal AI agent, recently in news is developed by:

A) Google	B) OpenAI
C) C-DAC	D) IndiaAI

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, Google at the company's annual developer conference, presented an early version of Project Astra.
- ✓ It is a new multimodal AI agent developed by Google.
- ✓ It is capable of answering real-time questions fed to it through text, video, images, and speech by pulling up the relevant information.
- ✓ It can see the world, remember where one has left a thing and even answer if a computer code is correct by looking at it through the phone's camera.
- ✓ It is more straight-forward, there is no range of emotional diversity in its voice.
- ✓ It is not limited to smartphones. Google also showed it being used with a pair of smart glasses.
- ✓ Project Astra can learn about the world, making it as close as possible to a human-assistant-like experience.
- ✓ What is multimodal model AI?
- ✓ A multimodal model is a ML (machine learning) model that is capable of processing information from different modalities, including images, videos, and text.
- ✓ For example, Google's multimodal model, Gemini, can receive a photo of a plate of cookies and generate a written recipe as a response and vice versa.
- Q. Phawngpui National Park is located in which one of the following states?
  - A) Sikkim

B) Mizoram

C) Himachal Pradesh

D) Uttarakhand

259

Answer : B



✓ A rare hemi-parasitic terrestrial plant named Phtheirospermumlushaiorum has been found in Phawngpui National Park in Mizoram.

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- $\checkmark$  About Phtheirospermumlushaiorum:
- ✓ It is a new species of hemi-parasitic terrestrial plant.
- ✓ These hemi-parasitic plantslackafully developed root system and form connections with another plant, from which theyobtain some or all of theirwater and minerals.
- ✓ Such plants have chlorophyll and produce their own food by photosynthesis, and in some cases, are capable of limited growthin the absence of the host plant.
- ✓ They tap into the sap-conducting tissue of the host by means of specialized structures called haustoria.
- ✓ The new species has been found in Phawngpui National Park of Mizoram.
- Key Facts about Phawngpui National Park:  $\checkmark$
- ✓ It is located in the Lawngtlai district under the Lai Autonomous District Council of Mizoram, towards the southeast bordering Myanmar.
- 0. With reference to India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC), consider the following:

1. It will provide a reliable and cost-effective cross-border ship-to-rail transit network to supplement existing maritime routes.

2. It will comprise two separate corridors, the east corridor connecting India to the Gulf and the northern corridor connecting the Gulf to Europe.

3. Beyond the transport infrastructure, undersea cables and long-distance hydrogen pipelines are also part of the project.

How many of the above given statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

#### Answer : C

- ✓ An Indian delegation recently paid a visit to the UAE for the first time to hold discussions with the key entities there on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC).
- ✓ About India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC):
- It was announced on the sidelines of the G20 meeting in New Delhi when a memorandum of understanding  $\checkmark$ was signed between the European Union and seven countries, namely India, the US, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), France, Germany, and Italy.

260



- ✓ The corridor will provide a reliable and cost-effective cross-border ship-to-rail transit network to supplement existing maritime routes.
- ✓ The IMEEC will comprise two separate corridors, the east corridor connecting India to the Gulf and the northern corridor connecting the Gulf to Europe.
- The corridor will include a shipping route connectingMumbai and Mundra (Gujarat) with the UAE, and a rail network connecting the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Jordanwith the Israeli port of Haifato reach the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.
- In which one of the following Wildlife Sanctuary, Sri Lankan golden-backed frog was recently Q. rediscovered?
  - A) Talley Valley WildLife Sanctuary **B)** Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary
  - C) Nilgiri Wildlife Sanctuary
- D) Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary

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#### Answer : D

- ✓ Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India, in partnership with the Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Board, rediscovered the Sri Lankan golden-backed frog (Hylarana gracilis) after two centuries in the Koundinya wildlife sanctuary in the Chittoor district.
- ✓ It is located in Palamner Kuppam forest ranges of Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh.
- It is the only sanctuary in the whole state housing Asian elephants.
- ✓ This Sanctuary comes under Project elephant a Country wide Elephant Conservation Project taken up by Government of India
- Q. With reference to Calcium carbide, consider the following statements:
  - 1. It is commonly used for ripening of fruits.
  - 2. It is a highly reactive compound and releases acetylene gas.
  - 3. It causes serious health issues such as dizziness and frequent thirst.

How many of the above given statements are correct?

A) One Only

C) All three

D) None

**B)** Two only

Answer : C



The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has alerted traders'/fruits handlers/Food Business Operators (FBOs) operating ripening chambers to strictly ensure compliance with the prohibition on calcium carbide for artificial ripening of fruits, particularly during the mango season.

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- ✓ It is a compound with the chemical formula CaC2 and also known as 'masala'.
- ✓ It is commonly used for ripening fruits like mangoes, releases acetylene gas which contains harmful traces of arsenic and phosphorus.
- ✓ Manufacturing: It is manufactured by heating a lime and carbon mixture to 2000 to 2100°C (3632 to 3812°F) in an electric arc furnace.
- ✓ It has been prohibited as per the provision in the sub-regulation of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulation, 2011.
- $\checkmark$  Application
- $\checkmark$  It is used in mining and metal industries as well as in the production of acetylene gas.
- ✓ It is a highly reactive compound and releases acetylene gas which is used to artificially ripen fruits
- Health impacts  $\checkmark$
- It can cause serious health issues such as dizziness, frequent thirst, irritation, weakness, difficulty in swallowing, vomiting and skin ulcers, etc
- Which company will invest Rs 600 crore for setting up two ethanol manufacturing plants in the Q. country?

262

A) Torrent Power	B) JSW Energy
C) Nayara Energy	D) ReNew Power

Answer : C

- ✓ Nayara Energy, a private downstream company, is planning to invest Rs 600 crore for setting up ethanol manufacturing plants in the country.
- $\checkmark$  The move is in line with the government's target of 20% ethanol blending for FY26.
- The company plans to set up two ethanol manufacturing plants, each with a production capacity of 200  $\checkmark$ kiloliters per day (KLPD), in Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

0. Which country has become the first country to lose all Glaciers?

A) Argentina	B) Peru
C) Caracas	D) Venezuela



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#### Answer : D

- ✓ Venezuela becomes first country to lose all Glaciers
- ✓ Venezuela is the first modern country to lose all of its glaciers, which is a huge change in the environment.
- ✓ New research shows that the Humboldt glacier in the Andes, which used to be very big, has shrunk to less than 2 hectares, which means it is no longer a glacier but an ice field.
- ✓ The Sierra Nevada de Mérida Mountain range in Venezuela used to have six glaciers. As of 2011, five of these glaciers had melted away, leaving only the Humboldt glacier.

Q. Nandini Dairy will sponsor which country's cricket team in the ICC T20 World Cup 2024?

A) IrelandB) BangladeshC) ScotlandD) South Africa

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Nandini dairy to sponsor for Scotland for T20 World Cup
- ✓ Scotland cricket team has unveiled its new ICC T20 World Cup jersey with Karnataka Milk Federation's (KMF) Nandini logo.
- ✓ The Nandini logo is featured in the leading arm of the jersey in both English and Kannada. The jersey was launched in Edinburgh by members of the playing squad.
- The Nandini brand, which is a household name in Karnataka, is sponsoring Scotland and Ireland teams in the forthcoming T20 World Cup.
- ✓ The tournament is set to begin from June 2 in the West Indies and the USA.
- ✓ The sponsorship amount is around Rs 2.5 crore per team. Further, the KMF is also launching Nandini Splash, a whey-based energy drink in the US during the tournament.
- Q. Noted storyteller and Padma Shri awardee Malti Joshi passed away at the age of 90 years. In which year was he honored with the Padma Shri?

A) 2018	B) 2022
C) 2023	D) 2021

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Noted storyteller and Padma Shri awardee Malti Joshi passed away at the age of 90 years.
- ✓ Malti Joshi was known for her work in Hindi and Marathi language. She was awarded Padam Shri in 2018.

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 $\checkmark$  Several of Joshi's stories were adapted for television by Doordarshan, and she made appearances in television shows such as 'Saat Phere,' produced by Jaya Bachchan, and 'Kirdaar,' produced by Gulzar

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- ✓ Her stories were translated into multiple languages, including Marathi, Urdu, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Punjabi, Malayalam, Kannada, English, Russian, and Japanese, expanding her reach and influence across diverse audiences
- Who was crowned Miss Pink Nepal 2024 in a gala event held in Kathmandu, and will go on to 0. represent Nepal at the Miss International Queen 2024 competition in Thailand?
  - A) Aarohi Basnet

**B)** Sarosy Neupane

C) Anmol Rai

D) Aarohi Rai

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Anmol Rai, a transwoman, was crowned Miss Pink Nepal 2024 in a gala event held in Kathmandu. Sarosy Neupane and Aarohi Basnet were named first and second runners-up, respectively.
- ✓ Rai will represent Nepal at the Miss International Queen 2024 competition in Thailand later this year. The event highlighted Nepal's advancements in LGBTQ rights
- Which Indian table tennis duo clinched the mixed doubles title at the WTT Cappadocia Feeder Q. tournament in Turkey?
  - A) Anirban Ghosh and Swastika Ghosh
  - **B)** Poymantee Baisya and Akash Pal
  - C) Sathiyan Gnanasekaran and Manika Batra
  - D) Sharath Kamal and Mouma Das

#### Answer : B

- ✓ In Table Tennis Poymantee Baisya And Akash Pal Clinch Mixed Doubles Title At WTT Cappadocia Feeder In Turkey
- ✓ The Indian table tennis duo of Poymantee Baisya and Akash Pal clinched mixed doubles title at World Table Tennis (WTT) Feeder tournament held in Cappadocia, Turkey.
- ✓ The duo secured their triumph after a fierce battle against fellow Indians Anirban Ghosh and Swastika Ghosh. In a nail-biting encounter Baisya and Akash emerged triumphant with a hard-fought 3-2 victory, securing the prestigious title.



This was the second WTT title for Pal and Baisya. The Indian table tennis pair had stunned their senior compatriots Sathiyan Gnanasekaran and Manika Batra to win the mixed doubles crown in Beirut in March.

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- ✓ In the men's singles, national champion Harmeet Desai lost to Yuta Tanaka 3-1 (11-8, 7-11, 11-6, 11-8) in the round of 16. Harmeet Desai will represent India at the Paris Olympics in the men's singles and team events.
- What is the name of the mission unveiled by ISRO that aims to land a rover and helicopter on Mars, 0. potentially making India the third nation to achieve this feat?

A) Chandrayaan-3

**B)** Gaganyaan

C) Vikram-2

D) Mangalyaan-2

Answer : D

- ✓ India's renowned space agency, the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), is on the verge of a historic milestone: a mission to land a rover and helicopter on Mars.
- ✓ This ambitious endeavour, a feat so far accomplished only by the US and China, aims to firmly establish India's place as a significant player in the realm of space exploration.
- The details about the upcoming ambitious project by Isro, named Mangalyaan-2, were made public during  $\checkmark$ a presentation on National Technology Day(May 11) at the Space Application Centre.
- Which two Indian boxers clinched gold medals at the Elorda Cup 2024 in Kazakhstan? Q.
  - A) Mary Kom and Pooja Rani B) Nikhat Zareen and Minakshi
  - C) Sarita Devi and Lovlina Borgohain D) Simranjit Kaur and Saweety Boora

Answer : B

- ✓ Nikhat Zareen And Minakshi Clinch Gold Medals At Elorda Cup In Kazakhstan.
- ✓ In Boxing, India's reigning world champion, Nikhat Zareen and another boxer Minakshi clinched gold medals at the Elorda Cup 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- ✓ Nikhat in the women's 52 kg category, triumphed over Zhazira Urakbayeva of Kazakhstan with a 5-Nil victory, while Minakshi defeated another Uzbekistan boxer Rahmonova Saidahon, 4-1 in the women's 48 kg event.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Anamika in the 50kg and Manisha in the 60kg suffered losses to end their campaigns with silver medals.



The Indian pugilists concluded their Elorda Cup 2024 campaign with 12 medals, including two gold, two  $\checkmark$ silver and eight bronze medals

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Q. Who recently passed away at the age of 85, and had served as the former Vice-Chairman of Tech Mahindra?

A) Anand Mahindra	<b>B) Vineet Nayyar</b>
C) None of these	D) C.P. Gurnani

#### Answer : B

- Vineet Nayyar, former Vice-Chairman of Tech Mahindra passed away at the age of 85.
- A former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, Nayyar also worked with the World Bank for over 10 years in a series of senior assignments, including the Chief for the Energy, Infrastructure and the Finance Divisions for East Asia and Pacific. He was the first Chairman of state-owned GAIL (India) Ltd from 1986 to 1991.
- ✓ In the private sector, he served as the Managing Director of HCL Corporation and as the Vice Chairman of HCL Technologies. He was also the founder & CEO of HCL Perot Systems.
- Who won the Thailand Open Super 500 badminton tournament in the men's doubles category? Q.
  - A) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty
  - B) Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi
  - C) Kento Momota and Hiroyuki Endo
  - D) Viktor Axelsen and Anders Antonsen

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the Thailand Open Super 500 badminton tournament with a straight-game win over Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi of China
- ✓ The Thailand Open title was the eighth title for Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty pai on the BWF World Tour. The Indian pair had won the Swiss Open, the Indonesia Open and the Korea Open in 2023.
- ✓ Men Singles Title :
- ✓ Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia defeated Ng Ka Long Angus of Hong Kong in the final to win the men's singles title.
- ✓ Women's Single Title

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- Supanida Katethong of Thailand defeated Han Yue of China to win the women's single title.
- Women's Doubles title:
- ✓ Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai pair of Thailand, defeated the Indonesian pair of Fabriana Dwipuj Kusuma and Amallia Cahaya Partiwi.

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- Men's Doubles :
- ✓ Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty defeated the Chinese duo of Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi in the final.
- When is the International Museum Day observed globally? Q.

A) 15 May	B) 16 May
C) 17 May	D) 18 May

#### Answer : D

- ✓ The International Museum Day is celebrated on 18 May, since 1977, to raise awareness about the fact that "Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples."
- Theme of International Museum Day 2024 : "Museums for Education and Research"
- It is coordinated by the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

Q.	The World AIDS Vaccine Day is marked on annually		
	A) 17 May	B) 16 May	
	C) 15 May	D) 18 May	

#### Answer : D

- ✓ World AIDS Vaccine Day, (also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day), is observed annually on May 18 to promote the continued urgent need for a vaccine to prevent HIV infection and AIDS.
- ✓ The concept of World AIDS Vaccine Day was proposed on May 18, 1997, during commencement speech at Morgan State University made by then-President Bill Clinton, which underlined the need of a vaccine to curb the spread of HIV.
- The first World AIDS Vaccine Day was thus observed on May 18, 1998 to commemorate the anniversary of Clinton's speech.



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Q. The World Bee Day is observed on which day of the year?

A) 20 May B) 19 May

C) 18 May D) 17 May

#### Answer : A

- The World Bee Day is celebrated every year on May 20 to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem.
- ✓ The theme for World Bee Day 2024 is "Bee Engaged with Youth."
- ✓ The day marks the birth anniversary of Anton Jansa in 1734, who in the 18th century pioneered modern beekeeping techniques in his native Slovenia.
- ✓ The day was proposed by Slovenia and proclaimed by UN Member States in December 2017.
- ✓ The first World Bee Day was observed in 2018.
- Q. What substance did the FSSAI warn traders and food businesses against using for artificial fruit ripening during the mango season?

A) Ethylene		B) Calcium	carbide

C) Potassium permanganate D) Sodium nitrate

#### Answer: B

- FSSAI warns traders, food businesses against use of calcium carbide for artificial fruit ripening during mango season.
- ✓ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued a stern reminder to fruit traders, handlers, and Food Business Operators (FBOs) managing ripening chambers to adhere strictly to the prohibition of using calcium carbide for artificial fruit ripening.
- This alert comes at a critical time, particularly during the mango season, to safeguard public health and ensure compliance with the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011.
- Calcium carbide, often used for ripening fruits like mangoes, releases acetylene gas containing harmful traces of arsenic and phosphorus, also referred to as 'Masala'. These substances pose severe health risks, including dizziness, frequent thirst, irritation, weakness, difficulty in swallowing, vomiting, and skin ulcers. Additionally, acetylene gas poses hazards to handlers, with potential for direct contact with fruits, leaving dangerous residues.



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### FSSAI IN NEWS 2023-24

- FSSAI warns traders, food businesses against use of calcium carbide for artificial fruit ripening during mango season.
- > FSSAI to check Spices after Singapore & Hong Kong Ban Indian Spices.
- FSSAI is working towards creating a network of 34 microbiology labs across the country that will be equipped to test food products for 10 pathogens.
- FSSAI has awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification to 150 railway stations so far for ensuring safe, hygienic and nutritious food options for passengers.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) introduced a new provision called 'Special Category' in the FOSCOS portal.
- FSSAI has recently recognized the Mithun as a 'food animal,' opening doors for its commercial use found in Arunachal Pradesh.
- > Defence ministry, FSSAI to promote use of millets, healthy eating habits among armed forces.
- Guwahati Railway Station of the Northeast Frontier Railway has been awarded the 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI, for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.
- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated the stateof-the-art National Training Centre for Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- Varanasi Cantt Railway Station of the Indian Railways has been awarded the 5-Star 'Eat Right Station' certification for providing high quality nutritious food to the passengers.
- The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has awarded the food provided by the Bulandshahr prison of Uttar Pradesh a five-star rating and the tag 'Eat Right Campus'. Bulandshahr Jail is the second prison after Farrukhabad jail to get this tag from Uttar Pradesh..
- G Kamala Vardhana Rao was appointed the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which is a consolidating statue related to food safety and regulation in India.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- ➢ Founded : 2008
- > Headquarters : New Delhi

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- Chairperson : Rajesh Bhusan
- > CEO : G Kamala Vardhana Rao

# Q. Which state-owned bank recorded the highest growth rate in total business and deposit mobilisation among public sector lenders in FY24?

- A) State Bank of India
- **B)** Punjab National Bank
- C) Bank of Baroda
- D) Bank of Maharashtra

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Bank of Maharashtra tops among PSU banks in business growth in FY24
- ✓ State-owned Bank of Maharashtra recorded the highest growth rate last fiscal in terms of total business and deposit mobilisation among public sector lenders at a time when most banks are facing difficulty in achieving double-digit growth.
- ✓ The Pune-headquartered lender has registered a 15.94 per cent rise in the total business (domestic) in FY24, followed by State Bank of India (SBI) with 13.12 per cent growth, according to published financial numbers of the public sector banks (PSBs).
- ✓ BoM continued to maintain its top spot in terms of growth in deposit mobilisation, with a 15.66 per cent rise in FY24. It was followed by SBI (11.07 per cent), Bank of India (11.05 per cent) and Canara Bank (10.98 per cent). Out of 12 public sector banks, only these four lenders could log a double-digit growth in deposits in the financial year 2023-24.
- ✓ In terms of low-cost CASA deposits, the Bank of Maharashtra continued to top the chart with 52.73 per cent growth, followed by the Central Bank of India with a 50.02 per cent rise at the end of March 2024.
- ✓ With regard to loan growth, the Kolkata-based UCO Bank was a tad higher at 16.38 per cent, followed by BoM at 16.30 per cent. SBI also reported 16.26 per cent growth in advances in FY24.
- ✓ In terms of capital adequacy ratio, the Bank of Maharashtra was leading PSBs at 17.38 per cent, followed by Indian Overseas Bank at 17.28 per cent and Punjab & Sind Bank at 17.16 at the end of FY24.



Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI):

1. It is the principal financial institution for promotion, financing and development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector in India.

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2. At present, it is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI). 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

- ✓ Airbus Helicopters and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for financing the purchase of Airbus' helicopters in India.
- ✓ About Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI):
- ✓ It was set up on 2nd April, 1990, under an Actofthe Indian Parliament.
- ✓ Purpose: To act as the principal financial institution for promotion, financing, and development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector, as well as for the co-ordination of functions of institutions engaged in similar activities.
- It is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, GoI.  $\checkmark$
- ✓ It was incorporated initially as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI).
- ✓ Currently, the shares of SIDBI are held by the Government of India (GoI) and 22 other institutions/PSBs/insurance companies owned or controlled by the Central Government.
- ✓ Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- SIDBI helps MSMEs in acquiring the funds they require to grow, market, develop, and commercialize their  $\checkmark$ technologies and innovative products.

### SIDBI IN NEWS 2023-24

- > Airbus Helicopters and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for financing the purchase of Airbus' helicopters in India.
- > SIDBI inks MOU with Jeevika Bihar, UMED Maharashtra to extend Prayaas to rural livelihood mission.

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> FSIB recently recommended the name of IFCI Managing Director Manoj Mittal as SIDBI Chairman and Managing Director.

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- SIDBI partners fintech platform KarmaLife for micro loans to gig workers.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has received \$24.5 million from Green Climate Fund (GCF) for its maiden anchored project 'Avaana Sustainability Fund (ASF)' valued at \$120 million.
- Bihar state government has signed an MoU with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to promote the startup ecosystem in the state
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- Founded : 2 April 1990
- Headquarteres : Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- Chairman & MD : Siva S Ramann

Which countries have been confirmed as the hosts for the 2026 and 2029 AFC Women's Asian Cup? **Q**.

- **B)** China and India A) Japan and South Korea
- C) Australia and Uzbekistan D) Thailand and Vietnam

### Answer : C

- ✓ Australia and Uzbekistan confirmed as 2026 and 2029 AFC Women's Asian Cup hosts.
- ✓ Australia and Uzbekistan have been confirmed as the hosts of the 2026 and 2029 editions of the AFC Women's Asian Cup respectively, the Asian Football Confederation said.
- ✓ The AFC Executive Committee ratified the AFC Women's Football Committee's recommendations at its third meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ✓ Australia will host the continent's premier women's national team competition for the second time in history, having staged the 2006 edition. Uzbekistan will become the first Central Asian nation to organize the tournament

### **UPCOMING SPORTS VENUE IN NEWS 2024**

- Australia and Uzbekistan confirmed as 2026 and 2029 AFC Women's Asian Cup hosts.
- Brazil was declared the host of the 2027 Women's World Cup at the FIFA.
- ▶ India will host the BWF World Junior Championships 2025 at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati.



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- Saudi Arabia will host the 2034 Asian Games in Riyadh, its capital city.
- Saudi Arabia is to host the 2034 Men's FIFA World Cup.
- England will host the 2027 World Test Championship (WTC) final in June, marking the fourth consecutive time
- South Africa is hosting the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2024.
- Prime Minister inaugurated the Khelo India Youth Games and expressed the government's commitment to hosting the 2029 Youth Olympics and the 2036 Olympic Games in the country

Q. R21/Matrix-M vaccine, recently seen in the news, is developed for the prevention of which one of the following diseases?

**B)** Measles

A) Mumps

C) Diphtheria

-----

D) Malaria

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Vaccines manufacturer Serum Institute of India (SII) recently said it has started exports of 'R21/Matrix-M' malaria vaccine to Africa as part of the global fight against the disease.
- ✓ About R21/Matrix-M Vaccine:
- ✓ It is a new vaccine approved for the prevention of malaria in children.
- ✓ It is the second malaria vaccinerecommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), following the RTS,S/AS01 vaccine, which received a WHO recommendation in 2021.
- ✓ The vaccine was developed by the Jenner Institute at Oxford University and the Serum Institute of India with support from the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership ('EDCTP'), the Wellcome Trust, and the European Investment Bank ('EIB')
- ✓ This low-cost, high-efficacy vaccine is already licensed by several African countries.
- Q. Which global provider of supply chain solutions has launched operations at Integrated Chennai Business Park, a free trade warehouse zone (FTWZ) near Chennai?

273

A) FedEx	B) UPS
C) DP World	D) DHL

#### Answer : C

✓ DP World opens free trade warehouse zone in Chennai



 $\checkmark$  Dubai's DP World, a global provider of supply chain solutions, announced the launch of operations at Integrated Chennai Business Park, the company's free trade warehouse zone (FTWZ) at Manali, about 30 km north of Chennai.

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- The Chennai facility is the company's second FTWZ in India after the one in Mumbai, which is 18 months old, said Ranjit Ray, Vice President-Economic Zones, Middle East, North Africa, and Subcontinent. The third, inside the Kochi Port container terminal, which is operated by DP World, will be ready soon, he told mediapersons at the facility in Manali.
- The unit in Chennai is the largest of the three, at 125 acres and 2 million sq ft of warehouse space; in Mumbai  $\checkmark$ it is 85 acres (also 2 million sq ft) and in Kochi 10 acres (0.2 million sq ft).
- Q. Following the tragic death of Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash, who is set to assume the role of interim president?
  - A) Ali Khamenei **B)** Mohammad Mokhber C) Hassan Rouhani D) Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Iran President Raisi dies in helicopter crash; Mohammad Mokhber to become as interim president.
- Iran's hardline President Ebrahim Raisi tragically died in a helicopter crash in the mountainous northwestern region of Iran. Alongside President Raisi, several other significant figures were on the helicopter, all of whom are presumed dead.
- Ebrahim Raisi, 63, was a conservative cleric and former judiciary chief. He had a reputation for his hardline stance and was known for his involvement in severe crackdowns on political dissent. He was dubbed "the butcher" by Iran's opposition due to his role in the execution of thousands of political prisoners in the late 1980s.
- ✓ For the time being, First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber will take over Raisi's duties. Mokhber is a former head of Setad, a powerful conglomerate fund that supports Khamenei's hold on power.

Who recently made history as the first Indian space tourist and the second Indian to venture into Q. space?

A) Rakesh Sharma

B) Kalpana Chawla

C) Gopi Thotakura

**D)** Sunita Williams

274

Answer : C



### Gopi Thotakura makes history, becomes 1st Indian to go to space as tourist.

✓ Indian expatriate Gopi Thotakura made history as the first Indian space tourist and the second Indian to venture into space, joining the crew for Amazon founder Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin's NS-25 mission.

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- ✓ Blue Origin successfully completed its seventh human spaceflight and the 25th flight for the New Shepard program.
- ✓ Gopi Thotakura was one of six crew members. The astronaut crew also included Mason Angel, Sylvain Chiron, Kenneth L. Hess, Carol Schaller, and former Air Force Captain Ed Dwight. Dwight was selected by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 as the nation's first black astronaut candidate but never had the opportunity to fly.

#### Q. Who has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to join IDFC FIRST Bank Ltd. as its Whole Time Director for a three-year term?

D) Deepak Jain

- A) Rajesh Kumar **B)** Pradeep Natarajan
- C) Anil Sharma

#### Answer : B

- ✓ RBI approves appointment of Pradeep Natarajan as IDFC FIRST Bank's Whole Time Director
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Mr. Pradeep Natarajan's joining IDFC FIRST Bank Ltd. as Whole Time Director Mr. Natarajan will serve a three-year term in this role.
- ✓ The bank further said it will take the necessary steps to complete the formalities for the appointment of Natarajan as Executive Director.
- How much money has the government recovered under the amnesty scheme for exporters for one-Q. time settlement of defaults in export obligation by holders of advance and EPCG authorizations?
  - A) Rs 652 crore

B) Rs 752 crore

C) Rs 852 crore

D) Rs 952 crore

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Govt recovers Rs 852 crore under amnesty scheme for exporters
- ✓ The government has recovered about Rs 852 crore under the amnesty scheme for exporters for one-time settlement of default in export obligation by the holders of advance and EPCG authorisations.
- The figures are likely to increase further as the exercise is on for the compilation of the data. The government has fixed March 31 as the last date for payment of customs duty plus interest.

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- $\checkmark$  Under the scheme, 6,705 applications were filed and as per the provisional figures, an amount of about Rs 852 crore has been recovered. This figure is further expected to increase.
- Q. Who received the first stamp released to commemorate the completion of 200 years of Indian Origin Tamils in Sri Lanka?
  - A) Narendra Modi

B) Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

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C) Senthil Thondaman

D) Ram Nath Kovind

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Indian spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar received the first stamp released commemorating the completion of 200 years of Indian Origin Tamils in Sri Lanka. Governor of the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka Senthil Thondaman presented the stamp to Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.
- Mr. Thondaman said the stamp is a way to attain recognition for the community which has been neglected for decades. He thanked the Indian government as well as the Sri Lankan government for the assistance given to the IOT community.
- Which banking group has partnered with Pine Labs to revamp payment solutions in the MENAT Q. region?
  - A) HSBC
  - **B) Standard Chartered**
  - **C)** Emirates NBD
  - **D)** Citibank

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Emirates NBD Join hands with Pine Labs to Revamp Payment Solutions in MENAT Region
- ✓ Emirates NBD, a leading banking group in the Middle East, North Africa, and Turkey (MENAT) region, has partnered with Pine Labs, a prominent merchant commerce omnichannel platform.
- ✓ This collaboration aims to provide companies across the region with the latest and best payment solutions, significantly enhancing digital payment systems for both online and in-store transactions.
- ✓ As part of its ambitious growth plans, Emirates NBD is leveraging Pine Labs' Credit+ platform to offer its corporate and institutional clients state-of-the-art merchant acquiring processing solutions. The rollout will begin in the UAE and subsequently extend to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

276



Q. Which bank has become eligible to apply for a universal banking license due to meeting the stringent asset quality norms set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

A) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

B) Equitas Small Finance Bank

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C) Bandhan Bank

D) AU Small Finance Bank

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank becomes eligible for universal banking license
- ✓ Due to the stringent asset quality norms set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Ujjivan Small Finance Bank meets the eligibility criteria to apply for a universal banking licence.
- ✓ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has met all the criteria established by the regulatory authority. The bank's gross non-performing assets ratio stood below 3% and net NPA ratio below 1% for two consecutive years, making it entitled to apply for a licence

Q. Where was the Yachting Association of India (YAI) Senior National Championship 2024 held?

A) Goa	B) Chennai
C) Mumbai	D) Kolkata

#### Answer : C

- ✓ YAI Senior National Championship 2024 held in Mumbai
- ✓ The Yachting Association of India (YAI) Senior National Championship 2024 concluded after intense competition at the Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre (INWTC) in Mumbai.
- ✓ The championship featured all eight Olympic classes of boats and attracted 82 participants from 10 sailing clubs nationwide. A total of 94 races, including four medal races, determined the champions.

**B) RXIL TReDS** 

**D) NABARD** 

- ✓ Teams from Army and Navy combined won the largest medal haul.
- Q. Which platform has surpassed INR 1 trillion (1 lakh crore) in invoice financing for MSMEs?
  - A) NSE Emerge
  - C) SIDBI

### Answer : B

- ✓ RXIL TReDS Surpasses INR 1Trillion (1 Lakh Crore) in Invoice Financing for MSMEs
- ✓ RXIL TReDS Surpasses INR 1Trillion (1 Lakh Crore) in Invoice Financing for MSMEs. MSME contributing over 30% to GDP, faces estimated credit gap of around Rs.28.2 lakh crores.

277



✓ RXIL's Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform has achieved a milestone by facilitating financing of over 50 lakh invoices worth ₹1,00,000 crore since its inception

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- ✓ This milestone underscores the platform's role in providing accessible working capital financing solutions to MSMEs, crucial for economic growth and India's journey towards achieving a Rs. 5 trillion economy.
- In fiscal year 2024, RXIL witnessed exponential growth in monthly invoice financing volumes, currently enabling financing of over INR 6,000 crores monthly. With a target of financing INR 75,000 crore worth of invoices in FY 25, RXIL aims to further elevate its performance, demonstrating its commitment to fostering the growth and prosperity of MSMEs nationwide
- Q. Which country has become the first modern nation to lose all of its glaciers, as confirmed by climate scientists?

A) Peru	B) Chile
C) Argentina	D) Venezuela

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Venezuela becomes the first nation to lose all of its glaciers
- ✓ Venezuela is the first modern country to lose all of its glaciers, after the Latin American country lost its last remaining glacier on the Pico Humboldt peak was downgraded by climate scientists as an ice field.
- ✓ The International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI), a scientific advocacy organisation, said the La Corona glacier was now too small to be considered as a glacier, which may spark wider concerns over the effects of climate change.
- Venezuela had been home to six glaciers in the Sierra Nevada de Mérida mountain range, which lies at about 5,000m above sea level, but lost five of them by 2011.

The government is expected to receive approximately what percentage more in dividends from public Q. sector banks (PSBs) compared to FY23?

A) 20%	B) 25%
C) 30%	D) 35%

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Govt will receive 30% more dividend from public sector banks in FY24
- The government will get about 30 per cent more dividends from public sector banks (PSBs) in FY24 vis-avis FY23 due to handsome payouts declared by them on the back of strong financial performance.

278



✓ A back-of-the-envelope calculation shows that PSBs will pay dividends aggregating ₹18,013 crore to the government in FY24 against ₹13,804 crore in the preceding financial year.

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- This calculation does not take into account the 15 per cent dividend distribution tax as the same also goes  $\checkmark$ to the government. Out of 12 PSBs, 10 have declared dividends.
- The top four PSBs to pay rich dividends (relative to face value) in FY24 are State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BoB), Canara Bank and Indian Bank. Central Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank did not declare dividend.
- Q. The second edition of India, Australia, Indonesia Trilateral Maritime Security Workshop (TMSW) conducted in which city?

A) Chennai	B) Kochi
C) Visakhapatnam	D) Mumbai

#### Answer : B

- ✓ The second edition of India, Australia, Indonesia Trilateral Maritime Security Workshop (TMSW) concluded after discussing the ongoing maritime security challenges and opportunities for collaboration between the three maritime neighbours in the region.
- The theme of the workshop was 'Indian Ocean Region: Collaborative Efforts to Enhance Regional Maritime Security'.
- The exercise was conducted at INS Dronacharya, Kochi, India.
- Which bank has executed transaction documents to acquire a 6.125 per cent stake in CCIL IFSC Q. Limited for ₹6.125 crore?

A) Canara Bank	B) Punjab National Bank
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C) State Bank of India

D) Kotak Mahindra Bank

#### Answer : C

- ✓ State Bank of India has executed transaction documents to acquire a 6.125 per cent stake in CCIL IFSC Limited for ₹6.125 crore.
- CCIL IFSC, which will be incorporated with an authorized and paid-up capital of ₹200 crore and ₹100  $\checkmark$ crore, respectively, will operate the foreign currency settlement system and act as a clearing house and system operator at the IFSC within GIFT City.

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The indicative period for completion of the transaction (acquisition of 61.25 lakh equity shares at ₹10 each) is up to six months from the date of execution of transaction documents.

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- ✓ The Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL) is promoting CCIL IFFSC. CCIL will have a 57.125 per cent stake in the proposed company.
- Q. The world's highest competitive swimming pool has been opened in which country?

A) China	B) Russia

C) Japan **D)** Bhutan

#### Answer : D

- ✓ World highest competition swimming pool opens in Bhutan
- ✓ World Aquatics has announced the opening of the first-ever competitive swimming pool at a record altitude of 2,400 meters above sea level in Bhutan.
- ✓ The pool is part of the Pools for All Program to promote aquatic sports in the region.
- Swimming's global governing body launched the program in 2019 to ensure accessible aquatics facilities to  $\checkmark$ more countries and regions.
- Nishad Kumar, who was seen in news in May 2024 for achieving a remarkable achievement, is Q. associated with which of the following sport?

A) Archery	B) Shooting
C) Shotput	D) High jump

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Nishad Kumar and Preethi Pal have clinched silver and bronze at the World Para Athletics Championships in Kobe, Japan.
- ✓ Kumar, a Paralympic silver medalist, secures India's first medal with a 1.99m high jump in the T47 category, finishing second.
- ✓ Preethi Pal then added a bronze to India's tally after finishing third in the women's T35 200m final with a time of 30.49 seconds.

280

When is the United Nations recognised International Tea Day observed? Q.

A) May 20	B) May 19
<b>C)</b> May 21	<b>D)</b> May 18



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#### Answer : C

- ✓ The United Nations recognised International Tea Day is observed annually on May 21 by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to raise awareness of the deep cultural and economic significance of tea around the world and promote its importance in fighting hunger and poverty.
- ✓ The day was adopted by United Nations on December 21, 2019.

### Q. When is the World Metrology Day observed?

A) 21 May	<b>B) 20 May</b>
<b>C) 18 May</b>	<b>D) 19 May</b>

#### Answer : B

- ✓ The World Metrology Day is observed on 20 May to celebrate the International System of Units.
- ✓ Metrology is the study of measurement.
- ✓ The theme for World Metrology Day 2024 is 'Sustainability',.
- ✓ 20 May marks the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875, by representatives of seventeen nations.
- Q. Which day of the year is marked as the National Anti Terrorism Day in India?
  - A) May 21
  - B) May 19
  - C) May 20
  - D) May 18

#### Answer : A

- ✓ In India, the National Anti Terrorism Day is observed on May 21 to commemorate the death anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi.
- ✓ The day is also observed to spread the message of peace, harmony, and humankind and to promote unity among the people.
- Rajiv Gandhi was India's youngest Prime Minister. He was appointed as the sixth Prime Minister of the country and served the nation from 1984 to 1989.
- ✓ Mr Gandhi was assassinated on May 21, 1991 by a human bomb.



Q. When is the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development celebrated?

A) May 18	<b>B) May 19</b>
C) May 20	<b>D) May 21</b>

#### Answer : D

- ✓ The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is held every year on May 21.
- ✓ The day aims to celebrate the richness of the world's cultures and highlight the significance of its diversity as an agent of inclusion and positive change for achieving peace and sustainable development.

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✓ In 2001, UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and in December 2002, the UN General Assembly declared May 21 to be the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.

Q. What is the rank of India in World Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index 2024 of WEF?

A) 28	<b>B)</b> 3	39
<b>C)</b> 45	D)	34

#### Answer: B

- ✓ India jumps to 39 rank in WEF Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024.
- ✓ India was ranked 39 out of 119 countries in the recently released Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024 by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- ✓ The United States of America was ranked no.1, while India was the topmost-ranked country in South Asia.
- ✓ <u>Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024</u>
- ✓ The Travel and Tourism Development Index is a biennial report released by the World Economic Forum(WEF). The first Index was released in 2022.
- ✓ Earlier, the WEF used to publish the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI), biennially since 2007. The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index was replaced by the Travel and Tourism Development Index.
- ✓ The Travel and Tourism Development Index benchmarks and measures the set of factors and policies that enable the sustainable and resilient development of the Travel and tourism sector, which plays a role in a country's development.



✓ The 2024 Travel and Tourism Development Index was prepared in collaboration with the University of Surrey, England.

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- $\checkmark$  This year, 119 countries have been ranked on the Index.
- ✓ The Travel and Tourism Development Index gives scores to a country based on 17 pillars and 102 individual indicators. The maximum score is 7, while the lowest score is 1.
- The top five ranked countries in the world according to the 2024 Travel and Tourism Development Index  $\checkmark$ are as follows:
  - 1. United States of America -score of 5.24
  - 2. Spain -score 5.18
  - 3. Japan -score 5.09
  - 4. France -score 5.07
  - 5. Australia -score 5.00
- Bottom Ranked countries
  - 119. Mali score 2.78
  - 118. Sierra Leone -Score 2.9
- ✓ World Economic Forum
- ✓ The World Economic Forum is a non-profit international think tank that was set up by German Klaus Schwab of Germany in 1971 to promote Public-Private Cooperation.
- ✓ According to the WEF, it is a platform that brings together the government, non-government, business, academics, and other stakeholders and to find common solutions to global issues.
- Headquarters of WEF: Cologny, Switzerland √
- ✓ Report Released by WEF
- ✓ As a research organisation, it releases several reports. Some of the important reports released by WEF are as follows:
- ✓ Global Gender Gap Report,
- ✓ Global Competitiveness Report,
- ✓ Energy Transition Index,
- ✓ Global Travel and Tourism Report,
- ✓ Global IT Report in collaboration with INSEAD and Cornell University.

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Q. Which country has topped the WEF's World Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index 2024? A) Japan **B)** Germany **C)** France **D) United States** Answer : D ✓ The top five ranked countries in the world according to the 2024 Travel and Tourism Development Index are as follows: 1. United States of America -score of 5.24 2. Spain -score 5.18 3. Japan -score 5.09 4. France -score 5.07 5. Australia -score 5.00 Q. Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024 was recently released by which organization? **B)** World Economic Forum A) UNESCO C) World Bank D) UNDP Answer : B Consider the following statements with reference to the International Booker Prize: 0. 1. It is awarded annually for the finest single work of fiction from around the world translated into English and published in the United Kingdom. 2. It is awarded only to the authors who belong to the United Kingdom. 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, Kairos' by Jenny Erpenbeck, translated by Michael Hofmann, has won the International Booker Prize 2024. It is awarded annually for the finest single work of fiction from around the world which has been translated into English and published in the UK and/or Ireland. This prize began life in 2005 as the Man Booker International Prize. Follow us: Official Site, Telegram, Facebook, Instagram, Instamojo 284



 $\checkmark$  It was initially a biennial prize for a body of work, and there was no stipulation that the work should be written in a language other than English.

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- ✓ This prize aims to encourage more reading of quality fiction from all over the world, and has already had an impact on those statistics in the UK.
- ✓ Eligibility: Eligible work of long-form fiction, written originally in English by an author of any nationality, and published in the UK and/or Ireland.
- $\checkmark$  Prize money
- ✓ The prize celebrates the vital work of translators, with the £50,000 prize money divided equally between the author and the translator.
- $\checkmark$  In addition, the shortlisted authors and translators each receive £2,500.

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

- Kairos' by Jenny Erpenbeck, translated by Michael Hofmann, has won the International Booker Prize 2024.
- > Chhattisgarh's environmental activist and convenor of Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan Alok Shukla has been selected for the 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize
- > Noted Hindi film superstars Hema Malini and Saira Banu as well as other prominent personalities from the fields of art and culture, will be honoured with the prestigious Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award
- > Tata Group Chairman Ratan Tata was honoured with the prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award 2021.
- Amitabh Bachchan will receive Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award
- Kannada poet, Mamta Ji Sagar was honored with the World Literary Prize for her contribution to literature by the World Organization of Writers (WOW)
- > India's premier national space agency, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chandrayaan -3 mission team was awarded the 2024 John L "Jack" Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration by the US-based Space Foundation.
- > SJVN Limited was awarded the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award 2024 for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Contribution
- Renowned economist Utsa Patnaik receives the 2023 Malcolm Adiseshiah Award, an honor granted annually by the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust.



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

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- > Narendra Modi receives Bhutan's Order of the Druk Gyalpo Award.
- > Amitav Ghosh has been awarded the 'Erasmus Prize' 2024 for highlighting the climate change crisis
- Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal has become the first Indian to be awarded an honorary knighthood by Britain's King Charles III
- Shashi Tharoor, a prolific author and a diplomat-turned-politician, was conferred France's highest civilian honour 'Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur'.
- PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and MS Swaminathan are set to receive India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna.
- Karpoori Thakur, a renowned socialist leader and former Chief Minister of Bihar, is set to be posthumously conferred with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.
- > Another recipient of the Bharat Ratna Award for the year 2024 is Lal Krishna Advani.
- Dr. Bina Modi, the esteemed Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, has been honored with the prestigious 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year' Award.
- > REC Secures Best Green Bond Corporate Award At The Asset Triple A Awards 2024.
- > PT Usha Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award by SJFI and DSJA
- > Priest Ishwari Prasad Namboodiri Honored with the Shankar Smriti Award
- > The 69th edition of the Filmfare Awards 2024 took place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Best Film 12th Fail
- Best Director Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)
- > Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
- Australia skipper Pat Cummins was announced as the winner of the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2023.
- > Veteran Indian batter Virat Kohli was crowned the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2023.
- > Skyways Air Services wins Best Cargo Services Award at Wings India Awards.
- > REC Limited Wins ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting FY 2022-23.
- > US Air Force Officer Madison Marsh Becomes First Active-Duty Winner Of Miss America 2024
- Savita Kanswal Posthumously Honored With Tenzing Norgay Award



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- Singapore's Changi Airport Earns The Title Of World's Best Airport For 2023
- Hero MotoCorp's facility wins CII National Award for water management
- > Prof B R Kamboj Honoured With M S Swaminathan Award
- > Poet Sukrita Paul Kumar Wins Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for 'Salt & Pepper'
- Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport Terminal 2 Recognized Among UNESCO's 'Most Beautiful Airports'
- > IREDA's Pradip Kumar Das Wins 'CMD Of The Year' For The Second Straight Year.
- > Poonam Khetrapal Singh Honored with Bhutan's National Order of Merit.
- Indira Gandhi Peace Prize Awarded to Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad"
- Noted Hindi Writer Pushpa Bharati to Receive 33rd Vyas Samman for her 2016 memoir, "Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein."
- > Federal Bank Titled "Bank of the Year 2023" in India : The Banker
- Argentina's football icon, Lionel Messi, has been named Time magazine's Athlete of the Year for 2023
- > Abdullahi Mire, a Somali refugee, has been named the 2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award
- > Paul Lynch who is an Irish author won the 2023 Booker prize for his fifth novel 'Prophet Song'
- > Tamil writer Perumal Murugan's 'Fire Bird' Wins 2023 JCB Prize for Literature

Q. Who among the following has won the men's single title at the 2019 Italian Open?

A) Rafael Nadal

**B)** Novak Djokovic

C) Alexander Zverev

**D)** Dominic Thiem

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Alexander Zverev won the single title of the Italian Open tennis tournament, while the women's singles title was won by the world no.1 player Iga Swiatek.
- ✓ This was the second Italian open title for Alexander Zeverv, while it was the third Italian title for Iga Swiatek.
- German Alexander Zeverv defeated the first-time Masters finalist Nicolas Jarry of Chile in straight sets 6-4,
   7-5 to win the 2024 Italian Open Masters 1000 title. This was also Zeverv's second Italian Open title.
- ✓ The 2024 Italian Open title was the overall eighth Masters title for Tokyo Olympic gold medal winner Alexander Zeverz



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Q. Who has won the women's singles title of the 2024 Italian Open tennis tournament?

- A) Iga Swiatek B) Aryna Sabalenka
- C) Elena Rybakina D) Coco Gauff

#### Answer : A

- ✓ World no.1 Iga Swiatek of Poland defeated Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in straight sets 6-2 6-3 to win her 21st career title.
- This was the third Italian Open title for Iga Swiatek in the last four years. Last year she failed to qualify for the final.
- ✓ Doubles winner of Italian open
- ✓ In the men's doubles the pair of Marcell Granollers (Spain) and Horacio Zeballos (Argentina) defeated the pair of Mate Pavic(Croatia) and Marcelo Arevalo (El Salvador) in straight sets 6-2 6-2.
- ✓ In the women's doubles, the Italian pair of Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini defeated the
- ✓ pair of Coco Gauff (America) and Erin Routliffe (New Zealand) in the final
- Q. Which institute has recently presented a research report on 'Air pollution and health effects in North India'?

A) IIT Mumbai	B) IIT Delhi
C) IIT Jaipur	D) IIT Varanasi

#### Answer : C

- Recently, researchers from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur have published a research in the journal Nature Communications, which describes the sources and composition of particulate matter (PM) harmful to human health in North India.
- ✓ In this research, the oxidative capacity of Indian PM has been found to be five times higher than that of Chinese and European cities.

### **IIT IN NEWS 2023-24**

- Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) and IIT Guwahati incubation center sign MoU to boost startup ecosystem
- Experimental Licence Module for 100 5G Labs' launched at IIT Madras

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> President of India Draupadi Murmu launched India's first domestic gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay.

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- > 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.

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> IIT Kanpur has signed an MoU with private lender ICICI Bank to support the startup ecosystem in the institute.

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- > 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 dronebased 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.

Who has been elected as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2024-25? **Q**. A) Sanjiv Puri **B)** Rajiv Memani

C) Sanjay Nayar	D) <mark>Anish S</mark> hah
C) Sanjay Nayar	D) Anish Sha

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Sanjiv Puri, ITC MD elected CII President for 2024-25.
- ✓ Chairman and Managing Director of ITC, Sanjiv Puri, has been elected as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2024-25. Sanjiv Puri replaces R Dinesh, Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions as the President of CII.
- ✓ Rajiv Memani has been appointed as the new President-Designate, and R Mukundan has been elected as the new Vice President of the CII for 2024-25
- ✓ Sanjiv Puri is currently the Chairman & Managing Director of ITC Ltd. Sanjiv Puri is an alumnus of IIT, Kanpur, and Wharton School of Business, United States of America.
- ✓ He was appointed Chairman of the Expert Group on agri-exports set up by the 15th Finance Commission. He has also been a member of the NITI Aayog Group on 'Farm to Table-driving India's agriculture sector digitally'.
- Sanjiv Puri was given the 'Best CEO Award' by Business Today in 2024. He was also honoured with the 'Transformational Leader Award 2022-23' by the Asian Centre for Corporate Governance and Sustainability.



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- ✓ R Mukundan as Vice President of Cii 2024-25
- ✓ About Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)
- ✓ The Confederation of Indian Industry is one of the oldest business lobby groups in India. It traces its origin to the setting up of the Engineering and Iron Trades Association in Bengal in 1895. After many changes in its name, it was renamed as Confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI) in 1986.
- ✓ It assumed its present name, Confederation of Indian Industry, in 1992.
- ✓ It is an industry lobby group which represents business groups in India and puts pressure on the government to make business-friendly policies.
- ✓ Headquarters: New Delhi.
- ✓ Apart from the CII, the other important business lobby groups in India are
- ✓ Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)- President Sanjay Nayar
- ✓ Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) -Dr. Anish Shah is the President for 2023-2024
- ✓ National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)- Debjani Gosh, President of NASSCOM since 2018
- Q. Who has been elected as the president of Vietnam?
  - A) Bùi Thanh Sơn
  - B) Lê Thành Long
  - C) Phạm Thị Thanh Trà
  - D) Lo Tam

#### Answer : D

- ✓ To Lam elected as the New President of Vietnam.
- ✓ General To Lam was elected as the new president of Vietnam by the Vietnamese parliament on 22 May 2024.
- To Lam, who was the public security minister, was removed from his post as minister by the Vietnamese parliament before being elected president.
- The appointment comes after Vietnam's former President Vo Van Thuong resigned two months back amid a corruption crackdown
- ✓ <u>General To Lam to be president for 2021-2026 tenure</u>



# Vietnam is ruled by one party—the Communist Party of Vietnam. General To Lam who is a member of the Communist Party's politburo, was the only candidate for the president post. He was elected by Vietnam's

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parliament—the National Assembly—for a tenure till 2026.

- ✓ The National Assembly of Vietnam has 500 members who are elected for 5 years and sit two times a year. The National Assembly elects the president and vice president of Vietnam
- ✓ About Vietnam
- ✓ Vietnam is a communist country which lies in Southeast Asia.
- ✓ Capital : Hanoi
- ✓ Currency : Dong
- ✓ Prime Minister :Pham Minh Chinh
- ✓ President : To Lam

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

- William Lai Ching-te : Taiwan
- Lo Tam : Vietnam
- José Raúl Mulino : Panama
- Peter Pellegrini : Slovakia
- Abdel Fatah al-Sisi : Egypt
- Prabowo Subianto : Indonesia
- Tamás Sulyok : Hungary
- Alexander Stubb : Finland
- Azali Assoumani : Comoros
- Bernardo Arevalo : Guatemala
- William Lai : Taiwan
- Daniel Noboa : Ecuador
- Mohammed Muizzu : Maldives
- Bharatvanshi Tharman Shanmugaratnam : Singapore
- Emmerson Mnangagwa : Zimbabwe
- Edgars Rinkevics : Latvian
- > Tayyip Erdogan : Turkey
- Bola Tinubu : Nigeria

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- Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu : Bangladesh
- Ram Chandra Paudel : Nepal
- > Xi Jinping : China (third term)

#### Q. The PM-WANI Scheme, recently seen in the news primarily aims to:

A) establish fiber optic networks across the country

- B) encourage the use of digital payments and e-commerce in rural markets
- C) provide affordable and high-speed internet connectivity to the public in remote areas
- D) develop a centralized digital infrastructure for public services

#### Answer : C

- Public wifi hotspots under the Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme are nearing the 2-lakh mark in the country.
- ✓ About PM-WANI Scheme:
- ✓ It was launched by the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) in December 2020 to provide affordable and high-speed internet connectivity to the public in rural and remote areas of the country.
- ✓ The scheme aims to establish a public Wi-Fi network across the country through the creation of Wi-Fi Access Points (WAPs) set up by public data offices (PDOs).
- The WAPs will operate on an open-architecture system, allowing multiple service providers to offer their services to the public through a single platform.
- PM-WANI ecosystem: It consists of four parts: Public Data Office (PDO), Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA), App Provider, and Central Registry.
- ✓ PDO establishes Wi-Fi hotspots and provides internet access to users. There shall be no license required by PDOs from the DoT for providing broadband Internet through these public Wi-Fi networks.
- PDOA provides authorisation and accounting services to PDOs. PDOA provides user interface for the user to buy a plan and keep track of their data consumption. PDOA need not pay any license fees.
- The small shopkeepers can become PDOs as last-mile access service providers and take services from PDOAs for Internet and backend services



Q. The 2024 Travel and Tourism Development Index has been prepared by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with which institution?

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A) Surrey University, England.

- B) University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
- C) University of Oxford, United Kingdom
- D) Harvard University, United States

#### Answer : A

- The 2024 Travel and Tourism Development Index was prepared in collaboration with the University of Surrey, England.
- Which UN body has signed a MoU with the government of india for India's first animal vaccine Q. supply chain management?

A) UNEP	B) UNDP
C) WEF	D) WHO

#### Answer : B

- ✓ DAHD & UNDP MoU on Digitalisation of Animal Vaccine Cold Chain Mgmt.
- ✓ Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) under the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India on Digitalization of Vaccine Cold Chain Management, Communication Planning and Capacity Building.
- ✓ The agreement was signed by Alka Upadhyay, Secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, and Caitlin Wiesen, UNDP Resident Representative in India in New Delhi
- ✓ India is the most populous country in the world with 142.86 Crore people, 53.57 Million farm animals and 85.18 Million poultry. To keep these animals healthy, the government has started a vaccination programme.
- ✓ Also, humans who are in close contact with infected animals can become infected with various Zoonotic diseases, such as bird flu and coronavirus.
- ✓ Zoonotic diseases refer to diseases caused in humans due to viruses, bacteria, etc., being transmitted from an infected animal to a human who is in close contact with the infected animal.
- The government has adopted a One Health Approach to deal with this problem.



 $\checkmark$  The UNDP will support and strengthen India's first animal vaccine supply chain management system to protect communities and animals and prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases.

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- ✓ <u>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</u>
- ✓ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was set up by the United Nations in 1965 by merging United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance with the United Nations Special Fund.
- $\checkmark$  The UNDP focus on three main areas:
- Sustainable development  $\checkmark$
- ✓ Democratic governance and peacebuilding
- ✓ Climate and disaster resilience
- Headquarters: New York, the United States of America.  $\checkmark$
- Administrator : Achim Steiner.

#### Who won the first gold medal for India at the 11th World Para Athletics Championship 2024? Q.

- A) Deepthi Jeevanji **B)** Poonam Agrawal
- C) Preethi Pal

D) Ekta Bhyan

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Deepthi Jeevanji sets a world record in women's 400 m T20 event.
- ✓ Deepthi Jeevanji of Telangana has set a new world record in the 400-meter T 20 event at the World Para Athletics Championship 2024.
- ✓ She clocked a world record timing of 55.07 seconds.
- $\checkmark$  India has won five medals so far in the championships: 2 gold, 3 silver, and 2 bronze.
- ✓ First Gold medal for India at World Para Athletics Championship
- ✓ Tha Hangzhou Asian Games Paralympics champion Deepthi Jeevanji won the first gold for India at the World Para Athletics Championship.
- ✓ She broke the world record of American Breanna Clark's record of 55.12 seconds in 400 meters T 20 events. Deepthi Jeevanji broke the record with a time of 55.07 seconds.
- ✓ With this win, Deepthi Jeevanji also qualified for the 2024 Paris Summer Paralympics.
- $\checkmark$  T 20 events are for the 'mentally impaired 'athletes
- ✓ Ekta Bhyan wins second gold for India

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✓ 38-year-old Ekta Bhyan won India's second gold medal at the World Para Athletics Championship in the women's F51 club throw competition. She threw 20.12 meters to win the gold.

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- ✓ Ekta, a Haryana Civil Services (HCS) officer, had won a bronze medal in the 2018 Asian Para Games in China.
- ✓ The first medal for India in the 11th World Para Athletics Championships 2024 was won by Nishad Kumar. He won a silver medal in the men's high jump T47 event. He cleared the height of 1.99m.
- ✓ In the women's 200m T35 event.
- ✓ Preethi Pal won a bronze medal in the 200m T35 event, clocking 30.49, It is India's first-ever para track medal in the tournament.
- ✓ India won a record 10 medals—three gold, four silver, and three bronze—at the 10th World Para Athletics Championships 2023, held in Paris, France.
- ✓ The 11th World Para Athletics Championship is being held in the Japanese city of Kobe from 17 -25 May 2024.
- EKta Bhyan who was in recently, belongs to which field? 0.
  - A) Para-athlete
  - **B)** Gymnastics
  - C) Alpine skiing
  - **D)** skating

#### Answer : A

- ✓ She is a para-athlete and won a gold medal in the World Para Athletics Championship 2024 in the women's F51 club throw event.
- Who won the first medal for India at the 11th World Para Athletics Championship 2024? Q.
  - A) Rampal Chahar
  - C) Vijay Singh Chauhan
- **B) Nikhil Chittarasu**
- **D)** Nishad Kumar

#### Answer : D

The first medal for India in the 11th World Para Athletics Championships 2024 was won by Nishad Kumar. He won a silver medal in the men's high jump T47 event. He cleared the height of 1.99m



- Q. William Lai Ching-te, who has become the new president of Taiwan, belongs to which political party?
  - A) Kuomintang

**B)** New Power Party

C) Democratic Progressive Party

D) Taiwan People's Party

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#### Answer : C

- ✓ William Lai Ching-te takes oath as the new President of Taiwan
- ✓ William Lai Ching-te was sworn in as the new president of the Republic of China or Taiwan on 20 May 2024. It marks the third consecutive term for the ruling Democratic Progressive Party. The outgoing president, Tsai-Ing Wen, was also from the Democratic Progressive Party. Lai Ching-te was the vice president under the Tsai-Ing Wen administration.
- ✓ Vice President Hsia Bi-khim also took the oath as the country's vice president
- ✓ Taiwan is an island country in the West Pacific Ocean. It lies around 160 km from the southeastern coast of China.
- ✓ China, officially known as the People's Republic of China, views Taiwan as a breakaway province that must become part of It. The Chinese government has not ruled out using force to integrate Taiwan into China.
- Q. Who among the following has won the men's single title at the 2019 Italian Open?
  - A) Rafael Nadal
  - **B)** Novak Djokovic
  - C) Alexander Zverev
  - **D)** Dominic Thiem

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Alexander Zverev won the single title of the Italian Open tennis tournament, while the women's singles title was won by the world no.1 player Iga Swiatek.
- ✓ This was the second Italian open title for Alexander Zevery, while it was the third Italian title for Iga Swiatek.
- ✓ German Alexander Zeverv defeated the first-time Masters finalist Nicolas Jarry of Chile in straight sets 6-4, 7-5 to win the 2024 Italian Open Masters 1000 title. This was also Zeverv's second Italian Open title.
- The 2024 Italian Open title was the overall eighth Masters title for Tokyo Olympic gold medal winner Alexander Zeverz



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Q. Who has won the women's singles title of the 2024 Italian Open tennis tournament?

- A) Iga Swiatek B) Aryna Sabalenka
- C) Elena Rybakina D) Coco Gauff

#### Answer : A

- ✓ World no.1 Iga Swiatek of Poland defeated Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in straight sets 6-2 6-3 to win her 21st career title.
- ✓ This was the third Italian Open title for Iga Swiatek in the last four years. Last year she failed to qualify for the final.
- ✓ Doubles winner of Italian open
- ✓ In the men's doubles the pair of Marcell Granollers (Spain) and Horacio Zeballos (Argentina) defeated the pair of Mate Pavic(Croatia) and Marcelo Arevalo (El Salvador) in straight sets 6-2 6-2.
- In the women's doubles, the Italian pair of Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini defeated the pair of Coco Gauff (America) and Erin Routliffe (New Zealand) in the final
- Q. Where was the 'India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System conference organised recently?

A) Mumbai, Maharashtra	B) Guwahati, Assam
C) Chennai, Tamil Nadu	D) Hyderabad, Telangana

#### Answer: B

- ✓ Union Ministry of Law and Justice, in association with the Assam Government, has organised a two-day conference, 'India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System', in Guwahati, Assam, on 18th- 19th May 2024.
- ✓ The aim of the conference was to create awareness about the recent changes made by the government in repealing British-era criminal law and the enactment of new laws related to the criminal justice system in the country
- ✓ The recently enacted three laws which seek to overhaul the criminal justice system of the country are as follows:
- ✓ Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, which will replace the Indian Penal Code 1860,
- ✓ Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, which will replace the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and
- ✓ Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 which will replace the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

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✓ President of India has notified that these three new laws related to the Indian criminal justice system will be implemented on July 1, 2024.

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- ✓ Thus to make the legal fraternity and other stakeholders aware of these three laws, the Conference has been organised by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice
- Which European country has recently granted country status to Palestine? Q.
  - A) Norway, Ireland and Spain **B)** Norway, Portugal and France
  - C) Germany, Greece and Italy D) Norway, Portugal and Spain

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Norway, Ireland and Spain recently granted statehood status to Palestine in a historic move. In protest against this decision, Israel has ordered the recall of its ambassadors from Norway and Ireland. Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre said in his decision that it will be officially announced from May 28
- Which day of the year is celebrated as the International Day for Biological Diversity? Q.

A) 20 May	B) 22 May
C) 21 May	D) 19 May

#### Answer : B

- The International Day for Biological Diversity (also known as World Biodiversity Day) is a United Nationssanctioned international day held on May 22 every year to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.
- The theme of the 2024 International Day for Biodiversity is 'Be part of the Plan'.
- Q. Which Indian public sector company has been awarded third in the world at the ATD BEST Awards 2024?
  - A) NTPC Limited
  - **B) SJVN**
  - C) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)
  - **D)** Power Finance Corporation (PFC)

#### Answer : A

✓ NTPC secures 3rd rank at ATD BEST Awards 2024.



✓ The public sector company NTPC was awarded the third rank in the world at the ATD BEST Awards 2024. The award ceremony was held in New Orleans, United States of America, on 21 May 2024

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- ✓ ATD BEST Awards
- ✓ The Association of Talent Development (ATD), USA, gives the ATD BEST Awards in the field of Learning and Development. The award was instituted in 2003.
- $\checkmark$  The award recognises small and large private, public and not-for-profit organisations that use talent development as a strategic business tool and demonstrate enterprise-wide success through effective employee development practices.

#### **NTPC IN NEWS 2023-24**

- > NTPC was awarded the third rank in the world at the ATD BEST Awards 2024.
- > NTPC inks pact with RINL for supply of limestone.
- > NTPC Limited, India's largest power company, launches the latest edition of Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM), aligned with the Government's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initiative.
- > 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.

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> NTPC Group's total installed capacity reaches 72,304 MW with first overseas capacity addition in Bangladesh.

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- 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**. What was the approximate average price per share at which HDFC Bank sold its stake in Protean eGov Technologies?
  - A) Rs 1,100.50 **B)** Rs 1,120.75 C) Rs 1,160.15 D) Rs 1,180.90

#### Answer : C

- ✓ HDFC Bank exits Protean eGov Technologies; sells entire stake for ₹150 crore.
- ✓ Private sector lender HDFC Bank sold its entire 3.20 per cent stake in Protean eGov Technologies for Rs 150 crore through an open market transaction.
- ✓ According to the bulk deal data available with the BSE, HDFC Bank sold 12,94,326 shares, amounting to a 3.20 per cent stake in Protean eGov Technologies. The shares were offloaded at an average price of Rs 1,160.15 apiece, taking the transaction value to Rs 150.16 crore.
- Meanwhile, Nippon India Mutual Fund purchased 12.78 lakh shares or 3.16 per cent stake in Protean eGov  $\checkmark$ Technologies for Rs 148 crore.

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### HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- > HDFC Bank exits Protean eGov Technologies; sells entire stake for ₹150 crore.
- International Finance Corporation (IFC) has provided \$500 million loan to HDFC Bank for extending microloans to "underserved women" in rural and semi-urban India.
- > HDFC Bank launches Pixel Play, India's First Virtual Credit Card with Cashback.
- > HDFC Bank, Atal Innovation Mission empower social sector startups with Rs 19.6 crore grants.
- Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (MUFG) will to acquire a 20 per cent stake in HDB Financial Services, a non-banking subsidiary of HDFC Bank, at a valuation of \$9-10 billion.
- > HDFC becomes first private bank to open branch in Lakshadweep.
- > HDFC Bank proposes to sell 100% stake in its subsidiary HDFC Education.
- HDFC Bank has appointed Sumant Rampal as Group Head of Mortgage Business, in the place of Arvind Kapil.
- > HDFC Bank Raises \$300 Million via Bond Issue to Fund Green Loans.
- ▶ HDFC Bank to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank.
- LIC gets RBI nod for 9.99% stake buy in HDFC Bank.
- > HDFC Bank first lender to issue 20 million credit cards.
- > HDFC Bank approves re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as chairman for 3 years.
- > HDFC Bank has recently raised Rs 7,425 crore through infrastructure bond issue.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as HDFC Bank MD
   & CEO for a period of three years.
- HDFC Bank Launches India's First Co-Branded Hotel Credit Card named 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card' in partnership with Marriott International.
- > HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is highest paid bank CEO in FY23 with Rs 10.55 crore pay.
- > HDFC Bank overtakes SBI in CRISIL's corporate banking ranking for 2023.
- > Food delivery platform Swiggy has joined hands with HDFC Bank to launch a co-branded credit card.
- ➢ HDFC BANK
- Founded : 1994
- > Founder : Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan



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Tagline : We understand your world

# Q. How much dividend will the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) pay to the government for the fiscal year ending March 31?

A) Rs 1.05 lakh crore	B) Rs 1.50 lakh crore

C) Rs 2.01 lakh crore

D) Rs 2.11 lakh crore

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Government gets Rs 2.11 lakh crore from RBI by way of dividend.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) will pay a record Rs 2.1 lakh crore dividend to the government for the fiscal ended March 31, more than double of what was budgeted expectation, helping shore up revenue ahead of a new government taking office. The RBI board approved the transfer of surplus, the central bank said.
- ✓ The government had budgeted a receipt of Rs 1.02 lakh crore as dividends from the RBI, public sector banks and financial institutions in the interim budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025) presented in February this year.
- ✓ The dividend or surplus transfer by the RBI to the Centre was Rs 87,416 crore for the fiscal 2022-23. The previous high was Rs 1.76 lakh crore in 2018-19.

Q. What license has Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services received from the insurance regulator IRDAI?

A) Brokerage license

C) Underwriting license

**B)** Corporate agency license

D) Reinsurance license

- Answer : B
- ✓ Mahindra & Mahindra Finance secures IRDAI license to offer tailored insurance plans.
- ✓ Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services said it has received corporate agency licence from insurance regulator IRDAI, which will enable it to sell life and general insurance policies offered by various insurers.
- The registration shall be valid from May 21, 2024 to May 20, 2027
   ✓ The registration as 'Corporate Agent (Composite)' will enable the company to undertake supplemental business activity of soliciting and procuring insurance business in the areas of life, health and general insurance both group and individual.



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- Q. What was the main focus of Exercise Cyber Suraksha 2024, which CDS Gen Anil Chauhan attended?
  - A) Enhancing nuclear capabilities B) Strengthening of
    - B) Strengthening cyber defence capabilities
  - C) Improving air force strategies
- D) Expanding naval operations

#### Answer : B

- ✓ CDS Gen Anil Chauhan attends Exercise Cyber Suraksha 2024.
- ✓ Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan attended 'Exercise Cyber Suraksha 2024', and underscored the importance of strengthening India's cyber defence capabilities.
- The comprehensive cyber defence exercise is being conducted by Defence Cyber Agency from 20 24 May 2024. It aims to further develop Cyber Defence Capability of all Cyber security organisations and promote synergy amongst all stakeholders. It focusses on enhancing collaboration and integration among participants from various military and prominent national organizations.
- ✓ Exercise Cyber Suraksha 2024 aims to empower participants by enhancing their cyber defence skills, techniques and capabilities; share best practices, and work towards a unified and robust cyber defence posture

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

- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan attended 'Exercise Cyber Suraksha 2024', and underscored the importance of strengthening India's cyber defence capabilities
- Joint military Exercise Shakti between the Indian and the French forces will be held at the Joint Training Node of the Indian Army in Umroi, Meghalaya, from 13 -26 May 2024
- The 5th edition of the 'Dustlik' joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan begins in Uzbekistan
- Recently, a two-day 'Sagar Kavach' exercise was organised in the Lakshadweep Islands.
- A bilateral tri-service exercise Tiger Triump-24 between India and the US will be held on the Eastern Seaboard in the US from March 18 to 31.
- An Indian Army contingent on Monday departed for Seychelles to participate in the 10th edition of joint military exercise "LAMITIYE-2024" with Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF). The joint exercise will be conducted in Seychelles from March 18-27, 2024.



The naval forces of China, Iran, and Russia recently launched a joint exercise called the "Maritime Security Belt-2024" near the Gulf of Oman.

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- > The joint exercise 'Bharat-Shakti' of the three armies of India (Army, Navy and Air Force) will be organized in Asia's largest field firing range located in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- > The United States Coast Guard's (USCG) Bertholf ship reached Port Blair ahead of the 'Sea Defenders-2024' joint exercise.
- > Exercise Samudra Laksamana kicked off on February 28 and will continue until March 2, taking place at or off the coast of Visakhapatnam
- > North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) started its largest military exercise in Europe, the Steadfast Defender 2024, recently.
- > The 5th edition of the joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' is being organized at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.
- > Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships reached the Maldives recently to take part in the trilateral coast guard exercise Dosti 16
- > Indian Air Force will conduct mega exercise Vayu Shakti 2024 at Pokhran Range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on February 17.
- > The first edition of India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' is being organized in Mahajan, Rajasthan
- > India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) conducted a major air exercise, named 'Desert Knight', over the Arabian Sea.
- Indian Army contingent is taking part in the 2nd edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE. The Exercise is being conducted at Anshas, Egypt.
- > 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
- > The maiden Bilateral Maritime Exercise -Ayutthaya' between the Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was conducted.
- > The 12th edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise 2024 (Milan) is set to take place at Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27.
- ▶ Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 45 personnel reached Hanoi, Vietnam to take part in the Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023.



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- > This year's exercise will be conducted at Hanoi, Vietnam.
- > Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise "VAJRA PRAHAR 2023" commenced at the Joint
- Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya.
- A joint military exercise, "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023" is being conducted from November 16th to 29th, 2023, in Aundh (Pune), Maharashtra.
- ▶ It is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lankan army.
- > This year is the ninth edition of the exercis.
- The coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' is set to unfold its strategic manoeuvres along the Kerala and Mahe coasts.
- > Coordinated by the Indian Coast Guard.
- Much-anticipated joint exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' recently began near the western border of Rajasthan in Jaisalmer.
- Exercise CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 - 09 Nov 2023.
- > Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 commenced in Umroi Cantonment, India.
- > It is a joint bilateral training exercise between Indian & Malaysian Armed Forces.
- The 19th edition of "EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS" will be conducted from 25th September to 8th October
- > 2023 in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.

Q. Which two entities recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide financial solutions to farmers for purchasing tractors and Farm Mechanisation products?

- A) Mahindra & Mahindra and HDFC Bank
- B) VST Tillers Tractors Limited (VST) and Axis Bank
- C) John Deere and ICICI Bank
- D) TAFE (Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited) and State Bank of India (SBI)

Answer : B

✓ VST ropes in Axis Bank to offer loan to farmers.



 $\checkmark$  VST Tillers Tractors Limited (VST), a farm equipment manufacturer, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Axis Bank, to offer financial solutions to the farmers for purchasing tractors and Farm Mechanisation products.

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- ✓ As per the agreement, Axis Bank will provide financial solutions to VST's prospective customers through its network of 5370 branches.
- ✓ As per the agreement, Axis Bank will provide financial solutions to VST's prospective customers through its network of 5370 branches.
- ✓ As per the MOU both the companies would leverage their extensive footprint to reach out to the farmers community to ensure that they have an easy access to credit facility for adapting farm mechanisation

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

- VST Tillers Tractors Limited (VST), a farm equipment manufacturer, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Axis Bank, to offer financial solutions to the farmers for purchasing tractors and Farm Mechanisation products.
- Axis Bank to groom LGBTQIA+ talent for careers in banking.
- Axis Bank has recently reappointed Amitabh Chaudhry as the MD and CEO of the bank.
- Axis Bank has launched the digital US dollar Fixed Deposits (FD) tailored for Non-Resident Indian (NRI) customers at the IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) situated in GIFT City, Gujarat.
- Axis Bank to support Tata Memorial-supported National Cancer Grid.
- Axis Bank has appointed Pranam Wahi as an additional independent director of the bank for four years.
- > Axis Bank signed MoU with IRMA to promote financial inclusion and literacy in India.
- Axis Bank and Fibe Partner to launch India's First Numberless Credit Card.
- Axis Bank Launched 'NEO For Business' Banking Platform For MSMEs.
- Axis Bank Introduces 'Infinity Savings Account' with Zero Domestic Transaction Fees.
- Axis Bank partners with RBI Innovation Hub to launch Kisan Credit cards.
- Axis Bank Partners with Kiwi to Bolster 'Credit on UPI' on RuPay Credit Cards.
- Axis Bank has launched the 'one-view' feature on its mobile application which enables account management across multiple bank accounts.



Axis Bank has appointed NS Vishwanathan, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India, as non-executive chairman.

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- > Axis Bank launches Digital Onboarding platform 'Sarathi' for POS Terminals.
- > Axis Bank and India Shelter Finance Corporation ltd announce strategic partnership under the colending model.
- Axis Bank completes deal to buy Citibank's India consumer business.
- > Axis Bank Partners with OPEN to Launch a Fully Digital Current Account.
- AXIS BANK
- ▶ Founded : 1993
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Rakesh Makhija
- MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhary
- Tagline : Badhti Ka naam Zindagi

What is the name given by Microsoft to the new category of personal computers with AI features? **Q**.

A) Copilot Plus PCs

- **B)** AI-Integrated PCs
- C) Microsoft Genius PCs
- **D) Windows AI PCs**

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Microsoft Debuts 'Copilot+' PCs With AI Features.
- ✓ American technology major Microsoft debuted a new category of personal computers with AI features as it rushes to build the emerging technology into products across its business and compete with Alphabet and Apple.
- ✓ Microsoft calls them 'Copilot Plus PCs'. They come with a deeper integration of generative Artificial Intelligence (gen AI) and are touted to be the most powerful and efficient Windows devices to date. "Copilot Plus PCs provide a quantum leap in com.
- They boast a new generation Neural Processing Unit that can perform more than 48 trillion operations per second. The new devices promise faster and more efficient performance than their predecessors. Also, they can deliver smoother performance on Adobe Creative Cloud, Microsoft 365 and other productivity and creativity apps. The most notable aspect of Microsoft's latest Copilot+ PCs is the 'Recall' feature.

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The new 2-in-1 Surface Pro sports a 13.8-inch PixelSense Flow display with 2880 x 1920p resolution and pixel density of 267 ppi (pixels per inch). The company is offering the device in both the LCD and OLED options

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#### **MICROSOFT IN NEWS 2023-24**

- Microsoft Debuts 'Copilot+' PCs With AI Features.
- Microsoft invests €4 billion to drive AI growth in France.  $\triangleright$
- Microsoft unveiled the latest version of its 'lightweight' AI model the Phi-3-Mini.
- Microsoft announces VASA-1 AI model to turn images into videos.
- Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella pledges to skill 2 million Indians by 2025
- Microsoft Hits The \$3 Trillion Valuation Mark But Apple Still Remains Most Valuable Company.
- Microsoft India has unveiled the 'AI Odyssey' initiative, aiming to train 100,000 Indian developers in the latest AI technologies.
- Microsoft Completes \$69 Billion Acquisition of Activision Blizzard
- Microsoft has appointed Puneet Chandok as the new Corporate Vice President of Microsoft India and South Asia.
- > Infosys And Microsoft Collaborate For Adoption Of Generative Artificial Intelligence.
- > Microsoft has recently announced the appointment of Aparna Gupta as the new Global Delivery Center (GDC) leader
- > Meta and Microsoft have jointly announced the expansion of their artificial intelligence partnership by introducing their new large language model (LLM) called "Llama 2".
- MICROSOFT
- ▶ Founded : 1975
- ➢ Founders : Bill Gates and Paul Allen
- Headquarters : Washington DC
- Chairman : Satya Nadella
- CEO : Satya Nadella  $\geq$
- > President : Brad Smith



Q. What new role will Klaus Schwab assume at the World Economic Forum (WEF) by next January?

A) CEO

**B)** Executive chairman

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C) Chairman of the Board of Trustees D) Chief Operating Officer

#### Answer : C

- ✓ WEF founder, executive chairman Klaus Schwab to step back from current role.
- ✓ Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF), will step back from his current role and become chairman of the board of trustees by next January, the organization said.
- ✓ The Geneva-based institution said in an emailed statement it was undergoing a planned "governance evolution" from a founder-managed organization to one where the president and the managing board assume full executive responsibility.
- Schwab's goal was to create a forum for policymakers and top corporate executives to address major global issues and learn practices for leadership and management.

Q. What percentage of outsourced government contract jobs has the Karnataka state government reserved for women?

A) 25%	<b>B) 30%</b>
C) 27%	<b>D) 33%</b>

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Karnataka state govt. mandates 33% reservation for women in all outsourced jobs.
- ✓ Karnataka staye government issued an order mandating reservations for outsourced govt contract jobs across all its departments, with 33% of these posts reserved for women.
- ✓ This decision was made during a cabinet meeting in December, 2023. The government said it aims to ensure social justice and equal employment opportunities. The new rules apply to outsourced posts like vehicle drivers, data entry operators, cleaning staff, and Group D employees in state government offices.
- ✓ It aligns with the reservation policy applied to permanent govt positions. There are currently 75,000-plus employees holding outsourced jobs in govt departments.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the International Aluminium Institute (IAI)?

- A) Klaus SchwabB) Sumit Deb
- C) Nagendra Nath Sinha D) John Slaven



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#### Answer : D

- ✓ John Slaven named Vice-Chairman of International Aluminium Institute
- ✓ Vedanta Aluminium has announced the appointment of its CEO, John Slaven, as Vice-Chairman of the International Aluminium Institute (IAI).
- ✓ In this role, Slaven will lead global initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable transformation within the aluminium industry and highlighting aluminium's crucial role in advancing the energy transition towards a Zero Carbon future.
- Q. Which finance company has partnered with Tata Motors' passenger vehicles and passenger electric mobility subsidiaries to provide financing to their dealers?
  - A) Muthoot Finance B) Aditya Birla Capital
  - C) Bajaj Finance D) Indiabulls Housing Finance

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Tata Motors' arms partner with Bajaj Finance to provide financing to passenger, EV dealers.
- Tata Motors said its passenger vehicles and passenger electric mobility subsidiaries have tied up with Bajaj
   Finance for providing supply chain finance solutions to their respective dealers.
- Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV) and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPEM), subsidiaries of Tata Motors, have joined hands with Bajaj Finance to extend supply chain finance solutions to its passenger and electric vehicle dealers, the company said.
- Q. What license has Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services received from the insurance regulator IRDAI?
  - A) Brokerage license
- **B)** Corporate agency license
- C) Underwriting license
- D) Reinsurance license

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Mahindra & Mahindra Finance secures IRDAI license to offer tailored insurance plans.
- ✓ Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services said it has received corporate agency licence from insurance regulator IRDAI, which will enable it to sell life and general insurance policies offered by various insurers. The registration shall be valid from May 21, 2024 to May 20, 2027



The registration as 'Corporate Agent (Composite)' will enable the company to undertake supplemental  $\checkmark$ business activity of soliciting and procuring insurance business in the areas of life, health and general insurance — both group and individual.

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- What is one of the key aspects of the new corporate governance regulations introduced by IRDAI for Q. insurers?
  - A) Allowing conflicts of interest in key management positions
  - B) Mandating a single individual to hold both business and control functions
  - C) Requiring prior approval for the appointment of Board Chairperson
  - D) Permitting Chairpersons to hold multiple control positions

#### Answer : C

- ✓ IRDAI introduces new corporate governance regulations for insurers.
- ✓ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has asked insurance companies to seek prior approval for the appointment of their Board Chairperson, effective immediately.
- ✓ Existing Chairperson have been given until March 31, 2026, or the end of their current terms, whichever comes first, to comply with the new regulations.
- ✓ Under these new corporate governance rules, IRDAI has prohibited conflicts of interest in key management positions.
- ✓ Also, the holding of both business and control functions by a single key management person or the holding of two or more control positions by one individual is now forbidden.

How many times has POWERGRID received the ATD Best Awards for its Learning & Development Q. initiatives?

- A) Two
- C) Four

**B)** Three D) Five

#### Answer : B

- ✓ POWERGRID gets global recognition for Learning & Development, receives ATD Best Awards for the third time.
- ✓ Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, has been conferred the prestigious ATD BEST Awards 2024 for its strategic approach to talent development driving business results.

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The ATD BEST Awards, established by the Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA, is one of the most esteemed international recognitions in the field of Learning and Development (L&D).

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✓ This recognition places POWERGRID among the elite organizations worldwide in the field of Learning & Development. This is the third time POWERGRID has been honoured with the ATD BEST Award, having previously received it in 2021 and 2023.

Which AI platform has Swiggy recently partnered with to enhance its capabilities in identifying and Q. preventing fraudulent activities?

**A) PALANTIR** 

**B) DARKTRACE** 

C) None of these

**D) SHIELD** 

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Swiggy partners with SHIELD for enhanced fraud prevention.
- ✓ Swiggy has recently collaborated with SHIELD, an AI platform prioritizing device-first risk assessment, to enhance its capabilities in identifying and preventing fraudulent activities.
- ✓ By leveraging SHIELD's Device Intelligence, Swiggy aims to mitigate the misuse of promotions and dishonest practices within its Delivery Partner network. Promo abuse poses a significant challenge for online businesses worldwide, encompassing the exploitation of platform discounts, sign-up incentives, referral rewards, and time-sensitive offers.

4. Myanmar

#### Q. **Consider the following:**

- 2. Sri Lanka 1. Bangladesh
- 3. Maldives
- 5. Thailand

How many of the above are the member countries of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral **Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)?** 

A) Only two **B)** Only three D) All five **C)** Only four

#### Answer : C

✓ BIMSTEC will now be open to new members and observers after a historic first charter of the grouping came into force recently.

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### ✓ About BIMSTEC:

✓ It is a multilateral regional organization comprising seven member states lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal, constituting a contiguous regional unity.

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- ✓ Aim: Accelerating shared growth and cooperation between littoral and adjacent countries in the Bay of Bengal region.
- ✓ Formation:
- ✓ It was founded as BIST-EC in June 1997, with the adoption of the Bangkok Declaration, with Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand as members.
- ✓ It became BIMST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation) with the entry of Myanmar in late 1997, and eventually, it was named in its current form, when Nepal and Bhutan became members in 2004.
- ✓ Current Member States: Five deriving from South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand.
- ✓ Permanent Secretariat: Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- It is a sector-driven cooperative organisation in which, initially, six sectors had been included:
- ✓ Trade, Technology, Energy, Transport, Tourism, and Fisheries
- ✓ As of now, BIMSTEC has 14 priority areas of cooperation
- ✓ India is lead country for Transport & Communication, Tourism, Environment & Disaster Management, Counter-Terrorism & Transnational Crime.
- Consider the following statements with reference to the electric vertical take-off and landing Q. (eVTOL) aircraft:
  - 1. It is a low-altitude urban air mobility aircraft capable of intra and inter city transportation.
  - 2. It works based on the distributed electric propulsion technology.
  - 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

✓ An electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft is one that uses electric power to hover, take off, and land vertically.

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#### $\checkmark$ It is one of the newer technologies and developments in the aerospace industry.

✓ It is a low-altitude urban air mobility aircraft capable of carrying only a few passengers- six seaters and eight seaters.

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- $\checkmark$  Technology used:
- Most eVTOLs use distributed electric propulsion technology which means integrating a complex propulsion system with the airframe. There are multiple motors for various functions; to increase efficiency; and to also ensure safety.
- ✓ This is technology that has grown on account of successes in electric propulsion based on progress in motor, battery, fuel cell and electronic controller technologies and also fuelled by the need for new vehicle technology that ensures urban air mobility (UAM).
- $\checkmark$ Applications: Air Taxi, Delivery, Medical assistance (EMS), Cargo Transport, Recreation
- With reference to AI agents, consider the following statements: Q.
  - 1. They are systems that can engage in real-time, multi-modal interactions with humans.
  - 2. They are able to understand and learn from the context of interactions.
  - 3. They can perform complex tasks autonomously like coding and data analysis.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Known as 'AI agents', GPT-40 and Project Astra have been touted as far superior to conventional voice assistants such as Alexa, Siri, and Google Assistant.
- ✓ These are sophisticated AI systems that can engage in real-time, multi-modal (text, image, or voice) interactions with humans.
- ✓ Unlike conventional language models, which solely work on text-based inputs and outputs, AI agents can process and respond to a wide variety of inputs including voice, images, and even input from their surroundings.
- These agents perceive their environment via sensors, then process the information using algorithms or AI models, and subsequently, take actions. Currently, they are used in fields such as gaming, robotics, virtual assistants, autonomous vehicles, etc.

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- Q. What is the projected size of India's digital economy by the fiscal year 2027-28?
  - A) \$500 billion
  - B) \$750 billion
  - C) \$1 trillion
  - D) \$1.5 trillion

#### Answer : C

- ✓ India's digital economy is growing at 2.8 percent per annum and is expected to reach \$1 trillion by 2027-28, minister of state for electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said at an outreach programme.
- ✓ The minister further said the value of the IndiaAI mission will be doubled to Rs 20,000 crore from Rs 10,000 crore.
- ✓ The government earlier expected India to reach the \$1 trillion-mark by 2026-27 but the target has been moved by a year due to various reasons, including the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The minister further said the value of the IndiaAI mission will be doubled to Rs 20,000 crore from Rs 10,000 crore. The government earlier expected India to reach the USD 1 trillion-mark by 2026-27 but the target has been moved by a year due to various reasons, including the Covid-19 pandemic
- Q. Which organizations collaborated to launch the 'SAMBAV' initiative, aimed at enhancing the skills of 1 million students and professionals in new-age technologies across India?
  - A) NITI Aayog and Coursera
  - **B) AICTE and Skillible**
  - C) Ministry of Human Resource Development and Udacity
  - D) IIT Bombay and LinkedIn Learning

#### Answer : B

- ✓ AICTE and Skillible launch advanced tech ed program 'SAMBAV' to elevate 1 million students.
- ✓ The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), operating under the Ministry of Education, partnered with Skillible, a technology platform focusing on experiential learning, to introduce an innovative initiative called Skillible's Academic Model for Business-To-Academic Ventures (Sambav).
- ✓ The initiative aims to enhance the skills of 1 million students and professionals in new-age technologies across India.

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Sambav will initially provide specialisation in software development, Artificial Intelligence, cybersecurity  $\checkmark$ and salesforce development.

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✓ There are plans to expand the programme to cover additional high-demand technology domains in the future, ensuring participants stay updated with emerging trends and innovations.





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

Q. Which organization slapped penalties totalling ₹11.90 crore on 19 entities and barred them from the securities market for up to five years for indulging in a pump-and-dump scheme of shares in Superior Finlease Ltd?

A) RBI	B) SEBI
C) NABARD	D) IRDAI

#### Answer: B

- ✓ SEBI has slapped penalties totalling ₹11.90 crore on 19 entities and also barred them from the securities market for up to five years for indulging in a pump-and-dump scheme of shares in the matter of Superior Finlease Ltd.
- ✓ The regulator-imposed fines in the range of ₹10 lakh to ₹5 crore on 19 entities, including Rajneesh Kumar, Ashish P Shah and Kirtidan K Gadhavi.
- ✓ Further, Sebi also barred 17 entities, including Kumar, Shah, and Gadhavi from the securities markets for five years

#### PENALTY IN NEWS 2023-24

- > SEBI imposes ₹11.90 crore fine on 19 entities for Superior Finlease 'pump and dump
- > IRDAI imposes a fine of Rs 1 crore on IPO-bound Go Digit Insurance
- ➤ RBI has imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on IDFC First Bank for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions'.
- > RBI imposes Rs 1.31 cr fine on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.4 crore on Bank of India for noncompliance with certain regulatory norms.
- Paytm's trouble escalated further with the Financial Intelligence Unit-India slapping a ₹5.49 crore penalty on Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) for violating Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) obligations
- ➤ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to waive the ₹5 crore penalty that was previously imposed on Bank of Baroda.
- ▶ RBI imposes Rs 8.8 lakh penalty on Power Finance Corporation for non-compliance.



> Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has fined Air India ₹1.1 crore for safety violations on certain flights.

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- RBI took regulatory action imposing penalties on Bank of America, N.A. and HDFC Bank Ltd. for violations of specific norms.
- > RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs. 10,000 on Bank of America, N.A. for violating the reporting requirements under the liberalized Remittances Scheme of FEMA 1999.
- > HDFC Bank Ltd also faced a penalty of Rs.10,000 for violating directions related to the acceptance of deposits from non-residents.
- ▶ RBI Imposes ₹2.5 Crore Penalty On L&T Finance For Non Compliance.
- > This penalty has been levied due to non-compliance with specific provisions of the Non-Banking Financial Company.
- ➤ RBI Imposes ₹5.4 Crore Penalty On Paytm Payments Bank.
- > Paytm Payments Bank was penalized for "non-compliance with certain provisions of the 'Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016'."
- > Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty or ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.

Q.	What are Krish and Bhoomi, which were in the news recently?	
	A) Aircraft	B) AI news anchor
	C) Missile	D) Drone

#### Answer : B

- ✓ DD Kisan channel to launch AI anchor Krish and Bhoomi on 26 May 2024.
- The government of India-run public broadcaster Doordarshan has announced that its channel DD Kisan will launch two artificial intelligence (AI) anchors, Krish and Bhoomi, on 26 May 2024. The DD Kisan channel was launched on 26 May 2015 and is celebrating the 9th year of its foundation.
- First AI News Anchor in the World and India
- The first AI news anchor in the world was introduced by the Chinese state news agency Xinhua in 2018.  $\checkmark$ The anchor named Qiu Hao was developed by Xinhua and the Chinese search engine Sogou.



✓ In India, the first AI news anchor named Sana was introduced by the India Today group on its Aaj Tak Hindi news channel in 2023. Sana has a human-like appearance and is fed data from a computer that it can read using text-to-speech technology. She is used to giving news updates several times a day.

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#### Q. Which country has become the 99th member of the International Solar Alliance?

A) Norway

**B)** Sweden

C) Spain

**D)** Switzerland

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Spain has become the 99th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- About International Solar Alliance
- India and France conceived the idea of the International Solar Alliance as part of the effort to mobilize the countries to use solar energy to counter global warming and climate change. The Indian prime minister Narendra Modi and the French president Francoise Hollande agreed to set up the International Solar Alliance during the sidelines of the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015
- Spain
- Capital : Madrid
- Currency: Euro
- Prime Minister : Pedro Sanchez

#### **ISA IN NEWS 2023-24**

- Spain has become the 99th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- Panama has become the 97th member country of ISA.
- Malta as the 119th country to join the International Solar Alliance.
- Chile has become the 95th member of the International Solar Alliance.
- > International Solar Alliance (ISA) has announced a capital infusion of \$35 million for its Global Solar Facility (GSF), aimed at stimulating solar investments in underserved regions, particularly in Africa
- > What is the International Solar Alliance?
- The International Solar Alliance is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for  $\triangleright$ increased deployment of solar energy technologies as a means for bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries.

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▶ Initially conceived as a joint effort by India and France, ISA was conceptualized during the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) in 2015.

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- ▶ With its framework Agreement amended in 2020, all UN member states are eligible to join ISA.
- > Currently, 116 countries are signatories, with 95 having completed the necessary ratification to become full members.
- > The ISA is guided by its 'Towards 1000' strategy which aims to mobilize USD 1,000 billion of investments in solar energy solutions by 2030, while delivering energy access to 1,000 million people using clean energy solutions and resulting in installation of 1,000 GW of solar energy capacity.
- > This would help mitigate global solar emissions to the tune of 1,000 million tonnes of CO2 every year.
- > The Assembly is the apex decision-making body of ISA, in which each Member Country is represented.
- International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- ➢ Founded 2015
- HQ Gurugram Haryana
- Director General Ajay Mathur
- Membership : 121
- ISA : Joint Initiative by India and France
- > International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Former France Prime Minister Francois Hollande on 30 November 2015 during the 21st session of the United Nations Climate Change COP-21 in Paris, France to promote solar energy.
- > India and France have been re-elected as the President and co-President of the International Solar Alliance..

Which country among the world's top five crude steel-producing countries has recorded positive **Q**. growth in steel production in April 2024?

A) China	B) India
C) Russia	D) United States

#### Answer : B

✓ According to the World Steel Association, India is the only country amongst the world's top five crude steelproducing countries to record positive growth in production during April 2024.

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✓ India, which is the second largest producer of crude steel in the world, recorded a growth rate of 3.9 per cent in April 2024 as compared to April 2023.

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- ✓ India a bright spot amidst global slowdown
- ✓ According to World Steel Association data, the world's crude steel production was 155.7 million tonnes in April 2024, a 5.0% decrease as compared to April 2023.
- ✓ India produced 12.1 million tonnes of crude steel in April 2024, an increase of 3.9 per cent compared to April 2023.
- ✓ The world's largest steel producer, China, recorded a decline of 7.2 per cent to 85.9 million tonnes in April. China has an excess steel-producing capacity and relies on exports to keep its steel mills running. Recently, the United States of America has imposed duties on the import of Chinese steel, which is one reason for the decline in Chinese steel production.
- ✓ Japan, the third largest steel producer in the world, produced 7.1 million tonnes of steel, registering a 2.5 per cent decline.
- ✓ The fourth largest steel producer, the United States of America, produced 6.7 million tonnes, registering a decline of 2.8 per cent.
- ✓ Russia, the fifth largest steel producer, registered a 5.7 per cent decline to 6.2 million tonnes
- ✓ Reason for Positive Growth in Indian Steel Production
- ✓ India is the fastest-growing major economy in the world and is expected to remain so in 2024-25.
- ✓ The Indian government's push on large infrastructure projects in the rail, road, and port sectors has led to a huge demand for steel in the country.
- ✓ <u>Status of Steel production</u>
- ✓ India is the world's second-largest producer of crude steel in the world after China.
- ✓ India has the distinction of being the largest producer of sponge iron in the world.
- ✓ After China and the United States of America, India is the world's third-largest user of finished steel.
- ✓ World Steel Association, also known as World Steel, is an association of the steel industry in the world. It is a non-profit organisation set up in 1967 as the International Iron and Steel Institute.
- ✓ Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium
- Which is the second largest crude steel-producing country in the world? Q.
  - A) China **B)** India C) Japan **D)** Russia



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#### Answer: B

✓ India is the world's second-largest producer of crude steel in the world after China

#### Q. Which football club has won the 2023-24 UEFA Europa League?

- A) Sevilla
- B) Bayer Leverkusen
- C) Atalanta BC
- D) Manchester City

#### Answer : C

- The Italian football club Atalanta BC defeated the German football club Bayer Leverkusen 3-0 in the final of the 2023-24 UEFA Europa League, played at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin, Republic of Ireland, on 23 May 2024.
- ✓ The defeat ended Bayer Leverkusen's 51-match unbeaten record.
- ✓ The Europa League is organised by the European Football governing body UEFA. It is considered the second most prestigious football tournament for European professional football clubs after the Champions League
- Q. Which International Airport was awarded the zero waste to landfill (ZWL) accolade by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC) Centre of Excellence?
  - A) Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, Thiruvananthapuram
  - B) Cochin International Airport, Kochi
  - C) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
  - D) Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Thiruvananthapuram International Airport was awarded the zero waste to landfill (ZWL) accolade by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC) Centre of Excellence.
- ✓ It is the first airport in India to receive this recognition, achieving 99.50% waste diversion from landfills.
- ✓ The award confirms the airport's implementation of leading waste management practices.



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

- Thiruvananthapuram International Airport was awarded the zero waste to landfill (ZWL) accolade by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC) Centre of Excellence.
- > Dubai's Al Maktoum International Airport will be World's Largest
- GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL) won the 'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024' award by Skytrax at the Passenger Terminal EXPO 2024 in Frankfurt, Germany
- The government of Sri Lanka has decided to hand over the management of a Chinese-built Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport in Hambantota to an Indian and Russian company
- > Delhi airport included among the 10th busiest airports in the world
- Manohar International Airport, Mopa, joins 13 others in India adopting the Digi Yatra system, enhancing travel convenience.
- Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) in Delhi, India has been named the "Best Airport" in the Asia-Pacific region for six years in a row.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated 15 airport projects, including the revamped Terminal
   1 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi, worth over Rs.9,800 crore
- Cochin International Airport Limited has signed an agreement with Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) for the Green Hydrogen Project.
- Supreme Court recently agreed to hear a curative petition filed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) against the multinational conglomerate GMR Group concerning the operational management of Nagpur's Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport.
- So far, 519 air routes are being operated across the country under the regional level air connectivity scheme (RCS) 'Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik' (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik-UDAN).
- Government of India has officially given the status of 'International Airport' to Surat Airport in Gujarat.
- > Thiruvananthapuram Airport Honored with Excellence Award for its Quality Initiatives.
- Bengaluru and Delhi Airports have jointly bagged the 'Best Airport of the Year' at the Wings India Awards 2024 in the Civil Aviation Sector.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli International Airport in Tamil Nadu.
- > Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to declare Surat Airport an international airport.

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Q. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has launched a campaign to inspire people to celebrate the athletes participating in the upcoming Olympic Games in Paris. What is the name of this campaign?

A) Bounce to the Victory

**B)** Dream Crazy

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C) Let's Move India D) Change the Game

#### Answer : C

- ✓ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has launched the 'Let's Move India', an initiative to inspire people to celebrate the athletes participating in the upcoming Olympic Games in Paris.
- The move invites people from across the country to join the movement through a digital challenge on social media.
- ✓ Young people can take part in a series of regional school initiatives to coincide with Olympic Day on June 23. People are encouraged to recreate their favourite athlete celebrations or create their own, aiming to inspire and celebrate the Olympians heading to Paris 2024, who will be representing their 1.4 billion compatriots from July 26.
- The IOC has joined forces with Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medallist, and an IOC Athletes' Commission member, and together, they will extend invitations to schools across the nation to join the movement, as part of the Olympic Values Education Programme
- Q. What is the name of the Buddhist festival celebrated in Sikkim to mark the enlightenment of Lord Buddha?

A) Saga Dawa	B) Drupka Tshechi
C) Pang Lhabsol	D) Sonam Lochar

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Sikkim is celebrating the festival of Saga Dawa on 23 May 2023 on the occasion of Buddha Purnima.
- ✓ The Buddhist across the world are celebrating the Buddha purnima which marks the enlightenment of Siddhartha Gautama as Lord Buddha.
- ✓ <u>Saga Dawa festival of Sikkim</u>
- ✓ The Saga Dawa, also known as the 'Triple Blessed Festival', falls annually on the 15th day of the fourth month of the Tibetan Buddhist calendar.
- ✓ Saga means the fourth and Dawa means month in Tibetan. It is the most sacred Buddhist festival, commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and Mahaparinirvana (passing away) of Buddha Shakyamuni.

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✓ During this month, Buddhists of Sikkim offer prayers in various monasteries of the state.

### FESTIVAL IN NEWS 2023-24

- Saga Dawa Festival : Sikkim
- Koothandavar Festival : Tamil Nadu
- > Seng Khihlang Festival : Meghalaya
- Gorsam Kora festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- Chapchar Kut Festival : Mizoram
- Orange Festival : Nagaland
- > Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- Ethnic Mamani Festival : Ladakh
- International Camel Festival : Bikaner, Rajasthan
- Chandubi Festival : Assam
- International Purple Fest 2024 Goa
- National Street Food Festival : New Delhi
- Kuno Forest Festival : Madhya Pradesh
- > 'Shar Amartala Torgya' Festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- > 24th Hornbill Festival : Nagaland
- Dhillo festival : Goa
- India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023 : Faridabad, Haryana
- Arattu festival : Kerala
- Banni festival : Andhra Pradesh
- Zanskar Festival : Ladakh
- Indo-Latin America Cultural Festival : New Delhi
- Nuakhai festival : Odisha
- Nadi Utsav : Delhi
- Karnataka Cultural Festival : Sri Lanka .
- Unmesha' International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts : Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Festival of Libraries 2023 : New Delhi .
- > Chachin Grazing Festival : Arunachal Pradesh

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- Harela Festival : Uttarakhand
- Bonalu Festival : Telangana
- Kharchi Puja : Tripura
- Palkhi festival : Maharashtra
- Raja festival : Odisha

Q. Which India woman has been conferred the Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award?

A) Arti	B) Soni
C) Sonam	D) Neha

#### Answer : A

- ✓ An 18-year-old woman E-rickshaw driver from the Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh, Arti, has been conferred with the Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award by the King of the United Kingdom, Charles III.
- ✓ The award ceremony was held at Buckingham Palace, London, England.
- ✓ Arti arrived at Buckingham Palace in a Pink E-rickshaw, which she received under the Mission Shakti scheme of the Uttar Pradesh government
- ✓ The Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award is named after the famous English Barrister Amal Clooney. The award is sponsored by a British charity, Prince Trust International. The Prince Trust International was set up by King Charles when he was Prince of Wales.
- ✓ Mission Shakti and Pink E-Rickshaw Scheme
- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government launched Mission Shakti in 2020 to empower the women of the state through safety, security, and self-reliance. The scheme aims to provide a secure environment for women and provide training and access to livelihood schemes so that they can change their lives and become self-independent.
- ✓ As part of Mission Shakti, the government has launched the Pink E-Rickshaw scheme. The state government has aligned the Pink E-Rickshaw initiative with the Mukhya Mantri Yuva Swarozgar Yojana. Under this initiative, eligible women between 18 and 40 years old and 10th pass are provided six days of training on safety, security, and self-defence related to women's workplaces and another three days of training in entrepreneurship development.
- ✓ The woman gets an E-Rickshaw at a low-interest rate loan with a subsidy of Rs 49,5000.



Q. Which country's team won the gold medal in the 4x400 meters mixed relay event at the Asian Relay **Championships 2024?** 

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A) China **B)** Thailand

**C)** Indonesia

D) India

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Indian athletic contingent finished the first Asian Relay Championships with three medals -one gold and two silver. The first Asian Relay Championships was held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 20 and 21 May 2024.
- ✓ It also offered a chance to Asian athletes to qualify for the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics starting 26 July 2024.
- ✓ 16 Asian countries, including powerhouse China and Japan participated in the Bangkok event.
- ✓ Gold for Mixed relay team and silver for men's and women's relay team
- ✓ The India mixed relay team won the gold medal in the 4x400-meter event. With a new national record of 3 minutes 14.1 seconds, the Indian team of Muhammed Ajmal, Jyothika Sri Dandi, Amoj Jacob and Subha Venkatesan won the gold medal.
- ✓ <u>Silver for men's 4x400 meters relay team</u>
- ✓ The men's team of Muhammed Anas Yahiya, T Santosh Kumar, Mijo Chacko Kurian, and Arokia Rajiv finished behind the Sri Lankan team to win the silver medal. In heavy rain, the Indian team clocked 3 minutes 05.76 seconds, just behind the Sri Lankan gold-winning time of 3 minutes 04.48 seconds. Vietnam won the bronze medal in the event.
- ✓ Silver for women's 4x400 meters relay team
- ✓ The Indian women's 4x400 meters relay team comprising of Vithya Ramraj, MR Poovamma, Rupal and Prachi Choudhary won the silver medal, finishing behind the Vietnamese team. The Indian team clocked 3 minutes 33.55 seconds. The gold was won by the Vietnamese team while the bronze went to the Japanese team
- According to the Wildlife Institute of India, which state has the maximum population of Gangetic **Q**. river dolphins in India?
  - A) Madhya Pradesh

**B)** Bihar

C) Uttar Pradesh

**D)** Uttarakhand

Answer : C



✓ According to a recent report by the Wildlife Institute of India, there are more than 4000 dolphins in the Gangetic River basin.

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- ✓ Out of the 4000 river dolphins found in the Ganga River and its tributaries, more than 2000 are found in Uttar Pradesh alone. In Uttar Pradesh, the dolphins are mainly found in the Chambal River.
- ✓ Gangetic river dolphin is listed in Schedule –I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 which provides the highest degree of legal protection.
- ✓ Gangetic river dolphin was declared the National Aquatic Animal of India on 18 May 2010 by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest.
- ✓ Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary in Bhagalpur, Bihar, has been set up to protect the species.
- ✓ A comprehensive action plan (2022-2047) has been developed to ensure the well-being of river dolphins and aquatic habitats.
- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government has declared a Dolphin Sanctuary area in the Chambal Sanctuary.
- ✓ The Prime Minister has announced Project Dolphin in 2019 under the Arth Ganga part of the Namami Ganga Project.
- The aim is to double the population of Dolphins by 2030.

#### Who is the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest recently? Q.

A) Jyoti Ratre	B) Soni Kumari
C) Ashalata Sinha	D) Arunima Choudhary

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, mountaineer Jyoti Ratre has become the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest.
- ✓ 55-year-old Ratre is a resident of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ Earlier, on May 19, 2018, 53-year-old Sangeeta Bahl became the 'oldest Indian woman to climb Mount Everest'.
- This was Ratre's second attempt to climb the world's highest peak.  $\checkmark$
- $\checkmark$  In the year 2023, he had to return from 8,160 meters due to bad weather.
- Which Indian-origin professor was recently awarded the prestigious Shaw Prize in Astronomy? Q.
  - A) Srinivas R. Kulkarni **B)** Ashok Mohanty
  - C) Vivek R Ranjan D) Chandrakant R Narayan



#### Answer : A

✓ For his outstanding contributions in the field of astronomy, Indian-origin professor Srinivas R. Kulkarni has been awarded the prestigious Shaw Prize in Astronomy for 2024.

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- ✓ Currently he is working as a professor at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech).
- ✓ He completed his Ph.D.
- He did his M.A. from the University of California in 1983. Shaw Prize is an important award given in the field of astronomy.
- Q. The President of the United Arab Emirates presented the First Class Independence Medal to the Ambassador of which country?

A) India	B) Pakistan

C) Paraguay

**D)** Portugal

#### Answer : C

- ✓ The President of the United Arab Emirates conferred the First Class Independence Medal to Paraguayan Ambassador Jose Aguero Avila on the occasion of the completion of his tenure as ambassador to the country.
- ✓ Paraguay is a landlocked country in South America.
- Q. Which company has acquired AI-powered women's wellness platform SocialBoat for an undisclosed amount?
  - A) Titan
  - **B)** FastTrack
  - C) Sonata
  - D) Noise
- Answer : D
- ✓ Leading smartwatch and connected lifestyle brand, Noise has acquired AI-powered women's wellness platform SocialBoat for an undisclosed amount.
- ✓ This strategic move is part of Noise's broader strategy to advance innovation in smart rings.
- This acquisition will expand its tech offerings and build specialized innovation capabilities for its flagship smart wearable, Luna Ring.

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Q. Which company has partnered with Tata Communications to launch Webex Calling in India?

A) Cisco

C) Starlink

B) Casio

#### D) Reliance Industries

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#### Answer : A

- ✓ Cisco and Tata Communications have launched their Webex Calling solution in India with cloud public switched telephone network (PSTN), aimed at helping enterprises move from on-premises phone systems to a global cloud calling system.
- ✓ The calls will be routed via Tata Communications' data centre in the Mumbai region, thereby helping organizations stay compliant with local regulations
- ✓ Webex Calling is a modern and complete business phone system that delivers enterprise-grade calling through a globally available cloud platform with over 14 million users around the world.

Q. Who has become the youngest Indian mountaineer to climb the world's highest peak Mount Everest?

A) Suvidha Kadlag	B) Yaashi Jain

C) Ravindra Kumar D) Kaamya Karthikeyan

#### Answer : D

- Sixteen-year-old Kaamya Karthikeyan successfully summited Mt. Everest, becoming the youngest Indian mountaineer to scale the world's highest peak from the Nepal side.
- ✓ The daughter of a naval officer, Kaamya is a class 12 student at Navy Children School, Mumbai.
- ✓ Kaamya and her father Cdr S Karthikeyan successfully summited Mt. Everest (8,849 m).

Q. When is the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula observed by United Nations?

A)	22	May

C) 23 May

B) 21 MayD) 20 May

#### Answer : C

- Every year, United Nations' (UN) International Day to End Obstetric Fistula is marked on 23rd May since 2013 to promote action towards treating and preventing obstetric fistula, a condition that affects many girls and women during child birth in developing countries.
- ✓ Theme 2024 : Overcoming barriers to provide more treatment



- ✓ In 2003 the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and its partners launched the global Campaign to End Fistula, a collaborative initiative to prevent fistula and restore the health of those affected by the condition. The day was officially recognised in 2012.
- Who is the first Indian to win the Best Actress award at the Cannes Film Festival? Q.
  - A) Meenakshi Anoop

**B)** Anikha Surendran

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C) Samyuktha Hegde

D) Anusya Sengupta

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Chidanand Naik and Anasuya Sengupta created history at the 77th Cannes Film Festival, which is being held in Cannes, France.
- ✓ Chidanand Naik's film 'Sunflowers Were the First to Know' won the La Cinef Award for Best Short Film, while Anasuya Sengupta became the first Indian to win the Best Actress award for her film Shameless.
- ✓ The Cannes Film Festival, first held in 1946, is now considered one of the most prestigious film festivals in the world.
- ✓ Chidanand Naik's short film 'Sunflowers Were the First to Know' won the La Cinef Award for Best Short at the 77th Cannes Film Festival. Chidanand Naik made the film a part of his coursework at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune.
- ✓ About the Film 'Sunflowers Were the First to Know
- ✓ The film "Sunflowers Were the First to Know" was a joint collaboration of four students of the FTII's TV wings 1-year programme as part of their coursework. It was directed by Chidananda S Naik, filmed by Suraj Thakur, edited by Manoj V, and sound by Abhishek Kadam. All these students passed out in 2023.
- ✓ Anusya Sengupta becomes first Indian to win Best Actress Award at Cannes
- ✓ Actress Anasuya Sengupta created history at the Cannes Film Festival by winning the Best Actress award in the Un Certain Regard segment. She became the first Indian to win the Best Actress award in any category at the Cannes Film Festival.
- ✓ Anasuya Sengupta was honoured for her excellent performance in the film Shameless, directed by Bulgarian filmmaker Constantin Bojanov.
- The film Shameless is based on the story of a sex worker who escapes from a brothel in Delhi after stabbing  $\checkmark$ a policeman. The film sensitively portrays a human story of survival and resilience.



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- Q. Who is the director of the Shameless film, which won the Best Actress award at the Un Certain Regard segment of the 77th Cannes Film Festival?
  - A) Johnny Depp B) Constantin Bojanov

C) Denzel Washington

D) Tom Cruise

#### Answer : B

- Anasuya Sengupta was honoured for her excellent performance in the film Shameless, directed by Bulgarian filmmaker Constantin Bojanov
- Q. Which film won the La Cinef Award for Best Short at the 77th Cannes Film Festival?
  - A) Meshes of the Afternoon B) The Red Balloon
  - C) Sunflowers Were the First to Know D) Night and Fog

#### Answer : C

✓ Chidanand Naik's short film 'Sunflowers Were the First to Know' won the La Cinef Award for Best Short at the 77th Cannes Film Festival. Chidanand Naik made the film a part of his coursework at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune

Q.	Which country has been given the name Remal Cyclone	
	A) Bangladesh	B) Oman
	C) Saudi Arabia	D) Maldives

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Cyclone Remal bring heavy rains in part of West Bengal and Bangladesh.
- ✓ The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a warning that a low depression in Bay Bengal has developed into a severe cyclonic storm Remal.
- ✓ The Remal cyclone is expected to have a wind speed of 100-120 km per hour, bringing heavy rain and thundershowers in parts of West Bengal and Bangladesh.
- ✓ Cyclone Remal is the first cyclone of the season to develop in the Bay of Bengal region.
- $\checkmark$  The name Remal has been given by Oman which means sand in Arabic.
- ✓ Tropical cyclones are quite common in India during the months of May-June and October-November.
- According to IMD, cyclone Remal is expected to make landfall on 26 May at midnight between the Sagar Islands of West Bengal and Khepupara of Bangladesh.



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### CYCLONE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a warning that a low depression in Bay Bengal has developed into a severe cyclonic storm Remal.
- > The name Remal has been given by Oman which means sand in Arabic.
- > Cyclone Biparjoy is a low-pressure area that is currently forming over the Southeast Arabian Sea.
- > The cyclone was named "Biparjoy" by Bangladesh.
- IMD has issued warnings against Cyclone Mocha which is heading towards the Southeast Bay of Bengal.
- > Cyclone Freddy in Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar.
- As Cyclone Gabrielle approaches the coast of the nation, residents of Auckland, the largest city in New Zealand.
- IMD Issue Warning of Formation of Cyclone Mandous Over Bay of Bengal and hit the east coast in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh.
- > Recently a powerful "Bomb Cyclone" has hit the United States, affecting at least 200 million people.
- > Cyclone Yaas Impact on Odisha and West Bengal.
- > Cyclone Sitrang ploughed into heavily populated, low-lying parts of Bangladesh .
- > Asani' turns into severe cyclonic storm, Odisha and West Bengal on alert.
- > A red alert issued in the Philippines due to Super Typhoon Noru

Q. Which former Pakistani cricket player has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the 9th ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup 2024?

A) Shahid Afridi

B) Mohammad Yousuf

C) Abdul Razzaq

D) Shoaib Akhtar

#### Answer : A

- ✓ ICC names Shahid Afridi as Men's T 20 WC 2024 Brand Ambassador.
- ✓ The International Cricket Council (ICC), the world cricket governing body, has appointed Pakistan's Shahid Afridi as the brand ambassador of the forthcoming 9th ICC Men's T20 World Cup.
- ✓ The tournament will be co-hosted by the West Indies and the United States of America from 1 to 29 June 2024.

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✓ Shahid Afridi joins Indian Yuvraj Singh, Chris Gayle of West Indies, and Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt as brand ambassadors for the event.

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- ✓ In terms of the number of teams, the 9th ICC Men's T20 World Cup will be the biggest men's T-20 World Cup with 20 teams
- ✓ Shahid Afridi
- ✓ Shahid Afridi, nicknamed 'Lala', was an explosive batsman and a skilful leg spinner. His explosive batting was best suited to the limited-overs one-day International (ODI), especially the T-20 format.
- ✓ He was the player of the Tournament in the first Men's T-20 World Cup 2007, held in South Africa. Pakistan lost the final match to India

### LATEST BRAND AMBASSADOR IN NEWS 2023-24

- Shahid Afridi : Men's T 20 World Cup 2024 Brand Ambassador.
- Kareena Kapoor Khan : UNICEF India National Ambassador #ForEveryChild
- Yuvraj Singh : ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024
- ▶ Usain Bolt : 2024 ICC T20 World Cup
- Sana Mir : ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : Citroen
- Sanjana Sanghi : SPACE India
- Narendra Kumar Yaday : "Fit India" Movement as Brand Ambassador
- Katrina Kaif : Chennai Super Kings as Brand Ambassador for IPL 2024
- Ranveer Singh : boAt
- Deepika Padukone : TECNO
- R Madhavan : Acko
- Sourav Ganguly : brand ambassador of Tripura state to promote tourism
- Sourav Ganguly : Brand Ambassador of Bengal
- Pankaj Tripathi : 'UPI Safety Ambassador
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : State Bank of India (SBI)
- Katrina Kaif : Luxury Swiss watch brand 'Rado'
- Chetan bhagat : Henry Harvin Education
- Mohammed Shami : Puma



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- Sachin Tendulkar : ICC as the global ambassador of ODI World Cup 2023
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : JioMart
- Katrina Kaif : Uniqlo
- > Hrithik Roshan : lubricants brand Mobilil
- Anushka Sharma : W
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : Swaraj Tractors
- Iga Świątek : Infosys
- Rafael Nadal : Infosys
- Rahul Dravid : Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
- Shah Rukh Khan : ICC World Cup 2023
- Shraddha Kapoor: Asics India Private Limited
- Rashmika Mandanna : Printer company Epson India
- Smriti Mandhana : Wrangler
- Hrithik Roshan : Zebronics TV
- Sachin Tendulkar : Smile Ambassador
- Sania Mirza : Sony Sports Network
- Sourav Ganguly : Brand ambassador of Tripura Tourism
- Virat Kohli : Duroflex
- > Alia Bhatt : Gucci, the luxury fashion brand from Italy
- > Ayushman Khurana : Wakefit
- Rishabh Pant : Star Sports
- Rohit Sharma : JioCinema
- Virat Kohli : HSBC India
- Ranveer Singh : Star Sports Network
- > Shreya Ghodawat : India's ambassador for She Changes Climate
- MC Mary Kom, Farhan Akhtar : Brand ambassadors of IBA Women's World Championships 2023
- Sachin Tendulkar : World's first 'Hand Ambassador' for Savlon India
- Ranveer Singh : Pepsi
- > Ayushmann Khurrana : UNICEF India child rights
- > Yastika Bhatia and Renuka Singh Thakur : Hyundai Motor India Ltd



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- Vir Das : Plant-based meat brand UnCrave
- Harmanpreet Kaur : Puma
- > Nikhat Zareen : National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)
- > Saurav Ganguly : Bandhan Bank 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign
- Anushka Sharma : Puma
- Deepika Padukone : Pottery Barn
- Virat Kohli : Smart watch Noise
- Prasoon Joshi : Uttarakhand State
- Lionel Messi : Byjus

Q. Which state government company has added the maximum transmission lines in 2023-24?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- **B)** Uttar Pradesh
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Karnataka

#### Answer : B

- According to the recently released statistics of the Central Electricity Authority, Uttar Pradesh emerged as the number one state in terms of the addition of transmission lines by state transmission companies in 2023-24.
- ✓ In 2022-23 also, Uttar Pradesh topped the list amongst the state utilities.
- ✓ In 2023-24, the state government-owned Uttar Pradesh Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (UPPTCL) added 1,460 ckm(Circuit Kilometer) of transmission lines of 220kV or above.
- ✓ Gujarat was in second place. The state-run Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation Ltd (GETCO) added 898 ckm of transmission line in 2023-24.
- ✓ At the third place was Tamil Nadu. The state-run utility company
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Limited (TANTRANSCO) added 753 ckm of transmission line.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh came fourth with its Transmission Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Limited (APTRANSCO), adding 682 ckm of the transmission line.



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Q. Who won the Casablanca Chess Variant tournament in 2024, held in Casablanca, Morocco?

A) Hikaru Nakamura

C) Fabiano Caruana

- B) Magnus Carlsen
- D) Viswanathan Anand

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Magnus Carlsen conquers Casablanca Chess 2024.
- ✓ The world No 1, Magnus Carlsen (Europe)won the Casablanca Chess Variant tournament with 4.5 points from six rounds at Casablanca, Morocco.
- ✓ In the tournament, in which the players were required to make moves from certain positions onwards from well-known games from the past, Hikaru Nakamura of the United States finished runner-up with 3.5 points.
- Viswanathan Anand was third. The five-time World champion from Chennai scored three points. Bassem Amin of Egypt finished last with one point.

### CHESS GRANDMASTER IN NEWS 2023-24

- > World No 1, Magnus Carlsen (Europe)won the Casablanca Chess Variant tournament .
- > P Shyaamnikhil of Tamil Nadu becomes India's 85th Chess Grandmaster.
- International Chess Federation Awards Grandmaster Title To Indian Chess Prodigy Vaishali Ramesh Babu.
- Indian young chess player Rameshbabu Praggnanand has defeated world chess champion Ding Liren in the 'Tata Steel Masters' held in Netherlands.
- > Vaishali Rameshbabu has become the 84th Grandmaster of India.
- Raunak Sadhwani (Maharashtra) won FIDE World Junior Rapid Chess Championship.
- India's Karthikeyan Murali became the third Indian chess player to defeat World No 1 Magnus Carlsen in classical chess after he prevailed over the Norwegian at the Qatar Masters tournament.
- Divya Deshmukh (Maharashtra ) Emerges Winner Of 2023 Tata Steel Chess India Women's Rapid Tournament defeated Koneru Humpy.
- Magnus Carlsen (Norway) wins the Chess World Cup Final 2023.
- > Aditya Samant becomes India's 83rd Grandmaster.
- Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa has won the title of V Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM Chess Tournament 2023.



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- Q. What is the primary objective of the AstroSat mission?
  - A) To explore the Moon's surface
  - B) To study celestial sources in multiple spectral bands simultaneously
  - C) To monitor the Earth's atmospheric changes
  - D) To track space debris in Earth's orbit

#### Answer : B

- ✓ A team of Indian astrophysicists has used observations from AstroSat to discover the aperiodic modulation of high-energy X-ray photons in Swift J1727.8-1613, a black hole binary source.
- ✓ About AstroSat Mission:
- ✓ It is the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission aimed at studying celestial sources in the X-ray, optical, and UV spectral bands simultaneously.
- AstroSat, with a lift-off mass of 1515 kg, was launched on September 28, 2015, into a 650 km orbit by PSLV-C30 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- ✓ The spacecraft control centre at Mission Operations Complex (MOX) of ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), Bengaluru, manages the satellite during its entire mission life.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Shallow Aquifer Management Project:
  - 1. It is a sustainable urban water management technique to address issues of groundwater depletion.

2. It is part of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

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 Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) in a latest intervention has taken up Shallow Aquifer Management (SAM) model on a pilot basis in the city.
- ✓ It is a sustainable urban water management technique and addresses persistent issues of groundwater depletion, drying up of borewells, and check quick flooding of city streets.
- ✓ How it is done?



✓ The project's concept is to drill shallow water injection borewells to a depth of 100-120 feet and pump out water in the shallow aquifers.

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- ✓ This is done so that the layers underneath get recharged whenever there is rainfall, while collecting water from the surrounding watershed and channelling it through recharge pits.
- ✓ SAM Pilot model in India
- ✓ It is part of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ✓ Nodal implementing agency: National Institute of Urban Affairs
- In 2022, the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) initiated a SAM pilot across 10 cities in nine states: Bengaluru (Karnataka), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Dhanbad (Jharkhand), Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Hyderabad (Telangana), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Kolkata (West Bengal), Pune and Thane (Maharashtra), and Rajkot (Gujarat).
- **Consider the following statements regarding Project Udbhav:** Q.
  - 1. It is an initiative by the Indian Army and the United Service Institution of India.
  - 2. It aims to bridge the gap between ancient techniques and contemporary military education.

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 Indian Army, under its initiative Project Udbhav, is delving into the epic battles of the Mahabharata and the strategic brilliance of past Indian dynasties, shaping India's rich military heritage.
- ✓ It is collaboration between the Indian Army and the United Service Institution of India (USI), a defence services think tank.
- ✓ The project, named 'Udbhav', translates to 'origin' or 'genesis', recognizing the profound knowledge embedded in our nation's historical texts spanning centuries.
- ✓ At its core, the project seeks to amalgamate ancient insights with modern military practices, creating a comprehensive approach to tackle present-day security challenges.
- ✓ Aim: This initiative aims to bridge the gap between age-old wisdom and contemporary military education.



✓ India's ancient knowledge system, rooted in a 5000-year-old civilizational legacy, boasts a repository of intellectual texts and manuscripts.

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- ✓ Project Udbhav, as per MoD, aims to facilitate a profound understanding of these systems and their enduring relevance in the modern era.
- Mount Ibu, recently seen in news, is located in: **Q**.

A) Italy	B) Indonesia
C) Japan	D) Australia

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, Mount Ibu erupted again, sending ash 4 km high, as streaks of purple lightning flashed around its crater.
- The Ibu volcano is an active stratovolcano located along the NW coast of Halmahera Island in Indonesia.
- ✓ Ibu's activities follow a series of eruptions of different volcanoes in Indonesia, which sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" and has 127 active volcanoes.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding GSAP SKILLS Platform:
  - 1. It is an initiative of International Union for Conservation of Nature.

2. Its development has been principally funded by the Government of India.

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 GSAP SKILLS Platform was launched at the Fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, Convention on Biological Diversity.
- ✓ Global Species Action Plan (GSAP), the Species Conservation Knowledge, Information, Learning, Leverage and Sharing (SKILLS) platform brings the GSAP's content online and allows the updating of technical tools and resources in real time.
- It aims to facilitate global collaboration and partnership, connecting decision makers, species conservation practitioners and experts at all levels.



 $\checkmark$  The platform provides real-time updates on technical tools and resources, ensuring accessibility and relevance.

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- ✓ The development of the GSAP SKILLS platform has been principally supported by Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea, with additional resources from the Tech4Nature Initiative launched by IUCN and Huawei in 2020.
- Which company has inaugurated a simulation centre of excellence (CoE) for Airbus at its Bengaluru Q. campus?
  - A) Infosys Technologies B) L&T Technology Services
  - C) Reliance Industries Limited D) Tata Consultancy Service

#### Answer : B

- ✓ L&T Technology Services has inaugurated a simulation centre of excellence (CoE) for Airbus at its Bengaluru campus.
- ✓ The CoE is designed to provide engineering support for Airbus aircraft structural simulation activities across its business units in France, Germany, the UK, and Spain.
- The CoE is equipped with simulation software, hardware, and computational machinery. It aims to  $\checkmark$ standardise processes across all Airbus European business units and aircraft programmes, streamline efficiency, and enhance productivity.

#### Which company has acquired 6.125 per cent equity stake in CCIL IFSC Limited (CCIL IFSC)? Q.

A) DBS Bank

**B) HSBC Bank** 

C) Citibank

D) Standard Chartered Bank

#### Answer : B

- ✓ HSBC acquires 6.125% stake in CCIL IFSC
- ✓ HSBC, a leading global bank and financial services major, has through its branch in Gift City executed transaction documents to acquire 6.125 per cent equity stake in CCIL IFSC Limited (CCIL IFSC).
- ✓ The investment value for this transaction stood at ₹6.125 crore.
- ✓ Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL) is promoter of CCIL IFSC Limited and will hold 57.125 per cent stake in this subsidiary.
- ✓ CCIL IFSC is being incorporated with an authorised and paid-up capital of ₹200 crore and ₹100 crore, respectively

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- CCIL IFSC will be responsible to build and operate the Foreign Currency Settlement System (FCSS) at Gujarat International Finance Tec (Gift) City, which is country's sole international financial services centre (IFSC).
- Which company exported its first-ever consignment of 100 octane premium fuel 'XP100' to Sri Q. Lanka?

A) Reliance Petroleum

**B)** Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

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**C) Indian Oil Corporation** 

**D)** Hindustan Petroleum

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) exported its first-ever consignment of 100 octane premium fuel, XP100 to Sri Lanka.
- $\checkmark$  The product is tailored for premium high-end vehicles.
- ✓ About XP100
- ✓ The XP100 is domestically developed, leveraging IndianOil's indigenous Octamax Technology.
- ✓ Designed with anti-knock properties, it is engineered to enhance engine performance, faster acceleration, smoother drivability and improved fuel economy.

#### Q. Who has won the gold medal in the women's 40kg category at the IWF World Youth Championships?

- A) Karnam Malleswari B) Kunjarani Devi
- **C)** Swati Singh D) Preetismita Bhoi

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Indian weightlifter Preetismita Bhoi smashed the youth clean and jerk world record in the women's 40kg category to win a gold medal at the IWF World Youth Championships here.
- The 15-year-old bettered the existing record of 75kg by 1kg.
- ✓ She lifted 57kg in snatch for a total effort of 133kg, finishing within 2kg of the youth world standard on total on the opening day of the competition.
- Which Indian athlete clinched the gold medal in men's shot put at the World Para Athletics Q. Championship in Kobe, Japan, setting a new Asian record in the F46 category?
  - A) Dharambir **B)** Sumit Antil C) Thangavelu Mariyappan D) Sachin Sarjerao Khilari

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#### Answer : D

✓ In Para Athletics, India's Sachin Sarjerao Khilari clinched the gold medal in the men's shot put at the World Para Athletics Championship in Kobe, Japan.

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- ✓ He also set a new Asian record with a throw of 16.30 metres in the F46 category, to defended his title at the world championships.
- ✓ Another Indian, Dharambir bagged the Bronze Medal in the Men's Club Throw. His final throw distance of 33.31 metres not only secured him the Bronze Medal but also set a new Asian Record in the F51 Category.
- ✓ Reigning Paralympics champion Sumit Antil had defended his F64 javelin throw world title, while Thangavelu Mariyappan and Ekta Bhyan also grabbed gold medals in their respective events. Deepthi Jeevanji from Telangana's Warangal, bagged the gold medal with a world record time of 55.07 seconds in the women's 400m T20 category race.
- ✓ With these achievements, India surpassed its previous highest total of 10 medals. India now have 12 medals in their kitty, including 5 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze. China tops the points table with 48 medals.

Q. Which organization approved the world's first major artificial intelligence law, known as the AI Act?

- A) United Nations
  - C) NATO

**B)** European Council

D) World Economic Forum

#### Answer : B

- The European Council has passed the AI Act, proposed first in April 2021, to harmonize regulations on  $\checkmark$ artificial intelligence across the European Union (EU). Under the new law, which is set to take effect next month, AI systems are categorized based on their level of risk, with stricter regulations imposed on those deemed high-risk.
- How much gold did the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) purchase between January and April 2024, 0. compared to the total gold added in 2023?
  - A) 16 tonnes
  - C) 24 tonnes

- B) 20 tonnes
- D) 32 tonnes

#### Answer : C

✓ RBI buys 24 tonnes of gold in 4 months, 1.5 times more than all of 2023.



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has significantly increased its gold reserves, adding 24 tonnes between January and April 2024. This move is part of a strategic diversification of reserves aimed at mitigating risks amid ongoing geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainty. This increase is almost one and a half times the 16 tonnes of gold added throughout 2023, as per an analysis of RBI data.

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- of April 26, 2024, the RBI held 827.69 tonnes of gold as part of its foreign exchange reserves, up from 803.6 tonnes at the end of December 2023. This marked increase underscores the central bank's proactive approach in enhancing its gold reserves, reflecting a significant shift in its reserve management strategy.
- $\checkmark$ The RBI's renewed interest in gold is part of a broader trend seen among emerging market central banks. The share of gold in India's total foreign exchange reserves increased from 7.75% at the end of December 2023 to about 8.7% by the end of April 2024.

#### Q. Which city achieved the highest rank among Indian cities in the Oxford Economics Global Cities Index 2024, securing the 350th position globally?

A) Mumbai	B) Bangalore
C) Chennai	D) Delhi

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Delhi ranks 350 in Oxford Global Cities Index Report 2024.
- ✓ Delhi has been placed 350 in the Oxford Economics Global Cities Index 2024, making it the highest ranked Indian city. The ranking compares the world's 1000 cities. In 2023, cities in the report accounted for 60% of global GDP and 30% of the world's population.
- ✓ Once again, New York achieved the highest ranking in all five categories with a score of 100, followed by London and San Jose securing the 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively.
- ✓ Bengaluru, India's IT hub, stood at 411, higher than the country's financial capital Mumbai, which stood at 427. On the other hand, Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh ranked last in the index, at 1000th place. All Indian cities scored 380 in the Governance category.
- ✓ Mumbai, the Indian city that secured the 427th rank, was actually ranked 915th in the category of quality of life.
- ✓ The Index assesses over 1,000 largest cities in the world based on 5 important categories Economics, Governance, Quality of Life, Environment, and Human Capital.



Q. Which company recently launched an industry-first sonic identity, symbolizing financial freedom, and became the first asset management company (AMC) in India to introduce its own brand sound?

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**B) MPOWER Financing** A) Bajaj Markets

C) Nippon India Mutual Fund D) Varaha Heritage

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Nippon India Mutual Fund Launches Industry-First Sonic Identity.
- ✓ Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited (NAM India), the asset manager of Nippon India Mutual Fund (NIMF), proudly announces the unveiling of its groundbreaking sonic identity – a powerful soundscape symbolizing financial freedom.
- ✓ NIMF is the first asset management company (AMC) in India to launch its own brand sound. This innovative initiative underscores the company's commitment to innovation and fostering deeper connections with investors.
- ✓ Crafted by BrandMusiq, India's leading specialist in sonic identities, NIMF's new musical logo (MOGOSCAPE) encapsulates the core values, emotions, and persona of the organization.
- Who chairs the expert committee set up by the International Financial Services Centres Authority Q. (IFSCA) to position GIFT IFSC in Gujarat as a 'Global Trading Hub'?

A) Rajeev Kher	B) Michael Patra
----------------	------------------

C) Sanjay Kumar	D) Anjali Sharma
-----------------	------------------

#### Answer : A

- ✓ The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has set up an expert committee to position GIFT IFSC in Gujarat as a 'Global Trading Hub'.
- ✓ The 21-member committee will be chaired by former Union commerce secretary, Rajeev Kher.
- ✓ Representatives of International Financial Services Centre Authority, DGFT, IIBX, ICICI Bank, ONGC, IOCL, Reliance Industries Limited, StoneX, NMDC, JP Morgan Chase, Tata Steel, and Arvind Limited are among the 21 members of the committee

346

- Q. Which team has won the 17th Indian Premier League title?
  - A) Sunrisers Hyderabad **B) Kolkata Knight Riders**
  - C) Rajasthan Royals D) Chennai Super Kings



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#### Answer : B

- ✓ KKR wins their third IPL title beating SRH in the final at Chennai.
- ✓ Chandrakant Pandit-coached Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) cricket team won their third Indian Premier League (IPL) title by beating Sunriser Hyderabad (SRH) in the final of the 17th IPL.
- ✓ The final was played at the M A Chidambaram stadium in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, on 26 May 2024.
- $\checkmark$  They defeated the Sunrisers by eight wickets to lift the trophy for the third time.
- ✓ The KKR team, led by Shreyas Iyer and mentored by former Indian cricket player Gautam Gambhir, put up a strong display in the final to comprehensively beat the SRH team by eight wickets. This was KKR's third IPL trophy, having won it in 2012 and 2014.
- ✓ Player of the Match: Mitchel Starc of KKR.
  - TATA IPL 2024 MOST IMPORTANT FACTS (https://t.me/gadiscussionchannel/29819)
  - TATA IPL 2024
  - ♦ Title Sponsor : TATA (₹440 crores)
  - ♦ Total teams : 10
  - ♦ Season : 17th ( 2024)
  - Opening Match : M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai (CSK Vs RCB)
  - Final Match : M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai (KKR Vs SRH)
  - Champions {Rs. 20 crore} : Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) (3rd title) [2012, 2014, 2024]
  - 📸 Runners-up {Rs. 12.5 crore} : Sunrisers Hyderabad (1st title) [ 2016]
  - ♥ Orange Cap (most runs in a season) {Rs. 10 Lakh} Virat Kohli (Royal Challengers Bengaluru)– 741 runs
  - Purple Cap (Highest wicket-taker) {Rs. 10 Lakh} Harshal Patel (Punjab Kings) 24 wickets
  - Most Valuable Player of the Season award {Rs. 10 Lakh} Sunil Narine (Kolkata Knight Riders)
  - Emerging Player of the Season {Rs. 10 Lakh} Nitish Kumar Reddy (SRH).
  - ♦ Fair Play Award {Rs. 10 Lakh} Sunrisers Hyderabad
  - ➡ Mitchell Starc (Australia) became the most expensive player in the history of IPL when he was bought
  - by Kolkata Knight Riders for ₹24.75 crore (US\$3.1 million).



◆ Pat Cummins (Australia)- Sunrisers Hyderabad - 20.5 Crore, becoming the second most expensive player in the IPL 2024.

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Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) .

Captain : Shreyas Iyer

Coach : Chandrakant Pandit

◊ Owner : Shah Rukh Khan, Juhi Chawla & Jay Mehta

Mentored : Gautam Gambhir

KKR's third IPL trophy, 2012, 2014 & 2024

◇ Motto of the team - Korbo, Lorbo, Jeetbo (we will perform, fight, and win!)

U Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH)

Captain : Pat Cummins

Coach : Daniel Vettori

Owner : Kaviya Kalanithi Maran (SUN Group)

Sunrisers won IPL title in the 2016 season.

Chennai Super King and Mumbai Indians have been the most successful side in the IPL. Both have won the trophy five times each.

Which player has won the Orange cap for scoring the maximum run in the Indian Premier League Q. 2024?

A) Virat Kohli **B)** Ruturaj Gaikwad

**D)** Travis Head **C)** Riyan Parag

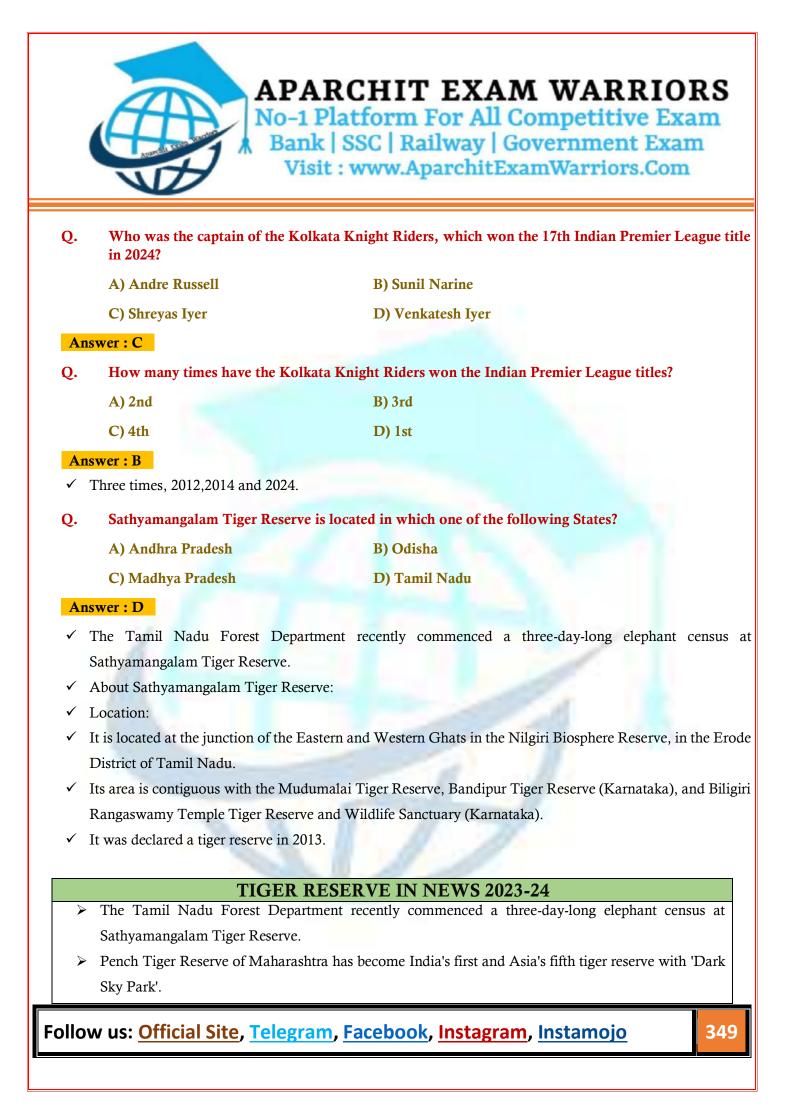
#### Answer : A

✓ Virat Kohli of Royal Challenger Hyderabad for scoring 741 runs in 15 matches.

Q. Which player won the purple cup for taking the maximum wicket in the Indian Premier League 2024? A) T Natarajan **B)** Harshal Patel C) Jasprit Bumrah **D)** Sandeep Sharma

Answer : B

✓ Harshal Patel of Punjab Kings XI. He took 24 wickets in 14 matches





## Arunachal Pradesh approves constitution of Special Tiger Protection Force for three Tiger Reserves.

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- Bihar's second tiger reserve to come up in Kaimur sanctuary
- > After the Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in West Champaran district, Bihar is set to get a second tiger reserve in Kaimur district (Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary) by the end of the year.
- > Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve becomes the 7th tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh and 55th in India.
- > India got its 54th tiger reserve in Rajasthan's Karauli and Dholpur districts with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approving a proposal.
- ▶ India's Tiger Population Reaches 3,925 with 6.1% Annual Growth Rate, Holds 75% of Global Wild Tiger Population.
- Project Tiger is a tiger conservation programme launched on April 1,1973

#### Which film won the Palme d'Or or Golden Palm award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival? Q.

A) Although I guess	B) BlackBerry
C) Emilia Perez	D) Anora Film

#### Answer : D

- ✓ 77th Cannes Film Festival Award 2024
- ✓ Palme d'Or or Golden Palm for Best Feature Film—Anora Film (United States), Directed by Sean Baker.
- ✓ Grand Prix for Best Feature Film- All We Imagine As Light(India-French), Directed by Payal Kapadia.
- ✓ Best Director for Feature Film- Miguel Gomes (Portugal) for film Grand Tour.
- ✓ Best Actor for Feature Film Jesse Plemons (United States) for the film Kinds for Kindness.
- ✓ Best Actress for Feature Film Selena Gomez (United States) for film Emilia Perez.
- ✓ Special Prize for Feature Film The Seed for the Sacred Fig (German, France, Iran) directed by Mohammad Rasoulof
- ✓ The 77th Cannes Film Festival was held in Cannes, France, from 14-25 May 2024. It is considered to be one of the most prestigious film festivals in the world.

#### Q. Who won the Best Actress award in the feature film category at the 77th Cannes Film Festival 2024?

A) Selena Gomez	<b>B) Scarlett Johansson</b>

C) Anne Hathaway

D) Amber Heard



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### Answer : A

- ✓ Selena Gomez (United States) for the film Emilia Perez.
- Q. Who won the Best Director award in the feature film category at the 77th Cannes Film Festival 2024?
  - A) Steven Spielberg B) Miguel Gomes
  - C) Martin Scorsese D) Christopher Nolan

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Miguel Gomes (Portugal) for the film Grand Tour.
- Q. Which is the first Indian film to win the Grand Prix award at the Cannes Film Festival?
  - A) In Retreat B) Sister Midnight
  - C) The Shameless

D) All We Imagine as Light

#### Answer : D

- Payal Kapadia's directed film All We Imagine as Light made history at the 77th Cannes Film when it ' won the Grand Prix prize in the feature film segment.
- ✓ Payal Kapadia became the first Indian to win the Grand Prix award at the Cannes Film Festival.
- ✓ Another Indian Cinematographer, Santosh Sivan, became the first Asian to win the prestigious Pierre Angénieux Tribute Award at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival.
- Payal Kapadia's film and Santosh Sivan Bags the Award
- ✓ For the first time after 30 years, an Indian film,' All We Imagine as Light' directed by Payal Kapadia, was nominated for the Palme d'Or or Golden Palm. Golden Palm is the highest category of award in the Cannes Film Festival or feature films. 30 years ago, Shaji N Karun's 'Swaham' film was nominated for the Palme d'Or or Golden Palm award.
- Payal Kapadia film won the Grand Prix award in the feature film section which is the second highest award in the section after Palme d'or or Golden Palm.
- ✓ Renowned Cinematographer Santosh Sivan became the first Asian to be awarded the prestigious Pierre Angénieux Tribute Award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival. The Pierre Angénieux Tribute Award honours cinematographers for their careers and exceptional quality of work.
- ✓ Four Awards for the Indian's at the 77th Cannes Film Festival 2024
- ✓ This year, India has bagged four awards at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival 2024.



✓ Chidanand Naik bagged the first prize for India. His short film "Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know" won a prize in the La Cinef section.

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✓ Actress Anasuya Sengupta created history at the Cannes Film Festival by winning the Best Actress award in the Un Certain Regard segment for her film Shameless.

✓ Payal Kapadia's directed film 'All We Imagine as Light' won the Grand Prix award.

✓ Santosh Sivan won the award the prestigious Pierre Angénieux Tribute Award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival for Cinematography

Q. Who won the Pierre Angénieux Tribute Award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival 2024?

- **B)** Abhik Mukhopadhyay A) Santosh Sivan
- C) Abinandhan Ramanujam D) Arjun Jena

Answer : A

Who is the first Indian to win a gold medal in Gymnastics at the Asian Gymnastic Championships? Q.

A) Sunita Sharma **B)** Kalpana Debnath

C) Dipa Karmakar **D) Krupali Patel** 

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Dipa Karmakar of Tripura became the first ever Indian gymnast to win a gold medal in any Asian Championships.
- ✓ Dipa won the gold medal in the women's vault individual final at the Asian Women's Artistic Gymnastics Championships 2024 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 26 May 2024.
- ✓ Dipa Karmakar scored an average of 13.566 points to bag the gold medal.
- ✓ Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (North Korea) Kim Son-hyang won the silver medal with 13.466 points, and Jo Kyong-byol, also of North Korea, won the bronze with 12.966 points.
- ✓ Dipa Karmakar was conferred India's highest sports award, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award (now Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award) 2016.
- She was honoured with India's fourth highest civilian award, Padma Shri 2017.  $\checkmark$

Q. Dipa Karmakar, who was in the news recently, belongs to which sport?

A) Alpine skiing	<b>B)</b> Gymnastics
C) Biathlon	D) Swimming



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#### Answer : B

- Q. PV Sindhu lost the women's singles final of the BWF Malaysia Masters 2024 to whom?
  - A) Wang Zhi Yi B) Kie Nakanishi
  - C) Rin Iwanaga D) Lee Yu Lim

#### Answer : A

- Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu of India failed to win the BWF Malaysia Masters 2024 Badminton title.
- ✓ She lost in the women's singles final to the People's Republic of China's Wang Zhi Yi, played in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 26 May 2024.
- ✓ The BWF Malaysia Masters 2024 was held in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur from 21-26 May 2024.
- ✓ Winners of the BWF Malaysia Masters 2024

Event	Winner	Runners -UP
Singles (Men)	V. Axelsen(Denmark)	Z.J.Lee(Malaysia)
Singles (Women)	Wang Zhi Yi (China)	PV Sindhu (India )
Mens (Doubles)	Kim Astrup and Anders Rasmussen (Denmark)	Jin Yong and Na Sung Sueng (South Korea)
Women's (Doubles)	Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakanishi (Japan)	Lee Yu Lim and Shin Seung Chan (South Korea)
Mixed Doubles	Goh Soon Huat and Lai Shevon Jemie (Malaysia)	Rinov Rivaldy and Pitha Haningtyas Mentari (Indonesia)

- ✓ Badminton World Federation (BWF)
- ✓ The world badminton governing body, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) was set up as the International Badminton Federation (IBF) in 1934 at London, United Kingdom.
- ✓ Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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- ✓ President: Poul Erik Hayer Larsen
- Q. Who won the men's singles title of the BWF Malaysia Masters 2024?
  - A) Jin Yong

C) V. Axelsen

B) Na Sung Sueng

**D) Rinov Rivaldy** 

#### Answer : C

### **SPORTS IN NEWS 2024**

- PV Sindhu of India failed to win the BWF Malaysia Masters 2024 Badminton title. She lost in the women's singles final to the People's Republic of China's Wang Zhi Yi, played in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 26 May 2024.
- Dipa Karmakar of Tripura became the first ever Indian gymnast to win a gold medal in any Asian Championships.
- Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) cricket team won their third Indian Premier League (IPL) title by beating Sunriser Hyderabad (SRH) in the final of the 17th IPL 2024.
- > ICC names Shahid Afridi as Men's T 20 WC 2024 Brand Ambassador
- The Italian football club Atalanta BC defeated the German football club Bayer Leverkusen 3-0 in the final of the 2023-24 UEFA Europa League
- Alexander Zverev won the single title of the Italian Open tennis tournament, while the women's singles title was won by the world no.1 player Iga Swiatek.
- Indian badminton pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the Thailand Open 2024 badminton men's doubles title by defeating the Chinese duo of Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi in the final played on 19 May 2024
- > Japan defeated Pakistan to win the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy.
- Spanish football club Real Madrid has been crowned the La Liga 2023-24 season title after beating Cadiz 3-0.
- World no.1 women's tennis players Iga Swiatek and Andrey Rublev won the women's and men's singles titles at the 2024 Madrid Open, respectively
- > P Shyaamnikhil of Tamil Nadu becomes India's 85th Chess Grandmaster
- > Japan defeated Pakistan to win the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy
- Mumbai City FC defeat Mohun Bagan Super Giant to win the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24



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- > China wins both Thomas and Uber Cup Badminton 2024 titles
- > Japan defeated Uzbekistan in the final to win the Men's AFC U-23 Asian Cup for the second time.
- > Paris Saint-Germain football club was confirmed as the champion of the 2023-24 Ligue-1 Season
- National men's Squash champion Velavan Senthilkumar defeated Melvil Scianimanico of France to win the Batch Open Challenger Squash
- Yuvraj Singh becomes ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador

Q. With reference to India's trade statistics, consider the following statements:

- 1. China emerged as India's largest trading partner in 2023-24.
- 2. India's total trade deficit in 2023-24 decreased when compared to the previous fiscal.

3. India's has a trade deficit with the United States of America in 2023-24.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A) Only one B) Only two
- C) All three

#### Answer : B

India has recorded a trade deficit, the difference between imports and exports, with nine of its top 10 trading partners in 2023-24, according to official data.

**D)** None

- ✓ About India's Top Trading Partners:
- China has emerged as India's largest trading partner with \$118.4 billion of two-way commerce in 2023-24, surpassing the US.
- ✓ The bilateral trade between India and the US stood at \$118.28 billion in 2023-24. Washington was the top trading partner of New Delhi during 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- ✓ In 2023-24, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with USD 83.6 billion, was the third largest trading partner of India. It was followed by Russia (\$65.7 billion), Saudi Arabia (\$43.4 billion), and Singapore (\$35.6 billion).
- ✓ India's total trade deficit in the last fiscal narrowed to \$238.3 billion as against \$264.9 billion in the previous fiscal.



The trade deficit with China rose to \$85 billion, Russia to \$57.2 billion, Korea to \$14.71 billion, and Hong Kong to \$12.2 billion in 2023-24 against \$83.2 billion, \$43 billion, \$14.57 billion, and \$8.38 billion, respectively, in 2022-23.

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- ✓ India has a trade surplus of \$ 36.74 billion with the US in 2023-24. America is one of the few countries with which India has a trade surplus.
- ✓ After the US, the Netherlands offers a surplus of \$17.3 billion on the back of being a hub of India's petroleum trade with Europe.
- ✓ Other countries with which there is a trade surplus are the UK (\$4.5 billion), Italy (\$ 2.9 billion), France (\$902 million), and Belgium (\$598 million).
- ✓ India has a free trade agreement with four of its top trading partners Singapore, the UAE, Korea, and Indonesia (as part of the Asian bloc).
- Nyishi Tribe is the largest ethnic group of which one of the following States? Q.

A) Odisha	B) Tripura
C) Sikkim	D) Arunachal Pradesh

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Mountaineer and cricketer Kabak Yano etched her name in history recently by becoming the fifth woman from Arunachal Pradesh and the first woman from the Nyishi tribe to scale Mt. Everest.
- ✓ About Nyishi Tribe:
- ✓ The Nyishi are the largest ethnic group in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ In Nishi, their traditional language, Nyi refers to "a man" and the word shi denotes "a being", which combined together refers to a civilized human being.
- ✓ The Nyishi language belongs to the Sino-Tibetan family; however, its origin is disputed.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the National Green Hydrogen Mission:

1. It aims to make India a Global Hub for the production, utilization and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.

2. The Ministry of Power, Government of India, will be responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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A) 1 only

C) Both 1 and 2

B) 2 onlyD) Neither 1 nor 2

### Answer : A

- ✓ State-run GAIL (India) Ltd. recently inaugurated its first 10 MW Green Hydrogen Plant under the National Green Hydrogen Mission in Madhya Pradesh's Vijaipur.
- ✓ About National Green Hydrogen Mission:
- ✓ It was approved by the Union Cabinet on January 4, 2022.
- Aim: To make India a Global Hub for the production, utilization, and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.
- ✓ Components:
- ✓ Under the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT), two distinct financial incentive mechanisms
- ✓ Incentive for manufacturing of electrolysers
- ✓ Incentive for production of green hydrogen.
- ✓ The Mission will also support pilot projects in emerging end-use sectors and production pathways.
- Regions capable of supporting large-scale production and/or utilization of Hydrogen will be identified and developed as Green Hydrogen Hubs.
- ✓ The mission outcomes projected by 2030 are:
- ✓ Development of green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) per annum with an associated renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW in the country;
- ✓ Over Rs. Eight lakh crores in total investments;
- ✓ Creation of over Six lakh jobs;
- ✓ Cumulative reduction in fossil fuel imports over Rs. One lakh crore;
- ✓ Abatementof nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions;
- ✓ The initial outlay for the Mission will be Rs.19,744 crore, including an outlay of Rs.17,490 crore for the SIGHTprogramme, Rs.1,466 crore for pilot projects, Rs.400 crore for R&D, and Rs. 388 crores towards other Mission components.
- ✓ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy will be responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the Mission



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- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Mundra Port:
  - 1. It is the largest private port and the largest container port in India.
  - 2. It is located on the north shores of the Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat.

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

- Adani Group's Mundra Port recently saw the largest ever container ship to dock at an Indian port when the almost 400-metre-long MSC Anna came visiting.
- ✓ About Mundra Port:
- ✓ It is the largest private port and the largest container port in India.
- ✓ Location: It is located on the north shores of the Gulf of Kutch, near Mundra, Kutch district, Gujarat.
- ✓ It is a deep-draft, all-weather port.
- ✓ It is also a special economic zone (SEZ).
- ✓ As much as 33 percent of India's container traffic flows through the port.
- ✓ Ownership: It is run by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ), which is India's largest commercial ports operator and accounts for nearly one-fourth of the country's cargo movement.
- ✓ Handling Capacity:
- ✓ With a capacity of 260 MMT, the port handles over 155 MMT (FY 2022-23), which constitutes nearly 11% of India's maritime cargo.
- ✓ The port has 26 berths and two single-point moorings, which allow it to accommodate a wide range of vessels.
- ✓ It also has the country's largest coal import terminal, which facilitates faster cargo evacuation with minimal turnaround time.



Q. With reference to the PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It was introduced for de-dieselisation of the farm sector and enhancing the income of farmers.

2. Under the Scheme, the central government provides subsidies for the installation of standalone solar pumps.

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3. Only individual farmers are eligible beneficiaries under the scheme.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

**D)** None

C) All three

Answer : B

- ✓ The Ministry of Renewable Energy recently issued a warning to farmers on PM-KUSUM website against fake websites and mobile applications that provide fake online application forms and demand registration fees for installing solar water pumps under PM Kusum scheme.
- ✓ About PM-KUSUM Scheme:
- ✓ The PM-KUSUM Scheme was launched in 2019 for de-dieselisation of the farm sector and enhancing the income of farmers.
- ✓ It is aimed at ensuring energy security for farmers in India, along with honouring India's commitment to increase the share of installed capacity of electric power from non-fossil-fuel sources to 40% by 2030 as part of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).
- ✓ The scheme aims to add Solar capacity of about 34,800 MW by March 2026 with the total Central Financial support of Rs 34,422 crore.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
- ✓ Under the Scheme, a central government subsidy upto 30% or 50% of the total cost is given for the installation of standalone solar pumps and also for the solarization of existing grid-connected agricultural pumps.
- ✓ Further, farmers can also install grid-connected solar power plants up to 2MW, under the Scheme on their barren/fallow land.
- ✓ Component A:
- ✓ 10,000 MW of solar capacity through the installation of small Solar Power Plants of individual plants of capacity up to 2 MW.



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- ✓ Component B:
- ✓ Installation of 20 lakhs of standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps.
- Individual farmers will be supported to install standalone solar Agriculture pumps of capacity up to 7.5 HP for the replacement of existing diesel Agriculture pumps / irrigation systems in off-grid areas, where grid supply is not available.
- ✓ Component C:
- ✓ For Solarisation of 15 Lakh Grid Connected Agriculture Pumps.
- Under this Component, individual farmers having grid connected agriculture pump will be supported to solarise pumps.
- ✓ The eligible categories for KUSUM Scheme are:
- ✓ An individual farmer.
- ✓ A group of farmers.
- ✓ FPO or Farmer producer organization.
- ✓ Panchayat.
- ✓ Co-operatives.
- ✓ Water User Associations.
- Q. Mrugavani National Park, recently seen in news, is located in:
  - A) Maharashtra
  - **B) Odisha**
  - C) Gujarat
  - D) Telangana

#### Answer : D

- ✓ The extent of Mrugavani National Park at Chilkur in Moinabad mandal has undergone massive revision on paper, resulting in reduction of 80 hectares.
- ✓ Location: It is located in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ✓ Topography: The topography of Park supports woodlands, grasslands and rocky areas.
- ✓ Vegetation: Most of the vegetation can be classified as southern tropical dry deciduous forests.



Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Shallow Aquifer Management Project:

1. It is a sustainable urban water management technique to address issues of groundwater depletion.

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2. It is part of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

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 Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) in a latest intervention has taken up Shallow Aquifer Management (SAM) model on a pilot basis in the city.
- ✓ It is a sustainable urban water management technique and addresses persistent issues of groundwater depletion, drying up of borewells, and check quick flooding of city streets.
- ✓ How it is done?
- ✓ The project's concept is to drill shallow water injection borewells to a depth of 100-120 feet and pump out water in the shallow aquifers.
- ✓ This is done so that the layers underneath get recharged whenever there is rainfall, while collecting water from the surrounding watershed and channelling it through recharge pits.
- ✓ Thus, the underground layers are recharged, and water table rises.
- ✓ <u>SAM Pilot model in India</u>
- It is part of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- Nodal implementing agency: National Institute of Urban Affairs
   In 2022, the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) initiated a SAM pilot across 10 cities in nine states: Bengaluru (Karnataka), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Dhanbad (Jharkhand), Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Hyderabad (Telangana), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Kolkata (West Bengal), Pune and Thane (Maharashtra), and Rajkot (Gujarat).

361

### Q. When is the International Missing Children's Day (IMCD) commemorated?

A) 25 May	<b>B) 24 May</b>
C) 23 May	D) 22 May



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### Answer : A

- ✓ Every year, 25 May is observed as International Missing Children's Day (IMCD) around the world to commemorate the missing children who have found their way home, remember those who have been victims of crime, and continue efforts to find those who are still missing.
- ✓ The symbol for IMCD is the forget-me-not flower.
- ✓ The day was proclaimed in 1983, by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.
- ✓ The first IMCD was observed in 2001 through the joint efforts of the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC), Missing Children Europe, and the European Commission

### Q. Which day of the year is celebrated as the World Thyroid Day?

A) May 23	B) May 22
C) May 25	D) May 26

#### Answer : C

- ✓ The World Thyroid Day is celebrated every year on May 25 to promote awareness and understanding of thyroid health and the advances made in treating thyroid diseases.
- The World Thyroid Day was established in 2008 by the European Thyroid Association and the American Thyroid Association
- Q. Who was granted a one-year extension as the Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)?
  - A) Samir V. Kamat
  - B) Rajesh Sharma
  - C) Amit Patel
  - D) Priya Singh

#### Answer : A

- ✓ DRDO chairman Samir V Kamat gets one-year extension.
- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet granted an extension of one year to Dr Samir V. Kamat, who is the Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).



✓ With approval, Dr Samir Kamat will hold charge of DRDO till May 31, 2025. The extension of Kamat's term came a day after the Union government, in an unusual move, extended the tenure of Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande for a month.

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# **DRDO IN NEWS 2023-24**

- DRDO chairman Samir V Kamat gets one-year extension.
- > DRDO hands over nine defence tech projects to IIT-Bhubaneswar
- > DRDO successfully tested the next-generation Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system on 1 May 2024 from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- > Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is reported to be testing a prototype of its DURGA-2 (Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array) system.
- > DRDO successfully tested the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from Chandipur, Odisha.
- > Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out successful trials of the Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System at Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan
- > Recently, Strategic Forces Command and DRDO successfully tested the new generation ballistic missile Agni-Prime off the coast of Odisha.
- > DRDO successfully conducted two flight tests of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile.
- > DRDO successfully conducted four flight trials of the high-speed expendable aerial target 'ABHYAS' recently.
- > Defence Ministry has cleared the proposal of buying a regiment of Pralay tactical ballistic missiles for the Indian Army which can strike targets at 150–500 km.
- > DRDO organises 'Anusandhaan Chintan Shivir' to encourage Defence R&D.
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have formed a partnership to create an Indigenous Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System for the submarines in the Indian Navy.
- > DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.



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- Indian Navy and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) collaborated to conduct the first successful test trial of a locally-made Air Droppable Container called 'ADC-150' from the IL 38SD aircraft off the coast of Goa .
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated its 66th foundation day on 1st January 2024.
- > Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Founded : 1 January 1958
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Motto : "Strength's Origin is in Knowledge"
- Chairman : Sameer V Kamat
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) initiative:

1. It is a mandatory disclosure mechanism for top 1000 listed companies to report their performance on environmental, social and governance.

2. It is an initiative of the World Bank.

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

- ✓ Delhi-based think tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) welcomed the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) initiative by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- ✓ It is a mandatory disclosure mechanism for top 1000 listed companies or businesses to report their performance on environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspects and demonstrate their commitment to responsible business practices.
- ✓ It was introduced in May 2021 by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- ✓ This initiative was intended to provide policymakers and investors with robust data to make informed decisions.
- The disclosure requirements are grouped into nine core categories, based on the principles of the National Guidelines for Responsible Business Conduct introduced by SEBI:



✓ Environmental protection: Key performance indicators cover electricity consumption, water usage and air emissions.

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- ✓ Human rights: Focus on human rights violations and minimum and fair wages.
- ✓ Integrity: Performance indicators include anti-corruption, anti-bribery and conflicts of interest policies.
- ✓ Employee well-being: Metrics focused on parental benefits, employee accessibility and the percentage of unionized workers.
- Inclusive growth: Policies favoring vulnerable and marginalized groups.  $\checkmark$
- Sustainable goods and services: Information on investments in social and environmental impacts.  $\checkmark$
- Which two banks were penalized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for non-compliance with **Q**. regulatory directives?
  - A) State Bank of India and HDFC Bank
  - **B) YES Bank and ICICI Bank**
  - C) Punjab National Bank and Axis Bank
  - D) Kotak Mahindra Bank and Bank of Baroda

### Answer : B

- ✓ RBI penalises YES Bank, ICICI Bank for regulatory breaches.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed monetary penalties on two prominent banks, YES Bank Ltd and ICICI Bank Ltd, for non-compliance with regulatory directives.
- ✓ YES Bank incurred a penalty of ₹91 lakh for failing to adhere to RBI's directives on 'customer service in banks' and the 'unauthorised operation of internal/office accounts'.
- ✓ Similarly, ICICI Bank faced a penalty of ₹1 crore for contravening RBI's directions on 'loans and advances - statutory and other restrictions.' The penalty stemmed from the bank's failure to exercise due diligence in sanctioning term loans to entities, leading to potential financial risks

# **PENALTY IN NEWS 2023-24**

- > ICICI Bank faced a penalty of ₹1 crore for contravening RBI's directions on 'loans and advances statutory and other restrictions.'
- > YES Bank incurred a penalty of ₹91 lakh for failing to adhere to RBI's directives on 'customer service' in banks' and the 'unauthorised operation of internal/office accounts'.

365

SEBI imposes ₹11.90 crore fine on 19 entities for Superior Finlease 'pump and dump'



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- > IRDAI imposes a fine of Rs 1 crore on IPO-bound Go Digit Insurance
- ➤ RBI has imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on IDFC First Bank for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions'.
- > RBI imposes Rs 1.31 cr fine on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.4 crore on Bank of India for noncompliance with certain regulatory norms.
- Paytm's trouble escalated further with the Financial Intelligence Unit-India slapping a ₹5.49 crore penalty on Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) for violating Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) obligations
- ➤ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to waive the ₹5 crore penalty that was previously imposed on Bank of Baroda.
- > RBI imposes Rs 8.8 lakh penalty on Power Finance Corporation for non-compliance.
- Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has fined Air India ₹1.1 crore for safety violations on certain flights.
- RBI took regulatory action imposing penalties on Bank of America, N.A. and HDFC Bank Ltd. for violations of specific norms.
- RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs. 10,000 on Bank of America, N.A. for violating the reporting requirements under the liberalized Remittances Scheme of FEMA 1999.
- HDFC Bank Ltd also faced a penalty of Rs.10,000 for violating directions related to the acceptance of deposits from non-residents.
- > RBI Imposes ₹2.5 Crore Penalty On L&T Finance For Non Compliance.
- This penalty has been levied due to non-compliance with specific provisions of the Non-Banking Financial Company.
- > RBI Imposes ₹5.4 Crore Penalty On Paytm Payments Bank.
- Paytm Payments Bank was penalized for "non-compliance with certain provisions of the 'Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016'."
- ➤ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty or ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.



Q. Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on which bank for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Loans and Advances - Statutory and Other Restrictions'?

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A) Axis Bank **B) Yes Bank** 

C) ICICI Bank

#### Answer : C

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on ICICI Bank for non-compliance with certain  $\checkmark$ directions on 'Loans and Advances - Statutory and Other Restrictions'.

**D) HDFC Bank** 

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

- > ICICI Bank introduces UPI for NRIs through international mobile numbers.
- > Pradeep Kumar Sinha to take over as Non-Executive Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank.
- ▶ HDFC Bank to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank.
- ICICI Bank Canada Launches 'Money2India (Canada)' Mobile Banking App.
- > iVIS, a subsidiary of Magellanic Cloud, has announced its empanelment with ICICI Bank for the delivery of e-surveillance services across branches.
- > ICICI Bank receives RBI's nod to make Securities a wholly-owned subsidiary.
- > ICICI Bank Introduces 'iFinance,' A One-Stop Solution for Multi-Bank Account Access.
- > IIT Kanpur has signed an MoU with private lender ICICI Bank to support the startup ecosystem in the institute.
- > Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken strict measures against two prominent banking institutions, Kotak Mahindra Bank penalty of Rs 3.95 crore and ICICI Bank penalty of Rs 12.19 crore, by imposing significant penalties.
- > RBI approves reappointment of Sandeep Bakshi as ICICI Bank MD & CEO for three more years till October 2026.
- > ICICI Bank gets RBI nod to make I-Process Services as wholly-owned subsidiary.
- Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) BANK
- ▶ Founded : 1994
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sandeep Bakhshi
- Tagline : Hum Hai Na Khayal Apka.

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Q. Campi Flegrei, recently seen in the news, is an active volcanic area located in which one of the following countries?

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A) Chile	<b>B)</b> Philippines
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C) Italy **D)** United Statesof America

### Answer : C

- ✓ The strongest earthquake to hit Italy's Campi Flegrei supervolcano region in decades struck recently.
- ✓ About Campi Flegrei:
- ✓ Campi Flegrei (known as Phlegrean Fields in English) is an active volcanic area located in the vicinity of Naples, Italy.
- ✓ Unlike the nearby Mount Vesuvius, Campi Flegrei is not characterised by a single volcano.
- Consider the following statements with reference to the ZiG currency: Q.
  - 1. It is a new gold backed currency launched by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe.
  - 2. It is launched with an aim to prevent currency devaluation.

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, to address its long-standing economic instability, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has launched a new gold-backed currency called the ZiG.
- $\checkmark$  About ZiG:
- ✓ The Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG) is a new gold-backed currency launched by Zimbabwe.
- ✓ The ZiG, now the sixth currency used by Zimbabwe, has been in circulation since April 5, 2024.
- ✓ Key features of ZiG
- ✓ The ZiG stands out as a new currency backed by gold reserves, ensuring its value is supported by the physical gold held by the government.
- ✓ ZiG notes and coins will be available and issued in denominations: 1ZiG, 2ZiG, 5ZiG, 10ZiG, 20Zig, 50ZiG, 100ZiG, and 200ZiG, with the gold backing aims to provide stability and prevent currency devaluation.
- Reasons for launching new currency

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Zimbabwe has grappled with high inflation, with rates surpassing 500% in recent years.

Consequently, the Zimbabwean dollar, introduced in 1980, lost its value due to hyperinflation.

#### INS Kiltan, recently seen in news, belongs to: Q.

- A) Delhi class **B)** Kamorta-class
- C) Kalavari class D) Arihant class

### Answer : B

✓ Indian Naval Ship Kiltan arrived at Muara, Brunei and was accorded a warm welcome by the Royal Brunei Navy.

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- ✓ It is an indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette.
- ✓ This is the third of the four Kamorta-class corvettes being built under Project 28.
- ✓ The ship derives its name from one of the islands in Aminidivi group of the strategically located Lakshadweep and Minicoy group of islands.
- ✓ Designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation Directorate of Naval Design and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata
- ✓ It is India's first major warship to have a superstructure of carbon fibre composite material resulting in improved stealth features, lower top weight and maintenance costs.
- 0. Gitanas Nauseda has been re-elected President of which country?
  - A) Estonia
  - **B)** Lithuania
  - C) Latvia
  - **D)** Poland

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Lithuanian President Gitanas Nauseda re elected for another term.
- ✓ President Gitanas Nauseda has been re-elected President of the Baltic state of Lithuania.
- The 60-year-old Gitanas Nauseda, who does not belong to any political party, defeated the incumbent Prime Minister Ingrida Simonyte of the ruling centre-right Homeland Union party in the run-off presidential election held on 26 May 2024.



Q. Which state topped the list for the addition of transmission lines by state transmission companies in 2023-24 according to the Central Electricity Authority?

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A) Gujarat

C) Maharashtra

B) Tamil Nadu D) Uttar Pradesh

### Answer : D

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh tops in addition of Transmission line in 2023-24.
- According to the recently released statistics of the Central Electricity Authority, Uttar Pradesh emerged as the number one state in terms of the addition of transmission lines by state transmission companies in 2023-24. In 2022-23 also, Uttar Pradesh topped the list amongst the state utilities.
- ✓ In 2023-24, the state government-owned Uttar Pradesh Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (UPPTCL) added 1,460 ckm(Circuit Kilometer) of transmission lines of 220kV or above.
- ✓ Gujarat was in second place. The state-run Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation Ltd (GETCO) added 898 ckm of transmission line in 2023-24.
- ✓ At the third place was Tamil Nadu. The state-run utility company Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Limited (TANTRANSCO) added 753 ckm of transmission line
- Q. Which commodity became the fourth-largest export item from India in FY24 with a 42% growth?
  - A) Motor gasoline B) Petroleum products
  - **C)** Smartphones

D) Textiles

### Answer : C

- ✓ Smartphones become India's fourth largest export item with 42% growth.
- ✓ Smartphones are now the fourth-largest export item from India with 42 per cent growth to \$15.6 billion in FY24, up by one notch in the ranking from the preceding year.
- ✓ India started collecting data for smartphones separately from April 2022. While India's top export items are dominated by petroleum products, smartphones replaced motor gasoline to become the fourth-largest exported commodity in FY24.
- ✓ According to commerce department data, the spike in smartphone exports was driven by a 158 per cent increase in shipments to the US at \$5.6 billion, followed by the United Arab Emirates (\$2.6 billion), the Netherlands (\$1.2 billion), and the UK (\$1.1 billion).

370



# Q. Which company recently finalized a deal to sell its minority stake in Tata Play, a subscription television broadcaster, to the Tata Group, resulting in the Tata Group gaining full control of Tata Play?

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A) Amazon	B) Walt Disney
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C) Netflix

D) Google

### Answer : B

- ✓ Disney to sell 30% Tata Play stake to Tata Group.
- Walt Disney has finalised a deal to sell its minority stake in the subscription television broadcaster Tata Play to the Tata Group, according to a report by Bloomberg.
- ✓ The transaction values the satellite TV provider, Tata Play, at about \$1 billion. The Tata Group took full control of the platform after buying the 29.8 per cent stake from Disney.
- ✓ Disney signed a binding agreement in late February to combine its India unit with billionaire Mukesh Ambani's media arm, 'Viacom 18 Media Pvt', creating an \$8.5 billion entertainment juggernaut that will have over 750 million viewers and dominate the media sector in India.
- Q. During which event were 64 Great Indian Bustards spotted in the National Desert Park, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan?
  - A) Annual Wildlife CensusB) Waterhole SurveyC) Bird Watching ExpeditionD) Wildlife Photography
  - C) Bird Watching Expedition D) Wildlife Photography Tour

#### Answer: B

- ✓ 64 Great Indian Bustards spotted during 'Waterhole' survey in Jaisalmer.
- ✓ 64 Great Indian Bustard was spotted during the annual waterhole survey conducted in the National Desert Park, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. In the last 2022 census, 42 birds were counted using the waterhole technique No census was conducted in 2023 due to rains caused by the western disturbances.
- ✓ The census is done on Vaishakh Purnima as it is a full moon; hence, animals or birds can be spotted easily without the use of artificial lights. Also, this period is generally very hot, and the temperature regularly crosses 45 degrees Celsius in the area, forcing the wildlife to come and drink water at least once every 24 hours.
- ✓ According to the forest officials, 21 Great Indian Bustards were counted in the Ramdevra region, while 43 were observed in the Sipla, Sudasari, Gazai Mata, Jamra, Chouhani, and Barna areas of Jaisalmer. The

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forest officials also counted more than 1000 Chinkaras, 30 Desert Cats, 150 Foxes and more than 100 Vultures

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- The Great Indian Bustard bird, also known as Godawan, is the state bird of Rajasthan. The Great Indian Bustard is a critically endangered species which mainly lives in dry grasslands. It has been put into Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, which provides it with the highest level of legal protection.
- Which organization has partnered with the Algorand Foundation to launch the first layer one Q. blockchain protocol-backed Application Developer Course on NASSCOM's FutureSkills Prime platform?

A) IBM

**B)** Microsoft

**C)** AlgoBharat

**D)** Google

# Answer : C

- ✓ Algorand Foundation launches developer training platform with NASSCOM.
- ✓ AlgoBharat, Algorand Foundation's India-focused initiative, announced that it officially launching the first layer one blockchain protocol backed Application Developer Course on NASSCOM's FutureSkills Prime platform.
- ✓ NASSCOM's FutureSkills Prime, a joint initiative of India's IT Industry and the Government of India, aims to enhance digital skills across India and position the country as a leader in global innovation and growth.
- ✓ As the first blockchain platform to partner with NASSCOM, Algorand is creating original developer training content aligned with the National Occupational Standards (NOS) and National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF), enabling India's young developers to acquire in-demand skills that NASSCOM has identified as being highly valued by employers

Q. PhonePe's Pincode, a store-first commerce app, has partnered with which retailer to expand its online customer base?

- A) Big Bazaar
- C) Simpli Namdhari's

**B)** Reliance Fresh

**D)** Spencer's

Answer : C

✓ PhonePe's Pincode partners with Simpli Namdhari's in Bengaluru to expand customer base.



Pincode, a homegrown store-first commerce app by PhonePe has reportedly announced it's partnered with Simpli Namdhari's, one of the country's 100 per cent veg omnichannel retailers, to reach a larger online customer base.

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- ✓ The collaboration will bring a wide variety of groceries, fresh fruits, vegetables and other premium FMCG products on the Pincode app for people residing in Bengaluru, the company announced.
- The collaboration will bring a wide variety of groceries, fresh fruits, vegetables and other premium FMCG  $\checkmark$ products on the Pincode app for people residing in Bengaluru
- Q. Barcelona recently clinched its third Women's Champions League title in four years by defeating which opponent?

A) Bayern Munich	B) Manchester City
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C) Lyon	
---------	--

**D)** Paris Saint-Germain

### Answer : C

- ✓ Barcelona finally beats Lyon and retains Women's Champions League crown.
- ✓ With a triumph over the rival it could never beat, Barcelona made it clear who's in charge of women's soccer.
- ✓ Barcelona ended its losing streak against the game's most successful club, beating Lyon 2-0 to clinch its third Women's Champions League title in four years.
- What is the goal of the new 'Investment Round' launched by the World Health Organization (WHO)? Q.
  - A) To raise funds for global health research
  - B) To raise funds for humanitarian aid

C) To raise funds to tackle global challenges such as climate change, displacement, poverty, and inequality

# D) To raise funds for COVID-19 vaccine distribution

#### Answer : C

- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a new 'Investment Round' aiming to raise 7 billion dollars of funds to support countries to tackle challenges like climate change, displacement, poverty and inequality.
- ✓ This initiative comes just before the 77th World Health Assembly, which begins at the United States agency's headquarters with 194 member states. WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced

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that increased commitments would contribute USD 4 billion to the agency's USD 11.1 billion budget for the 2025-2028 period.

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- ✓ The 77th World Health Assembly is being held in Geneva from May 27 to June 1, with the theme "All for Health, Health for All." The Investment Round follows recommendations from the WHO Working Group on Sustainable Financing and was approved at the 154th Meeting of the WHO Executive Board in January 2024. It aims to secure funding for WHO's strategy, the 14th General Programme of Work
- **Q**. From when will the new tick size of one paisa be applicable for stocks priced below Rs 250, as announced by the National Stock Exchange (NSE)?

A) May 10, 2024	B) June 1, 2024
<b>C) June 10, 2024</b>	<b>D)</b> July 1, 2024

#### Answer : C

- ✓ NSE lowers tick size for stocks below Rs 250.
- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) announced that it is introducing one paisa tick size for all the stocks in the price range of Rs 250 and under. The new tick size will be applicable from June 10, 2024.
- This development comes amidst an effort to increase liquidity and improve price discovery by making room  $\checkmark$ for much more precise price adjustments. Currently, the tick size for the stocks is five paise and this has been now reduced to 1 paisa.
- The exchange said that all the securities, excluding exchange-traded funds, available in the EQ, BE, BZ, BO, RL, and AF series with a stock price below Rs 250 will have a tick size of Rs 0.01, rather than the current tick size of Rs 0.05.
- The tick size settled for securities in T+1 settlement will also apply to T+0 securities, the exchange shared via a circular.
- Which regulatory authority imposed a financial penalty of 10 million rand on the State Bank of India's Q. South Africa branch?
  - A) South African Revenue Service
  - **B)** Financial Services Board of South Africa
  - C) Prudential Authority of the South African Reserve Bank
  - D) Competition Commission of South Africa

#### Answer : C



# South African regulator fines SBI's branch

✓ The Prudential Authority of the South African Reserve Bank has imposed a financial penalty of 10 million rand (₹4.5 crore) on the State Bank of India's South Africa branch, the bank.

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- ✓ This penalty was imposed under Section 45C of the country's Financial Intelligence Centre Act 38 of 2001 (FIC Act) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the FIC Act or other related orders or directives.
- ✓ The bank informed the stock exchange that the financial penalty consists of an immediately payable portion of 5.50 million rand, which the SBI branch in South Africa has already paid. The remaining 4.50 million rand is suspended for 36 months, contingent on compliance within this period

#### Q. Who emerged as the champion of the Sharjah Challengers 2024?

A) Daneshvar

C) Arjun

**B)** Divya Deshmukh

D) Leya Garifullina

#### Answer : B

- ✓ International Master Divya Deshmukh of Nagpur emerged champion of the Sharjah Challengers 2024, the other day. In the final round, Divya played out a draw against IM Leya Garifullina to emerge winner. Arjun became the sole Indian to make a top ten finish in the Masters. He secured seventh place.
- Q. The Pravaah portal, recently seen in the news aims to:
  - A) facilitate retail investors to open their Retail Direct Gilt accounts
  - B) provide information about FinTech entities and their activities
  - C) seek authorisation or regulatory approval on any reference made to the Reserve Bank of India
  - D) enable the trading of G-Secs on mobile device

### Answer : C

- ✓ RBI Governor recently unveiled three major initiatives of the Reserve Bank, namely the Pravaah portal, the Retail Direct Mobile App and a FinTech Repository.
- ✓ About Pravaah Portal:
- ✓ Pravaah (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation, and Authorisation) is a secure and centralised web-based portal for any individual or entity to seek authorisation, license, or regulatory approval on any reference
- made by it to the RBI.

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- $\checkmark$  The following are some of the key features available in the portal:
- ✓ Submit the application online on the portal.
- ✓ Track and monitor the status of the application/reference.
- ✓ Respond to any clarification/query sought by the RBI in connection with the application/reference; and
- ✓ Receive a decision from the RBI in a time-bound manner
- ✓ This portal will also enhance the efficiency of various processes related to the granting of regulatory approvals and clearances by the RBI.
- ✓ At present, 60 application forms covering different regulatory and supervisory departments of RBI have been made available on the portal.
- This also includes a general-purpose form for applicants to submit their requests, which are not included in any other application form.
- Q. Which portal has been launched by RBI where an applicant can apply for authorisation, license, or regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank?
  - A) UDGAM
  - **B) PRISM**
  - C) PRAVAAH
  - D) FLAIR

### Answer : C

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched three major initiatives on 28 May 2024: the PRAVAH portal, a mobile app for retail investors to trade in government securities, and a Fintech Repository.
- ✓ These three initiatives were launched by the RBI governor, Shaktikanta Das, in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✓ About the PRAVAH Portal
- ✓ The PRAVAAH(Platform for Regulatory Application, VAlidation and AutHorisation) is a centralised webbased portal that provides a secure platform for individuals or entities to seek authorisation, license, or regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank.
- ✓ An individual or entity can submit 60 application forms covering different regulatory and supervisory departments of the RBI online.
- Applicants can also track their applications online, monitor their status, and receive a decision from the RBI in a time-bound manner



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# **RBI PORTAL IN NEWS**

- > RBI launched UDGAM portal to track unclaimed deposits.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has planned to launch a secured web-based centralised portal named 'PRAVAAH' to simplify and streamline application processes.
- > RBI to launch PRISM platform to strengthen compliance by supervised entities.
- > RBI develops portal FLAIR for reporting of Foreign Liabilities and Assets (FLA).
- > RBI launches CISBI portal for keeping track of Banking Outlets.
- > RBI launches Mobile Aided Note Identifier (MANI) app for visually impaired persons

# Q. Where has the public sector company GAIL (India) Limited set up its first green hydrogen plant?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
  - C) Karnataka

B) Telangana

D) Tamil Nadu

### Answer : A

- The government of India-owned GAIL(India) Limited's first green hydrogen plant has become operational at Vijaipur in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ This marks the entry of India's largest natural gas transmission and distribution company in the green fuel business.
- ✓ The 10-megawatt proton exchange membrane electrolyser for the green-hydrogen producing unit at the Vijaipur complex has been imported from Canada.
- ✓ The plant was in line with the National Green Hydrogen mission that has set out a goal of 5 million tons of annual green hydrogen production capacity for the country by 2030.

377

- Q. What was the primary objective of NASA's Magellan Mission, recently seen in the news?
  - A) To study the atmosphere of Mars
  - B) To study the asteroids
  - C) To explore the outer solar system
  - D) To map the surface of Venus

#### Answer : D



✓ After analyzing the archived data from NASA's Magellan mission, scientists say they observed new lava flows on Venus, suggesting that the planet was volcanically active between 1990 and 1992.

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- ✓ About Magellan Mission:
- ✓ It was a deep space mission launched by NASA on May 4, 1989, to explore the planet Venus.
- ✓ It was launched from Cape Canaveral aboard the space shuttle Atlantis. It was the first interplanetary mission launched from the Space Shuttle and the first spacecraft to use the Inertial Upper Stage booster.
- ✓ It was named after the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, who was the first to circumnavigate the earth.

# **NASA IN NEWS 2023-24**

- > NASA confirmed the Dragonfly rotorcraft mission to Saturn's moon Titan with a \$3.35 billion budget, launching in July 2028.
- > NASA is now publicly distributing science-quality data from its newest Earth-observing PACE satellite.
- > NASA has been tasked with establishing Coordinated Lunar Time (LTC) as a unified standard for timekeeping on the Moon and other celestial bodies
- American space agency NASA has discovered a "super-Earth" planet, dubbed TOI-715 b, that could potentially support life. It is located 137 light-years away and was found by NASA's planet-hunting Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission.
- > NASA Re-Establishes Contact With Ingenuity Helicopter On Mars After Outage
- > NASA has invited people to send their names to the surface of the Moon aboard the agency's first robotic lunar rover VIPER – short for Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover.
- > NASA is gearing up to enhance our understanding of Earth's atmosphere with the upcoming Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, Ocean Ecosystem (PACE) mission, scheduled for launch in early 2024.
- > NASA renames mission going to asteroid Apophis after returning rocks from Bennu.
- ➢ About OSIRIS-APEX:
- > It is a mission to study the physical changes to asteroid Apophis that will result from its rare close encounter
- with Earth in April 2029.
- > A NASA experiment on the Psyche spacecraft has beamed back a near-infrared laser that contains test data from almost 16 million kilometres away.

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- $\succ$  16 Psyche:
- > It is currently orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.
- NASA is set to launch the Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE) to study 'airglow' to understand space
- ➤ weather.
- NASA's James Webb Telescope recently discovered a new exoplanet named 'Wasp-107b', which is the size
- ➢ of Jupiter.
- > NASA's Lucy spacecraft successfully completed its first flyby of an asteroid named Dinkinesh.
- About Lucy Mission:
- > It is a first-of-its-kind mission of NASA that will explore Jupiter's elusive Trojan asteroids.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched a sounding rocket as part of its INFUSE mission.
- > NASA's Subsurface Water Ice Mapping (SWIM) project released its fourth set of maps.
- > NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- ➢ Founded : 1958
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C
- Administrator : Bill Nelson

Q. Which company has been honoured with 'The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organization Award 2024-25'?

A) NTPC Limited

**B)** ReNew Power

C) NHPC

**D) JSW Energy** 

# Answer : C

- ✓ NHPC, India's premier hydropower company has been conferred with the prestigious 'The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organization Award 2024-25'.
- ✓ The Award was received by Uttam Lal, Director (Personnel), NHPC along with Lucas Guria, Executive Director (HR) and a team of NHPC officers at the Awards Ceremony held in Mumbai.



The Award has been given to NHPC in recognition for its future preparedness in the areas of upskilling of its employees, ESG interventions, DE&I initiatives, constant technological upgradations, Employee Engagement processes, robust Corporate Governance strategies etc. which establishes it as a trusted brand amongst all its stakeholders.

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- Q. The Government of India will get Rs \_\_\_\_\_ as dividend for being Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India's largest shareholder.
  - A) 3,262 crore B) 3,362 crore
  - C) 3,662 crore D) 3,862 crore

#### Answer : C

- ✓ The Government of India will get Rs 3,662 crore as dividend for being Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India's largest shareholder.
- ✓ This comes after the country's largest insurer declared an interim dividend of Rs 6 per share.
- The government owns 96.5 percent stake in the insurer or 6,10,36,22,781 shares.
- Gross non-performing asset (GNPA) stood at 2.01. percent against 2.56 percent in the year-ago period, LIC  $\checkmark$ said

# **LIC IN NEWS 2023-24**

- ➢ Government of India will get Rs 3,662 crore as dividend for being Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India's largest shareholder.
- LIC gets 3-yr extension from SEBI to achieve 10% public shareholding
- > 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.

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- > 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. Allamaye Halina has been sworn as new PM of which country?

A) Zimbabwe	B) Ghana
C) Chad	D) Sudan

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Allamaye Halina named new PM of Chad
- ✓ Chad's newly elected president, Mahamat Idriss Deby, has been sworn in to succeed his late father after three years as an interim leader under military rule in the northcentral African country.

# **NEWLY PRIME MINISTER IN NEWS**

- Allamaye Halina : Chad
- Lawrence Wong : Singapore
- > Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah : Kuwait
- Simon Harris : Ireland
- Bjarni Benediktsson : Iceland
- Luis Montenegro : Portugal
- Mohammad Mustafa : Palestine
- Olzhas Bektenov : Kazakhstan
- ➢ Gabriel Attal : France
- Donald Tusk : Poland
- Luke Frieden : Luxembourg

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- 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. Major Radhika Sen was deployed in which country as part of the United Nations peacekeeping mission for which she got a UN Award?

A) Congo	B) Ghana
C) Chad	D) Sudan

#### Answer : A

- ✓ United Nations has selected the Indian Army Major Radhika Sen for the prestigious 2023 Military Gender Advocate of the Year award.
- ✓ The award will be conferred to Major Radhika Sen by the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the occasion of the International Day of the UN Peacekeepers. The International Day of the UN Peacekeepers is observed on 29 May every year since 2003.
- ✓ Major Radhika Sen becomes the second Indian to be awarded the United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award.
- ✓ Major Suman Gawani was the first Indian to be honoured with the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award in 2019. Major Suman Gawani was deployed with the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS).
- ✓ Major Radhika, who is from Himachal Pradesh, was deployed with the Indian Rapid Deployment Battalion in South Sudan in 2023. She was working with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo MONUSCO



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Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Vivekananda Rock Memorial:

- 1. It is built on a small island off Tamil Nadu in honour of Swami Vivekananda.
- 2. It is surrounded by the Laccadive Sea.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only B) 2 only

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

### Answer : C

- ✓ The Prime Minister will be visiting the Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanyakumari to meditate for 48 hours and mark the culmination of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.
- ✓ About Vivekananda Rock Memorial:
- ✓ It is located on a small island off Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The memorial stands on one of the two rocks located about 500 meters off the mainland of Vavathurai.
- ✓ The rock is surrounded by the Laccadive Sea, where the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean, and the Arabian Sea form a confluence.
- It was built in 1970 in honour of Swami Vivekananda, who is said to have attained enlightenment on the rock.
- ✓ It comprises of the 'Shripada Mandapam' and the 'Vivekananda Mandapam'.
- Q. Archaeological Survey of India recently founded the neolithic age rock carvings in which state?

A) Goa	B) Uttar Pradesh
C) Haryana	D) Odisha

### Answer : A

- ✓ The Archaeological Survey of India confirms Neolithic rock carvings in Goa's Mauxi village.
- Carvings on meta basalt rock along the dry Zarme riverbed depict animals like zebus, bulls, and antelopes, as well as footprints and cupules.
- ✓ In India, prehistoric rock paintings span from the Upper Palaeolithic, featuring animal figures, to the Mesolithic, with human scenes, and the Neolithic-Chalcolithic, showing pottery and metal tools



Q. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has bagged a deal to modernize the core banking technology of Burgan Bank. Burgan Bank is a leading commercial bank in \_\_\_\_.

D) Iran

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A) Kuwait	B) Qatar
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C) UAE

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has bagged a deal to modernize the core banking technology of Burgan Bank, a leading commercial bank in Kuwait.
- $\checkmark$  TCS will help Burgan Bank consolidate multiple standalone legacy applications into a contemporary universal banking solution that drives innovation and strengthens customer relationships.
- ✓ Burgan Bank is one of the youngest commercial banks in Kuwait, with a regional network of over 160 branches and 360 ATMs.
- Which country has signed deals with a Reliance Jio subsidiary, Tech Mahindra and other vendors to Q. build 4G and 5G infrastructure?

A) Oman	B) Zimbabwe
C) Sudan	D) Ghana

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Ghana has signed deals with a Reliance Jio subsidiary, Tech Mahindra and other vendors to build 4G and 5G infrastructure as the African country aims to enhance its telecom capabilities.
- ✓ Ghana's state-backed Next-Gen Infrastructure Company (NGIC) has partnered with Jio's arm Radisys, Tech Mahindra and Nokia to build the necessary infrastructure for delivering affordable 5G mobile broadband services.
- ✓ NGIC has been allocated 5G spectrum and local telcos will be utilising the shared infrastructure to roll out the services in the next six months. As per reports, the overall contract is over \$200 million.
- 0. Which team has won the All-India Football Federation Under 17 Elite Youth League 2023-24 Title?
  - A) Rajasthan United FC
- **B)** Bengaluru United

C) Sudeva Delhi

**D)** Classic Football Academy

Answer : D

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✓ Classic Football Academy retained the All-India Football Federation Under 17 Elite Youth League 2023-24 Title beating Sudeva Delhi FC 2-1 at the Nagoa Panchayat Ground, Goa.

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- ✓ Played on the well-maintained turf of Nagoa in Goa, the two teams dished out a lively display of attacking football, much to the delight of the sparse crowd.
- Which of the following Indian cricketers has been named among the 54 representatives of the Q. 'Multicultural Ambassadors Program'?
  - A) Rahul Dravid

**B)** Sachin Tendulkar

C) Ravi Shastri

**D)** Chetan Sharma

#### Answer : C

- Ravi Shastri joins Cricket Australia's Multicultural Initative
- ✓ Cricket Australia named former Pakistan and Indian stars Wasim Akram and Ravi Shastri among the 54 representatives of its 'Multicultural Ambassadors Program'.
- Which state government will set up a powerful, high-capacity data centre that will allow 2,300 Q. concurrent users to run artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) applications?
  - **B)** Madhya Pradesh A) West Bengal
  - C) Rajasthan
- Answer : A
- ✓ The West Bengal state government will set up a powerful, high-capacity data centre that will allow 2,300 concurrent users to run artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) applications.

**D)** Uttar Pradesh

- ✓ This facility will enable the practical application of data science by providing infrastructure to support advanced data analysis.
- This initiative will unveil at the Data Science 2024 Conference.
- Who has been appointed as Chairperson of the Equestrian Federation of India's Ad-Hoc **Q**. Administrative Committee?
  - A) Justice Uday Lalit

- **B)** Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde
- **C)** Justice Ranjan Gogoi
- D) Justice Najmi Waziri

Answer : D



The Delhi High Court has appointed its retired judge, Justice Najmi Waziri as the Chairperson of ad-hoc Administrative Committee constituted to supervise the administration of the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI).

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- ✓ Justice Tara Vitasta Ganju also directed that the committee will also comprise of former Chief Election Commissioner of India Dr SY Quraishi as the observer.
- ✓ Justice Waziri, famously known as the "green judge" of Delhi for his efforts to enrich the greenery of the national capital by asking litigants to plant 3.7 lakh trees in several cases, demitted office last July.
- Who has been elected the chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Q. of India (NAFED)?

A) Jetha Ahir	B) Ashish Sharma

**C)** Suman Mishra **D)** Deepak Singh

#### Answer : A

- ✓ Shehra BJP MLA Jetha Ahir has been elected uncontested as the chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED).
- ✓ Ahir was elected unopposed by the board comprising 21 directors, of which two are from Gujarat, including Kundariya.
- ✓ Ahir is also the chairman of Panchmahal's Pancharmrut Dairy as well as the Panchmahal District Cooperative (PDC) Bank.
- Which day of the year is observed as the World Digestive Health Day? Q.

A) 29 May	B) 30 May
-----------	-----------

**D) 27 May C) 28 May** 

### Answer : A

- ✓ Every year, the World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) is observed on 29 May.
- ✓ It is organised by the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) in collaboration with the WGO Foundation (WGOF).
- ✓ Each year the day focuses upon a particular digestive disease and/or disorder in order to increase general public awareness of prevention, prevalence, diagnosis, management and treatment of the disease and/or disorder.
- ✓ WDHD 2024 theme : Your Digestive Health: Make It A Priority

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Q. International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is observed on \_\_\_\_\_

A) 26 May	B) 27 May

C) 29 May

### Answer : C

The "International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers" is observed on May 29 annually to pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication, and courage and to honor the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace.

**D) 28 May** 

- The day was designated by United Nations General Assembly on December 11, 2002 and first celebrated in 2003.
- ✓ The theme for 2024 International Day of UN Peacekeepers is "Fit for the future, building better together."

# Q. International Everest Day is marked on which day?

A) 27 May	B) 29 May
C) 28 May	D) 26 May

#### Answer: B

- ✓ International Everest Day is observed on 29 May every year.
- ✓ It was on this day in 1953 that Nepalese Tenzing Norgay and New Zealand's Edmund Hillary had climbed the Mt. Everest, becoming the first humans to achieve the feat.
- ✓ The International Everest Day is held since 2008, when the legendary climber Hillary passed away
- Q. REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, won which award at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024?
  - A) Environmental Excellence Award
  - B) Sustainable Development Award
  - C) Sustainability Champion Editor's Choice Award
  - D) Green Innovation Award

### Answer : C

 REC wins 'Sustainability Champion – Editor's Choice Award' at Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024.

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✓ REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been honoured with the 'Sustainability Champion - Editor's Choice Award' at the 'Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024'. The Award ceremony was organised by Outlook Group, in collaboration with IIT Goa.

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- This award recognizes REC's commitment to sustainability initiatives and its efforts in driving progress towards a greener future. The award highlights the corporation's pledge to sustainability initiatives, leading the path toward a greener future.
- The Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards is a prominent platform that brings together industry leaders, policymakers, and sustainability advocates to celebrate and promote excellence in sustainable practices. This year's summit featured insightful discussions, innovative ideas, and recognized the remarkable achievements of organizations dedicated to sustainability.

# **REC LTD IN NEWS 2023-24**

- > REC wins 'Sustainability Champion Editor's Choice Award' at Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024.
- > REC gets RBI nod to set up subsidiary in GIFT City, Gujarat
- > REC Limited, a Ministry of Power entity, clinched the SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in 'Renewable Energy Financing'.
- > REC Limited joins hands with UNISED to support Education of Children.
- > REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been honoured with the 'Innovative Technology Development Award' at the 'Building India 2047: Technology for Better Tomorrow', an IIT Madras CSR Summit.
- REC Limited has been awarded the prestigious Best Green Bond Corporate Award at The Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance 2024.
- ▶ REC will lend up to ₹1.2 trillion for the installation of rooftop solar panels under the Pradhan Mantri Suryoday Yojana.
- > REC Limited issues inaugural Yen Denominated Green Bonds aggregating to 61.1 Billion Japanese Yen.
- REC sets ₹1 lakh crore sanction target for infrastructure space including roads and highways in FY24.
- ▶ REC Invests Rs. 35,000 Cr In Multi-Modal Projects With Rail Vikas Nigam For 5 Years.



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- > REC Honoured with 'Best Employer in Diversity & Inclusion' Award by Assocham.
- RailTel has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with REC Ltd extending up to Rs 30,000 crore as financial assistance for telecom, IT and railway signaling infrastructure projects.
- > REC Ltd gets Golden Peacock Award for Disaster Management.
- REC Limited, the Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise launched a SUGAM REC mobile application.
- REC Limited and Punjab National Bank have signed an MoU to explore funding possibilities in the Power Infrastructure and logistics sectors.
- > The consortium arrangement will co-finance loans worth Rs 55,000 crores over the next three years.
- > REC Ltd has become the 12th company to attain the Maharatna status
- REC Limited, formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited
- ➢ Founded : 1969
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- CMD : Vivek Kumar Dewangan
- > REC was formerly known as Rural Electrification Corporation Limited.
- > REC Limited is an NBFC focused on financing and development of the power sector across India.
- > REC Limited has also recently started services in the financing infrastructure and logistics sector.
- REC funding lights every fourth bulb in India. REC is a 'Maharatna' company under the Ministry of Power.

Q. Which is the world's first single-piece 3D-printed rocket engine?

A) Baffle

**C)** Ammunition

B) AgniletD) Valiant

- Answer: B
- ✓ Agnikul launches world's first Rocket with 3D-printed rocket engine.
- ✓ Chennai-based startup Agnikul Cosmos has launched the world's first space rocket with a single-piece threedimensional (3D) printed engine.
- ✓ After four failed attempts, Agnikul succeeded in launching its own rocket into space on its fifth attempt.



The rocket named Agnibaan is India's first semi-cryogenic engine-powered rocket launch, which was  $\checkmark$ completely designed and manufactured indigenously.

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- ✓ Agnikul used Inconel material to build the 3D-printed rocket. Inconel is an alloy that is oxidation-corrosionresistant and well-suited for space travel
- ✓ Second private company to launch a rocket in Space
- ✓ Agnikul became the second Indian private company to launch its rocket in space. The first private company to launch a rocket was the Hyderabad startup Skyroot Aerospace. It launched its indigenously developed Vikram-S rocket from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Sriharikota launchpad.
- ✓ The Agnibaan rocket is a customisable two-stage rocket with a height of about 20 meters. The rocket can carry a payload of up to 300 kg to the low earth orbits (LEO) roughly 700 km above Earth. Agnibaan is a SOrTeD (SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator) that has a plug-and-play configuration.
- ✓ Agnikul's patented Agnilet engine is the world's first single-piece 3D-printed engine.
- ✓ Agmikul Cosmos was founded by Moin SPM and Srinath Ravichandran in 2017 and incubated at IIT Madras.
- ✓ Agnikul designed and developed India's first privately built rocket launchpad, 'Dhanush,' in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- Which is the first company in the world to launch the first space rocket with a single-piece three-Q. dimensional (3D) printed engine?
  - A) Agnikul Cosmos **B)** Dhruva Space **C)** Skyroot Aerospace **D)** Bellatrix Aerospace

### Answer : A

- Reliance Industries Ltd has signed an agreement with which Norwegian company to accelerate its Q. new energy investments, including green hydrogen production?
  - A) Statoil

C) None of these

**B)** Equinor D) Nel ASA

#### Answer : D

Reliance Industries Ltd's technology partnership with Norway's NE ASA will help accelerate its new energy investments, including green hydrogen production, helping billionaire Mukesh Ambani move towards green energy.

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✓ Reliance (RIL) entered into a technology licensing agreement that provides the company with an exclusive license for Nel's alkaline electrolysers in India and also allows it to manufacture the Norwegian company's alkaline electrolysers for captive purposes globally.

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- ✓ According to the agreement, Nel can procure equipment from Reliance for its own projects. Nel will continue to serve the Indian market with technology platforms that are not covered by the agreement.
- How much sovereign loan has been sanctioned by the Asian Development Bank to India in 2023? Q.
  - A) \$1.6 billion

- B) \$2.6 billion
- C) \$3.6 billion D) \$4.6 billion

### Answer : B

- ✓ ADB approves \$2.6 billion in Sovereign lending to India in 2023.
- ✓ Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned \$2.6 billion in sovereign lending to India in the calendar year 2023.
- ✓ The loan sanctioned by ADB in 2023 will be used to finance urban development projects, promote the power sector, support industrial corridor development, support horticulture, enhance connectivity and build India's climate resilience.
- ✓ Sovereign means supreme power, and in India the government of India is sovereign.
- Thus, a sovereign loan means a loan given to the government of India.  $\checkmark$
- ✓ It includes a loan the ADB gives for a project in a particular state.
- ✓ The loan is basically given to the government of India, and the repayment of the loan is the responsibility of the government of India, even though it may be used to implement a project in a state.
- ✓ Sovereign Loans extended by ADB in 2023
- ✓ According to the ADB, the sovereign loans sanctioned in 2023 focus on projects and programmes that will further India's structural transformation, create jobs, address infrastructure gaps, promote green growth, and promote social and economic inclusiveness while deploying smart technologies and innovations.
- ✓ The loans included funding for the Visakhapatnam–Chennai Industrial Corridor which will boost the industrial development of India.
- ✓ It provided loans to fund projects to improve urban services in the states of Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, and Tripura; road connectivity in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, Boosting horticulture development in Himachal Pradesh and the expansion of the Delhi-Meerut rapid rail transit corridor.
- To date, ADB has provided loans, grants, and technical assistance totalling \$55.3 billion to India.

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- ✓ India is the fourth largest shareholder of the ADB.
- ✓ The top five largest shareholders of the ADB are:
- ✓ United States and Japan(each with 15.6% of total shares),
- ✓ People's Republic of China (6.4%),
- ✓ India (6.3%), and
- ✓ Australia (5.8%).

# **ADB IN NEWS 2023-24**

- > ADB approves \$2.6 billion in Sovereign lending to India in 2023.
- > ADB operations reach USD23.6 billion in 2023, achieve record climate finance of USD9.8 billion.
- Government of India and ADB have signed a \$23 million loan agreement to strengthen the fintech ecosystem in India.
- India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have collaboratively signed a \$181 million loan agreement targeting the improvement of infrastructure and services in the peri-urban areas surrounding Ahmedabad city in Gujarat.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently appointed Mio Oka as the new director of the bank in India, replacing Takeo Konishi.
- > Vikas Sheel has been appointed as Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- > India, ADB sign \$200 million loan agreement for Uttarakhand power system project.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a substantial \$170 million loan to catalyze the modernization of water supply services in Kochi, a rapidly growing city in the southern Indian state of Kerala.
- India & ADB sign \$400 million loan to support urban reform agenda.
- ADB to Support Improvement of Urban Infrastructure and Services in Peri-urban Areas of Ahmedabad, India.
- ADB Capital Management Reforms Bring \$100 Billion Benefits Over Next Decade to Asia-Pacific.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced the allocation of US \$ 400 million for welfare work with a special focus on women and girls in Afghanistan.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Fourth Partner Energy Private Limited (Fourth Partner) signed a long-term loan of up to 1.2 billion Indian rupees (about \$14.7 million).



ADB Approves USD 40.5 Million Loan to Enhance Childhood Development and Maternal Mental Health in Meghalaya.

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- > Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$200 million loan as additional financing for the ongoing Rajasthan.
- ADB approves \$295mn loan to improve Transport Connectivity in Bihar.
- > ADB gives 130 million dollars to increase horticulture in Himachal Pradesh.
- ➢ ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)
- ➢ Founded : 19 December 1966
- HQ : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa (Japan)
- Vice President : Ashok Lavasa (Indian)
- Director of ADB for India : Mio Oka (Japan)
- Executive Director : Sameer Kumar
- Member Countries : 68 (Nuie).
- > ADB has grown to encompass 68 members; of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- > Japan is the largest contributor in the subscribed capital of the country.
- > Asian Development Outlook, reports published by ADB.
- > It is a regional multilateral financial institution focused on countries in the Asia and Pacific region.
- ▶ It currently has 68 members of which 49 are from the Asia and Pacific region and 19 from outside.
- Which bank has been fined Rs 36.38 lakhs by the RBI in May 2024 for violating the provision of the Q. Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)?
  - A) Standard Chartered Bank
- **B)** Citibank

C) HSBC Bank

**D)** Deutsche Bank

### Answer : C

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India fined HSBC Bank Rs 36.38 lakhs for violating the provision of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) 1999.
- ✓ According to the RBI, the HSBC bank failed to follow the required reporting requirements under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme of FEMA.

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# What is a Liberalised Remittance Scheme?

✓ The Liberalised Remittance Scheme was introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2004 under the Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999. Under this scheme, all resident individuals, including minors, can send up to \$2,50,000 in a financial year(April to March) abroad without the permission of the Reserve Bank of India.

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- ✓ However the money which is remitted (transferred) has to be for activities which are allowed under FEMA.
- $\checkmark$  It currently permits current account transactions like travelling abroad for business purposes, medical purposes, tourism or supporting relatives living abroad.
- ✓ When the scheme was introduced in 2004, the upper limit for fund transfer was USD 25,000 per financial year. The RBI periodically raised this limit to USD 2,50,000 per financial year.
- ✓ The remittance can be made in any freely convertible foreign currency, and there is no limit on the number of transactions in a financial year.
- ✓ The scheme is only for resident individuals and is not available for corporations, partnership firms, Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), Trusts, etc.
- ✓ Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)1999
- ✓ The Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) was enacted in 1999 and was implemented on 1 January 2000. It replaced the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA)1973.
- ✓ Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation(HSBC) Limited
- ✓ The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) is a British Bank that was established in Hong Kong in 1865.
- ✓ It started its Indian operation by buying the Mercantile Bank of India in 1959.
- ✓ HSBC is registered as a foreign bank and is regulated by the RBI.
- ✓ Global Headquarters: London, United Kingdom
- Chief Executive Officer of HSBC India Operation: Hitendra Dave  $\checkmark$
- Tagline: The world's local bank.  $\checkmark$
- Reliance Industries Ltd has signed an agreement with which Norwegian company to accelerate its Q. new energy investments, including green hydrogen production?

A) Statoil

**B)** Equinor

C) None of these

D) Nel ASA

Answer : D

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Reliance Industries Ltd's technology partnership with Norway's NE ASA will help accelerate its new energy  $\checkmark$ investments, including green hydrogen production, helping billionaire Mukesh Ambani move towards green energy.

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- Reliance (RIL) entered into a technology licensing agreement that provides the company with an exclusive license for Nel's alkaline electrolysers in India and also allows it to manufacture the Norwegian company's alkaline electrolysers for captive purposes globally.
- According to the agreement, Nel can procure equipment from Reliance for its own projects. Nel will continue to serve the Indian market with technology platforms that are not covered by the agreement.

# **RIL IN NEWS 2023-24**

- Reliance Industries Ltd's technology partnership with Norway's NE ASA will help accelerate its new energy investments, including green hydrogen production.
- Reliance Jio become the world's largest mobile operator in terms of data traffic, ahead of China Mobile
- > India's largest private company Reliance Industries has entered in a binding agreement to buy Paramount Global's entire 13.01% stake in Viacom 18 Media for Rs 4,286 crore (\$517 million).
- > Reliance Industries Limited and Walt Disney Company have officially signed a binding agreement to merge their media businesses in India.
- > Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) achieved a significant milestone on Indian stock exchanges by surpassing a market capitalization of ₹20-lakh crore.
- Reliance Industries Achieves India's First ISCC-Plus Certification.
- > Reliance Industries and DBS Bank India have collaborated to introduce a financing initiative aimed at supporting the establishment of compressed biogas (CBG) plants.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is set to hire RS Sodhi, the former MD of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which is responsible for the popular Indian milk brand, Amul.
- > Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Ashok Leyland unveiled India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) technology solution for heavy duty trucks. This technology was flagged off by PM Modi at the India Energy Week in Bengaluru.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)
- ➢ Founded : 8 May 1973
- Founder : Dhirubhai Ambani



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- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- CMD : Mukesh Ambani
- Owner : Mukesh Ambani (50.49%)
- Director : Nita Dalal Ambani
- Subsidiaries
- Jio Platforms (67.03%)
- Jio Payments Bank (70%).
- At Rs 19 lakh crore or \$250 billion, Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani-promoted Reliance Industries's market capitalisation.

### Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the RudraM-II missile:

- 1. It is an indigenously developed solid-propelled air-launched missile system.
- 2. It has a strike range of almost 3500-km.

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 Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II from Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force (IAF) off the coast of Odisha.
- ✓ It is an indigenously-developed solid-propelled air-launched missile system.
- ✓ It is meant for Air-to-Surface role to neutralise many types of enemy assets.
- ✓ It is designed to have a strike range of almost 350-km, from a Sukhoi-30MKI fighter of the IAF.
- ✓ It involves a number of state-of-the-art indigenous technologies developed by various DRDO laboratories have been incorporated in the missile system.
- ✓ The missile is a solid-propelled supersonic missile. Accroding to the DRDO, the Rudram-II missile can carry a payload of 200 kg and attain a maximum speed of 6,791 km/h (Mach 5.5).
- ✓ The missile can be launched from an altitude of 3 to 15 km and has a strike range of 350 km.
- ✓ RudraM series missiles



These are being developed by the DRDO as new-generation anti-radiation missiles (NGARMs) for destroying a variety of enemy surveillance, communication, radars, and command and control centers on the ground.

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- The 150-km range RudraM-I missile, with INS-GPS navigation with a passive homing head for the final attack, was first tested in Oct 2020.
- Consider the following statements with reference to the eMigrate Project: 0.
  - 1. It aims to assist students who are going abroad for study purposes.
  - 2. The eMigrate portal is integrated to Common Service Centre to facilitate registration of applicants. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - A) 1 only
  - C) Both 1 and 2

B) 2 only

D) Neither 1 nor 2

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is entered into between Ministry External Affairs (MEA), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Common Service Centre eGovernance Services India Limited to create a synergy between CSC SPV & MEA to provide the eMigrate services through CSCs in the country.
- ✓ It is undertaken to assist mainly the blue-collar workers going to Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries.
- The project was conceptualized to address issues faced by the migrant workers by making emigration process  $\checkmark$ online seamless and also to bring foreign employers and registered recruitment agents and insurance companies on one common platform aimed at promoting safe and legal migration.
- ✓ Under this MoU, eMigrate Portal of MEA would be integrated with CSC's portal, to provide following eMigrate services to the citizens through CSCs
- ✓ Facilitate registration of applicants on eMigrate portal through CSCs.
- PRAGATI- 2024, is an initiative recently launched by: 0.
  - A) NITI Aayog

- **B) DRDO**
- C) Reserve Bank of India
- D) Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences

Answer : D

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✓ The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), an autonomous body under the Union Ministry of Ayush, launced "PRAGATI- 2024".

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- ✓ About PRAGATI-2024:
- ✓ Pharma Research in AyurGyan And Techno Innovation (PRAGATI) aims to explore research opportunities and foster collaboration between CCRAS and the Ayurveda drug industry.
- ✓ Key facts about Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences
- ✓ It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India.
- ✓ It is an apex body in India for undertaking, coordinating, formulating, developing, and promoting research on scientific lines in Ayurvedic sciences.
- ✓ The research activities of the Council include Medicinal Plant Research (Medico-Ethno Botanical Survey, Pharmacognosy, and Tissue Culture), Drug Standardization, Pharmacological Research, Clinical Research, Literary Research & Documentation and Tribal Health Care Research Programme.
- ✓ It also does formulation, coordination, development and promotion of research on scientific lines in Ayurveda and Sowa-Rigpa system of medicine.
- ✓ Headquarter: New Delhi
- Which Indian peacekeeper received the 'United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year for Q. 2023'?

A) Lakshmi Sehgal	B) Radhika Sen
C) Sophia Qureshi	D) Priya Jhingan

#### Answer : B

- ✓ United Nations has selected the Indian Army Major Radhika Sen for the prestigious 2023 Military Gender Advocate of the Year award.
- ✓ The award will be conferred to Major Radhika Sen by the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the occasion of the International Day of the UN Peacekeepers. The International Day of the UN Peacekeepers is observed on 29 May every year since 2003.
- ✓ The United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award was created by the Office of Military Affairs within the Department for Peace Operations of the United Nations in 2016.
- ✓ Major Radhika Sen becomes the second Indian to be awarded the United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award.

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✓ Major Suman Gawani was the first Indian to be honoured with the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award in 2019. Major Suman Gawani was deployed with the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS).

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- Major Radhika, who is from Himachal Pradesh, was deployed with the Indian Rapid Deployment Battalion in South Sudan in 2023. She was working with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo MONUSCO.
- ✓ At present, 6,063 Indian personnel are working with the UN peacekeeping operations. Out of 6,603, 1,954 are with MONUSCO, of which 32 are women
- Q. Who is the first person to climb Mount Everest and Mount Lhotse in a single season?
  - A) Krushnaa Patil
  - C) Malavath Purna

- **B)** Satyadeep Gupta
- D) Mohan Singh Kohli

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Satyadeep Gupta of India became the first person to climb Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, and Mount Lhotse, the world's fourth-highest peak, twice in a single season.
- ✓ He also set the record for being the first Indian to travel from Mount Everets to Mount Lhotse in 11 hours and 15 minutes.
- ✓ Mountaineer Satyadeep Gupta first conquered the world's highest mountain peak, 8,848.86 metres high, Mount Everest, on 21 May 2024 at noon. He then travelled to Mount Lhotse, which lies just south of Mount Everest. A ridge joins Mount Lhotse with Mount Everest at an elevation of about 25,000 feet (7,600 meters). Mount Lhotse is sometimes considered part of Everest.
- ✓ Mountaineer Satyadeep Gupta took 11 hours and 15 minutes to reach Mount Lhotse. He climbed the 8,849metre-high Mount Lhotse at 12.45 am on 22 May 2024.
- ✓ This was the first time a person had performed Double Dual Ascent of the world's highest and the fourth highest peaks in a single season.
- ✓ Satyadeep Gupta was accompanied by Pastemba Sherpa and Nima Ungdi Sherpa
- ✓ Mount Lhotse
- ✓ Lhotse mountain in the Himalayas lies on the border of Nepal and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. It consists of three summits. The highest of which is Lhotse I at 27,940 feet (8,516 meters). It is the world's fourth tallest peak after Mount Everest, K2 and Kanchenjunga.



✓ Fritz Luchsinger and Ernest Reiss of Switzerland were the first people to climb the Lhotse Peak on May 18, 1956.

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- Q. What was the theme for the ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East Green Airports Recognition (GAR) 2024, and how were the recognised airports categorized?
  - A) Renewable Energy; Bronze, Silver, Gold
  - B) Carbon Emissions Reduction; Silver, Gold, Platinum
  - C) Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions; Platinum, Gold, Silver
  - D) Waste Management; Gold, Platinum, Diamond

#### Answer : C

- Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific & Middle East announced the results of the Green Airports Recognition (GAR) 2024, recognising 12 airports in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East for their outstanding accomplishments in sustainability projects. The theme for the Green Airports Recognition 2024 is Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions.
- These airports were honoured at the ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East / ACI World Annual General  $\checkmark$ Assembly, Conference and Exhibition (WAGA 2024) in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ The recognised airports have been awarded into three categories "Platinum", "Gold", and "Silver" recognition - based on various airport size categories and set criteria.
- The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has bagged the silver category award in the Airports handling between 15 million and 35 million passengers per year. The other Indian airports to win the GAR 2024 are New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (silver) in airports handling over 35 million passengers a year category and Lucknow's Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport (silver) in airports handling less than 8 million passengers a year category.
- Who created the robot that set the Guinness World Record for solving a Rubik's puzzle cube in 0.305 Q. seconds?
  - A) IBM

- **B)** Google
- C) Mitsubishi Electric team
- **D)** Boston Dynamics

#### Answer : C

- ✓ According to the Guinness World Records, a robot has become the fastest in the world to solve the puzzle cube, doing so in just 0.305 seconds.
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#### The robot was created by the Mitsubishi Electric team in Japan.

According to the Guinness World Records, a robot has become the fastest in the world to solve the puzzle cube, doing so in just 0.305 seconds.

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- The robot was created by the Mitsubishi Electric team in Japan.  $\checkmark$
- Q. Who set the record by climbing Mount Everest three times in a single climbing season?
  - A) Nirmal Purja **B)** Tenzing Norgay
  - C) Pasang Lhamu Sherpa D) Purnima Shrestha

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Nepalese mountaineer and photojournalist, scripted history by becoming the first person to summit Mt Everest, the highest peak in the world, three times in a single climbing season.
- ✓ Purnima first summited the 8848.86-metre peak on May 12. She reached the summit again on May 19 with Pasang Sherpa and achieved her third summit.
- This was Purnima's fourth ascent to Everest. She climbed Everest for the first time in 2018. She ascended Mt. Manaslu (8,163 mt) the following year and summited the world's highest mountain with success the following year
- What is the name of the anti-radiation missile developed by the Defence and Research Development Q. **Organisation (DRDO)?**

	A) ASTRA	B) RudraM-II		
	C) Akash	D) Prithvi		
Ans	wer : B			
Q.	What is the range of the RudraM-II missile?			
	A) 450 Km	B) 350 Km		
	C) 250 Km	D) 500 Km		
Ans	wer:B			
√ 1	The missile can be launched from an altitude	e of 3 to 15 km and has a strike range of 350 km.		

The RudraM-II missile is an air-to-surface missile which can be launched by a fighter aircraft to target ground-based targets

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Q. Which bank will stop sending SMS alerts for UPI transitions up to Rs 100 from June 25?

A) ICICI Bank B) HDFC Bank

C) Yes Bank

D) Axis Bank

#### Answer : B

- ✓ HDFC Bank will stop sending SMS alerts for UPI transitions up to Rs 100 from June 25.
- The private lender said that SMS alerts won't be pushed for incoming payments up to Rs 500 from the said date either.
- ✓ UPI transactions require the authorisation of a Personal Identification Number (PIN), a 4-6 digit pass code set by the customers as a security measure to ensure safe and approved transactions. For normal UPI the transaction limit is up to Rs 1 Lakh per transaction.
- ✓ India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions reached an all-time high in 2023, with a total volume of 117.6 billion transactions and a value of Rs 183 trillion

### HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- ▶ HDFC Bank will stop sending SMS alerts for UPI transitions up to Rs 100 from June 25.
- > HDFC Bank exits Protean eGov Technologies; sells entire stake for ₹150 crore.
- International Finance Corporation (IFC) has provided \$500 million loan to HDFC Bank for extending microloans to "underserved women" in rural and semi-urban India.
- > HDFC Bank launches Pixel Play, India's First Virtual Credit Card with Cashback.
- > HDFC Bank, Atal Innovation Mission empower social sector startups with Rs 19.6 crore grants.
- Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (MUFG) will to acquire a 20 per cent stake in HDB Financial Services, a non-banking subsidiary of HDFC Bank, at a valuation of \$9-10 billion.
- > HDFC becomes first private bank to open branch in Lakshadweep.
- > HDFC Bank proposes to sell 100% stake in its subsidiary HDFC Education.
- HDFC Bank has appointed Sumant Rampal as Group Head of Mortgage Business, in the place of Arvind Kapil.
- > HDFC Bank Raises \$300 Million via Bond Issue to Fund Green Loans.
- > HDFC Bank to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank.
- > LIC gets RBI nod for 9.99% stake buy in HDFC Bank.
- > HDFC Bank first lender to issue 20 million credit cards.

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- > HDFC Bank approves re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as chairman for 3 years.
- ▶ HDFC Bank has recently raised Rs 7,425 crore through infrastructure bond issue.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as HDFC Bank MD
   & CEO for a period of three years.
- HDFC Bank Launches India's First Co-Branded Hotel Credit Card named 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card' in partnership with Marriott International.
- > HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is highest paid bank CEO in FY23 with Rs 10.55 crore pay.
- > HDFC Bank overtakes SBI in CRISIL's corporate banking ranking for 2023.
- > Food delivery platform Swiggy has joined hands with HDFC Bank to launch a co-branded credit card.
- ➢ HDFC BANK
- ➢ Founded : 1994
- Founder : Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- > Tagline : We understand your world

# Q. At the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024, which organization received the "CSR Champion Award" in the NF (Non-Fossil Fuel) business category?

A) Tata Power

B) Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC)

C) NTPC Limited

D) Adani Green Energy Limited

#### Answer : B

- ✓ PFC receives "CSR Champion Award" at Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024
- ✓ Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC) has been honoured with the Corporate Social Responsibility award in the NF (Non-Fossil Fuel) business category at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024, held in Goa.
- ✓ The Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024 brought together senior government policymakers and top management of Central Public Sector Enterprises to discuss and showcase exemplary initiatives in sustainability.
- The Summit honoured luminaries and pioneers in various categories for their outstanding contributions to sustainability.

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 $\checkmark$  PFC's CSR initiatives focus on impactful projects contributing to inclusive growth and equitable development in society through education and capacity building measures.

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Which organization did India assume the chairmanship of for the term 2024-26, with the aim of Q. promoting safe, orderly, and legal migration? A) SAARC **B) BRICS C) ASEAN D)** Colombo Process

#### Answer : D

- ✓ India Assumes Chair Of Colombo Process For 2024-26.
- $\checkmark$ India assumed the Chair of Colombo Process for 2024-26, for the first time since its inception. India looks to promote safe, orderly and legal migration.
- ✓ The Colombo Process is a regional consultative forum consisting of 12 member states from South and Southeast Asia focused on the management of overseas employment and the protection of migrant workers.
- The Colombo Process serves as a platform for member states to share best practices and policies regarding overseas employment. It is a non-binding process that facilitates discussions on improving the management of migration and protecting the rights of migrant workers.
- Q. Which company is set to begin construction on India's first Multimodal Logistics Park at Mappedu near Chennai, a project conceptualized 12 years ago?
  - A) Tata Group
  - **B)** Adani Group
  - C) Larsen & Toubro
  - **D)** Reliance Industries

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Reliance Industries to begin construction on India's first multimodal logistics park near Chennai
- ✓ Reliance Industries is set to begin construction on India's first Multimodal Logistics Park at Mappedu near Chennai in June, a project conceptualized 12 years ago.
- ✓ Despite initial setbacks, the project, valued at Rs 1,424 crore and spanning 184.27 acres in Tiruvallur district, is now ready to proceed, with potential to revolutionize the southern region's logistics landscape.
- ✓ Reliance Industries secured the bid for the Multimodal Logistics Park in 2022, surpassing the Adani Group.

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

- Reliance Industries to begin construction on India's first multimodal logistics park near Chennai.
- Reliance Industries Ltd's technology partnership with Norway's NE ASA will help accelerate its new energy investments, including green hydrogen production.
- > Reliance Jio become the world's largest mobile operator in terms of data traffic, ahead of China Mobile
- India's largest private company Reliance Industries has entered in a binding agreement to buy Paramount Global's entire 13.01% stake in Viacom 18 Media for Rs 4,286 crore (\$517 million).
- Reliance Industries Limited and Walt Disney Company have officially signed a binding agreement to merge their media businesses in India.
- ➤ Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) achieved a significant milestone on Indian stock exchanges by surpassing a market capitalization of ₹20-lakh crore.
- Reliance Industries Achieves India's First ISCC-Plus Certification.
- Reliance Industries and DBS Bank India have collaborated to introduce a financing initiative aimed at supporting the establishment of compressed biogas (CBG) plants.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is set to hire RS Sodhi, the former MD of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which is responsible for the popular Indian milk brand, Amul.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Ashok Leyland unveiled India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) technology solution for heavy duty trucks. This technology was flagged off by PM Modi at the India Energy Week in Bengaluru.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)
- Founded : 8 May 1973
- Founder : Dhirubhai Ambani
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- CMD : Mukesh Ambani
- Owner : Mukesh Ambani (50.49%)
- Director : Nita Dalal Ambani
- Subsidiaries
- Jio Platforms (67.03%)
- Jio Payments Bank (70%).



At Rs 19 lakh crore or \$250 billion, Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani-promoted Reliance Industries's market capitalisation.

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#### Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has partnered with which academic institution to develop India's Q. first quantum diamond microchip imager?

A) IIT Kanpur	B) IIT Delhi
---------------	--------------

**C) IIT Bombay D) IIT Madras** 

#### Answer : C

- ✓ TCS And IIT Bombay Collaborate To Create India's First Semiconductor Chip Imaging Tool.
- ✓ IT services major Tata Consultancy Services has entered into a partnership with the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay, to develop what it said is India's first quantum diamond microchip imager.
- The Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager, an advanced sensing tool for semiconductor chip imaging, will  $\checkmark$ help reduce the chances of chip failures and improve the efficiency of electronic devices.
- ✓ Collaboration between TCS and IIT-Bombay to develop a quantum imaging platform for the nondestructive examination of chips is the first such initiative in India.
- ✓ Over the next two years, experts from TCS will work with Kasturi Saha, Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering of IIT-Bombay to develop the quantum imaging platform in the PQuest Lab.

#### **IIT IN NEWS 2023-24**

- TCS And IIT Bombay Collaborate To Create India's First Semiconductor Chip Imaging Tool.  $\geq$
- > Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) and IIT Guwahati incubation center sign MoU to boost startup ecosystem
- Experimental Licence Module for 100 5G Labs' launched at IIT Madras
- > President of India Draupadi Murmu launched India's first domestic gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay.
- $\geq$ 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

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- > 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 dronebased synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system, Ahead of their planned satellite launch in 2024.

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- > 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.
- Which Indian company has signed a one-year deal with Russia's Rosneft to purchase at least 3 million Q. barrels of oil per month in roubles?
  - A) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)
  - **B)** Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
  - **C)** Reliance Industries
  - D) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Reliance signs deal with Russia's Rosneft purchasing oil in roubles
- ✓ India's Reliance Industries, operator of the world's biggest refining complex, has entered into a one-year deal with Russia's Rosneft to acquire at least 3 million barrels of oil a month in Roubles, revealed sources.
- The shift to rouble payments follows Russian President Vladimir Putin's push for Moscow and its trading partners to find alternatives to the Western financial system to facilitate trade despite U.S. and European sanctions.
- Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of Committee A at the 77th World Health Assembly 0. (WHA), announced by the World Health Organisation (WHO)?
  - A) Dr. Harsh Vardhan
- **B)** Rajesh Bhushan

C) Apurva Chandra

D) V.K. Paul

- Answer : C
- ✓ Apurva Chandra, Union health secretary, Government of India, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Committee A at the 77th World Health Assembly (WHA), announced by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The Committee A of WHA, the event scheduled to be held from May 27 to June 1 held at Geneva, is chaired by India
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 $\checkmark$  India's leadership in Committee A underscores its growing influence in global health governance. The World Health Assembly features sessions from three main committees: Plenary, Committee A, and Committee B. India's chairmanship of Committee A will continue until June 1.

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#### Which country was highlighted by WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at the 77th Q. World Health Assembly for establishing the Global Traditional Medicine Centre and co-hosting the first global summit on traditional medicine?

A) China

**B)** Japan

**D)** South Korea

C) India

#### Answer : C

- ✓ World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus mentioned the Global Traditional Medicine Centre established in India, and the first global summit on traditional medicine, organised by the WHO and co-hosted by the Ministry of Ayush, India, in his address at the 77th World Health Assembly in Geneva.
- Ghebreyesus noted that WHO continues to support member states to strengthen their regulatory systems.  $\checkmark$ He said that WHO recognised Turkiye's system as having achieved maturity level 3, and Saudi Arabia's as level 4.
- ✓ He stated Singapore, South Korea and Switzerland were the first three countries to become WHO-Listed Regulatory Authorities, making them "regulators of reference." He added, "And just last week we listed a further 33 national and regional regulators."
- In his address, he said that WHO estimates that 777 million people will be better protected from health  $\checkmark$ emergencies by 2025, three-quarters of the way to our target of 1 billion. He further said, "Of course, "better protected" does not mean completely protected, and as the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated, all Member States have much work to do, individually and together."
- Which Disney songwriting legend, known for "Mary Poppins" and "It's a Small World," recently Q. passed away at the age of 95?
  - A) Alan Menken
- **B)** Howard Ashman
- C) Richard M. Sherman
- D) Robert B. Sherman

Answer : C

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✓ Disney songwriting legend Richard M. Sherman, remembered for "Mary Poppins" and "It's a Small World," among many others, has died at 95 years old.

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- ✓ Along with his brother Robert B. Sherman, who died in 2012 at age 86, Richard Sherman penned some of the most beloved songs in Disney's soundtrack oeuvre.
- ✓ Richard garnered nine Academy Award nominations (winning two Oscars for his work on the 1964 classic Mary Poppins), won three GRAMMY Awards, and received 24 gold and platinum albums over the course of his 65-year career.
- Poonawalla Fincorp Limited has partnered with which bank to launch the co-branded 'IndusInd Bank Q. Poonawalla Fincorp eLITE RuPay Platinum Credit Card'?
  - A) HDFC Bank

**B) ICICI Bank** 

C) Axis Bank

**D) IndusInd Bank** 

#### Answer : D

- ✓ Poonawalla Fincorp, IndusInd Bank launch co-branded RuPay credit card.
- ✓ Poonawalla Fincorp Limited, in association with IndusInd Bank, has launched the co-branded 'IndusInd Bank Poonawalla Fincorp eLITE RuPay Platinum Credit Card'. The company said the new card will offer customers rewards and other benefits.
- ✓ Users can earn rewards for every ₹100 spent, including UPI transactions, and benefit from 2.5 times reward points on e-commerce transactions.
- ✓ As it is a RuPay credit card, you can use it in any of the popular Unified Payments Interface (UPI) applications such as Google Pay, BHIM, Paytm, and PhonePe. Poonawalla Fincorp IndusInd Bank eLITE RuPay Platinum Credit Card will also have no joining fee or annual fee

Q. Which company has appointed former Walt Disney executive Gaurav Banerjee as its new India CEO?

**B)** Amazon Prime

#### A) Netflix

C) Sony

D) Zee Entertainment

#### Answer : C

- ✓ Sony appoints Walt Disney executive Gaurav Banerjee as new India CEO
- ✓ Japan's Sony has appointed a Walt Disney executive, Gaurav Banerjee, as its new India chief executive to lead its television and other media businesses, two people familiar with the matter.

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- Banerjee has resigned from Disney's India unit where he was the head of content for its streaming service,  $\checkmark$ Hotstar, and head of business for the company's TV channels in Hindi-speaking markets
- Q. Which insurance company has launched Surety Insurance Bonds to support the government's infrastructure development agenda, which has been allocated 3.3 percent of the GDP in FY 2024?
  - A) ICICI Lombard General Insurance **B)** Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
  - C) TATA AIG General Insurance
- **D) HDFC ERGO General Insurance**

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Answer : C

- ✓ TATA AIG launches Surety Insurance Bonds.
- ✓ TATA AIG General Insurance, a private general insurer, has rolled out Surety Insurance Bonds to support the government's ambitious agenda on infrastructure development, which has been allocated 3.3 percent of the GDP in FY 2024.
- TATA AIG's Surety Insurance Bonds have been designed to facilitate smoother execution of infrastructure projects and commercial contracts across both government and private sectors, catering to diverse project needs.
- Who has been elected as the new Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health Q. (WOAH) for the 2024-2029 term?
  - A) Dr. Monique Eloit
  - B) Dr. Emmanuelle Soubeyran
  - C) Dr. Margaret Chan
  - D) Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran elected as new Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health
- ✓ France applauds the election of Dr. Emmanuelle Soubeyran as Director General of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) for the 2024-2029 term. The year 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of WOAH.
- Dr Soubeyran's election brings an end to predecessor Dr Monique Eloit's successful 8-year tenure at the  $\checkmark$ Organisation.She was elected to this position at the 91st World Assembly of Delegates, which was held in Paris.



Q. Who has topped the Hurun India Art List of the most successful Indian artists alive for the sixth consecutive year in 2024?

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A) Subodh Gupta

C) Anish Kapoor

**B)** Bharti Kher

D) Jitish Kallat

#### Answer : C

- ✓ London-based Indian-origin artist Anish Kapoor tops the Hurun India Art List 2024
- ✓ For the sixth consecutive year, London-based Indian origin artist Anish Kapoor has topped the Hurun India Art List of the most successful Indian artists alive, released by the Hurun Research Institute. The list ranks the top 50 living Indian artists according to the sales of their works sold at public auctions as of January 1, 2024.
- ✓ Top 5 Artists In Hurun India Art List 2024
  - 1. Anish Kapoor: 79.9 crore.
  - 2. Gulam Mohammed Sheikh: Rs 24.1 crore.
  - 3. Arpita Singh: Rs 22.9 crore.
  - 4. Rameshwar Broota: Rs 19.3 crore.
  - 5. Krishen Khanna: Rs 18 crore
- Which organization has tied up with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) to manufacture Q. hydrogen using a 50 kW alkaline electrolyser system?
  - A) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)
  - **B)** Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)
  - C) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)
  - D) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)

#### Answer : B

- ✓ Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has signed an agreement with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) to manufacture hydrogen using a 50 kW alkaline electrolyser system.
- BHEL developed the hydrogen production method in-house, and it is heavily reliant on local materials. Through this collaboration with BARC, BHEL seeks to scale up and commercialise Indigenous Alkaline Electrolyser Technology for use in industries such as refineries, fertilisers, steel, transportation, and so on.



This will be a step ahead in BHEL's contribution to the 'National Green Hydrogen Mission' and 'Aatma  $\checkmark$ Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'

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Q. Which country recently introduced the "One Person, One File" (OPOF) mass surveillance program?

A) China	B) Japan
C) Russia	D) Mexico

#### Answer : A

- ✓ China introduced the "One Person, One File" (OPOF) mass surveillance program, intending to triple facial recognition camera deployment and compile extensive personal data on residents.
- ✓ This reflects China's push for comprehensive digital censorship, transcending mere surveillance to create a pervasive digital record for each citizen.
- The initiative encodes individuals' relationships, activities, and behaviors into data, enhancing Party oversight.
- 0. World No Tobacco Day is observed on which day?
  - A) 31 May
  - **B) 28 May**
  - **C) 30 May**
  - **D) 29 May**

#### Answer : A

- ✓ World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed every year on 31 May, globally to inform the public on the dangers of using tobacco and to discourage the use of tobacco in any form.
- The Day was created by the member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1987.
- The Day was created by the member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1987.





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DURNEY FAID GROUP STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN IBPS RRB CLERK GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE JOURNEY FEELING PROUD ( )

NAME - PRIYADARSHINI KALIYAMOORTHY ROLL NO - 2120036944 SELECTED IN - RRB PO SAPTHA GIRI GRAMEEN BANK STATE - TAMILNADU



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

NAME - GARVITA VARSHNEY ROLL NO - <u>2603003298</u> SELECTED IN - ARYAVART GRAMIN BANK CLERK STATE - UTTAR PRADESH



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

NAME - ISHITA GARG ROLL NO - 2283004123 STATE - PUNJAB BANK - PUNJAB GRAMIN BANK



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NAME - NIPUN ROLL NO - <u>1533002831</u> SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK STATE - HARYANA



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NAME - PRAVEEN ROLL NO - <u>1801005776</u> SELECTED IN - RRB PO KARNATAKA GRAMMENA BANK STATE - KARNATAKA



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

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NAME - BATHINA MANEESHA ROLL NO - 2543024278 SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK STATE - TELAGANA



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



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



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

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



WY 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

