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Current Affairs Q&A PDF – 21 December 2024

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi recently (in December '24) inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 24 projects worth over _____ during his participation in the “Ek Varsh-Parinaam Utkarsh” at Jaipur, Rajasthan.

- 1) Rs 36,300 crores
- 2) Rs 46,300 crores
- 3) Rs 56,300 crores
- 4) Rs 66,300 crores
- 5) Rs 76,300 crores

Answer- 2) Rs 46,300 crores

Explanation:

On December 17 2024, PM Narendra Modi participated in the “**Ek Varsh-Parinaam Utkarsh**” programme commemorating the completion of one year of the Rajasthan government in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

i. During his visit, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 24 projects related to Energy, Road, Railways and Water worth over **Rs 46,300 crores** at Jaipur, Rajasthan.

ii. PM Modi inaugurated 9 projects worth over Rs 11,000 crore including 7 central government led projects and 2 state government projects.

iii. He also laid the foundation stone for 15 projects worth more than 35,300 crore including 9 central government projects and 6 state government projects.

iv. During the event, PM Modi laid the foundation stone for the Modified **Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (MPKC-ERCP)**.

v. The MPKC-ERCP project has been designated as a ‘national project’ by the Government of India (GoI).

- The total cost of the project will be shared between the GoI and the state governments of MP and Rajasthan in the ratio of **90:10**, respectively.

vi. The project will provide water for both irrigation and drinking purposes to 21 districts of Rajasthan and will boost the development of both Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh (MP).

vii. The project will interlink major rivers like Chambal, Parvati, Kalisindh, Kuno, Banas, Banganga, Ruparail, Gambhiri, and Mej. [Click here to read more](#)

2. Which of the following points is/are ‘Correct’ with respect to the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi recently (in December '24) approved two important constitutional amendment bills regarding One Nation, One Election (ONOE).

A) The 1st bill named the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024 will enable the terms of the Lok Sabha and state assemblies to be synchronized.

B) The Second bill named The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 aims to align elections in the Union Territories (UTs) of Puducherry, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) with Lok Sabha elections.

C) In September 2023, the Government of India (GoI) constituted the High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections under the chairmanship of former President of India Pranab Mukherjee.

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

Answer- 1) Only A and B

Explanation:

In December 2024, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved two important constitution amendment bills regarding **One Nation, One Election (ONOE)**, which aimed to conduct simultaneous Lok Sabha elections with state legislative assemblies and local bodies across the country in a phased manner.

i. **The 1st bill named the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024** will enable the terms of the Lok Sabha and state assemblies to be synchronized.

ii. **The Second bill named The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024** aims to align elections in the Union Territories (UTs) of Puducherry, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) with Lok Sabha elections.

iii. In September 2023, the Government of India (GoI) constituted the High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections under the chairmanship of former President of India Ram Nath Kovind.

iv. It has recommended creating a unified Electoral Roll and Single EPIC for all 3-tiers of government.

v. It has suggested of introducing amendments to Article 82A and 324A of the Indian Constitution to enable simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies, and local bodies. [Click here to read more](#)

3. Where was the 11th edition of the annual bilateral maritime exercise, Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise (SLINEX-24) held between the Indian Navy (IN) and the Sri Lankan Navy from 17-20 December 2024?

- 1) Kochi, Kerala
- 2) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- 3) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 4) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- 5) Panaji, Goa

Answer- 2) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Explanation:

The 11th Edition of annual bilateral maritime Exercise Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise (**SLINEX-24**) held between the Indian Navy (IN) and the Sri Lankan Navy under the Eastern Naval Command of the IN from December 17-20, 2024 in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

i. The primary aim of SLINEX 2024 is to enhance the operational interoperability between the Indian and Sri Lankan navies.

ii. It was initiated in 2005 and evolved into a significant series of exercises designed to improve interoperability, foster mutual understanding and promote maritime security in the Indian Ocean region.

iii.India: The Indian Naval Ship INS Sumitra, a Saryu-class Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel (NOPV) of the Eastern Fleet, along with a Special Forces team represent India.

iv.Sri Lanka: The Sri Lanka Naval Ship SLNS Sayura, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, with an embarked Special Forces team represents Sri Lanka . [Click here to read more](#)

4. The Vice President (VP) of India Jagdeep Dhankar has recently (in December '24) attended the _____ Foundation Day celebration of the Indian Posts & Telecommunications Accounts and Finance Service (IP&TAFS) as the Chief Guest in New Delhi.

- 1) 25th
- 2) 35th
- 3) 40th
- 4) 50th
- 5) 60th

Answer- **4) 50th**

Explanation:

In December 2024, the Vice President (VP) of India **Jagdeep Dhankar** attended the **50th Foundation Day celebration** of the Indian Posts & Telecommunications



Accounts and Finance Service (IP&TAFS) as the Chief Guest, in New Delhi (Delhi).

i.The event was organised to celebrate the remarkable contributions made by IP&TAFS over the last 50 years in shaping India's telecommunications and postal sectors.

ii.While addressing the event, the VP of India, Jagdeep Dhankar highlighted the importance of cross-departmental collaboration in an interconnected world, emphasized on the need to adopt Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered audit systems while maintaining human insight oversight for important decisions.

iii.During the event, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia outlined the 3 pillars: bringing stability to the telecom sector; empowerment of pensioners and the capabilities of the cadre in keeping up with tech developments, are the key drivers for the success of the officers.

iv.IP&TAFS is a Group 'A' Central Civil Services of Government of India (GoI), instituted in 1974.

v.It has been playing an important role in managing spectrum auctions and monitoring the financial health of more than 3,500 telecom and internet companies.

5.Which of the following points is/are 'Not Correct' with respect to the recent (in December '24) launch of the 'Jalvahak' scheme by the Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), to induce cargo movement via inland waterways?

- A) The 'Jalvahak' scheme operates across 3 national waterways Ganga River, Brahmaputra River and Chenab River**
- B) The Jalvahak scheme is jointly implemented by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Inland & Coastal Shipping Limited (ICSL), a subsidiary of the Shipping Corporation of India Limited (SCIL).**
- C) The newly launched Cargo ships are MV Trishul, MV Aai, and MV Homi Bhaba**

- 1) Only A
- 2) Only B and C
- 3) Only B
- 4) Only C

5) All A, B, and C

Answer- **1) Only A**

Explanation:

In December 2024, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), launched the 'Jalvahak' scheme to induce the cargo movement via inland waterways.

i. He also flagged off Cargo ships "**MV Aai, MV Homi Bhaba along with MV Trishul** with 2 dumb barges Ajay and Dikhu" from the GR Jetty in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB). This marks the commencement of a fixed scheduled service of cargo vessel ships from Haldia, WB for national waterways 1 and 2 (NW-1 and NW-2).

ii. The 'Jalvahak' scheme aims to revitalize India's inland waterways, reduce transport congestion and make cargo movement more efficient. The scheme operates across 3 national waterways:

- National Waterway 1 (NW1): Ganga River
- National Waterway 2 (NW2): Brahmaputra River
- National Waterway 16 (NW16): Barak River

iii. This scheme is jointly implemented by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Inland & Coastal Shipping Limited (ICSL), a subsidiary of the Shipping Corporation of India Limited (SCIL).

[Click here to read more](#)

6. Common Services Centres (CSC) e-Governance Services India Limited under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), has recently (in December '24) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) to form _____ Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in order to strengthen farmers, reduce costs, and boost incomes?

- 1) 5,000
- 2) 7,500
- 3) 12,000
- 4) 10,000
- 5) 8,000

Answer- **4) 10,000**

Explanation:

In December 2024, New Delhi (Delhi)- based **Common Services Centres (CSC) e-Governance Services India Limited**, operating under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (**IFFCO**) based in New Delhi, to provide critical agricultural inputs to Farmer Producer Organizations (**FPOs**).

i. The signing ceremony was attended by **Sanjay Rakesh**, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Operating Officer (CEO) of CSC e-Governance Services and **Yogendra Kumar**, Marketing Director of IFFCO.

ii. This partnership will provide FPOs with essential agricultural resources from IFFCO, including **Nano Urea Plus, Nano Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP)**, fertilizers, seeds, and agrochemicals, to boost productivity and promote sustainable farming.

iii. The Government of India (GoI) launched the Central Sector Scheme (CSS) in 2020 to form 10,000 FPOs, aiming to strengthen farmers, reduce costs, and boost incomes through Common Services Centres (CSCs). As of 30th June 2024, **8,875 FPOs** have been registered in India.

7. Who represented India as vice-chair in the 2nd meeting of the Supply Chain Council (SCC) of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) held in December 2024?

- 1) Piyush Goyal
- 2) Rajesh Agrawal
- 3) Nirmala Sitharaman
- 4) Suresh Prabhu
- 5) Amitabh Kant

Answer- **2) Rajesh Agrawal**

Explanation:

In December 2024, India, a key member of the 14-member Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), participated as **vice-chair** in the **2nd meeting** of the Supply Chain Council (SCC) which was held virtually.

i. India was represented by **Rajesh Agrawal**, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce (DoC), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I).

ii. The SCC, chaired by the United States of America (USA), reviewed progress across key sectors such as semiconductors, critical minerals, chemicals, and healthcare.

iii. Updates were shared on the Critical Minerals, Semiconductors, and Pharma/Healthcare Action Plan Teams (APTs) focused on collaboration and addressing supply chain challenges in these sectors.

iv. The first SCC meeting in Washington in September 2024 led to the formation of Action Plan Teams (APT) focusing on key sectors, including **Pharma/Healthcare** (led by India), **Semiconductors** (led by USA), **Critical Minerals** (led by Australia) and Chemicals (led by USA).

v. India, now 3rd in pharmaceutical production by volume and 14th by value, was elected as the Chair for the **Pharma/Healthcare APT**. India put forward a proposal to host the next in-person SCC meeting next year.

Note: India had signed the Supply Chain Resilience Agreement (Pillar-II) in November 2023, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening regional and global supply chain resilience.

8. Which organization has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to bolster India's disaster management capabilities?

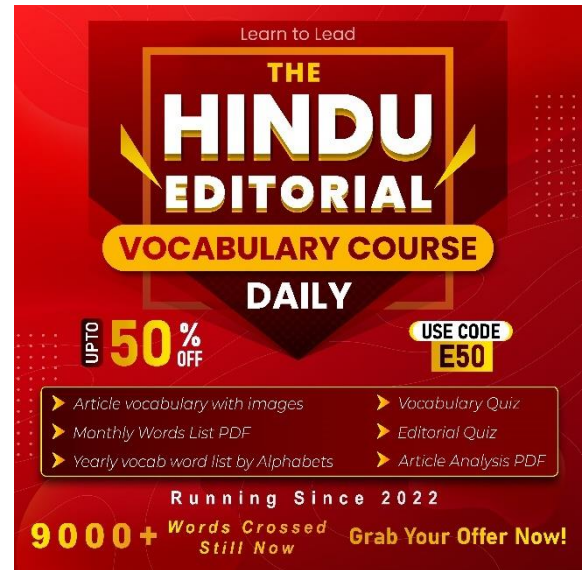
- 1) The National Institute of Disaster Management
- 2) The National Disaster Response Force
- 3) All India Disaster Management Association
- 4) Global Disaster Relief Network
- 5) The Centre for Joint Warfare Studies

Answer- **5) The Centre for Joint Warfare Studies**

Explanation:

In December 2024, the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS), the only tri-services think tank under Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS), Ministry of Defence has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to bolster India's disaster management capabilities.

i. The MoU was signed by Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd), Member, NDMA and Major General (Dr) Ashok Kumar (Retd), Director General of CENJOWS.



ii. With the signing ceremony, a strategic agreement was established to address critical challenges in readiness, response, and disaster mitigation in order to create a “whole of the nation” approach.

iii. The MoU outlines a framework for joint initiatives, including:

- Collaborative Research: Conducting research on disaster management, HADR operations, and disaster diplomacy in order to contribute to the Indian government on policy.
- Capacity Building: Organizing workshops, seminars and training programs for stakeholders, including armed forces personnel, NDMA officials, and other important agencies.
- Awareness Campaigns: Raising awareness across the country to encourage risk reduction and disaster preparedness through nationwide initiatives.
- International Engagements: Promoting international cooperation in disaster management aligns with India’s foreign policy aim.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

9. Which country has recently (in December ‘24) become the 1st European country to join the Comprehensive & Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), a key trade bloc in the Indo-Pacific region?

- 1) Germany
- 2) France
- 3) United Kingdom
- 4) Italy
- 5) Spain

Answer- **3) United Kingdom**

Explanation:

In December 2024, the United Kingdom (UK) has officially become the 1st European country to join the Comprehensive & Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), an important trade bloc in the Indo-Pacific region.

i. With this, the UK has become the **12th** member of the CPTPP as well as the 1st non-founding member to join this trade bloc.

ii. This marks a significant milestone in the country’s effort to bolster its global trading after its withdrawal from the European Union (EU) in 2020.

iii. With the joining of the UK as CPTPP member, the members of CPTPP together account 15% of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provide trade access to a market of **over 500 million people**.

iv. As per the agreement, the UK will be able to trade with 8 member countries of CPTPP from **December 15, 2024**.

v. CPTPP has succeeded the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA), a trade agreement between 12 Pacific Rim countries, after the United States of America (USA) formally withdrew from the TPPA in 2017.

ECONOMY AND BUSINESS

10. CareEdge Ratings has recently (in December '24) revised its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) projection for India for Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25) to _____ from its previous estimate of 6.8%.

- 1) 6.2%
- 2) 6.5%
- 3) 6.7%
- 4) 7.2%
- 5) 7.5%

Answer- 2) 6.5%

Explanation:

December 2024, **CareEdge Ratings**, a subsidiary of Care Ratings Limited, has revised down its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) projection for India to **6.5%** for Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25), from its previous estimate of 6.8%. It has also projected that India's GDP will grow at 6.7% in FY26.

i. It has estimated that the Indian economy will rebound in the 2nd Half (H2: October to March) of FY25, mainly driven by a recovery in consumption and an uptick in government capital expenditure.

ii. It has projected the nominal GDP will be lower at 9.9% against the budgeted estimate of 10.5% for FY25.

iii. It has estimated that Inflation will be moderate, with Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation projected at 4.8% and 4.5% for FY25 and FY26, respectively.

iv. It has projected that Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation will be at average of 2.5% in FY25 and 3% in FY26.

v. The credit rating agency has projected that the fiscal deficit of the central government will be 4.8% of GDP for FY25, marginally lower than the budgeted estimate of 4.9%.

vi. It has estimated that Current Account Deficit (CAD) will remain manageable at 0.9% of GDP for FY25, demonstrating resilience in the external sector.

11. What is the total gross Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow into India since April 2000, as per the data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in December 2024?

- 1) USD 800 billion
- 2) USD 1.5 trillion
- 3) USD 1 trillion
- 4) USD 900 billion
- 5) USD 1.3 trillion

Answer- 3) USD 1 trillion

Explanation:

As per data released by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in December 2024, India reached a significant economic milestone with gross Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows totaling **USD 1 trillion** since April 2000.

- In the first half of the current Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25), FDI increased by about 26% to USD 42.1 billion.
- FDI inflows totaled USD 709.84 billion over the last ten years (April 2014 to September 2024), which represents 68.69% of all FDI inflows over the past 24 years.

- The government's flagship initiative, "Make in India," along with liberalized sectoral policies and the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has strengthened investments in India.

i. Mauritius topped FDI inflows at 25%, followed by Singapore in second place with 24%. The US ranked third at 10%, while the Netherlands (7%), Japan (6%), and the UK (5%) also made significant contributions.

India rose to 40th in the World Competitive Index 2024, improving from 43rd in 2021.

- In the Global Innovation Index 2023, India ranked **40th** out of 132 economies, securing 48th position among the top 50 most innovative countries.

ii. India was the **3rd largest recipient of greenfield projects**, with 1,008 announcements, according to the World Investment Report 2023.

12. Which company's Board of Directors recently (in December '24) approved the incorporation of a healthcare subsidiary to provide healthcare and allied services?

- 1) Tata Consultancy Services
- 2) PB Fintech
- 3) Infosys
- 4) ICICI Lombard
- 5) Wipro

Answer- **2) PB Fintech**

Explanation:

In December 2024, the Board of Directors of PB Fintech, the parent company of Policybazaar, approved the incorporation of a healthcare subsidiary that would provide healthcare and allied services. The entity will obtain the necessary approvals when needed.

i. On December 3, 2024, a circular resolution was passed proposing the formation of a **wholly owned subsidiary**

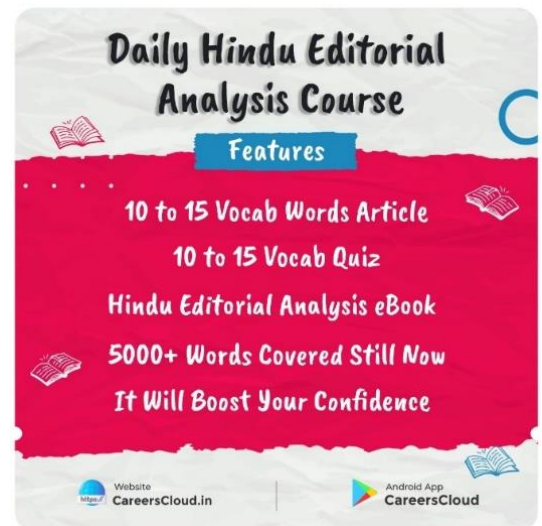
("WOS") to be named '**PB Healthcare Private Limited,**' or '**PB Healthcare Services Private Limited,**' or any other name approved by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India (GoI).

ii. Chairman and Group CEO of PB Fintech is Yashish Dahiya.

iii. The subsidiary will focus on healthcare and allied services, with an authorized share capital of Rs 5 lakh. The new entity will become a linked party upon formation.

iv. In the July–September quarter of FY25, the company claimed a net profit of Rs 51 crore, while in the same period last year, it reported a net loss of Rs 21.11 crore.

v. The new health and life insurance business grew by 69% year over year (Y-o-Y) during the quarter, contributing to the company's total insurance premium of Rs 5450 crore.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

13. Who was honored with the 2024 Jamsetji Tata award by the Indian Society for Quality (ISQ) at the ISQ Annual Conference 2024 recently held (in December '24) in Bengaluru, Karnataka?

- 1) Narayana Murthy
- 2) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw
- 3) Ratan Tata

4) Sundar Pichai

5) Satya Nadella

Answer- **2) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**

Explanation:

In December 2024, **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, Chairperson of Biocon Group, was conferred the **2024 Jamsetji Tata award** by the Indian Society for Quality (ISQ) at ISQ Annual Conference 2024 held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

i. This award was presented to her for being a pioneer in the bioscience movement in India since 1978, a first-generation entrepreneur to establish Biocon Limited and associated companies to serve customers in India and across the world.

ii. She received the award from **Janak Kumar Mehta**, President of ISQ and Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), TQM International.

iii. She has been awarded with two of India's highest civilian honours, the **Padma Shri** in 1989 and the **Padma Bhushan** in 2005.

iv. She was honoured with the Othmer Gold Medal by the U.S.-based Chemical Heritage Foundation in 2014.

v. The Jamsetji Tata Award was instituted in 2004 by ISQ. It honors business leaders who made significant contributions to Indian society.

vi. This award is named after **Jamsetji Tata**, who is known as the '**Father of Modern Indian Industry**'.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

14. Former Manchester City footballer 'Mikheil Kavelashvili' was appointed as the 6th President of _____, set to assume office on 29th December 2024, after incumbent President Salome Zourabichvili.

1) Armenia

2) Azerbaijan

3) Georgia

4) Ukraine

5) Kazakhstan

Answer- **3) Georgia**

Explanation:

Former Manchester City footballer **Mikheil Kavelashvili** was appointed as the **6th President of Georgia**. He will assume office on December 29 2024 and will replace incumbent President **Salome Zourabichvili**.

- Mikheil Kavelashvili was nominated by the Georgian Dream party and won the presidential election with 224 votes out of 300 votes.

i. Mikheil Kavelashvili is a Georgian politician and former professional footballer, known for his career as a striker.

ii. He played in the English Premier League for Manchester City and in the Swiss Super League for several clubs, including Dinamo Tbilisi and Spartak Vladikavkaz.

iii. In 2022, he co-founded the People's Power party, a satellite faction of Georgian Dream Party.

iv. In the 2024 parliamentary election, he was elected for the 3rd time, representing the party list of Georgian Dream Party, with which People's Power had aligned.

15. Who was recently appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) of SBI for three years, with effect from December 18, 2024?

- 1) Rajnish Kumar
- 2) Rama Mohan Rao Amara
- 3) Virat Sunil Diwanji
- 4) Ashok Chandra
- 5) Krishnan Venkat Subramanian

Answer- **2) Rama Mohan Rao Amara**

Explanation:

The Government of India (GoI) appointed **Rama Mohan Rao Amara**, Deputy Managing Director (DMD) and Chief Risk Officer (CRO) of the State Bank of India (SBI) as the new Managing Director (MD) of SBI for the **three years** with effect from 18 December 2024.

i. The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, followed by the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommendation.

ii. He succeeds **Challa Sreeivasulu Setty**, who has been appointed as the **chairman of SBI** in October 2024.

iii. Rama Mohan will serve as the **4th** MD of SBI, alongside Ashwini Kumar Tewari, Vinay M Tonse, and Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh.

iv. He started his banking career with SBI in 1991 as a Probationary Officer (PO) and is a Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers (CAIIB).

v. He served as the Chief General Manager (GM) of the SBI, Bhopal Circle, overseeing operations in the states of Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Chhattisgarh.

vi. In January 2021, he was appointed as the MD & CEO of SBI Card, and held this position until August 2023.

16. Which bank recently (in December '24) has reappointed R Subramaniakumar as its Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for a period of three years from 23rd June 2025 to 22nd June 2028?

- 1) HDFC Bank
- 2) ICICI Bank
- 3) RBL Bank Limited
- 4) Axis Bank
- 5) Yes Bank

Answer- **3) RBL Bank Limited**

Explanation:

RBL Bank Limited's board of directors has reappointed R Subramaniakumar, the current Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the bank for a period of three years from 23rd June 2025 to 22nd June 2028.

- Initially he was appointed as MD and CEO of RBL Bank for a period of three years in June 2022. His current term was to end on 22nd June 2025.

However, the reappointment is subject to approval by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1935, the bank will apply to the RBI for the approval of reappointing Subramaniakumar as MD and CEO for an additional three years.

- i. R Subramaniakumar is a veteran in the banking industry with over 40 years of experience.
- ii. He began his career with Punjab National Bank (PNB) in 1980.
- iii. Prior to joining RBL Bank, he served as the administrator of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL), the first non-banking finance company to be referred to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for resolution.
- iv. He was appointed as the MD and CEO of RBL Bank when the RBI added an additional director to the bank's board and sent former MD and CEO Vishwavir Ahuja on leave due to concerns about the bank's financial stability.
- v. He has held various leadership roles through the course of his career at PNB, including being the Director of DRUKPNB, Bhutan.

17. Who was recently (in December '24) appointed as the Executive Director (ED) of Yes Bank for a three-year term, effective from 11th December 2024 to 10th December 2027 as approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- 1) Manish Jain
- 2) Amitabh Chaudhry
- 3) Prashant Kumar
- 4) Rajeev Ahuja
- 5) Sanjiv Chadha

Answer- **1) Manish Jain**

Explanation:

In December 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of **Manish Jain** as Executive Director (ED) of **Yes Bank** for a period of three years, effective from December 11, 2024, to December 10, 2027.

- i. RBI granted its approval under Section 35B of The Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- ii. **Prashant Kumar** is the current Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of YES BANK.
- iii. In 2023, he joined Yes Bank as the Country Head of Wholesale Banking Group. He has been significant in increasing the corporate segment's profitability, operational effectiveness, and relationships with consumers.
- iv. Prior to YES BANK, he held leadership roles at Standard Chartered Bank, including Managing Director & Co-Head of Corporate Commercial & Institutional Banking for India.

SPORTS

18. Recently (in December '24), Team Asia, including India's Manika Batra led by Ma Long, defeated Team World led by Truls Moregardh to win the inaugural edition of the 'Waldner Cup 2024' held at _____?

- 1) Sweden
- 2) Norway
- 3) Germany
- 4) Denmark
- 5) Finland

Answer- **2) Norway**

Explanation:

On December 16 2024, **Team Asia** comprising India's **Manika Batra**, led by Ma Long won the 1st-ever inaugural edition of the 'Waldner Cup 2024' by defeating Team World 14-10 in Oslo, Norway.

- The tournament was held from **December 13 to 15, 2024** and was organized by **Jan Ove Waldner**, the famous Swedish table tennis player and 1992 Olympic gold medallist.

i. Team Asia comprised China's Ma Long, a 6 time Olympic Gold medallist, Chen Meng (China), the Paris 2024 women's singles champion, South Korea's Shin Yubin (2 time Olympic bronze medallist), Kazakhstan's Kirill Gerassimenko and India's Manika Batra.

ii. Team World led Sweden's Paris 2024 men's singles silver medallist Truls Moregardh and 6 time Olympic medallist Dimitrij Ovtcharov of Germany led 10-8 on the 2nd day, but Team Asia made a strong comeback, winning the last 3 matches to take the match 14-10.

iii. Ma Long won the final match against Truls Moregardh, securing the victory for Team Asia.

iv. Manika Batra who ranked 25th in women's singles, played two matches in the tournament.

v. The Waldner Cup was a two-day event. Each team had male and female players compete in singles, doubles and mixed doubles matches.

19. The Union Minister of State (MoS) Raksha Khadse, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) has recently (in December '24) unveiled the Mascot, Logo, Anthem, Jersey, Torch, and Tagline for the 38th National Games.

Which of the following is/are 'Correct' with respect to the event?

A) 38th National Games is scheduled to take place at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Dehradun, Uttarakhand

B) The mascot for the 38th National Games is named 'Mauli,' inspired by the Himalayan Monal, Uttarakhand's state bird.

C) Indian Olympic Association President PT Usha announced that 'yoga' and 'mallakhamb' will be included as demonstration sports in the National Games.


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

Answer- 4) All A, B, and C


Explanation:

In December 2024, Union Minister of State (MoS) **Raksha Khadse**, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), unveiled the **Mascot, Logo, Anthem, Jersey, Torch and Tagline** for the **38th National Games** at an event held at Maharana Pratap Sports College in Dehradun (Uttarakhand). It aims to promote sports culture, enhance infrastructure and motivate young athletes.

i. The 38th National Games is scheduled to take place at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Dehradun, Uttarakhand from January 28 to February 14, 2025 with over 10,000 athletes competing in 38 sports.



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- ii. Mascot :The mascot for the 38th National Games is named '**Mauli**,' inspired by the Himalayan Monal, Uttarakhand's state bird.
- iii. Logo: The logo featuring 'the **Monal**', symbolizes the state's rich natural beauty and diversity.
- iv. The mascot and logo aim to inspire young athletes and highlight Uttarakhand's unique identity.
- v. Tagline: The official tagline of the 38th National Games, titled '**Sankalp Se Shikhar Tak**' (From Resolve to Zenith), was launched at the event.
 - The tagline reflects the spirit of perseverance & determination required to achieve great heights.
- vi. Jersey :A special jersey was unveiled for the 38th National Games, designed to represent the state and national spirit.
- vi. Torch: The newly designed torch incorporates motifs of the perennial holy river Ganga and the state flower, Brahma Kamal, also known as the "**Lotus of the Darks**".
 - The 38th National Games torch was lit during the event and will travel across Uttarakhand, promoting unity and sportsmanship.
- vii. Inclusion of Yoga and Mallakhamb: IOA President PT Usha announced that '**yoga**' and '**mallakhamb**' will be included as demonstration sports in the National Games.
 - These traditional sports aim to highlight the cultural heritage of India and provide a platform for showcasing indigenous athletic practices.
- viii. The state has allocated **Rs 500 crore** for infrastructure development, including new sports facilities and renovation of existing stadiums.

20. Which Pakistani cricketers recently (in December '24) announced their retirement from international cricket?

- 1) Shoaib Malik and Wahab Riaz
- 2) Mohammad Amir and Imad Wasim
- 3) Babar Azam and Shaheen Afridi
- 4) Sarfaraz Ahmed and Fakhar Zaman
- 5) Hasan Ali and Shadab Khan

Answer- **2) Mohammad Amir and Imad Wasim**

Explanation:

Pakistani pacer Mohammad Amir announced his retirement from international cricket on 14th December 2024 while Pakistan all-rounder Imad Wasim announced his retirement from international cricket on 13th December 2024.

- i. Amir and Imad Wasim both last represented Pakistan in the T20 World Cup 2024, held in the United States of America (USA) and the West Indies.
- ii. Imad and Amir had previously announced retirement in 2023 and 2021 respectively but reversed their decision due to their requirement in the team for the T20 World Cup in June 2024.
- iii. Mohammad Amir had represented Pakistan in 36 Tests, 61 One-Day Internationals (ODI), and 62 Twenty20 Internationals (T20I) in his cricket career.
- iv. Imad Wasim had played 55 ODIs, taking 44 wickets, while in 75 T20Is, he took a total of 73
 - He played a key role in the Pakistan team in winning the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy and became No.1 T20I bowler in 2017.

21. Who has recently (in December '24) hit the record for joint-fastest fifty in the history of women's Twenty20 International (T20Is)?

- 1) Mithali Raj
- 2) Richa Ghosh
- 3) Sophie Devine
- 4) Harmanpreet Kaur
- 5) Smriti Mandhana

Answer- **2) Richa Ghosh**

Explanation:

Richa Ghosh equalled the record for the **fastest-ever half century** in women's Twenty20 International (T20Is), smashing a 18-ball fifty against West Indies in the third and final match of the series in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is also the quickest fifty scored by an Indian women's batter in the shortest format.

- Her knock, and Smriti Mandhana's half century earlier, powered India to their **highest total** ever in women's T20Is: **217/4**. India's previous best total was 201/5 against UAE at the Asia Cup in July 2024.

22. Which organization has recently (in December '24) partnered with Angkor Tiger Football Club to build a new football stadium in Siem Reap, Cambodia?

- 1) Asian Football Confederation
- 2) JSW Sports Private Limited
- 3) All India Football Federation
- 4) SkaSports Investments Private Limited
- 5) Fédération Internationale de Football Association

Answer- **4) SkaSports Investments Private Limited**

Explanation:

A new football stadium with an Indian connection has opened in **Siem Reap, Cambodia**, which is famous for Angkor Wat, UNESCO World Heritage site. **SkaSports Investments Private Limited**, an Indian-owned sports business, has partnered with **Angkor Tiger Football Club**, a Cambodian Premier League team to build the privately-owned, football-specific stadium with floodlights.

- The stadium aims to work with the Cambodian Football Association and Premier League on educational courses in an effort to promote football development in Cambodia.

23. In December 2024, Bharati Kolli was recognized as one of the Rising Star Women Leaders 2024 for her contributions to which sector?

- 1) Banking
- 2) Agriculture
- 3) Environment
- 4) Education
- 5) Healthcare

Answer- **1) Banking**

Explanation:

Bharati Kolli, a 43-year-old woman from Vizianagaram district in Andhra Pradesh (AP), has been recognized as one of the **Rising Star Women Leaders of Banking for 2024** by the renowned

women's group, Women We Admire. Bharati's remarkable contribution to the **banking sector**, particularly in data management has earned her this prestigious recognition.

- She is serving as the Director of the Data Management Office at the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), one of the world's largest banks. She is currently working at the New York headquarters of the ICBC in the United States.

24. Where was HORIBA India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) Test Bed Facility inaugurated in December 2024?

- 1) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- 2) Hyderabad, Telangana
- 3) Pune, Maharashtra
- 4) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- 5) Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Answer- **3) Pune, Maharashtra**

Explanation:

HORIBA India, a group company of Kyoto based HORIBA Ltd., has inaugurated its **first-ever** Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (**H2-ICE**) Test Bed Facility at HORIBA India Technical Center in Chakan, Pune, Maharashtra.

- This new facility will not only expand the business avenues but would also contribute significantly to the global vision of achieving carbon neutrality, decarbonization and sustainability.
- The company has invested a further approx. Rs. 28-30 crores in establishing the H2-ICE Test Bed Facility, which has an engine testing capacity upto 380KW meeting the Indian commercial vehicle segment.

25. Which exchange was recently (in December '24) permitted by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to exit the exchange market after its recognition was withdrawn over two years ago?

- 1) National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange
- 2) Indian Commodity Exchange
- 3) Multi Commodity Exchange of India
- 4) Bombay Stock Exchange
- 5) National Stock Exchange

Answer- **2) Indian Commodity Exchange**

Explanation:

In December 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) permitted the **Indian Commodity Exchange (ICEX)** to exit the exchange market after its recognition was withdrawn over two years ago. The exchange met all necessary regulatory standards to achieve this.

- The regulator has directed ICEX to comply with its tax obligations under the Income Tax Act, 1961, change its name and not to use the expression "stock exchange" and maintain a database of all transactions on its platform for the previous years among others.
- The exchange also undertook full responsibility for any future financial claims that may arise.

26. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has recently (in December '24) raised its stake in Asian Paints from 5% to ____ through open market purchase since January.

- 1) 10%
- 2) 9%
- 3) 8%
- 4) 7%
- 5) 6%

Answer- **4) 7%**

Explanation:

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has increased its shareholding in **Asian Paints** from 5% to more than **7%** through open market purchase since January.

- LIC's stake rose from 6.6% at the end of the September quarter to 7.01%, following open market purchases made between January 1 and December 9, 2024.
- The insurer acquired 1.93 crore additional shares at an average price of Rs 2,891.25 each, raising its total holdings to Rs 6.72 crore shares.

27. What is the currency of the United Kingdom (UK)?

- 1) Dollar
- 2) Euro
- 3) Dirhams
- 4) Danish Krone
- 5) Pound Sterling

Answer- **5) Pound Sterling**

Explanation:

About the United Kingdom (UK):

Prime Minister (PM) – Keir Starmer

Capital- London

Currency- Pound Sterling (GBP)

28. Who is the current (as of December '24) President of Georgia?

- 1) Irakli Kobakhidze
- 2) Salome Zourabichvil
- 3) Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
- 4) Vahagn Khachatryan
- 5) Ilham Aliyev

Answer- **2) Salome Zourabichvil**

Explanation:

About Georgia:

President- Salome Zourabichvil

Prime Minister (PM)- Irakli Kobakhidze

Capital- Tbilisi

Currency- Georgian Lari (GEL)

29. When was RBL Bank Limited established?

- 1) 1933
- 2) 1936
- 3) 1943
- 4) 1946
- 5) 1949

Answer- **3) 1943**

Explanation:

About RBL Bank Limited:

Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- R Subramaniakumar

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

Established- 1943

Tagline- apno ka bank

30. Where is the Maneri Dam located?

- 1) Haryana
- 2) Bihar
- 3) Jharkhand
- 4) Uttarakhand
- 5) Madhya Pradesh

Answer- **4) Uttarakhand**

Explanation:

About Uttarakhand:

Chief Minister (CM)- Pushkar Singh Dhami

Governor- Gurmit Singh

Capital- Dehradun

Dams- Tehri Dam, Tumaria Dam, Maneri Dam

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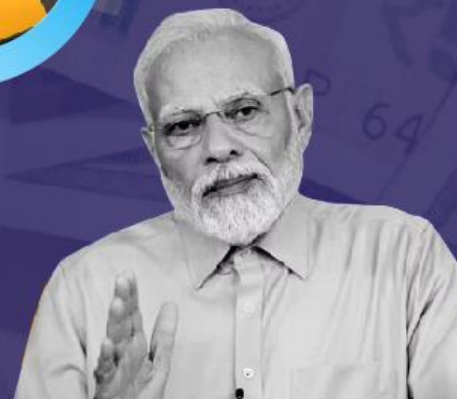
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