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Current Affairs Q&A PDF – 22 & 23 December 2024

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the launch of Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS) for electronic-Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (e-NWR) based Pledge Financing (CGS-NPF) by Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD) and Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MoN&RE) in December 2024?

- A) The scheme aims to provide Rs 1,000 crore corpus to support post-harvest financing for farmers.
- B) Under this scheme, loans up to Rs 50 lakh and Rs 200 lakhs (Rs 2 crore) will be provided for agricultural and non-agricultural purposes, respectively.
- C) As per the scheme, farmers can access credit by depositing their produce stored in Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) accredited warehouses, backed by e-NWRs.

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

Answer- 2) Only A & C

Explanation:

On December 16 2024, Union Minister **Pralhad Joshi**, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD) and Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MoN&RE), launched the Credit Guarantee Scheme(CGS) for electronic-Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (e-NWR) based Pledge Financing (**CGS-NPF**) in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The scheme aims to provide **Rs 1,000 crore** corpus to support post-harvest financing for farmers.
- As per the scheme, farmers can access credit by depositing their produce stored in Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (**WDRA**) accredited warehouses, backed by e-NWRs.
- Under this scheme, loans up to **Rs 75 lakh and Rs 200 lakhs** (Rs 2 crore) will be provided for agricultural and non-agricultural purposes, respectively.
- It offers a guarantee fee of **0.4%** per annum (p.a.) for farmers and **1%** for non-farmers.
- The scheme provides guarantee coverage for: **85%** of loans **up to 3 lakh** and 80% for loans between Rs 3 lakh to Rs 75 lakh for small and marginal farmers/women/ SC/ST/PwD and 75% for other borrowers.
- The scheme will boost the post-harvest lending to **Rs 5.5 lakh crore** in the next 10 years. [Click here to read more.](#)

2. In November 2024, Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), inaugurated the 59th Directors General of Police (DGsP) / Inspectors General of Police (IGsP) Conference in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He launched the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) book on the 'Ranking of Police Stations 2024.'

Which police station has secured the top position in the 'Ranking of Police Stations 2024'?

- 1) Pattapur police station
- 2) Ichhapore police station
- 3) Nimiaghat police station
- 4) Aska Police Station
- 5) Teliamura Police Station

Answer- 2) Ichhapore police station

Explanation:

In November 2024, Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), inaugurated the **59th** Directors General of Police (DGsP) / Inspectors General of Police (IGsP) Conference in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The conference was held in a hybrid format from 29 November to 1 December 2024.

- The conference was attended by Prime Minister (**PM**) of India Narendra Modi led the discussions on the second and third days of the conference.
- During the conference, the President's Police Medal for distinguished service was awarded, the 'Ranking of Police Stations 2024' book released and trophies presented to top police stations.
- The conference aims to address critical **national security matters** such as counter-terrorism, left-wing extremism (LWE), coastal security, new criminal laws, and the fight against narcotics.
- He presented **Police Medals** for Meritorious Service to 13 senior police officials and launched the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)' book on the '**Ranking of Police Stations 2024.**'
- Additionally, trophies were awarded to the top three police stations.
 1. The **Ichhapore police station** in Surat, Gujarat, secured the top position.
 2. **Pattapur police station** in Ganjam district, Odisha secured the second position.
 3. The **Nimiaghat police station** in Giridih district, Jharkhand, was ranked third best in the country.

3. Which of the following is 'not' a new initiative recently (in December '24) launched by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs to improve taxpayer experience and enhance transparency?

- 1) CBIC Archives
- 2) Revised Citizen's Charter
- 3) New Tax Filing Process
- 4) Revamped Citizen's Corner
- 5) Ease of Doing Business' Tab for Suggestions

Answer- 3) New Tax Filing Process

Explanation:

In December 2024, **Sanjay Kumar Agarwal**, Chairperson of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (**CBIC**), Ministry of Finance(MoF), in presence of all Board Members launched a series of **initiatives** that aim to improve taxpayer experience and enhance transparency.

- These initiatives reflect the CBIC's commitment to digital transformation and taxpayer-centric governance. CBIC aims to create a more efficient and transparent tax administration system.
- **Revised Citizen's Charter: A Commitment to Better Service Standards:** It provides updated timelines and service standards for taxpayer services like Drawback, Import and Export of Air Cargo.
- **'Ease of Doing Business(EoDB)' tab for giving suggestions:** A new platform has been introduced to enable taxpayers to contribute directly to improving the EoDB.
- **Revamped Citizen's Corner: Knowledge at Your Fingertips:** This portal serves as a centralized hub for tax-related information, simplifying access and encouraging voluntary compliance with tax regulations.
- **CBIC Archives: A Digital Window to India's Tax History:** This digital archive showcasing the evolution of indirect taxes in India. This platform includes six interactive tiles and about 82 submenus with videos, webinars, and updates on tax topics.

4. As per the data released by the Ministry of Mines (MoM) in December 2024, India's key mineral production such as Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR) Mineral and Non-Ferrous Metal Production recorded strong growth in the first seven months of FY 2024-25 (April-October).

Which mineral contributed 69% of the total MCDR mineral production by value, with 274 million metric tonnes (MMT) produced in FY 2023-24?

- 1) Iron ore
- 2) Bauxite
- 3) Manganese ore
- 4) Aluminium
- 5) Copper

Answer- 1) Iron ore

Explanation:

As per the data released by Ministry of Mines(MoM) at the end of 2024,India's key mineral production such as Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR) Mineral and Non-Ferrous Metal Production recorded strong growth in the first seven months of FY 2024-25 (April-October), following record levels in FY 2023-24.

- **Iron ore** contributed 69% of the total MCDR mineral production by value, with 274 million metric tonnes (MMT) produced in FY 2023-24.
- **Manganese ore** production grew **by 11.1%** to 2.0 MMT during April-October FY 2024-25 from 1.8 MMT during the corresponding period of FY 2023-24.
- **Bauxite production** rose by **11.3%** to 13.8 MMT in April-October FY 2024-25 from 12.4 MMT in FY 2023-24 (April- October).
- **Aluminium production** in FY 2024-25 (April-October) grew by **1.2%** to 24.46 lakh tonnes (LT), up from 24.17 LT in FY 2023-24 (April-October).
- Meanwhile, refined **copper production** increased **by 6.0%**, rising from 2.83 LT to 3.00 LT.
- India is the **second-largest** producer of **aluminium globally**, following China.
- India is ranked **4th among the top producers of refined copper**, with Chile and Peru being the leading producers.
- India stands as the **4th largest producer of iron ore**, behind Australia, Brazil, and China.

5. Which organisation has recently (in December '24) recognized Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACE) as an Awarding Body (Dual) to strengthen the vocational education and training landscape in the space sector?

- 1) Vocational Training Council
- 2) All India Council for Technical Education
- 3) National Skill Development Corporation
- 4) Space Research and Development Authority
- 5) National Council for Vocational Education and Training

Answer- 5) National Council for Vocational Education and Training

Explanation:

National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India, has officially recognized Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACE), under Department of Space (DOS) as an Awarding Body (Dual) to strengthening the vocational education and training landscape in the space sector.

- This collaboration will help IN-SPACE offer advanced training in Satellite Manufacturing, Space Technology in Agriculture, Launch Vehicle Mission Design, Orbital Mechanics, and Space Propulsion Systems.
- Six National Occupational Standards (NoS) have already been approved by the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET).
- Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between MSDE and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the ISRO Technical Training Program was launched at National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) in Bengaluru (Karnataka), Mumbai (Maharashtra), and Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala). This initiative aims to upskill over 4,000 technical employees of the Department of Space.

BANKING & FINANCE

6. In December 2024, the World Bank (WB) approved a _____ loan for the Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Growth and Rural Enterprise Ecosystem Strengthening (UP-AGREES) Project to enhance crop productivity and farmers' incomes in Uttar Pradesh (UP).

- 1) USD 175.30 million
- 2) USD 258.39 million
- 3) USD 283.45 million
- 4) USD 325.10 million
- 5) USD 396.56 million

Answer- 4) USD 325.10 million

Explanation:

In December 2024, the World Bank (WB) approved a **USD 325.10 million** loan for the Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Growth and Rural Enterprise Ecosystem Strengthening (UP-AGREES) Project, which aims to enhance crop productivity and farmers' incomes in Uttar Pradesh (UP).

- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) provided the USD 325.10 million loan with a **33.5-year maturity** and a 6-year grace period.
- The project also seeks to attract **USD 15 million** in private finance to support this initiative.

- In the past 10 years, Uttar Pradesh has become a key player in Indian agriculture, **leading in wheat production, second in rice, and third in agricultural exports**. However, small farmers still face low productivity and poor post-harvest infrastructure.
- The project focuses on strengthening agricultural value chains and improving access to credit through the eKisan Credit Card (**eKCC**) to enhance value-added opportunities.
- The project will help establish an Integrated Agri-Export Hub near **Jewar Airport in Greater Noida** to boost connections with international markets.

7. Which company has recently (in December '24) authorised as a Payment Aggregator (PA) under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI's) regulatory framework?

- 1) In-Solutions Global Limited
- 2) Paytm Payments Bank
- 3) PhonePe Payments
- 4) Razorpay
- 5) BillDesk

Answer- **1) In-Solutions Global Limited**

Explanation:

In December 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted full authorisation as a Payment Aggregator (PA), under its regulatory framework to In-Solutions Global (ISG) Limited, a Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based fintech company backed by JP Morgan Chase & Co.

- This approval empowers ISG to **enhance digital payment experiences** for merchants across diverse sectors, ensuring secure, efficient, and reliable transactions while promoting financial inclusion.
- The authorisation complements ISG's existing capabilities, including a Prepaid Payment Instrument (**PPI**) license.
- This enables ISG to offer a comprehensive suite of payment services covering online transactions, retail payments, transit systems, and more.



ECONOMY & BUSINESS

8. In December 2024, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Limited, an Information Technology (IT) services provider based in Mumbai, Maharashtra, collaborated with Landis+Gyr, an energy management company based in _____, to offer innovative solutions that help utilities improve energy efficiency.

- 1) Paris, France
- 2) Lisbon, Portugal
- 3) Sydney, Australia
- 4) Cham, Switzerland
- 5) London, the United Kingdom

Answer- **4) Cham, Switzerland**

Explanation:

In December 2024, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Limited, an Information Technology (IT) services provider based in Mumbai, Maharashtra, collaborated with **Landis+Gyr**, an energy management

company based in Cham, Switzerland, to offer innovative solutions that help utilities improve energy efficiency.

- Landis+Gyr and TCS are teaming up to provide **end-to-end solutions**, including energy optimization, demand response, and smart Electric Vehicle (EV) charging, helping utilities reduce emissions, improve efficiency, and integrate renewable energy (RE).
- The partnership will support utilities in meeting new Swiss regulations, which require large companies to report their climate impact, including Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions.
- In the coming three years, TCS will merge its advanced energy and emission management system, **TCS Clever Energy™**, with Landis+Gyr's smart metering and grid management technologies. This collaboration will provide a complete solution for utilities to manage their clients' complex energy demands.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

9. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the winners of the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2024 announced by Sahitya Akademi, under the Ministry of Culture in December 2024?

- A) Sahitya Akademi announced the winners of the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2024 in 24 Indian languages (including English).**
- B) The award consists of a casket with an engraved copper plaque, a shawl, and a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh.**
- C) Aron Raja's book Swrni Thakhai written in Bodo language won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 in the novel category.**

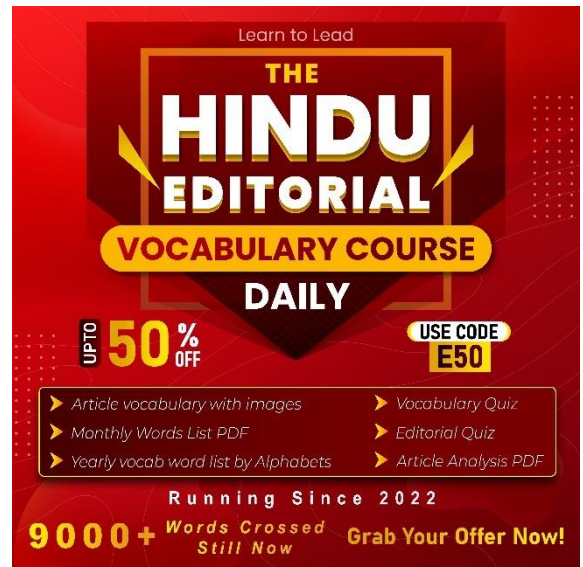
- 1) Only A & B
- 2) Only A & C
- 3) Only B & C
- 4) Only C
- 5) All A, B & C

Answer- **3) Only B & C**

Explanation:

On December 18 2024, the Sahitya Akademi, under the Ministry of Culture announced the winners of the [Sahitya Akademi Awards 2024](#) in **21 Indian languages** (including English). The award winners were selected based on recommendations made by a Jury of three members in the concerned languages.

- The awards for Bengali, Dogri and Urdu language will be announced at a later date.
- The award ceremony will be held on International Women's Day, **March 8 2025** at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi (Delhi).
- The winners of the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2024 include 8 books of Poetry, 3 Novels, 2 short stories, 3 Essays, 3 Literary Criticism, 1 Play and 1 Research.
- **Aron Raja's book Swrni Thakhai** written in **Bodo** language won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 in the **novel** category.



- The award consists of a casket with an engraved **copper plaque**, a shawl, and a cash prize of **Rs. 1 lakh**.
- The Sahitya Akademi Award is the **2nd-highest** literary honor in India, following the **Jnanpith Award**.
- The award was established by the Government of India (GoI) in **1954**, the Sahitya Akademi is India's National Academy of Letters.
- The Akademi works to preserve and promote literature in **24 Indian languages** (including the 22 languages listed in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution, along with English and Rajasthani) through awards, fellowships, grants, publications, and other initiatives. [Click here to read more.](#)

10. In December 2024, Hurun India in partnership with IDFC First Bank Limited released the 2nd edition of 'India's Top 200 Self-made Entrepreneurs of the Millenia 2024'.

Who among the following is 'not' in the top 5 of the list?

- 1) Radhakishan Shivkishan Damani
- 2) Deepinder Goyal
- 3) Sriharsha Majety
- 4) Abhay Soi
- 5) Harshil Mathur

Answer- 5) Harshil Mathur

Explanation:

On December 18 2024, Hurun India in partnership with IDFC First Bank Limited released the **2nd** edition of '[India's Top 200 Self-made Entrepreneurs of the Millenia 2024](#)'. As per the report, **Radhakishan Shivkishan Damani**, the founder of Avenue Supermarts Limited (DMart) has topped the list for **2nd** consecutive year, with a valuation of **Rs 3.4 lakh crore**, witnessing a growth of 44%.

- **Deepinder Goyal**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Zomato Media Private Limited is ranked at 2nd position (up from 3rd spot in 2023) and his net worth has significantly increased by 190%, to over Rs 2.5 lakh crore.
- He is followed by **Sriharsha Majety and Nandan Reddy**, founders of Swiggy Private Limited (India's leading food delivery company) secured the **3rd** spot on the list with net worth of Rs 1.01 lakh crore.
- **Deep Kalra**, Founder and Chairman of MakeMyTrip Limited and **Rajesh Magow**, Co-Founder and Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MakeMyTrip Limited, secured the **4th** spot on the list with net worth of Rs 99,300.
- **Abhay Soi**, Chairman & Managing Director of Max Healthcare Institute Limited secured the 5th spot on the list with net worth of Rs 78,600.
- The combined valuation of companies on the list is **Rs 36 lakh crores** (USD 431 billion), marking an increase of 20% compared to 2023.
- As per the report, **Kaivalya Vohra** (22 year-old), co-founder of **Zepto**, has been again named as India's youngest self-made entrepreneur.
- **Falguni Nayar** (ranked at 10th spot), the founder and CEO of Nykaa, has topped among all the Indian women entrepreneurs featured on the list, with a total valuation of Rs 56,600 crore (30% increase compared to last year). [Click here to read more.](#)

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

11. Who has been recently (in December '24) appointed as the Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) with an additional charge?

- 1) Suman Berry
- 2) Bibek Debroy
- 3) Sanjeev Sanyal
- 4) Shamika Ravi
- 5) B.V.R. Subramanyam

Answer- **1) Suman Berry**

Explanation:

The Vice Chairman (VC) of the National Institute for Transforming India (**NITI Aayog**), **Suman Berry** was appointed as the **Chairman** of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (**EAC-PM**) with an additional charge.

- He succeeded Bibek Debroy, who passed away on 1st November 2024.
- Before being appointed as Vice-chairman of NITI Aayog, held roles as a Global Fellow at the Asia Programme of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (WWICS) in Washington D.C., the United States of America (USA).
- He had previously worked as the Director General (DG) of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (**NCAER**) in New Delhi, Delhi.
- EAC-PM is an independent body set up to provide advice on economic and related matters to the Government of India, especially to the Prime Minister.

12. In December 2024, Former Delhi High Court Chief Justice Manmohan was appointed as _____ under Article 124(2) of the Constitution of India.

- 1) Chief Justice of India
- 2) Supreme Court Judge
- 3) High Court Judge
- 4) District Courts Judge
- 5) Attorney General of India

Answer- **2) Supreme Court Judge**

Explanation:

Former Delhi High Court Chief Justice Manmohan appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court under **Article 124(2)** of the **Constitution of India**. Justice Manmohan was born on December 17, 1962, in Delhi.

- The Supreme Court now has **33 working judges, with a sanctioned strength of 34**.
- Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna administered the oath of office. CJI Khanna was the only judge from the Delhi High Court in previous.
- The President of India appoints Supreme Court judges based on the recommendation of the Collegium (a group of senior Supreme Court judges led by the Chief Justice of India).
- He became a permanent judge of the Delhi High Court on December 17, 2009 and served as acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court from November 9, 2023. Later became full time Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court from September 29, 2024.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

13. In December 2024, the Indian Navy (IN) commissioned the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Nirdeshak (YARD 3026), the second of four Survey Vessel (large) SVL project in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

Which company has built the INS Nirdeshak and ships under SVL project?

- 1) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- 2) Goa Shipyard Limited
- 3) Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- 4) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- 5) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

Answer- 5) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

Explanation:

On 18th December 2024, the Indian Navy (IN) commissioned the **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Nirdeshak (YARD 3026)**, the second of four Survey Vessel (large) SVL project at the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP), in a ceremony led by the Union Minister of State **Sanjay Seth**, Ministry of Defence (MoD)

- The SVL Project includes four ships, **Sandhayak, Nirdeshak, Ikshak, and Sanshodhak**. It aims to upgrade the IN's hydrographic survey fleet by replacing the older Sandhayak-class ships, which were inducted into IN on 5th December 2021.
- Vice Admiral **Rajesh Pendharkar**, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command (FOC-in-C ENC), hosted the ceremony to officially induct the second of the four SVL ships being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (**GRSE**), Kolkata, West Bengal (WB).
- Built with over 80% indigenous material, it has been inducted to enhance hydrographic surveys, navigation, and maritime safety using advanced technologies like Multi-Beam Echo Sounders (MBES), Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV) and Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV).

14. Which company has recently (in December '24) supplied the second batch of 360 loitering munitions, known as 'Nagastra-1' to Indian Army (IA)?

- 1) Premier Explosives Limited
- 2) Lokesh Machines Limited
- 3) Economic Explosives Limited
- 4) Bharat Electronics Limited
- 5) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

Answer- 3) Economic Explosives Limited

Explanation:

In December 2024, the Indian Army (**IA**) received the second batch of 360 **loitering munitions**, known as 'Nagastra-1', from Nagpur (Maharashtra)-based Economic Explosives Limited (**EEL**), a subsidiary of Solar Industries India Limited (SLIN), under a contract valued at **Rs 2.12 billion** (about USD 25 million) which was signed in April 2023.

- Developed with over **75% indigenous content**, were delivered after rigorous testing and inspection.
- The IA placed an order for 480 loiter munitions under Emergency Procurement Powers (EEP) with EEL. The first batch of 120 munitions was delivered in June 2024, and the remaining 360 were delivered in December 2024.
- Nagastra-1 is a **lightweight**, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)-based, man-portable weapon designed for precision strikes, especially in counter-insurgency and urban warfare. It features a Global Positioning System (GPS)-guided system with a strike accuracy of just 2 meters(m) and can be used for surgical strikes.
- The munition has a **range** of 15 kilometer(km) during remote control operations and 30 km during autonomous flight, with an endurance of 60 minutes. A day/night camera aids in reconnaissance, and a **parachute recovery system** ensures safety if the flight needs to be aborted.

15. Where was the seventh Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge, Landing Ship Ammunition 14 (LSAM 14) (Yard 82) launched in December 2024?

- 1) Maharashtra
- 2) Odisha
- 3) Haryana
- 4) Tripura
- 5) Telangana

Answer- **1) Maharashtra**

Explanation:

In December 2024, the **seventh** Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge, Landing Ship Ammunition 14 (LSAM 14) (Yard 82), was launched at the Mira Bhayandar site in Maharashtra by M/s SECON Engineering Projects Private Limited, a Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) shipyard based in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- The launch ceremony was presided over by Commodore (Cmde) **AKK Reddy**, Additional General (AGM) Manager (Public Relations, PR), Naval Dockyard (ND), Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- In February 2021, the contract for building **eight MCA Barges** was signed with SECON Engineering Projects Private Limited.
- The barges were **indigenously designed** in collaboration with an Indian ship design firm and underwent successful model testing at the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) in Visakhapatnam to ensure seaworthiness.

ENVIRONMENT

16. Name the recently (in December '24) discovered large antlion species found in Tamil Nadu (TN).

- 1) Scaptia muscula
- 2) Myrmeleon formicarius
- 3) Lasiochalcidia igiliensis
- 4) Palpares Contrarius
- 5) Myrmeleon pictifrons

Answer- **4) Palpares Contrarius**

Explanation:

In November 2024, researchers discovered a large antlion species, “**Palpares Contrarius**” from Myrmeleontidae (Antlion family) which resembles a dragonfly, for the first time at the Madras Christian College (MCC) in Tamil Nadu (TN). The discovery in TN contributes to the state’s rich biodiversity.

- The study was published in the Journal of the **Threatened Taxa** and the discovery was documented by **Anita Pearline Esther**, an entomologist at MCC, TN.
- The specimen was deposited in the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Chennai.
- Antlions are identifiable by its distinctive antennae and unique vertical wing-flapping flight, with adults being elusive and nocturnal. It belongs to the order **Neuroptera**.
- Antlion larvae make sand pits to catch prey, mainly feeding on ants. The larval stage can last more than a year, depending on the environment and food supply.
- Antlions are found in many countries, including Africa, Myanmar, Thailand, and Sri Lanka. In India, they live in states such as Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, and Madhya Pradesh(MP).

SPORTS

17. Which of the following points is/are ‘correct’ with respect to Ravichandran Ashwin’s retirement from International cricket in December 2024?

A) He is India’s 2nd-highest wicket-taker in Test cricket with 537 wickets in 106 matches. After representing India in 106 Tests, 116 ODIs and 65 T20Is and picking up 765 wickets across formats.

B) He received ICC Men’s Cricketer of the Year in 2016 for his consistency and brilliance on the field.

C) He received the Padma Shri, one of India’s highest sports honours for his exceptional contribution to cricket in 2015.

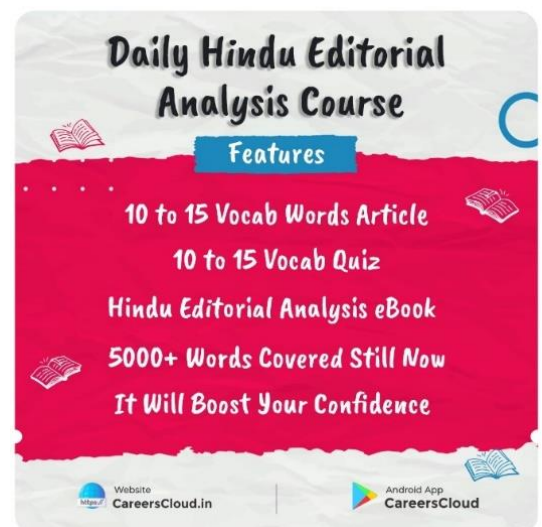
- 1) Only A & B
- 2) Only A & C
- 3) Only B & C
- 4) Only C
- 5) All A, B & C

Answer- 1) Only A & B

Explanation:

On December 18 2024, **Ravichandran Ashwin**, India’s premier off-spinner announced his retirement from International cricket ending a remarkable **14 year** career at the top level across formats. He is India’s **2nd-highest wicket-taker** in Test cricket with **537 wickets in 106 matches**.

- The announcement was made in the post match press conference following the third Test of the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia.
- After representing India in 106 Tests, 116 ODIs and 65 T20Is and picking up **765 wickets** across formats.
- He retires as the 2nd highest wicket-taker for India in Test cricket, with 537 wickets.



- He was the **1st bowler** to take 100 wickets in the World Test Championship, achieving this milestone in March 2022.
- He became the **2nd-fastest bowler** to reach 500 Test wickets, achieving the milestone in 98 games in February 2024.
- He has won **11 'Player of the Series'** awards in Test cricket, the most by any Indian player.
- **ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year (2016)**: Received the award, a testament to his consistency and brilliance on the field. Also, ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year (2016)
- **Arjuna Award (2015)**: One of India's highest sports honours, for his exceptional contribution to cricket.
- **CEAT International Cricketer of the Year (2016-17)**: Received the first International Cricket Rating System award in recognition of his outstanding performances across formats. [Click here to read more.](#)

18. Where will be the 11th edition of the International Hockey Federation(FIH) Hockey Women's Junior World Cup (WC) 2025 held?

- 1) Ottawa, Canada
- 2) Santiago, Chile
- 3) Terrassa, Spain
- 4) Boston, United States
- 5) Potchefstroom, South Africa

Answer- **2) Santiago, Chile**

Explanation:

In December 2024, the International Hockey Federation(FIH), headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland, announced that the **11th edition** of the FIH Hockey Women's Junior World Cup (WC) 2025 will be held in **Santiago, Chile**.

- This will be the **fourth time** the South American country has hosted the prestigious event.
 - The upcoming tournament will feature **24 teams** competing for the first time in FIH history. This expansion is part of the FIH's strategy to provide more opportunities for a diverse range of National Associations.
 - So far, the following teams have secured their spots in the tournament:
 - **Europe**: Netherlands, Spain, England, Germany, Belgium, Ireland, Wales, Scotland.
 - **Pan America**: Argentina, United States of America (USA), Uruguay, Canada
- Teams from Africa, Asia, and Oceania will qualify at a later stage.

OBITUARY

19. In December 2024, renowned Baiga Tribal _____ Jodhaiya Bai passed away at the age of 86 in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh (MP).

- 1) Singer
- 2) Dancer
- 3) Artist
- 4) Writer
- 5) Violinist

Answer- **3) Artist**

Explanation:

In December 2024, renowned Baiga Tribal Artist **Jodhaiya Bai** passed away at the age of 86 in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh (MP). She was born in MP in 1938.

- In 2023, she was awarded the **Padma Shri Award**, India's fourth highest civilian honour, for her contribution in the field of arts.
- She played a key role in bringing Baiga tribal art to global recognition.
- In 2022, she received the Nari Shakti Puraskar, an annual award given by the Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Government of India in recognition of her achievements.
- The name Baiga means 'Sorcerer-medicine man'. They were primarily found in MP, Uttar Pradesh (UP), Odisha, West Bengal (WB), Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

IMPORTANT DAYS

20. When is the United Nations (UN)'s International Human Solidarity Day annually observed across the globe?


- 1) December 22
- 2) December 21
- 3) December 19
- 4) December 17
- 5) December 20

Answer- **5) December 20**


Explanation:

The United Nations (UN)'s **International Human Solidarity Day** is annually observed across the globe on **20th December** to raise public awareness of the importance of solidarity in addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and injustice.

- International Solidarity Day reminds governments and non-state actors, including businesses, to uphold their commitments to international agreements and human rights.
- **Solidarity** refers to unity or mutual support within a group or among individuals, especially in times of difficulty or challenge and collective action to promote human rights and social justice worldwide.
- The **first-ever** International Human Solidarity Day was observed on **20 December 2006**.
- UN Women marks International Human Solidarity Day with a message on gender equality. **"HeForShe"** is the United Nations' global solidarity movement for gender equality.
- The HeForShe movement, launched by UN Women in 2014, is a global solidarity campaign aimed at engaging men and boys in the fight for gender equality.
- The Independent Expert (**IE**) on Human Rights and International Solidarity (**HRIS**) is an individual appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council (**UNHRC**) to address and promote human rights and international solidarity. [Click here to read more.](#)



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STATIC

21. Ajay Seth, Economic Affairs Secretary has been recently (in December '24) given the additional charge of which post?

- 1) Secretary of Commerce
- 2) Revenue Secretary
- 3) Secretary of Expenditure
- 4) Finance Secretary
- 5) Secretary of Corporate Affairs

Answer- **2) Revenue Secretary**

Explanation:

The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi assigned the **additional charge** of the post of **revenue secretary** in the finance ministry to Economic Affairs Secretary **Ajay Seth**.

- The Competent Authority has approved the assignment of additional charge of the post of Secretary, Department of Revenue to Ajay Seth, IAS, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, with immediate effect until the appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders, whichever is earlier,

22. Name the artificial intelligence (AI)-powered platform that was recently (in December '24) introduced by Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi to discover molecules that could slow down ageing and promote healthier lives.

- 1) AgeWell
- 2) LifeSpan AI
- 3) AgeXtend
- 4) YouthAI
- 5) HealthSpan AI

Answer- **3) AgeXtend**

Explanation:

Researchers at Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (**IIIT-Delhi**) have introduced **AgeXtend**, an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered platform designed to discover molecules that could slow down ageing and promote healthier lives.

- AgeXtend is a unique platform that uses data from existing anti-ageing molecules to predict new ones.
- It doesn't just suggest potential candidates but also ensures their safety by checking for toxic effects and understanding how they work in the body.
- The research findings were published in the Nature Aging journal.

23. Which company has recently (in December '24) launched Willow, its latest quantum chip showcasing significant advancements in quantum computing?

- 1) Google
- 2) Amazon
- 3) Apple
- 4) Facebook
- 5) Microsoft

Answer- **1) Google**

Explanation:

Google has unveiled its latest quantum chip, **Willow**, marking a significant breakthrough in quantum computing. This chip was developed at the quantum lab of the company in Santa Barbara, California.

- The power of the chip can be understood by its capability to solve complex mathematical problems in only five minutes which will take 10 septillion years for supercomputers to solve.
- This advancement paves the way for practical applications in various fields, including drug discovery and clean energy.

24. Which organisation has recently (in December '24) published the Vishnukant Shastri's Rachna Sanchayan?

- 1) Fourth Estate
- 2) HarperCollins
- 3) Sahitya Akademi
- 4) Bloomsbury Publishing
- 5) Simon & Schuster

Answer- **3) Sahitya Akademi**

Explanation:

Union Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** released **Vishnukant Shastri's** Rachna Sanchayan published by Sahitya Akademi in New Delhi, Delhi.

- During the release, the Minister lauded Vishnukant Shastri's contribution in advancing Indian culture, religion, spirituality and literature.
- He also highlighted how the author provided new direction to several individuals, institutions, and the nation.

25. Which bank has recently (in December '24) launched its first 'Retail Assets Centre' (RAC) at JP Nagara in Bengaluru to enhance its Retail Banking Services?

- 1) RBL Bank
- 2) Federal Bank
- 3) IndusInd Bank
- 4) City Union Bank
- 5) Karnataka Bank

Answer- **5) Karnataka Bank**

Explanation:

Karnataka Bank has announced the launch of its first Retail Assets Centre (**RAC**) at JP Nagara, Bengaluru to enhance its Retail Banking Services and provide a more streamlined, customer-focused approach to its loan and financial products.

- A centralized RAC will be established across key business locations, integrating functions like Business Coordination, Credit Underwriting, Sanctions, Operations, Disbursements, and Post-Disbursement Services to meet the rising demand for Retail Loan products.

26. Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a compendium of complete works of which Tamil poet and freedom fighter in December 2024?

- 1) Bharathidasan
- 2) E.V. Ramasamy

- 3) Subramania Bharati
- 4) C. Rajagopalachari
- 5) V. O. Chidambaram Pillai

Answer- **3) Subramania Bharati**

Explanation:

On 11th December 2024, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** released the compendium of the complete works of Tamil poet and freedom fighter **Subramania Bharati** on his **143rd birth anniversary** at an event in Delhi.

- The collection is titled as '**Kaala Varisayil Bharathi Padaippugal**' and is the complete collected works of Mahakavi Bharathiyar in chronological order. It is collated by Seeni Viswanathan.

27. Which organization has recently (in December '24) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to enhance urban development in Delhi?

- 1) Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited
- 2) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
- 3) Municipal Corporation of Delhi
- 4) National Housing Bank
- 5) NITI Aayog

Answer- **1) Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited**

Explanation:

Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (**HUDCO**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Delhi Development Authority (**DDA**), a statutory body established under the Delhi Development Act, 1957, to leverage HUDCO's expertise in housing, urban development, and infrastructure to support DDA's ongoing projects.

- Through this MoU, HUDCO will provide comprehensive capacity-building programs for DDA officials. These programs will equip DDA personnel with the latest knowledge and skills in project management, financial planning, and other relevant areas.
- This collaboration is expected to significantly contribute to the development of Delhi's urban landscape.

28. Where is the headquarters of the World Bank (WB) located?

- 1) Geneva, Switzerland
- 2) Tokyo, Japan
- 3) Toronto, Canada
- 4) London, the United Kingdom
- 5) Washington, DC, United States of America

Answer- **5) Washington, DC, United States of America**

Explanation:

About World Bank (WB):

President – Ajay Banga

India's Director – Auguste Tano Kouame

Headquarters – Washington, DC, The United States of America (USA)

Established – 1944

29. When was IDFC First Bank Limited established?

- 1) 2015
- 2) 2016
- 3) 2018
- 4) 2019
- 5) 2021

Answer- **3) 2018**

Explanation:

About IDFC First Bank Limited:

Managing Director **(MD)** and Chief Executive Officer **(CEO)**- V. Vaidyanathan

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

Established- 2018

Tagline- Always You First

30. Who is the current (as of December '24) President of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)?

- 1) Omar Zniber
- 2) Volker Türk
- 3) Rebeca Grynspan
- 4) Catherine M. Russell
- 5) Anacláudia Rossbach

Answer- **1) Omar Zniber**

Explanation:

About the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC):

President- Omar Zniber

Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland

Established – 2006

Members- 47 member states

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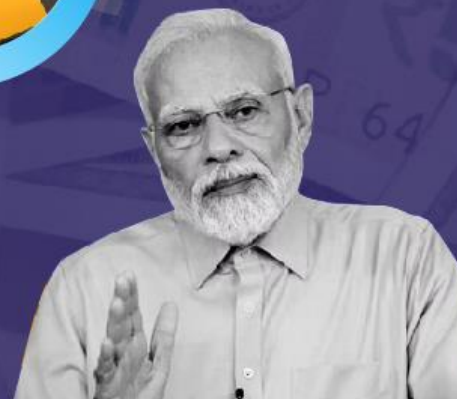
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