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**December 1<sup>st</sup> week Current Affairs MCQ**

1. As per the report, \_\_\_\_\_ and Indian Council for Agricultural Research has joined hands to launch a Centre in High Tech Protected Cropping Systems to address climate change impact.

- (a) UNSW Sydney
- (b) Western Sydney University
- (c) University of Melbourne
- (d) University of Queensland
- (e) None of the above

**Answer: B**

Western Sydney University, The Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bangalore and the Indian Institute for Spices Research (IISR), Calicut, and the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University have come together to launch a Centre in High Tech Protected Cropping Systems.

This will help address the impact of the changing climate on crop production. It will have two nodes, one each at IIHR, Bengaluru, and IISR, Calicut.

The Centre will investigate hi-tech aeroponic crop production, crop health monitoring technologies with advanced sensors and cameras, and ways to standardize pollination as part of a pilot.

Besides focussing on technology transfer, the collaboration will focus on capacity and skill building among early career scientists in the area of aeroponics.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an autonomous body responsible for co-ordinating agricultural education and research in India, Established: on 16 July 1929.

2. As per the report, Manthan Platform won NSEIT the Best Tech Initiative of the Year at the Dun & Bradstreet Business Excellence Awards 2022 held in \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Lucknow
- (d) Pune
- (e) Goa

**Answer: B**

The Manthan platform won NSEIT the Best Tech Initiative of the Year at the Dun & Bradstreet Business Excellence Awards 2022.

The award was presented for building the technology infrastructure to support Manthan. Manthan is a platform that promotes collaboration at scale between industry and the scientific research and development ecosystem. The development of the platform was conceptualized and implemented by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India.

It is aimed at promoting collaboration between industry and the scientific research and development ecosystem.

It was launched on India's 76th Independence Day.

Manthan empowers multiple stakeholders to collaborate to co-creating solutions aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and our national scientific missions.

NSEIT Limited is a global technology enterprise focused on delivering excellence in a complex digital environment, primarily in the banking, insurance, and capital market ecosystem. It is a 100% subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange of India.

**3. Tata Consultancy Services and which bank announced the launch of 'iLens', a digital lending solution, powered by the TCS lending platform.**

- (a) Axis Bank
- (b) ICICI Bank
- (c) HDFC Bank
- (d) IDFC First Bank
- (e) None of the above

**Answer: B**

Tata Consultancy Services and ICICI Bank announced the launch of 'iLens', a digital lending solution, powered by the TCS lending platform.

The first-of-its-kind platform digitizes the entire lending process from application to disbursement for everyone, including new-to-bank customers, to offer them unparalleled convenience with faster turnaround of loan applications, greater transparency of loan status, and enriched experience.

'iLens', which stands for ICICI Bank Lending Solutions, is powered by the TCS Lending Platform and is customized with ICICI Bank's proprietary policies for loans, data-led algorithms, and over 130 API integrations including with fintech.

Tata Consultancy Services is an Indian multinational information technology services and consulting company with its headquarters in Mumbai. CEO: Rajesh Gopinathan .

**4. Which state government launched the Mukyamantri Free Uniform Yojana?**

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Assam
- (c) Rajasthan
- (d) Manipur
- (e) Mizoram

**Answer: C**

The children from Class 1 to 8 in the government schools of Rajasthan will get free school uniforms and milk prepared from milk powder.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot virtually launched the Mukhyamantri Bal Gopal Yojana and Mukhyamantri Free Uniform Yojana. On this occasion, children were fed milk along with the distribution of free uniforms were.

Funds worth Rs 476 crore have been sanctioned for this scheme.

5. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has signed MoU with the \_\_\_\_\_ engineering institute, for establishing a 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor' at these institutes.

- (a) 7
- (b) 6
- (c) 5
- (d) 4
- (e) 3

**Answer: B**

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has signed MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology BHU, Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur, Indian Institute of Technology Indore, Indian Institute of Technology Patna, Indian Institute of Technology Madras and National Institute of Technology Trichy for establishing 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor' at these institutes.

The initiative will promote excellence and leadership in teaching and research & development in the field of Science and various disciplines.

The MoU with premium academic institutes would encourage youth involvement in the area of the standardization process.

It will also promote standards formulation activity through Research & Development projects.

Pramod Kumar Tiwari, Director General, BIS, said that there is a need to involve start-ups &

incubation centers at Academic Institutions in formulating new standards.

It is an Indian national standard body that works under the aegis of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

6. In which place, the Indian Coast Guard has recently commissioned a New Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-III Squadron, 840 Squadron?

- (a) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Chandipur, Odisha
- (c) Chennai, TamilNadu
- (d) Porbandar, Gujarat
- (e) None of the above

**Answer: C**

In a major boost to further strengthening the Coast Guard Region East, 840 Sqn (CG), an Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III squadron, was commissioned at ICG Air Station, Chennai on November 30, 2022.

The ALH MK III helicopters have been indigenously manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

They feature state-of-the-art equipment including advanced RADAR as well as Electro optical sensors, Shakti engines, full glass cockpit, high-intensity searchlight, advanced communication systems, automatic identification system as well as search-and-rescue homer.

The features enable them to undertake maritime reconnaissance as well as carry out SAR at

extended ranges even while operating from ships during both day and night.

The aircraft can switch roles from an offensive platform with a heavy machine gun to that of a benign one carrying a Medical Intensive Care Unit to facilitate the transfer of critically ill patients.

A total of 16 ALH Mk-III aircraft have been inducted into the Indian Coast Guard in a phased manner and four of these aircraft are positioned in Chennai.

**7. As per the report by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) India's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by \_\_\_\_\_ in Q2 of the current fiscal year.**

- (a) 6.3%
- (b) 5.9%
- (c) 6.6%
- (d) 6.5%
- (e) 7.0%

**Answer: A**

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) recently released India's economic growth data for the current fiscal year's second quarter (July-Sept (Q2) for the FY 2022-23.

India's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 6.3% (and gross value added (GVA) by 5.6%) year on year in Q2, slower than the GDP growth rate in the same months in 2021.

GDP growth for the first half of the fiscal year is at 9.7%.

The GDP is a monetary measure of all final products and services (those purchased by the final user) produced in a country over a certain period.

The GDP accomplishes this by adding total expenditures in the economy, examining who spent how much, thus, measuring the economy's overall "demand."

On the GDP side, the biggest engine of growth is private consumption expenditure. It typically contributes over 55% of India's total GDP.

**8. As per the report, Which Payment Bank has tied up with Protean eGov Technologies to expand PAN card issuance services in India, especially in rural areas.**

- (a) Equitas Payment Bank
- (b) ESAF Payment Bank
- (c) Fino Payment Bank
- (d) India Post Payment Bank
- (e) Jio Payment Bank

**Answer: C**

Fino Payments Bank has tied up with Protean eGov Technologies, a market leader in universal, citizen-centric, and population-scale e-governance solutions, to expand PAN card issuance services in India, especially in rural areas.

The association makes Fino the first payments bank to act as a PAN Service Agency (PSA) of Protean and facilitate paperless PAN issuance services.

The tie-up allows Protean to expand its reach in the interiors of the country through Fino Bank's network of over 12.2 lakh merchant points.

Fino Payments Bank was incorporated on 4th April 2017, Headquarters: Juinagar, Navi Mumbai, Rishi Gupta · MD & CEO at Fino Payments Bank.

**9. As per the report a series focusing on the history of Ram Janmabhoomi and the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya will be narrated by \_\_\_\_\_.**

- (a) Salman Khan
- (b) Amitabh Bachchan
- (c) Akshay Kumar
- (d) Anupam Kher
- (e) Ranveer Singh

**Answer: B**

A series focusing on the history of Ram Janmabhoomi and the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya will be narrated by actor Amitabh Bachchan, according to the Ram Temple Construction Committee.

The committee also said in a statement that a panel has been formed to oversee the series from script to the final product. The panel comprises Central Board of Film Certification chairperson Prasoon Joshi, actor-filmmaker Chandraprakash Dwivedi (of popular Hindi series Chanakya fame), author Yatindra Mishra, and member-secretary of Indira Gandhi

National Centre for the Arts Sachchidanand Joshi.

The Ram Temple is likely to be thrown open to the public by December 2023, and the series is likely to release around the same time.

The series has tentatively been titled "Ram Arpan", but the makers will zero in on a final title as the filming progresses.

The Construction Committee's chairperson, Nripendra Misra.

**10. Which Mutual Fund has launched the first-ever tax saver index fund scheme that will track the 'ELSS Nifty 50 Tax Saver Index'.**

- (a) Edelweiss Mutual Fund
- (b) IIFL Mutual Fund
- (c) SBI Mutual Fund
- (d) Axis Mutual Fund
- (e) None of the above

**Answer: B**

IIFL Mutual Fund has launched the first-ever tax saver index fund scheme that will track the 'ELSS Nifty 50 Tax Saver Index'.

Being an Index Fund, it aims to have a portfolio that mirrors the Nifty 50 Index, which comprises large-cap Indian companies. It is also relatively low cost compared to actively managed schemes.

The New Fund Offer closes on December 21.

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> week Current Affairs MCQ**

1. Every year, International Anti-Corruption Day is celebrated on 9 December. The day is being celebrated every year since\_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) 2005
- (b) 2007
- (c) 2010
- (d) 2001
- (e) 2011

**Answer: A**

Every year on 9 December, International Anti-Corruption Day is celebrated. The theme of International Anti-Corruption Day 2022 is “UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption”.

The General Assembly adopted 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day to raise awareness about corruption.

In 2003, UN General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The convention came into force in December 2005.

**The day is being celebrated every year since 2005.**

India's rank was ranked 85th position in the corruption perception index (CPI) of 2021 among 180 countries.

2. Who among the following has received Hampi Kannada University's Nadoja Award 2022?

- (a) S Shadakshari
- (b) C Manjunath
- (c) G Krishnappa
- (d) All of the above
- (e) Both A and B

**Answer: D**

Three people received Hampi Kannada University's Nadoja Award. Director of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, Bengaluru, Dr C Manjunath and two writers Krishnappa G and S Shadakshari was presented the award.

Dr Manjunath was awarded for his contributions to the medical field and social services, Krishnappa was awarded for his contributions to literature and Shadakshari was awarded for contributions to the field of literature and social services.

Karnataka governor Thawar Chand Gehlot presented the award.

It is a prestigious award presented every year by Kanada University, Hampi.

It was given for the first time in 1995 to Kuvempu (Literature), S. Nijalingappa (Politics) and Gangubai Hangal (Hindustani Music).

3. As per the newspaper report in December 2022, the Government of India has accorded 'In-Principle' approval the for setting up of \_\_\_ Greenfield Airports.

- (a) 32
- (b) 17
- (c) 21
- (d) 37
- (e) 15

**Answer: C**

**The government of India has accorded 'In-Principle' approval for setting up of 21 Greenfield Airports.**

Development of a Greenfield airport is governed under the Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy, 2008.

As per the Policy, a State Government or an Airport Developer, willing to establish an airport is required to send a proposal to the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) for 2-stage approval i.e. 'Site-Clearance' followed by 'In-Principle' approval.

Such proposals are considered by MoCA as per the procedure stipulated in the GFA Policy.

The responsibility of the implementation of airport projects including funding of the projects rests with the concerned airport developer including the respective State Government (in case the State Government is the project proponent).

The government of India (GoI) has accorded 'In-Principle' approval for setting up 21 Greenfield Airports namely, Mopa in Goa, Navi Mumbai, Shirdi and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Hassan and Shivamogga in

Karnataka, Dabra (Gwalior) in Madhya Pradesh, Kushinagar and Noida (Jewar) in Uttar Pradesh, Dholera and Hirasar in Gujarat, Karaikal in Puducherry, Dagadarthi, Bhogapuram and Oravakal (Kurnool) in Andhra Pradesh, Durgapur in West Bengal, Pakyong in Sikkim, Kannur in Kerala and Donyi Polo, Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh. Out of these, 9 Greenfield airports Durgapur, Shirdi, Kannur, Pakyong, Kalaburagi, Orvakal (Kurnool), Sindhudurg, Kushinagar and Donyi Polo, Itanagar have been operationalized.

**4. As per the newspaper report in December 2022, In which of the following place the 9<sup>th</sup> World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) was inaugurated?**

- (a) Hyderabad, Telangana
- (b) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Panaji, Goa
- (e) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

**Answer: D**

**The 9<sup>th</sup> World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) was inaugurated recently at Panaji, Goa.**

The 9<sup>th</sup> WAC aims to showcase the efficacy and strength of the AYUSH systems of medicine at the Global level to provide a global platform for all the stakeholders, including industry leaders, practitioners, traditional healers, educationists, students, medicine manufacturers, growers of medicinal plants and marketing strategists



The market size of the AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) sector in the country has grown from USD 3 billion in 2014 to over USD 18 billion now, clocking a phenomenal growth of six times.

During 2014-2020, the AYUSH industry grew 17 per cent year-on-year while the Ayurveda market is predicted to grow at 15 per cent CAGR from 2021-2026.

The Ayush Grid project was initiated by the Ministry in 2018 for creating a comprehensive IT backbone for the entire sector.

**5. As per the newspaper report in December 2022, The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) became the \_\_\_\_\_ political outfit to secure national party status.**

- (a) 7<sup>th</sup>
- (b) 5<sup>th</sup>
- (c) 6<sup>th</sup>
- (d) 8<sup>th</sup>
- (e) 9<sup>th</sup>

**Answer: E**

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) became the ninth political outfit to secure national party status.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has laid down the technical criterion for a party to be recognised as a national party.

A party may gain or lose national party status from time to time, depending on the fulfilment of these laid-down conditions.

The ECI's Political Parties and Election Symbols, 2019 handbook lays down the criteria for a party to be recognised as National Party.

First a political Party has to be registered with ECI to be recognised as a National or State party.

Criteria for National Party Status - A party will be considered a national party,

If it is 'recognised' in four or more states.

If its candidates polled at least 6% of total valid votes in any four or more states in the last Lok Sabha or Assembly elections and has at least four MPs in the last Lok Sabha polls.

**6. Which of the following has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of MSME to onboard the exchange on the Udyam portal?**

- (a) M1xchange
- (b) FinanSME
- (c) CapeX
- (d) KredX
- (e) None of the above

**Answer: A**

The Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform M1xchange has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of MSME, whereby all MSMEs registered with the Government's Udyam portal will be able to onboard the exchange.

MSMEs will benefit from a two-way exchange of information between Udyam portal and M1xchange.

All Udyam registered MSMEs will be able to onboard on M1xchange conveniently, enabling them to leverage the full force of TReDS and access liquidity at the lowest possible cost.

TReDS enables financing to MSMEs at competitive rates, to address the challenges of delayed payments to MSMEs.

**7. Recently, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly has unanimously accepted a resolution sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_ that advocates for the creation of an international tax cooperation mechanism.**

- (a) Nigeria
- (b) Togo
- (c) Guinea
- (d) Senegal
- (e) Gabon

**Answer: A**

**Recently, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly unanimously accepted a resolution sponsored by Nigeria that advocates for the creation of an international tax cooperation mechanism.**

With this mechanism, emerging countries in Africa and Asia are expected to have a greater say in the formulation of global tax regulations. As a result, the OECD's (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) 60-

year reign as a global tax rule maker is coming to an end.

These rules were agreed in 2021 by 137 countries and jurisdictions under the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS. Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) refers to corporate tax planning strategies used by multinationals to shift profits from higher-tax jurisdictions to lower/no-tax jurisdictions, thus eroding the tax-base of the higher-tax jurisdictions.

The OECD defines BEPS strategies as exploiting gaps and mismatches in tax rules. The rules provide governments a precise template for taking forward the two-pillar solution to address the tax challenges arising from digitalisation and globalisation of the economy.

Pillar 1 aims to ensure a better distribution of taxation of multinationals according to the countries in which they operate.

Pillar 2 aims to control tax competition on corporate profits by introducing a global minimum tax of 15% from 2023.

The rules specify the scope and mechanism for Pillar Two's so-called Global Anti-Base Erosion (GloBE) rules.

**8. Consider the following statement regarding Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0. Which of the following statement is incorrect?**

- (i) 58 airports will be covered under Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0.

(ii) The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) is also developing an online platform named E-Kushal (Krishi Udaan for Sustainable Holistic Agri-Logistics).

(iii) Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 was announced on 27 October 2020.

- (a) Only (i)
- (b) Both (i) and (ii)
- (c) Only (iii)
- (d) Both (ii) and (iii)
- (e) All (i), (ii) and (iii)

**Answer: C**

**58 airports will be covered under Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0. Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 was announced on 27 October 2021.**

The main objective of the Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 is to increase the share of air carriage in the modal mix for transportation of Agri-produce, which includes horticulture, fishery, livestock and processed products.

The scheme assists farmers in transporting agricultural products so that it improves their value realisation.

The Scheme aims to ensure seamless, cost-effective, time-bound, air transportation and associated logistics for all Agri-produce originating especially from North-East, hilly and tribal regions of the country.

There is no specific budget allocation under Krishi Udan Scheme.

It is a convergence scheme where eight Ministries/Departments namely Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Department of Agriculture &

Farmers' Welfare, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region would leverage their existing schemes to strengthen the logistics for transportation of Agri-produce.

**The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) is also developing an online platform named E-Kushal (Krishi Udaan for Sustainable Holistic Agri-Logistics).**

It will facilitate information dissemination to all stakeholders regarding the transportation of agricultural produce.

E-Kushal will also assist in coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the Krishi UDAN 2.0 scheme.

The MoCA has also proposed a convergence of E-Kushal with the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform.

**9. Consider the following statement regarding SEBI's new norms on Mutual funds under Insider Trading Rules. Which of the following statement is correct?**

- (i) Insiders can also trade in the units of a scheme of a mutual fund.
- (ii) Asset management companies (AMCs) will have to disclose the details of holdings in the units of their mutual fund schemes.

(iii) It has prescribed a minimum standard of code of conduct for designated persons in line with provisions of existing insider trading rules.

- (a) Only (i)
- (b) Both (i) and (ii)
- (c) Only (ii)
- (d) Both (ii) and (iii)
- (e) All (i), (ii) and (iii)

**Answer: A**

SEBI has amended norms to bring buying and selling of mutual fund units under the ambit of insider trading rules.

**At present, insider trading rules are applicable to dealing in securities of listed companies or those proposed to be listed, when in possession of Unpublished Price Sensitive Information (UPSI).**

The units of mutual funds are specifically excluded from the definition of securities under the rules.

No insider shall trade in the units of a scheme of a mutual fund, when in possession of unpublished price-sensitive information, which may have a material impact on the net asset value of a scheme or may have a material impact on the interest of the unit holders of the scheme.

Asset management companies (AMCs) will have to disclose the details of holdings in the units of their mutual fund schemes, on an aggregated basis, held by the AMC, trustees, and their immediate relatives on the platform of stock exchanges.

It has prescribed a minimum standard of code of conduct for designated persons in line with provisions of existing insider trading rules.

The compliance officer of the AMC would determine the closure period during which a designated person cannot transact in units of the mutual fund.

The proposal to bring MF units under insider trading regulations was first mooted by the Sodhi Committee in 2013. However, the regulator decided to exclude these when the regulations came into force in 2015.

**10. Capital markets regulator SEBI came out with a uniform format for reporting OTC trades in listed non-convertible securities. What is the full form of OTC?**

- (a) over-the-capital
- (b) over-the-counter
- (c) once-the-counter
- (d) over-the- convertible
- (e) once-the- coupon

**Answer: B**

**Capital markets regulator SEBI came out with a uniform format for reporting over-the-counter (OTC) trades in listed non-convertible securities.**

The development comes after Sebi observed that information on OTC trades in listed non-convertible securities provided to the stock exchanges by the investors is incomplete and inaccurate.

OTC trades are generally trades executed between two market entities without others being aware of the price at which the transaction was effected.

Under the format, information pertaining to deal type -- whether brokered or direct -- ISIN, listed or unlisted security, issuer name, coupon rate, issue description, traded price, traded yield, trade date and time, settlement date, settlement status and reported trade

executed on RFQ (Request For Quote) platform will have to be disclosed.

The new guideline would come into force from January 1, 2023.

Sebi asked stock exchanges to monitor the compliance of the guideline and bring to the notice of the regulator periodically, discrepancies in reporting of OTC trades by investors.

### December 3<sup>rd</sup> week Current Affairs MCQ

**1. Which Ministry has unveiled the Right to repair the Portal?**

- (a) Ministry of Consumer Affairs
- (b) Ministry of External Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (d) Ministry of Finance
- (e) None of the above

**Answer: A**

**Recently, the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution unveiled the Right to repair portal.**

On this portal manufacturer will share the manual of product details with customers so that they can either repair it by themselves, or by third parties, rather than depend on the original manufacturers.

Initially, mobile phones, electronics, consumer durables, automobiles, and farming equipment will be covered.

It allows consumers to repair and modify their consumer products against the manufacturer requiring them to use their services either by restricting access to tools and components or putting in place software barriers.

From now on India will be joining a clutch of countries like the US and the UK that offer this facility.

It will save consumers money and contribute to circular economy objectives by improving the life span, maintenance, re-use, upgrade, recyclability, and waste handling of appliances.

**2. Which Institute has developed Organic Solar cells under the DST-RCUK APEX project?**

- (a) IIT Madras

- (b) IIT Kanpur
- (c) IIT Bombay
- (d) IISc Bengaluru
- (e) IIT Delhi

**Answer: B**

Recently, researchers at IIT Kanpur have developed organic solar cells under the DST-RCUK APEX project.

An organic solar cell consisting of a combination of an organic polymer and PCBM (an organic semiconductor) developed on steel substrates can potentially convert a steel roof into an energy-producing device.

The devices consist of a blend of organic polymer PTB7 as a donor and PCBM as an acceptor.

The devices were fabricated on opaque steel substrates with a MoO<sub>3</sub>/Au/MoO<sub>3</sub> top electrode.

These electrodes offer higher optical transmission as compared to only metallic electrodes.

It is a jointly developed program of the Department of Science and Technology (Under the ministry of Science and Technology) and the Research Councils United Kingdom (RCUK) focussing on reducing energy demand in the built environment.

**3. In December as per the report Axis Bank received a regulatory nod to act as a pension fund manager and has already crossed \_\_\_\_\_ crore in assets under management (AUM) for its retirement business.**

- (a) Rs.150 crore
- (b) Rs.200 crore
- (c) Rs.100 crore
- (d) Rs.50 crore
- (e) Rs.300 crore

**Answer: C**

Axis Bank announced that it has received a regulatory nod to act as a pension fund manager and has already crossed Rs 100 crore in assets under management (AUM) for its retirement business.

The third largest private sector lender received a commencement of business certificate from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) on September 20, and the AUM has been managed in the first 45 days of the business.

The bank has launched a step-down subsidiary Axis Pension Fund Management through its subsidiary Axis Asset Management Company, which marks its foray into the retirement business.

Chaudhry claimed it is the first private pension fund to cross the Rs 100 crore AUM mark within 45 days of business operations.

Axis PFM will manage pension funds of investors across the all citizens' model, corporate sector, and government sector, as per investment guidelines defined by the regulator. There is a slew of entities in the pension fund management business, which includes ones backed by the State Bank of India, LIC, UTI,

HDFC, ICICI Prudential, Kotak Mahindra Group, and Aditya Birla Group.

**4. Which bank extended a 450 crore credit facility to Tata Power to fund its Solar projects in India?**

- (a) Gazprom Bank
- (b) RBL Bank
- (c) MUFG Bank
- (d) Bank of Moscow
- (e) None of the above

**Answer: C**

Tata Power has received a Rs 450 crore "sustainable trade finance facility" from MUFG Bank of Japan to fund its solar projects in India.

This credit facility was extended for two solar projects under TP Kirnali Limited (TPKL).

According to the statement, it is the first sustainable trade finance facility offered by MUFG in India and TPKL will utilize the funds towards generating renewable energy capacity.

MUFG has extended the financing to fund TPKL's two solar power projects -- a 100 MW renewable project in Parthur, Maharashtra, and a 120 MW green energy project in Mesanka, Gujarat.

Shashank Joshi, Deputy CEO of MUFG India, said this deal marks another milestone in establishing MUFG as a preferred ESG (environmental, social, and governance) financier in the region.

**5. Which Organisation has extended a USD 400 million loan to mortgage major HDFC for financing green affordable housing units, as part of their efforts towards supporting climate goals?**

- (a) World Bank
- (b) International Finance Corporation
- (c) Asian Development Bank
- (d) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- (e) None of the above

**Answer: B**

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has extended a USD 400 million loan to mortgage major HDFC for financing green affordable housing units, as part of their efforts towards supporting climate goals.

HDFC said it has earmarked 75 percent or USD 300 million of the IFC funding for financing green affordable housing units.

It is estimated that 275 million people in the country or 22 percent of the over 1.4 billion population do not have access to adequate housing, and the rural housing shortage is twice that of urban areas.

As of 2018, the urban housing shortage was 29 million units, increasing by over 54 percent since 2012.

Since 2010, IFC has lent over USD 1.7 billion to domestic housing finance companies for on-lending to retail buyers and also to developers of affordable and green housing.

The International Finance Corporation is an international financial institution that offers

investment, advisory, and asset-management services to encourage private-sector development in less developed countries.

The IFC is a member of the World Bank Group and is headquartered in Washington, D.C. in the United States.

**6. Which bank collaborated with Mastercard and OneCard has unveiled its first consumer credit card?**

- (a) RBL Bank
- (b) CSB Bank
- (c) Repco Bank
- (d) IndusInd Bank
- (e) None of the above

**Answer: B**

**CSB Bank, one of the oldest private sector banks in India, in collaboration with Mastercard and OneCard has unveiled its first consumer credit card – CSB Bank OneCard- in India.**

The launch aligns with the bank's growth strategy and its vision to enhance customer experience with innovative digital banking solutions.

The co-branded credit card is a metal credit card loaded with rewards, privileges, and safety and security features. Customers can easily tap-and-pay through OneCard on all merchant outlets across the country and enjoy a 1% Forex rate when travelling abroad.

CSB Bank Limited is an Indian private sector bank with its headquarters at Thrissur, Kerala, India.

Pralay Mondal, MD & CEO, CSB Bank. Anurag Sinha, Co-founder & CEO, OneCard.

**7.As per the report ISRO through its commercial arms has successfully launched \_\_\_\_\_ foreign satellites belonging to 19 countries during the last five years.**

- (a) 177
- (b) 179
- (c) 182
- (d) 185
- (e) 188

**Answer: A**

**ISRO through its commercial arms has successfully launched 177 foreign satellites belonging to 19 countries during the last five years.**

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, from January 2018 to November 2022, ISRO has successfully launched 177 foreign satellites belonging to countries like Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, France, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and USA, on-board PSLV and GSLV-MkIII launchers under a commercial agreement.

Dr. Jitendra Singh informed that Forex generated through the launching of these 177 foreign satellites from January 2018 to November 2022 is approximately 94 million USD and 46 million Euro.



The result of these reforms was reflected in the heaviest commercial launch by India in the form of LVM3, carrying 36 OneWeb satellites, and the recent suborbital launch by an Indian Private entity – M/s Skyroot Aerospace – which was the first such instance.

Moreover, the creation of IN-SPACE as a single-window agency for the promotion and handholding of Non-Government Entities in conducting end-to-end space activities has resulted in a remarkable interest in the Start-up community, with 111 space-startups registered, as of date, in the IN-SPACE digital platform

**8. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) signed a historic loan agreement for Rs. 4,444.71 crores with SJVN Green Energy Ltd for a \_\_\_\_\_ MW Solar power project at Bikaner,Rajasthan.**

- (a) 1250 MW
- (b) 500 MW
- (c) 1000 MW
- (d) 1200 MW
- (e) 750 MW

**Answer: C**

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) signed a historic loan agreement for Rs. 4,444.71 crores with SJVN Green Energy Ltd. (SGEL, a subsidiary of SJVN Ltd.), for a 1,000 MW Solar power project at Bikaner, Rajasthan.

The IREDA-funded project will connect to the 400/220 KV substation Bikaner-II (near

Bikaner). SJVN has bagged the project through the tender floated by IREDA under the CPSU Phase-II (Tranche III) Scheme for the development of Grid connected Solar PV Power Project through a competitive Bidding Process based on VGF support.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited is formed in 1987 as a statutory and autonomous organization under the Government of India and administratively controlled by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

**9. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited has signed a loan agreement worth EUR \_\_\_\_\_ million with KFW namely, KFW VI line of credit for financing 'Access to Clean Energy Projects' meant for decentralized solar applications.**

- (a) 25
- (b) 20
- (c) 30
- (d) 35
- (e) 40

**Answer: B**

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) has signed a loan agreement with KFW namely, KFW VI line of credit for financing 'Access to Clean Energy Projects' meant for decentralized solar applications.

The total sanctioned amount of the agreement is **EUR 20 million**. The entire amount has been utilized as of 30th March 2022.

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has signed loan agreements from the multilateral agency – ADB and bilateral agency – KfW, for Decentralized Solar and Electric Mobility.

The total sanctioned amount of ADB's loan for 'Decentralized Solar, Electric Mobility and Smart Meters' is USD 296 million.

As of 30th November 2022, USD 73 million has been utilized for the program.

The total sanctioned amount for KfW's loan of 'Decentralized Solar and lighting' is Euro 200 million.

As of 30th November 2022, Euro 9 million has been utilized for the program.

**10. Which of the following companies and GE Power India Limited partnered to reduce carbon intensity at coal-fired units?**

- (a) NTPC Limited
- (b) Reliance Power Limited
- (c) Adani Green Power
- (d) ONGC Ltd
- (e) None of the above

**Answer: A**

In its efforts to adopt advanced powering technology to decarbonize power generation in India, NTPC Ltd., the country's largest power generating utility, and GE Power India Limited,

a listed company of GE Steam Power in India signed today a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for feasibility to demonstrate technologies to reduce the carbon footprint of NTPC's existing coal-fired power plants.

This first-of-a-kind MOU aims at partnering on research, development, and engineering of technologies that will enable NTPC to reduce the amount of coal-fired in their units and gradually replace it by co-firing of 'alternate fuel' in the boiler - both (i) carbonaceous (methanol, Carbon neutral fuel- agri-waste, biomass, etc) and (ii) non-carbonaceous (such as ammonia ). As a primary goal, the collaboration is to support NTPC in co-firing biomass pellets beyond 20% and up to 100%, as well as enabling the co-firing of methanol.

GE Power India Limited is a publicly owned Company, incorporated on 2 September 1992 as Asea Brown Boveri Management Limited, under the provisions of the Indian Companies Act.

NTPC Limited, formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, is an Indian central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the Ministry of Power. Headquarters: New Delhi, India.

1. On December 23, 2022, In New Delhi, all the statistical data related to the Khelo India Scheme and the Khelo India events will be displayed on the dashboard. Under KheloIndia programme, The High-Powered Committee will be provided annual financial assistance of \_\_\_\_\_ lakh per annum for 8 years which is for talented players identified in priority sports disciplines at various levels.

- (a) INR 5 lakh per annum
- (b) INR 8 lakh per annum
- (c) INR 11 lakh per annum
- (d) INR 14 lakh per annum
- (e) INR 7 lakh per annum

**Answer: A**

**Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched the Khelo India dashboard.**

It is a unique one-stop platform that will provide information regarding various offerings of the Khelo India Scheme.

It was launched on 23 December in New Delhi.

All the statistical data related to the Khelo India Scheme and the Khelo India events will be displayed on the dashboard.

**This platform also has a database regarding Khelo India Centres (KICs), Khelo India Academies, SAI Training Centres & National Centre of Excellence (NCOEs).**

It will also help in accessing information regarding progress made regarding the development of sports infrastructures, Fit India & playfield development

It was launched during the financial year 2017-18 by the Government of India.

It was launched to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports played in India. Under this program, talented players identified in priority sports disciplines at various levels by the High-Powered Committee will be provided annual financial assistance of INR 5 lakh per annum for 8 years.

2. In December 2022, who has been elected as The Prime Minister of Fiji?

- (a) Shehbaz Sharif
- (b) Alikhan Smailov
- (c) Sitiveni Rabuka
- (d) Prayut Chan-o-cha
- (e) Hun Sen

**Answer: C**

**Sitiveni Rabuka has been elected Prime Minister of Fiji by a coalition of parties, effectively ending Frank Bainimarama's 16-year reign.**

Rabuka is the leader of the People's Alliance, a political party formed in the year 2021.

The Social Democratic Liberal Party (Sodelpa) of Fiji held the balance of power and voted on December 23 to form a coalition with the National Federation Party and Rabuka's People's Alliance.

In Fiji's 55-member parliament, any party can form a government by winning 28 seats.

Before this, in 1987, Sitiveni Rabuka overthrew the government in Fiji twice while serving as Army Chief.

At the same time, he also became the Prime Minister (PM) in 1992, after which he was removed in the 1999 elections.

This is the first time in Fiji in the last 16 years that three parties have come together to form a coalition government.

Fiji is a country with a population of 9 lakhs. Before the constitutional reform in the year 2013, the military coup has been the history of this country.

**3. On 25<sup>th</sup> December, India celebrates Good Governance Day every year to increase public access to various government programs and services via good governance. When was this day declared by PM Modi?**

- (a) 2020
- (b) 2018
- (c) 2016
- (d) 2014
- (e) 2012

**Answer: D**

**India celebrates Good Governance Day every year on 25 December. PM Modi declared 25 December as Good Governance Day in 2014. 25 December is the birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.**

Good Governance Day aims to increase public access to various government programs and services via good governance.

It started with the slogan “Good Governance through e-Governance.”

**4. As per the recent report, the Sports Science Centre has been inaugurated by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur in which state?**

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Karnataka
- (e) Kerala

**Answer: D**

**Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur inaugurated Sports Science Centre in Karnataka.**

He inaugurated Sports Science Centre at Mahatma Gandhi District Stadium at Ajjarakadu in Udupi, Karnataka.

The Sports Science Centre will bring together sports scientists and athletes.

During the inauguration, the minister said many more sports science centers will come up in near future.

He said that the Union government will take initiative to open one sports science center each for Karnataka's eight districts.

He said that the annual budget for sports which used to be ₹864 crores has increased since Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister in 2014.

**The annual sports budget increased to ₹3,100 crores in 2022-23.**

He also assured of starting FM Station at Brahmavara in this financial year.

5. Recently in December 2022, which bank announced its partnership with Gofrugal Technologies Pvt. Ltd to adopt Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) for digital commerce footprint expansion?

- (a) SBM Bank
- (b) RBL Bank
- (c) DBS Bank
- (d) CSB Bank
- (e) YES Bank

**Answer: C**

DBS Bank India announced its partnership with Gofrugal Technologies Pvt. Ltd., a seller-centric platform offering Omnichannel ERP solutions.

The company empowers enterprise customers, including micro, small and medium enterprises, and retail merchants, to adopt Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) and enables them to expand their digital commerce footprint.

The partnership furthers DBS Bank India's commitment to reimagining SME banking through innovation and providing digital solutions beyond traditional banking.

**DBS Bank Limited, often known as DBS, is a Singaporean multinational banking and financial services corporation** headquartered at the Marina Bay Financial Centre in the Marina Bay district of Singapore.

6. Recently in December 2022, the Home First Finance Company raised 280 crores from International Finance Corporation (IFC) to finance retail buyers of housing units and green affordable housing units. Where is IFC's headquarters located?

- (a) Jakarta, Indonesia
- (b) Geneva, Switzerland
- (c) New York, USA
- (d) Washington, D.C
- (e) None of the above

**Answer: D**

IFC is a private enterprise, it makes loans without government guarantee of repayment which is located in Washington, D.C

Home First Finance Company announced in a BSE filing that it had raised Rs 280 crore from International Finance Corporation (IFC) through the issuance of 2,800 secured, rated, unlisted, redeemable, rupee-denominated non-convertible debentures with face values of up to Rs 10 lakh each on a private placement basis with a tenor of up to seven years.

The funds raised will be used to finance retail buyers of housing units and green affordable housing units, promote homeownership among low-income groups, and support the development of green affordable housing. IFC will also provide non-financial support in the form of knowledge, innovation, and capacity building through advisory engagement and non-commercial risk

mitigation through IFC Advisory services, as per the terms of the agreement.

IFC will help Home First to develop its green housing framework, including technical assistance for the standards used to evaluate green housing, operationalizing the certification procedure, and building capacity for green housing certification, monitoring, and reporting.

**7. In Dec 2022, The Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the Project Lion Document with the title of \_\_\_\_\_?**

- (a) Lion @ 37: Vision for Amrutkal
- (b) Lion @ 47: Vision for Amrutkal
- (c) Lion @ 27: Vision for Amrutkal
- (d) Lion @ 57: Vision for Amrutkal
- (e) Lion @ 67: Vision for Amrutkal

**Answer: B**

Recently, the Project Lion document titled “Lion @ 47: Vision for Amrutkal” has been launched by the Minister of State for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change. **Gujarat's Barda Wildlife Sanctuary: It has been identified as a potential second home for Asiatic lions.**

It is located near Porbandar which is 100 kilometers from Gir National Park.

It envisages landscape ecology-based conservation of the Asiatic Lion in Gujarat by integrating conservation and eco-development.

The Project is being implemented in the Gir landscape in Gujarat which is the last home of the Asiatic lion.

**8. India is expected to roll out the indigenously developed CERVAVAC vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer among girls aged 9-14 years through their schools by mid-2023. Cervavac was developed by the Pune-based \_\_\_\_\_ Institute of India in coordination with the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).**

- (a) Parmath Institute of Nursing Education
- (b) Serum Institute of India
- (c) A.Agharkar Research Institute
- (d) Sahyadri Clinical Research Institute
- (e) None of the above

**Answer: B**

India is expected to roll out the indigenously developed CERVAVAC vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer among girls aged 9-14 years through their schools by mid-2023.

Cervavac was developed by the Pune-based Serum Institute of India in coordination with the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

The project to develop the vaccine was implemented by the then secretary of the DBT, Dr. M K Bhan in 2011.

Since then, 30 meetings of scientific advisory groups and site visits conducted by DBT have helped review the scientific merit of the entire journey to develop the vaccine.

Cervavac received market authorization approval from the Drug Controller General of India on July 12 this year.

Cervical cancer is preventable but kills one woman every eight minutes in the country.

It is preventable as long as it is detected early and managed effectively.

Two vaccines licensed globally are available in India — a quadric valent vaccine (Gardasil, from Merck) and a bivalent vaccine (Cervarix, from GlaxoSmithKline).

**9. Recently, Bharat Biotech developed the world's first intranasal vaccine. What is the name of the vaccine?**

- (a)BBV155
- (b)BBV154
- (c)BBV153
- (d)BBV156
- (e) BBV158

**Answer: B**

**Bharat Biotech's intranasal vaccine, BBV154 or Incovacc is the world's first intranasal vaccine to be approved as a booster dose for Covid-19.**

The nasal vaccine is a recombinant replication-deficient adenovirus vector vaccine with a pre-fusion stabilized spike protein.

Because the vaccine is administered through a nasal spray, it eliminates the need for needles and syringes, which are currently necessary for administering all Covid-19 vaccines.

Incovacc will be available as a **booster dose only for those above 18 years** of age who have got 2 doses of either Covaxin or Covishield.

It will not be administered to any other category, for now, including those who have already taken a booster dose.

Those who have taken Covishield and Covaxin can now take this nasal vaccine as a heterologous booster dose.

**10. In December 2022 Tata Steel has been certified as a 'Great Place to Work' by the Great Place to Work Institute for 2023. This is \_\_\_consecutive year that the Company has received the recognition.**

- (a)9<sup>th</sup>
- (b)7<sup>th</sup>
- (c) 8<sup>th</sup>
- (d) 9<sup>th</sup>
- (e) 6<sup>th</sup>

**Answer: E**

**Tata Steel has been certified as a 'Great Place to Work' by the Great Place to Work Institute for 2023.**

This is **the sixth consecutive year** that the Company has received recognition for its efforts toward building an inclusive and sustainable organization.

Since its inception, Tata Steel has introduced several path-breaking policies and practices for employee welfare and well-being.



## CWJ Special Current Affairs MCQ's PDF – December 2022

The Great Place to Work assessment found Tata Steel excelling on the 5 dimensions of a High-Trust, High-Performance Culture – Credibility, Respect, Fairness, Pride, and Camaraderie, according to a media statement.