

This is the Sample Index PDF – [Click Here to Download the Full Version](#)

Topics	Page. No
CWJ Special Current Affairs MCQ's March 1st Week	2
CWJ Special Current Affairs MCQ's March 2nd Week	119
CWJ Special Current Affairs MCQ's March 3rd Week	238
CWJ Special Current Affairs MCQ's March 4th Week	351

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March 1st week Current Affairs MCQ

1. Recently, on March 1st, 2023 celebrated as Zero discrimination day under the theme of _____.

- (a) Save lives: Decriminalise
- (b) Store lives: Decriminalise
- (c) Start lives: Decriminalise
- (d) Restart lives: Decriminalise
- (e) Restore lives: Decriminalise

Answer: A

Zero discrimination day 2023 is celebrated on March 1st, 2023

On Zero Discrimination Day this year, under the theme “Save lives: Decriminalise”, UNAIDS is highlighting how the decriminalization of key populations and people living with HIV saves lives and helps advance the end of the AIDS pandemic. Zero Discrimination Day was first celebrated and observed on March 1st, 2014.

Zero Discrimination Day was launched by UNAIDS.

The executive director of UNAIDS Michel Sidibe started it on 23rd December 2013 with a major event in Beijing.

This day is noted by the organizations that combat discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

UNAIDS is the organization that conducts programs on HIV/AIDS awareness and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

The main motive to establish this day was to work against discrimination against the people who were affected by HIV/AIDS and also bring equality among the person all over the world in every prospect because we have equal rights.

2. Recently, which day is celebrated on March 1st, 2023?

- (a) World Civil Defence Day
- (b) Zero discrimination day
- (c) World Biology Day
- (d) Both A & B
- (e) Both A & C

Answer: D

World Civil Defence Day:

World Civil Defence Day is celebrated on March 1st, 2023.

It is celebrated annually on March 1st every year all over the world.

In 1958, the International Association of Geneva Zones becomes the International Civil Defense Organization (ICDO) and was given a new status as a non-governmental organization with the objectives such as establishing a liaison between national civil defence organizations, undertaking and promoting studies and research on population protection matters, and facilitating the exchange of experience and the coordination of efforts in the area of disaster prevention, preparedness, and intervention.

**Zero Discrimination Day:**

Zero discrimination day 2023 is celebrated on March 1st, 2023

On Zero Discrimination Day this year, under the theme "Save lives: Decriminalise", UNAIDS is highlighting how the decriminalization of key populations and people living with HIV saves lives and helps advance the end of the AIDS pandemic. Zero Discrimination Day was first celebrated and observed on March 1st, 2014.

Zero Discrimination Day was launched by UNAIDS.

3. Recently, Devisingh Ransingh Shekhawat passed away in Pune, Maharashtra. He was the husband of whom?

- (a) Droupadi Murmu
- (b) Fathima Beevi
- (c) Pratibha Patil
- (d) Mehbooba Mufti
- (e) Mamata Banerjee

Answer: C

Former President Pratibha Patil's husband Devisingh Ransingh Shekhawat passed away at the age of 89 in Pune, Maharashtra.

About Devisingh Shekhawat :

He was an Indian agriculturist and politician. He served as the **first gentleman of India (2007-2012)** as the husband of President Pratibha Patil.

He also served as the **first gentleman of Rajasthan (2004-07)** and also as mayor of Amravati (1991-92).

He was a member of the Indian National Congress.

4. Recently, Asia's longest-ever cycle race will culminate at _____ after covering a distance of more than three thousand kilometers.

- (a) Madurai
- (b) Chennai
- (c) Kanyakumari
- (d) Coimbatore
- (e) Puducherry

Answer: C

Asia's longest-ever cycle race will culminate at Kanyakumari after covering a distance of more than three thousand kilometers.

It was flagged off from Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir on 01 March 2023.

29 cyclists including one woman set off for the first-of-its-kind 3651-kilometer race.

World Ultracycling Association has accorded the race the status of the Asian Ultracycling Championship.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Shri Vijay Kumar Bidhuri flagged off the race.

Only 1000 km races were held to date in India.

The route for this cycle race will cover the 3651 kilometers of NH-44 passing through

12 major states, three major metropolitan cities and over 20 major cities in India.

5. Recently, Dr. K Govindaraj has been nominated as FIBA Asia president. Whom did he replace?

- (a) Akzar Ali
- (b) Fazil Khan
- (c) Zayad Ali Khan
- (d) Sheikh Ali
- (e) Sheikh Saud Ali Al Thani

Answer: E

In a first-of-its-kind nomination, an Indian Dr K Govindaraj has been nominated as FIBA (Fédération Internationale de Basketball) Asia president.

In the 63-year-old history of FIBA Asia, this is the first time it will be headed by an Indian.

The decision was taken unanimously by the 44 federations under FIBA Asia.

Govindaraj will replace Qatar's Sheikh Saud Ali Al Thani, who was serving his 4th five-year term as head of FIBA Asia since 2002.

About Dr K Govindaraj :

He served as the Vice-President of the Indian Olympic Association.

He is currently president of the Basketball Federation of India and a member of the Karnataka Legislative Council (KLC).

About FIBA Asia :

Established: 1960

Headquarters: Beirut, Lebanon

Chairman: Yao Ming

Membership: 44 national associations

FIBA Asia is one of the five regional bodies of the FIBA and the 4 other regions are Africa, America, Europe and Oceania.

6. Recently, who was appointed as Managing Director (MD) of Jaguar Land Rover India?

- (a) Rajan Amba
- (b) Aman Ali
- (c) Rajendran
- (d) Mannar Ahu
- (e) Adian Michael

Answer: A

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) has appointed Mr Rajan Amba as Managing Director (MD) of Jaguar Land Rover India, from March 1, 2023.

He succeeds Rohit Suri, who is due to retire on March 31, 2023.

Mr Rajan is presently the Vice-President of Sales, Marketing and Customer Care at Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles.

About JLR :

Founded : 18 January 2008

Headquarters : Whitley, Coventry, United Kingdom

Interim CEO : Adrian Mardell

Jaguar Land Rover Automotive PLC is the holding company of Jaguar Land Rover Limited, and is a British multinational automobile manufacturer which produces luxury vehicles and sport utility vehicles.



7. West Bengal maintained its lead while Uttar Pradesh stood at the bottom among large state categories on the second edition of the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Index 2022. Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Index 2022, an indicator of literacy among children below ____ years of age.

- (a) 12
- (b) 15
- (c) 18
- (d) 10
- (e) 16

Answer: D

West Bengal maintained its lead while Uttar Pradesh stood at the bottom among large state categories on the second edition of the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Index 2022, an indicator of literacy among children below 10 years of age.

The second edition of the foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) report captures the role of language in education and focuses on improving the learning outcomes using appropriate assessments and medium of instruction.

Among smaller states, Punjab was at the top of the index while Telangana was at the bottom while Puducherry topped the index among union territories while Ladakh was the worst performer.

Among north-eastern states, Sikkim was at the top while Meghalaya was at the bottom of the index.

8. On the second edition of the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Index 2022, which state becomes the top and which state becomes the bottom among large state categories?

- (a) Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Kerala, West Bengal
- (c) Odisha, Andhra Pradesh
- (d) West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh
- (e) Andhra Pradesh, Kerala

Answer: D

West Bengal maintained its lead while Uttar Pradesh stood at the bottom among large state categories on the second edition of the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Index 2022, an indicator of literacy among children below 10 years of age.

Among smaller states, Punjab was at the top of the index while Telangana was at the bottom while Puducherry topped the index among union territories while Ladakh was the worst performer.

Among north-eastern states, Sikkim was at the top while Meghalaya was at the bottom of the index.

9. Recently, India won the GSMA award. GSMA award given to our country for best practices in_____.

- (a) Health policy
- (b) Telecom policy
- (c) Irrigation policy
- (d) Agri policy
- (e) Nutrition policy

Answer: B

India has won the award for implementing best practices in telecom policy and regulation.

The Minister for Communications, Electronics & IT and Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw said “GSMA Award represents global recognition of the telecom reforms carried out by PM Modi.”

He said Right of Way (RoW) permissions which used to take more than 230 days, now get approval within 8 days.

Over 85% of mobile tower clearances are now instantaneous.

He said the Indian telecom sector has emerged as a sunrise sector. The Sunrise sector is a sector with the potential for rapid growth.

GSMA recognizes one country every year.

India was announced the winner in the ceremony held at Mobile World Congress Barcelona (Spain) on 27 February, 2023.

GSMA (GSM Association) is an industry organisation. It represents over 750 mobile operators and 400 companies in the telecom ecosystem.

It was formed in 1995. It is headquartered in London, England, UK.

10. On the Great Backyard Bird Count event, India takes the second spot. which state recorded the highest number of checklists of birds?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Uttarakhand
- (d) Haryana
- (e) Punjab

Answer: B

Birdwatchers across 35 States and Union Territories uploaded more than 46,000 bird lists, making **India take the second spot after the United States of America.**

The GBBC was launched in 1998.

GBBC India is the Indian implementation of the global Great Backyard Bird Count, which runs for 4 days every February.

Indian birders have participated in the GBBC since the event went worldwide in 2013.

India was among 190 countries that participated in GBBC 2023.

Kerala recorded the highest number of checklists of birds.

West Bengal reported 489 species, the most among the 35 participating States and Union Territories.

Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Karnataka followed with 426, 407, 397 and 371 species respectively.

Tamil Nadu and Kerala took the eighth and ninth spots with 349 and 325 species.

Pune birders uploaded more than 5,900 lists, the most among urban centres.

GBBC India is coordinated by the Bird Count India collective, a coming-together of a

number of groups and organisations that are interested in birds, nature and conservation.

March 2nd week Current Affairs MCQ

1. Recently, the CBDT granted tax exemption to specified incomes of the insolvency regulator Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India for 5 financial years starting from the current fiscal. In September 2022, IBBI imposed a regulatory fee of _____ on the corporate insolvency resolution process and also imposed a _____ regulatory fee on third-party service providers and professionals appointed by Insolvency Professionals.

- (a) 0.25% ,1%
- (b) 0.25% ,2%
- (c) 0.25% ,2.5%
- (d) 0.5%,1%
- (e) 0.5%,0.5%

Answer: A

In a big boost to the insolvency regime, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has granted tax exemption to certain specified incomes of the insolvency regulator Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) for 5 financial years starting from the current fiscal.

The tax exemption will be available for the financial years 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027.

These incomes include grants-in-aid received from the Central Government, fees received under the IBC, fines collected under the IBC and any interest income on these receipts.

In September 2022, IBBI imposed a regulatory fee of 0.25% on the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP).

It also imposed a 1% regulatory fee on third-party service providers and professionals appointed by Insolvency Professionals (IPs).

2. Recently, The European Investment Bank and the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited are exploring a partnership on the financing of _____ and _____ projects in India.

- (a) Solar energy, Green hydrogen
- (b) Renewable energy, Green hydrogen
- (c) Wind energy, Green hydrogen
- (d) Thermal energy, Green hydrogen
- (e) Electricity, green hydrogen

Answer: B

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and state-owned Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Limited are exploring a partnership on the financing of renewable energy and green hydrogen projects in India.

This comes after EIB global director **Maria Shaw-Barragan** met IREDA Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) **Pradip Kumar Das** at IREDA's corporate office.

About the Partnership :

The collaboration would help in opening up new opportunities for the country's citizens and advancing the Government's goal of achieving **50%** of its installed energy capacity from non-fossil fuels by the year **2030**.

It would help to create new opportunities in the emerging segment of **renewable energy, green hydrogen, green ammonia, e-mobility, battery storage, etc.**

3. Recently, The Government of India and the World Bank signed two complementary loans of ____million Public Health Systems for Pandemic Preparedness Program & ____million Enhanced Health Service Delivery Program to support and improve public healthcare infrastructure in India.

- (a) \$500, \$700
- (b) \$600, \$500
- (c) \$500, \$500
- (d) \$700, \$600
- (e) \$600, \$600

Answer: C

The Government of India (GoI) and the World Bank signed two complementary loans of \$500 million Public Health Systems for Pandemic Preparedness Program (PHSPP) & a \$500 million Enhanced Health Service Delivery Program (EHSDP) to support and improve public healthcare infrastructure in India.

Through this combined financing of **\$1 billion**, the Bank will support India's flagship **Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)**, launched in **October 2021**.

The agreement was signed by **Rajat Kumar Mishra**, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of India and **Auguste Tano Kouamé**, Country Director, India, World Bank.

Both the PHSPP and EHSDP loans from the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** have a final maturity of **18.5 years** including a grace period of **5 years**.

Key Highlights :

One of the loans will prioritise health service delivery in **7 states – Andhra Pradesh (AP), Kerala, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu (TN) and Uttar Pradesh (UP)** in addition to the national-level interventions.

The \$500 million PHSPP will support the government's efforts to:

Prepare India's surveillance system to be ready to detect and report epidemics of potential international concern, ensure rapid response, and prevent the emergence of pathogens.

The \$500 million EHSDP will support Government's efforts to:

Strengthen service delivery through a redesigned primary healthcare model, which includes improved household access to primary healthcare facilities, stronger links between each household and its primary care facility through regular household visits and risk assessment of non-communicable diseases

According to the World Bank estimates, India's performance on the health front has improved over time.

Life expectancy in India at **69.8** in 2020, up from 58 in 1990 is higher than the average for the country's income level.

4. Recently, Punjab National Bank made the Positive Pay System (PPS) compulsory for cheque payments worth Rs 5 lakh and above to safeguard customers from fraudulent payment of cheques. Earlier, the mandatory submission of cheque details in PPS was set at _____ and above.

- (a) Rs 11 lakh
- (b) Rs 12 lakh
- (c) Rs 10 lakh
- (d) Rs 15 lakh

(e) Rs 18 lakh

Answer: C

In a move to safeguard customers from fraudulent payment of cheques, state-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) has made the Positive Pay System (PPS) compulsory for cheque payments worth Rs 5 lakh and above.

This will come into effect from April 5, 2023.

Earlier, the mandatory submission of cheque details in PPS was set at Rs 10 lakh and above.

What is PPS?·

The PPS is a system developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, which requires customers to reconfirm essential details (account number, cheque number, cheque alpha code, issue date, amount, and beneficiary name) when issuing cheques of a certain amount.

Customers can use the PPS facility by providing the cheque details through the Branch office, Online Banking for individuals and businesses, Mobile Banking (PNB ONE), or SMS Banking, adding the details to be submitted one working day before the cheque presentation/clearing date.

As per **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines**, PNB had introduced PPS for cheques of **Rs 50,000** and above presented in CTS clearing from **January 1, 2021**.

RBI had recommended that availing this facility is at the account holder's discretion and



banks may consider making it mandatory for cheques of Rs 5 Lakh and above.

5. Recently, Hydrogen based advanced Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) was launched by Union Minister Shri Hardeep Singh Puri in New Delhi. Earlier this same project was launched in _____.

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Rajasthan
- (d) Uttarakhand
- (e) Gujarat

Answer: E

Hydrogen-based advanced Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) launched by Union Minister Shri Hardeep Singh Puri in New Delhi.

The launch of the FCEV is an effort of the centre under its commitment toward cleaner energy and low-carbon pathways.

This project is the same as the **one launched earlier at Kevadia in Gujarat.**

Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said as part of the central scheme the government wants to introduce city buses running on green hydrogen.

He had said that the government will use these buses in modal urban centre.

Last month, PM Modi flagged off Oil India Limited's indigenously developed hydrogen fuel cell-based e-bus at the India Energy Week in Bengaluru.

6. Recently, Nano liquid DAP fertilizer will be produced by IFFCO, approved by the Government for farmers. DAP is abbreviated as _____.

- (a) Di-ammonium phosphate
- (b) Di-ammonium phosphorus
- (c) Di-aluminium phosphate
- (d) Di- Aspirin phosphorus
- (e) Di- acetone Potassium

Answer: A

Nano liquid DAP fertilizer is approved by the Government for farmers.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stated that the approval of **Nano liquid DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) fertilizer will make life easier for farmers.**

Government approval for Nano Liquid DAP fertilizer will benefit farmers and make the country Atmanirbhar.

Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya said that the Ministry of Agriculture has also approved it.

Nano DAP will be produced by IFFCO and it will prove to be a revolutionary change for the country's agriculture and economy.

In December, the government had previously stated that IFFCO would soon introduce **nano DAP at Rs 600 for a 500-ml bottle.**

This move will help India to save foreign exchange and significantly reduce government subsidies.

One bottle will be equal to one bag of DAP, which currently costs Rs 1,350.

In May 2022, PM Modi inaugurated the world's first Nano Urea (Liquid) Plant in Gujarat.

Nano Urea is a nanotechnology-based urea. It has a desirable particle size of about 20-50 nm and more surface area and several particles in comparison to conventional urea.

7. Recently, Where did the Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Renuka Singh Saruta inaugurate the Mara Tribal Girls' Hostel?

- (a) Meghalaya
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Mizoram
- (e) Manipur

Answer: D

Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Renuka Singh Saruta inaugurated the Mara Tribal Girls' Hostel in Lunglei in Mizoram.

On the occasion, the Minister said that the Union Government has been implementing many schemes and measures to protect women's dignity and their rights.

The Government is also encouraging women to stand up for their rights.

This hostel building will help tribal girls to gain education and progress and help build a prosperous nation.

8. Recently, Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw and 4 Sikkim ministers released a

unique cover of the Department of Posts, ' _____ ' for Sikkim.

- (a) Go Green, Save Nature
- (b) Go Green, Go Greeny
- (c) Go Green, Go Preserve
- (d) Go Green, Go Organic
- (e) Save Nature, Go Organic

Answer: D

Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw and 4 Sikkim ministers released a unique cover of the Department of Posts, 'Go Green, Go Organic' for Sikkim.

This release is a tribute to the rich culture of Sikkim and its contributions to the country's agriculture sector.

It is a recognition of Sikkim's efforts toward promoting organic farming and sustainable development.

Note :

Sikkim has the title of the 'first 100% organic state' in the world.

Meanwhile, Sikkim has also won the prestigious Future Policy Gold Award from the UN Food and Agriculture.

Sikkim's 75,000 hectares of land were converted to organic farmlands.

All of Sikkim's farmlands are certified organic, and this has benefited more than 66,000 farming families.

9. Recently, Former CM Biju Patnaik's legendary "Dakota" DC3 (AT-AUI) aircraft belongs to _____, was inaugurated by



Odisha Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik for public display at Biju Patnaik International Airport Bhubaneswar.

- (a) AirIndia Airlines
- (b) Kalinga Airlines
- (c) Srilankan Airlines
- (d) Jet Airways Ltd
- (e) Go Air Ltd

Answer: B

Odisha Chief Minister (CM) Shri Naveen Patnaik unveiled former CM Biju Patnaik's iconic "Dakota" DC3 (AT-AUI) aircraft for public display at Biju Patnaik International Airport Bhubaneswar.

This aircraft was used by Biju Patnaik to rescue former Indonesian Vice-President **Md. Hatta** and former Prime Minister Sutan Sjahrir. **The iconic Dakota Aircraft belongs to the erstwhile Kalinga Airlines.**

With the efforts of the Odisha government, the Dakota Aircraft was shifted from **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport (NSCBI)** in Kolkata to Bhubaneswar on January 18, 2023, by road.

10. Recently, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur launched Yuva Utsava – India@2047 with the theme of _____ from Ropar in Punjab.

- (a) Panch Yuva
- (b) Panch Pran
- (c) Yuva Pran
- (d) Utsav panch
- (e) Panch Sakthi

Answer: B

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur launched Yuva Utsava – India@2047 from Ropar in Punjab. In the first phase, Yuva Utsava is being held in 150 districts across India to promote youth power till 31st March 2023.

Schools and colleges of the districts are conducting programs in the first phase.

Yuva Utsava – India@2047 is being conducted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports through Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan in all districts across India.

It will be held on three levels.

It will begin with a one-day district-level program.

The winners of the District Level will take part at the State level Yuva Utsav.

State-level Yuva Utsav is a 2-day program scheduled to be held from August to September 2023 at State Capitals.

The winners of all the State level programs shall take part at the National Level Yuva Utsav.

National Level Yuva Utsav is scheduled to be held in the 3rd/4th week of October 2023 in Delhi.

Youths of 15 to 29 years are eligible to take part in the programs at District, State and National Levels.

Across the three levels, many participants will compete and traditional artists will showcase the rich cultural heritage of India.

The theme for the YuvaUtsav will be Panch Pran.

March 3rd week Current Affairs MCQ

1. Recently, World Sleep Day 2023 is observed on the ___ March 2023 with the theme of ____.

- (a) 17th & Quality Sleep, Sound Mind, Happy World
- (b) 17th & Quality Sleep, Peace Mind, Happy World
- (c) 15th & Deep Sleep, Sound Mind, Happy World
- (d) 18th & Quality Sleep, Sound Mind, Enjoy World
- (e) 19th & Deep Sleep, Peace Mind, Enjoy World

Answer: A

World Sleep Day 2023 is observed on the 17th March 2023.

The World Sleep Day theme 2023 is “Quality Sleep, Sound Mind, Happy World.”

It is organized by the World Sleep Day Committee of the World Sleep Society (founded by WASM and WSF) and aims to lessen the burden of sleep problems on society through better prevention and management of sleep disorders.

World Sleep Day was founded by the World Sleep Day Committee of the World Sleep Day Society in 2008.

It is celebrated annually on the Friday before the northern hemisphere vernal equinox.

World Sleep Day is observed annually on the Friday before the March Equinox.

The first World Sleep Day was held on 14 March 2008.

Events involving discussions, presentations of educational materials, and exhibitions take place around the world and online.

2. Recently, Sameer Khakhar passed away. He is known to everyone as an ____.

- (a) Singer
- (b) Actor
- (c) Dancer
- (d) Writer
- (e) Director

Answer: B

Veteran actor Sameer Khakhar, best known for essaying the role of Khopdi in the hit '80s TV show ‘Nukkad’, passed away at the age of 71.

About Sameer Khakhar :

Sameer Khakhar’s notable works include the TV show “Circus”, “Shrimaan Shrimati” and films such as “Parinda”, Salman Khan-starrer “Jai Ho”, Sidharth Malhotra and Parineeti Chopra’s “Hasee Toh Phasee”, Sudhir Mishra-

directed “Serious Men”, and Vikas Bahl’s web series “Sunflower”.

Recently, he played a supporting role in Sudhir Mishra’s Netflix film **Serious Men**, the ZEE5 series **Sunflower** and Prime Video’s **Farzi**.

3. Recently, Tata Steel Mining Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with _____ Limited, to reduce its carbon footprint in its operations

- (a) Hindustan Aeronautical Limited
- (b) Steel Authority of India
- (c) Gas Authority of India
- (d) Bharat Electronics Limited
- (e) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation of India

Answer: C

Tata Steel Mining Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gas Authority of India (GAIL) Limited, to reduce its carbon footprint in its operations, and for the supply of natural gas to its Ferro Alloys Plant at Athgarh in Odisha’s Cuttack district.

As per the MoU, GAIL will supply the agreed quantity of natural gas through its pipeline from Gujarat to Athgarh.

Tata Steel, in a statement, mentioned that furnace oil emits more carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur oxides than natural gas does.

Natural gas emits 27% less CO₂ and has lower levels of other pollutants.

The statement also stated that the project will lead to Green House Gas emission reduction of 968 tonnes.

4. Recently, _____ signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Samagra Shiksha, Assam, under the Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan to develop scientific temper and strengthen students’ ability to handle challenging environments.

- (a) IIT Bombay
- (b) IIT Madras
- (c) IIT Guwahati
- (d) IIT Delhi
- (e) IIT Kanpur

Answer: C

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Samagra Shiksha, Assam, (SSA) under the Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan to develop scientific temper and strengthen students’ ability to handle challenging environments.

The MoU was signed between Prof. Vimal Katiyar, Dean of Research and Development, IIT Guwahati, and Sanjoy Dutta, ACS, Executive Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam. Under this collaboration, IITG will support SSA to conduct various state-level activities in a hybrid mode in state-run schools in Assam for secondary students.

These include state-level quiz competitions, state-level science and math olympiads,

mentoring 330 schools across Assam, formation of science and math clubs in 330 schools across the state, and state-level children's science exhibitions.

For the same, IITG will prepare a roadmap and an activity calendar for the implementation of tinkering labs across all districts in the state of Assam.

IITG has collaborated with the Assam government on multiple projects to augment the holistic development of the region.

The recent initiative of SSA and IITG under the purview of Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan will open new avenues for higher secondary education in the state.

5. To provide business customers with captive non-public network services, _____ and Telecommunications Consultants India Limited have agreed to collaborate.

- (a) MTNL
- (b) Bharathi Airtel
- (c) VodafoneIdea
- (d) Reliance Jio
- (e) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd

Answer: E

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) and Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) have agreed to work together to offer enterprise customers captive non-public network (CNP) services.

Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT),

Ministry of Communications, including TCIL and BSNL (MoC).

The disruptive 5G technology shall enable widespread industrial automation by providing secure, ultra-reliable, low latency and high throughput communication

According to the release, **the government is supporting several initiatives for the development of indigenous subsystems for 4G/5G networks** but for them to succeed and get absorbed in the market, they will need to be integrated into commercially deployable solutions that meet customer requirements.

6. Recently, NTPC, the country's largest integrated energy utility, has started commercial operation of the 1st Unit of 660 MW at North Karanpura in Jharkhand with a total capacity of ____.

- (a) 1980 MW
- (b) 2021 MW
- (c) 1950 MW
- (d) 1930 MW
- (e) 1920 MW

Answer: A

NTPC, the country's largest integrated energy utility, has started commercial operation of the 1st Unit of 660 MW at North Karanpura (3*660 MW), in Jharkhand.

This project has been envisaged with Air Cooled Condenser (ACC) which has almost 1/3rd water footprint as compared to a

conventional Water Cooled Condenser (WCC).

This would result in a water saving of around 30.5 mcm annually thus fulfilling the needs of around 1.5 million people in the region annually.

NTPC has already taken a series of measures across its plant locations on sound water management.

NTPC will further imbibe the 3 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle) for water conservation and management while carrying out its core business activity of power generation.

NTPC Ltd is a signatory to the prestigious **UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate**.

NTPC is committed to proactively addressing water sustainability issues by implementing Water Policy, which will serve as a directive for establishing water management strategies, systems, processes, practices and research initiatives.

The North Karanpura plant will have a total capacity of 1980 MW, 3 Units of 660 MW each.

This plant is based on one of the most efficient Supercritical technologies and being a pit head plant (10 Km from a coal source) will supply economic power to the states of Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Odisha.

NTPC has been at the forefront of leveraging technology and has pioneered the adoption of new technologies in the power sector.

NTPC is currently meeting 24% of the country's demand through coal, gas, hydro, solar and wind plants.

7. According to the First International Conference on Shared Buddhist Heritage, which of the following statements is correct?

- A. First International Conference on Shared Buddhist Heritage began in Uttar Pradesh.
- B. In this, India's ancient historical relations with the countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will be discussed.
- C. SCO countries include member states, observer states, and dialogue partners, including China, Russia, and Mongolia.

- (a) Only A
- (b) Only B
- (c) Only C
- (d) Only A & B
- (e) Only B & C

Answer: E

First International Conference on Shared Buddhist Heritage began in New Delhi.

In this, India's ancient historical relations with the countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will be discussed.

The purpose of the two-day conference is to explore the commonalities between Buddhist art, culture and archaeological heritage among the countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

This first event under India's leadership in SCO has brought Central Asian, East Asian,



South Asian and Arab countries on a common platform to discuss the “Common Buddhist Heritage”.

SCO countries include member states, observer states, and dialogue partners, including China, Russia, and Mongolia.

The event is being organized by the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of External Affairs and the International Buddhist Confederation.

Many Indian scholars of Buddhism will also participate in this program.

The participants will get an opportunity to visit some of the historical places in Delhi.

8. Recently, the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, _____, received approval from the Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare to create a Center of Excellence for Dragon Fruit (Kamalam Fruit).

- (a) Thrissur, Kerala
- (b) Jaipur, Rajasthan
- (c) Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- (e) Chennai, Tamilnadu

Answer: D

Recently, the Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare approved a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Dragon Fruit (Kamalam Fruit) to be established by the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Dragon Fruit is a herbaceous perennial climbing cactus widely known as Pitaya, has

its origin in Southern Mexico, Central America and South America.

Its flowers are hermaphrodites (male and female organs in the same flower) in nature and open at night.

It grows in all kinds of soil and does not require much water.

The plant sustains yield for more than 20 years, is high in nutraceutical properties (medicinal effects) and good for value-added processing industries.

It is **widely cultivated in South-East Asia, India, the USA, The Caribbean Islands, and Australia** throughout the tropical and sub-tropical world.

The world's largest producer and exporter of dragon fruit in Vietnam, where the plant was brought by the French in the 19th century.

In India, **the cultivation of Kamalam Fruit is done in Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Mizoram and Nagaland.**

In this endeavor under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a roadmap is being prepared for the cultivation of this crop.

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) Mission is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root & tuber crops, mushrooms,

spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo.

Under MIDH, the Government of India (GOI) contributes 60%, of the total outlay for developmental programs in all the states except states in the North East and the Himalayas, and 40% share is contributed by State Governments.

In the case of North Eastern States and Himalayan States, GOI contributes 90%.

In the case of the National Horticulture Board (NHB), Coconut Development Board (CDB), Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH), Nagaland and the National Level Agencies (NLA), GOI contributes 100%.

9. Recently, India will send 20 thousand metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan through the Chabahar Port in ____.

- (a) Iraq
- (b) Iran
- (c) Brazil
- (d) Afghanistan
- (e) South Korea

Answer: B

India will send 20 thousand metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan through the Chabahar Port in Iran.

The External Affairs Ministry said that the decision was made to **address the current humanitarian situation.**

Holding the first India-Central Asia Joint Working Group (JWG) on Afghanistan in New

Delhi, India also discussed the current political, security and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan with the participants.

During the meeting, **India and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes agreed to partner in the efforts to counter drug trafficking, including the efforts for rehabilitation of the Afghan drug user population.**

Months after the Taliban captured power in Kabul in August 2021, India announced **assistance of 50,000 metric tonnes of wheat** to Afghan people as they were reeling under a severe food crisis.

Subsequently, the consignments were sent to Afghanistan using the land route through Pakistan.

10. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has taken various operations in the last year for criminal activities, according to that which of the following statements is false?

- A. CBI has deported Mohammed Hanif Makkat, who was allegedly involved in a kidnapping, and murder case, from Saudi under 'Operation Trishul'.
- B. CBI launched a multi-phase Operation GARUDA to dismantle drug networks with international linkages in September 2022.
- C. Operation 'Megha Chakra' was launched by CBI against the sharing and dissemination of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) online.

- (a) Only A
- (b) Only B
- (c) Only C
- (d) Only B & C
- (e) All are true

Answer: E

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has extradited 33 fugitives involved in various criminal activities in the last year.

Currently, extradition requests for certain criminals are underway and the CBI is working to bring these criminals to India.

CBI has deported Mohammed Hanif Makkat, who was allegedly involved in a

kidnapping, and murder case, from Saudi under 'Operation Trishul'.

CBI said that the extradition process of big fugitives like Nirav Modi is also processing at a good pace.

Operation Trishul helps in geo-locating criminals in other countries with help from Interpol.

CBI launched a multi-phase Operation GARUDA to dismantle drug networks with international linkages in September 2022. Operation 'Megha Chakra' was launched by CBI against the sharing and dissemination of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) online.

March 4th week Current Affairs MCQ

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently approved India and Tanzania to use their national currencies for bilateral trade settlement. Which of the following is the capital of Tanzania?

- (a) Kampala
- (b) Dodoma
- (c) Addis Ababa
- (d) Nairobi
- (e) Dakar

Answer: B

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved India and Tanzania to use their national currencies , Indian Rupee (INR) &

Tanzanian Shilling (Tsh) for bilateral trade settlement.

Under this mechanism, authorized banks in India will open Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) of correspondent banks of Tanzania.

The use of national currencies in bilateral trade settlements is expected to reduce the cost of transactions and enhance the efficiency of cross-border trade.

This will lead to increased trade volumes and greater economic cooperation between India and Tanzania.

Tanzanian banks will have to open SRVAs in India by approaching authorised Indian banks, who will in turn approach RBI for their approval with details of the arrangement.

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has received RBI's approval for opening SRVAs for its foreign branches and subsidiaries situated in various countries including Tanzania.

Dodoma is the capital of Tanzania.

2. IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company (IndiaFirstLife) has received approval from the capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). Which of the following banks holds a 65% stake in the firm?

- (a) Canara Bank
- (b) Bank of Baroda
- (c) Indian Bank
- (d) Punjab National Bank
- (e) State Bank of India

Answer: B

IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company (IndiaFirst Life) has received approval from the capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

The company filed preliminary IPO papers with SEBI on 21 October, 2022.

The IPO will comprise a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 500 crore and an offer-for-

sale (OFS) up to 14.1 crore equity shares from promoters and stakeholders.

Bank of Baroda (BoB), the country's third largest PSU bank holds a 65% stake in the firm followed by Warburg Pincus affiliate Carmel Point Investments India which holds 26% and Union Bank of India which holds a 9% stake.

3. Ashwini Vaishnaw released a unique cover of the Department of Posts, 'Go Green, Go Organic' for _____

- (a) Nagaland
- (b) Manipur
- (c) Sikkim
- (d) Kerala
- (e) Uttarakhand

Answer: C

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and four Sikkim ministers released a unique cover of the Department of Posts, 'Go Green, Go Organic' for Sikkim.

The special cover is a testament to the state's achievements in organic farming and progress and a reminder of the importance of sustainable development for the entire country. The union minister thanked Department of Posts for this release and congratulated Sikkim State for its achievements of becoming the first state of the world to get recognized as an Organic state by the World Book of Records (London).

Meanwhile, the state has also won the prestigious Future Policy Gold Award from the UN Food and Agriculture.

Sikkim has the title of the 'first 100% organic state' in the world.

4. Consider the following statement regarding the SADUN. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- (i) SADUN stands for 'South Asia Distribution Utility Node'.
 - (ii) SADUN aims to modernize the distribution of utilities in South Asia via knowledge sharing among the region's discoms.
 - (iii) It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Power, USIBC and PFC.
- (a) Only (i)
 - (b) Both (i) and (iii)
 - (c) Only (ii)
 - (d) Both (ii) and (iii)
 - (e) All (i), (ii) and (iii)

Answer: B

RK Singh, the minister of power and new and renewable energy, has launched the **South Asia Distribution Utility Network (SADUN)**, which aims to modernise the distribution of utilities

in South Asia via knowledge sharing among the region's discoms.

SADUN is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Power, USAID and PFC.

Singh said that all the member nations would benefit from the synergy, exchange of

experiences and the sharing of vision-enabled by the network.

USAID conceptualized SADUN in January 2020 based on a consensus among the participants over a need for an initiative which focused on a distribution network in the region.

USAID has already shared a white paper on SADUN with member nations to "get their concurrence on the blueprint of the network" and move ahead in 'the process of implementation'.

5. What is the name of the Indian Navy's second anti-submarine warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)?

- (a) INS Arnala
- (b) INS Abhay
- (c) INS Androth
- (d) INS Adrav
- (e) INS Agni

Answer: C

Indian Navy's second anti-submarine warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) warship named Indian Naval Ship (INS) Androth has been launched in Kolkata, West Bengal. Vice admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, commanding-in-chief, Western Naval Command was the chief guest at the occasion.

Former Indian cricketer Arun Lal was the guest of honour at the ceremony.

INS Androth was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, West Bengal for the Indian Navy. The ship has been named Androth to signify the strategic maritime importance accorded to the island of Androth, located about 170 Nm north-west of Kochi, in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Second (2nd) edition of the Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX). Which of the following statement is correct?

- (i) It is a nine-day mega-military exercise between India and 23 African nations.
 - (ii) It was held in Nagpur, Maharashtra, India.
 - (iii) The theme of the exercise is “humanitarian mine action and peacekeeping operations,”.
- (a) Only (i)
(b) Both (i) and (ii)
(c) Both (i) and (iii)
(d) Both (ii) and (iii)
(e) All (i), (ii) and (iii)

Answer: C

The Second (2nd) edition of the Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX), a nine-day mega military exercise between India & 23 African nations began in Pune, Maharashtra, India.

The theme of the exercise is “humanitarian mine action and peacekeeping operations,”.

The Joint exercise was commenced in 2008 through the India- Africa Summit and after that held in 2015 and 2019.

The exercise has been hosted by the Indian Army in keeping with India’s outreach to Africa.

The objectives of the exercise are to continue to build upon the initiatives taken to strengthen India-Africa relations, with a focus on enhancing peace and security.

7. Which of the following international financial institution has recently approved a \$3 billion bailout programme to help debt-ridden Sri Lanka overcome its economic crisis?

- (a) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- (b) European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- (c) New Development Bank (NDB)
- (d) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- (e) None of the above

Answer: E

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a \$3 billion bailout programme that will be available over 4 years, to help debt-ridden Sri Lanka overcome its economic crisis and catalyse financial support from other development partners.

The Executive Board’s decision will enable an immediate disbursement equivalent to Special Drawing Rights (SDR) of 254 million (about \$

333 million) and catalyse financial support from other development partners.

This is Sri Lanka's 17th credit programme with the IMF.

Sri Lanka is going through its worst-ever economic crisis since its independence in 1948.

India had provided assistance of 4 billion dollars to Sri Lanka.

8. Which of the following companies has received BIS certification to manufacture India's First Fire Resistant Steel Structures?

- (a) TATA Steel
- (b) SAIL
- (c) JSW Steel
- (d) Jindal Steel and Power
- (e) Vedanta

Answer: D

Jindal Steel & Power has received BIS certification to manufacture India's First Fire Resistant Steel Structures at its rail mill and special profile mill in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh.

The Hot Rolled Structural Steel, manufactured to IS 15103 standards, will be able to withstand temperatures up to 600 degrees Celsius for a maximum duration of three hours, and it can be used in high-temperature or fire-prone areas.

Fire protection has been a challenge in the design of steel structures.

The availability of Fire-Resistant Steel will result in the more efficient design of structures.

9. Gandhamardan hill, which was in news recently is located in which of the following states?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Madhya Pradesh
- (e) Himachal Pradesh

Answer: B

The Odisha government has declared the Gandhamardan hill (Gandhamardan Reserve Forest), spanning 18,963.898 hectare over 6,532.098 ha (Balangir) and 12,431.8 ha Bargarh districts, as the 3rd biodiversity heritage site (BHS) of Odisha by giving it the status of a unique, ecologically fragile ecosystem having a rich biodiversity.

A notification issued by the state forest and environment department stated the status was accorded as per section 37 of the Biodiversity Act and Rule 20(2) of the Odisha Biodiversity Rules, 2012.

The Mandasaru gorge in Kandhamal district was notified as the first such site in Odisha in 2019, followed by Mahendragiri hills in Gajapati district in 2022.

The New York- based lender in the tristate area in recent years focused on

cryptocurrencies as a potential growth business.

10. Consider the following statements regarding World Tuberculosis Day. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- (a) World Tuberculosis Day is observed on 24 March every year all over the world.
- (b) The World TB Day 2023 theme is 'Yes! We can end TB!'.
- (c) The date marks in 1982 when Dr. Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB.
- (d) Tuberculosis is a deadly infection caused by a bacterium that primarily affects the lungs.
- (e) Tuberculosis is easily transmitted by small droplets expelled into the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Answer: C

World Tuberculosis Day, observed on 24 March each year all over the world is designed to build public awareness about the global

epidemic of tuberculosis and efforts to eliminate the disease.

The World TB Day 2023 theme is 'Yes! We can end TB!' This theme emphasizes on encouraging high-level leadership, faster uptake of new WHO recommendations, increased investments and adoption of innovations to combat the Tuberculosis epidemic.

On March 24, 1882, Dr. Robert Koch announced the discovery of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacteria that causes tuberculosis (TB).

Tuberculosis is a deadly infection caused by a bacterium that primarily affects the lungs and is easily transmitted by small droplets expelled into the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes.