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

1. How much percentage of accumulated corpus can be withdrawn systematically according to the plan that Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) intends to introduce during the second half of this fiscal?

- (a) 65%
- (b) 50%
- (c) 60%
- (d) 40%
- (e) 75%

**Answer: C**

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) intends to introduce a plan during the second half of this fiscal, to allow the subscribers of the National Pension Scheme (NPS) to withdraw 60% of the accumulated corpus systematically instead of the current system of a one-time withdrawal.

As per the proposal, NPS subscribers would be allowed to systematically withdraw 60% of their corpus post-retirement up to the age of 75, instead of the current system of one-time withdrawal, while 40% has to be invested in annuity.

Currently, National Pension Scheme (NPS) subscribers after turning 60 years withdraw up to 60 per cent of the retirement corpus as a lump sum while the remaining 40 per cent of the corpus mandatorily goes into buying an annuity.

The amount can be fixed by the subscriber

any number of times and it can be withdrawn in lumpsum or on a monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annual basis.

It applies to those in the age group of 60 to 75.

2. What does India and the UAE set a target to achieve it by 2030?

- (a) \$48 billion Non-Oil Trade
- (b) \$100 billion Non-Oil Trade
- (c) \$150 billion Non-Oil Trade
- (d) \$200 billion Non-Oil Trade
- (e) \$50 billion Non-Oil Trade

**Answer: B**

India and the UAE have set a target of doubling non-oil bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2030 from \$48 billion at present.

Goyal and the UAE's Minister of State for Foreign Trade, Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, decided to revise the target from the earlier goal of an overall bilateral trade of \$100 billion by 2030 at the first meeting of the Joint Committee of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

On the proposed rupee-dirham trade, Goyal pointed out that discussions were progressing at a fast pace.

**The RBI and the Central Bank of the UAE have been in active dialogue.**

The Finance Ministry is also supportive of the issue.

The UAE Minister pointed out that in the first 12 months of the CEPA, bilateral non-oil trade

reached \$50.5 billion, which was 5.8 per cent higher than the corresponding period a year earlier.

The CEPA was benefitting Indian exports from sectors such as textiles, agriculture products, footwear, automobiles, gems and jewellery, while UAE exporters were increasing shipments of iron and steel, aluminium, and polymers,

The UAE is the principal supplier of petroleum products to India and is also a large consumer of refined petroleum products.

**3. Who has removed India from the UN report on the impact of armed conflict on children, citing “measures taken by the government to better protect” them?**

- (a) Kofi Annan
- (b) Ban Ki-moon
- (c) Amina J. Mohammed
- (d) Antonio Guterres
- (e) E. Courtenay Rattray

**Answer: D**

The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has removed India from his annual report on the impact of armed conflict on children, citing “measures taken by the government to better protect” them.

Guterres also acknowledged India's technical mission and a workshop on strengthening child protection.

India had been included in the report since 2010, alongside other countries, including

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Lake Chad Basin, Nigeria, Pakistan and the Philippines.

Initially, India was included on the list due to allegations of the recruitment of young boys by armed groups in Jammu and Kashmir and the detainment of boys by the security forces on grounds of association with armed groups.

**4. According to the new national estimates for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), how many have diabetes among the huge population in India?**

- (a) 101 million
- (b) 105 million
- (c) 100 million
- (d) 95 million
- (e) 110 million

**Answer: A**

The new national estimates for non-communicable diseases (NCDs)- “Metabolic non-communicable health report of India-the ICMR-INDIAB National Cross-sectional Study” was recently released.

The study was funded by the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

It was a cross-sectional, population-based survey of adults above 20 years, across the country using a stratified, multistage sampling design.

The four major NCDs are cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes.



They all share behavioural risk factors such as unhealthy diet, lack of physical activity, and use of tobacco and alcohol.

India is facing the dual problem of malnutrition and obesity as there is the availability of surplus food, but after being exposed to fast foods, lack of sleep, exercise and stress creates NCDs.

**India has 101 million people with diabetes and 136 million people with prediabetes.**

315 million people had high blood pressure; 254 million had generalised obesity, and 351 million had abdominal obesity.

213 million people had hypercholesterolaemia and 185 million had high low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol.

Hypercholesterolaemia is a situation where fat gets collected in arteries and puts individuals at greater risk of heart attack and strokes.

**Highest diabetes states: Goa, Puducherry and Kerala**

**Highest prediabetes state: Sikkim**

**Highest hypertension State: Punjab**

**Highest Generalised obesity and abdominal obesity: Puducherry**

**Highest hypercholesterolemia and LDL cholesterol: Kerala**

**Lowest NCDs states: U.P., Mizoram, Meghalaya and Jharkhand**

The study is the first comprehensive epidemiological research paper which includes participants from 31 States and some Union Territories, with a large sample size of

1,13,043 individuals.

**5. HDFC Bank and HDFC Ltd are set to complete their merger by July 1,2023. Once the deal is complete, what percent of share that existing shareholders of HDFC will own from the HDFC bank?**

- (a) 50%
- (b) 70%
- (c) 41%
- (d) 100%
- (e) 45%

**Answer: C**

**Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited Chairman Deepak Parekh stated that HDFC Bank, the largest private sector bank in India, and housing finance company HDFC Ltd are set to complete their merger by July 1,2023.**

The boards of HDFC and the HDFC bank met on June 30, 2023 to clear and approve the merger & it will be the last board meeting of HDFC.

Meanwhile, HDFC vice-chairman and CEO **Keki Mistry** informed that the **delisting** of the HDFC stock from exchanges will be effective from **July 13, 2023** & will start trading under HDFC Bank ticker.

Post-merger, **Parekh** will retire and **Keki Mistry** and HDFC MD **Renu Karnad** will be board members of HDFC Bank.

Termed as the **biggest transaction** in India's corporate history, HDFC Bank on **April 4, 2022**

agreed to take over the biggest domestic mortgage lender in a deal valued at about \$40 billion, creating a financial services titan.

The proposed entity will have a combined asset base of around Rs 18 lakh crore.

**Once the deal is effective, HDFC Bank will be 100% owned by public shareholders, and existing shareholders of HDFC will own 41% of the bank.**

As per the merger terms, every HDFC shareholder will get **42 shares** of HDFC Bank for every 25 shares they hold.

**6. India's leading full-service carrier, Vistara expanded its codeshare partnership with one of Europe's premier airlines to provide enhanced connectivity to Vistara customers while travelling across Europe. Which among the following is partnered with Vistara?**

- (a) Ryanair
- (b) EasyJet
- (c) Wizz Air
- (d) Aeroflot
- (e) Lufthansa

**Answer: E**

Vistara, India's leading full-service carrier, has expanded its codeshare partnership with Lufthansa, one of Europe's premier airlines, enabling enhanced connectivity to Vistara customers while travelling across Europe.

Now, the 12 key destinations that get included in Vistara's network are Amsterdam (AMS), Stockholm (ARN), Berlin (BER), Budapest

(BUD), Copenhagen (CPH), Rome (FCO), Hamburg (HAM), Helsinki (HEL), Lisbon (LIS), Munich (MUC), Oslo (OSL), Prague (PRG).

The bilateral codeshare agreement between Vistara and Lufthansa enables both airlines to sell flights on each other's networks, offering convenient travel options to customers.

Vistara, which is also a joint venture of Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, and Lufthansa had entered into a unilateral codeshare agreement, in 2019, enabling the latter to add its designator code (LH) to Vistara flights for 18 destinations in India.

**7. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has finalised the directions for commercial banks to hold sufficient regulatory capital against their exposures arising from operational risks. Which of the following are excluded from the directions?**

- (a) Local area banks
- (b) Payments banks
- (c) Regional Rural banks
- (d) Small finance banks
- (e) All the above

**Answer: E**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has finalised the directions for commercial banks to hold sufficient regulatory capital against their exposures arising from operational risks.

Operational risk means the risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems or from

**external events.**

This definition includes legal risk, but excludes strategic and reputational risk.

The directions require all specified commercial banks, **excluding local area banks, payments banks, regional rural banks, and small finance banks, to hold sufficient regulatory capital against their operational risk exposures.**

RBI's all existing approaches including the basic indicator approach, the standardised approach, and the advanced measurement approach for measuring **minimum operational risk capital (ORC) requirements** will be replaced by a new standardised approach, in line with **Basel III rules**, with the coming into effect of these directions.

At present, banks use methods like **basic indicator approach (BIA) and the standardised approach (TSA)** to measure minimum ORC.

Banks will be bucketed in **3 segments** based on their business indicator component.

The operational risk capital of banks' requirements shall be equal to business indicator, which may however require banks in buckets 2 and 3 to calculate their operational risks using data fewer than **5 years of loss** if the internal loss multiplier is greater than one and the supervisor believes that these losses are representative of the banks' operational risk exposure.

Banks in buckets 2 and 3 which do not meet the 5 years of high-quality loss data criteria will be required to hold operational risk capital

at a minimum equal to the business indicator.

The risk-weighted assets for operational risk shall be calculated by multiplying the operational risk capital by **12.5**.

Also, banks will have to annually disclose general qualitative information on its operational risk framework, historical losses and quarterly notify minimum required operational risk capital and business indicator and subcomponents.

**8. How much World Bank has approved in financing to accelerate India's low-carbon energy infrastructure?**

- (a) USD 1.2 billion
- (b) USD 1.5 billion
- (c) USD 1 billion
- (d) USD 1.7 billion
- (e) USD 2 billion

**Answer: B**

The **World Bank** has approved **USD 1.5 billion (around ₹12,600 crore)** in financing to accelerate **India's low-carbon energy infrastructure**.

The financing will help India **promote low-carbon energy** by scaling up renewable energy and developing green hydrogen, supporting carbon markets and stimulating climate financing.

The low-carbon hydrogen energy is produced by **electrolysis of water** powered by renewable energy.

The **First Low-Carbon Energy Programmatic**



**Development Policy Operation** – the first in a series of two envisaged operations – will support India in developing green hydrogen.

The program will support the successful implementation of the **National Green Hydrogen Mission** that aims to stimulate **\$100 billion** in private sector investment by 2030.

The World Bank remains committed to supporting India's low-carbon transition by complementing public financing and enabling private-sector investments.

Notably, at the **Conference of the Parties 26 (COP26) summit** in Glasgow in 2021, India committed to an ambitious **five-part "Panchamrit" pledge**, including reaching **500 GW of non-fossil electricity capacity**, to generate half of all energy requirements from renewables, to reduce emissions by 1 billion tons by 2030.

At present, **India's per capita energy consumption** is only **one-third** of the global average.

India aims to achieve net zero by **2070**.

9. Which of the following has recently (July 2023) partnered with retail non-banking finance company (NBFC) Shriram Finance Limited to offer financial services to its users, including loan products?

- (a) Paytm
- (b) Google Pay
- (c) PayPal
- (d) PhonePe

(e) MobiKwik

**Answer: A**

The One97 Communications Ltd, owners of the brand **Paytm**, has partnered with retail non-banking finance company (NBFC) **Shriram Finance Limited** to offer **financial services** to its users, including loan products.

Through this joint venture, Shriram Finance products would be made available on the **digital platform** to further expand Paytm's business to credit services as well, and drive financial inclusion.

It is powered by Paytm's fintech leadership as a **loan service provider (LSP)** focussed on compliance and quality of loans.

This partnership will integrate Shriram Finance wide geographical presence across the country especially **rural areas**.

In June 2023, **Paytm Payment Services Limited** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Arunachal Pradesh Innovation and Investment Park (APIIP)** to create a startup ecosystem for the youth.

In June 2023, Paytm introduced a **UPI software development kit (SDK)** for customers to make payments to online merchants without any failure of the system.

In June 2023, **Piramal Enterprises** sold its entire stake of **8.34%** in Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) major **Shriram Finance** through a block deal.

10. Who has been recently (July 2023)

selected as the 18th & first female vice chancellor of Gujarat University?

- (a) Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit
- (b) Najma Akhtar
- (c) Neerja Gupta
- (d) Fatima al-Fihri
- (e) Jancy James

**Answer: C**

After 73 years of the establishment (1949) of Gujarat University in Ahmedabad, Dr Neerja Gupta has been selected as the 18th & first female vice chancellor (VC).

She has been appointed for a period of 3 years with effect from the date she takes over the charge of the office or till she attains the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

She will take over from Himanshu Pandya, who completes his second term as V-C this month.

She was a lecturer at the English department of the institute from 1998 till 2009.

She was the principal of Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan's Sheth RG PG College of Arts and Commerce in Ahmedabad from 2009-2021.

Gupta has served as member of GU's senate and syndicate and handled the university's study abroad programme as well.

Dr Neerja Gupta (59), who is currently the Vice Chancellor of Sanchi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies, Sanchi, Madhya Pradesh (MP).

### July 2<sup>nd</sup> week Current Affairs MCQ

1. Which bank recently (July 2023) opened India's first virtual branch in Metaverse?

- (a) Indian Bank
- (b) Indian Overseas Bank
- (c) Punjab National Bank
- (d) Canara Bank
- (e) Union Bank of India

**Answer: C**

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched India's first virtual branch in Metaverse.

With this, the bank will be able to deliver a unique experience to its customers, who can now explore bank deposits, digital payments,

senior citizen deposits, and flagship schemes of the government of India.

With the help of this, customers can explore the bank's products and services such as bank deposits, retail/Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) loans, digital products, women/senior citizens, 'Do It Yourself', and government flagship schemes.

In addition, the bank will offer an immersive 3D experience to customers while they perform traditional banking activities through their digital avatars.

**What is Metaverse?**



The metaverse is the **emerging 3-D-enabled digital space** that uses virtual reality, augmented reality, and other advanced internet and semiconductor technology to allow people to have lifelike personal and business experiences online.

**Recent News :**

In June 2023, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has become the **first public sector bank** to introduce an **Interactive Voice Response (IVR)-based Unified Payment Interface (UPI) solution – UPI 123PAY**, aligning with the **Digital Payment Vision 2025** towards a cashless and cardless society.

**About PNB :**

Founded: 19 May 1894

Headquarters: Dwarka, Delhi, India

MD & CEO: Atul Kumar Goel

Tagline: You Can Bank Upon

**2. Which country hosted the COP27 climate conference last year, and a report given there indicated that India has the fastest growth rate in carbon emissions among the primary causes of global warming?**

- (a) Tanzania
- (b) Egypt
- (c) Tunisia
- (d) Lithuania
- (e) Spain

**Answer: B**

**India plans to develop carbon markets for renewables, green hydrogen, bio-fuels and**

**clean mobility to facilitate carbon trading between green and polluting sectors.**

**The Niti Aayog in India is creating a framework to set up carbon markets for renewable energy, green hydrogen, biofuels, and clean transportation.**

According to the government, the expansion of carbon markets will boost economic activity and open up job opportunities.

Such markets may initially be voluntary, meaning that carbon credits will be issued, purchased, and sold voluntarily.

However, over time, the government could set up a framework of regulations to create compliance markets, which compel industries to trade carbon credits and thus produce income.

**According to a report presented at the COP27 climate conference held in Egypt last year, India had the highest growth rate in carbon emissions among the major global warming contributors.**

China and the European Union (EU) are expected to see reductions in emissions of 0.9% and 0.8%, respectively, while India's emissions are predicted to rise by 6.0% and the US's by 1.5%.

The United Nations Development Programme defines carbon markets as trading platforms where carbon credits are offered for sale and purchase.

Companies or individuals can use carbon markets to compensate for their greenhouse

gas emissions by purchasing carbon credits from entities that remove greenhouse gas emissions.

**About NITI Aayog**

Formed: 1 January 2015

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairperson: Narendra Modi

**About UN:**

Founded: 24 October 1945

Headquarters: New York, United States

Secretary general: António Guterres

**Recent News:**

NITI Aayog announced that its 8th governing council meeting, with the theme 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047: Role of Team India', will be held at the "new Convention Centre in Pragati Maidan".

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has achieved an impressive feat by securing the second position among 66 ministries in the highly influential Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI) assessment for the third quarter of 2022-2023.

**3. Recently (July 2023), The Secretary of the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DAPRG) issued which edition of the National e-Government Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA)?**

- (a) 5<sup>th</sup>
- (b) 10<sup>th</sup>
- (c) 3<sup>rd</sup>

(d) 6<sup>th</sup>

(e) 8<sup>th</sup>

**Answer: C**

The third edition of the National e-Government Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) has been released by the Secretary of the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DAPRG).

The portal highlights how effectively States, Union Territories (UTs), and particular Central Ministries provide e-Government services to citizens.

DARPG (under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions) established the NeSDA framework as a tool to assess the effectiveness and value of e-Government services from the perspective of the general public.

The concept was modified to fit the Indian context of federalism and e-Governance variability among States and UTs using the Online Service Index (OSI) from the UN eGovernment Survey.

Every two years, DARPG conducts the NeSDA research to assess how well States, UTs, and a few Central Ministries do in providing e-Government services to the public.

The study assists the governments in identifying the gaps and difficulties in the provision of their services and in learning from the most effective methods used by other States, UTs, and Central Ministries.

In 2019 and 2021, NeSDA

The NeSDA study, published in two iterations, NeSDA 2019 and NeSDA 2021, has shown a striking rise in e-services in all States and UTs. Additionally, they have noted a growing tendency of e-Services delivery to shift from separate departmental portals to integrated/centralized portals.

The improvement in the nation's e-Governance environment as a result of the last two NeSDA study editions is highlighted by the following important findings;

**Improvements in e-Service Delivery**

More people are using integrated or centrally located portals to deliver e-services.

improved results across the board in the assessment

The number of services examined in NeSDA 2021 increased by more than 60% from 872 in 2019 to 1400 across all States and UTs.

When asked about their satisfaction with the e-Services offered by the States and UTs, 74% of respondents to the nationwide citizen poll that was done during the study said they are.

The local government and utility service sectors and financial e-services were the most well-liked by users.

### **NeSDA 2023**

The third edition of the research, NeSDA 2023, has begun with the establishment of the NeSDA 2023 portal by DARPG.

The NeSDA 2023 framework has been revised to reflect the needs of modern

citizens, the most important developments in digital governance around the world, and UN e-governance Survey findings.

A comprehensive method to assess the development of India's e-Government is the NeSDA 2023 framework.

It attempts to evaluate the effectiveness and usability of online services provided by the Central, State, and City governments.

**4. Which government has been approved recently (July 2023) to get a grant of Rs 12,911 crore from the Union government to finish the Polavaram project's first phase of construction?**

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Madya Pradesh
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Uttar Pradesh
- (e) Uttarakhand

**Answer: C**

The Union government has given its nod to sanction Rs 12,911 crore to the Andhra Pradesh government to complete the construction works under phase 1 of the Polavaram project.

The development occurred when Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy was visiting Polavaram to review the project.

During the visit to the project site, officials apprised the Chief Minister about the Centre's green signal for the completion of the first phase of the Polavaram project.

They revealed that the Union Finance Department has issued a memorandum sanctioning Rs 12,911.15 crores and has conveyed this through a letter to the Central Water Resources Department as well.

The AP government officials informed the Chief Minister that the Polavaram irrigation project has made significant progress, with 79.61 percent of the work completed.

They also mentioned that land acquisition and resettlement processes have been completed up to 45.72 metres, covering 22.20 percent of the required area.

The officials further informed that the Union government decided to allocate an additional Rs 2,000 crore for the construction of the project because the cofferdam was washed away due to the Godavari floods.

The Centre has also directed the finance department to sanction the funds for the project at the latest rates instead of the 2013-14 rates.

It is pertinent to note that the project cost has also increased due to construction delays.

The Centre has further removed the department-wise restrictions on bill payments.

CM Jagan had demanded the Centre to sanction Rs 10,000 crores for completing the construction of the Polavaram Dam.

#### **About Andhra Pradesh**

Chief minister: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

Capital: Amaravati

Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer

NP: Sri Venkateswara National Park, Papikonda National Park, Namdapha National Park, Valmiki National Park, Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Satpura National Park, Manas National Park, Simlipal National Park, Sanjay National Park

#### **Recent News**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Sai Hira Global Convention Centre in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh via video conferencing

**5. Which country has recently (July 2023) released OpenKylin, its first-ever domestic open-source desktop operating system?**

- (a) Thailand
- (b) Australia
- (c) Japan
- (d) Indonesia
- (e) China

**Answer: E**

China has rolled out its first-ever homegrown computer operating system called OpenKylin. It is China's first open-source desktop operating system (OS).

**About OpenKylin :**

It is a Linux-based operating system built by a community of about 4,000 developers and is used in its space program and industries such as finance and energy.

OpenKylin users have access to the software's lines of code and can modify them

as they wish, unlike Microsoft and Apple, which keep the workings of Windows and MacOS systems secret.

**What is an open-source operating system (OS)?**

The term “open source” refers to **computer software or applications** where the owners or copyright holders enable the users or third parties to use, see, and edit the product’s source code.

The source code of an open-source OS is publicly visible and editable.

The usual operating systems such as **Apple’s iOS, Microsoft’s Windows, and Apple’s Mac OS** are closed operating systems.

**Closed Operating Systems** are built with numerous codes and complex programming and that is called **source code**.

This source code is kept secret by the respective companies (owners) and inaccessible to third parties.

In the case of an Open-Source Operating system, everyone can access and edit the source code.

**About China :**

President: Xi Jinping

Capital: Beijing

Currency: Renminbi

6. As per recent news (July 2023) Which government, as part of a larger effort to further strengthen collaboration with India, will create

an Economic and Cultural Centre in Mumbai, Maharashtra?

- (a) Thailand
- (b) Australia
- (c) Japan
- (d) Indonesia
- (e) Taiwan

**Answer: E**

The Taiwanese government will establish a Taipei Economic and Cultural Center (TECC) in Mumbai, Maharashtra as part of a broader aim to further deepen cooperation with India.

At present, Taiwan has TECCs in Delhi and Chennai.

The main aim of opening the Cultural Centre is to **enhance cooperation** between both countries.

Also, the move to set up the TECC in Mumbai comes at a time when major companies in Taiwan are increasingly looking at relocating their production bases to India from China.

**History :**

India and Taiwan do not maintain formal diplomatic ties, but the two sides opened representative offices in **1995** – a Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre (TECC) in New Delhi and an “India Taipei Association” in Taipei.

Taiwan set up an office in Chennai in **December 2012**.



Trade volume between both countries increased from **USD 2 billion** in 2006 to **USD 8.9 billion** in 2021.

India and Taiwan's cooperation has **increased** in the area of trade, critical supply chains, science and technology, culture, and education in recent years.

India has expressed interest in setting up manufacturing facilities of top Taiwanese companies, especially the world's largest chip maker **Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (TSMC)** in India.

India became the **world's 5th -largest economy** in **2022** and became the most populous nation this year.

#### **About Taiwan :**

President: Tsai Ing-wen

Capital: Taipei

Currency: New Taiwan dollar

**7. Through a webcast, the "Quadripartite" unveiled the One Health Priority Research Agenda on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Which of the following groups does not belong to the quadripartite?**

- (a) Food and Agriculture Organization
- (b) UN Environment Programme
- (c) World Food Programme
- (d) World Health Organization
- (e) World Organisation for Animal Health

**Answer: C**

The 'Quadripartite' – comprising the United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture

Organization (FAO), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) have released the **One Health Priority Research Agenda on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** through a webinar.

**Aim :**

To guide a variety of stakeholders in generating new evidence to **address antimicrobial resistance**, with a focus on **low- and middle-income countries**.

#### **What is One Health?**

One Health is an **integrated, unifying approach** that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, and ecosystems.

It recognizes the **health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment** (including ecosystems) are closely linked and interdependent.

#### **About One Health Priority Research Agenda on Antimicrobial Resistance :**

The agenda will act as a guide for countries, research institutes and funding bodies to support **One Health AMR research**.

It will also allow **policymakers, researchers, and the multidisciplinary scientific community** to collaborate.

With the mixed method approach, global experts have identified **5 key pillars** as well as **3 cross-cutting themes** namely **gender, vulnerable populations, and**

**List of 5 key pillars :**

**Transmission:** It focuses on the environment, plant, animal, and human sectors where AMR transmission, circulation and spread occur.

**Integrated surveillance:** It aims to identify cross-cutting priority research questions to improve common technical understanding and information exchange among One Health stakeholders.

**Interventions:** It focuses on programs, practices, tools, and activities aimed at preventing, containing, or reducing the incidence, prevalence, and spread of AMR.

**Behavioral insights and change:** It focuses on research addressing human behavior that affects AMR, including ways to combat it.

**Economics and policy:** It takes into account the cost-effectiveness of an AMR investment case, financial sustainability, and long-term financial impact.

**Recent News :**

In June 2023, WHO also launched a global research agenda for AMR in human health & the agenda prioritizes **40 research topics** for evidence generation to inform policy and interventions by 2030.

**About UNEP :**

Established: 5 June 1972

Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya

Executive Director: Inger Andersen

**About WHO :**

Established: 7 April 1948

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Director-General: Tedros Adhanom

The WHO is a **specialized agency** of the United Nations responsible for **international public health**.

**About WOAH :**

Established: 25 January 1924

Headquarters: Paris, France

Director General: Dr. Monique Eloit

The WOAH, formerly the **Office International des Epizooties (OIE)**, is an intergovernmental organization coordinating, supporting and promoting animal disease control.

**8. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha recently (July 2023) launched Tele-MANAS Chatbot for which Union Territory (UT) of India?**

- (a) Puducherry
- (b) Delhi
- (c) Ladakh
- (d) Jammu & Kashmir
- (e) Lakshadweep

**Answer: D**

**Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched India's first Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) Chatbot for the Union territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).**

The initiative will ensure round-the-clock services for Health Counsellors, Clinical Psychologists and Consultants.

The service was launched after Sinha inaugurated the '**J-K Health Conclave**' on

mental health and non-communicable diseases at Srinagar, J&K.

**About Tele-MANAS :**

Tele-MANAS is a **two-tier system**.

Tier 1 comprises **State Tele MANAS cells**, which include trained counselors and mental health specialists.

Tier 2 comprises specialists at **District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)/Medical College** resources for physical consultation and/or eSanjeevani for audio-visual consultation.

The MoU inked between the **J-K Health and Medical Education Department** and the **Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre** will provide significant technical support to **improve cancer care services** in the UT and help us to establish preventive oncology services, daycare centers and palliative care services at district hospitals.

Another important MoU signed with NIMHANS Bengaluru will improve mental health services, training and capacity building of medical officers and nursing staff.

He also rolled out and launched several new initiatives to strengthen health system resilience including **T3 – Test, Treat and Talk, anemia camps, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease program** and scan and share service for OPD registration.

**About J&K :**

Lieutenant Governor: Manoj Sinha

Capital: Srinagar, Jammu

National Park: Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, Kazinag National Park, Dachigam National Park

Wildlife Sanctuaries: Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary

**9. Which state recently (July 2023) started the 'Ama Pokhari' programme to rehabilitate all water bodies in its urban areas?**

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Uttar Pradesh
- (e) Uttarakhand

**Answer: A**

**Odisha Chief Minister (CM) Shri Naveen Patnaik launched the 'Ama Pokhari' project to rejuvenate all water bodies in the urban areas of Odisha.**

The project was inaugurated at Lokseva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar and is expected to effectively **address water scarcity** by rejuvenating water bodies naturally and sustainably.

Under the Ama Pokhari scheme, **2,000 large water bodies** in **115 urban areas** will be rejuvenated and its periphery will be renovated for healthy space for the public.

**Rs 120 crore** has been allocated to the implementation of the initiative.

**Key Highlights :**



The project will be implemented using **natural and organic methodology** to improve the climate of surrounding areas.

The renovation and maintenance of these water bodies will be done in collaboration with members of **Mission Shakti**.

The water bodies will also be developed for the **recreation of citizens**.

It will also help in strengthening the **ecological fabric of cities**.

This initiative will also help in improving the quality of life in urban areas.

This initiative was implemented by **Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, and Berhampur Municipal Corporation** as a pilot project.

The chief minister also felicitated **Anand Malligavad**, known as the 'lake man' of India.

#### **Recent News :**

In June 2023, The **Government of Odisha**, in collaboration with the **Quality Council of India (QCI)** and industry associations such as ASSOCHAM, FICCI, EEPC, OASME, PHDCCI, CIPET, and FHRAI, launched the **Odisha Guvvatta Sankalp (Odisha Quality Mission)** in

#### **About Odisha :**

Governor: Ganeshi Lal

Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik

Capital: Bhubaneswar

National Park: Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park

Wildlife Sanctuary: Ushakothi Wildlife Sanctuary, Tikarpada Wildlife Sanctuary

10. Which fruit's 32nd annual festival was inaugurated by the tourism minister of the **Delhi government** at Janakpuri?

- (a) Banana
- (b) Mango
- (c) Apple
- (d) Orange
- (e) Lemon

**Answer: B**

**Tourism Minister Atishi** inaugurated the **32nd Annual Mango Festival (3-day festival)** at **Dilli Haat, Janakpuri**.

It will conclude on **July 9, 2023**.

The event is organized by **Delhi Tourism** in association with the **Delhi government**.

The **last mango Festival** in Delhi was held in **2019**.

#### **Key Highlights :**

The Mango Festival is a unique initiative by the **Kejriwal government** to **promote tourism** in the city, familiarise the public with various varieties of mangoes, and provide a platform for small and large mango producers to expand their businesses.

During this 3-day festival, people can enjoy various cultural programs along with different types of mangoes from 12 pm to 10 pm.

There is **no entry fee** for the festival, & a free shuttle service from **Tilak Nagar Metro Station** has been arranged for the convenience of visitors.

#### **About Delhi :**

Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena  
Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal  
Capital: New Delhi

Wildlife Sanctuaries: Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary

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

1. Recently (July 2023), which country's central bank signed two MoUs with RBI to create a framework to encourage the use of local currencies for cross-border transactions and to collaborate on the interlinking of respective payment and messaging systems?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Srilanka
- (c) UAE
- (d) Pakistan
- (e) Singapore

**Answer: C**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Central Bank of UAE (CBUAE) signed two Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) in Abu Dhabi for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies for cross-border transactions; and cooperation for interlinking their payment and messaging systems.

The MoUs were signed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and the CBUAE Governor Khaled Mohamed Balama.

The MoUs were exchanged between the two Governors, in the presence of Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the President of the UAE Mr. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

**Aim :**

To facilitate seamless cross-border transactions and payments, and foster greater economic cooperation between the two countries.

**About the MoUs :**

The 1st MoU focuses on establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies, specifically the Indian rupee (INR) and the UAE Dirham (AED), for cross-border transactions.

The creation of a **Local Currency Settlement System (LCSS)** will enable exporters and importers to invoice and transact in their respective domestic currencies, fostering an INR-AED foreign exchange market.

By optimizing **transaction costs** and **settlement time**, this arrangement will promote investments, remittances, and bilateral trade between India and the UAE.

The 2nd MoU centers on cooperation between the **payment and messaging systems** of the two central banks.

This collaboration encompasses linking **India's Fast Payment Systems (FPSS- Unified Payments Interface, UPI)** with the **UAE's Instant Payment Platform (IPP)**, as well as

connecting their respective card switches (RuPay switch and UAESWITCH).

Additionally, the MoU explores the potential linking of India's **Structured Financial Messaging System (SFMS)** with the messaging system in the UAE.

These integrations aim to facilitate seamless and **efficient cross-border funds transfers, card transactions,** and financial messaging between the two countries.

#### **About RBI :**

Established: 1 April 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

#### **About UAE :**

President: Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Prime Minister: Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Capital: Abu Dhabi

Currency: UAE dirham

2. HDFC Bank recently (July 2023) launched a UPI QR code interoperable with India's sovereign digital currency, Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). What is P stands for in UPI?

- (a) Profit
- (b) Payments
- (c) Premium
- (d) Payee

(e) Personal

**Answer: B**

HDFC Bank has launched Unified Payments Interface Quick Response Code (UPI QR code) interoperable with India's sovereign digital currency, Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).

With this, HDFC Bank became one of the **first banks** in the country to complete the integration process.

At present, HDFC Bank facilitates payments in Digital Rupee across Mumbai, Delhi, Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Gangtok, Hyderabad, Indore, Bhopal, Lucknow, Patna, Kochi, Goa, Shimla, Jaipur, Chennai, Kolkata, Ranchi, Pune, Nagpur, Varanasi, Visakhapatnam, Pondicherry, and Vijayawada.

#### **Key Highlights :**

With the interoperable UPI QR code, HDFC Bank merchants who have been onboarded on its CBDC platform can accept payments from their customers in the form of **Digital Rupee currency.**

HDFC Bank has signed up **1,70,000** merchants and over 1 lakh customers in pilot programs using the digital rupee.

**Benefits of UPI QR Code Interoperable With Digital Rupee:**

#### **For Consumers:**

Transact money available in their CBDC wallet across the UPI QR code

No need to scan different QR codes at the same merchant

**For Merchants:**

Only need to display one QR code at the storefront or through the **acquiring bank's mobile application**

No need for merchants to change their **existing QR codes**.

**About CBDC :**

A CBDC is a **digital currency** issued by a central bank, rather than by a commercial bank.

It is also a **liability** of the central bank and denominated in the sovereign currency, as is the case with physical banknotes and coins.

The RBI on **November 1, 2022**, started a pilot on CBDC in the wholesale segment & it further rolled out retail testing on **December 1, 2022**.

**Two broad categories** of CBDC can be distinguished:

General-purpose or retail (CBDC-R)

Wholesale (CBDC-W).

The **private sector**, **non-financial customers**, and **enterprises** might all potentially use retail CBDC (e-R), but wholesale CBDC (e-W) is only intended for **certain financial institutions**.

**Recent News :**

In June 2023, the central banks of **114 countries** accounting for **95%** of the world's Gross domestic product (GDP) were stated to be in various stages of evaluating the launch of a national digital currency.

**About HDFC Bank :**

Established: 1st July 2023 (via the merger between HDFC-HDFC bank)

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan

Tagline: We Understand Your World

**3. As per recent news (July 2023), Who was appointed as the brand ambassador for the multilingual campaign 'The Great Indian Fixed Deposit (FD) Fest' which was launched by Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited?**

- (a) Eniyan
- (b) GM Aravind Chidambaram
- (c) Viswanathan Anand
- (d) Pranav
- (e) Praggnanandhaa

**Answer: C**

Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited (FSFBL) has launched its multilingual campaign 'The Great Indian Fixed Deposit (FD) Fest' featuring brand ambassador Viswanathan Anand.

**Objective :**

To **raise awareness** about the bank's **interest rate** offering for all categories of customers.

Additionally, it emphasizes the importance of fixed deposits as a stable and long-term investment vehicle that is suitable for everyone.

At present the bank is offering rates as high as **9.11%** for **senior citizens** and **8.51%** for **general citizens**.

This campaign celebrates the spirit of financial empowerment and presents a golden opportunity for every Indian to secure their financial future through fixed deposits.

**About Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited :**

Established: 05 April 1995

Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka

MD & CEO: Rajeev Yadav

4. In a recent (July 2023) partnership with cloud platform Amazon Web Services (AWS) India and venture capital company Chiratae Ventures, PayU has created a 45-day fintech accelerator program for early-stage Indian entrepreneurs called \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) FINmela
- (b) FiRE
- (c) inFINity
- (d) UnSToppable
- (e) ReAcher

**Answer: C**

Payments service provider PayU has launched a 45-day fintech accelerator program, inFINity for early-stage Indian startups in collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS) India, a cloud platform, and venture capital firm Chiratae Ventures.

**Aim :**

To support the growth of early-stage fintech startups by providing access to mentorship from industry experts, curated resources, and AWS Activate credits.

**Key Highlights :**

The deadline to apply for the cohort is **August 11, 2023**.

Selected applicants will be announced on August 17, 2023, and the program will commence on August 31, 2023, with 3 days of in-person boot camp in **Bengaluru, Karnataka** followed by four weeks of intensive online training.

To apply for the program, startups must be either bootstrapped or have raised funding of less than **\$5 million**, seek to raise Seed to Series A funding and have a **minimum viable product (MVP)** already developed.

The cohort will receive training and mentorship sessions, including access to experts from PayU, 'guiding them to scale their business operations and expand their customer base'.

inFINity 2023 mentors include **Anirban Mukherjee**, CEO of PayU payments; **Kailash Nadh**, CTO of Zerodha; **Nitin Gupta**, Founder & CEO of Uni Cards; **Prabhu Rangarajan**, Co-Founder of M2P, among others.

**About PayU India :**

Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana

CEO: Anirban Mukherjee

5. Recently (July 2023), RBI canceled the licences of 2 cooperative banks- Sri Sharada Mahila Co-operative Bank and Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank because of inadequate capital and no earning prospect. Harihareshwar



**Sahakari Bank is based on which state in India?**

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Nagaland
- (e) Maharashtra

**Answer: E**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the licences of 2 cooperative banks- Sri Sharada Mahila Co-operative Bank, Tumkur, situated in Karnataka, and Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank, Wai, Satara in Maharashtra, because of inadequate capital and no earning prospect.

**Key Highlights :**

On liquidation, each depositor will be entitled to receive the deposit insurance claim amount of up to **Rs 5 lakh** from the DICGC.

The **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** will pay the full amount to around **99.96%** of depositors of Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank.

DICGC will pay the full amount to around **97.82%** of the depositors of Sri Sharada Mahila Co-operative Bank.

As a result of the cancellation of their licenses, banks are prohibited from carrying on the business of 'banking' which includes accepting deposits and repayment of deposits.

Till June 12, 2023, DICGC has already paid **Rs 15.06 crore** of total insured deposits

to the depositors of Shri Sharda Mahila Sahakari Bank.

The **Cooperative Commissioner and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Maharashtra** have also been requested to issue an order to wind up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank.

**Recent News :**

In June 2023, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) canceled the banking license of the Karnataka-based **Mahalaxmi Cooperative Bank**, Dharwad, and allowed it to function only as a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)**.

In June 2023, The RBI stated that **Equitas Holdings Ltd** has surrendered its Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) licence, and accordingly its registration has been canceled.

**About DICGC :**

Established: July 1978 under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Chairman: Dr. M.D. Patra

DICGC is a fully owned subsidiary of RBI.

DICGC is a **specialized division** of RBI which is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India (GoI).

It insures deposits in public and private sector banks, local area banks, small finance banks, regional rural banks, cooperative banks, Indian branches of foreign banks and payments banks.

6. As per recent news (July 2023), The UPI Lite feature has begun to be made available to users in India on Google Pay, the second-largest Unified Payment Interface (UPI) provider in the nation. Then which is the first UPI Platform launched in India?

- (a) AmazonPay
- (b) PhonePe
- (c) Paytm
- (d) Mobikwik
- (e) Freecharge

**Answer: B**

Google Pay, the second largest Unified Payment Interface (UPI) platform in the country, has started rolling out the UPI Lite feature for users in India.

With UPI Lite, Google Pay users can make everyday payments for everyday items such as groceries, snacks, and cab rides faster.

**What is UPI Lite?**

UPI Lite is a digital payment service designed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

It was launched by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in September 2022.

**Purpose :**

To make digital payments simple and

Users can send up to ₹200 money with a single tap from their UPI Lite account.

The service does not require one to enter a PIN to initiate the payment.

Although UPI Lite is linked to the user's bank account, it does not rely on the issuing bank's core banking system in real-time.

Users can load up to ₹2,000 twice a day and make payments of up to ₹200 at a time.

The maximum per day limit for adding funds to your UPI Lite account is INR 4000.

Notably, as of now, 15 banks support UPI LITE.

**Note :**

PhonePe is India's 1st largest Unified Payment Interface (UPI) platform.

7. Recently (July 2023), Dharmendra Pradhan launched AI for India 2.0, a free online training program on Artificial Intelligence which is a joint initiative of Skill India and GUVI. GUVI is an incubated startup tech platform in vernacular languages of which IIT?

- (a) IIT Bombay
- (b) IIT Kanpur
- (c) IIT Kharagpur
- (d) IIT Madras
- (e) IIT Roorkee

**Answer: D**

Education and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched AI for India 2.0, a free online training program on Artificial Intelligence, on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day.

It is a joint initiative of Skill India and GUVI, which is an IIT Madras incubated

startup tech platform that enables tech learning in vernacular languages.

This program has been curated in nine Indian languages.

He added that this is a good beginning towards dismantling the language barrier in technology education and future-proofing the nation's Yuva Shakti, particularly in rural areas.

**8. Recently (July 2023), Which government intends to pass legislation guaranteeing the poor a "guaranteed minimum income"?**

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Nagaland
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Rajasthan
- (e) Maharashtra

**Answer: D**

The **Rajasthan** Government has announced the **minimum income guarantee** to provide social security to citizens of Rajasthan.

**Key Highlights :**

The **Rajasthan** government plans to bring a law that promises 'guaranteed minimum income' for the poor.

With this scheme, all families in the state will be able to get an employment guarantee of **125 days every year**, and a minimum pension of **1,000 per month in case of aged /disabled/single women**.

For this, an additional expenditure of **2500 crore** is being proposed.

The **Rajasthan** government provides social security pensions to around 10 million beneficiaries at an annual expenditure of **9,000 crore**.

The central government provides **300 crores annually** for pensions of up to Rs.300 per month to 1 million people in the state.

Through the **CM Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme**, 125 days of employment is provided, instead of 100 days of employment under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA)**.

**Recent News :**

In June 2023, The **Medical, Health & Family Welfare Department** of the **Rajasthan Government** launched the **Pregnancy, Child Tracking & Health Services Management System (PCTS) app** which enables online tracking, reporting and monitoring of the health of pregnant women, obstetricians and infants.

**About Rajasthan :**

Governor: Kalraj Mishra

Chief Minister: Ashok Gehlot

Capital: Jaipur

National Park: Keoladeo National Park, Ranthambore National Park

Wildlife Sanctuary: Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary, Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary



9. Recently (July 2023), Which state celebrates Ker Puja, a Hindu religious festival, in July?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Tripura
- (c) Manipur
- (d) Nagaland
- (e) Assam

**Answer: B**

**Ker Puja is a Hindu religious festival and a state holiday in the north-eastern state of Tripura celebrated every year in July.**

During this period, devotees worship Ker, the guardian deity of Vastu Devata.

**About Ker Puja :**

Ker, meaning **austerity**.

In the local tribal language called Kokborok, “Ker” denotes a boundary or a specific area.

The celebration occurs two weeks after the Kharchi Puja to honor **Ker, the guardian deity of Vastu Devata**.

It is an occasion of **deep cultural and religious importance**, with rituals and customs that have been passed down through generations.

Pregnant women, elderly individuals, and those who are unwell are taken to nearby villages to ensure their safety.

**Recent News :**

In June 2023, In a vibrant display of cultural heritage and religious fervor, the Historical ‘**Kharchi Puja**’ (one of the main festivals of Tripura) commenced in Tripura.

**About Tripura :**

Governor: Satyadev Narayan Arya

Chief Minister: Manik Saha

Capital: Agartala

National Park: Bison (Rajbari) National Park, Clouded Leopard National Park

Wildlife Sanctuary: Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary, Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary

Ramsar Site: Rudrasagar Lake

Famous Festival: Garia Puja, Pilak Festival, Kharchi Festival

10. On July 2023, Which IIT will open its first campus in Abu Dhabi following the signing of an MoU between the Ministry of Education and the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK)?

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

**Answer: C**

**A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Ministry of Education and Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK), and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) to establish 1st campus of IIT Delhi in Abu Dhabi.**

The signing took place in the presence of HE Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India.

The MoU was signed by HE Mubarak Hamad Al Mheiri, ADEK Under Secretary, Shri Sunjay Sudhir, Indian Ambassador to the UAE and Professor Rangan Banerjee, Director, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi.

Complementing the ongoing UAE-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), the MoU reflects the shared vision of both nations to prioritize educational excellence, innovation, knowledge exchange, and investments in human capital as the foundations for future prosperity and enablers of long-term economic growth and sustainable development.

The IIT Delhi – Abu Dhabi campus is expected to launch its academic programs in 2024 and a host of bachelor's, master's and PhD programs, and operate research centers related to sustainable energy and climate studies, as well as computing and data sciences.

IIT Delhi – Abu Dhabi is expected to offer a diverse range of programs covering Energy and Sustainability, Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science and Engineering, Mathematics and Computing and other disciplines of engineering, sciences, and humanities.

**About UAE:**

Capital: Abu Dhabi

Currency: Dirham

Prime Minister: Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

**Recent News**

The Indian Institute of Technology Delhi has built a time capsule that will be opened in 2047 and contains messages that individuals have written about their hopes and dreams for India today and in the future.

**July 4<sup>th</sup> week Current Affairs MCQ**

1. Recently (July 2023), to achieve the minimum public holding requirement what percentage has the Bank of India (BoI) begun considering the potential of share sales to investors over the coming year?

- (a) 25%
- (b) 10%
- (c) 15%

(d) 20%

(e) 30%

Answer: A

State-owned Bank of India (BoI) is exploring the possibility of share sales to investors over the next year to meet the minimum public holding requirement of 25%.



Currently, the Government of India (Gol) holds an **81.41% stake** in the Mumbai-based bank.

Public sector banks have time till **August 2024** for meeting the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) requirement. The post-share sale, depending on the quantum, the holding of the Government of India would come down below **75%**.

**Recent News :**

The Bank of India (BoI) inaugurated its **IFSC Banking Unit (IBU)** in the **International Financial Services Centre** at **GIFT SEZ area** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

**About BoI :**

Founded: 7 September 1906

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

MD & CEO: Rajneesh Karnatak

Tagline: Relationship beyond banking

**2. According to the recent (July 2023) meeting in Lok Sabha, which of the following bills are passed?**

- I. National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill, 2023
  - II. National Soil Conservation Bill, 2023
  - III. National Dental Commission Bill, 2023
  - IV. National Oral Commission Bill, 2023
- (a) Only I  
(b) Only I & III  
(c) Only II  
(d) Only II & IV  
(e) Only III

**Answer: B**

The Union government introduced the **National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill, 2023** in the Lok Sabha.

The Bill seeks to provide for regulation and maintenance of standards of education and services by nursing and midwifery professionals.

The Bill was introduced by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya**.

The Minister also introduced **The National Dental Commission Bill, 2023** in the Lok Sabha.

The Bill is intended to regulate the profession of dentistry in the country.

It also aimed at providing quality and affordable dental education.

The two Bills were introduced amid continuous protests by opposition parties over the Manipur violence issue.

**3. Recently (July 2023), where the exhibition 'Semicon India 2023' will be launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in India?**

- (a) Bangalore
- (b) Chennai
- (c) Gandhinagar
- (d) Kolkata
- (e) Hyderabad

**Answer: C**



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate 'Semicon India 2023' in Gandhinagar.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel will inaugurate a special exhibition for the public.

The exhibition will inform about the manufacturing process of semiconductors and the progress made in this field.

The exhibition will remain open till the 30th of July.

The national-level event will showcase the latest technology related to semiconductors.

Leading companies involved in the semiconductor sector will participate in Semicon India 2023.

Students of engineering and other disciplines can learn about semiconductor manufacturing at the exhibition.

They will get a great opportunity to get specialized knowledge useful for a career in this field.

**4. A Central Sector Scheme (CSS) called Nai Manzil was introduced by the Ministry of Minority Affairs in August 2015, with funding of 50% coming from which bank out of a total expenditure of Rs. 650.00 Crore?**

- (a) World Bank
- (b) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- (c) Asian Development Bank
- (d) New Development Bank
- (e) International Monetary Fund

**Answer: A**

The Union Government has implemented various schemes for the welfare and upliftment of every stratum, including minorities, especially the economically weaker and lesser privileged sections of society.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs launched a Central Sector Scheme (CSS) namely Nai Manzil on 8th August 2015 with 50% funding from the World Bank, to benefit the minority youth who do not have a formal school leaving certificate, i.e., those in the category of school-dropouts or educated in community education institutions like Madrasas.

The Scheme has been approved with the cost of Rs.650.00 Crore for five years with 50% funding from the World Bank.

The World Bank has approved the funding of US\$50 million.

This is the first World Bank-supported program for minority welfare in this Ministry.

The scheme provided a combination of formal education (Class VIII or X) and skills and enabled the beneficiaries to seek better employment and livelihoods.

Out of the total target of 1,00,000, the Ministry allocated 99,980 beneficiaries, out of which 98,712 beneficiaries have been trained, involving a total expenditure of Rs. 456.19 crores so far.

The scheme is being implemented by the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) to



provide non-residential integrated education and skill training for 9 to 12 months, of which a minimum of 3 months be devoted to skill training compliant with the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF).

5. To address the current security issues, where has the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)'s Aviation Security Control Centre (ASCC) been established by Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently (July 2023)?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Manipur
- (d) Karnataka
- (e) New Delhi

**Answer: E**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated a centralized Aviation Security Control Centre (ASCC) of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in New Delhi to meet the current security challenges.

It will monitor all threats and social media chatter for the 66 civil airports currently under the CISF's security cover.

The ASCC will access "24×7 real-time data monitoring and trend analysis of passengers and air traffic".

The ASCC is equipped with cutting-edge technologies such as a data centre, research and development lab and a war room to deal with emergencies.

The centre will get real-time feed from each of the security operations control centres (SOCCs) operational at these 66 airports that include the "extremely busy and hyper-sensitive" civil aviation facilities in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Jammu, Srinagar and Amritsar among others.

The facility will provide "realistic" inputs about passenger traffic at a given point in time and help in mobilizing the resources for "optimum utilization".

**Recent News**

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah will inaugurate a day-long mega conclave "Strengthening PACS through FPOs" in New Delhi.

6. Recently (July 2023), How many Solar Parks were sanctioned under a Scheme for "Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Power Projects" in the country by the Union Government?

- (a) 50
- (b) 35
- (c) 30
- (d) 45
- (e) 40

**Answer: A**

The Union Government is implementing a Scheme for "Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Power Projects" in the country.



Under this scheme, the Government has sanctioned 50 Solar Parks with an aggregate capacity of 37,990 MW in 12 States across the country, so far.

Against this sanction, 11 Solar Parks with an aggregate capacity of 8521 MW have been completed and 7 Solar Parks with an aggregate capacity of 3985 MW have been partially completed.

In these parks, solar projects of an aggregate capacity of 10,237 MW have been developed.

The Solar Park Scheme currently has a timeline up to 31st March 2026.

The scheme was rolled out by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy in 2014.

Under this scheme, it was proposed to set up at least 25 Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects targeting over 20,000 MW of solar power installed capacity within 5 years starting from 2014-15.

The capacity of the Scheme was enhanced from 20,000 MW to 40,000 MW.

These parks are proposed to be set up by 2021-22.

The implementing agency is termed a Solar Power Park Developer (SPPD).

**7. Where did the Regional Office of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) get its official opening from Minister of State for Communication Shri Devusinh Chauhan and**

**Director General, Universal Postal Union (DG UPU) recently (July 2023)?**

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Manipur
- (d) New Delhi
- (e) Karnataka

**Answer: D**

**Minister of State for Communication Shri Devusinh Chauhan and Director General, Universal Postal Union (DG UPU) Mr. Masahiko Metoki inaugurated the Regional Office of UPU in New Delhi.**

The Regional Office will undertake UPU's technical assistance activities in South Asia region by entering into a host country agreement with the Department of Posts, India.

The Regional Office of UPU in India will serve as a vital platform for exchanging ideas, experiences and expertise, thereby accelerating the modernization and transformation of the postal sector.

**India also announced a contribution of USD 2,00,000 over four years towards the UPU's Development and Technical Assistance activities through the Asia Pacific Postal Union.**

This financial contribution aims to support capacity building, infrastructure development, and other essential activities to strengthen the postal sector in the region.

**About Universal Postal Union**



It is a United Nations specialized agency and the postal sector's primary forum for international cooperation.

It was established by the Treaty of Bern of 1874.

UPU is the second oldest international organization worldwide.

**8. By what year does the Narendra Modi administration on July 2023, expect to produce \$250 billion worth of textiles and export \$100 billion worth of them?**

- (a) 2028
- (b) 2040
- (c) 2045
- (d) 2030
- (e) 2035

**Answer: D**

Union Minister for Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Commerce and Industry, **Shri Piyush Goyal** discussed the roadmap to achieve the target of \$250 billion in textiles production and \$100 billion in exports by 2030.

The Narendra Modi government is targeting \$250 billion in textiles production and exports of \$100 billion by 2030.

This roadmap for achieving this production and export target was discussed by Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and

Commerce and Industry, at the Chintan Shivar organized by the Ministry of Textiles.

The Chintan Shivar was organized by the Ministry of Textiles to brainstorm on various issues relating to the sector.

India presently ranks behind China as the world's second-largest manufacturer of textiles and garments.

The textile and apparel industry represents over 4% of India's total GDP and more than 14% of the country's export earnings yearly, making it India's largest manufacturing sector.

In FY 2022, India's annual textile exports stood at \$44.4 billion with an increase of 41% compared to the previous year.

**9. Recently (July 2023), The Techno-Commercial Readiness and Market Maturity Matrix (TCRM Matrix) framework designed to revolutionize technology evaluation and foster innovation and entrepreneurship in India, was unveiled by NITI Aayog which is formed in India in which year?**

- (a) 2014
- (b) 2015
- (c) 2016
- (d) 2017
- (e) 2018

**Answer: B**

NITI Aayog has introduced the Techno-Commercial Readiness and Market Maturity Matrix (TCRM Matrix) framework, an



innovative assessment tool aimed at transforming technology evaluation, encouraging innovation, and nurturing entrepreneurship in India.

TCRM Matrix stands for **Techno-Commercial Readiness and Market Maturity Matrix**.

It is an assessment tool designed to revolutionize technology evaluation, foster innovation, and fuel entrepreneurship in India.

The framework presents an integrated assessment model that offers in-depth insights and actionable intelligence to stakeholders at every stage of the technology development cycle.

This framework was developed from the study of innovation from an economic perspective and looks at the increase in performance of technology over time.

The TCRM Matrix framework builds upon the core principles of existing technology assessment frameworks, including the Technology Readiness Level (TRL), Commercialization Readiness Level (CRL), and Market Readiness Level (MRL) scales.

#### **About NITI Aayog**

Formed: 1 January 2015

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairperson: Narendra Modi

10. Recently (July 2023), Which country signed an agreement with India for the cooperative development of the

semiconductor ecosystem, and Japan is now the second Quad partner after that nation?

- (a) China
- (b) United States
- (c) Singapore
- (d) Brazil
- (e) Russia

**Answer: B**

Japan has become the second Quad partner after the United States (US) to sign an agreement with India for the joint development of the semiconductor ecosystem.

**Aim :**

To bolster the resilience of the global supply chain, particularly in the crucial semiconductor industry.

The agreement was signed between Union Minister for Electronics and IT **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** and Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry **Mr Yasutoshi Nishimura** in the national capital.

**Key Highlights :**

India is to sign agreements with institutions like **Georgia Tech University** and has already signed one with Caldwell University to build talent for advanced packaging.

In July 2023, US-based Micron Technologies announced its plans to set up a **\$2.75-billion chip packaging** (assembly, testing, marking, packaging) unit in the country.

The first made-in-India chip under the project will be rolled out by **December 2024**, and



annual production worth **\$1 billion** is expected once the plant is fully operational.

Japan has expressed keen interest to invest **Yen five trillion, or around Rs 2.95 trillion**, in India across various sectors, which includes steel, exploring new technologies and decarbonization pathways.

**About Japan's Semiconductor Expertise :**

With around **100 semiconductor manufacturing plants**, Japan is among the **top 5 countries** to have a semiconductor ecosystem.

The semiconductor industry will become a **USD 1 trillion industry** from USD 650 billion at present.

**About Japan :**

Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida

Capital: Tokyo

Currency: Japanese yen