

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

Topics	Page. No
CWJ Special Current Affairs MCQ's October 1st Week	2
CWJ Special Current Affairs MCQ's October 2nd Week	138
CWJ Special Current Affairs MCQ's October 3rd Week	272
CWJ Special Current Affairs MCQ's October 4th Week	414

Get Everything by



Get Started →

October 1st week Current Affairs MCQ

1. Which initiative offers a doorstep gold loan facility in partnership with SahiBandhu?

- (a) KBL-Gold Loan
- (b) Swarna Express
- (c) KBL-Swarna Bandhu
- (d) GoldFast
- (e) SahiLoan Gold

Answer: C

Karnataka Bankhas partnered with **SahiBandhu**, an aggregator platform for gold loans backed by the **Manipal Group**, to launch 'doorstep gold loan' facility named '**KBL-Swarna Bandhu**'.

The key feature of this initiative is the provision of a doorstep gold loan facility.

This means that customers can avail of gold loan services from the bank **without** having to **visit a physical branch**.

The bank's representatives will visit the customer's location to facilitate the gold loan process.

Initially, the 'KBL-Swarna Bandhu' product will be available to customers in select centres or branches of Karnataka Bank.

It will be gradually expanded to cover all branches of the bank.

2. Which bank recently had its banking license cancelled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) due to inadequate capital and non-compliance with banking regulations?

- (a) Nashik Urban Cooperative Bank

- (b) Nashik Zilla Girna Sahakari Bank Limited
- (c) Nashik Gramin Bank
- (d) Nashik Commercial Cooperative Bank
- (e) Nashik Rural Development Bank

Answer: B

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the **banking license** of **Nashik Zilla Girna Sahakari Bank Limited**, which is located in Nashik, Maharashtra.

It does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.

Additionally, the bank has failed to comply with the requirements of provisions of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

As a result of the license cancellation, the bank is prohibited from conducting the business of 'banking' with immediate effect.

This includes accepting deposits and making repayments to depositors.

Depositors of the bank are eligible for deposit insurance coverage provided by the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)**.

Each depositor is entitled to receive a deposit insurance claim amount of up to **Rs 5 lakh**.

According to the data submitted by the bank, a significant majority of depositors, specifically **99.92%**, are entitled to receive the full amount of their deposits from DICGC.

DICGC has already disbursed **Rs 16.27 crore** of the total insured deposits based on the

willingness received from the concerned depositors of the bank.

3. What is the name of the online life skills learning module launched by Union Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan to promote gender equality and includes 8 cricket-based animation films?

- (a) CRIIO Enrich
- (b) CRIIO Empower
- (c) CRIIO 4 Change
- (d) CRIIO 4 Equality
- (e) CRIIO 4 GOOD

Answer: E

Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** launched '**CRIIO 4 GOOD**', a new online, life skills learning module, to promote gender equality among girls and boys.

It consists of **8 cricket-based animation films** aimed at promoting gender parity, equipping girls with life skills, and encouraging their participation in sports.

The program was launched in collaboration with key organizations, including the **International Cricket Council (ICC)**, **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**, and the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**.

'CRIIO 4 GOOD' is available in **3 languages: English, Hindi, and Gujarati**, making it accessible to a wider audience.

The themes of the **8 modules** are: **leadership, problem-solving, confidence, decision-making, negotiation, empathy, teamwork and goal setting** and are visualized through state-of-the-art animation using cricketing examples.

Smt. Smriti Mandhana shared the first learning modules of 'CRIIO 4 GOOD' with over 1000 school children at the stadium.

The modules are designed to be highly engaging, using the power of cricket to convey essential life skills and promote gender equity among girls and boys in an interactive and enjoyable manner.

4. What is the byproduct produced by the nation's first green hydrogen-powered bus unveiled by the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)?

- (a) Oxygen
- (b) Carbon dioxide
- (c) Hydrogen gas
- (d) Methane
- (e) Water

Answer: E

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), India's leading oil firm, has unveiled the **nation's first green hydrogen-powered bus**.

This bus **emits only water** as a byproduct, making it an environmentally friendly transportation solution.

IOC will produce approximately **75 kg of hydrogen** by using a process called electrolysis, which involves splitting water

using electricity generated from renewable sources.

The green hydrogen will be utilised to power two buses that will operate in the **National Capital Region (NCR)**.

The adoption of hydrogen as a fuel source aligns with India's efforts to transition away from fossil fuels and reduce environmental impact.

The Indian Oil Corporation Research and Development Center, located in Faridabad, is responsible for producing green hydrogen for this pilot run.

The buses will be equipped with four cylinders, each filled with **30 kg of hydrogen**.

These cylinders can be refilled in just 10-12 minutes, allowing for efficient and convenient operation.

Hydrogen as a fuel offers a **3-fold increase** in energy density compared to conventional fuels and does not emit harmful emissions, contributing to cleaner air quality.

The production of 1 kg of hydrogen requires 50 units of renewable electricity and 9 kg of deionized water.

India boasts one of the largest synchronous grids in the world, making it a suitable candidate for the integration of renewable hydrogen production.

Oil and gas Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in India are aiming to produce approximately **1 million tonnes per annum** of

green hydrogen by 2030, marking a significant shift toward sustainable energy sources.

5. Which country is actively seeking to rejoin the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) after being removed from the council in April 2022?

- (a) China
- (b) United States
- (c) Russia
- (d) France
- (e) United Kingdom

Answer: C

Russia is seeking to rejoin the **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** after being removed from the council in **April 2022**.

Russia is actively lobbying member nations to gain support for its position paper at the UN, signalling its desire to return to the UNHRC.

Russia aims to rejoin the UNHRC with the belief that it will help restore its international credibility and potentially address allegations of human rights abuses associated with President Vladimir Putin's regime.

Russia was removed from the UNHRC in April 2022 due to **allegations of human rights violations** by Russian soldiers in Ukraine.

The motion to remove Russia was introduced by the **United States** and garnered **93 votes** in favour.

To remove a member from the UNHRC, a two-thirds vote of the total members is required,

highlighting the significance of the decision to remove Russia.

A report by **Special Rapporteur Mariana Katzarova** detailed mass arbitrary arrests of critics of the war by Russian authorities, contributing to the concerns raised by the international community.

6. How much money in taxes has the Income Tax Department of India demanded from Dream11, covering the years 2017 to 2019?

- (a) \$26.07 million
- (b) \$50 million
- (c) \$75 million
- (d) \$120.85 million
- (e) \$150 million

Answer: E

The **Income Tax Department of India** has issued a demand for approximately **\$150 million** in taxes from **Dream11**, covering the years 2017 to 2019.

Dream11 has taken legal action by filing a case in the High Court in Mumbai.

The company is challenging the notices received from the tax authorities, which seek an explanation as to why it should not be compelled to pay the tax shortfall.

The dispute centres around the taxation of Dream11's revenue.

While Indian tax authorities are demanding a higher **28% tax** on the total gaming revenue received from players, Dream11 argues that it

should be taxed on the fees it charges its users.

The tax authorities have given Dream11 a **30-day window** to provide justifications for not paying the shortfall, which amounts to **2.1 billion rupees** (approximately \$26.07 million) for the fiscal year 2017–18 and 10 billion rupees (around \$120.85 million) for the fiscal year 2018–19.

Tax officials are also extending their examination to Dream11's tax payments for an additional four years, spanning up to **March 2023**.

7. What percentage of stake has the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved for the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to acquire in Federal Bank?

- (a) 1.34%
- (b) 9.7%
- (c) 5.2%
- (d) 7.5%
- (e) 3.7%

Answer: B

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted its approval to the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** for acquiring a **9.7% stake** in **Federal Bank**.

IFC currently holds a **1.34% stake** in the bank. The RBI's approval is contingent on the IFC's adherence to various regulatory requirements, including provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, RBI's Master Direction and

Guidelines on Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies dated January 16, 2023 (as amended), provisions of the **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999**, regulations issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), and any other applicable guidelines, regulations, and statutes.

In 2023, the Kerala-based private sector lender, Federal Bank, raised **₹959 crore** through a preferential issue of shares to a member of the World Bank Group.

Apart from the RBI, the acquisition of this stake may also be subject to compliance with regulations and guidelines from other regulatory bodies.

8. Who assumed the role of the 28th Director General Border Roads (DGBR) following the retirement of Lieutenant General Rajeev Chaudhry?

- (a) Lieutenant General Rajeev Chaudhry
- (b) Lieutenant General Raghu Srinivasan
- (c) Lieutenant General Arun Sharma
- (d) Lieutenant General Manoj Khanna
- (e) Lieutenant General Ravi Chaudhary

Answer: B

Lieutenant General Raghu Srinivasan assumed the role of the **28th Director General Border Roads (DGBR)**.

He took charge following the retirement of Lieutenant General **Rajeev Chaudhry**.

Before becoming the DGBR, Lieutenant General Raghu Srinivasan held the position of **Commandant at the College of Military Engineering in Pune, Maharashtra**.

Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA) in Khadakwasla and the Indian Military Academy (IMA) in Dehradun.

He was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers in **1987**.

He has participated in several significant military operations, including **Operation Vijay, Operation Rakshak, and Operation Parakram**.

He has extensive experience serving in border areas, particularly in Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir.

He has completed various professional military courses, including those at the Defence Services Staff College, Higher Command, and the National Defence College. Throughout his career, he held critical command positions such as the Command of **58 Engineer Regiment & 416 Engineer Brigade**.

His career includes appointments as Deputy Director General, Discipline and Vigilance at HQ of MoD (Army), Commandant of the Bengal Engineer Group & Centre in Roorkee, Chief Engineer Southern Command, and ADG at the Engineer-in-Chief Branch at IHQ of MoD (Army).

He served as an instructor at the **Indian Military Advisory Team** in **Lusaka, Zambia**, and at the Defence Services Staff College.

For his distinguished service, Lieutenant General Raghu Srinivasan has been honoured with the **Vishisht Seva Medal**.

9. Until when has the Union government extended the tenure of Nitin Gupta, the current Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)?

- (a) June 30, 2023
- (b) July 1, 2024
- (c) December 31, 2024
- (d) September 30, 2024
- (e) June 30, 2024

Answer: E

The **Union government** has extended the tenure of **Nitin Gupta**, the current **Chairman** of the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**, until **June 30, 2024**.

This extension of 9 months was granted on the same day when Nitin Gupta was originally scheduled to retire and leave office.

Nitin Gupta is a 1986-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the Income-Tax department.

He was appointed as the Chairman of the CBDT in **June 2022**.

Under Nitin Gupta's leadership, tax collection achieved significant growth. In the fiscal year 2023 (FY23), the CBDT collected net direct taxes totaling **₹16.61 lakh crore**.

This marked a remarkable growth of 17.63 percent when compared to the ₹14.12 lakh crore collected in the preceding fiscal year.

10. Who has been granted an extension as an advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, initially appointed for a 2-year term in October 2021?

- (a) Rajesh S Gokhale
- (b) Amit Khare
- (c) Subash Deshra
- (d) Rajiv Gauba
- (e) Rajiv Kumar

Answer: B

Former bureaucrat **Amit Khare** has been granted an **extension** as an **advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

He was originally appointed as an advisor for a **2-year term** in October 2021.

Amit Khare is a retired 1985-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Jharkhand cadre.

He retired from active service on **September 30, 2021**.

Prior to his retirement, he served as the **higher education secretary**.

Additionally, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the extension of **Rajesh S Gokhale's** tenure as the secretary of the Department of Biotechnology.

This extension is for a period of two years, starting from November 1, 2023.

October 2nd week Current Affairs MCQ

1. On October 2023, What amount can be loaded onto the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) Network Gift Card, which YES Bank is the first bank in India to issue?

- (a) Rs 8,000
- (b) Rs 5,000
- (c) Rs 12,000
- (d) Rs 10,000
- (e) Rs 15,000

Answer: D

YES Bank has become the first bank in India to issue the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) Network Gift Card.

The ONDC Network Gift Card makes use of the RuPay network, which is a domestic payment system in India.

This card is issued in partnership with the ONDC, which signifies collaboration in the digital commerce space.

Customers have the flexibility to load up to Rs 10,000 on the ONDC Network Gift Card.

The ONDC Network Gift Card aims to democratise digital commerce by allowing customers to use the gift card to purchase products from any brand and seller across various segments, such as food, fashion, handicrafts, electronics, home essentials, and health and well-being.

Unlike traditional gift cards that are brand-specific, this card offers versatility, allowing

customers to make purchases from a wide range of sellers and product categories.

The ONDC Network Gift Card is available for both corporate and individual customers.

This enables them to use the card for thoughtful gestures to customers, employees, or loved ones.

2. As per Banking news on October 2023, For the three months between October and December, the government has kept the interest rate on GPF savings at 7.1%. What is G stands for in GPF?

- (a) Group
- (b) Gain
- (c) General
- (d) Gearing
- (e) Graduate

Answer: C

The government has maintained the interest rate on General Provident Fund (GPF) savings at 7.1% for the October-December quarter.

This marks the 15th consecutive quarter in which the government has not altered the payout rates for retirement savings of government employees.

The Finance Ministry officially notified the interest rate, which is also applicable to other provident funds for government employees,

including those in the Railways and the armed forces.

The last change in the GPF interest rate occurred in the first quarter of 2020–21 when it was reduced from **7.9%** to the current rate of **7.1%**

While the GPF rate has remained constant, rates on select small savings schemes have been increased for **five consecutive quarters**.

The returns on the popular Public Provident Fund (PPF) have remained unchanged at 7.1% since the first quarter of 2020-21.

The General Provident Fund (GPF) is a **long-term investment option** that allows government employees to accumulate savings over their employment tenure.

GPF is a **mandatory scheme** for government employees, requiring them to contribute a certain percentage of their salary towards the fund.

3. After the Rooppur nuclear reactor was put into operation, which nation moved up to number 33 on the global nuclear power production list?

- (a) United States
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) India
- (d) Japan
- (e) Russia

Answer: B

Bangladesh received the first batch of uranium from Russia for its Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP).

Bangladesh became the **33rd nuclear power-producing country** in the world after the commissioning of the Rooppur nuclear plant.

The Director General of Rosatom, **Aleksey Likhachev**, handed over the nuclear fuel during a function presided over by Bangladesh's Science and Technology Minister, Architect Yeafesh Osman.

A second shipment of uranium, which is the nuclear fuel for the first unit of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, arrived in Dhaka on a special plane at Dhaka Shahjalal International Airport.

The Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, with a capacity of **2400 MW**, is being built by Rosatom, a Russian contractor.

It consists of two units, each capable of producing 1200 MW of electricity.

The nuclear fuel is expected to produce power for one year before reloading is required.

Russia has committed to taking back the spent fuel from the Rooppur Plant to their country.

4. Who opened the first high-speed railway in Southeast Asia that runs between Jakarta and Bandung as part of China's Belt and Road initiative?

- (a) Joko Widodo
- (b) [Xi Jinping](#)

- (c) Shinzo Abe
- (d) Justin Trudeau
- (e) [Droupadi Murmu](#)

Answer: A

Indonesian President **Joko Widodo** inaugurated **Southeast Asia's first high-speed railway** connecting Jakarta and Bandung, a project under **China's Belt and Road initiative**.

The project, with a budget of **\$7.3 billion**, largely funded by China, aims to reduce travel time between Jakarta and Bandung from 3 hours to just 40 minutes.

The high-speed railway is expected to **reduce carbon emissions** and promote efficient mass transportation.

President Widodo named the railway "**Whoosh**," which stands for '**Waktu Hemat, Operasi Optimal, Sistem Handal**,' emphasizing its modernization and environmental benefits.

The rail deal was signed in October **2015**, with China Development Bank providing 75% of the financing through a loan, and the remaining 25% came from the consortium's funds.

The project is part of a larger plan to build a 750-kilometre (466-mile) high-speed train line across 4 provinces on Indonesia's main island of Java, ultimately connecting to Surabaya, the **2nd-largest city** in the country.

Despite disputes, the project aims to transfer technology to Indonesia, potentially supporting future domestic high-speed train production.

5. Recently (Oct 2023), Which government, except the Forest Department, has established a 35% reservation for women in all government job recruitments?

- (a) Himachal Pradesh
- (b) Nagaland
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Madhya Pradesh
- (e) Punjab

Answer: D

The **Madhya Pradesh (MP)** government has announced a **35% reservation for women** in all government job recruitments, excluding the Forest Department.

The government has amended the **Madhya Pradesh Civil Services (Special Provisions for Appointment of Women) Rules, 1997**, to implement this **35% reservation** for women in MP.

The reservation for women is to be applied **horizontally and compartment-wise**, meaning that 35% of the posts in the state's services (excluding the Forest Department) will be reserved for women at the stage of direct recruitment.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan declared that 35% of vacancies in the police and other government job positions will be filled by women.

Additionally, the government has also reserved **50%** of teaching positions for women.

Previous Initiatives: Madhya Pradesh had previously implemented 50% reservation for women in the elections of **Panchayats** and **urban bodies**.

The state offers concessional fees for property registration if the property is registered in the name of a woman.

Out of a total of 5 crore 60 lakh voters in MP, 2 crores 72 lakhs are women voters.

Horizontal reservation is a concept **aimed** at providing equal opportunities to various categories of beneficiaries, such as women, veterans, the transgender community, and individuals with disabilities, across different segments or compartments of government job positions.

It ensures that these categories have a fair and equitable chance to secure employment, cutting through the vertical categories.

This approach aligns with the constitutional principle of equal opportunity and is **exemplified by Article 15(3) of the Constitution**.

"Compartment-wise" refers to a strategy that divides or categorizes different aspects or components of the program into separate compartments or segments.

Each compartment may have its own set of rules, objectives, or criteria.

In the case of Madhya Pradesh's new policy, "compartment-wise" reservation means that the 35% quota for women will be applied in a manner that considers different departments

or sectors separately, ensuring that women have access to a diverse range of government job opportunities.

He accelerated the transfer of financial assistance to beneficiaries under the "**Ladli Bahna Yojana**," a flagship welfare program for women.

Under this scheme, eligible beneficiaries receive **₹1,250 per month** from the state government.

This decision also closely follows the passage of the '**Women's Reservation Bill**' in Parliament, which received the assent of President Droupadi Murmu.

The '**Nari Shakti Vandan Adhniyam**,' mandating 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies, was unanimously passed, marking it as the first bill enacted in the new Parliament building.

6. Which state recently (Oct 2023) celebrated a major victory when the distinctive and culturally significant yak milk product, "Yak Churpi," received the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) designation?

- (a) Himachal Pradesh
- (b) Nagaland
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh
- (e) Punjab

Answer: D

In a significant milestone for the northeastern state of **Arunachal Pradesh**, the unique and culturally significant yak milk product, '**Yak Churpi**,' has been granted the coveted **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.

Yak Churpi is a dairy product made from the milk of the indigenous Arunachali yak breed.

It is reared by tribal yak pastoralists known as Brokpas who migrate along with their yaks to higher reaches (at an altitude of 10,000 ft and higher) during summers and descent to mid-altitude mountainous regions during winters.

These remarkable yaks are primarily found in the West Kameng and Tawang districts of the state.

Churpi is a **naturally fermented dairy product** and is rich in protein content.

It is an essential dietary staple for tribal communities inhabiting the cold and mountainous regions of Arunachal Pradesh.

It is often used as a vegetable substitute and is also incorporated into vegetable and meat curries and is commonly consumed with rice.

Yaks are reared in high-altitude areas in the Himalayan region but the Arunachali yaks are a unique breed concerning their body shape, size, strain and weight.

They are the **only registered yak breed in India**.

7. Who laid the foundation stone for the largest pumped storage project in India which

was being developed by the Greenko Group recently (Oct 2023)?

- (a) Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- (b) M K Stalin
- (c) Jagan Mohan Reddy
- (d) Manohar Lal Khattar
- (e) Nabam Tuki

Answer: A

Madhya Pradesh (MP) Chief Minister (CM) **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** laid the foundation stone for the **largest pumped storage project in India**, located in the Khemla block, Neemuch district, Madhya Pradesh.

The project is being developed by the **Greenko Group**, which is recognized as India's largest energy storage company.

Initially, the project had a capacity of **1440 megawatts (MW)** with storage for 7.5 hours.

However, it is now being expanded to 1920 MW with storage for 6 hours.

The expansion is aimed at providing storage of nearly **11 Gigawatt hours (GWh) daily**, emphasizing the significance of energy storage.

The overall investment for the project is estimated to be Rs 11,500 crores over the next 3 years, highlighting its substantial financial commitment.

The project is scheduled to be completed within 30 months, which is faster than the allocated period of 36 months, indicating efficiency in its execution.

The project involves the construction of a new off-stream reservoir, known as the upper reservoir while utilizing the existing Gandhi Sagar Reservoir as the lower reservoir.

A cloudburst over Lhonak Lake in north Sikkim led to flash floods in the Teesta River basin.

At least 7 people have died and scores more were injured or missing after flash floods inundated Sikkim.

The Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) reported that over 2,011 people have been rescued from the affected areas.

22 Army soldiers are missing following the flash floods, and there are concerns about more than 3,000 tourists being stranded in various parts of the state.

Lhonak Lake is situated in the northwest of the state at 17000 feet.

The cloud burst brought incessant rains.

Approximately half of the area of South Lhonak Lake in Sikkim was drained out due to the cloudburst, leading to water entering low-lying areas.

The increased water levels in the Teesta River caused flooding in 4 districts, including **Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong, and Namchi.**

The flood situation in Sikkim worsened after water was released from the Chungthang dam.

A cloudburst is defined as **sudden and very heavy rainfall** occurring in a **short period.**

According to the IMD, it involves precipitation of **100mm/h** over a geographical region of approximately **20-30 square kilometres.**

8. The **Guaranteed Pension Scheme** bill, which unites the **Contributory Pension System (CPS)** and **Old Pension System (OPS)** into one hybrid system, was approved by the **Andhra Pradesh Assembly.** How big of a potential impact on the state's fiscal deficit could the implementation of **GPS**, which flips the pension system, have?

- (a) 15%
- (b) 8%
- (c) 10%
- (d) 5%
- (e) 12%

Answer: B

The **Andhra Pradesh Assembly** passed the **Guaranteed Pension Scheme** bill to bring all state government employees under the hybrid model of **Contributory Pension System (CPS)** and **Old Pension System (OPS).**

The **Guaranteed Pension Scheme (GPS)** was introduced due to long-standing demand from the employees for a review of **Central Civil Services (CCS) Pension.**

The introduction of **GPS**, which reverses the pension system, could potentially impact the state fiscal deficit, potentially reaching **8%.**

Guaranteed Fixed Pension: Under **GPS**, employees are entitled to receive a

guaranteed fixed pension equal to 50% of their last drawn salary.

Dearness Relief (DR): The scheme includes dearness relief (DR) adjustments to be announced twice a year to increase the quantum of pension.

Spouse Pension: GPS ensures a monthly pension for the spouse at a rate of 60% of the guaranteed pension amount after the death of the pensioner.

Minimum Monthly Pension: Retired government employees will receive a minimum monthly pension of Rs 10,000 under GPS.

Combination of Schemes: GPS combines elements of both the new Contributory Pension System (CPS) and the old Pension System (OPS).

Exclusions: Employees dismissed or removed from service and those facing compulsory retirement due to disciplinary actions are not eligible for the scheme.

Old Pension Scheme (OPS): OPS provides employees with a post-retirement income for life, equivalent to 50% of their last drawn salary, with the entire pension amount paid by the government.

Integration with NPS: The GPS will ensure pension under the NPS, which was made available for all citizens between 18-60 years of age in 2009.

NPS Investment Returns: Currently, NPS investments offer returns ranging from 9-12% per annum along with tax benefits.

Employee Contributions: Government employees under GPS are required to make monthly contributions based on their basic salary and dearness allowance.

9. In October 2023, Muneesh Kapur was chosen by the Reserve Bank of India to serve as Executive Director (ED). During what time did he act as the Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund's advisor?

- (a) 2020-23
- (b) 2017-20
- (c) 2012-15
- (d) 2010-13
- (e) 2015-18

Answer: C

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed **Muneesh Kapur as Executive Director (ED)**.

As executive director, he will look after the **Department of Economic and Policy Research**.

Over nearly three decades in the Reserve Bank, Shri Kapur has worked in the areas of macroeconomic policy and research and monetary policy in the Department of Economic and Policy Research and Monetary Policy Department in RBI.

He also served as Adviser to the Executive Director of, the International Monetary Fund during 2012-15.

Before being promoted to ED, Shri Kapur was Adviser-in-Charge of, the Monetary Policy Department and Secretary to the Monetary Policy Committee.

10. Recently (Oct 2023), The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) nominated Marico's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Saugata Gupta, as its chairperson. Where is ASCI's Indian headquarters located?

- (a) Ooty
- (b) Cochin
- (c) Kolkata
- (d) Pune
- (e) Mumbai

Answer: E

Saugata Gupta, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Marico, has

been appointed as the chairman of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI). Partha Sinha, president, response, BCCL publisher of the Times of India and the Economic Times was elected vice chairman. Sudhanshu Vats, deputy managing director, of Pidilite Industries, was appointed honorary treasurer.

Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra, India**
ASCI is the leading self-regulatory organization in India and deals with communication guidelines in both offline and online advertising.

It launched the 'ASCI Academy' to boost self-regulation during the creative process.

It enforces a code of self-regulation that mandates legal, decent, honest, truthful advertising while ensuring fairness in competition.

October 3rd week Current Affairs MCQ

1. Which day was the deadline extended by the SEBI for adding nominees to demat accounts and submitting PAN and KYC information for holders of physical securities?

- (a) December 31, 2023
- (b) November 31, 2023
- (c) January 1, 2024
- (d) March 31, 2024
- (e) May 31, 2024

Answer: A

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has extended the **deadline** for adding nominees to demat accounts and for submitting PAN and KYC details for physical security holders until **December 31, 2023**.

Earlier, the deadline for existing eligible trading and demat account holders to provide

a choice of nomination was on or before **September 30, 2023**.

History :

In July 2021, SEBI asked all existing eligible trading and demat account holders to provide a choice of nomination on or before **March 31, 2022**.

Later, this was extended by one more year till March 31, 2023, and again till September 30, 2023.

Key Highlights :

This requirement applies to both new and existing demat account holders.

SEBI's goal is to ensure that the proceeds from these accounts ultimately reach the legal heirs or designated beneficiaries.

As of August 2023, the number of demat accounts in India had exceeded **7 crore**.

Along with the above decisions, SEBI also advised stock exchanges, depositories, RTAs and listed companies to

Take necessary steps to implement the provisions of its circular, including making necessary amendments to the relevant bye-laws / business rules/regulations / operational instructions, as the case may be;

Bring the provisions of its circular to the notice of their respective constituents and also disseminate this circular on their websites.

About SEBI :

Established : **12 April 1988** as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the **SEBI Act, 1992**

Headquarters : **Mumbai, Maharashtra**

Chairman : **Madhabi Puri Buch** (the first woman to lead the SEBI)

SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Gol.

2. The long-term strategy for the Indian maritime blue economy, " ," was announced during the third Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS) 2023, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi via video conference recently (Oct 2023).

- (a) Amrit Kaal Vision 2040
- (b) Amrit Kaal Vision 2047
- (c) Amrit Kaal Vision 2049
- (d) Amrit Kaal Vision 2045
- (e) Amrit Kaal Vision 2042

Answer: B

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the third edition of the Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS) 2023 via video conferencing.

The summit will be held from 17th to 19th October at MMRDA Grounds in Mumbai.

During the programme, the Prime Minister will unveil '**Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**', the long-term blueprint for the Indian maritime blue economy.

The blueprint outlines strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing port facilities, promoting

sustainable practices, and facilitating international collaboration.

In line with this futuristic plan, the Prime Minister will inaugurate, dedicate to the nation and lay the foundation stone of **projects worth more than Rs 23,000 crore**, that are aligned with the 'Amrit Kaal Vision 2047' for the Indian maritime blue economy.

The Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of the Tuna Tekra all-weather deep draft terminal, to be built at a **cost of more than Rs. 4,500 crore at Deendayal Port Authority in Gujarat.**

Key Highlights

The summit is the biggest Maritime Event in the country. It will witness the participation of Ministers from across the globe representing countries from Europe, Africa, South America, and Asia (including central Asia, the Middle East and the BIMSTEC region).

The summit will also be attended by Global CEOs, Business leaders, Investors, Officials, and other stakeholders from across the world. Further, several Indian states will also be represented at the summit by the Ministers and other dignitaries.

The **first Maritime India summit** was held in 2016 in Mumbai.

The **Second Maritime Summit** was held virtually in 2021.

3. Choose the name of the portal recently (Oct 2023) launched by the Union Ministry of

Development of the North-East Region virtually.

- (a) Dashboard for NRE visits
- (b) MDoNER Data Analytics Dashboard
- (c) Poorvottar Sampark Setu
- (d) Both B & C
- (e) Both A & C

Answer: D

The Union Ministry of Development of the North-East Region virtually launched the "MDoNER Data Analytics Dashboard" and "Poorvottar Sampark Setu" portal at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Poorvottar Sampark Setu portal is a powerful tool designed to streamline and enhance the monitoring of Fortnightly visits of Union Ministers to NER.

The dashboard provides valuable insights and graphical information about State-wise/ District-wise visits to the North-Eastern Region by Union Ministers to be used by all the stakeholders in one place.

The portal generates a curated list of Ministers who can be nominated for a visit to NER in the upcoming months.

After the visit, the Minister can submit their tour reports along with their recommendations online.

MDoNER Data Analytics Dashboard has the data of 112 schemes across 55 Departments and Ministries.

It will help in

Data-driven decision-making;

Ease of operations;
Centralized monitoring;
Policy level decision tool; and
Information integration.

It will keep a close watch on NER Aspirational districts, North-East border districts and the most backward districts in NER.

4. As per recent data (Oct 2023), How much of a percentage did India's unemployment rate drop in urban areas between April and June of the current fiscal year?

- (a) 5.1%
- (b) 5.4%
- (c) 6.6%
- (d) 6.2%
- (e) 7.1%

Answer: C

India's unemployment rate declined to 6.6% in urban areas in the first (April-June) quarter of this fiscal.

The quarterly bulletin of PLFS was released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

The unemployment rate for urban areas was at the lowest level since the launch of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) bulletin in 2018.

In the case of youth for urban females in the age group 15-29 years, the unemployment rate increased to 23.4% in April-June from 22.9% in the previous quarter.

In the case of urban males in the 15-29 years age group, the unemployment rate increased to 15.9% in April-June from 15.6% in the previous quarter.

About 14 states/UTs have shown a higher urban unemployment rate than the national average.

These states/UTs include Himachal Pradesh (13.8%), Rajasthan (11.7%), Chhattisgarh (11.2%), Jammu and Kashmir (10.9%) and Kerala (10%).

Delhi (2.7%), Gujarat (2.8%), West Bengal (4.4%), and Bihar (6.1%) are states/UTs which recorded a lower than national average unemployment rate.

The key labour market indicators are **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)**, **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)** and unemployment rates.

All key indicators improved in urban areas in the April-June quarter for persons aged 15 years and above compared to the pre-pandemic period.

LFPR during April-June 2023 was 48.8%. This is higher than the LFPR observed in the quarters covered in the pre-pandemic period.

WPR during April-June 2023 was 45.5%. This is higher than the WPR observed in the quarters covered in the pre-pandemic period.

Considering the importance of the availability of labour force data at more frequent time intervals, the National Statistical Office (NSO)

launched the Periodic Labour Force Survey in April 2017

5. On October 2023, Akshardham Hindu temple is recognized as the second-largest temple worldwide and is the largest Hindu temple in which country?

- (a) Singapore
- (b) Saudi Arabia
- (c) Thailand
- (d) United Kingdom
- (e) United States of America

Answer: E

The Akshardham Hindu temple was inaugurated in New Jersey, United States of America (USA).

Akshardham is recognized as the **second-largest temple worldwide** and is the largest Hindu temple in the western hemisphere.

The temple is located 99 kilometres south of New York City.

Key Highlights :

The Akshardham Temple in Robbinsville City, New Jersey, is spread across a vast area of 185 acres and stands at an impressive height of 191 feet.

The temple's inauguration took place in the presence of Mahant Swami Maharaj, the leader of the **Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan (BAPS) organisation**.

The event was attended by several thousand people.

The temple showcases the epic tales of the Ramayana and Mahabharata, with intricate carvings on its stones.

It also features more than 150 Indian musical instruments and depicts major dance postures on its pillars and walls.

The construction of the temple utilised stones from seven different countries, including Bulgaria, Italy, Greece, Turkey, and India.

6. What was the name of the first 3D-printed building in Kerala, which was inaugurated at the Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra (Kesnik) campus in Thiruvananthapuram in October 2023?

- (a) Adhara-28
- (b) Agasam-28
- (c) Amuse-28
- (d) Amaze-28
- (e) Acharya-28

Answer: D

The first 3D-printed building in Kerala, named **Amaze-28**, was inaugurated at the Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra (Kesnik) campus in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.

About Amaze-28 :

Amaze-28 is a one-room summer house with a 380-square-foot area and was constructed in just **28 days**.

This building serves as a demonstration project and was completed through the collaboration of Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra

and Tvasta, a Chennai-based construction tech startup.

The structure is situated on a concrete platform on a small mound within the Kesnik campus.

Tvasta utilised a patented concrete mix as the construction material, which was deposited layer by layer using a robotic arm equipped with a nozzle.

This technology can significantly expedite the construction process, allowing for the completion of a **1,500-1,600 sq ft** home within two to two-and-a-half months.

About Kerala:

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

National Parks: Periyar National Park, Mathikettan National Park, Eravikulam National Park, Silent Valley National Park, Indira Gandhi National Park

7. Recently (Oct 2023), Goan cashew (kernel) has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from Goa. GI tag is valid for how many years?

- (a) 5 years
- (b) 15 years
- (c) 10 years
- (d) 20 years
- (e) 25 years

Answer: D

Goan cashew (kernel) has been granted the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.

Goan cashew is known for being organic and having a distinctive flavour.

Goa Chief Minister **Shri Pramod Sawant** expressed his enthusiasm for the recognition, considering it a significant opportunity for the state's cashew industry and a milestone towards the "Swayampurna Goa mission."

Local cashew manufacturers and processors hope that the GI tag will assist consumers in distinguishing between genuine Goan cashews and those sourced from outside the state, which are sometimes marketed as 'Goan cashews.'

This GI tag is valid for **ten years** and after that, it can be renewed for the next ten years.

Key Highlights :

The application for the GI tag for Goan cashew, known by the Portuguese name 'caju' or 'kaju' in Konkani, was submitted by the **Goa Cashew Manufacturers' Association (GCMA)**, with the **Department of Science, Technology, and Waste Management, Government of Goa**, facilitating the process.

The term "cashew" itself is derived from the **Portuguese word 'caju' or 'kaju'** in Konkani.

About Goa :

Governor : P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

Chief Minister : Pramod Sawant

Capital : Panaji

8. According to the recent news (Oct 2023), The extension of Amit Agrawal's central deputation tenure as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of which organisation for one year was authorised by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet?

- (a) Security and Exchange Board of India
- (b) National Election Commission
- (c) Chief Justice of India
- (d) Unique Identification Authority of India
- (e) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

Answer: D

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the extension of Amit Agrawal's central deputation tenure as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) for a period of one year.

Amit Agrawal's extended tenure will now continue beyond November 2, 2023, for one year, until **November 2, 2024**, or until further orders, whichever occurs earlier.

Amit Agrawal assumed the role of CEO of UIDAI in June 2023, following the retirement of **Saurabh Garg**.

Other Appointments :

The ACC also approved the appointment of **Reeta Vasishta**, secretary in the legislative department of the law ministry, as in charge of the central agency section of the law ministry, by temporarily upgrading the post to the

secretary to the Indian government, from October 2, 2023, till the date of her superannuation, i.e. July 31, 2025, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

About Amit Agrawal :

Amit Agrawal is a 1993 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Chhattisgarh cadre.

He has held several significant positions in the government, including serving as the **secretary** in the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.

He also serves as the Chairman of the **National Digital Communications Policy Committee**.

Recent News :

In Aug 2023, **Neelkanth Mishra** was reportedly appointed by the Union government as the **part-time chairperson** of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), the nodal body in charge of issuing Aadhaar numbers.

About UIDAI :

The UIDAI is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, **2016** (Aadhaar Act 2016) on July 12, 2016, by the Government of India, under the MeitY.

Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi

UIDAI was created to issue Unique Identification numbers (UID), named "Aadhaar", to all residents of India.

The authority consists of a Chairperson, two part-time Members and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who is also the Member-Secretary of the Authority.

9. In Which state the "Tri Shakti Prahar" military exercise, intended to test and validate modern cutting-edge weapon systems and technology, is being actively prepared for by the Indian Army?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Jammu and Kashmir
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Tamil Nadu
- (e) Rajasthan

Answer: E

The **Indian Army** is actively preparing for the **"Tri Shakti Prahar" combat exercise**, which aims to test and validate current cutting-edge weapon systems and technologies.

It provides a platform to assess **long-range firepower, battle readiness, and force preservation strategies**.

This exercise will draw valuable lessons from the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, applying these insights to enhance the Indian Army's capabilities.

The exercise is scheduled to take place in the **Rajasthan** Sector and is organized by the 21 Corps, one of the four major strike formations within the Indian Army, which comprises around 12 lakh (1.2 million) personnel.

The final phase of the Tri Shakti Prahar Exercise, scheduled for the first half of November, will involve more than 30,000 troops.

This includes the use of **T-90 Bhisma**, a Main Battle Tank.

During the exercise, several newly inducted weapon systems and technologies will undergo testing to evaluate their effectiveness and suitability for military operations.

About the Indian Army :

Chief of Defence Staff : General Anil Chauhan
Chief of the Army Staff : General Manoj Pande

10. According to the Gaganyaan mission, which of the following statements is true?

- A. Gaganyaan, the country's first manned space mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation
 - B. It aims to launch a three-member crew into a low Earth orbit at an altitude of 400 km for 3 days
 - C. The Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3/GSLV Mk3), a reliable heavy-lift launcher developed by ISRO, has been selected as the launch vehicle for the Gaganyaan mission.
- (a) Only A
 - (b) Only B
 - (c) Only C
 - (d) All are true
 - (e) Only A & C

Answer: D

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will start unmanned test flights for Gaganyaan, the country's first manned space mission.

The Gaganyaan project's primary objective is to showcase India's human spaceflight capability.

It aims to launch a **three-member crew** into a low Earth orbit at an altitude of 400 km for 3 days and ensure their safe return with a planned splashdown in the Indian Ocean.

The **Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3/GSLV Mk3)**, a reliable heavy-lift launcher developed by ISRO, has been selected as the launch vehicle for the Gaganyaan mission.

This rocket comprises solid stages, liquid stages, and a cryogenic stage.

Preparations for the flight test vehicle abort mission-1, Test Vehicle Development flight (TV-D1), the first development flight that tests the performance of the crew escape system, is underway.

The Gaganyaan crew module, which is at various stages of development, will serve as the living quarters for the astronauts in pressurized, earth-like atmospheric conditions. In contrast, TV-D1 is an unpressurized version that has completed integration and testing.

About ISRO :

Established: 15 August 1969

Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India

Chairman: S. Somanath

October 4th week Current Affairs MCQ

1. How much was L&T Finance Limited fined by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for breaking certain rules about non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) recently (Oct 2023)?

- (a) 2.5 crore
- (b) 0.5 crore
- (c) 1.5 crore
- (d) 1 crore
- (e) 3.5 crore

Answer: A

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹2.5 crore on L&T Finance Limited for non-compliance with specific norms related to non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

The penalty is a result of L&T Finance's failure to comply with certain provisions of the Non-Banking Financial Company – Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking Company and Deposit taking Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016.

The RBI imposed the penalty under the relevant sections of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.

The RBI's decision to impose the penalty followed a statutory inspection of L&T Finance Limited, which covered the company's financial position as of **March 31, 2021, and March 31, 2022**.

Specific Non-Compliance Issues :

The inspection revealed that L&T Finance :
Did not disclose the gradation of risk and rationale for charging different interest rates to different categories of borrowers in the loan application form/sanction letter.

Failed to notify borrowers of changes in the penal interest rate, especially when charging a penal interest rate higher than what was communicated at the time of sanction.

The penalty is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to be pronounced upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the company with its customers.

About RBI :

Established : 1 April 1935

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Deputy Governors : Swaminathan Janakiraman, Michael Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao, T Rabi Sankar

About L&T Finance :

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

L&T Finance is one of the leading Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) offering a range of loans across Rural.

2. Which Fund Administration Solutions announced that LIC Pension Fund Limited (LICPFL) and had signed a multi-year, high-value Investment Management Solution (IMS) contract?

- (a) MFin Technologies Limited
- (b) KFin Technologies Limited
- (c) SFin Technologies Limited
- (d) NFin Technologies Limited
- (e) OFin Technologies Limited

Answer: B

KFin Technologies Limited (KFintech), a global leader in Fund Administration solutions, announced the signing of a **high-value multi-year Investment Management Solution (IMS) contract** with **LIC Pension Fund Limited (LICPFL)**.

LICPFL, operating under the aegis of the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** as one of India's leading pension fund managers, has chosen KFintech to design, create, and administer the investment management solution to provide enhanced customer service, security, compliance, and to be future-ready for the scale LICPFL anticipates achieving.

LIC Pension Fund sponsored by LIC, has been appointed by Pension Fund Regulatory

and Development Authority (PFRDA) under NPS to manage the pension contributions of Govt employees.

NPS is a **pension system** where an investor invests throughout her/his working career and reaps the benefit after retirement by withdrawing a part of the accumulated wealth and the rest invested to purchase an annuity for the investor's old age security.

MD & CEO of KFinTech : Sreekanth Nadella

MD & CEO of LIC Pension Fund : Raghupal Singh

3. Recently (Oct 2023), Which bank launched the "Mookkannoor Mission," a program in line with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan?

- (a) ICICI Bank
- (b) Axis Bank
- (c) Federal Bank
- (d) HDFC Bank
- (e) TMB Bank

Answer: C

Federal Bank has introduced the '**Mookkannoor Mission**' as an initiative aligned with the **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**.

The mission was inaugurated on the 106th birth anniversary of Federal Bank's Founder, KP Hormis, highlighting the significance of this initiative.

Key Highlights :

Mookannoor, a village situated in the **Ernakulam district**, is the focal point of this mission.

Notably, Mookannoor is the birthplace of the Founder of Federal Bank.

Federal Bank has adopted a comprehensive strategy for Mookannoor's development, encompassing digitization of the village, waste management, tree planting, community development, renewable energy projects, and other areas.

Shyam Srinivasan, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Federal Bank, formally inaugurated the '**Mookkannoor Mission**' at Sacred Heart English Medium School in Mookkannoor.

The project is structured to be executed in **three phases**, covering 3 years, ensuring its effectiveness and sustainability.

About Federal Bank :

Established : April 23, 1931

Headquarters : Aluva, Kochi, Kerala, India

MD & CEO : Shyam Srinivasan

Tagline : Your Perfect Banking Partner

4. As per the recent news (Oct 2023), Which state will see the opening of the Aadi Mahotsav, the National Tribal Festival, by Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Punjab
- (e) Karnataka

Answer: C

Union Tribal Affairs Minister **Arjun Munda** will inaugurate the **Aadi Mahotsav** – the National Tribal Festival in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.

The mega event is being organized by the **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)**, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, from 25th October to 3rd November at **Ahmedabad Hat, Vastrapur**.

The Aadi Mahotsav serves as a unique symbiotic bridge to embark on a journey through the tapestry of India's indigenous heritage.

In this event, over 100 stalls will showcase the kaleidoscope of India's tribal culture, craftsmanship, culinary artistry, and economic endeavours.

This Aadi Mahotsav will also showcase handicrafts, handloom, pottery, jewelry, and millet grown by Tribals.

There will be 74 stalls featuring organic and craft items, adding an extra layer of diversity to the already extensive array of tribal offerings.

Four stalls representing various cuisines will be established to promote tribal food, wherein, the Dangi dish will stand as a prominent culinary attraction.

15 stalls will be dedicated to Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) products crafted from mushrooms, mahua flowers, nagali millets, mango pickles, bamboo articles and wild honey.

5. On October 2023, In which state was the Robotic Process Automation (RPA) Lab opened during the 26th All India Director's Meet of NIELIT?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Himachal Pradesh
- (c) Arunachal Pradesh
- (d) Andhra Pradesh
- (e) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: E

The **Robotic Process Automation (RPA) Lab** in **NIELIT Gorakhpur** was inaugurated during the **26th All India Director's Meet of NIELIT**.

It is the first-of-its-kind lab in **Uttar Pradesh** under the **Future Skill PRIME Project** funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to bridge the gap between Industry and Academia.

RPA would make India a global technology powerhouse and improve services to citizens by automating repetitive, manual processes like data entry and verification.

This can reduce clerical errors and response time.

The National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) would bridge the gap between formal and non-formal digital skills of manpower for local industries and global companies.

NIELIT is an Autonomous Scientific Society under the administrative control of MeitY for Human Resource Development and related

activities in the area of Information, Electronics & Communications Technology (IECT).

The skilling for the manufacturing sector, especially in Industry 4.0 would create local entrepreneurs through digital skilling.

6. As per the recent (Oct 2023) news, the 37th edition of the National Games will begin in which state?

- (a) Goa
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) West Bengal
- (e) Gujarat

Answer: A

The 37th edition of the National Games will begin in Goa.

It will be formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The National Games are India's homespun Olympic-style multi-sport event where athletes from the various states and Union Territories compete for medals.

In the initial stage, national games of Badminton, Artistic Gymnastics, and Netball are carried out.

Results from these games were also exciting.

The gold medal in Mixed Doubles Badminton was won by Gouse Shaik and Pooja D of Andhra Pradesh, while the Gold Medal in Men's Singles was bagged by Tharun Manepalli of Telangana.

The gold medal in Men's doubles was won by Karnataka's players.

Games of Artistic Gymnastics and Netball are ongoing in the National Games.

7. Recently (Oct 2023), India has shown its commitment to helping those in need by sending humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people. Which Indian Air Force aircraft carried the aid?

- (a) (IAF) C-10
- (b) (IAF) C-12
- (c) (IAF) C-15
- (d) (IAF) C-17
- (e) (IAF) C-19

Answer: D

India has sent humanitarian aid to the people of Palestine, demonstrating its commitment to providing support during times of need.

The aid was transported via an Indian Air Force (IAF) C-17 flight, which is a part of India's military aircraft fleet.

This flight carried the aid to its destination.

The IAF C-17 flight carried a substantial quantity of aid, including approximately 6.5 tonnes of medical aid and 32 tonnes of disaster relief material for the people of Palestine departing for El-Arish airport in Egypt.

Humanitarian aid includes a wide range of essential items, such as

Life-saving Medicines: To address medical emergencies and health concerns.

Surgical Items: For medical procedures and surgeries.

Tents: Providing temporary shelter for those in need.

Sleeping Bags: For comfort and protection during difficult conditions.

Tarpaulins: Useful for creating makeshift shelters.

Sanitary Utilities: Ensuring sanitation and hygiene.

Water Purification Tablets: To make water safe for consumption.

8. The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is expected to become the second nation in 2023 to eradicate lymphatic filariasis, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). Then Which country was the first to eliminate lymphatic filariasis?

- (a) Cuba
- (b) Austria
- (c) Japan
- (d) Bangladesh
- (e) Canada

Answer: D

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is set to become the 2nd country in 2023, following Bangladesh, to eliminate lymphatic filariasis.

Lao PDR achieved the elimination of trachoma as a public health hazard in 2017.

This marks the country's 2nd neglected tropical disease (NTD) to be eliminated within 6 years.

About Lymphatic Filariasis :

Lymphatic filariasis is commonly known as elephantiasis and is categorized as a neglected tropical disease.

The WHO has established a roadmap for 2021-2030 that sets global targets and milestones for the prevention, control, elimination, or eradication of 20 diseases, including lymphatic filariasis.

Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GPELF): WHO established this to stop the transmission of infection by mass drug administration (MDA) of anthelmintics and to alleviate the suffering of people affected by the disease through morbidity management and disability prevention (MMDP).

According to the WHO progress report, a total of 19 countries have successfully eliminated lymphatic filariasis.

Among them, 11 countries belong to the WHO Western Pacific Region (WPR), and Lao PDR is the 11th country in this region to eliminate LF.

About Lao People's Democratic Republic :

President : Thongloun Sisoulith

Prime Minister : Sonexay Siphandone

Capital : Vientiane

Currency : Kip

9. News on October 2023, After being promoted to the rank of Air Marshal, who became the first woman to hold the prestigious office of Director General of Hospital Services (Armed Forces)?

- (a) Air Marshal Sadhna S. Nair
- (b) Air Marshal Sathya S. Nair
- (c) Air Marshal Sahana S. Nair
- (d) Air Marshal Sandhiya S. Nair
- (e) Air Marshal Samudra S. Nair

Answer: A

Air Marshal Sadhna S. Nair assumed the role of **Director General of Hospital Services (Armed Forces)**, making her the first woman to hold this prestigious position upon her promotion to the rank of Air Marshal.

Before she was appointed Director General of Hospital Services, she held the position of **Principal Medical Officer (PMO)** at HQ Training Command (Air Force) in Bangalore, Karnataka.

About Air Marshal Sadhna S Nair :

Air Marshal Sadhna S. Nair was commissioned into the IAF in December 1985. She is the wife of Air Marshal KP Nair (Retd), and the Nairs are known as the first and only Air Marshal couple in the IAF.

She has received training abroad in Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Warfare, as well as in Military Medical Ethics.

She was the **first and only woman** to serve as the **Principal Medical Officer of Western Air Command and Training Command**.

Awards & Honors :

She is a recipient of the **Vishisht Seva Medal** presented by the Hon'ble President of India, and she has also received **Commendations** from the Chief of the **Air Staff (CAS)** and **Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C)**.

About Ministry of Defence :

Defence Minister : Rajnath Singh

Minister of State : Ministry of Defence

Defence Secretary : Giridhar Aramane

10. Who was named the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation's (IRCTC) Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) recently (Oct 2023)?

- (a) Mukesh Kumar Jain
- (b) Sanjay Kumar Jain
- (c) Vijay Kumar Jain
- (d) Sanjeev Kumar Jain
- (e) Sarath Kumar Jain

Answer: B

Sanjay Kumar Jain has been appointed as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)**.

His appointment has been approved after the recommendation of **Search-Cum-Selection Committee (SCSC)**.

The position of **CMD** at **IRCTC** has been vacant since January 2021, following the retirement of **Mahendra Pratap Maal**.

About Sanjay Kumar Jain :

Sanjay Kumar Jain is an IRTS (Indian Railway Traffic Service) officer from the 1990 batch.

Before this appointment, Mr. Jain had served as the **Joint Secretary** in the **Department of Public Enterprises**, Government of India (GoI).

He was also holding the position of **Principal Chief Commercial Manager** in Northern Railway at the time of his appointment.

About IRCTC :

Established : 27 September 1999

Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India

The IRCTC is an Indian public sector undertaking that provides ticketing, catering, and tourism services for the Indian Railways.