



Q. According to the data provided by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the growth rate of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the quarter three (Q3) of Financial Year 2023-24 is

a 7.6%

b 7.9 %

c 8.2 %

d 8.4 %

Answer **d**

EXPLANATION

- The Gross Value Added (GVA) in the economy is projected to rise 6.9 % this year, with the NSO down-grading last year's GVA growth to 6.7% from 7.0%. The GDP growth for the first two quarters of this year was raised to 8.2% and 8.1%, further rising to 8.4% for the October to December 2023 quarter (Q3).**
- Economists have expressed surprise that GVA growth in Q3 slid to just 6.5% from revised estimates of 8.2% and 7.7% in Q1 and Q2, respectively. Concerns also persisted about private consumption, which grew 3.5% in Q3 from 2.4% in Q2.**



Q. Consider the following statements with respect to PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana-

- 1** The scheme envisages providing 300 units of “free electricity” every month to one crore households.
- 2** The scheme aims to promote rooftop solar (RTS) installation in India.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| a 1 only | b 2 only |
| c Both 1 and 2 | d Neither 1 nor 2 |

Answer **d**

EXPLANATION

- The Union Cabinet on 29th February 2024, approved a Rs 75,021-crore package for the “PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana” (PM Free Electricity scheme) to promote rooftop solar (RTS) installations in India.
- The scheme claims to be able to provide 300 units of “free electricity” every month to one crore households. However, details of the scheme officially unveiled on Thursday are unclear on how exactly this would result in free electricity to one crore householders.
- The Centre will fund 60% of the cost for installing for 2 kW (kilowatt) systems and 40% of the cost for systems from 2-3 kW capacity. Systems of higher wattage will not be eligible for Central subsidy.



Q. According to the report made public by the Environment Ministry, India's leopard number rose to-

a 12852

b 12874

c 13852

d 13874

Answer d

EXPLANATION

- While the highest number of leopards were reported in Madhya Pradesh (3,907), only three other States reported over a 1,000 animals each - Maharashtra (1,985), Karnataka (1,879) and Tamil Nadu (1,070). While Uttarakhand reported a 22% decline in the big cat numbers - reportedly due to poaching and man-animal conflict, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and West Bengal saw a collective 150% rise to 349 animals.
- The survey covered 20 States of India, and focussed on about 70% of the animals' expected habitat, which are India's tiger reserves and protected forest areas. Unlike tigers, which are largely confined to forest reserves, leopards are far more adaptable and tend to be found in significant numbers, in villages and, sometimes, even in cities. They are also known to prey on cattle and thus be involved in conflict, resulting in higher mortality.
- Leopard numbers have declined in Ramnagar forest division (Uttarakhand), where tiger numbers have shown a very steep growth in the past four years. About 65% of the leopard population is present outside protected areas in the Shivalik landscape. In Uttar Pradesh, both leopard and tiger numbers have increased, the report noted.



Q. Recently, Agalega Island was in the news, is situated in -

- a** Mauritius
- b** Seychelles
- c** Madagascar
- d** Maldives

Answer **a**

EXPLANATION

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Mauritius Mr Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurated the new Airstrip and St. James Jetty along with six community development projects at the Agalega Island in Mauritius via video conferencing today.**
- The inauguration of these projects is a testimony to the robust and decades-old development partnership between India and Mauritius and will fulfill the demand for better connectivity between mainland Mauritius and Agalega, strengthen maritime security and foster socio-economic development.**
- The inauguration of these projects is significant as it follows the recent launch of UPI and RuPay Card services in Mauritius by the two leaders on 12 February 2024.**



Q. The Headquarter of the proposed International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) will be in-

a Bangladesh

b Nepal

c Bhutan

d India

Answer a

EXPLANATION

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with headquarters in India with a one-time budgetary support of Rs.150 crore for a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28.**
- IBCA aims for mutual cooperation among countries for mutual benefit in furthering the conservation agenda. IBCA would have a multipronged approach in broad basing and establishing linkages manifold in several areas and help in knowledge sharing, capacity building, networking, advocacy, finance and resources support, research and technical support, education and awareness.**
- The International Big Cat Alliance recognizes the importance of integrating biodiversity policies with sustainable development goals (SDGs) to achieve holistic and inclusive conservation outcomes.**