

Best 300+ MCQs

February 2025

Current Affairs PDF



1. Which travel firm has partnered with the central government for accommodation, catering, and transport services for the National Games of India 2025?

भारत के राष्ट्रीय खेल 2025 के लिए आवास, खानपान और परिवहन सेवाओं के लिए किस ट्रैवल फर्म ने केंद्र सरकार के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) MakeMyTrip
- (b) Yatra
- (c) Thomas Cook (India)
- (d) Cleartrip
- (e) Goibibo

Ans. c

Sol. Thomas Cook India appointed as exclusive partner for National Games 2025 Omnichannel travel firm Thomas Cook (India) has partnered with the central government for providing accommodation, catering and transport services for the National Games of India 2025 being held in Uttarakhand.

National Games of India 2025 is a multi-sport extravaganza bringing together top athletes from across the country to participate in 32 sporting disciplines and 4 demonstration events during January 28-February 14, 2025.

Thomas Cook India has been appointed the exclusive partner to deliver end-to-end management across 3 key portfolios of accommodation, catering and transport for 20,000 contingents, including over 10,000 athletes, 5,000 support staff, and 3,000 dignitaries.

2. Who has been re-appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Maruti Suzuki India?

मारुति सुजुकी इंडिया के प्रबंध निदेशक (एमडी) और मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (सीईओ) के रूप में किसे फिर से नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Kenichi Ayukawa
- (b) Osamu Suzuki
- (c) Hisashi Takeuchi
- (d) Toshihiro Suzuki
- (e) R.C. Bhargava

Ans. c

Sol. Hisashi Takeuchi re-appointed as Maruti Suzuki's MD and CEO

Maruti Suzuki Indi has re-appointed of Hisashi Takeuchi as the company's Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Takeuchi's term has been extended for a period of three years from April 1, 2025 till March 31, 2028.

Takeuchi took charge as Maruti Suzuki's MD and CEO on April 1, 2022, after Kenichi Ayukawa completed his term on March 31, 2022.

Maruti Suzuki's Board has also recommended the re-appointment of Maheswar Sahu as an Independent Director for a further period of five years, from May 14, 2025, to May 13, 2030.

3. What is the maximum percentage increase in health insurance premiums per year for policyholders aged 60 and above without prior approval?

60 वर्ष या उससे अधिक आयु के पॉलिसीधारकों के लिए बिना पूर्व स्वीकृति के प्रति वर्ष स्वास्थ्य बीमा प्रीमियम में अधिकतम प्रतिशत वृद्धि कितनी है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. IRDAI caps senior citizen health premium hike at 10% annually

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has stepped in to curb steep health insurance premium hikes.

Insurers can no longer raise premiums for policyholders aged 60 and above by more than 10% per year without prior approval, which will ensure accessibility of health insurance to those who are the most vulnerable to medical inflation.

4. The Centre has approved the introduction of the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs (MCGS—MSME), which provides 60 percent guarantee coverage by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs). What is the maximum loan amount that can be guaranteed under the scheme?

केंद्र ने एमएसएमई के लिए म्यूचुअल क्रेडिट गारंटी योजना (एमसीजीएस-एमएसएमई) की शुरूआत को मंजूरी दे दी है, जो सदस्य ऋण संस्थानों (एमएलआई) को नेशनल क्रेडिट गारंटी ट्रस्टी कंपनी लिमिटेड (एनसीजीटीसी) द्वारा 60 प्रतिशत गारंटी कवरेज प्रदान करती है। इस योजना के तहत अधिकतम कितनी ऋण राशि की गारंटी दी जा सकती है?

- (a) Rs. 50 crore
- (b) Rs. 75 crore
- (c) Rs. 100 crore
- (d) Rs. 150 crore
- (e) Rs. 200 crore

Ans. c

Sol. Govt unveils new Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme to support MSME growth

The Centre has approved the introduction of the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs (MCGS—MSME), which provides 60 percent guarantee coverage by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) for credit facilities up to Rs. 100 crore sanctioned to eligible MSMEs. This fulfils the budget announcement of 2024-25.

MCGS-MSME is expected to facilitate the availability of credit for the purchase of Plant and Machinery/Equipment by MSMEs, giving a major boost to manufacturing and thereby to Make in India.

MLIs include All Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and All India Financial institutions (AIFIs) that register with NCGTC under the scheme.

Borrower should be an MSME with a valid Udyam Registration Number. The loan amount guaranteed shall not exceed Rs. 100 crore. Project costs could be higher. The minimum cost of equipment /machinery is 75 percent of the project cost. Loans up Rs. 50 crore under the scheme shall have a repayment period of up to 8 years with a moratorium period of up to 2 years, on principal instalments.

For loans above Rs. 50 crore, a higher repayment schedule and moratorium period on principal instalments can be considered. An upfront (initial) contribution of 5 percent of the loan amount shall be deposited at the time of application for guarantee coverage; the annual guarantee fee on the loan under the scheme shall be Nil during the year of sanction. During the next 3 years, it shall be 1.5 percent per annum of loan outstanding as of March 31 of the previous year. Thereafter, the Annual Guarantee Fee shall be 1 percent p.a. of the loan outstanding as on March 31 of the previous year.

The scheme will be applicable to all loans sanctioned under MCGS-MSME during the period of 4 years from the date of issue of operational guidelines of the scheme or till a cumulative guarantee of Rs. 7 lakh crore is issued, whichever is earlier.

5. Which company has signed a contract agreement with Coal India Limited to develop a 300 MW solar PV plant?

किस कंपनी ने 300 मेगावाट सौर पीवी संयंत्र विकसित करने के लिए कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड के साथ अनुबंध समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Adani Green Energy
- (b) KPI Green Energy Limited

- (c) Tata Power
- (d) Reliance Energy
- (e) Suzlon Energy

Ans. b

Sol. KPI Green Energy signs ₹1,311 crore solar project deal with Coal India
KPI Green Energy Limited has signed a agreement with Coal India Limited to develop a 300 MW AC grid-connected solar PV plant in Gujarat's Khavda region. The project, valued at ₹1,311.40 crore, will be installed at GIPCL's Solar Park and includes operation and maintenance services for five years.

The project demonstrates the ongoing transition in India's energy sector, with traditional fossil fuel companies like Coal India increasingly investing in renewable energy infrastructure.

6. Which company is developing India's first 'Drone City' in Andhra Pradesh?

कौन सी कंपनी आंध्र प्रदेश में भारत का पहला 'ड्रोन सिटी' विकसित कर रही है?

- (a) Adani Aerospace
- (b) Garuda Aerospace
- (c) Reliance Aerospace
- (d) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- (e) Bharat Drone Industries

Ans. b

Sol. Garuda Aerospace commits ₹100 crore for developing India's first drone city in Andhra Pradesh

Chennai-based Garuda Aerospace, a drone manufacturer, has announced an investment of ₹100 crore for the development of Andhra Pradesh as India's first 'Drone City'.

The project aims to foster drone innovation, research, and development, transforming the nation into a global hub for drone technology.

Founder & CEO of Garuda Aerospace - Agnishwar Jayaprakash

7. Who released the book "Indian Renaissance: The Modi Decade" in New Delhi?

नई दिल्ली में "भारतीय पुनर्जागरण: मोदी दशक" पुस्तक का विमोचन किसने किया?

- (a) PM Modi
- (b) Amit Shah
- (c) President Droupadi Murmu
- (d) Rahul Gandhi
- (e) Nirmala Sitharaman

Ans. b

Sol. Amit Shah releases "Indian Renaissance: The Modi Decade" book

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah has released "Indian Renaissance: The Modi Decade" book in New Delhi.

Amit Shah said that in the past 10 years of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's tenure have marked the end of an era and the beginning of a new one. He emphasized that whenever India's history is rewritten, even Modi Ji's staunchest critics will acknowledge these 10 years in golden letters.

Recent Books

- **Mastering Disruption:** A practical Guide to understanding – Ganesh Krishnan
- **View Finder A memoir** – Amol Palekar
- **How India Scaled MT G20** – Amitabh Kant
- **Middle Class India: Driving Change in the 21st Century** - Journalist Manisha Pande
- **Will India Get Rich Before It Turns 100** – Prosenjit Datta
- **Indian The Meteroic Rise of Indian in America** – Meenakshi Ahamed

8. **Latika Katt passed away recently at the age of 76. Latika Katt is remembered for her contributions to which art form?**

लतिका कट्ट का हाल ही में 76 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। लतिका कट्ट को किस कला रूप में उनके योगदान के लिए याद किया जाता है?

- (a) Literature
- (b) Sculpture
- (c) Dance
- (d) Music
- (e) Film-making

Ans. b

Sol. Renowned Sculptor Latika Katt Passes Away

Latika Katt, one of India's most prolific and celebrated sculptors, passed away at the age of 76.

Over her five-decade-long career, she worked with a variety of mediums, including terracotta, papier-mâché, stone, and bronze, earning numerous national and international awards for her contributions to art.

9. **Who has inaugurated the 10th Sci-FI Science Film Festival of India?**

भारत के 10वें विज्ञान-फाई विज्ञान फिल्म महोत्सव का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Amit Shah
- (c) Manohar Parrikar
- (d) Rajnath Singh

(e) Pramod Sawant

Ans. e

Sol. Pramod Sawant inaugurates the Sci-FI Science Film Festival of India

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has inaugurated the 10th Sci-FI Science Film Festival of India in Panaji.

The annual Sci-FI Science Film Festival of India is organised by the Goa government every year to foster curiosity, scientific temperament, and enthusiasm amongst the students.

The festival will inspire the youth of the state to pursue a career in science and play a crucial role in making India a developed country by 2047.

The theme of the 10th Sci-FI Science Film Festival of India is the Green Revolution. It is a tribute to the father of the Indian Green Revolution Dr M S Swaminathan.

About Goa

- **Formation** – 30 May 1987
- **Capital** – Panaji
- **Chief Minister** – Pramod Sawant
- **Governor** – P.S. Sreedharan Pillai

10. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the Group of Ministers set up by the Government of India for electricity distribution utilities?

भारत सरकार द्वारा बिजली वितरण उपयोगिताओं के लिए गठित मंत्रिसमूह के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Raj Kumar Singh
- (b) Piyush Goyal
- (c) Shripad Yesso Naik
- (d) Nitin Gadkari
- (e) Hardeep Singh Puri

Ans. c

Sol. Govt forms GoM on financial viability of Discoms

The Government of India has set up a Group of Ministers to address issues related to the viability of the electricity distribution utilities in the country. Union Minister of State for Power and New and Renewable Energy, Shripad Yesso Naik, is the Chairman of the Group of Ministers.

The Group of Ministers will analyze and make recommendations to the government on the following issues -

- Analyze the debt of the Electricity distribution boards in key states of India.

- Identify parameters that need to be monitored to ensure borrowings by electricity distribution utilities are productive.
- Identify States that are in urgent need of liquidity support (cash) and suggest a fiscal discipline program to enable them to avoid a debt trap.
- Recommend guidelines for investment plans concerning capital expenditure targeted at overall improvement.
- Suggest measures for improvement in the overall health of the electricity distribution sector to attract further investment from private participants.

11. Who is the head of the three-member judicial committee set up by the Uttar Pradesh government to investigate the Maha Kumbh stampede?

महाकुंभ भगदड़ की जांच के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा गठित तीन सदस्यीय न्यायिक समिति के अध्यक्ष कौन हैं?

- (a) Justice (retd.) Harsh Kumar
- (b) Justice (retd.) D K Singh
- (c) Justice (retd.) V K Gupta
- (d) Justice (retd.) Rajesh Verma
- (e) Justice (retd.) Anil Sharma

Ans. a

Sol. Justice Harsh Kumar to head Judicial Commission on Maha Kumbh Stampede

The Uttar Pradesh government of Yogi Adityanath has set up a three-member judicial committee headed by retired judge of the Allahabad High Court Justice Harsh Kumar, to inquire into the stampede incident in Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj on 29 January 2025.

The three-member Inquiry Committee consists of Justice (retd.) Harsh Kumar, former Director General of Police V K Gupta, and retired IAS officer D K Singh. The commission will examine the cause and circumstances that led to the stampede and will recommend measures to prevent such incidents in the future. The commission has to submit its report to the Uttar Pradesh government within one month.

According to the Uttar Pradesh Government, 30 people were killed and 60 were injured in the pre-dawn stampede at the Sangam area of the Maha Kumbh as millions of people rushed to take a holy dip on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya (new moon day) on 29 January 2025.

12. When is World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day observed annually?

विश्व उपेक्षित उष्णकटिबंधीय रोग (एनटीडी) दिवस प्रतिवर्ष कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) January 29
- (b) January 25
- (c) January 30
- (d) January 31
- (e) February 1

Ans. c

Sol. 30 January - World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day

World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day is observed annually on January 30 to raise awareness about neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and mobilize global efforts to eliminate them.

These diseases affect over 1.7 billion people worldwide, particularly in tropical and subtropical regions with poor access to healthcare, clean water, and sanitation.

Theme 2025 - Unite. Act. Eliminate.

It was officially recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2021.

13. Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla will be the first Indian astronaut to travel to the International Space Station (ISS) on a private mission.

Which spacecraft will Shubhanshu Shukla board for his mission to the ISS?

भारतीय वायुसेना के ग्रुप कैप्टन शुभांशु शुक्ला निजी मिशन पर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन (ISS) की यात्रा करने वाले पहले भारतीय अंतरिक्ष यात्री होंगे। शुभांशु शुक्ला ISS के अपने मिशन के लिए किस अंतरिक्ष यान पर सवार होंगे?

- (a) Soyuz T-11
- (b) Blue Origin New Shepard
- (c) SpaceX Dragon
- (d) Orion Spacecraft
- (e) Boeing Starliner

Ans. c

Sol. IAF's Shubhanshu Shukla to Become First Indian Astronaut on Private Space Mission to ISS

Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla will be the first Indian astronaut to travel to the International Space Station (ISS) on a private mission. Shukla will fly aboard a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, as part of the Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4), a joint venture between NASA and ISRO.

Born on October 10, 1985, in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, Shukla was commissioned into the Indian Air Force (IAF) Fighter Wing in 2006 and underwent astronaut training in Moscow in 2019.

The Ax-4 mission will be commanded by former NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson. Shukla will serve as the mission pilot, alongside mission specialists Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski (Poland) and Tibor Kapu (Hungary).

The crew will spend up to 14 days aboard the ISS, conducting scientific experiments, educational outreach, and commercial activities with NASA and ISRO.

The Ax-4 mission marks the first time India, Poland, and Hungary will collaborate on a spaceflight, with Poland and Hungary returning to human spaceflight after 40+ years.

14. Which bank has won awards in six categories at the 20th Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo & Citations, 2024?

20वें वार्षिक बैंकिंग प्रौद्योगिकी सम्मेलन, एक्सपो और प्रशस्ति पत्र, 2024 में किस बैंक ने छह श्रेणियों में पुरस्कार जीते हैं?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) ICICI Bank
- (c) Karnataka Bank
- (d) State Bank of India
- (e) Axis Bank

Ans. c

Sol. IBA honours Karnataka Bank with six awards for banking technology excellence

Karnataka Bank has won awards in six categories at the '20th Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo & Citations, 2024', instituted by the Indian Banks' Association, recently.

The awards were: 'Best Tech Talent and Organization', 'Best IT Risk Management', 'Best Technology Bank', and 'Best Fintech and DPI Adoption' (all runner-ups); and 'Best Digital Sales, Payments and Engagement' and 'Best AI and ML Adoption' (special mention).

About Karnataka Bank

- **Founded**- 18 February 1924
- **Headquarters**- Mangalore, Karnataka
- **MD & CEO** - Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma
- **Chairman** – P Pradeep Kumar
- **Tagline** – Your Family Bank Across India

15. Who has been appointed as the Director General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)?

नागरिक उड्डयन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो (बीसीएएस) के महानिदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Rakesh Asthana
- (b) Rajesh Nirwan
- (c) Subodh Kumar Jaiswal
- (d) Arvind Kumar
- (e) Ajay Bhalla

Ans. b

Sol. Rajesh Nirwan appointed as Director General at BCAS

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the appointment of senior IPS Officer, Rajesh Nirwan as the Director General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Rajesh Nirwan, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Rajasthan cadre from the 1992 batch, brings extensive experience and expertise to his new role. BCAS, functioning under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, is responsible for ensuring the security of civil aviation operations across India. The Bureau plays a pivotal role in maintaining and upgrading aviation security standards in line with international protocols, safeguarding civil aviation operations from acts of unlawful interference.

Recent Appointments

- **CEO of Vedanta Resources Ltd.** - Deshnee Naidoo
- **CEO of Reliance Power** - Neeraj Parakh
- **President of Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) for 2025** - Dhananjay Shukla as the
- **Chairperson of the Executive Council of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library Society** - Nripendra Mishra
- **Secretary of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education** - Vineet Joshi

16. What are the four identified engines of development in the Union Budget 2025-26?

केंद्रीय बजट 2025-26 में विकास के चार चिन्हित इंजन कौन से हैं?

- (a) Agriculture, MSMEs, Investment, and Exports
- (b) Infrastructure, Digital Economy, Manufacturing, and Tourism
- (c) Education, Healthcare, Digitalization, and Trade
- (d) Defense, Railways, Services, and Technology
- (e) Rural Development, Transportation, Startups, and Renewable Energy

Ans. a

Sol. FM Nirmala Sitharaman presented Union Budget 2025

The Union Budget 2025-26 was presented by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Parliament recognising 4 engines of development- agriculture, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), investment and exports.

The Union Budget 2025-26, with the theme Sabka Vikas, aims to stimulate balanced growth across all regions. In line with the Budget theme, the finance minister outlined the broad principles of Viksit Bharat.

Six key principles of Viksit Bharat as outlined in the Union Budget 2025-26

- Zero poverty
- Quality education for all
- Affordable, high-quality healthcare
- Skilled workforce with meaningful employment
- 70% women participation in economic activities
- Farmers making India the 'food basket of the world'

Prioritized Section under the Union Budget 2025-26-

- The Budget proposes development measures focusing on the poor (Garib), Youth, farmers (Annadata) and women (Nari). It does so while aiming to boost growth, attract private investment, uplift households, and empower the middle class.

Key reform areas as outlined in the Union Budget 2025-26-

- Key reform areas include Taxation, Power, Urban Development, Mining, Financial Sector, and Regulations to enhance India's global competitiveness.

Engines in the journey to Viksit Bharat-

- Agriculture, MSMEs, Investment, and Exports are identified as growth engines, with reforms as the driving force and inclusivity as the guiding principle.

17. As per Union Budget 2025, which of the following option is FALSE regarding the healthcare sector's budget allocation?

केंद्रीय बजट 2025 के अनुसार, स्वास्थ्य सेवा क्षेत्र के बजट आवंटन के संबंध में निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा कथन गलत है?

- (a) The healthcare sector received ₹98,311 crore, marking a 9.8% increase from the previous fiscal year.
- (b) The government has allocated ₹2,445 crore for the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the pharmaceutical industry.
- (c) The National Tele Mental Health Programme was allocated ₹200 crore in the budget.
- (d) The Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PMABHIM) received ₹4,200 crore.

(e) The government plans to set up 200 cancer centres in 2025-26.

Ans. c

Sol. Budget 2025: Prioritizes Healthcare with ₹98,311 Cr Allocation

The healthcare sector received a total allocation of ₹98,311 crore, up by 9.8 percent from ₹89,287 crore in the previous fiscal year. The Budget prioritises expanding medical care and infrastructure.

The government has also allocated ₹2,445 crore for PLI for the pharmaceutical industry. The sector saw a 191% increase in budgetary allocation from ₹34,286 crore in FY14-15.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) got an allocation of ₹9,406 crore. The government has allocated ₹4,200 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PMABHIM).

The government allocated ₹37,226.92 crore crore to the National Health Mission (NHM). The National Tele Mental Health Programme was allocated ₹79.6 crore. The Union Budget allocated ₹20,046.07 crore for autonomous bodies. The allocation for All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, was increased to ₹5,200 crore. During her Budget 2025 speech, Sitharaman said that 200 cancer centres in 2025-26. The government will facilitate the setting up of daycare cancer centres in all district hospitals in the next three years.

36 life-saving drugs have been exempted from Basic Customs Duty, while six others will see a reduced 5 per cent customs duty, making essential medicines more affordable.

18. Which of the following option is FALSE regarding the total budget allocation for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in 2025-26?

2025-26 में रक्षा मंत्रालय (MoD) के लिए कुल बजट आवंटन के संबंध में निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा कथन गलत है?

- (a) The MoD received a record-breaking allocation of Rs 6.81 lakh crore.
- (b) This allocation marks a 9.53% increase from the previous financial year.
- (c) The total MoD allocation accounts for 13.45% of the Union Budget.
- (d) Rs 1.80 lakh crore has been allocated for Capital Outlay, marking a 4.65% increase.
- (e) Rs 5,000 crore is allocated for the Border Roads Organization (BRO).

Ans. e

Sol. Budget 2025-26: Surge in defence allocations to enhance armed forces

In the Union Budget 2025-26, a record-breaking allocation of Rs 6.81 lakh crore for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has been allocated, marking a significant increase of 9.53% over the previous financial year.

The total allocation of Rs 6,81,210.27 crore for MoD accounts for 13.45% of the Union Budget, the highest among all ministries.

The allocation has been distributed across several critical segments of the defence sector, focusing on modernization, self-reliance, and welfare of ex-servicemen.

A significant portion of the budget, Rs 1.80 lakh crore (26.43% of the total MoD allocation), has been set aside for Capital Outlay. This represents a 4.65% increase from the previous fiscal year's allocation and focuses primarily on the modernization of the Armed Forces.

Out of this capital expenditure, Rs 1.48 lakh crore is allocated for the acquisition of advanced technologies, weapons, and platforms. Additionally, Rs 31,277 crore is designated for research and development (R&D) and infrastructure development. A key objective for this allocation is to drive self-reliance in defence manufacturing, with Rs 1.11 lakh crore (approximately 75% of the modernisation budget) earmarked for domestic procurement.

Of this, Rs 27,886 crore is specifically allocated for purchases from domestic private industries. This move aims to bolster the private sector's participation in India's defence ecosystem, ensuring that the country reduces dependence on foreign suppliers and builds a robust indigenous defence manufacturing base.

The budget also highlights the focus on emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Robotics, and Cyber and Space technologies, which are crucial to future-proofing India's defence capabilities.

A 12% hike has been allocated to Defence R&D, with Rs 26,816 crore designated for funding cutting-edge projects. This is a 12.41% increase from the previous year's allocation of Rs 23,855 crore.

In line with the government's push to encourage innovation and self-reliance, Rs 449.62 crore has been allocated for the iDEX scheme (Innovations for Defence Excellence), which supports start-ups in developing technologies for defence.

The budget also reflects a substantial increase in the allocation for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The ICG's Capital Budget sees a remarkable 43% increase, with an allocation of Rs 5,000 crore.

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO), which plays a vital role in strengthening India's border infrastructure, receives a substantial 9.74% increase, with an allocation of Rs 7,146 crore.

19. As per the Union Budget 2025-26, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh would be exempt from income tax under the new regime. With the new income tax regime, which of the following income slabs has a tax rate of 10%?

केंद्रीय बजट 2025-26 के अनुसार, वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने घोषणा की कि नई व्यवस्था के तहत ₹12 लाख तक की आय वाले व्यक्तियों को आयकर से छूट दी जाएगी। नई आयकर व्यवस्था के साथ, निम्नलिखित में से किस आय स्लैब पर कर की दर 10% है?

- (a) ₹4 to ₹8 lakh
- (b) ₹8 to ₹12 lakh
- (c) ₹16 to ₹20 lakh
- (d) ₹12 to ₹16 lakh
- (e) ₹20 to ₹24 lakh

Ans. b

Sol. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh would be exempt from income tax under the new regime.

With the standard deduction of ₹75,000, individuals can earn up to ₹12.75 lakh without incurring any income tax liability.

The new tax regime introduces revised income tax slabs:

- Up to ₹4 lakh: No tax
- ₹4 to ₹8 lakh: 5% tax
- ₹8 to ₹12 lakh: 10% tax
- ₹12 to ₹16 lakh: 15% tax
- ₹16 to ₹20 lakh: 20% tax
- ₹20 to ₹24 lakh: 25% tax
- Above ₹24 lakh: 30% tax

Tax Savings for ₹12 Lakh Income – A taxpayer earning ₹12 lakh will benefit from ₹80,000 in tax savings under the new regime.

Tax Savings for ₹18 Lakh Income – A person earning ₹18 lakh will receive ₹70,000 in tax savings.

Tax Savings for ₹25 Lakh Income – A taxpayer with ₹25 lakh income will get a tax benefit of ₹1.10 lakh.

The revision in tax slabs is aimed at providing significant relief to taxpayers and encouraging economic growth.

20. What is the total budget allocation for Indian Railways for FY 2025-26?

वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 के लिए भारतीय रेलवे के लिए कुल बजट आवंटन कितना है?

- (a) ₹2.52 lakh crore
- (b) ₹2.45 lakh crore
- (c) ₹2.65 lakh crore
- (d) ₹2.09 lakh crore
- (e) ₹2.75 lakh crore

Ans. c

Sol. Union Budget 2025-26: Railways allocation remains unchanged at ₹2.65 lakh crore

The Budget allocation for Indian Railways for FY 2025-26 stands at ₹2.65 lakh crore, the same as last year's allocation.

The allocations for customer amenities in the Railways and investments in public sector units and joint ventures have been slashed.

The Railway Capex stands at ₹2.52 lakh crore from the total ₹2.65 lakh crore allocation that include(s) Public Private Partnership investments.

In FY 2024-25, of the allocated budget of ₹2.65 lakh crore, the expenditure till January 23 this year stood at ₹2.09 lakh crore (79.33%). The actual utilisation of the budget for FY 2023-24 stood at ₹2.45 lakh crore, Budget documents reveal.

In the Union Budget 2025-26, Indian Railways (IR) has planned to redevelop more than 1300 stations during the next 4 years. These railway stations will be redeveloped under the prestigious Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS). The move will not only modernize and strengthen its infrastructure but also elevate the travel experience for millions of passengers.

The Rail Budget 2025 includes manufacturing of:

- 100 non-AC Amrit Bharat trains
- 50 NAMO Bharat trains (130 kmph for city connections)
- 200 Vande Bharat trains (Sleeper and chair car versions)
- 17,500 general coaches, of which 1,200 have already been manufactured

21. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an increase in the foreign investment limit in the insurance sector from 74% to 100% in the Budget 2025-26. Which of the following Acts need to be amended to implement the increased FDI limit in the insurance sector?

वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने बजट 2025-26 में बीमा क्षेत्र में विदेशी निवेश की सीमा 74% से बढ़ाकर 100% करने की घोषणा की। बीमा क्षेत्र में बढ़ी हुई FDI सीमा को लागू करने के लिए निम्नलिखित में से किस अधिनियम में संशोधन करने की आवश्यकता है?

1. Insurance Act 1938
2. Life Insurance Corporation Act 1956
3. RBI Act 1949
4. Companies Act 2013
5. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act 1999

(a) only 1 & 2

(b) only 2 & 3

(c) only 3 & 5

(d) only 1, 2 & 4

(e) only 1, 2, & 5

Ans. e

Sol. Budget 2025-26: FDI limit in insurance sector raised to 100 per cent from 74 per cent

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced an increase in the foreign investment limit in the insurance sector from 74% to 100%.

However, this will require amendments to the Insurance Act 1938, the Life Insurance Corporation Act 1956, and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act 1999.

This enhanced limit will be available for those companies which invest the entire premium in India.

What does it mean?

The move is expected to attract more players and will eventually help achieve the target of 'Insurance for All' by 2047. The entry of more players in the sector would not only push penetration but result in greater job creation across the country.

Currently, there are 25 life insurance companies and 34 non-life or general insurance firms in India. These include companies like Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd and ECGC Ltd.

How FDI limit has been raised over time

It was in 2015 when the Modi government hiked the foreign direct investment (FDI) cap in the insurance sector from 26 per cent to 49 per cent. Later in 2021, it was further raised to 74 per cent.

The government earlier allowed 100 per cent foreign direct investment in insurance intermediaries

22. What is the main objective of the National Manufacturing Mission announced in the Union Budget 2025-26?

केंद्रीय बजट 2025-26 में घोषित राष्ट्रीय विनिर्माण मिशन का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?

- (a) To promote large-scale service sector employment
- (b) To support and enhance the 'Make in India' initiative
- (c) To encourage foreign direct investment in agriculture
- (d) To establish new IT hubs across India
- (e) both a and d

Ans. b

Sol. Budget 2024-25: FM Sitharaman announces National Manufacturing Mission for Furthering 'Make in India'

A National Manufacturing Mission to cover small, medium, and large industries for furthering 'Make in India' was announced by Union Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting the Union Budget 2025-26 in Parliament.

This will provide policy support, execution roadmaps, governance, and a monitoring framework for central ministries and states.

The National Manufacturing Mission will emphasize five focal areas: ease and cost of doing business; a future-ready workforce for in-demand jobs; a vibrant and dynamic MSME sector; availability of technology; and quality products.

The scheme is expected to facilitate employment for 22 lakh persons, generate turnover of Rs. 4 lakh crore and exports of over Rs. 1.1 lakh crore.

The Union Minister further proposed National Action Plan for Toys to be implemented to make India a global hub for toys. The scheme will focus on development of clusters, skills, and a manufacturing ecosystem that will create high-quality, unique, innovative, and sustainable toys that will represent the 'Made in India' brand.

23. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman paved the way for technological upgradation and better access to capital for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with the investment and turnover limits for classification being raised 2.5 and 2 times, respectively. What is the primary goal of increasing the investment and turnover limits for MSMEs in Budget 2025-26?

वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यमों (MSME) के लिए तकनीकी उन्नयन और पूंजी तक बेहतर पहुंच का मार्ग प्रशस्त किया है, जिसमें वर्गीकरण के लिए निवेश और टर्नओवर की सीमा क्रमशः 2.5 और 2 गुना बढ़ाई गई है। बजट 2025-26 में एमएसएमई के लिए निवेश और टर्नओवर की सीमा बढ़ाने का प्राथमिक लक्ष्य क्या है?

- (a) To increase tax revenue from MSMEs
- (b) To facilitate technological upgradation and better access to capital
- (c) To reduce competition in the MSME sector
- (d) To encourage MSMEs to shift to the large-scale industry category
- (e) To impose stricter regulations on MSMEs

Ans. b

Sol. Budget 2025-26: Boost for MSMEs, classification investment cap to be hiked 2.5 times

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman paved the way for technological upgradation and better access to capital for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with the investment and turnover limits for classification being raised 2.5 and 2 times, respectively.

Currently, over 1 crore registered MSMEs, employing 7.5 crore people, and generating 36 per cent of our manufacturing, have come together to position India as a global manufacturing hub. With their quality products, these MSMEs are responsible for 45 per cent of our exports.

With this, 'micro' enterprises investment limit will be increased from Rs 1 crore to Rs 2.5 crore and turnover has been raised from Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore. Similarly, for 'small' enterprises, it is up from Rs 10 crore to Rs 25 crore in investment. In case of turnover, it is from Rs 50 crore to Rs 100 crore. However, for 'medium' enterprises, investment has been raised from Rs 50 crore to Rs 125 crore and turnover from Rs 250 crore to Rs 500 crore, respectively.

For FY26, the MSME ministry has got Rs 23,168 crore, up from Rs 17,306 crore, given in the revised estimates for 2025.

24. Which company became the first Indian company to develop pipes for transporting hydrogen?

हाइड्रोजन परिवहन के लिए पाइप विकसित करने वाली पहली भारतीय कंपनी कौन सी बनी?

- (a) Reliance Industries
- (b) Tata Steel
- (c) JSW Steel
- (d) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)
- (e) Bhushan Steel

Ans. b

Sol. Tata Steel becomes 'India's 1st' to develop hydrogen transportation pipes. Tata Steel has become the first Indian company to develop pipes for transporting hydrogen, contributing to India's clean energy goals.

The company's hydrogen-compliant API X65 pipes were processed at Tata Steel's Khopoli plant using steel produced at its Kalinganagar facility.

Tata Steel managed the entire production process, from designing and manufacturing hot-rolled steel to producing the final hydrogen transportation pipes.

India aims to produce at least 5 MMT of Green Hydrogen annually by 2030, with potential expansion to 10 MMT per year, requiring advanced transportation infrastructure like Tata Steel's pipes.

25. In January 2025, which financial institution has partnered with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) in a strategic bancassurance alliance to expand life insurance accessibility across India by leveraging 650 banking outlets and 110 million customers?

जनवरी 2025 में, किस वित्तीय संस्थान ने 650 बैंकिंग आउटलेट्स और 110 मिलियन ग्राहकों का लाभ उठाकर पूरे भारत में जीवन बीमा पहुंच का विस्तार करने के लिए रणनीतिक बैंकएश्योरेंस गठबंधन में इंडिया पोस्ट पेमेंट्स बैंक (आईपीपीबी) के साथ भागीदारी की है?

- (a) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

- (b) Bharti AXA General Insurance
- (c) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
- (d) Go Digit General Insurance
- (e) PNB MetLife India Insurance

Ans. e

Sol. India Post Payments Bank and PNB MetLife partner to expand life insurance access nationwide

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited (PNB MetLife) entered into a strategic bancassurance alliance to extend access to life insurance solutions for millions of individuals nationwide.

Under the collaboration, PNB MetLife's life insurance products, combined with IPPB's network of 650 banking outlets and 110 million customers, will make life insurance accessible to every household in India.

This partnership aims to help customers achieve their dreams while promoting financial inclusion across the country.

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has been established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with 100 percent equity owned by Government of India

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- Tata AIA Life Insurance launches 'Shubh Muhurat' to meet wedding expenses
- IDFC FIRST Bank launched the UPI enabled RuPay Credit Card called - FIRST EARN.
- Shriram Life Insurance launches Sunishchit Laabh savings plan
- Bank of Baroda launches 'bob Liquid FD' for enhanced liquidity and convenience
- IDBI Bank unveils Chiranjeevi Super Senior Citizen FD, offers 8.5% interest

26. Which insurance company has launched the first indemnity health insurance plan called Shri Health Suraksha Insurance?

किस बीमा कंपनी ने श्री स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षा बीमा नामक पहली क्षतिपूर्ति स्वास्थ्य बीमा योजना शुरू की है?

- (a) ICICI Lombard
- (b) Shriram General Insurance
- (c) HDFC ERGO
- (d) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- (e) Tata AIG General Insurance

Ans. b

Sol. Shriram GI Unveils Shri Health Suraksha Insurance – A Comprehensive and Affordable Health Plan

Shriram General Insurance (SGIC) has unveiled its first indemnity health insurance plan, Shri Health Suraksha Insurance, aimed at providing comprehensive coverage at an affordable premium.

The plan covers a diverse range of treatments, including modern medical procedures and AYUSH treatments (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy), catering to the varied healthcare needs of individuals and families.

With nationwide coverage, Shri Health Suraksha Insurance allows policyholders to access cashless treatments at over 13,000 network hospitals. The plan offers multiple sum-insured options, ensuring flexibility and affordability for a broad spectrum of policyholders.

MD & CEO of Shriram General Insurance Company - Anil Aggarwal

27. In January 2025, which two banks were penalized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for deficiencies in regulatory compliance?

जनवरी 2025 में, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने विनियामक अनुपालन में कमियों के लिए किन दो बैंकों को दंडित किया?

- (a) State Bank of India (SBI) and HDFC Bank
- (b) Equitas Small Finance Bank and India Post Payments Bank
- (c) ICICI Bank and Axis Bank
- (d) Kotak Mahindra Bank and Punjab National Bank
- (e) Yes Bank and IDFC First Bank

Ans. b

Sol. RBI imposes monetary penalty on Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed penalties on Equitas Small Finance Bank and India Post Payments Bank for deficiencies in regulatory compliances.

RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 65 lakh on Equitas Small Finance Bank for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Levy of Foreclosure Charges/Pre-payment Penalty on Floating Rate Term Loans' and 'Credit Flow to Agriculture - Collateral free agricultural loans'.

A penalty of Rs 26.70 lakh has been imposed on India Post Payments Bank Ltd for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Customer Service in Banks'.

Further, a penalty of Rs 3.10 lakh has also been imposed on Aptus Finance India Pvt Ltd for contravention of certain provisions of norms related to non-banking financial company.

The penalties are based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the entities with their customers.

Recent Penalties imposed on Banks by RBI

- IndusInd Bank (Rs 27.3 lakh) - for non-compliance with norms.
- Manappuram Finance (Rs 20 lakh) - - for non-compliance with norms.
- RBL Bank (Rs 64 lakh) - failure to obtain an annual declaration in Form B from one of its major shareholders within the stipulated time frame of one month.
- Union Bank of India (Rs 1 crore) - Sanctioned a term loan to a corporation without conducting necessary due diligence on the viability and bankability of the projects.
- Bajaj Finance (Rs 8.5 lakh) - company's non-compliance with the 'Monitoring of Frauds in NBFCs Directions, 2016.

28. What is the name of the application released by the Railway Ministry, a one-stop solution offering multiple public-facing services?

रेल मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी किए गए एप्लिकेशन का नाम क्या है, जो एक वन-स्टॉप समाधान है जो कई सार्वजनिक-सामना करने वाली सेवाएँ प्रदान करता है?

- (a) RailConnect
- (b) RailGuru
- (c) SupermanApp
- (d) TrainTracker
- (e) SwaRail

Ans. e

Sol. Railway Ministry releases 'SwaRail' SuperApp for testing

The Railway Ministry has released an application called SuperApp, a one-stop solution offering multiple public-facing services.

The app provides easy access to services like reserved and unreserved ticket bookings, platform and parcel bookings, train inquiries, PNR inquiries, help through RailMadad and more.

The core emphasis of the app is to enhance user experience through a seamless and clean user interface. It not only combines all services in one place but also integrates several services to provide users with a complete package of Indian Railway services.

29. How many athletes are part of the Indian contingent for the 2025 Asian Winter Games?

2025 एशियाई शीतकालीन खेलों के लिए भारतीय दल में कितने एथलीट शामिल हैं?

- (a) 59 athletes
- (b) 50 athletes
- (c) 65 athletes
- (d) 75 athletes
- (e) 88 athletes

Ans. a

Sol. Govt clears participation of 88-member Indian contingent at Asian Winter Games 2025

The government has approved the participation of the Indian contingent at the 9th Asian Winter Games 2025, to be held from 7th to 14th February in Harbin, China.

The participation of an 88-member Indian contingent, which includes 59 athletes and 29 team officials.

For the first time, full financial support is being extended under the Assistance to National Sports Federations Scheme to athletes competing in Alpine Skiing, Cross-Country Skiing, Figure Skating, Short Track Speed Skating, and Speed Skating (Long Track).

30. According to the Economic Survey, the real GDP growth in 2026 is projected to be between which of the following ranges?

आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार, 2026 में वास्तविक जीडीपी वृद्धि निम्नलिखित में से किस सीमा के बीच रहने का अनुमान है?

- (a) 5.5% to 6.0%
- (b) 6.0% to 6.5%
- (c) 6.3% to 6.8%
- (d) 5.0% to 5.5%
- (e) 7.0% to 7.5%

Ans. c

Sol. India's GDP Growth Projected at 6.4% for FY 2025

India's real GDP is estimated to grow by 6.4 percent in the financial year 2025, and the growth is likely to range between 6.3 and 6.8 percent in the financial year 2026.

This was projected in the Economic Survey presented by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in both Houses of Parliament.

The survey highlights that the country's GDP at constant (2011-12) prices grew by 6.7 percent in Quarter one and 5.4 percent in Quarter two of the financial year of 2025.

Retail headline inflation, as per the Consumer Price Index, has softened from 5.4 percent in the financial year 2024 to 4.9 percent in April to December 2024.

31. Legendary former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar honoured with the BCCI's Lifetime Achievement Award at the Board's annual gala in Mumbai. The BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award was instituted in honour of which legendary cricketer?

दिग्गज पूर्व क्रिकेटर सचिन तेंदुलकर को मुंबई में बीसीसीआई के वार्षिक समारोह में लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट अवार्ड से सम्मानित किया गया। बीसीसीआई लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट अवार्ड की शुरुआत किस दिग्गज क्रिकेटर के सम्मान में की गई थी?

- (a) Kapil Dev
- (b) Col. C.K. Nayudu
- (c) Sunil Gavaskar
- (d) Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi
- (e) Rahul Dravid

Ans. b

Sol. Sachin Tendulkar received BCCI's Lifetime Achievement Award
 Legendary former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar honoured with the BCCI's Lifetime Achievement Award at the Board's annual gala in Mumbai.

Tendulkar become the 31st recipient of the prestigious award, which was instituted in 1994 in honour of India's first cricket captain, Col. C.K. Nayudu. The 51-year-old Tendulkar, who played an incredible 664 international matches for India, holds the record for the highest number of Test and ODI runs in cricket history. He amassed 15,921 runs in Tests and a staggering 18,426 runs in ODIs.

Tendulkar also holds the record for the most appearances in both formats, with 200 Test matches and 463 ODIs to his name.

In 2023, the Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to former India head coach Ravi Shastri and wicket-keeping legend Farokh Engineer.

Recent Award

- Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2025 - Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) (*In the Institutional Category for its excellent work in Disaster Management*)
- Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025 - Prof Urbasi Sinha
- Singapore' Honorary Citizen Award - Tarun Das (Former DG of Confederation of Indian Industry)
- 14th PSE Excellence Awards by ICC - Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)

- Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi' award for leadership - External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar
- Bhutan's royal honour - Renowned Indian educationist Arun Kapur

32. Which of the following statements is false regarding India's Ramsar sites?

भारत के रामसर स्थलों के संबंध में निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा कथन गलत है?

- (a) India has added four new Ramsar sites, bringing the total to 89.
- (b) Tamil Nadu now has the highest number of Ramsar sites in India, with a tally of 20.
- (c) India ranks first in the world in terms of the number of Ramsar sites.
- (d) Sikkim and Jharkhand have added their first Ramsar sites.
- (e) all are true

Ans. c

Sol. India Adds 4 New Ramsar Sites, taking total to 89

The Centre has announced the addition of four new Ramsar sites in India, taking the tally to 89.

Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary and Therthangal Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, Khecheopalri Wetland in Sikkim, and Udhwa Lake in Jharkhand have been included in the list of Ramsar sites in the country.

India still stands as the country with the highest number of Ramsar sites in Asia and third in the world.

Tamil Nadu for becoming the state with the maximum number of Ramsar sites, with a tally of 20. This a special achievement for Sikkim and Jharkhand, which have added their first Ramsar sites

33. Indian Coast Guard Day is observed annually on February 1. In which year was the Indian Coast Guard officially formed?

भारतीय तटरक्षक दिवस प्रतिवर्ष 1 फरवरी को मनाया जाता है। भारतीय तटरक्षक बल का आधिकारिक रूप से गठन किस वर्ष हुआ था?

- (a) 1975
- (b) 1976
- (c) 1977
- (d) 1978
- (e) 1980

Ans. c

Sol. 1 February - Indian Coast Guard Day

Indian Coast Guard Day is observed annually on February 1. India celebrating the 49th Indian Coast Guard Day this year.

It is a day to celebrate the institution that protects India's coastlines and enforces laws in the nation's maritime areas.

The Indian Coast Guard Day was declared by the Indian Parliament on August 18, 1978. The Indian Coast Guard was formed on February 1, 1977, to stop the smuggling of goods by sea that hindered India's domestic economy.

Founded in 1977 with only 7 surface ships, it currently boasts a fleet of 78 aircraft and 158 ships.

The ICG department is the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world, according to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

34. Niger has become the first African country to eliminate onchocerciasis, as recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO). What is another name for onchocerciasis?

नाइजर पहला अफ्रीकी देश बन गया है, जिसने ऑन्कोसेरसियासिस को विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) द्वारा समाप्त कर दिया है। ऑन्कोसेरसियासिस का दूसरा नाम क्या है?

- (a) Sleeping sickness
- (b) River blindness
- (c) Yellow fever
- (d) Dengue fever
- (e) Chagas disease

Ans. b

Sol. Niger becomes first African country to eliminate onchocerciasis

Niger becomes the first African country to eliminate onchocerciasis (river blindness), as recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Onchocerciasis is a parasitic disease transmitted by black flies, primarily affecting rural populations in sub-Saharan Africa, Yemen, and parts of Latin America.

Niger's elimination efforts included vector control measures (spraying insecticides) and mass drug administration (MDA) using ivermectin and albendazole from 2008 to 2019.

The prevalence of onchocerciasis in Niger dropped from approximately 60% to 0.02% after extensive control programs and medical interventions.

Niger joins four other countries that have been verified by WHO for eliminating onchocerciasis, all in the Region of the Americas: Colombia (2013), Ecuador (2014), Guatemala (2016) and Mexico (2015).

35. The Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, GoI will organize the BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group

Meeting from 3rd to 7th March 2025. What is the theme of the BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting 2025?

युवा मामले विभाग, युवा मामले और खेल मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार 3 से 7 मार्च 2025 तक ब्रिक्स युवा परिषद उद्यमिता कार्य समूह बैठक आयोजित करेगा। ब्रिक्स युवा परिषद उद्यमिता कार्य समूह बैठक 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Youth Innovation in the Digital Age
- (b) Sustainable Business for Future Generations
- (c) Youth Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Growth
- (d) Empowering Young Leaders for Global Change
- (e) Economic Development Through Startups

Ans. c

Sol. India to Host BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting in March 2025

The Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India will organize the BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting from 3rd to 7th March 2025.

The theme of the meeting is "Youth Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Growth". The meeting will be attended by around 45 youth representatives from BRICS Countries.

At the Working Group Meeting, India will provide a platform for representatives of the BRICS Youth Council to exchange policies, programmes, and cooperation prospects in the field of entrepreneurship.

The representatives will be given a platform to share their experiences in youth-related work and discuss cooperation in the field of entrepreneurship amongst BRICS countries.

36. Who did R. Praggnanandhaa defeat to win the Tata Steel Masters 2025 title?

आर. प्रागनानंद ने किसे हराकर टाटा स्टील मास्टर्स 2025 का खिताब जीता?

- (a) Magnus Carlsen
- (b) Levon Aronian
- (c) D. Gukesh
- (d) Viswanathan Anand
- (e) Hikaru Nakamura

Ans. c

Sol. R Praggnanandhaa wins Tata Steel Chess Masters 2025

In Chess, Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa clinched the prestigious Tata Steel Masters 2025 title in a thrilling showdown, defeating reigning World Champion D. Gukesh in a nail-biting tiebreaker last night at Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands.

This victory makes R. Praggnanandhaa the first Indian since Viswanathan Anand in 2006 to claim the prestigious title.

The 14-player round-robin event ended dramatically, with both Gukesh and Pragg tied at 8.5 points after 13 rounds. Gukesh, unbeaten throughout the tournament, lost his final classical game to Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi, while Pragg was defeated by Vincent Keymer in a long battle.

37. India has defended their ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup title, beating South Africa by 9 wickets in the final match at the Bayuemas Oval in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Who was awarded the Player of the Match in the ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup final?

भारत ने मलेशिया के कुआलालंपुर में बयूमास ओवल में खेले गए फाइनल मैच में दक्षिण अफ्रीका को 9 विकेट से हराकर आईसीसी अंडर-19 महिला टी-20 विश्व कप खिताब बचा लिया है। आईसीसी अंडर-19 महिला टी-20 विश्व कप फाइनल में प्लेयर ऑफ द मैच किसे चुना गया?

- (a) Vaishnavi Sharma
- (b) Niki Prasad
- (c) Gongadi Trisha
- (d) Harleen Deol
- (e) Priya Punia

Ans. c

Sol. India Beat South Africa By 9 Wickets To Defend U-19 Women's T20 World Cup Title

India has defended their ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup title, beating South Africa by 9 wickets in the final match at the Bayuemas Oval in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Gongadi Trisha's unbeaten innings of 44 runs helped Niki Prasad led Women in Blue to chase the target of 83 runs in the 12th over. She also got Player of the Match award. Earlier, South Africa got bundled out for just 82 runs.

Indian batter Gongadi Trisha emerged as the leading run-getter in this World Cup, scoring 309 runs and becoming Player of the Tournament. On the other hand, Vaishnavi Sharma became the highest wicket-taker with 17 wickets in 6 matches, including a hat-trick.

India had won the title in the inaugural edition in 2023 after beating England by seven wickets in the final.

38. What is the fiscal deficit target for India in the Union Budget 2025-26?

केंद्रीय बजट 2025-26 में भारत के लिए राजकोषीय घाटे का लक्ष्य क्या है?

- (a) 5.2% of GDP
- (b) 4.8% of GDP
- (c) 4.4% of GDP
- (d) 4.2% of GDP
- (e) 4.5% of GDP

Ans. c

Sol. Budget 2025-26: Fiscal Deficit for FY26 estimated at 4.4% of GDP

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman pegged fiscal deficit, the difference between expenditure and income, to 4.4 per cent of GDP (gross domestic product) for fiscal year 2025-26.

The fiscal deficit target has been set at 4.4 per cent of GDP, down from 4.8 per cent in the previous year's revised estimates, as the government moves forward with fiscal consolidation plans.

Under the revised Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act 2003, the government is mandated to reduce the fiscal deficit below 4.5 per cent by FY26. To finance the fiscal deficit, the net market borrowings from dated securities are estimated at ₹11.54 lakh crore.

India's Union Budget for FY26 has set total government expenditure at ₹50.65 trillion, marking an increase from ₹47.16 trillion in the revised estimates for 2024-25.

39. How much has been allocated for the Samudrayaan project under India's Deep Ocean Mission in Budget 2025?

बजट 2025 में भारत के डीप ओशन मिशन के तहत समुद्रयान परियोजना के लिए कितना आवंटित किया गया है?

- (a) ₹500 crore
- (b) ₹600 crore
- (c) ₹700 crore
- (d) ₹550 crore
- (e) ₹650 crore

Ans. b

Sol. Union Budget 2025-26: Rs 600 crore allocated for Samudrayaan

In a big boost for India's ambitious Deep Ocean Mission, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has allocated Rs 600 crore for the Samudrayaan project, under which scientists will be sent to the depths of the ocean in a specially-designed submersible to explore the ocean floor, including the country's continental shelf and exclusive economic zones.

The earth sciences ministry, which is spearheading the mission, received an allocation of Rs 3,649.8 crore in the budget, as against Rs 3,064.8 crore in the ongoing fiscal year.

India plans to send a manned-submersible, developed by the Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), up to a depth of 500 metres in the ocean later this year, and gradually explore the seabed at the depth of 6,000 metres next year.

The Deep Ocean Mission aims to explore deep-oceanic resources and develop technologies for their sustainable use. The mission consists of six major themes, namely development of technologies for deep sea mining, manned submersible, and underwater robotics; development of ocean climate change advisory services; technological innovations for exploration and conservation of deepsea biodiversity; deep ocean survey and exploration; energy and freshwater from the ocean; and advanced marine station for ocean biology.

40. How much allocation has been made in the Budget 2025-26 for the PM Surya Garh Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY)?

बजट 2025-26 में प्रधानमंत्री सूर्यगढ़ मुफ्त बिजली योजना (पीएमएसजीएमबीवाई) के लिए कितना आवंटन किया गया है?

- (a) ₹15,000 crore
- (b) ₹20,000 crore
- (c) ₹25,000 crore
- (d) ₹30,000 crore
- (e) ₹10,000 crore

Ans. b

Sol. Budget 2025-26: ₹8,900 crore additional allocation for residential rooftop solar

The Budget 2025-26 makes an allocation of ₹20,000 crore, under 'revenue expenditure' for the PM Surya Garh Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY) -- a scheme that provides incentives for setting up small-scale rooftop solar plants on residential roofs.

This is a huge jump from the ₹6,250 crore allocation made in the Budget for 2024-25, which stood increased to ₹11,100 crore in the revised estimates for the year. The near doubling of revised estimates over the budgeted amount for 2024-25 indicates the scheme took off quite well.

As such, the government has once again increased the allocations to the scheme this year, by 80 per cent over the revised estimates for last year.

The PMSGMBY was launched in February 2024 with a 4-year outlay of ₹75,021 crore, with a view to engendering 10 million small-size residential rooftop

installations. As of December 2024, about 700,000 installations have been completed.

If the money allocated for 2025-26 is fully spent, it would mean that as much as ₹31,100 crore, or 41 per cent of the scheme outlay would have been spent in the first two years.

41. In the Budget 2025-26, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced the Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana. It is a new initiative aimed at supporting farmers in 100 regions facing challenges in agriculture. Which of the following is NOT one of the key focus areas of the scheme?

वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने बजट 2025-26 में प्रधानमंत्री धन धान्य कृषि योजना की घोषणा की है। यह एक नई पहल है जिसका उद्देश्य कृषि में चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहे 100 क्षेत्रों के किसानों को सहायता प्रदान करना है। निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा इस योजना का मुख्य फोकस क्षेत्र नहीं है?

- (a) Enhancing agricultural productivity
- (b) Improving irrigation facilities
- (c) Increasing industrial production
- (d) Adopting crop diversification and sustainable agriculture
- (e) Improving credit availability

Ans. c

Sol. Budget 2025-26: Nirmala Sitharaman announces PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana for farmers

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced the Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana, or the developing agri-districts programme, in her record 8th Union Budget presentation.

The Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana will be implemented in collaboration with the states and will integrate current programs. It will include 100 districts with below-average characteristics, moderate crop intensity, and low productivity.

This programme is likely to help 1.7 crore farmers.

The scheme focuses on five key areas including:

- Enhance agricultural productivity
- Improve irrigation facilities
- Improve credit availability
- To adopt crop diversification and sustainable agriculture practices
- To augment post-harvest storage at Panchayat and block levels.

42. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced in Budget 2025 that a special Makhana Board will be established in Bihar. What is the key benefit that farmers will receive from the Makhana Board?

केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने बजट 2025 में घोषणा की है कि बिहार में एक विशेष मखाना बोर्ड की स्थापना की जाएगी। मखाना बोर्ड से किसानों को क्या मुख्य लाभ मिलेगा?

- (a) Free land for cultivation
- (b) Direct financial loans from the government
- (c) Training, support, and access to government schemes
- (d) Export licenses for international trade
- (e) Free seeds and fertilizers

Ans. c

Sol. Budget 2025-26: New Makhana Board and Food Institute to be opened in Bihar

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced, a special Makhana Board will be established in Bihar to enhance the production, marketing, and value addition of Makhana.

Farmers engaged in Makhana cultivation will be categorized as Follow-On Public Offers (FPOs) and receive training and support.

The Board will ensure that Makhana farmers benefit from government schemes and receive necessary assistance.

A National Institute of Food Technology, Processing, and Innovation will also be established in Bihar to promote the food sector.

This initiative aims to increase farmers' income, promote value addition, and create skilling and employment opportunities in eastern India.

43. What is the total budget allocated for the Cotton Mission announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman?

वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण द्वारा घोषित कपास मिशन के लिए कुल कितना बजट आवंटित किया गया है?

- (a) Rs 200 crore
- (b) Rs 350 crore
- (c) Rs 700 crore
- (d) Rs 850 crore
- (e) Rs 500 crore

Ans. e

Sol. Budget 2025-26: Cotton Mission gets a boost to improve productivity

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced an ambitious Rs 500 crore five-year plan to boost cotton production and promote extra-long staple cotton varieties, at a time when India has no surplus in cotton and its yield at 450-

kilogram per hectare is one of the lowest, against a global average of 800-kilogram plus.

The Cotton Mission will focus on the production of extra-long staple cotton varieties, aiming to enhance quality cotton and rejuvenate India's traditional textile sector.

The Cotton Productivity Mission is a vital initiative to improve cotton yield in India from the current 450-500 kg per hectare to 1,000 kg per hectare. This five-year, time-bound mission, driven by advanced technology and scientific support, aims to boost farmer income and ensure raw material security for the Indian textile and apparel sector.

44. What is the new loan limit under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) as announced in Budget 2025-26?

बजट 2025-26 में घोषित किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड (केसीसी) के तहत नई ऋण सीमा क्या है?

- (a) ₹2 lakh
- (b) ₹3 lakh
- (c) ₹4 lakh
- (d) ₹5 lakh
- (e) ₹6 lakh

Ans. d

Sol. Budget 2025-26: Kisan credit card limit raised to ₹5 lakh to boost farmer credit access

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced, the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) interest subsidy program has been heightened, with the loan limit increased from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh.

The move is aimed at providing support to the 7.7 crore farmers, fishers, and dairy producers who are beneficiaries of this program.

What is a Kisan Credit Card?

- The Kisan Credit Card-KCC- is a government scheme introduced in 1998 for smooth disbursement of loans to farmers. Available at around 4% interest, it is a short-term, reasonably-priced loan for the purposes of agriculture. This program allows farmers easy access to financing while attaining financial independence.

Key features of the Kisan Credit Card scheme

- Loan limits and terms: Under the new interest subsidy program, farmers can now borrow money of up to ₹5 lakh. An earlier scheme had specified a maximum term of 5 years with the ceiling amount being 3 lakh.

- Eligibility: The applicants have to be tenant farmers, owner-cultivators, sharecroppers, or members of joint liability or self-help organizations engaged in farming or other producer activities like fishing or animal husbandry.
- Collateral-free loan: Loans amounting to ₹2 lakh or less will in future not require collateral. The RBI has taken one of those steps in favor of making credit easy for farmers.

45. The government has launched the 'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses' under the Union Budget 2025. This six-year initiative aims to promote domestic pulse production. Which pulses will be given special focus under the 'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses'?

सरकार ने केंद्रीय बजट 2025 के तहत 'दलहन में आत्मनिर्भरता के लिए मिशन' शुरू किया है। इस छह साल की पहल का उद्देश्य घरेलू दाल उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देना है। 'दलहन में आत्मनिर्भरता के लिए मिशन' के तहत किन दालों पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जाएगा?

- (a) Moong, Chana, and Rajma
- (b) Tur, Urad, and Masoor
- (c) Wheat, Rice, and Maize
- (d) Mustard, Barley, and Jowar
- (e) Soybean, Sunflower, and Groundnut

Ans. b

Sol. Budget 2025: Govt Launches 'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses' to Increase Production and Farmers' Income

The Union budget 2025-26 has proposed Aatmanirbharta or self-sufficiency in pulses and the farmers of Rajasthan are seeing a silver lining in this as special attention would be given to the production of Tur, Urad and Masoor.

The government will now launch a 6-year 'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses' with a special focus on Tur, Urad and Masoor. Central agencies (NAFED and NCCF) will be ready to procure these 3 pulses, as much as offered during the next 4 years from farmers who register with these agencies and enter into agreements.

The pulse-producing farmers of Rajasthan will be directly benefited by this scheme. Lentils are produced in large quantities in Western Rajasthan and Kota. It is cultivated in about 38 lakh hectares in the entire state, which makes this region prominent in pulse yield.

The mission will emphasize the development and commercial availability of climate-resilient seeds, enhancing protein content, increasing productivity, improving post-harvest storage and management and assuring remunerative prices to the farmers.

46. Which edition of the 'Ekuverin' military exercise is being conducted in February 2025?

फरवरी 2025 में 'एकुवेरिन' सैन्य अभ्यास का कौन सा संस्करण आयोजित किया जा रहा है?

- (a) 10th
- (b) 11th
- (c) 12th
- (d) 13th
- (e) 14th

Ans. d

Sol. India-Maldives Joint Military Exercise 'Ekuverin' Begins

The 13th edition of joint military exercise 'Ekuverin' between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force has commenced in the archipelago nation.

In 2023, it was conducted at Chaubatia in Uttarakhand from June 11 to 24. Ekuverin meaning 'Friends' in Dhivehi language.

47. Which team won the 6th Men's Hockey India League 2024-25 title?

किस टीम ने 6वीं पुरुष हॉकी इंडिया लीग 2024-25 का खिताब जीता?

- (a) Odisha Warriors
- (b) Hyderabad Toofans
- (c) Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers
- (d) Soorma Hockey Club
- (e) Punjab Thunder

Ans. c

Sol. Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers win men's Hockey India League 2024-25 Title
Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers won the 6th Men's Hockey India League 2024-25 title, beating Hyderabad Toofans 4-3 in a tense final at a packed Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela, Odisha.

This was the first title win for the Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers, winning them a prize of Rs 3 crore. The runners-up Hyderabad Toofan won Rs 2 crore as prize money.

Earlier, the Odisha Warriors won the first edition of the Women's Hockey India League 2024-25 title by defeating Soorma Hockey Club 2-1 in the final.

48. Navin Chawla passed away recently at the age of 79. Who was Navin Chawla?

नवीन चावला का हाल ही में 79 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। नवीन चावला कौन थे?

- (a) Former RBI Governor
- (b) Former Chief Election Commissioner

- (c) Former Home Minister
- (d) Former Chief Justice of India
- (e) Former Lok Sabha Speaker

Ans. b

Sol. Former Chief Election Commissioner Navin Chawla passed away
Former chief election commissioner (CEC) Navin Chawla, whose removal from the poll panel was recommended in 2009 over allegations of bias, passed away at 79.

A former bureaucrat, Chawla was the election commissioner (EC) between 2005 and 2009, and then chief election commissioner from April 2009 to July 2010. Chawla had a controversial tenure in the poll body, with the then opposition BJP accusing him of being partisan.

Chawla was also known as the biographer of Mother Teresa. The biography titled "Mother Teresa" was first published in the UK in 1992, and has seen many translations and editions since then.

49. World Wetlands Day is observed annually on February 2 to raise awareness about the vital role of wetlands in sustaining biodiversity and supporting human well-being. What is the theme for World Wetlands Day in 2025?

विश्व आर्द्रभूमि दिवस प्रतिवर्ष 2 फरवरी को मनाया जाता है, ताकि जैव विविधता को बनाए रखने और मानव कल्याण का समर्थन करने में आर्द्रभूमि की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाई जा सके। 2025 में विश्व आर्द्रभूमि दिवस का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Wetlands for Climate Action
- (b) Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future
- (c) The Future of Wetlands and Wildlife
- (d) Wetlands: Our Life Source
- (e) Wetlands and Water Conservation

Ans. b

Sol. 2 February - World Wetlands Day

World Wetlands Day is observed annually on February 2 to raise awareness about the vital role of wetlands in sustaining biodiversity and supporting human well-being.

Theme 2025 - Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future

The day marks the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1971, a key international treaty aimed at conserving wetlands globally.

50. How much was the GST collection for the month of January 2025?

जनवरी 2025 के महीने में जीएसटी संग्रह कितना रहा?

- (a) Rs 1.50 lakh crore

- (b) Rs 1.60 lakh crore
- (c) Rs 1.77 lakh crore
- (d) Rs 1.90 lakh crore
- (e) Rs 1.96 lakh crore

Ans. e

Sol. GST collections in January at Rs 1.96 lakh crore

Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections for the month of January touched Rs 1.96 lakh crore, an increase of 12.3% year-on-year basis.

For the previous month, India's GST collections rose 7.3% to Rs 1.77 lakh crore in December compared to the previous year. This growth slowed from an 8.5% increase in November.

Central GST collections stood at Rs 36,100 crore while states was at Rs 44,900 crore. Additionally, for this month, integrated GST collections remained at Rs 1.01 lakh crore. Furthermore, GST cess collections was reported at Rs 13,400 crore.

GST Collection of Previous Months

- August 2024 – 1.75 lakh crore
- September 2024 – 1.73 lakh crore
- October 2024 – 1.87 lakh crore
- November 2024 – 1.82 lakh crore
- December 2024 – 1.77 lakh crore
- January 2025 – 1.96 lakh crore

51. What was the total value of UPI transactions in January 2025?

जनवरी 2025 में UPI लेनदेन का कुल मूल्य क्या था?

- (a) ₹22.50 trillion
- (b) ₹22.75 trillion
- (c) ₹23.25 trillion
- (d) ₹23.48 trillion
- (e) ₹24.00 trillion

Ans. d

Sol. UPI volume scales new peak of 16.99 billion in January: NPCI data

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions saw a marginal 1.6 per cent month-on-month increase in volume to 16.99 billion in January, up from 16.73 billion in December 2024. This was a new record in terms of volume, since the digital system became operational in April 2016.

In November, the volume was seen at 15.48 billion. On the other hand, the value also increased by 1 per cent to Rs 23.48 trillion, up from Rs 23.25 trillion in December. This

was seen at Rs 21.55 trillion in November, and Rs 23.5 trillion in October, the highest so far in terms of value, said data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

January saw a 39 per cent rise in volume, and 28 per cent value, compared to the same month last financial year. The average daily transactions during the month was 548 million, translating to around Rs 75,743 crore.

52. What penalty has the DGCA imposed on Air India for allegedly violating aviation safety regulations in February 2025?

फरवरी 2025 में विमानन सुरक्षा नियमों का कथित उल्लंघन करने के लिए डीजीसीए ने एयर इंडिया पर कितना जुर्माना लगाया है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. DGCA imposes Rs 30 lakh penalty on Air India for regulatory norms violation

Aviation safety regulator DGCA has imposed a penalty of Rs 30 lakh on Tata Group-owned Air India for allegedly allowing one of its pilots to operate a flight without complying with certain regulatory requirements.

The order to slap penalty came after the response of a show-cause notice to Air India's head of operations and head of rostering, among other executives, on December 13, 2024 was found "unsatisfactory."

53. Which state in India will establish the first Artificial Intelligence (AI) university?

भारत का कौन सा राज्य पहला आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (AI) विश्वविद्यालय स्थापित करेगा?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Gujarat
- (e) Uttar Pradesh

Ans. b

Sol. Maharashtra to establish country's first Artificial Intelligence university
Maharashtra will establish the first Artificial Intelligence (AI) university in the country and a task force has been formed for the planning and implementation of the project.

The task force includes experts from the academia, industry and government. The task force will be chaired by the Information Technology department's principal secretary.

The university will promote research and development in AI and related fields and will be a centre of excellence, encouraging collaboration between the industry, academia and government.

It includes directors of the IIT Mumbai and IIM Mumbai, representatives from organisations like Google India, Mahindra Group, and L&T, and officials from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India.

Experts from the Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission and the Data Security Council of India are also part of the task force.

54. Under Budget 2025-26, what is the new credit guarantee cover for micro and small enterprises (MSEs) under the CGTMSE scheme?

बजट 2025-26 के तहत, CGTMSE योजना के तहत सूक्ष्म और लघु उद्यमों (MSE) के लिए नया क्रेडिट गारंटी कवर क्या है?

- (a) Rs 3 crore
- (b) Rs 5 crore
- (c) Rs 7 crore
- (d) Rs 10 crore
- (e) Rs 15 crore

Ans. d

Sol. Budget 2025-26: Credit guarantee cover for MSMEs, startups enhanced Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech has announced increasing credit guarantee cover under the CGTMSE scheme for MSMEs and startups to ease their access to formal credit.

For micro and small enterprises, the cover has been enhanced from the current Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore leading to an additional credit of Rs 1.5 lakh crore in the next five years.

For startups, the cover has been increased from the current Rs 10 crore to Rs 20 crore while reducing the guarantee fee to 1 per cent for loans in 27 focus sectors. Also, for well-run exporter MSMEs, the cover will be provided for term loans up to Rs 20 crore.

FM Sitharaman also announced that customised credit cards for micro enterprises registered on the Udyam portal will be introduced with Rs 5 lakh limit. 10 lakh cards will be issued in the first year.

The CGTMSE scheme, which provides guarantees to banks for collateral-free loans to micro and small enterprises (MSEs), had achieved the 1 crore guarantee mark in December last year.

The fund, launched in 2000, currently enables collateral-free loans up to a limit of Rs 5 crore to MSEs with guarantee coverage up to 85 per cent for various categories of loans under the credit guarantee scheme.

Sitharaman, had also revised the MSME definition to bring enterprises with turnover up to Rs 500 crore under the MSME ambit from the current Rs 250 crore. The investment limit for MSME classification will be made 2.5 times while turnover limits for MSME classification will be doubled.

Revision in classification criteria for MSMEs

Rs. in Crore	Investment		Turnover	
	Current	Revised	Current	Revised
Micro Enterprises	1	2.5	5	10
Small Enterprises	10	25	50	100
Medium Enterprises	50	125	250	500

55. How much allocation has been made for the Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence (AI) dedicated to education in the Union Budget 2025?

केंद्रीय बजट 2025 में शिक्षा के लिए समर्पित आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (AI) में उत्कृष्टता केंद्र के लिए कितना आवंटन किया गया है?

- (a) Rs 200 crore
- (b) Rs 300 crore
- (c) Rs 500 crore
- (d) Rs 750 crore
- (e) Rs 1,000 crore

Ans. c

Sol. Union Budget 2025-26: AI, medical, and technical education get a major boost
 The Union Budget for 2025 has announced allocation of Rs 500 crore to create a Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence (AI) dedicated to education. This initiative is set to significantly improve AI education and research at the university level, in line with India's vision of 'Industry 4.0' and 'Make in India, Make for the World.'

The budget lays out plans for expanding infrastructure in five new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), aiming to welcome an additional 6,500 students over the next five years. These new IITs, situated in Jammu, Bhilai, Dharwad, Palakkad, and Tirupati, will

receive upgrades to their facilities to support the growing student population. Moreover, IIT Patna is set for enhancements in its hostel and other facilities. Over the last decade, the total student enrollment across all 23 IITs has surged from 65,000 to 1.35 lakh, demonstrating the government's dedication to developing educational infrastructure.

The Union Budget also emphasises the expansion of medical education, planning to introduce 10,000 additional medical seats in the upcoming year. This effort is part of a larger ambition to increase the total number of medical seats by 75,000 within the next five years. In the past decade, around 1.1 lakh undergraduate and postgraduate medical education seats have been added, representing a remarkable 130 percent rise.

Skill development is a key priority in the 2025 budget, with plans to establish five National Institutes of Excellence dedicated to skill enhancement. These institutes will offer global expertise and create partnerships aimed at improving job prospects for youth by equipping them with industry-relevant skills.

Additionally, the government intends to set up 50,000 Atal Tinkering Labs in government schools over the next five years, promoting a scientific mindset among the younger generation.

With an allocation of over Rs. 1.28 lakh crore for education, this year's budget surpasses last year's revised estimates. Rs. 50,067 crore is dedicated to higher education, while Rs. 78,572 crore is set aside for school education.

Additionally, the Bharatiya Bhasha Pushtak initiative will introduce digital Indian language textbooks in schools and colleges, promoting linguistic diversity and accessibility in education.

56. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced an extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) with 100% coverage, with an outlay of Rs 67,000 crore in the Union Budget 2025-26. Until which year has the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) been extended?

केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने केंद्रीय बजट 2025-26 में 67,000 करोड़ रुपये के परिव्यय के साथ 100% कवरेज के साथ जल जीवन मिशन (JJM) के विस्तार की घोषणा की है। जल जीवन मिशन (JJM) को किस वर्ष तक बढ़ाया गया है?

- (a) 2025
- (b) 2026
- (c) 2027
- (d) 2028
- (e) 2030

Ans. d

Sol. Union Budget 2025-26: Jal Jeevan Mission extended till 2028

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced an extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) till 2028 (100% coverage), with an outlay of Rs 67,000 crore in the Union Budget 2025-26.

However, the scheme saw a massive cut in allocation at the revised estimate (RE) stage during the current fiscal year 2024-25.

Launched in August 2019, the JJM was aimed at providing functional household tap connections (FHTC) to provide 55 lpcd (litre per capita per day) drinking water to all rural households in the country by 2024.

Since 2019, 15 crore households representing 80 per cent of India's rural population have been provided access to potable tap water connections. An amount of Rs 3,400 crore has been allocated for Namami Gange-II for 2025-26, which is a little higher as compared to the outlay of Rs 3,345.70 crore earmarked in the budget last year. No change has been made to the allocation of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin). It has been kept at Rs 7,192 crore for 2025-26.

Among the other schemes of the Jal Shakti Ministry, the interlinking of rivers saw a cut at the RE stage as its allocation was revised to Rs 2,000 crore from Rs 4,000 crore in the budgetary estimate of 2024-25. For 2025-26, an allocation of Rs 2,400 crore has been kept for the interlinking of rivers programme.

57. The Central Government has introduced a "Reforms Linked Distribution Scheme" to incentivize states for improving their power infrastructure and opening it to private investment in the Budget 2025. How much additional borrowing is allowed for states that implement power sector reforms under the new scheme?

केंद्र सरकार ने बजट 2025 में राज्यों को उनके बिजली बुनियादी ढांचे में सुधार करने और इसे निजी निवेश के लिए खोलने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए "सुधारों से जुड़ी वितरण योजना" शुरू की है। नई योजना के तहत बिजली क्षेत्र में सुधार लागू करने वाले राज्यों को कितना अतिरिक्त उधार लेने की अनुमति है?

- (a) 0.2% of GSDP
- (b) 0.3% of GSDP
- (c) 0.5% of GSDP
- (d) 1% of GSDP
- (e) 1.5% of GSDP

Ans. c

Sol. Budget 2025-26: Centre Launches ₹16,021 Crore Power Reform Scheme to Boost State Infrastructure and Attract Private Investment

The Central Government has introduced a scheme to incentivize states for improving their power infrastructure and opening it to private investment.

The scheme allows additional borrowing of 0.5% of GSDP for states that implement power transmission and distribution reforms.

A "Reforms Linked Distribution Scheme" with an allocation of ₹16,021 crore aims to attract private investment in the power transmission and distribution sector.

The scheme promotes 24x7 sustainable power supply and a financially viable distribution sector by supporting reforms at the state level.

Discoms adopting reforms like Public-Private Partnership (PPP) ownership and various franchise models at the distribution level will receive financial assistance.

58. What is the target amount to be generated under the second Asset Monetization Plan announced in the Union Budget 2025?

केंद्रीय बजट 2025 में घोषित दूसरी संपत्ति मुद्रीकरण योजना के तहत उत्पन्न होने वाली लक्ष्य राशि क्या है?

- (a) ₹5 lakh crore
- (b) ₹7 lakh crore
- (c) ₹10 lakh crore
- (d) ₹15 lakh crore
- (e) ₹20 lakh crore

Ans. c

Sol. Union Budget 2025-26: Centre unveils second asset monetization plan worth Rs 10 lakh crore for 2025-30

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget 2025, has announced the launch of the second Asset Monetization Plan for the period 2025-30.

This plan aims to generate Rs 10 lakh crore by monetizing government-owned assets and reinvesting the proceeds into new infrastructure projects.

Launching the plan FM said "Building on the success of the first Asset Monetization Plan announced in 2021, the second Plan for 2025-30 will be launched to plough back capital of ₹ 10 lakh crore in new projects".

Apart from the Asset Monetization Plan, the government has also proposed a financial outlay of Rs 1.5 lakh crore for interest-free loans to states. These loans, with a tenure of 50 years, are aimed at boosting capital expenditure and incentivizing state-level infrastructure reforms.

The initiative builds upon the first Asset Monetization Plan, which was introduced in the Union Budget 2021-22. Under that plan, the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) was formulated to list potential core assets of

Central Government Ministries and Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) for monetization between 2021-22 and 2024-25.

59. CreditAccess Grameen has secured approval for a USD 50 million commitment from the International Finance Corporation (IFC). Which sector is particularly targeted for financial support through the IFC's investment?

क्रेडिटएक्सेस ग्रामीण को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वित्त निगम (IFC) से 50 मिलियन अमरीकी डॉलर की प्रतिबद्धता के लिए स्वीकृति मिल गई है। IFC के निवेश के माध्यम से वित्तीय सहायता के लिए कौन सा क्षेत्र विशेष रूप से लक्षित है?

- (a) Tourism and hospitality
- (b) Agriculture and agri-related activities
- (c) Retail and e-commerce
- (d) Textile industry
- (e) Manufacturing sector

Ans. b

Sol. CreditAccess Grameen secures USD 50 million commitment from IFC
CreditAccess Grameen has secured approval for a USD 50 million commitment from the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

This transaction is a testament to CA Grameen's ongoing efforts to strengthen its asset liability management (ALM) position given flexible repayment structures and maintaining geographical diversification to hedge against market volatility.

IFC's investment will help enhance access to finance for microentrepreneurs with a particular focus on women borrowers engaged in agriculture and agri-related activities. The funding will help CA Grameen reach 3-4 million additional women borrowers over the lifecycle of the project.

60. Which initiative has the Government of India recently launched to improve the Haj pilgrimage experience?

हज यात्रा के अनुभव को बेहतर बनाने के लिए भारत सरकार ने हाल ही में कौन सी पहल शुरू की है?

- (a) Haj Sahayata Portal
- (b) Haj Suvidha App
- (c) Pilgrim Assist App
- (d) Haj Connect Service
- (e) Bharat Pilgrimage Guide

Ans. b

Sol. Government introduces 'Haj Suvidha App' and strengthens healthcare support for Indian pilgrims

The Government of India has taken significant steps to improve the Haj pilgrimage experience by introducing the 'Haj Suvidha App' and providing comprehensive healthcare services to Indian pilgrims, with a special focus on the elderly.

Pilgrims can access important information such as training materials, accommodation details, flight schedules, baggage tracking, an emergency helpline (SOS), grievance redressal, and feedback.

The app also offers language translation services and other essential information to enhance the pilgrim's experience. For government officials overseeing Haj operations, the app provides real-time monitoring and emergency response tools, ensuring better coordination and accountability.

61. What new tool has OpenAI launched in ChatGPT to provide detailed, customized reports?

ओपनएआई ने चैटजीपीटी में विस्तृत, अनुकूलित रिपोर्ट प्रदान करने के लिए कौन सा नया टूल लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Insight Generator
- (b) Research Pro
- (c) Deep Research
- (d) Data Dive
- (e) DeepSeek

Ans. c

Sol. OpenAI launches 'deep research' tool after China's DeepSeek shakes AI world

OpenAI has launched a new "deep research" tool in ChatGPT to provide detailed, customized reports, raising the bar in the AI competition.

The move comes in response to China's DeepSeek chatbot, which has disrupted the AI landscape with advanced research capabilities.

Users can access "deep research" by selecting the feature in the ChatGPT message composer and entering their query for comprehensive insights.

The tool supports file and spreadsheet attachments, offering context for better responses, with a sidebar that tracks steps and sources used in generating the report.

62. What percentage of equity stake in Home Credit India Finance Private Ltd. has TVS Holdings Ltd. acquired in February 2025?

फरवरी 2025 में टीवीएस होल्डिंग्स लिमिटेड ने होम क्रेडिट इंडिया फाइनेंस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड में कितनी प्रतिशत इक्विटी हिस्सेदारी हासिल की है?

- (a) 70%

- (b) 80.74%
- (c) 85.78%
- (d) 75%
- (e) 90.12%

Ans. b

Sol. TVS Holdings completes acquisition of Home Credit India for ₹554 crore
 TVS Holdings Ltd. has completed the acquisition of 80.74% equity stake in Home Credit India Finance Private Ltd. for ₹554 crore. The balance 19.26% of the equity stake has been purchased by Premji Invest and associates of TVS Holdings.

This acquisition aligns seamlessly with TVS Holdings' mission to strengthen its presence in the financial services sector.

The acquisition of Home Credit was funded through a combination of proceeds from the recent sale of the company's real estate assets and borrowings from capital markets.

MD of TVS Holdings - Sudarshan Venu

63. The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) has officially come into force as a treaty-based, inter-governmental organization, becoming a fully functional international legal entity on January 23. Which of the following countries is NOT one of the founding members of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)?
 अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बिग कैट एलायंस (IBCA) आधिकारिक तौर पर एक संधि-आधारित, अंतर-सरकारी संगठन के रूप में लागू हुआ है, जो 23 जनवरी को पूरी तरह कार्यात्मक अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानूनी इकाई बन गया है। निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा देश अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बिग कैट एलायंस (IBCA) के संस्थापक सदस्यों में से एक नहीं है?

- (a) Republic of India
- (b) Republic of Nicaragua
- (c) Federal Republic of Somalia
- (d) Republic of Liberia
- (e) United States of America

Ans. e

Sol. International Big Cat Alliance officially comes into force as fully functional international legal entity

The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) has officially come into force as a treaty-based, inter-governmental organisation, becoming a fully functional international legal entity on January 23.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), acting as the Depository for the Framework Agreement, confirmed that five countries – the Republic of Nicaragua, the Kingdom of Eswatini, the Republic of India, the Federal Republic

of Somalia, and the Republic of Liberia – have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, or approval, making them the founding members of the IBCA.

What is the Big Cat Alliance?

The IBCA was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 9, 2023, during an event commemorating the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger. The initiative's main objective is the conservation of seven major big cat species: the Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.

In a cabinet meeting on February 29 last year, the government officially approved the establishment of the IBCA, with its headquarters based in India. The establishment of the IBCA was spearheaded by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), a nodal organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC).

As of now, 27 countries, including India, have agreed to join the IBCA, along with several international and national organizations dedicated to wildlife conservation.

64. When is World Interfaith Harmony Week observed?

विश्व अंतरधार्मिक सद्भाव सप्ताह कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) February 2 - 7
- (b) February 1 - 7
- (c) February 1 - 8
- (d) February 2 - 8
- (e) February 4 - 11

Ans. b

Sol. 1-7 February - World Interfaith Harmony Week

World Interfaith Harmony Week has been observed on 1-7 February by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), and serves as a global initiative to promote mutual understanding, interfaith dialogue, and cooperation among different religious communities.

It was launched in February 2011 to promote harmony among people of different faiths at a time when interreligious conflict is claiming lives and livelihoods all over the world.

Theme 2025 - Uniting for Peace

65. The International Day of Human Fraternity is observed on February 4 every year to promote peace, tolerance, and mutual understanding among different cultures and religions. What is the theme of International Day of Human Fraternity 2025?

विभिन्न संस्कृतियों और धर्मों के बीच शांति, सहिष्णुता और आपसी समझ को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हर साल 4 फरवरी को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मानव बंधुत्व दिवस मनाया जाता है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मानव बंधुत्व दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Promoting Global Unity
- (b) Building Bridges of Peace
- (c) Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together
- (d) One Humanity, One Future
- (e) Harmony for a Better World

Ans. c

Sol. 4 February - International Day of Human Fraternity

The International Day of Human Fraternity is observed on February 4 every year to promote peace, tolerance, and mutual understanding among different cultures and religions.

Theme 2025 - Human fraternity for world peace and living together

International Day of Human Fraternity was established by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2020 to promote greater cultural and religious tolerance.

The International Day of Human Fraternity was first celebrated by the United Nations on February 4, 2021.

66. World Cancer Day is celebrated on February 4 every year to spread awareness and educate people about the prevention, detection, and treatment of this life-threatening disease. What is the theme of World Cancer Day 2024?

विश्व कैंसर दिवस हर साल 4 फरवरी को इस जानलेवा बीमारी की रोकथाम, पहचान और उपचार के बारे में लोगों को जागरूक करने और शिक्षित करने के लिए मनाया जाता है। विश्व कैंसर दिवस 2024 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Together We Can
- (b) I Am and I Will
- (c) Close the Care Gap
- (d) United by Unique
- (e) Cancer: A Global Fight

Ans. d

Sol. 4 February - World Cancer Day

World Cancer Day is celebrated on February 4 every year to spread awareness and educate people about the prevention, detection, and treatment of this life-threatening disease.

Theme 2024 - United by Unique

This theme is part of a three-year campaign running from 2025 to 2027, focusing on the personal journeys of cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers. World Cancer Day was first introduced on February 4, 1999. The day is led by UICC and was established in the year 2000.

67. Which language has the Maharashtra government made mandatory for all officials to speak in government and semi-government offices?

महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने सरकारी और अर्ध-सरकारी कार्यालयों में सभी अधिकारियों के लिए कौन सी भाषा बोलना अनिवार्य कर दिया है?

- (a) Hindi
- (b) Marathi
- (c) English
- (d) Gujarati
- (e) Bengali

Ans. b

Sol. Maharashtra makes Marathi mandatory for all official communication

The Maharashtra government has made it mandatory for all officials in government and semi-government offices to speak only in Marathi.

The planning department issued the notification, warning that employees who do not follow the directive will face disciplinary action. The decision applies to all communication, official signage, and documentation across the state.

The rule applies to all government offices, semi-government offices, local self-government bodies, government corporations, and government-aided establishments.

About Maharashtra

- **Capital** - Mumbai
- **Chief Minister** - Devendra Fadnavis (3rd time)
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Eknath Sindhe & Ajit Pawar
- **Governor** - C P Radhakrishnan
- **Legislative Assembly Speaker** - Rahul Narwekar
- **Legislative Assembly Seats** - 288

68. Gopal Vittal has been appointed as the acting chairman of the GSMA (Groupe Spécial Mobile Association) board. Where is the headquarters of the Groupe Spécial Mobile Association (GSMA) located?

गोपाल विट्टल को GSMA (ग्रुप स्पेशल मोबाइल एसोसिएशन) बोर्ड का कार्यवाहक अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किया गया है। ग्रुप स्पेशल मोबाइल एसोसिएशन (GSMA) का मुख्यालय कहाँ स्थित है?

- (a) Paris, France
- (b) Berlin, Germany
- (c) London, England
- (d) New York, USA
- (e) Tokyo, Japan

Ans. c

Sol. Airtel's Gopal Vittal named as acting chair of GSMA board

Gopal Vittal, Vice Chairman and MD of telecom firm Bharti Airtel and Deputy Chair of GSMA, has been appointed as the acting chair of the GSMA (Groupe Spécial Mobile Association) board.

The appointment came following the resignation of Jose Maria Alvarez-Pallete, Chairman and CEO of Telefonica, from the company.

The headquarters of the "Groupe Spécial Mobile Association" (GSMA) is located in London, England, UK

Recent Appointments

- **DG of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)** - Rajesh Nirwan
- **CEO of Vedanta Resources Ltd.** - Deshnee Naidoo
- **CEO of Reliance Power** - Neeraj Parakh
- **President of Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) for 2025** - Dhananjay Shukla as the
- **Chairperson of the Executive Council of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library Society** - Nripendra Mishra

69. Who has been sworn in as the new prime minister of Belgium?

बेल्जियम के नए प्रधानमंत्री के रूप में किसने शपथ ली है?

- (a) Charles Michel
- (b) Alexander De Croo
- (c) Bart De Wever
- (d) Elio Di Rupo
- (e) Yves Leterme

Ans. c

Sol. Bart De Wever sworn in as Belgium's new Prime Minister

In Belgium, Bart De Wever has been sworn in as the country's new prime minister. The oath-taking ceremony took place before King Philippe of Belgium at the Royal Palace.

De Wever's coalition, consisting of five parties, includes seven francophone ministers and seven Flemish ministers in the new government.

Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President

- President of Belarus -Alexander Lukashenkos
- PM of Ireland - Micheal Martin
- President of the United States - Donald Trump (47th)
- President of Venezuela -Nicolás Maduro
- President of Lebanon - Joseph Aoun

70. What is the amount allocated for the Maritime Development Fund announced by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Budget 2025?

बजट 2025 में वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण द्वारा घोषित समुद्री विकास निधि के लिए कितनी राशि आवंटित की गई है?

- (a) Rs 10,000 crore
- (b) Rs 15,000 crore
- (c) Rs 20,000 crore
- (d) Rs 25,000 crore
- (e) Rs 30,000 crore

Ans. d

Sol. Budget 2025-26: Maritime Development Fund with ₹25,000-crore corpus Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced a Rs 25,000 crore maritime development fund for the shipping industry among other incentives.

This follows complaints from Indian exporters against alleged "arm-twisting" by foreign shipping lines over freight rates amid the ongoing Red Sea crisis.

The Rs 25,000 crore maritime development fund will be for distributed support and promoting competition. This will have a 49 per cent contribution by the government and the balance will be mobilised by the ports and the private sector.

71. How much fund has been allocated for the 'Nuclear Energy Mission' in Budget 2025?

बजट 2025 में 'परमाणु ऊर्जा मिशन' के लिए कितना फंड आवंटित किया गया है?

- (a) ₹10,000 crore
- (b) ₹15,000 crore
- (c) ₹20,000 crore
- (d) ₹25,000 crore
- (e) ₹30,000 crore

Ans. c

Sol. Budget 2025-26: ₹20,000 Crore Allocated for 'Nuclear Energy Mission'

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced a ₹20,000 crore 'Nuclear Energy Mission' to develop indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMR).

The Budget proposes that at least five of these reactors will be operationalised by 2033.

India's larger goal of ensuring 100 GW of nuclear energy by 2047 and towards this, amendments to the Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act would be made.

72. The Government will launch a modified version of its regional connectivity scheme, UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik). How many new destinations will the UDAN scheme connect over the next 10 years?

सरकार अपनी क्षेत्रीय संपर्क योजना, उड़ान (उड़े देश का आम नागरिक) का संशोधित संस्करण लॉन्च करेगी। उड़ान योजना अगले 10 वर्षों में कितने नए गंतव्यों को जोड़ेगी?

- (a) 100
- (b) 120
- (c) 150
- (d) 200
- (e) 250

Ans. b

Sol. Budget 2025-26: UDAN scheme to add 120 new destinations in next 10 years

Finance minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has announced that the government will launch a modified version of its regional connectivity scheme, UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik), which will set out to connect 120 new destinations over the next 10 years.

The finance minister has allocated ₹530 crore for UDAN in 2025-26, compared to the revised estimate of ₹800 crore in 2024-25. The scheme, launched by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** in October 2016, aims to make air travel affordable by improving connectivity from unserved and underserved airports. The modified scheme will expand its scope to include support for helipads and smaller airports in hilly, aspirational, and northeastern regional districts, **Sitharaman** said.

According to the Economic Survey, UDAN has already operationalised 619 routes connecting 88 airports, including two water aerodromes and 13 heliports.

In addition to the modified UDAN scheme, **Sitharaman** announced plans for new greenfield airports in Bihar, supplementing the ongoing expansion of Patna airport and development of a brownfield airport at Bihta.

73. Which of the following option (a) is/are true regarding the Union Budget 2025 for tourism?

पर्यटन के लिए केंद्रीय बजट 2025 के संबंध में निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा कथन सत्य है?

- (a) The budget aims to develop 50 tourist destinations through a “challenge mode”.
- (b) The Central Government will develop these destinations without State involvement.
- (c) The budget for 2025-26 is ₹2,541.06 crore, which is higher than the revised estimate for 2024-25.
- (d) both a and b
- (e) both a and c

Ans. e

Sol. Budget 2025-26: Top 50 tourist destinations to be developed in ‘Challenge Mode’

In a significant boost to tourism, the Union Budget 2025 allocated funds for the development of the top 50 tourist destinations in the country in partnership with State governments through a “challenge mode”.

While States will be responsible for providing land for essential infrastructural development, hotels at these destinations will be included in the Harmonised Master List (HML) of infrastructure projects.

The government will also promote homestays by extending Mudra loans to these businesses and organising skill development programmes in hospitality institutes. Additionally, it will streamline e-visa facilities and provide visa fee waivers for select tourist groups to attract international visitors.

The total Budget allocation for the Ministry for 2025-26 stands at ₹2,541.06 crore, marking a substantial increase from the revised estimate of ₹850.36 crore in 2024-25.

74. What is the theme of the special polling booth in Vikaspuri, West Delhi launched by ECI?

पश्चिम दिल्ली के विकासपुरी में चुनाव आयोग द्वारा शुरू किए गए विशेष मतदान केंद्र का विषय क्या है?

- (a) India’s Space Odyssey
- (b) India’s Journey to Mars
- (c) India’s Flight from Chandrayaan to Election
- (d) Voting and Science
- (e) Chandrayaan and Democracy

Ans. c

Sol. ECI’s ‘Chandrayaan Se Chuno Tak’ initiative boosts voter enthusiasm in West Delhi

A captivating and futuristic initiative by the Election Commission of India (ECI) has been turning heads and generating excitement in West Delhi.

At a special polling booth in VIKASPURI, voters are greeted with a remarkable theme: "India's Flight from Chandrayaan to Election."

The booth is unlike any other, featuring models of the Chandrayaan and Gaganyaan, as well as interactive displays of planets through a bioscope and telescope.

The idea behind this initiative is to increase voter awareness and enthusiasm, while also celebrating India's remarkable achievements in space exploration.

75. Tshego Gaelae has been crowned Mrs World 2025, becoming the first black woman to win the title in the competition's 40-year history. Which country does Mrs World 2025 winner Tshego Gaelae represent?

त्सेगो गेलई को मिसेज वर्ल्ड 2025 का ताज पहनाया गया है, जो प्रतियोगिता के 40 साल के इतिहास में यह खिताब जीतने वाली पहली अश्वेत महिला बन गई हैं। मिसेज वर्ल्ड 2025 की विजेता त्सेगो गेलई किस देश का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं?

- (a) Sri Lanka
- (b) United States
- (c) South Africa
- (d) Thailand
- (e) Kenya

Ans. c

Sol. South Africa's Tshego Gaelae makes history as first black woman to win Mrs World

South Africa's Tshego Gaelae has been crowned Mrs World 2025, becoming the first black woman to win the title in the competition's 40-year history.

The 33-year-old model from Soweto was crowned in Las Vegas, beating contenders from Sri Lanka and Thailand.

This victory follows in the footsteps of Candice Abrahams, who became the first South African to claim the global crown in 2016.

76. Lift insurance firm PNB MetLife has partnered with which platform to launch the PNB MetLife Smart Invest Pension Plan, a Unit-Linked, Non-Participating Individual Pension Plan, designed to help individuals plan for their golden years?

लिफ्ट बीमा फर्म पीएनबी मेटलाइफ ने पीएनबी मेटलाइफ स्मार्ट इन्वेस्ट पेंशन प्लान, एक यूनिट-लिंक्ड, गैर-भागीदारी व्यक्तिगत पेंशन योजना, जिसे व्यक्तियों को उनके सुनहरे वर्षों की योजना बनाने में मदद करने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है, को लॉन्च करने के लिए किस प्लेटफॉर्म के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Policybazaar
- (b) Coverfox
- (c) LIC Portal
- (d) Paisabazaar
- (e) Bajaj Allianz

Ans. a

Sol. PNB MetLife partners with Policybazaar to Launch Smart Invest Pension Plan for Early Retirement

Lift insurance firm PNB MetLife has partnered with Policybazaar to launch the PNB MetLife Smart Invest Pension Plan, a Unit-Linked, Non-Participating Individual Pension Plan, designed to help individuals plan for their golden years.

The Smart Invest Pension Plan is designed for individuals between 40 to 50 years of age and offers a flexible approach to early retirement planning.

MD & CEO of PNB MetLife - Sameer Bansal

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- Finvasia partners with Yes Bank to launch **AI-enabled super app 'Jumpp'**
- Shriram GI Unveils **Shri Health Suraksha Insurance** – A Comprehensive and Affordable Health Plan
- Tata AIA Life Insurance launches '**Shubh Muhurat**' to meet wedding expenses
- IDFC FIRST Bank launched the UPI enabled RuPay Credit Card called - **FIRST EARN.**
- Shriram Life Insurance launches **Sunishchit Laabh savings plan**
- Bank of Baroda launches '**bob Liquid FD**' for enhanced liquidity and convenience

77. Who has launched a national-level mass outreach campaign "Watershed Yatra", in Hybrid mode to generate people's participation and create awareness about the Watershed Development activities carried out under the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY 2.0) in project areas?

परियोजना क्षेत्रों में प्रधानमंत्री कृषि सिंचाई योजना (WDC-PMKSY 2.0) के वाटरशेड विकास घटक के तहत किए गए वाटरशेड विकास गतिविधियों के बारे में लोगों की भागीदारी बढ़ाने और जागरूकता पैदा करने के लिए हाइब्रिड मोड में राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर जन संपर्क अभियान "वाटरशेड यात्रा" किसने शुरू किया है?

- (a) Narendra Singh Tomar
- (b) Piyush Goyal
- (c) Nitin Gadkari

(d) Shivraj Singh Chouhan

(e) Narendra Modi

Ans. d

Sol. Shivraj Singh Chouhan launches a national-level mass outreach campaign "Watershed Yatra"

Union Minister of Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched a national level mass outreach campaign "Watershed Yatra", in Hybrid mode to generate people's participation and create awareness about the Watershed Development activities carried out under Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY 2.0) in project areas. A total of about 800 Gram Panchayats and more than one lakh people participated in the Watershed Yatra launch program. The Watershed Yatra will consist of Van movement for around 60-90 days across 805 projects, which cover 6673 GPs (13587 villages) in 26 States and 2 UTs.

The Department has developed a Learning Management System (LMS) on Watershed Development and hosted on DoLR's website, which has also been linked to MY Bharat portal for further engagement of youth.

78. How much has the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) raised through 15-year bonds?

नेशनल बैंक फॉर फाइनेंसिंग इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर एंड डेवलपमेंट (NaBFID) ने 15-वर्षीय बॉन्ड के माध्यम से कितनी राशि जुटाई है?

(a) Rs 3,000 crore

(b) Rs 4,500 crore

(c) Rs 5,000 crore

(d) Rs 6,000 crore

(e) Rs 7,000 crore

Ans. c

Sol. NaBFID raises Rs 5,000 crore via 15-year bonds at 7.25% cut-off rate State-owned National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) has raised Rs 5,000 crore through 15-year bonds at a cut-off rate of 7.25 per cent.

Additionally, the state-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) raised Rs 3,950 crore through bonds maturing in approximately 10 years and 20 years, with cut-off rates of 7.24 per cent and 7.25 per cent, respectively.

According to market participants, NaBFID's cut-off rate was considered realistic, given the large state development loan (SDL) issue this week and the increasing selectivity among some of the large long-term investors. The cut-off for 'AAA'-rated long-term issuance has moved up in the last few months.

State-owned REC had raised Rs 1,620 crore through bonds maturing in 10 years at a very attractive cut of 7.10 per cent. During this time, the 10-year government securities yield has come down from 6.74 per cent at the end of November to 6.67 per cent as of February 4.

79. Which UN organization did President Donald Trump withdraw the US from through an executive order in February 2025?

राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने फरवरी 2025 में एक कार्यकारी आदेश के माध्यम से अमेरिका को किस संयुक्त राष्ट्र संगठन से अलग कर लिया?

- (a) UNESCO
- (b) UNICEF
- (c) UNHRC
- (d) UNDP
- (e) UNHCR

Ans. c

Sol. President Trump signs executive order withdrawing US from UNHRC
President Donald Trump signed an executive order withdrawing the US from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), prohibiting any future funding for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

President Trump also directed the US to review its participation in the UN's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The Executive order said that the United States helped found the United Nations after World War II to prevent future global conflicts and promote international peace and security. Mr. Trump halted funds for UNRWA during his first term. President Joe Biden put a block on US funds for UNRWA in January 2024.

80. Where has the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) inaugurated the largest Hindu temple of South Africa?

बोचासनवासी अक्षर पुरुषोत्तम स्वामीनारायण संस्था (BAPS) ने दक्षिण अफ्रीका के सबसे बड़े हिंदू मंदिर का उद्घाटन कहाँ किया है?

- (a) Cape Town
- (b) Durban
- (c) Johannesburg
- (d) Pretoria
- (e) Bloemfontein

Ans. c

Sol. BAPS inaugurates South Africa's largest Hindu Temple in Johannesburg

The Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) has inaugurated the largest Hindu Temple of South Africa in Johannesburg. The inauguration of BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir and Cultural Complex marks a historic milestone for the Hindu community in the country. This new temple joins a growing network of 35 BAPS temples across Africa, including seven in South Africa. BAPS has currently a global presence with over thirteen thousand temples built across various countries, serving as centres for spirituality, cultural preservation, and community service.

81. Who won the Grammy Award in 2025 for the 'Best New Age Album, Ambient or Chant Album' category?

2025 में 'बेस्ट न्यू एज एल्बम, एम्बिएंट या चैंट एल्बम' श्रेणी के लिए ग्रैमी पुरस्कार किसने जीता?

- (a) A. R. Rahman
- (b) Chandrika Tandon
- (c) Ravi Shankar
- (d) Anoushka Shankar
- (e) Zakir Hussain

Ans. b

Sol. Chandrika Tandon wins Best New Age Album Award at the 67th Grammy Indian-born American musician Chandrika Tandon won her first Grammy award in the 'Best New Age Album, Ambient or Chant Album category' for her album Triveni at the 67th Grammy Awards 2025.

This was the first Grammy Award for the 71-year-old Chandrika Tandon who was once nominated for a Grammy award in 2011 for her album Soul Call.

The 67th annual Grammy Awards function was held at Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, the United States of America.

The Grammy Awards is considered to be one of the most prestigious awards in the music industry and is given annually by the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences in the United States of America. The first Grammy Award was given in 1959.

Award Winners of the 67th Grammy Awards 2025:

Category	Winner	Album/Song
Album of the Year	Beyoncé	<i>Cowboy Carter</i>
Record of the Year	Kendrick Lamar	<i>Not Like Us</i>

Category	Winner	Album/Song
Song of the Year	Kendrick Lamar (Songwriter: Kendrick Lamar)	<i>Not Like Us</i>
Best New Artist	Chappell Roan	—
Best Pop Solo Performance	Sabrina Carpenter	<i>Espresso</i>
Best Pop Vocal Album	Sabrina Carpenter	<i>Short n' Sweet</i>
Best Rock Performance	The Beatles	<i>Now & Then</i>
Best Rock Album	The Rolling Stones	<i>Hackney Diamonds</i>
Best Rap Performance	Kendrick Lamar	<i>Not Like Us</i>
Best Country Album	Beyoncé	<i>Cowboy Carter</i>
Best Score Soundtrack For Visual Media (Film And Television)	Hans Zimmer	<i>Dune: Part Two</i>
Best New Age Album, Ambient or Chant Album	Chandrika Tandon, Wouter Kellerman, Eru Matsumoto	<i>Triveni</i>

82. Which country has become the first to introduce laws against AI tools used to create sexual images of children?

कौन सा देश बच्चों की यौन छवियाँ बनाने के लिए इस्तेमाल किए जाने वाले AI उपकरणों के खिलाफ कानून पेश करने वाला पहला देश बन गया है?

- (a) United States
- (b) Canada
- (c) United Kingdom
- (d) Australia
- (e) India

Ans. c

Sol. UK becomes first nation to outlaw AI tools used to generate child sexual abuse content

The United Kingdom has become the first country to introduce laws against artificial intelligence tools used to generate sexualised images of children.

The government announced that it would make it illegal to possess, create or distribute AI tools that generate abusive images, making it a crime punishable by up to five years in prison.

AI tools are being used to generate child sexual abuse images by “nudeifying” real-life images of children or by “stitching the faces of other children onto existing images.

About United Kingdom (UK)

- **Capital** - London
- **Currency** - Pound sterling
- **Prime Minister** – Keir Starmer (replace Rishi Sunak)

83. India's 1st white tiger breeding centre will be set up in which state?

भारत का पहला सफेद बाघ प्रजनन केंद्र किस राज्य में स्थापित किया जाएगा?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Madhya Pradesh
- (e) Maharashtra

Ans. d

Sol. India's First White Tiger Breeding Centre Approved in Madhya Pradesh
Central Zoo Authority (CZA), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), has approved the proposal to set up India's 1st white tiger breeding centre in Govindgarh area of Rewadistrict in Madhya Pradesh (MP).

The breeding centre is expected to enhance biodiversity conservation, promote wildlife tourism, and create job opportunities for the local population.

About Madhya Pradesh

- **Capital** – Bhopal
- **Chief Minister** – Dr Mohan Yadav (replace Shivraj Singh Chauhan)
- **Deputy CM** - Jagdish Devda & Rajendra Shukla
- **Speaker of Madhya Pradesh Assembly** - Narendra Singh Tomar
- **Governor** – Mangubhai C. Patel

84. Sri Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi, has approved Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 for Ik Hor Ashwthama (Short Stories) by Late Chaman Arora. In which language did Late Chaman Arora receive the Sahitya Akademi Award 2024?

साहित्य अकादमी के अध्यक्ष श्री माधव कौशिक ने स्वर्गीय चमन अरोड़ा की पुस्तक इक होर अश्वत्थामा (लघु कथाएँ) के लिए साहित्य अकादमी पुरस्कार 2024 को मंजूरी दी है। स्वर्गीय चमन अरोड़ा को किस भाषा में साहित्य अकादमी पुरस्कार 2024 मिला?

- (a) Hindi
- (b) Urdu
- (c) Dogri
- (d) Punjabi
- (e) English

Ans. c

Sol. Chaman Arora awarded Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 in Dogri for his book "Ik Hor Ashwthama"

Sri Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi, has approved Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 in Dogri for Ik Hor Ashwthama (Short Stories) by Late Chaman Arora.

The book was selected on the basis of recommendation made by the Jury comprising three members in accordance with the rules and procedures laid down for the purpose.

The Award in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper-plaque and a payment of Rs.1,00,000/- will be presented to the family member/nominee of the awardee at a special function will be held on 8 March 2025 at New Delhi.

The Sahitya Akademi was formally inaugurated by the Government of India on 12 March 1954.

Akademi gives 24 awards annually to literary works in the languages it has recognized and an equal number of awards to literary translations from and into the languages of India. Besides the 22 languages enumerated in the Constitution of India, the Sahitya Akademi has recognised English and Rajasthani as languages in which its programme may be implemented.

Recent Award

- **BCCI's Lifetime Achievement Award 2024** - Sachin Tendulkar (31st)
- **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2025** - Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) (*In the Institutional Category for its excellent work in Disaster Management*)
- **Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025** - Prof Urbasi Sinha
- **Singapore' Honorary Citizen Award** - Tarun Das (Former DG of Confederation of Indian Industry)
- **14th PSE Excellence Awards by ICC** - Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)

85. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Tata Communications' plan to sell its entire stake in Tata Communications Payment Solutions (TCPSL) to Transaction Solutions International (TSI). Transaction Solutions International (TSI) is the Indian arm of which international company?

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) ने टाटा कम्युनिकेशंस की टाटा कम्युनिकेशंस पेमेंट सॉल्यूशंस (TCPSL) में अपनी पूरी हिस्सेदारी ट्रांज़ैक्शन सॉल्यूशंस इंटरनेशनल (TSI) को बेचने की योजना को मंजूरी दे दी है। ट्रांज़ैक्शन सॉल्यूशंस इंटरनेशनल (TSI) किस अंतरराष्ट्रीय कंपनी की भारतीय शाखा है?

- (a) Australian fintech company Findi
- (b) US-based fintech company Square
- (c) Japanese payment giant SoftBank
- (d) UK-based firm Revolut
- (e) Singapore-based fintech GrabPay

Ans. a

Sol. RBI Approves Tata Communications' Rs. 330 Crore ATM Business Sale to Findi

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Tata Communications' plan to sell its entire stake in Tata Communications Payment Solutions (TCPSL) to Transaction Solutions International (TSI), the Indian arm of Australian fintech company Findi.

The deal, first announced in November 2024, is valued at Rs 330 crore, with an additional Rs 75 crore based on interchange rate adjustments.

TSI currently operates more than 7,500 "brown label" ATMs, partnering with banks like SBI, PNB, Central Bank of India, and HDFC. It also manages back-end operations for over 10,000 "white label" ATMs and facilitates digital payments through 50,000+ merchants under its FindiPay brand.

86. How many new fellowships were announced under the PMRF scheme in the Budget 2025-26?

बजट 2025-26 में पीएमआरएफ योजना के तहत कितनी नई फेलोशिप की घोषणा की गई?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Budget 2025-26 : 10,000 New Fellowships Under PMRF Scheme

The Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF) scheme, aimed at supporting talented students pursuing doctoral research in India, has received a major boost in Budget 2025.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman has announced that 10,000 new fellowships will be awarded over the next five years.

What Is PMRF Scheme?

Launched in Budget 2018-19, the PMRF scheme provides direct admission to PhD programmes in IITs, IISc, and IISERs, along with attractive financial support.

Fellowship Amount Under PMRF

Selected scholars receive a monthly stipend ranging from Rs 70,000 to Rs 80,000, along with a research grant of Rs 2 lakh per year (up to Rs 10 lakh for five years). The year-wise fellowship structure is as follows:

- First Year - Rs 70,000 per month
- Second Year - Rs 70,000 per month
- Third Year - Rs 75,000 per month
- Fourth Year - Rs 80,000 per month
- Fifth Year - Rs 80,000 per month

Expanded Eligibility And Additional Benefits

Recently, the PMRF scheme was expanded to include eligible students from all recognised institutions and universities in India. Additionally, students pursuing MTech in AICTE-approved and centrally funded technical institutions (CFTIs) receive a monthly stipend of Rs 12,400.

87. As per the Budget 2025-26, the government will set up a second Gene Bank with 10 lakh germplasm lines. What is the main focus of the second Gene Bank's conservation efforts?

बजट 2025-26 के अनुसार, सरकार 10 लाख जर्मप्लाज्म लाइनों के साथ दूसरा जीन बैंक स्थापित करेगी। दूसरे जीन बैंक के संरक्षण प्रयासों का मुख्य फोकस क्या है?

- (a) To develop new types of crops
- (b) To preserve genetic resources for food and nutritional security
- (c) To protect endangered plant species only
- (d) To genetically modify crops for commercial use
- (e) To store only medicinal plant species

Ans. b

Sol. Budget 2025-26: Centre to set up 2nd gene bank with 10 lakh germplasm lines
 The government will set up a second Gene Bank with 10 lakh germplasm lines to conserve genetic resources and secure food and nutritional security. This aims to provide conservation support to the public and commercial sectors for genetic resources and to secure future food and nutritional security.

A gene bank preserves and stores genetic material, including seeds, tissues and DNA samples from various plant and animal species. . Established in 1972, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) Genebank is a well-known institution committed to the preservation and conservation of crop genetic resources.

ICRISAT Genebank is a key institution protecting the genetic diversity of 11 vital crops, including various types of millet, chickpea, pigeon pea, and groundnut. It operates globally with facilities in India, Zimbabwe, Niger, and Kenya.

In 2019, the ICRISAT set up the world's first gene bank in Hyderabad that is powered entirely by solar energy.

88. What is the aim of the 'Gyan Bharatam Mission' announced in the Union Budget 2025-26?

केंद्रीय बजट 2025-26 में घोषित 'ज्ञान भारतम मिशन' का उद्देश्य क्या है?

- (a) To create new manuscripts for educational purposes
- (b) To survey, document, and conserve India's manuscript heritage
- (c) To digitalize all ancient Indian texts
- (d) To print and distribute manuscripts for public use
- (e) To promote modern literature

Ans. b

Sol. Union Budget 2025-26: New 'Gyan Bharatam Mission' for manuscripts announced

The Union Budget 2025-26 announced a special mission for the survey, documentation, and conservation of India's manuscript heritage. Launched as the 'Gyan Bharatam Mission', it intends to cover more than one crore manuscripts.

The 'Gyan Bharatam Mission' is for undertaking the "survey, documentation and conservation" of India's manuscript heritage lying with academic institutions, museums, libraries, and private collectors.

To accommodate this new initiative, the budget allocation for the National Manuscripts Mission (NMM), whose aim is to identify and document manuscripts and make the manuscript heritage accessible across the country, has been hiked from ₹3.5 crore to ₹60 crore.

The overall allocation for the Culture Ministry has been increased by approximately ₹100 crore with a total outlay of ₹3,360.96 crore as against the revised estimate of ₹3,260.93 crore in the current fiscal.

Out of this, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has been allocated ₹1,278.49 crore against ₹1273.91 crore allocated in 2024-25 which was revised to ₹1191.99 crore.

A total of ₹156.55 crore has been allocated for national libraries and archives, ensuring the maintenance of historical records and documents, while museums such as the National Museum and the National Gallery of Modern Art will receive ₹126.63 crore to enhance cultural preservation efforts.

89. How much has the Union Budget allocated to the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) for research, development, and innovation?

केंद्रीय बजट में विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय (MoST) को अनुसंधान, विकास और नवाचार के लिए कितना आवंटित किया गया है?

- (a) ₹10,000 crore
- (b) ₹40,000 crore
- (c) ₹30,000 crore
- (d) ₹15,000 crore
- (e) ₹20,000 crore

Ans. e

Sol. Union Budget 2025: Rs 20,000 cr allocated for Research, Development and Innovation

In a quest to boost private sector research and development in India, the Union Budget has allocated ₹20,000 crore to the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) for “research, development and innovation”.

Typically, the Ministry’s annual budget has averaged around ₹6,000 crore to ₹8,000 crore.

90. What is the main goal of the National Geospatial Mission announced in Budget 2025-26?

बजट 2025-26 में घोषित राष्ट्रीय भू-स्थानिक मिशन का मुख्य लक्ष्य क्या है?

- (a) To increase agricultural production
- (b) To modernise land records and enhance urban planning
- (c) To support rural development
- (d) To improve educational infrastructure
- (e) To develop a new transportation network

Ans. b

Sol. Budget 2025-26: National Geospatial Mission announced to modernise land records

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the launch of a National Geospatial Mission in the Budget 2025-26.

The mission will be aimed at modernising land records and enhancing urban planning across India. This initiative will leverage the existing PM Gati Shakti

framework to develop foundational geospatial infrastructure and data, facilitating improved design and execution of infrastructure projects. Geospatial refers to data or information that is associated with a specific location on the Earth's surface. The National Geospatial Mission is expected to significantly impact various sectors, particularly in urban development and land management.

91. Two-time grand slam champion and former world No. 1 Simona Halep has retired from tennis. In which year did Simona Halep win her first Grand Slam title?

दो बार की ग्रैंड स्लैम चैंपियन और पूर्व विश्व नंबर 1 सिमोना हालेप ने टेनिस से संन्यास ले लिया है। सिमोना हालेप ने अपना पहला ग्रैंड स्लैम खिताब किस वर्ष जीता था?

- (a) 2017
- (b) 2016
- (c) 2019
- (d) 2020
- (e) 2018

Ans. e

Sol. Two time Grand Slams winner Simona Halep announced Retirement
Two-time grand slam champion and former world No. 1 Simona Halep has retired from tennis.

The Romanian announced her decision at the Transylvania Open in Cluj, Romania after losing her first-round match against Lucia Bronzetti 6-1, 6-1. Halep has struggled with injuries since returning to the court last year after serving a doping ban.

The 33-year-old was handed a four-year ban in September 2023 after testing positive for the banned substance Roxadustat at the 2022 US Open.

She won her first grand slam at the French Open in 2018, before securing her second at Wimbledon in 2019.

92. Which organization has Airtel Payments Bank partnered with for the Celebrity Cricket League (CCL) 2025?

एयरटेल पेमेंट्स बैंक ने सेलिब्रिटी क्रिकेट लीग (सीसीएल) 2025 के लिए किस संगठन के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Mumbai Heroes
- (b) Karnataka Bulldozers
- (c) Chennai Rhinos
- (d) Bengal Tigers
- (e) Telugu Warriors

Ans. b

Sol. Airtel Payments Bank partners with Karnataka Bulldozers for CCL 2025
Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with the Karnataka Bulldozers for the Celebrity Cricket League (CCL) 2025.

As part of this collaboration, Airtel Payments Bank will be co-sponsoring the team in its quest for victory while promoting safe digital banking solutions to fans across the nation.

The Celebrity Cricket League, known for its blend of cricket and entertainment, will begin on 8 February 2025. Through this collaboration, Airtel Payments Bank aims to connect with millions of cricket fans nationwide and reinforce its position as a trusted partner in digital banking.

93. What is the name of the AI-powered virtual home loan advisor introduced by L&T Finance Limited (LTF)?

एलएंडटी फाइनेंस लिमिटेड (एलटीएफ) द्वारा पेश किए गए एआई-संचालित वर्चुअल होम लोन सलाहकार का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Knowledgeable AI
- (b) AI HomeAdvisor
- (c) LoanMate AI
- (d) HomeBot
- (e) LoanGuru

Ans. a

Sol. L & T Finance launches AI-powered Virtual Home Loan Advisor 'KAI'

L & T Finance Limited (LTF) has introduced Knowledgeable AI (KAI), an AI-powered virtual home loan advisor, designed to simplify and personalize the home loan journey, accessible on their newly redesigned corporate website.

KAI addresses challenges like complex terminology, intricate calculations, and lengthy processes, offering intuitive, efficient support to first-time homebuyers, helping them navigate the home loan process smoothly.

Utilizing a specialized Large Language Model (LLM), KAI provides personalized guidance, instant EMI calculations, and expert answers, functioning as a 24/7 home loan guide rather than a traditional chatbot.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- PNB MetLife partners with Policybazaar to Launch **Smart Invest Pension Plan for Early Retirement**
- Finvasia partners with Yes Bank to launch **AI-enabled super app 'Jumpp'**
- Shriram GI Unveils **Shri Health Suraksha Insurance** – A Comprehensive and Affordable Health Plan

- Tata AIA Life Insurance launches 'Shubh Muhurat' to meet wedding expenses
- IDFC FIRST Bank launched the UPI enabled RuPay Credit Card called - **FIRST EARN** .

94. Which village has been declared the first Biodiversity Heritage Site of Gujarat?

किस गांव को गुजरात का पहला जैव विविधता विरासत स्थल घोषित किया गया है?

- (a) Guneri
- (b) Mandvi
- (c) Bhuj
- (d) Mundra
- (e) Rapar

Ans. a

Sol. Guneri village in Gujarat declared the first biodiversity heritage site. The 32.78 hectare area of Guneri village in Lakhtar tehsil of Kutch district, which is a natural inland mangrove site, has been declared as the first Biodiversity Heritage Site of Gujarat.

The Gujarat government made the announcement after considering a recommendation from the Gujarat Biodiversity Board. This will ensure conservation and enrichment of the flora and fauna in the area "through a management plan".

The announcement has been done under the provisions of The Biodiversity Act, 2002. The Act empowers the state government to notify an area as a BHS after consulting concerned local bodies.

About Gujarat

- Capital- Gandhinagar
- Chief Minister- Bhupendra Rajnikant Patel
- Governor- Acharya Devvrat

95. In February 2025, which university conferred an honorary doctorate on Noel Tata, a distinguished business leader within the Tata Group and a proud alumnus of the University?

फरवरी 2025 में, किस विश्वविद्यालय ने टाटा समूह के एक प्रतिष्ठित व्यवसायी नेता और विश्वविद्यालय के एक गौरवशाली पूर्व छात्र नोएल टाटा को मानद डॉक्टरेट की उपाधि प्रदान की?

- (a) University of Cambridge
- (b) University of Sussex
- (c) University of Oxford

(d) London School of Economics

(e) University of Manchester

Ans. b

Sol. Noel Tata awarded honorary doctorate by the University of Sussex

The University of Sussex has conferred an honorary doctorate upon Noel Tata, a distinguished business leader within the Tata Group and a proud alumnus of the University.

The honorary degree was presented by Professor Sasha Roseneil, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Sussex, during a private ceremony held in Mumbai.

Noel Tata, who graduated from the University of Sussex in 1978 with a degree in Economics.

Recent Award

- **Sahitya Akademi Award 2024** - Late Chaman Arora (for Ik Hor Ashwthama in Dogri).
- **BCCI's Lifetime Achievement Award 2024** - Sachin Tendulkar (31st)
- **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2025** - Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) (*In the Institutional Category for its excellent work in Disaster Management*)
- **Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025** - Prof Urbasi Sinha
- **Singapore' Honorary Citizen Award** - Tarun Das (Former DG of Confederation of Indian Industry)
- **14th PSE Excellence Awards by ICC** - Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)

96. In February 2025, who has been appointed as Citibank's India subcontinent sub-cluster and banking head?

फरवरी 2025 में, सिटीबैंक के भारत उपमहाद्वीप उप-क्लस्टर और बैंकिंग प्रमुख के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Amol Gupte
- (b) Ashu Khullar
- (c) Anthony Diamandakis
- (d) K Balasubramanian
- (e) Shantanu Narayen

Ans. d

Sol. Citibank appoints K Balasubramanian as India head

Citibank appointed K Balasubramanian as India subcontinent sub-cluster and banking head, succeeding Ashu Khulla.

Balasubramanian will report to Amol Gupte, head of Asia South and banking head. Ashu Khullar will transition to co-head of global asset managers (GAM) with Anthony Diamandakis.

Under Khullar's leadership from 2019 to 2025, Citi India achieved significant growth, becoming a top investment bank in equity capital markets and mergers and acquisitions.

Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **Executive Director of Dhanlaxmi Bank** - P. Suriaraj
- **MD & CEO of IDBI Bank** - Rakesh Sharma
- **MD and CEO of Zurich Kotak General Insurance** - Alok Kumar Agarwal (Suresh Agarwal)
- **MD and CEO of Indian Bank** - Binod Kumar
- **MD & CEO of Institutional Equities at JM Financial Institutional Securities** - Ankur Jhaveri
- **CEO of Angel One** - Ambarish Kenghe (effect from March 2025)

97. India's Zepto has become the world's second most downloaded mobile app in the foods and drinks category in 2024. Which app was the most downloaded mobile app in the foods and drinks category in 2024?

भारत का ज़ेप्टो 2024 में खाद्य और पेय श्रेणी में दुनिया का दूसरा सबसे ज़्यादा डाउनलोड किया जाने वाला मोबाइल ऐप बन गया है। 2024 में खाद्य और पेय श्रेणी में सबसे ज़्यादा डाउनलोड किया जाने वाला मोबाइल ऐप कौन सा था?

- (a) Swiggy
- (b) Zomato
- (c) Dunzo
- (d) McDonald's
- (e) Blinkit

Ans. d

Sol. Zepto world's second-most-downloaded app in food and drink category Zepto, the Indian quick commerce startup, last year became the world's second most downloaded mobile app on mobiles in the foods and drinks category, according to data Sensor Tower released.

McDonald's, the US fast food chain, was the most downloaded. Zepto's rival Blinkit was the tenth most downloaded app in the category.

Other Indian companies in the category were food and grocery delivery companies Zomato at number five and its competitor Swiggy at number nine.

The category also included fast food and fast casual restaurants, restaurant order and delivery, other food delivery services, dining and listing, reviews and reservations and dining and restaurant apps.

98. International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is observed every year on 6 February. Which theme has been chosen for the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM in 2025?

महिला जननांग विकृति के लिए शून्य सहनशीलता का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस हर साल 6 फरवरी को मनाया जाता है। 2025 में FGM के लिए शून्य सहनशीलता के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस के लिए कौन सी थीम चुनी गई है?

- (a) End FGM: Act Now
- (b) Unite to Protect Girls
- (c) Stepping up the Pace
- (d) Breaking the Silence
- (e) Empowering Women

Ans. c

Sol. 6 February - International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is observed every year on 6 February.

The day aims to raise awareness and promote action to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), a harmful practice affecting millions of women and girls worldwide.

Theme 2025- Step up the Pace

In 2012, the UN General Assembly designated February 6th as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, with the aim to amplify and direct the efforts on the elimination of this practice. Since 2008, UNFPA, jointly with UNICEF, leads the largest global programme to accelerate the elimination of female genital mutilation.

99. Who has won the gold medal in women's 10-metre air pistol at the 38th National Games?

38वें राष्ट्रीय खेलों में महिलाओं की 10 मीटर एयर पिस्टल में स्वर्ण पदक किसने जीता है?

- (a) Nagidi Gayatri
- (b) Manu Bhaker
- (c) Suruchi
- (d) Heena Sidhu
- (e) Elavenil Valarivan

Ans. c

Sol. 38th National Games: Haryana's Suruchi bags Gold in women's 10 metre air pistol

In the 38th National Games, Haryana's Suruchi wins the gold medal in women's 10 metre air pistol scoring 245.7 points.

Haryana also bagged silver to secure the top position. In rowing, Services secured the gold medal in the men's double sculls, and also claimed the top spot in the men's coxless four sculls event.

In the women's K-1 slalom event, Andhra Pradesh's Nagidi Gayatri put on a spectacular show, winning the gold medal and proving her mettle.

Uttarakhand delivered an outstanding performance in lawn bowls. In the Under-25 Boys category, Uttarakhand defeated Assam 21-20 to clinch the gold medal. In the compound men's team archery event, Delhi won gold, Haryana took silver.

100. Who has inaugurated the NSDC International Academy at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh?

उत्तर प्रदेश के ग्रेटर नोएडा में NSDC इंटरनेशनल अकादमी का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

- (a) Yogi Adityanath
- (b) Jayant Chaudhary
- (c) Amit Shah
- (d) Piyush Goyal
- (e) Rajnath Singh

Ans. b

Sol. Jayant Chaudhary inaugurates NSDC International Academy at Greater Noida

Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Minister of State, Ministry of Education inaugurated the NSDC International Academy at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The academy is a state-of-the-art facility designed to provide world-class skill development and training programmes.

With a target of training over 1,000 candidates annually, the NSDC International Academy is committed to addressing the demands of both local and international job markets.

With residential facilities accommodating up to 500 candidates, the NSDC International Academy offers an immersive learning environment that promotes both academic and personal growth.

101. Which country has announced to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO), following the United States?

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के बाद किस देश ने विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) से हटने की घोषणा की है?

- (a) Brazil
- (b) Argentina
- (c) Mexico
- (d) Chile
- (e) Peru

Ans. b

Sol. Following USA, Argentina withdraws from World Health Organization Argentina announced its decision to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO), following the United States' similar move under President Donald Trump.

The decision was made by Argentina's libertarian President Javier Milei, who instructed Foreign Minister Gerardo Werthein to initiate the withdrawal. President Milei cited "deep differences" regarding the WHO's management of health issues, particularly its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

About World Health Organization (WHO)

- **Formation** - 7 April 1948
- **Headquarters** - Geneva, Switzerland
- **First President** - Andrija Štampar
- **Director General** - Tedros Adhanom (Ethiopia)
- **Deputy Director General** - Soumya Swaminathan (Indian)
- **Member Countries** - 194

102. In Budget 2025, FM Nirmala Sitharaman has announced an Export Promotion Mission with an outlay of ₹2,250 crore to facilitate easy access to export credit, cross-border factoring support, and help MSMEs tackle non-tariff measures in overseas markets. Which ministries will drive the Export Promotion Mission jointly?

बजट 2025 में, वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने निर्यात ऋण तक आसान पहुंच, सीमा पार फैक्ट्रिंग सहायता और एमएसएमई को विदेशी बाजारों में गैर-टैरिफ उपायों से निपटने में मदद करने के लिए ₹2,250 करोड़ के परिव्यय के साथ एक निर्यात संवर्धन मिशन की घोषणा की है। कौन से मंत्रालय संयुक्त रूप से निर्यात संवर्धन मिशन को आगे बढ़ाएंगे?

- (a) Ministries of Commerce, MSMEs, and Finance
- (b) Ministries of Tourism, Textile, and Agriculture
- (c) Ministries of Finance, Health, and Education
- (d) Ministries of External Affairs, MSMEs, and Skill Development
- (e) Ministry of MSMEs, Finance and Skill Development

Ans. a

Sol. Budget 2025: Export promotion mission, Bharat Trade Net in works to boost trade

The Union Budget announced an Export Promotion Mission with an outlay of ₹2,250 crore to facilitate easy access to export credit, cross-border factoring support, and help MSMEs tackle non-tariff measures in overseas markets.

The Mission, with sectoral and ministerial targets, will be driven jointly by the Ministries of Commerce, MSMEs, and Finance. This is among the slew of measures announced in the Budget to promote exports.

Another major plan is to create a digital public infrastructure, 'BharatTradeNet' (BTN), for international trade and it will be a unified platform for trade documentation and financing solutions. This will complement the Unified Logistics Interface Platform. The government will also revamp the model BIT (Bilateral Investment Treaty) to make it more investor-friendly and encourage sustained foreign investment.

In order to support food processing exports, a National Food Technology Institute will be set up in Bihar and it will enhance value addition, agri-exports, and job creation.

103. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced Grameen Credit Score, a framework to be developed by the public sector banks for the credit needs of the members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and people in rural areas. Which institutions will develop the Grameen Credit Score framework?

वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने ग्रामीण क्रेडिट स्कोर की घोषणा की है, जो स्वयं सहायता समूहों (एसएचजी) के सदस्यों और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के लोगों की ऋण आवश्यकताओं के लिए सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों द्वारा विकसित किया जाने वाला एक ढांचा है। ग्रामीण क्रेडिट स्कोर ढांचा कौन सी संस्थाएँ विकसित करेंगी?

- (a) Public Sector Banks
- (b) Private Banks
- (c) Microfinance Institutions
- (d) Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)
- (e) Cooperative Societies

Ans. a

Sol. Budget 2025: Grameen Credit Score to serve credit needs of self-help groups
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced Grameen Credit Score, a framework to be developed by the public sector banks for the credit needs of the members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and people in rural areas.

Public Sector Banks will develop a 'Grameen Credit Score' framework to serve the credit needs of SHG members and people in rural areas.

GCS will complement existing microfinance models and work alongside credit scores like CIBIL and CRIF Highmark for assessing loans. This score will be integrated with the SVAMITVA Scheme.

104. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in the Union Budget 2025-26, that the government would introduce the Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0 to decriminalise over 100 outdated legal provisions to achieve greater ease of doing business in the country. How many Central Acts were decriminalised under the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023?

वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने केंद्रीय बजट 2025-26 में घोषणा की कि सरकार देश में कारोबार करने में और अधिक आसानी लाने के लिए 100 से अधिक पुराने कानूनी प्रावधानों को अपराधमुक्त करने के लिए जन विश्वास विधेयक 2.0 पेश करेगी। जन विश्वास (प्रावधानों का संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2023 के तहत कितने केंद्रीय अधिनियमों को अपराध की श्रेणी से हटा दिया गया?

- (a) 150 Central Acts
- (b) 183 Central Acts
- (c) 200 Central Acts
- (d) 120 Central Acts
- (e) 250 Central Acts

Ans. b

Sol. Budget 2025: Government to introduce Jan Vishwas 2.0 for greater ease of doing business

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in the Union Budget 2025-26, that the government would introduce the Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0 to decriminalise over 100 outdated legal provisions to achieve greater ease of doing business in the country.

The existing Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023 has decriminalised 183 Central Acts administered across a spectrum of 19 Ministries or Departments.

The key objective of the Jan Vishwas Act 2023 was to remove archaic provisions that did not serve the evolving technological and business environment.

The Jan Vishwas 2.0 intends to further usher in comprehensive reforms aimed to unburden the judiciary and reduce litigation time and costs. It would introduce civil penalties and administrative actions for minor technical and procedural lapses.

The 2023 Act covers amendments in statutes across a span of over 100 years. These include the Press and Registration of Books Act of 1867, the Indian Post Office Act of 1898, the Boilers Act of 1923, the Indian Forest Act 1927 to the more recent laws like the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 and the

Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) of 2016.

105. What is the main purpose of the Basic Customs Duty (BCD) exemptions introduced in the Union Budget 2025-26?

केंद्रीय बजट 2025-26 में शुरू की गई मूल सीमा शुल्क (बीसीडी) छूट का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?

- (a) To rationalize the tariff structure and address duty inversion
- (b) To increase customs revenue
- (c) To discourage imports of industrial goods
- (d) To promote foreign investment in India
- (e) To regulate the gold and diamond market

Ans. a

Sol. Budget 2025: Government proposes Rationalization of Customs Tariff Structure

The Union Budget 2025-26 introduces major exemptions under Basic Customs Duty (BCD) to rationalize tariff structure and address duty inversion.

The proposals are set to support domestic manufacturing and value addition while promoting exports, facilitating trade, and providing relief to common people.

Delivering on the promise to review the customs rate structure announced in July 2024, the Budget proposes removing seven customs tariff rates for industrial goods over and above those removed in Budget 2023-24. This will leave only eight tariff rates, including the 'zero' rate.

106. What is the new Basic Customs Duty (BCD) rate on interactive flat panel displays (IFPDs) or touch-sensitive displays as announced in the Union Budget 2025?

केंद्रीय बजट 2025 में घोषित इंटरैक्टिव फ्लैट पैनल डिस्प्ले (आईएफपीडी) या टच-सेंसिटिव डिस्प्ले पर नई मूल सीमा शुल्क (बीसीडी) दर क्या है?

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

Ans. b

Sol. Budget 2025: FM Sitharaman exempts parts for open cells in LCD/LED TVs from customs duty to boost manufacturing

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced to increase the basic customs duty (BCD) on interactive flat panel display (IFPD) or touch sensitive display to 20% from the current 10% and simultaneously reducing the duty to 5% on open cell and other components.

The proposed changes might increase the bill of materials (BOM) for the laptops that ship with touch sensitive displays and other flat touch screens used for advertising.

In 2023 -24 Budget, for the manufacture of Open Cells of LCD/LED TVs, I had reduced the BCD on parts of Open Cells from 5% to 2.5%. To further boost the manufacture of such Open Cells, the BCD on these parts will now stand exempted.

She also proposed to add 35 additional capital goods for EV battery manufacturing, and 28 additional capital goods for mobile phone battery manufacturing.

107. Which of the following categories receives the highest allocation in government expenditure for 2025-26?

निम्नलिखित में से किस श्रेणी को 2025-26 के लिए सरकारी व्यय में सबसे अधिक आवंटन प्राप्त होगा?

- (a) Central sector schemes
- (b) Interest payments
- (c) Defence
- (d) State's share of taxes and duties
- (e) Pensions

Ans. d

Sol. Budget 2025: Where does the money come from and where does it go?

As per the Union Budget 2025-26 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, a total of ₹50.65 lakh crore will be spent during the financial year 2025-26 by the Indian government.

This budget mainly explicates the receipts and expenditure on cash for the country's growth, where tax revenues, borrowings, and non-tax revenues feature dominantly in its funding.

Where does the money come from?

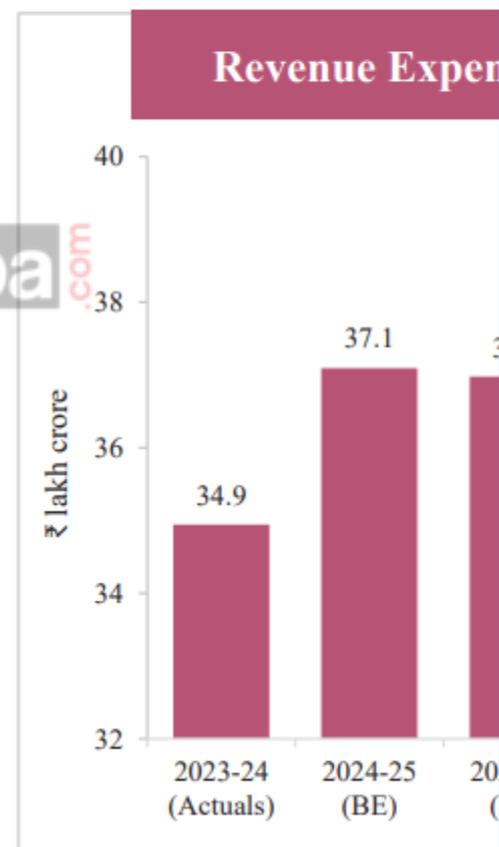
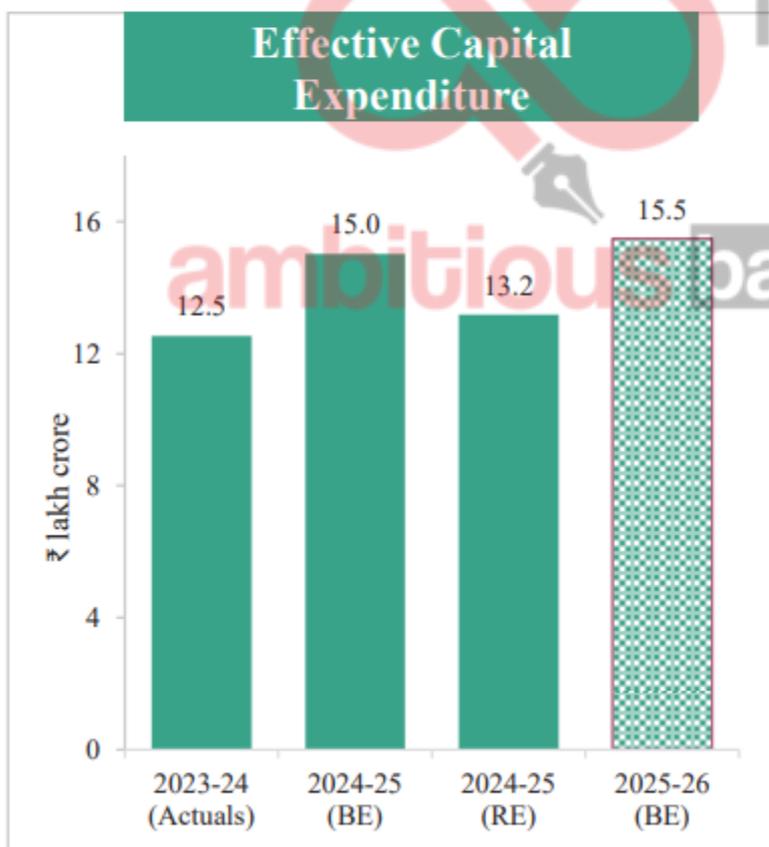
- 24% come from borrowing and other liabilities
- 22% come from Income Tax
- 18% come from GST and other indirect taxes
- 17% come from Corporation tax
- 9% come from Non-tax receipts

- 5% come from union excise duties
- 4% come from customs duties.
- 1% come from non-debt capital receipts

Where does the money go to?

- 22% go to State's share of taxes and duties
- 20% go to Interest payments
- 16% go to Central sector schemes
- 8% go to Defence
- 8% go to Finance Commission transfers and other grants
- 8% go to Centrally sponsored schemes
- 8% go to Other expenditure
- 6% go to Major Subsidies
- 4% go to Pensions for retired government workers

Expenditure



Budget Allocation by Sector:

Sector	Expenditure
Defence	4,91,732 crore
Rural Development	2,66,817 crore
Home Affairs	2,33,211 crore
Agriculture and Allied Activities	1,71,432 crore
Education	1,28,650 crore
Health	98,311 crore
Urban Development	96,311 crore
IT & Telecom	95,298 crore
Energy	81,174 crore
Commerce & Industry	65,553 crore
Social Welfare	60,052 crore
Scientific Department	55,679 crore

108. What is the new name of Zomato's parent company?

ज़ोमैटो की मूल कंपनी का नया नाम क्या है?

- (a) Infinity Ltd
- (b) Everlasting Ltd
- (c) Eternal Ltd
- (d) Zomato Group
- (e) Blinkit Enterprises

Ans. c

Sol. Zomato renamed 'Eternal', food delivery company unveils new log
 Food and grocery delivery platform Zomato will rename the company to "Eternal" and unveil a new logo.

The change of name is subject to the approval of shareholders, the corporate affairs ministry, and other statutory authorities. After the approval, the company's corporate website will transition from zomato.com to eternal.com. Eternal will comprise the company's four major businesses - food delivery platform Zomato, quick commerce arm Blinkit, going-out business District, and business-to-business supplies vertical Hyperpure. The development comes over two years after the company began using the new name internally.

109. What rank did India achieve in the USGBC's LEED green building certification list for 2024?

2024 के लिए यूएसजीबीसी की एलईईडी ग्रीन बिल्डिंग प्रमाणन सूची में भारत ने कौन सा स्थान प्राप्त किया?

- (a) First
- (b) Second
- (c) Third
- (d) Fourth
- (e) Fifth

Ans. c

Sol. India ranks third globally for LEED green building certification in 2024. India ranks third in USGBC's LEED green building certification globally during 2024, according to a report.

India retained its third spot on US Green Building Council's (USGBC) annual list of top 10 countries and regions for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) in 2024.

LEED certifications in India are managed by the Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI), which works to accelerate the adoption of green buildings nationwide.

The annual ranking by USGBC highlights the significant progress made by countries and regions outside the United States in adopting healthy, sustainable and resilient building design, construction and operations.

China topped the top 10 rankings for 2024 with over 25 million GSM certified followed by Canada with 10 million GSM. In India, as many as 370 projects, across both buildings and spaces, were certified for LEED, covering 8.50 million gross square meters (GSM) (91.5 million square feet).

110. Which of the following products are included in IDFC FIRST Bank's new offerings for senior citizens?

वरिष्ठ नागरिकों के लिए IDFC फर्स्ट बैंक की नई पेशकश में निम्नलिखित में से कौन से उत्पाद शामिल हैं?

- (a) Senior Citizen Housing Loans

(b) Senior Citizen Savings Account and Fixed Deposits

(c) Senior Citizen Insurance Plans

(d) Senior Citizen Credit Cards

(e) Senior Citizen Gold Bonds

Ans. b

Sol. IDFC FIRST Bank Launches Exclusive Banking Package for Senior Citizens

IDFC FIRST Bank has introduced a specialised range of banking products and services tailored for senior citizens, reaffirming its commitment to offering secure, customised, and superior financial solutions for this important customer segment.

The newly launched offerings include the Senior Citizen Savings Account and Senior Citizen Fixed Deposits, designed to cater to the unique financial needs of elderly individuals.

As part of this initiative, the bank has also introduced a dedicated feature on its Mobile Banking App called 'Senior Citizen Specials', providing exclusive benefits such as:

- Safe, secure, and customised investment solutions based on senior citizens' life-stage needs.
- Additional 0.5% interest rate on fixed deposits.
- No penalty on premature closure of fixed deposits.
- Cyber Insurance Coverage of ₹2 lakhs to protect against rising cyber threats.
- Complimentary one-year MediBuddy health membership, offering unlimited doctor video consultations for up to four family members.

111. What is the new policy repo rate set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) after the recent reduction?

हाल ही में की गई कटौती के बाद भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) द्वारा निर्धारित नई नीति रेपो दर क्या है?

(a) 6.75%

(b) 6.50%

(c) 6.25%

(d) 6.00%

(e) 5.75%

Ans. c

Sol. RBI reduces interest rates for first time in nearly 5 years

Almost after 5 years, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the policy repo rate by 25 basis points, from 6.50 per cent to 6.25 per cent.

Governor Sanjay Malhotra made the announcement in Mumbai, following a three-day meeting of the MPC. As a result, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate will be set at 6.00 per cent, while the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate will both remain at 6.50 per cent. The MPC has also unanimously decided to maintain a 'neutral' stance, focusing unambiguously on aligning inflation with the target while supporting growth.

The 25 basis points rate cut to 6.25 per cent comes after the last rate reduction in May 2020. The most recent revision occurred in February 2023, when the policy rate was raised by 25 basis points to 6.50 per cent.

According to the first advance estimates, real GDP growth for the current year is projected at 6.4 per cent, with economic activity expected to improve in the coming year. Earlier it was projected at 6.6 per cent. The bank has also revised real GDP estimates from 6.9 per cent to 6.7 per cent for the next financial year. RBI has also projected that CPI inflation for the current financial year will be 4.8 per cent with Q4 at 4.4 per cent. Assuming a normal monsoon, CPI inflation for the financial year 2025-26 is projected at 4.2 per cent.

To avoid banking fraud Mr Malhotra also announced that, the Reserve Bank shall implement the 'bank.in' exclusive Internet Domain for Indian banks.

Registration of this domain name will commence from April this year. This will be followed by the 'fin.in' domain for the financial sector.

RBI has also decided that this year's Financial Literacy Week will emphasise women's role in financial decision-making and household budgeting. It will start from 24th February and the Governor urged all banks to actively participate in the campaign on the theme "Financial Literacy: Women's Prosperity".

RBI Current Policy Rate are as under –

- Policy Repo Rate – 6.25%
- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) - 6%
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) - 6.50%
- Bank Rate - 6.50%
- Reverse Repo Rate – 3.35%
- Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) – 4%
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) – 18%

112. Which city is hosting the BIMSTEC Youth Summit 2025 from 7th to 11th February 2025 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat?

गुजरात के गांधीनगर में 7 से 11 फरवरी 2025 तक बिस्स्टेक युवा शिखर सम्मेलन 2025 की मेजबानी कौन सा शहर कर रहा है?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Gandhinagar
- (d) Varanasi
- (e) Jaipur

Ans. c

Sol. BIMSTEC Youth Summit 2025 to kick off in Gandhinagar, Gujarat
 The Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, is organizing the BIMSTEC Youth Summit from 7th to 11th February 2025 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya will formally inaugurate the event on 8th February 2025, marking the beginning of the BIMSTEC Youth Summit.

During the 4th BIMSTEC Summit in Kathmandu on 30th -31st August 2018, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India announced the hosting of a three-day BIMSTEC Youth Summit, aimed at bringing together the youth of BIMSTEC nations on a unified platform to exchange experiences and insights on youth-led initiatives undertaken by member states.

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization comprising seven member states: India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, and Bhutan.

113. In February 2025, which state government has launched a series of initiatives under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme, which aims to address the alarming gender imbalance and declining child sex ratio in India?

फरवरी 2025 में, किस राज्य सरकार ने 'बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ' योजना के तहत पहलों की एक श्रृंखला शुरू की है, जिसका उद्देश्य भारत में खतरनाक लिंग असंतुलन और घटते बाल लिंग अनुपात को संबोधित करना है?

- (a) Kerala / केरल
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Odisha / ओडिशा
- (d) Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश
- (e) Telangana / तेलंगाना

Ans. c

Sol. Odisha Govt. launches multiple initiatives to empower girl 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'

The Odisha government has launched a series of initiatives under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme, which aims to address the alarming gender imbalance and declining child sex ratio in India.

Key programs such as “Nirbhaya Kadhi” (Fearless Bud), “Mo Gelha Jiya” (My Dear Daughter) in Ganjam, “Kalpana Avijan” in Dhenkanal, “Swarna Kalika” in Keonjhar, and “Veerangana Yojana” in Deogarh district are designed to empower adolescent girls.

These initiatives focus on preventing child marriage, combating sex selection and female foeticide, promoting higher education, and building self-esteem and confidence through martial arts and self-defense.

“Nirbhaya Kadhi” (Fearless Bud) and “Mo Gelha Jhia” (My Lovely Daughter) in Ganjam District: The “Nirbhaya Kadhi” initiative by Ganjam district administration under BBBP aims to create a just society for girls. It has reached 183,933 adolescent girls in 3,309 villages, focusing on raising awareness.

Another initiative, “Mo Gelha Jhia,” addresses sex selection and female foeticide. Ganjam was declared child marriage-free on 3rd January 2022. From 2019 to October 2024, 20 out of 953 child marriages were successfully prevented with the help of various agencies.

“Kalpana Avijan” Scheme in Dhenkanal District: Launched in Dhenkanal, this programme monitors adolescent girls (10-19 years) to prevent child marriage. Between 2019 and 2024, it successfully prevented 343 child marriages.

Swarna Kalika” Scheme in Keonjhar District: The “Swarna Kalika” initiative raised awareness in villages about the harmful effects of child marriage, with over 2,000 stakeholders involved. The program also promoted the ADVIKA app to raise awareness and intervene in child marriages.

“Veerangana” focuses on boosting the self-esteem and confidence of adolescent girls through martial arts and self-defense training.

114. The International Football Federation (FIFA) has suspended the Football Federation (FF) of which among the following country after it failed to amend its constitution as required for the smooth and fair governance of the sport in the country, in February 2025?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय फुटबॉल महासंघ (फीफा) ने फरवरी 2025 में निम्नलिखित में से किस देश के फुटबॉल महासंघ (एफएफ) को निलंबित कर दिया है, क्योंकि वह देश में खेल के सुचारू और निष्पक्ष संचालन के लिए आवश्यक अपने संविधान में संशोधन करने में विफल रहा?

- (a) Pakistan
- (b) Afghanistan
- (c) Nepal
- (d) China
- (e) India

Ans. a

Sol. FIFA suspends Pakistan Football Federation after failure to amend constitution

The International Football Federation (FIFA) has suspended the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) after it failed to amend its constitution as required for the smooth and fair governance of the sport in the country.

FIFA stated that Pakistan will remain suspended until the PFF Congress makes the necessary amendments. This is the Pakistan Football Federation's third suspension since 2017.

Since June 2019, Pakistan's football has been managed by a FIFA-appointed Normalisation Committee, which was tasked with organizing elections and addressing parallel factions within the football setup.

115. Who won the Gold Medal in the Men's Recurve event at the 38th National Games?

38वें राष्ट्रीय खेलों में पुरुषों की रिकर्व स्पर्धा में स्वर्ण पदक किसने जीता?

- (a) Tarundeep Rai
- (b) Juel Sarkar
- (c) Indira Chand
- (d) Pravin Jadhav
- (e) Atanu Das

Ans. b

Sol. Tarundeep Rai Wins Bronze in Men's Recurve Archery at 38th National Games

At the ongoing 38th National Games in Uttarakhand, four-time Olympian archer Tarundeep Rai from Sikkim won the Bronze Medal in the Men's Recurve event.

Juel Sarkar from West Bengal clinched the Gold while Indira Chand from Services Sports Control Board clinched the Silver medal.

116. The 38th edition of the Surajkund International Crafts Mela, one of India's biggest cultural events, kicked off and will run until February 23 in Faridabad.

What is the theme for this year's Surajkund Mela?

भारत के सबसे बड़े सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों में से एक सूरजकुंड अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शिल्प मेला का 38वां संस्करण फरीदाबाद में शुरू हुआ और 23 फरवरी तक चलेगा। इस साल के सूरजकुंड मेले की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Kala Mahotsav
- (b) Bharat Utsav
- (c) Shilp Mahakumbh
- (d) Desi Crafts Fair

(e) Global Handicrafts Festival**Ans. c****Sol.** 38th Surajkund International Crafts Mela kicks off in Faridabad

The 38th edition of the Surajkund International Crafts Mela, one of India's biggest cultural events, kicked off and will run until February 23 in Faridabad.

This highly anticipated event promises an extraordinary showcase of regional and international crafts, handlooms, traditions, and a variety of multi-cuisine food.

Attracting over a million visitors annually from both India and around the world, the mela is organized by the Surajkund Mela Authority and Haryana Tourism, in collaboration with the Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture, and External Affairs.

This year, the fair is being celebrated as 'Shilp Mahakumbh,' inspired by the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, with artisans from across the globe presenting their unique works. The event will feature more than 1,000 stalls, offering a diverse range of handicrafts, textiles, and cultural artifacts. This edition will also see participation from a record 648 artisans from 42 countries, bringing a global touch to the festival.

117. Which state government has launched the MAITRI 2.0 Portal to make the investment process hassle-free and without administrative and procedural delays?

किस राज्य सरकार ने निवेश प्रक्रिया को परेशानी मुक्त और प्रशासनिक और प्रक्रियात्मक देरी के बिना बनाने के लिए मैत्री 2.0 पोर्टल लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Punjab
- (c) Haryana
- (d) Maharashtra
- (e) Chhattisgarh

Ans. d**Sol.** Maharashtra government launches Maitri 2.0 portal to make investment process hassle-free

To make the investment process hassle-free and without administrative and procedural delays, the Maharashtra government has launched the MAITRI (Maharashtra Industry, Trade and Investment Facilitation Cell) 2.0 Portal.

The portal has integrated 119 services from 16 departments to create a seamless online ecosystem for government-to-business (G2B) services. The transparent processing of applications and the proactive escalation in case of delays from real-time tracking (RTS) Timelines ensure that services are rendered in a timely and efficient manner.

About Maharashtra

- **Capital** - Mumbai
- **Chief Minister** - Devendra Fadnavis (3rd time)
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Eknath Sindhe & Ajit Pawar
- **Governor** - C P Radhakrishnan
- **Legislative Assembly Speaker** - Rahul Narwekar
- **Legislative Assembly Seats** - 288

118. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established a 9-member Working Group to conduct a comprehensive review of the trading and settlement timings for financial markets. Who is the chairperson of this RBI's Working Group?

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने वित्तीय बाजारों के लिए ट्रेडिंग और निपटान समय की व्यापक समीक्षा करने के लिए 9-सदस्यीय कार्य समूह की स्थापना की है। RBI के इस कार्य समूह के अध्यक्ष कौन हैं?

- (a) Shaktikanta Das
- (b) Radha Shyam Ratho
- (c) Urjit Patel
- (d) Viral Acharya
- (e) Michael Patra

Ans. b

Sol. RBI forms Working Group to review trading and settlement timings of financial markets

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established a 9-member Working Group to conduct a comprehensive review of the trading and settlement timings for financial markets.

The group will examine various developments in the financial sector over recent years, including the increased electronification of trading, the availability of Forex and certain interest rate derivative markets operating on a 24×5 basis, the growing participation of non-residents in domestic financial markets, and the round-the-clock availability of payment systems.

The Working Group will be chaired by Radha Shyam Ratho, Executive Director at the Reserve Bank of India, and will include eight other members.

The Working Group's primary objective is to review the current trading and settlement timings for various financial markets regulated by the RBI. This includes the functioning hours of market infrastructures for trading, clearing, settlement, and transaction reporting. Additionally, the group will analyze any challenges or frictions arising from the current timings, such as their impact on

price/rate transmission across markets, market volatility, trade distribution, liquidity requirements, and netting efficiency.

The group will also examine international practices regarding market timings and assess their impact on market development, including participation, liquidity, and trading volumes.

The group is expected to submit its report by April 30, 2025.

Recent Committee in News

- ID verification firm Equal's advisory board; chaired by Retired Justice **B.N. Srikrishna**
- RBI sets up panel to develop a framework on ethical use of AI in financial sector; chaired by Pushpak Bhattacharyya
- Govt forms committee to look into IAF's overall capability development; Chaired by the Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh,
- The GST Council constituted a 13-member GoM to suggest GST rates on premiums of various health and life insurance products; Chaired by - Samrat Choudhary
- Supreme Court sets up panel to amicably resolve farmers' agitation; chaired by Justice Nawab Singh
- Revenue Department in the finance ministry formed a panel to simplify the decades-old I-T Act. - chaired by V K Gupta

119. Aimee Maguire has been suspended from bowling in international cricket immediately after an Independent Assessment confirmed that the left-arm spinner uses an illegal bowling action. What is the nationality of Aimee Maguire?

एमी मैगुएर को अंतरराष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट में गेंदबाजी करने से तुरंत निलंबित कर दिया गया है, क्योंकि एक स्वतंत्र मूल्यांकन में पुष्टि की गई है कि बाएं हाथ की स्पिनर अवैध गेंदबाजी एक्शन का उपयोग करती है। एमी मैगुएर की राष्ट्रियता क्या है?

- England
- New Zealand
- Ireland
- Australia
- South Africa

Ans. c

Sol. Maguire suspended from bowling in international cricket

Ireland's Aimee Maguire has been suspended from bowling in international cricket immediately after an Independent Assessment confirmed that the left-arm spinner uses an illegal bowling action.

The 18-year-old was reported by match officials for a suspect bowling action during the first ODI of the ICC Women's Championship series against India in Rajkot on 10 January.

120. Real Madrid Marcelo has announced his retirement at the age of 36.

Marcelo represented which country in international football?

रियल मैड्रिड मार्सेलो ने 36 साल की उम्र में संन्यास की घोषणा की है। मार्सेलो ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय फुटबॉल में किस देश का प्रतिनिधित्व किया है?

- (a) Argentina
- (b) Spain
- (c) Portugal
- (d) Brazil
- (e) Italy

Ans. d

Sol. Real Madrid legend Marcelo announces retirement from football

Real Madrid and Brazil defender Marcelo has announced his retirement at the age of 36.

The left-back won five Champions League crowns and six La Liga titles with the Los Blancos and also represented his country in two World Cups during an illustrious career that spanned 19 years.

121. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has signed an MoU with Expo City Dubai during the Cities in Action Forum 2025 to boost international urban cooperation. Which Indian initiatives align with the goals of the collaboration between FICCI and Expo City Dubai?

फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन चैंबर्स ऑफ कॉमर्स एंड इंडस्ट्री (फिक्की) ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय शहरी सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सिटीज इन एक्शन फोरम 2025 के दौरान एक्सपो सिटी दुबई के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। कौन सी भारतीय पहल फिक्की और एक्सपो सिटी दुबई के बीच सहयोग के लक्ष्यों के अनुरूप हैं?

- (a) Make in India and Digital India
- (b) Start-up India and Skill India
- (c) Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT
- (d) Swachh Bharat Mission and Ujjwala Yojana
- (e) National Urban Health Mission and Digital India

Ans. c

Sol. FICCI and Expo City Dubai Forge Partnership Ahead of 2025 Asia Pacific Cities Summit

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has signed an MoU with Expo City Dubai during the Cities in Action Forum 2025 to boost international urban cooperation.

The partnership will facilitate India's participation in the Asia Pacific Cities Summit (APCS) & Mayor's Forum in October 2025 at Expo City Dubai.

The summit will bring together mayors, business leaders, and policymakers to address urban challenges, focusing on sustainability, infrastructure development, and climate resilience.

The collaboration aligns with India's Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT, offering opportunities for Indian urban leaders to engage with global experts and explore investment prospects.

122. In February 2025, President of USA Donald Trump has signed an executive order aimed at prohibiting _____.

फरवरी 2025 में, यूएसए के राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने _____ को प्रतिबंधित करने के उद्देश्य से एक कार्यकारी आदेश पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं।

- (a) College scholarships for women athletes
- (b) Transgender women and girls from competing in women's sports
- (c) Funding for women's sports
- (d) Women participating in men's sports
- (e) International women's competitions

Ans. b

Sol. Trump signs executive order banning transgender athletes from women's sports

President Donald Trump has signed an executive order aimed at prohibiting transgender women and girls from competing in women's sports.

This move, framed as a restoration of fairness in sports, has ignited a fierce debate across political and social landscapes. Critics argue that the order discriminates against transgender individuals, while supporters hail it as a necessary step to uphold the integrity of women's sports.

Trump signed the executive order, titled "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports," on National Girls and Women in Sports Day, a symbolic nod to its intent.

123. Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has inaugurated the 32nd session of the Indian Art History Congress in Noida. What is the theme of 32nd Indian Art History Congress?

केंद्रीय संस्कृति एवं पर्यटन मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत ने नोएडा में भारतीय कला इतिहास कांग्रेस के 32वें सत्र का उद्घाटन किया। 32वें भारतीय कला इतिहास कांग्रेस का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Indian Folk Art and Culture
- (b) Modern Indian Art in Global Perspective
- (c) Rendering of Indian Epics in Art and Culture
- (d) Evolution of Indian Classical Dance
- (e) Traditional Art Forms of India

Ans. c

Sol. 32nd session of Indian Art History Congress begins

The 32nd session of the Indian Art History Congress begins in Noida, UP. Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurated the three-day event.

The conference aims to be a platform that brings together conversations on the various forms of artistic and performative representations of the epics.

The theme for this year event is "Rendering of Indian Epics in Art and Culture," which aims to highlight the diverse forms of artistic expressions based on the epics.

About Uttar Pradesh

- **Capital** - Lucknow
- **Chief Minister** – Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor** - Anandiben Patel

124. Where is the 9th edition of the Asian Winter Games (AWG) 2025 being held?

एशियाई शीतकालीन खेल (AWG) 2025 का 9वां संस्करण कहाँ आयोजित किया जा रहा है?

- (a) Beijing
- (b) Harbin
- (c) Shanghai
- (d) Tokyo
- (e) Seoul

Ans. b

Sol. 9th Asian Winter Games kick off in Harbin

The 9th edition of the Asian Winter Games (AWG) 2025 has commenced in Harbin, the capital of Heilongjiang Province in northeast China.

Chinese President Xi Jinping officially declared the games open in the presence of International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach and other distinguished guests. The games will continue until the 14th February.

A record 34 countries and regions are participating in these games. The 88-member Indian contingent, including 59 athletes and 29 team officials, will take part in the event.

125. How much amount has been approved by the Centre for the Skill India programme for 2022-23 to 2025-26?

केंद्र सरकार ने 2022-23 से 2025-26 तक के लिए स्किल इंडिया कार्यक्रम के लिए कितनी राशि स्वीकृत की है?

- (a) 6,000 crore rupees
- (b) 7,500 crore rupees
- (c) 8,000 crore rupees
- (d) 8,800 crore rupees
- (e) 9,500 crore rupees

Ans. d

Sol. Cabinet approves extension of tenure of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for 3 years

The Centre has approved 8,800 crore rupees for the Skill India programme for the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26.

Demand-driven skill development is the focus of the government, and emphasis will be placed on convergence and quality enhancement.

The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0, the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme, and the Jan Shikshan Sansthan Scheme are now combined under the composite central sector scheme of the Skill India Programme.

The government has also approved the extension of the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for three years, till 31st March 2028. This would help in facilitating the socio-economic upliftment of sanitation workers, improving working conditions in the sanitation sector, and aiming to achieve zero fatalities while performing hazardous cleaning.

126. Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned and handed over his papers to Governor at the Raj Bhavan in Imphal. Who is the present governor of Manipur?

मणिपुर के मुख्यमंत्री एन बिरन सिंह ने इस्तीफा दे दिया और इम्फाल में राज भवन में राज्यपाल को अपने कागजात सौंप दिए। मणिपुर के वर्तमान गवर्नर कौन हैं?

- (a) N. Indrasena Redd
- (b) P. S. Sreedharan Pillai
- (c) Vijay Kumar Singh
- (d) Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik

(e) Ajay Kumar Bhalla

Ans. e

Sol. Biren Singh Quits As Chief Minister 2 Years After Manipur Violence Began
Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned and handed over his papers to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at the Raj Bhavan in Imphal.

The development came amidst rumblings within the state BJP seeking a change of leadership in strife-torn Manipur.

The governor accepted Singh's resignation, along with that of his council of ministers, and requested that he continue in office until alternative arrangements are made.

Biren Singh's tenure as Manipur Chief Minister has been marked by several controversies, primarily centred on his handling of ethnic violence that erupted in May 2023, allegations of instigating conflict, and questions regarding his governance.

The ethnic strife, which saw brutal clashes between the majority Meitei community in the Imphal Valley and the Kuki-Zo tribal groups in the surrounding hills, resulted in over 250 deaths and displaced thousands of people. The state's inability to contain it raised serious concerns about Singh's leadership.

About Manipur

- **Capital** – Imphal
- **Governor** - Ajay Bhalla

127. Which bank has partnered with Ikonz to introduce an AI avatar of Amitabh Bachchan?

अमिताभ बच्चन के ऐ अवतार को पेश करने के लिए किस बैंक ने इकोनज़ के साथ भागीदारी की है?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) ICICI Bank
- (c) IDFC FIRST Bank
- (d) Axis Bank
- (e) State Bank of India

Ans. c

Sol. IDFC FIRST Bank, Ikonz launch Amitabh Bachchan's AI avatar

IDFC FIRST Bank, in partnership with Ikonz, has used the latest artificial intelligence (AI) avatar of Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan at 10 more branches in 5 new cities including Delhi, Gurugram, Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

The initiative allows Bachchan to connect with another 70 million people.

Last year, Ikonz partnered with IDFC FIRST Bank to bring the legend's AI avatar as the face of all banking communication at their Juhu Branch in Mumbai. In a short span, the initiative has been widely accepted and has led to better efficiency and customer trust.

Bachchan, during the launch, said the one of its kind initiatives using the latest technology will help him to connect with people in a unique way.

This partnership between IDFC FIRST Bank and Ikonz Studios leverages the power of AI and Holographic Extended Reality to create an immersive experience.

Founder and CEO of Ikonz Studios- Abinav Varma Kalidindi

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- IDFC FIRST Bank Launches **Exclusive Banking Package for Senior Citizens**
- L & T Finance introduced **Knowledgeable AI (KAI)**, an AI-powered virtual home loan advisor
- PNB MetLife partners with Policybazaar to Launch **Smart Invest Pension Plan for Early Retirement**
- Finvasia partners with Yes Bank to launch **AI-enabled super app 'Jumpp'**
- Shriram GI Unveils **Shri Health Suraksha Insurance** – A Comprehensive and Affordable Health Plan
- Tata AIA Life Insurance launches **'Shubh Muhurat'** to meet wedding expenses

128. In February 2024, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved two voluntary amalgamations in the urban co-operative bank (UCB) space -- The Citizen Co-operative Bank (Vasco-De-Gama, Goa) with TJSB Sahakari Bank (Thane, Maharashtra) and Pune Commercial Co-operative Bank (Satara, Maharashtra) with Pimpri Chinchwad Sahakari Bank (Pune, Maharashtra).

Under which Act has the Reserve Bank of India sanctioned the amalgamations?

फरवरी 2024 में, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (आरबीआई) ने शहरी सहकारी बैंक (यूसीबी) अंतरिक्ष में दो स्वैच्छिक सम्मेलन को मंजूरी दी है-नागरिक सहकारी बैंक (वास्को-डे-गामा, गोवा) टीजेएसबी सहकारी बैंक के साथ (ठाणे, महाराष्ट्र) और पुणे वाणिज्यिक सहकारी बैंक (सतारा, महाराष्ट्र) के साथ पिंपरी चिंचवाड़ सहकारी बैंक (पुणे, महाराष्ट्र)। किस अधिनियम के तहत भारत के रिजर्व बैंक ने सम्मेलन को मंजूरी दी है?

- Companies Act, 2013
- Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- Co-operative Societies Act, 1912
- Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- Urban Co-operative Bank Act, 1950

Ans. b

Sol. RBI approves two voluntary urban co-operative bank amalgamations
 The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved two voluntary amalgamations in the urban co-operative bank (UCB) space -- The Citizen Co-operative Bank (Vasco-De-Gama, Goa) with TJSB Sahakari Bank (Thane, Maharashtra) and Pune Commercial Co-operative Bank (Satara, Maharashtra) with Pimpri Chinchwad Sahakari Bank (Pune, Maharashtra).

The Scheme of Amalgamation of The Citizen Cooperative Bank with TJSB Sahakari Bank has been sanctioned in exercise of the powers conferred on it under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

The Scheme will come into force with effect from February 10, 2025, whereby the branches of Goa-based UCB will function as branches of TJSB Sahakari Bank.

The Scheme of Amalgamation of Pune Commercial Co-operative Bank with Pimpri Chinchwad Sahakari Bank has been sanctioned in exercise of the powers conferred on it under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

The Scheme will come into force with effect from February 10, 2025, whereby the branches of the Satara-based UCB will function as branches of Pimpri Chinchwad Sahakari Bank.

129. Which of the following statements is CORRECT regarding the 2025 Henley Passport Index?

2025 हेनले पासपोर्ट इंडेक्स के बारे में निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा कथन सही है?

- (a) The index is compiled by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- (b) India secured the 80th rank with visa-free access to 46 countries.
- (c) Singapore topped the list with visa-free access to 193 countries.
- (d) South Korea and Japan shared the top position on the index.
- (e) both b and c

Ans. c

Sol. Singapore Is World's Most Powerful Passport Of 2025, India at 80th spot
 The Singaporean passport has emerged as the strongest passport in the world with visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 193 out of 227 countries across the globe, according to the 2025 Henley Passport Index.

India found the 80th spot on the list, with easy access to 56 nations. Compiled by Henley & Partners, the index assessed 199 passports based on the data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Per the list, South Korea and Japan followed Singapore in the second position with easy access to 190 countries. Seven countries, including Spain, Germany, Italy, France, Ireland, Finland and Denmark shared the third rank with access to 187 destinations without prior visa requirements.

India shared the 80th spot with Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, and Tajikistan. Its neighbour Myanmar secured the 88th spot with access to 45 destinations. Sri Lanka shared the 91st position with Iran and Sudan with access to 42 countries. Bangladesh shared the 93rd with Libya and the Palestinian Territories, Nepal is at 94th rank and Pakistan is at 96th spot with Yemen.

At the bottom of the list in the 99th position, Taliban-run Afghanistan suffered the widest mobility gap in the index's 19-year history by losing visa-free access to two additional destinations. The passport offers easy access to just 25 nations. Meanwhile, unstable Iraq got the 97th spot with access to 30 countries and war-torn Syria received the 98th position with access to 27 destinations.

Recent index

- **Henley Passport Index 2025** - India at 80th spot with 56 destinations; Topped by Singapore
- **Global Firepower Index 2025** - India ranked at 4th; topped by USA
- **Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2024** – India at 49th
- **Global Network Readiness Index 2024** - Topped by US; India at 49th
- **World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2024** - India at 79th; topped by Denmark

130. Which city will host the first World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) from May 1 to 4, 2025?

1 से 4 मई, 2025 तक कौन सा शहर फर्स्ट वर्ल्ड ऑडियो विजुअल एंटरटेनमेंट समिट (वेव्स) की मेजबानी करेगा?

- New Delhi
- Bengaluru
- Mumbai
- Chennai
- Hyderabad

Ans. c

Sol. India to host first 'WAVES summit' in Mumbai from 1 to 4 May

India will host the first World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in Mumbai from May 1- 4, 2025.

This summit will bring together the world's top media CEOs, biggest entertainment icons, and creative minds from around the globe, unifying entertainment, creativity, and culture.

The WAVES summit is being positioned by the government as India's global event for the entertainment sector to what Davos is for the economic sector.

The summit will spotlight advancements in animation, gaming, entertainment technology, and regional and mainstream cinema, fostering collaborations and setting the stage for India's creative economy to shine globally.

131. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated Asia's biggest Aero India show in Bengaluru. What is the theme of the Aero India show 2025?

केंद्रीय रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने बेंगलुरु में एशिया के सबसे बड़े एयरो इंडिया शो का उद्घाटन किया है। एयरो इंडिया शो 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Innovation for Defence
- (b) Runway to a Billion Opportunities
- (c) Future of Aerospace
- (d) Global Defence Partnership
- (e) Building Stronger Nations

Ans. b

Sol. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates Asia's biggest Aero India show in Bangalore

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated Asia's biggest 15th Aero India show in Bengaluru.

The five-day event with the theme of Runway to a billion Opportunities will showcase India's defence capabilities and indigenous innovations.

Indian MSMEs and Start-ups have an opportunity to forge Joint ventures or collaborations with the global manufacturers and provide a resilient supply chain.

Indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, Light Combat Helicopter Prachand, Advanced Light Helicopter and C 295 transport aircraft produced in India are on display. ADA has exhibited a newly designed prototype of Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft with fifth generation technology.

132. Which state government has formed a strategic partnership with AIIMS Delhi for regular assistance?

किस राज्य सरकार ने नियमित सहायता के लिए एम्स दिल्ली के साथ रणनीतिक साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Rajasthan
- (e) Gujarat

Ans. b

Sol. MP govt partners with AIIMS Delhi for maternal, infant mortality rate reduction

Madhya Pradesh government has formed a strategic partnership with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi to seek its regular assistance.

A delegation of senior officials associated with National Health Mission of the Madhya Pradesh government attended a meeting in AIIMS Delhi and signed an agreement with the country's premier government health institution.

The discussion was focused on exploring evidence-based interventions and policy frameworks to improve healthcare services in the state.

About Madhya Pradesh

- **Capital** – Bhopal
- **Chief Minister** – Dr Mohan Yadav (replace Shivraj Singh Chauhan)
- **Deputy CM** - Jagdish Devda & Rajendra Shukla
- **Speaker of Madhya Pradesh Assembly** - Narendra Singh Tomar
- **Governor** – Mangubhai C. Patel

133. Which state will host the world's largest Jhumur dance on February 24, 2025?

24 फरवरी, 2025 को कौन सा राज्य दुनिया के सबसे बड़े झुमुर नृत्य की मेजबानी करेगा?

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Assam
- (c) Tripura
- (d) Manipur
- (e) Meghalaya

Ans. b

Sol. Assam to host World's Largest Jhumur Festival

Assam will host the world's largest Jhumur dance, also called Jhumoir, on February 24, 2025, ahead of the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment Summit.

With over 7,500 dancers, the event aims for a Guinness World Record and will be attended by PM Narendra Modi.

This summit is a platform to showcase Assam's rich traditions to a global audience and attract investors.

The two-day event is expected to draw investors from all around India and the world, solidifying Assam's standing as a new investment destination in the country.

About Assam

- **Formation** - 26 January 1950
- **Capital** – Dispur
- **Chief Minister** –Himanta Biswa Sarma
- **Governor** – Gulab Chand Kataria

134. In which district of Jammu and Kashmir did the Pir Panjal Winter Festival begin?

जम्मू-कश्मीर के किस जिले में पीर पंजाल शीतकालीन महोत्सव शुरू हुआ?

- (a) Baramulla
- (b) Srinagar
- (c) Poonch
- (d) Anantnag
- (e) Udhampur

Ans. c

Sol. Pir Panjal winter festival begins in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch with focus on youth

The Indian Army launched the 51-day Pir Panjal Winter Festival in the border district of Poonch.

Scheduled to conclude on March 31, the festival highlights the army's dedication to youth empowerment, cultural preservation, and efforts being made to combat issues like drug abuse.

The event will feature a range of sports and cultural activities, including a U-25 men's cricket tournament, volleyball tournaments for men under-25 and women U-21, an open kho-kho competition for girls, as well as Gujari and Pahari folk dances and a dance talent hunt.

135. Former Sri Lankan captain and opener Dimuth Karunaratne bid farewell to international cricket after playing his 100th Test against Australia in Galle. How many Sri Lankan cricketers, including Dimuth Karunaratne, have reached the milestone of 100 Tests?

श्रीलंका के पूर्व कप्तान और सलामी बल्लेबाज दिमुथ करुणारत्ने ने गॉल में ऑस्ट्रेलिया के खिलाफ अपना 100वां टेस्ट खेलने के बाद अंतरराष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट को अलविदा कह दिया। दिमुथ करुणारत्ने सहित कितने श्रीलंकाई क्रिकेटर 100 टेस्ट के मील के पत्थर तक पहुँच चुके हैं?

- (a) Five
- (b) Six
- (c) Seven
- (d) Eight
- (e) Nine

Ans. c

Sol. Former Sri Lankan captain Dimuth Karunaratne Retires from International Cricket

Former Sri Lankan captain and opener Dimuth Karunaratne bid farewell to international cricket after playing his 100th Test against Australia in Galle.

The 36-year-old scored 36 and 14 in his final match, which Australia won by nine wickets to secure a 2-0 sweep of the series.

He became only the seventh Sri Lankan cricketer to achieve the milestone of 100 Tests.

During his career, Karunaratne amassed 7,222 Test runs at an impressive average of nearly 40, with a career-best score of 244. In addition to his Test achievements, he played 50 ODIs, scoring 1,316 runs.

As captain, Karunaratne led Sri Lanka in 30 Tests between 2019 and 2023, achieving 12 wins and 12 losses during his tenure.

Recently Retired Players

- Marcelo (Brazil) – International Football
- Varun Aaron (India) - All forms of cricket
- Tamim Iqbal (Bangladesh) - International cricket
- Martin Guptill (New Zealand) – International cricket
- Rishi Dhawan (India) - limited-overs cricket.
- Siddharth Kaul (India) - All forms of cricket

136. The joint military exercise “Cyclone 2025” between India and Egypt began at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan. Which edition of the Cyclone exercise is being held in 2025?

भारत और मिस्र के बीच संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास "साइक्लोन 2025" राजस्थान के महाजन फील्ड फायरिंग रेंज में शुरू हुआ। साइक्लोन अभ्यास का कौन सा संस्करण 2025 में आयोजित किया जा रहा है?

- (a) First
- (b) Second
- (c) Third
- (d) Fourth
- (e) Fifth

Ans. c

Sol. Joint military exercise ‘Cyclone 2025’ between India and Egypt began in Rajasthan

A joint military exercise “Cyclone 2025”, between India and Egypt began at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.

The 14-day exercise aims to enhance defence cooperation between India and Egypt by sharing professional skills and improving interoperability of special forces in desert environments.

This is the third edition of Cyclone exercise. Counter-terrorism operations, reconnaissance, raids, and other specialized missions will be part of the

exercises which will also involve special forces skills like sniping, combat free fall, reconnaissance, surveillance, and target designation. The Indian Army contingent is represented by personnel from The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces).

The Egyptian contingent includes the Egyptian Commando Squadron and the Egyptian Airborne Platoon. Military cooperation between India and Egypt has strengthened in recent years. Both countries have emphasised the need to strengthen security efforts.

Recent Exercise

- **13th edition** of military exercise 'Ekuverin' between the **Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force** - archipelago nation.
- Indian Army and the Indian Air Force conducted a major military exercise, **Exercise Devil Strike**
- 18th edition of **Exercise Surya Kiran** between India and Nepal Military - Saljhandi, Nepal
- Naval Exercise **SLINEX 2024** between Sri Lanka and India- Visakhapatnam
- Joint Military Exercise **Harimau Shakti 2024** between India and Malaysia - Bentong camp, Pahang district, Malaysia.
- 1st edition of Joint Tabletop Exercise, **CINBAX** between India and Cambodia - Foreign Training Node, Pune, Maharashtra.

137. US President Donald Trump has officially renamed the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America" and designated February 9 as "Gulf of America Day" through an executive order. According to the executive order, which two countries share the maritime boundary of the newly named Gulf?

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने आधिकारिक तौर पर मेक्सिको की खाड़ी का नाम बदलकर "अमेरिका की खाड़ी" कर दिया है और एक कार्यकारी आदेश के माध्यम से 9 फरवरी को "अमेरिका की खाड़ी दिवस" के रूप में नामित किया है। कार्यकारी आदेश के अनुसार, कौन से दो देश नए नाम वाली खाड़ी की समुद्री सीमा साझा करते हैं?

- Canada and Cuba
- Mexico and Canada
- Mexico and Cuba
- Cuba and Jamaica
- Bahamas and Mexico

Ans. c

Sol. Trump Declares February 9 'Gulf of America Day' After Renaming Gulf Of Mexico

US President Donald Trump has officially renamed the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America" and designated February 9 as "Gulf of America Day" through an executive order.

The order, titled "Restoring Names That Honour American Greatness" (Executive Order 14172), instructs the US Secretary of the Interior to formalise the name change within 30 days.

The executive order defines the newly named Gulf as including the "US Continental Shelf area bounded to the northeast, north, and northwest by Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, extending to the maritime boundary with Mexico and Cuba".

138. Who has become the second-oldest cricketer to make an ODI debut for India?

भारत के लिए वनडे डेब्यू करने वाले दूसरे सबसे उम्रदराज क्रिकेटर कौन बने हैं?

- (a) Ravindra Jadeja
- (b) Varun Chakravarthy
- (c) Farokh Engineer
- (d) Washington Sundar
- (e) Kuldeep Yadav

Ans. b

Sol. Varun Chakravarthy becomes 2nd oldest cricketer to make ODI debut for India

The Indian team handed mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy his maiden ODI cap in the 2nd game of the three-match series.

Varun received his cap from Ravindra Jadeja, after having a sensational T20I series against England, where he picked up 14 wickets from 5 matches.

Varun, 33 years and 164 days old, became India's second-oldest debutant in ODIs behind legendary wicketkeeper Farokh Engineer, who had made his debut in 1974 at the age of 36 years and 138 days.

Varun has steadily risen in the 50-over format and was the best spinner in the recently concluded Vijay Hazare Trophy, India's premier 50-over competition.

139. Which Tamil film has won the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC) Award at the International Film Festival of Rotterdam (IFFR) 2025?

किस तमिल फिल्म ने इंटरनेशनल फिल्म फेस्टिवल ऑफ रॉटरडैम (आईएफएफआर) 2025 में नेटवर्क फॉर द प्रमोशन ऑफ एशियन सिनेमा (एनईटीपीएसी) पुरस्कार जीता है?

- (a) Super Deluxe
- (b) Asuran
- (c) Koozhangal

(d) Jai Bhim

(e) Bad Girl

Ans. e

Sol. Tamil film 'Bad Girl' wins NETPAC Award at International Film Festival of Rotterdam

Bad Girl, the debut feature film by director Varsha Bharath, has won the NETPAC Award at the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) 2025. The Tamil coming-of-age drama is presented by ace filmmakers Anurag Kashyap and Vetri Maaran.

The NETPAC Award (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema) is given annually to a standout feature film from the Asia and Pacific regions. It specifically recognises emerging talents, considering only the first and second features of directors.

This project marks the Tamil debut of National Award-winning music director Amit Trivedi, who has composed six songs for the movie. The film has cinematography by Preetha Jayaraman, Jagadeesh Ravi, and Prince Anderson, and editing by Radha Sridhar.

Recent Award

- **Honorary doctorate by University of Sussex** - Noel Tata
- **Sahitya Akademi Award 2024** - Late Chaman Arora (for Ik Hor Ashwthama in Dogri).
- **BCCI's Lifetime Achievement Award 2024** - Sachin Tendulkar (31st)
- **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2025** - Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) (In the Institutional Category for its excellent work in Disaster Management)
- **Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025** - Prof Urbasi Sinha
- **Singapore' Honorary Citizen Award** - Tarun Das (Former DG of Confederation of Indian Industry)

140. On which date is World Pulses Day celebrated every year?

विश्व दलहन दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

(a) February 8

(b) February 10

(c) February 11

(d) February 12

(e) February 13

Ans. b

Sol. 10 February - World Pulses Day

World Pulses Day is celebrated annually on 10 February to raise awareness about the importance of pulses in sustainable agriculture and global food security.

Pulses, commonly known as legumes, are the edible seeds of leguminous plants grown for consumption. Among the various types, dry beans, lentils and peas are the most popular. It is a common element in various cuisines, ranging from Mediterranean hummus to Indian dal.

In 2013, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/68/231), recognising 2016 as the International Year of Pulses. Led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), it was started with the aim of raising public knowledge about the nutritional and environmental benefits of pulses.

141. When is the International Day of the Arabian Leopard observed?

अरब तेंदुए का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) February 8
- (b) February 9
- (c) February 10
- (d) February 12
- (e) February 11

Ans. c

Sol. 10 February - International Day of the Arabian Leopard

International Day of the Arabian Leopard is observed every year on 10 February.

To raise awareness about the Arabian leopard, the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed February 10 as the International Day of the Arabian Leopard in resolution 77/295.

Classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, the rapid disappearance of the Arabian leopard represents a major setback for biodiversity conservation in its native region, underscoring the urgency of addressing the nature crisis that threatens ecosystems worldwide.

142. Who will succeed Pekka Lundmark as the CEO of Nokia?

नोकिया के सीईओ के रूप में पेक्का लुंडमार्क का स्थान कौन लेगा?

- (a) Justin Trudeau
- (b) Justin Hotard
- (c) Sundar Pichai
- (d) Satya Nadella
- (e) Tim Cook

Ans. b

Sol. Nokia picks Intel's AI and data center leader Justin Hotard as new CEO Pekka Lundmark, CEO of Nokia, will step down, with Justin Hotard appointed as his successor, effective April 1.

Justin Hotard is currently the executive vice president and general manager of the Data Center & AI Group at Intel.

Lundmark, who was appointed as Nokia's CEO in 2020, will stay on as an advisor to Hotard until the end of the year.

Recent Appointments

- **Chairman of Groupe Spécial Mobile Association Board** - Gopal Vittal (replace Jose Maria Alvares-Pallete)
- **DG of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)** - Rajesh Nirwan
- **CEO of Vedanta Resources Ltd.** - Deshnee Naidoo
- **CEO of Reliance Power** - Neeraj Parakh
- **President of Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) for 2025** - Dhananjay Shukla
- **Chairperson of the Executive Council of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library Society** - Nripendra Mishra

143. **World Unani Day is observed annually on 11 February to commemorate the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan, a prominent Unani physician and social reformer. What is the theme for World Unani Day 2025?**

विश्व यूनानी दिवस हर साल 11 फरवरी को हकीम अजमल खान की जयंती के उपलक्ष्य में मनाया जाता है, जो एक प्रमुख यूनानी चिकित्सक और समाज सुधारक थे। विश्व यूनानी दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Unani Medicine for the Future
- (b) Traditional Healing Practices
- (c) Preventive Care through Unani
- (d) Holistic Wellness through Ancient Wisdom
- (e) Innovations in Unani Medicine for Integrative Health Solutions

Ans. e

Sol. 11 February - World Unani Day

World Unani Day is observed annually on 11 February to commemorate the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan, a prominent Unani physician and social reformer.

The day aims to promote Unani medicine, an ancient system of healing with roots in Greece and the Middle East, and raise awareness about its benefits.

Theme 2025 - Innovations in Unani Medicine for Integrative Health Solutions – A Way Forward

Unani medicine focuses on balancing the body's four humors—blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile—for maintaining health.

144. Who has won the singles title at the 2025 Mumbai Open Tennis Tournament?

2025 मुंबई ओपन टेनिस टूर्नामेंट में एकल खिताब किसने जीता है?

- (a) Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi
- (b) Mananchaya Sawangkaew
- (c) Rebecca Marino
- (d) Jil Teichmann
- (e) Elena Pridankina

Ans. d

Sol. Jil Teichmann wins the Mumbai Open 2025 Tennis tournament

Jil Teichmann of Switzerland defeated Mananchaya Sawangkaew of Thailand to win the singles title of the 2025 Mumbai Open tennis tournament.

The final of the 2025 Mumbai Open tennis tournament was played in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

In the semi-final, Jil Teichman defeated Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi, of India while Mananchaya Sawangkaew defeated Rebecca Marino of Canada to reach the final.

In the doubles, the Russian pair of Elena Pridankina and Amina Anshba defeated India's Prarthana Thombare and her Dutch partner Arianne Hartono 6(4)-7(7), 6-2, 10-7 in the final.

The Mumbai Open is the biggest professional women's tennis tournament in India and it returned after a gap of six years in 2024. Mumbai Open 2025 is the fourth edition of the tournament.

145. Namibia's founding father and the first President, Sam Nujoma has passed away at the age of 95. Which political party did Sam Nujoma help found and lead?

नामीबिया के संस्थापक पिता और पहले राष्ट्रपति सैम नुजोमा का 95 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया है। सैम नुजोमा ने किस राजनीतिक दल की स्थापना और नेतृत्व में मदद की थी?

- (a) African National Congress (ANC)
- (b) People's Democratic Movement (PDM)
- (c) South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO)
- (d) Namibian Democratic Party (NDP)
- (e) United Democratic Front (UDF)

Ans. c

Sol. Namibia's first President Sam Nujoma passes away

Namibia's founding father and the first President, Sam Nujoma has passed away at the age of 95.

Born in Etunda village, Nujoma was a key figure in Namibia's fight for independence, the revolutionary leader who guided Namibia to independence from apartheid South Africa in 1990.

He served as the nation's first president from 1990 to 2005 and was a founding member of South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), the party that has governed Namibia since independence.

146. What is the name of the joint training exercise conducted by the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force, in February 2025?

फरवरी 2025 में, भारतीय सेना और भारतीय वायु सेना द्वारा आयोजित संयुक्त प्रशिक्षण अभ्यास का नाम क्या है?

- (a) EX Desert Strike
- (b) EX Winged Raiders
- (c) EX Mountain Eagle
- (d) EX Iron Fist
- (e) EX Sea Warriors

Ans. b

Sol. Indian Army and Indian Air Force conducts joint military exercise 'Winged Raider'

The Indian Army and the Indian Air Force jointly conducted a comprehensive training exercise named EX Winged Raiders in the Eastern Theater.

The exercise which was focused on special airborne operations was aimed to enhance inter-service synergy.

The joint military exercise is part of the government of India's effort to push for interoperability leading to the setting up of an integrated theatre command in the country.

The exercise focused on special airborne operations and was conducted in the Eastern Theater of the Indian Army.

147. HDFC Life has partnered with which platform to offer HDFC Life Click 2 Protect Ultimate?

एचडीएफसी लाइफ ने एचडीएफसी लाइफ क्लिक 2 प्रोटेक्ट अल्टीमेट की पेशकश करने के लिए किस प्लेटफॉर्म के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Policybazar
- (b) ICICI Lombard

- (c) Muthoot Finance
 (d) TATA AIG
 (e) Kotak Life Insurance

Ans. a

Sol. Policybazaar and HDFC Life join hands to offer product with 100% claim assurance

Policybazaar has partnered with HDFC Life, a private life insurer, to offer HDFC Life Click 2 Protect Ultimate, a term product with 100 per cent claim assurance.

This innovative solution combines financial protection with the assurance of a seamless claim process, catering to customers seeking reliability and transparency in their insurance policies.

The product's value lies in its commitment to providing a secure financial safety net while addressing two key consumer concerns -- ease of purchasing insurance and a smooth, hassle-free claims experience for beneficiaries.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- IDFC FIRST Bank, Ikonz launch **Amitabh Bachchan's AI avatar**
- IDFC FIRST Bank Launches **Exclusive Banking Package for Senior Citizens**
- L & T Finance introduced **Knowledgeable AI (KAI)**, an AI-powered virtual home loan advisor
- PNB MetLife partners with Policybazaar to Launch **Smart Invest Pension Plan for Early Retirement**
- Finvasia partners with Yes Bank to launch **AI-enabled super app 'Jumpp'**
- Shriram GI Unveils **Shri Health Suraksha Insurance** – A Comprehensive and Affordable Health Plan

148. ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR), Kozhikode, will organize a startup conclave – Rise Up – from February 19 to 21. The objective of this event is to generate innovative ideas in spice cultivation, processing, and value addition, and to promote entrepreneurship. Who is collaborating with ICAR-IISR to organize the conclave?

ICAR-भारतीय मसाला अनुसंधान संस्थान (IISR), कोझिकोड, 19 से 21 फरवरी तक एक स्टार्टअप कॉन्क्लेव - राइज अप - का आयोजन करेगा। इस आयोजन का उद्देश्य मसाला खेती, प्रसंस्करण और मूल्य संवर्धन में नवीन विचारों को उत्पन्न करना और उद्यमिता को बढ़ावा देना है। कॉन्क्लेव के आयोजन के लिए ICAR-IISR के साथ कौन सहयोग कर रहा है?

- (a) NITI Aayog
 (b) Ministry of Agriculture
 (c) Indian Chamber of Commerce
 (d) Kerala Startup Mission

(e) Startup India**Ans. d****Sol.** Indian Institute of Spices Research to host spice start-up conclave

ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR), Kozhikode, will be organising a startup conclave -- Rise Up-- from February 19 to 21. The objective of the event is to generate innovative ideas and foster entrepreneurship in spice cultivation, processing and value addition.

The three-day conclave will have sessions on themes including the potential of innovations, the future of spice-based entrepreneurship, and technological advancements in the spice industry.

Organized in collaboration with Kerala Startup Mission, the Ideathon invites students, entrepreneurs and startups to submit their ideas online by February 15. Each team may have up to five members.

Submitted ideas will be reviewed initially by a panel of experts and the selected ideas can be presented on the first day of the event at IISR.

The total prize pool for the event is ₹1,00,000, and further support will be provided by the research institution for the development of promising ideas.

Director of ICAR - Central Institute of Fisheries Technology -George Ninan

149. Which of the following statements is FALSE about the launch of India's first Automated Biomedical Waste Treatment Rig?

भारत के पहले स्वचालित बायोमेडिकल अपशिष्ट उपचार रिग के शुभारंभ के बारे में निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा कथन गलत है?

1. It was launched by Dr. Jitendra Singh at AIIMS New Delhi.
2. The rig is named "Pragati."
3. It was developed by DRDO.

(a) only 1 & 2

(b) only 2 & 3

(c) only 3 & 1

(d) all are correct

(e) all are incorrect

Ans. b**Sol.** India launches its first indigenous Automated Bio Medical Waste Treatment Plant in New Delhi

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched India's first indigenous Automated Biomedical Waste Treatment Rig, named Srjanam, at AIIMS New Delhi.

Developed by the CSIR National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology, NIIIST, in Thiruvananthapuram, the rig is the first of its kind in the country.

The Automated Biomedical Waste Treatment Rig, named “Srjanam,” was officially dedicated to the nation by the Minister at a ceremony held in the AIIMS auditorium.

This innovative, environment friendly technology, developed by CSIR-NIIIST (National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology), offers a significant advancement in the sustainable management of biomedical waste. The “Srjanam” rig can disinfect pathogenic biomedical waste such as blood, urine, sputum, and laboratory disposables, without the use of costly and energy-intensive incinerators.

Additionally, the rig imparts a pleasant fragrance to the otherwise foul-smelling toxic waste. With a daily capacity of 400 kg, the equipment is capable of handling 10 kg of degradable medical waste per day in the initial phase.

150. Which Indian department has signed an agreement with the Korea Transport Institute (KOTI) to enhance cooperation in logistics and infrastructure development?

रसद और बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास में सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए किस भारतीय विभाग ने कोरिया परिवहन संस्थान (KOTI) के साथ एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Ministry of External Affairs
- (b) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- (c) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- (d) Ministry of Railways
- (e) NITI Aayog

Ans. b

Sol. DPIIT signs pact with Korean institute to enhance cooperation in logistics
The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has signed an agreement with the Korea Transport Institute to enhance cooperation in logistics and infrastructure development.

The MoU will enhance cooperation in logistics and infrastructure development, leveraging the institute's expertise to support India's ambitious infrastructure initiatives.

The MoU will establish a mechanism for knowledge exchange and institutional cooperation between the logistics division, DPIIT and KOTI.

Recent MoU

- JSW Group signs MoU with Odisha govt to set up 5-MTPA steel plant in Keonjhar

- SBI Payments & Pine Labs Partners to Drive Next-Gen Commerce Solutions
- DPIIT signs MoU with Bhaane Group to promote startup ecosystem in manufacturing sector
- DPIIT partners with Apna to boost startup talent and create job opportunities for youth
- Andhra Pradesh signs MoU with Infosys for skill census pre-validation
- NSDC partners with Axis My India to map skill demand and supply across India

151. The third edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam is to be held from the 15th of February. What is the theme of the third edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam?

काशी तमिल संगमम का तीसरा संस्करण 15 फरवरी से आयोजित किया जाएगा। काशी तमिल संगमम के तीसरे संस्करण का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Ancient Temples of Tamil Nadu
- (b) Bhakti Movement
- (c) Sage Agasthiyar
- (d) Tamil Literature
- (e) Tamil Music and Dance

Ans. c

Sol. 3rd Kashi Tamil Sangamam to be held from Feb 15

The third edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam is to be held from the 15th of February. This year's theme will be 'Sage Agasthiyar'.

The participants will also be experiencing Mahakumbh and a visit to the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya.

In connection with this, school students dressed like Sage Agasthiyar participated in a walkathon in Chennai. The walkathon was organised by the Central Institute of Classical Tamil and SASTRA deemed University.

152. What is the new name of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) HJT-36 jet training aircraft?

हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड (HAL) के HJT-36 जेट प्रशिक्षण विमान का नया नाम क्या है?

- (a) Shakti
- (b) Surya
- (c) Dhanush
- (d) Rudra
- (e) Yashas

Ans. e

Sol. HAL renames HJT-36 Jet Trainer as 'Yashas' following major upgrades
Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has officially renamed its flagship jet training aircraft, the Hindustan Jet Trainer HJT-36, as 'Yashas' following extensive modifications aimed at enhancing its performance and operational efficiency.

As part of its preparation for induction into service, 'Yashas' has been upgraded with state-of-the-art avionics and a modernized cockpit, improving training effectiveness and operational efficiency.

The enhancements include weight reduction measures and the replacement of obsolete imported equipment with indigenous Line Replaceable Units (LRUs). Designed for Stage II pilot training, the aircraft is also capable of counter-insurgency and counter-surface force operations, armament training, and aerobatic maneuvers. It is powered by a Full Authority Digital Engine Control (FADEC)-equipped AL551 jet engine, delivering an optimal thrust-to-weight ratio, improved thrust management, and enhanced reliability.

Additionally, 'Yashas' is equipped for stall and spin recovery, aerobatics, armament carriage up to 1,000 kg, and single-point ground refueling and defueling capabilities.

About Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

- **Founded**- 23 December 1940
- **Founder**- Walchand Hirachand
- **Headquarters**-Bengaluru
- **Owner**- Government of India (71.65%)
- **CMD** - D K Sunil

153. In February 2025, Which campaign did Indian cricketers, including Virat Kohli, promote before the third ODI against England?

फरवरी 2025 में, विराट कोहली समेत भारतीय क्रिकेटरों ने इंग्लैंड के खिलाफ तीसरे वनडे से पहले किस अभियान को बढ़ावा दिया?

- (a) Save the Environment
- (b) Donate Blood, Save Lives
- (c) Donate Organs, Save Lives
- (d) Education for All
- (e) Fight Hunger

Ans. c

Sol. Indian Team Urges People To Join Donate Organs, Save Lives'

Ahead of the third ODI against England at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, the Indian team players including former captain Virat Kohli urged

people to join the 'Donate Organs, Save Lives' campaign and pledge for organ donation.

Recently, the International Cricket Council (ICC) took a major step towards raising awareness about organ donation through the 'Donate Organs, Save Lives' initiative.

This initiative aims to inspire cricket fans to pledge their support for donating organs, putting forth the importance of a single decision which could impact lives. With millions watching, the initiative hopes to encourage individuals to pledge for organ donation, ultimately saving millions of lives in the future.

154. Which Indian company has acquired a 49% stake in Oval Invincibles, a franchise in the England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) The Hundred?

किस भारतीय कंपनी ने इंग्लैंड और वेल्स क्रिकेट बोर्ड (ECB) की द हंड्रेड की एक फ्रैंचाइज़ ओवल इनविंसिबल्स में 49% हिस्सेदारी हासिल की है?

- (a) Tata Group
- (b) Reliance Industries
- (c) Adani Group
- (d) Infosys
- (e) Sriram Cement

Ans. b

Sol. RIL to acquire 49% stake in London-based Oval Invincibles cricket team Reliance Industries (RIL)-owned Mumbai Indians (MI), through its subsidiary RISE Worldwide, has announced the acquisition of a 49 per cent stake in London-based Oval Invincibles, a franchise in the England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) The Hundred, for an undisclosed amount.

The completion of the transaction is subject to customary diligence and documentation, including the acquisition of its shareholding.

The men's team of the Oval Invincibles is the reigning champion of The Hundred in 2023 and 2024, while the women's team won the inaugural 100-ball league in 2021 and again in 2022.

The Hundred features eight city-based franchises: London Spirit, Oval Invincibles, Manchester Originals, Birmingham Phoenix, Northern Superchargers, Southern Brave, Welsh Fire, and Trent Rockets.

155. What is the name of the sports drink recently launched by Reliance Consumer Products?

हाल ही में रिलायंस कंज्यूमर प्रोडक्ट्स द्वारा लॉन्च किए गए स्पोर्ट्स ड्रिंक का नाम क्या है?

- (a) PowerPlay
- (b) Hydrate Plus

- (c) Spinner
- (d) SportyFizz
- (e) Fresh Boost

Ans. c

Sol. Reliance Consumer launches sports drink 'Spinner' at ₹10

Reliance Consumer Products has launched the sports drink 'Spinner' at an affordable price of ₹10 and the beverage would lead the movement to create a sports beverage category of up to \$1 billion in the next three years.

The sports drink has been co-created with former Sri Lankan cricketer and current coach of Sri Lanka, Muttiah Muralitharan.

The beverage brand has partnered with top IPL franchises such as Lucknow Super Giants, SunRisers Hyderabad, Punjab Kings, Gujarat Titans, and Mumbai Indians, which will drive awareness and increase brand visibility across the country, the company said.

The sports drink is available in three flavours – Lemon, Orange, and Nitro Blue.

156. In February 2025, what amendment has been made to the Customs Tariff Act by India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman?

फरवरी 2025 में भारत की वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने सीमा शुल्क अधिनियम में कौन सा संशोधन किया है?

- (a) Reduction of import duty on rice
- (b) Introduction of an HS code for GI-recognised rice
- (c) Increase in export duty on rice
- (d) Tax exemption for rice exports
- (e) Change in GST rate for agricultural products

Ans. b

Sol. India introduces new HS code to allow exports of GI-recognised rice varieties

India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has come up with an amendment to the Customs Tariff Act to provide for an HS (Harmonised System) code, for the export of geographical indication (GI) recognised rice.

It is the first time in the world that an HS code has been introduced for GI-recognised rice

The amendment was introduced in the Budget proposals for the 2025-26 financial year on February 1, under HS Code 1006-30-11 (parboiled) and 1006-30-91 (white).

The Indian Patent Office has given a GI tag to 20 rice varieties. The GI-tag recognised varieties are Navara, Palakkadan Matta, Pokkali, Wayanad Jeerakasala, Wayanad Gandhakasala, Kalanamak, Kaipad, Ajara Ghansal,

Ambemohar, Joha, Gobindobog, Tulapanji, Katarni and Chokuwa rice varieties. These varieties got the GI tag before March 2020.

About HS

- HS is a global product classification system developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO). HS assigns specific six-digit codes for varying classifications and commodities.
- Countries are allowed to add longer codes to the first six digits for further classification.
- HS is governed by "The International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System".
- HS Committee, made up of member countries, oversees the HS classification system and also updates HS every 5 – 6 years.

157. Which state-owned company has signed a pact with BP for collaboration in exploration and production?

किस सरकारी स्वामित्व वाली कंपनी ने अन्वेषण और उत्पादन में सहयोग के लिए बीपी के साथ समझौता किया है?

- (a) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)
- (b) Oil India Limited (OIL)
- (c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
- (d) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)
- (e) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)

Ans. c

Sol. ONGC signs pact with BP for oil exploration

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has signed a pact with global oil major BP to explore collaboration in exploration and production, trading and other energy vectors, in India and internationally.

The MoU comes within a month of ONGC selecting BP as a technical service provider for raising output from its flagship Mumbai High oil and gas field. ONGC and BP have agreed to explore opportunities for collaboration and partnership across the energy industry in India and internationally, focused on oil and gas exploration and production, as well as trading and extending to other energy vectors.

158. At which event did Indian students win the Bronze Award for the Global Best M-Gov Award 2025, they were recognized for their application AccessWay, an AI-powered platform that integrates augmented reality (AR)?

किस कार्यक्रम में भारतीय छात्रों ने ग्लोबल बेस्ट एम-गवर्नेंस अवार्ड 2025 के लिए कांस्य पुरस्कार जीता, उन्हें उनके एप्लीकेशन एक्सेसवे के लिए सम्मानित किया गया, जो एक एआई-संचालित प्लेटफॉर्म है जो संवर्धित वास्तविकता (एआर) को एकीकृत करता है?

- (a) Dubai Technology Expo
- (b) World Government Summit
- (c) Global Tech Leaders Forum
- (d) Aero India 2025
- (e) Digital Transformation Summit

Ans. b

Sol. Indian Students Win Bronze at Global Best M-Gov Award 2025 in Dubai
 Three Indian computer science students from New Delhi have won the Bronze Award at the Global Best M-Gov Award 2025 during the World Government Summit (WGS) in Dubai.

The award, along with a cash prize of \$10,000, was presented by Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President of the United Arab Emirates, during the opening day of the summit.

The winning team comprised Sagar Teotia (team lead), Abhinav Mishra, and Anushka Singh, all fourth-semester computer science students from the Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology, Delhi.

They were recognized for their application AccessWay, an AI-powered platform that integrates augmented reality (AR), artificial intelligence, and crowdsourced data to provide accessible navigation, social connections, and emergency tools for individuals with disabilities.

The app promotes independence by offering personalized route planning with AR overlays and real-time voice assistance for visually impaired users. It enables community-driven mapping of accessible spaces and allows businesses to gain accessibility certifications, attracting a more diverse audience.

The M-Gov Award and GovTech Award are prestigious annual honors presented by the UAE government as part of the World Government Summit. With submissions from 74 countries, over 3,500 entries, and 60 shortlisted finalists, the awards recognized six winners for their groundbreaking contributions.

159. Honeywell and AM Green have signed an MoU to advance carbon capture and sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in India. What is India's SAF blend target for international flights by 2027?

हनीवेल और एएम ग्रीन ने भारत में कार्बन कैप्चर और संधारणीय विमानन ईंधन (एसएएफ) को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। 2027 तक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए भारत का एसएएफ मिश्रण लक्ष्य क्या है?

- (a) 0.5%

- (b) 4%
- (c) 1.5%
- (d) 2%
- (e) 1%

Ans. e

Sol. Honeywell, AM Green sign MoU to advance carbon capture, SAF in India
Honeywell and AM Green have signed an MoU to advance carbon capture and sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in India.

This comes as India aims to achieve a 1 per cent SAF blend in jet fuel for international flights by 2027, which will increase to 2 per cent by 2028, signifying a significant step towards reducing aviation emissions in the country. This target is part of India's broader goal to reach net zero by 2070.

The MoU seeks efficient ways to decarbonise the aviation and shipping sectors and will help position India as a global leader in alternative fuel production.

The collaboration is meant to assess the techno-economic feasibility of producing sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) from ethanol, green methanol from various carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission sources, and green hydrogen.

160. Which championship title did Pankaj Advani recently win at the Yashwant Club in Madhya Pradesh?

हाल ही में मध्य प्रदेश के यशवंत क्लब में पंकज आडवाणी ने कौन सी चैंपियनशिप का खिताब जीता?

- (a) 36th National Chess Championship
- (b) 36th National Badminton Championship
- (c) 36th National Snooker Championship
- (d) 36th National Tennis Championship
- (e) 36th National Carrom Championship

Ans. c

Sol. Pankaj Advani wins 36th National Gold at Indian Snooker Championship
India's most accomplished player Pankaj Advani secured his 36th overall national title and 10th men's snooker crown at the Yashwant Club in Madhya Pradesh.

The ONGC employee overcame an early setback to defeat Brijesh Damani in a final where Damani managed to take the opening frame, the only one he would claim throughout the match.

161. Which state will host the 39th edition of the National Games in 2027?

कौन सा राज्य 2027 में राष्ट्रीय खेलों के 39वें संस्करण की मेजबानी करेगा?

- (a) Uttarakhand

- (b) Assam
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Manipur
- (e) Sikkim

Ans. c

Sol. Meghalaya to host next edition of National Games in February/March 2027
Meghalaya will host the 39th edition of the National Games in February/March 2027.

As host state of the next edition, Meghalaya will be handed the IOA flag during the closing ceremony of the ongoing 38th Games in Uttarakhand.

162. On which date is the International Day of Women and Girls in Science celebrated annually?

विज्ञान में महिलाओं और लड़कियों का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) February 15
- (b) February 11
- (c) February 12
- (d) February 13
- (e) February 10

Ans. b

Sol. 11 February - International Day of Women and Girls in Science

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is celebrated every February 11.

The United Nations observes this day to promote full and equal access to and participation of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

On March 14, 2011, during its 55th session, the Commission on the Status of Women approved a report that included agreed conclusions regarding the involvement of women and girls in education, training, and science and technology.

The year 2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science (IDWGS), observed annually on 11th February.

163. Where was the 2nd India-France AI Policy Roundtable held?

दूसरा भारत-फ्रांस एआई नीति गोलमेज सम्मेलन कहाँ आयोजित किया गया?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Bengaluru
- (c) Paris

(d) Mumbai

(e) Chennai

Ans. c

Sol. 2nd India-France AI Policy Roundtable held on the sidelines of AI Action Summit 2025 in Paris

The Second India-France AI Policy Roundtable was held at Sciences Po University, Paris, as a side event to the AI Action Summit 2025.

The event was organized by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, the IndiaAI Mission, and Sciences Po Paris.

Experts emphasized collaboration between India and France on indigenous AI models, multilingual large language models (LLMs), federated AI infrastructure, and sustainable AI practices.

The Second Roundtable built upon key objectives from the First Roundtable held in Bengaluru during Technology Dialogue 2025, focusing on inclusive AI frameworks, diverse datasets, governance, public-private partnerships, and foundational models.

164. Who chaired the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Home Affairs on 'Cyber Security and Cyber Crime'?

'साइबर सुरक्षा और साइबर अपराध' पर गृह मंत्रालय की संसदीय सलाहकार समिति की बैठक की अध्यक्षता किसने की?

(a) Nityanand Rai

(b) Narendra Modi

(c) Amit Shah

(d) Rajnath Singh

(e) Piyush Goyal

Ans. c

Sol. Amit Shah chairs Parliamentary Consultative Committee for Ministry of Home Affairs on 'Cyber Security and Cyber Crime'

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah chaired a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Home Affairs on the topic of 'Cyber Security and Cyber Crime' in New Delhi.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Nityanand Rai, Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar, members of the Committee.

Cyber Crime Forensic Training Labs have been established in 33 states and union territories. On the 'CyTrain' platform, a "Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)" platform, 101,561 police officers have registered, and over 78,000 certificates have been issued.

Union Home Minister emphasized the importance of raising awareness among the public to prevent cybercrime and requested all the members of the committee to promote the I4C helpline number 1930. India has become the third-largest country in terms of digital landscape in the world. The digital economy contributes 20 per cent to the total economy of India.

165. Which organization has recently launched a seven-year climate adaptation and resilience project in Somalia?

हाल ही में किस संगठन ने सोमालिया में सात वर्षीय जलवायु अनुकूलन और लचीलापन परियोजना शुरू की है?

- (a) World Food Programme (WFP)
- (b) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- (c) Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- (d) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- (e) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Ans. c

Sol. FAO Launches \$95M Climate Resilient Agriculture Project in Somalia

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) officially launched a seven-year project with Somalia that aims to enhance climate adaptation and resilience for vulnerable communities in the country.

The 95 million dollar "Climate Resilient Agriculture in Somalia" project, dubbed "Ugbaad," which means hope in Somalia, will tackle climate change challenges and strengthen agrifood systems through large-scale investment.

In Somalia, the agricultural sector is the main economic activity for an estimated 65 percent of the population, contributing about 75 percent of the gross domestic product.

About Food and Agriculture Organisation

- Founded- 16 October 1945
- Headquarters- Rome, Italy
- Parent organization- United Nations Economic and Social Council
- Director General - Qu Dongyu

166. How many total medals did India win at the 2025 Para Archery Asia Cup in Thailand?

थाईलैंड में 2025 पैरा तीरंदाजी एशिया कप में भारत ने कुल कितने पदक जीते?

- (a) 10
- (b) 15
- (c) 8

(d) 12

(e) 18

Ans. d

Sol. India won 6 Golds in Para Archery Asia Cup 2025

India topped the medal tally at the 2025 Para Archery Asia Cup in Thailand, winning a total of 12 medals — six gold, three silver, and three bronze.

Sarita and Shyam Sundar Swami won gold medals in the women's compound open and men's compound open categories, respectively.

Sarita defeated Singapore's Nur Syahidah Alim 143-142 in a closely contested women's compound open final. Shyam Sundar Swami beat Indonesia's Ken Swagumilang 143-141 to secure India's sixth gold medal in the men's compound open final.

Reigning Paralympic champion Harvinder Singh won a bronze medal in the men's recurve open with a 6-2 victory over Malaysia's Nurfaizal Hamzah.

India's Adil Mohamed Nazir Ansari clinched a bronze medal in the men's W1 (Rec/Comp) event with a 120-116 win over Hong Kong's Yung Man Tai.

167. Which city hosted the MRO Middle East and AIME 2025 edition?

एमआरओ मध्य पूर्व और एआईएमई 2025 संस्करण की मेजबानी किस शहर ने की?

(a) Abu Dhabi

(b) Riyadh

(c) Dubai

(d) Doha

(e) Muscat

Ans. c

Sol. Dubai hosts largest MRO Middle East and AIME 2025 edition

MRO Middle East and AIME 2025 is the largest edition ever, hosted in Dubai, focusing on aircraft modernization and MRO services.

Over 250 international exhibitors participated, reflecting strong aviation sector growth amid record-high passenger demand.

GE Aerospace announced a \$10 million investment to expand engine service capacity in the Middle East.

Airbus' Middle East Services Forecast 2024-2043 projected global services demand to reach \$32 billion, with a 4.5% CAGR over 20 years.

Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saeed Al Maktoum inaugurated the event, reinforcing its importance as the region's premier aerospace innovation platform.

168. What is the new procurement limit under the revised guidelines for the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)?

बाजार हस्तक्षेप योजना (एमआईएस) के लिए संशोधित दिशा-निर्देशों के तहत नई खरीद सीमा क्या है?

- (a) 15%
- (b) 20%
- (c) 25%
- (d) 30%
- (e) 35%

Ans. c

Sol. Govt revises guidelines for Market Intervention Scheme

The agriculture ministry has revised guidelines for the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), increasing the procurement limit of crops to 25% from 20%. The guidelines have been revised to encourage states to implement the MIS.

The MIS is implemented on the request of the state/UT government for procurement of various perishable agricultural/horticultural commodities such as tomato, onion, potato, etc, for which minimum support price (MSP) is not applicable and there is a reduction of at least 10% in market prices in states/UTs as compared to the rates of the previous normal season.

Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) is a component of PM-AASHA scheme.

169. Where was the 14th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (14AFAF) organized?

14वां एशियाई मत्स्य पालन और जलीय कृषि मंच (14AFAF) कहाँ आयोजित किया गया?

- (a) Kuala Lumpur
- (b) Mangalore
- (c) Kochi
- (d) New Delhi
- (e) Mumbai

Ans. d

Sol. 14th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum on "Greening the Blue Growth in Asia-Pacific" held in Delhi

The 14th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (14AFAF), with the theme "Greening the Blue Growth in Asia-Pacific" has been organized in New Delhi.

The Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (AFAF) is a triennial event of the Asian Fisheries Society with its Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

This 14th AFAF is being jointly organized by the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS), Kuala Lumpur; Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi the Department of Fisheries (DoF), Government of India; and the Asian Fisheries Society Indian Branch (AFSIB), Mangalore.

This prestigious event is being hosted in India for the 2nd time after the 8AFAF held at Kochi in 2007.

170. **What recent milestone did Easebuzz achieve?**

ईज़बज़ ने हाल ही में कौन सी उपलब्धि हासिल की?

- (a) Launched a new digital wallet
- (b) Received authorization as an Online Payment Aggregator
- (c) Partnered with RBI for blockchain services
- (d) Started crypto transactions
- (e) Introduced QR-based payment services

Ans. b

Sol. Easebuzz gets RBI authorisation to operate as online payment aggregator
Easebuzz, a digital payment solutions provider, has received final authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an Online Payment Aggregator (PA).

The approval, which allows the firm to continue facilitating digital transactions for businesses, comes a week after it announced integration support for third-party payment orchestrators.

The company currently claims to process an annualised Gross Transaction Value (GTV) of \$30 billion and serves over 2 lakh businesses, including SMEs and startups.

171. **THDC India Ltd (THDCIL) has recently started commercial operations of which type of power unit?**

टीएचडीसी इंडिया लिमिटेड (THDCIL) ने हाल ही में किस प्रकार की बिजली इकाई का वाणिज्यिक संचालन शुरू किया है?

- (a) Hydro power unit
- (b) Wind power unit
- (c) Solar power unit
- (d) Thermal power unit
- (e) Nuclear power unit

Ans. d

Sol. THDC India enters thermal energy sector, begins operations of 660-MW unit at Khurja plant

THDC India Ltd THDCIL has started commercial operations of a 660-MW unit at its Khurja Power Plant, marking an entry into the domestic thermal energy sector.

Until now, the company was generating 1,424 MW from hydro, 113 MW from wind and 50 MW of solar energy.

THDCIL is setting up a 1,320-megawatt (2X660 MW) super thermal power project at Bulandshahr district in Uttar Pradesh (UP) at an investment of around ₹13,000 crore.

172. What is the India's rank in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2024?

2024 के लिए भ्रष्टाचार धारणा सूचकांक (CPI) में भारत का स्थान क्या है?

- (a) 76
- (b) 93
- (c) 96
- (d) 121
- (e) 135

Ans. c

Sol. India ranks 96 out of 180 countries in Corruption Perceptions Index 2024 India ranked 96 out of 180 countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2024 as its overall score dropped a point to 38, according to a Transparency International report.

The index, which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people, uses a scale of zero to 100, where "zero" is highly corrupt and "100" is very clean.

In 2024, India's overall score was 38 while it was 39 in 2023 and 40 in 2022.

India's rank in 2023 was 93.

Among India's neighbours, Pakistan (135) and Sri Lanka (121) grappled with their respective low rankings, while Bangladesh's ranking stood further down at 149. China ranked 76.

Denmark topped the list of being the least-corrupt nation, followed by Finland and Singapore.

Recent index

- **Henley Passport Index 2025** - India at 80th spot with 56 destinations; Topped by Singapore
- **Global Firepower Index 2025** - India ranked at 4th; topped by USA
- **Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2024** – India at 49th
- **Global Network Readiness Index 2024** - Topped by US; India at 49th
- **World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2024** - India at 79th; topped by Denmark

173. In which category did India achieve the 22nd rank in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2023?

विश्व बैंक के लॉजिस्टिक्स प्रदर्शन सूचकांक (LPI) 2023 में भारत ने किस श्रेणी में 22वां स्थान प्राप्त किया?

- (a) Infrastructure
- (b) Logistics Competence
- (c) Timeliness
- (d) International Shipments
- (e) Customs

Ans. d

Sol. Logistics Performance Index: India at 22nd spot

As per the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI), 2023 India moved up to 22nd Rank in the Global Ranking in International Shipments category and the Overall 38th Rank in Logistics Performance Index score.

Indian Ports have registered quantum improvement in "Turn Around Time".

Global comparison of Indian Ports on "Turn Around Time" parameter, as published in World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) Report-2023, acknowledges Indian Ports "Turn Around Time" as 0.9 days which is better than USA (1.5 days), Australia (1.7 days), Belgium (1.3 days), Canada (2.0 days), Germany (1.3 days), UAE (1.1 days), Singapore (1.0 days), Russian Federation (1.8 days), Malaysia (1.0 days), Ireland (1.2 days), Indonesia (1.1 days), New Zealand (1.1 days) and South Africa (2.8 days).

174. What was the retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in January 2025?

जनवरी 2025 में उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (CPI) पर आधारित खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति क्या थी?

- (a) 3.8%
- (b) 4.0%
- (c) 4.3%
- (d) 4.7%
- (e) 5.1%

Ans. c

Sol. India's retail inflation eases to 4.3% in January 2025

A sharp decline in vegetable-led food prices pushed retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), down by 91 basis points to a five-month low of 4.3 per cent in January.

A sharp decline of 237 basis points was observed in food inflation in January 2025 compared to December 2024. The food inflation in January 2025 is the lowest since August 2024.

A significant decline in both headline and food inflation in rural areas was observed in January. It fell to 4.64 per cent in January from 5.76 per cent in

December. Rural food inflation stood at 6.31 per cent in the same month compared to 8.65 per cent in the corresponding month. Urban areas too saw a sharp decline in headline inflation to 3.87 per cent from 4.58 per cent. While food inflation fell to 5.33 per cent from 7.9 per cent.

Previous Months CPI-based Retail inflation

- August 2024 – 3.65%
- September 2024 – 5.49%
- October 2024 – 6.21%
- November 2024 – 5.48 %
- December 2024 – 5.22%
- January 2025 – 4.3%

175. When is the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism observed annually?

आतंकवाद के लिए अनुकूल हिंसक उग्रवाद की रोकथाम के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस प्रतिवर्ष कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 10 February
- (b) 12 February
- (c) 15 February
- (d) 20 February
- (e) 25 February

Ans. b

Sol. 12 February - International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism

International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism is observed annually on 12 February.

The day aims to raise awareness and strengthen global efforts to prevent violent extremism that can lead to terrorism.

In its resolution 77/243, the General Assembly decided to declare 12 February the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism, in order to raise awareness of the threats linked to violent extremism, as and when conducive to terrorism, and to enhance international cooperation in this regard.

176. Who has been elected as the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for the term 2025-26?

वर्ष 2025-26 के लिए भारतीय चार्टर्ड अकाउंटेंट्स संस्थान (ICAI) के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे चुना गया है?

- (a) Rakesh Sehgal

- (b) Charanjot Singh Nanda
- (c) Atul Kumar Gupta
- (d) Aniket Talati
- (e) Rajesh Sharma

Ans. b

Sol. Charanjot Singh Nanda elected as ICAI President for term 2025-26
 The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), which is the world's largest accountancy body, has a new President in Charanjot Singh Nanda for the term 2025-26.

Nanda, who was hitherto Vice-President of ICAI, was elected as the 73rd President at a meeting of the Central Council in New Delhi.

D Prasanna Kumar, a Chartered Accountant from Andhra Pradesh (Southern India Regional Council) was elected as Vice President.

Nanda, a practising Chartered Accountant for over three decades, has been associated with ICAI's Central Council since 2004 and has served multiple terms. Nanda had completed his Bachelor of Commerce degree from M.L.N. College in 1987, consistently securing a position on the Merit List at Kurukshetra University throughout his undergraduate studies. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1991.

Recent Appointments

- **CEO of Nokia** - Justin Hotard (replace Pekka Lundmark) *effect from 1 April*
- **Chairman of Groupe Spécial Mobile Association board** - Gopal Vittal (replace Jose Maria Alvares-Pallete)
- **DG of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)** - Rajesh Nirwan
- **CEO of Vedanta Resources Ltd.** - Deshnee Naidoo
- **CEO of Reliance Power** - Neeraj Parakh
- **President of Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) for 2025** - Dhananjay Shukla

177. Who among the following is NOT an ambassador for the ICC Championship Trophy 2025?

निम्नलिखित में से कौन ICC चैम्पियनशिप ट्रॉफी 2025 का राजदूत नहीं है?

- (a) Shikhar Dhawan
- (b) Shane Watson
- (c) Tim Southee
- (d) Sarfaraz Ahmed
- (e) Mahendra Singh Dhoni

Ans. e

Sol. Shikhar Dhawan appointed as Brand Ambassador of ICC Championship Trophy 2025

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the Champions Trophy 2025. The left-handed batter Shikhar Dhawan named as one of the four ambassadors for the event.

The other three ambassadors for the event are former Australia all-rounder Shane Watson, New Zealand pacer Tim Southee and former Champions Trophy-winning captain Sarfaraz Ahmed.

The tournament will be played in Pakistan and Dubai from February 19 to March 9.

India will play their matches in Dubai as they have refused to travel to Pakistan for security reasons. India will start their Champions Trophy campaign against Bangladesh on February 20.

178. National Productivity Day is observed annually on February 12 in India.

What is the theme of National Productivity Day 2025?

भारत में प्रतिवर्ष 12 फरवरी को राष्ट्रीय उत्पादकता दिवस मनाया जाता है। राष्ट्रीय उत्पादकता दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Innovation for Growth
- (b) Building a Digital Future
- (c) From Ideas to Impact: Protecting Intellectual Property for Competitive Startups
- (d) Sustainable Development and Productivity
- (e) Productivity for All

Ans. c

Sol. 12 February - National Productivity Day

National Productivity Day is observed annually on February 12 in India, to generate awareness about the importance of productivity in achieving economic growth and sustainability, under the guidance of the National Productivity Council (NPC). It is a part of a week-long event, taking place from February 12 to 18.

This day raises awareness that productivity is more than just increasing output; it is a comprehensive concept that considers environmental problems, human resource development and quality of work.

Theme 2025 - From Ideas to Impact: Protecting Intellectual Property for Competitive Startups

The National Productivity Day commemorates the establishment of the National Productivity Council (NPC) which was registered on February 12, 1958,

under the Societies Registration Act, of 1960. Notably, it is an autonomous body that was introduced to promote India's productivity culture.

179. World Radio Day is observed annually on 13 February. What is the theme of World Radio Day 2025?

विश्व रेडियो दिवस हर साल 13 फरवरी को मनाया जाता है। विश्व रेडियो दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Radio and Peace
- (b) Radio for All
- (c) Radio and Climate Change
- (d) Digital Radio Transformation
- (e) Radio and Innovation

Ans. c

Sol. 13 February - World Radio Day

World Radio Day is observed annually on 13 February.

Objective - To raise awareness about the importance of radio in preserving freedom of expression, cultural diversity, and access to information.

Theme 2025 - Radio and Climate Change

It is proclaimed by UNESCO in 2011 and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 to recognize radio's role in fostering dialogue, peace, and cultural diversity.

180. Decentro, a leading fintech infrastructure platform, has launched India's first fully compliant, self-hosted CKYC solution, enabling financial institutions to seamlessly transition to the new CERSAI compliance framework. What does CKYC stand for?

अग्रणी फिनटेक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर प्लेटफॉर्म, डिसेंट्रो ने भारत का पहला पूर्ण अनुपालन वाला, स्व-होस्टेड CKYC समाधान लॉन्च किया है, जो वित्तीय संस्थानों को नए CERSAI अनुपालन ढांचे में सहजता से संक्रमण करने में सक्षम बनाता है। CKYC का क्या अर्थ है?

- (a) Central Know Your Customer
- (b) Certified Know Your Client
- (c) Central Key Yield Certification
- (d) Corporate Know Your Compliance
- (e) Certified Know Your Customer

Ans. a

Sol. Decentro Unveils India's First Self-Hosted CKYC Solution to Align with CERSAI's New Compliance Mandate

Decentro, a leading fintech infrastructure platform, has launched India's first fully compliant, self-hosted CKYC (Central **Know Your Customer**) solution, enabling financial institutions to seamlessly transition to the new CERSAI compliance framework.

This innovation eliminates third-party dependencies, allowing banks, NBFCs, and insurers to onboard customers faster while ensuring regulatory adherence. Additionally, the Union Budget 2025 has emphasized AI-driven KYC reforms, reinforcing the need for a secure, transparent, and centralized CKYC system. The evolving CKYC landscape presents challenges such as compliance risks, operational disruptions, and significant time and cost implications for institutions lacking the necessary infrastructure.

Co-Founder & CEO of Decentro - Rohit Taneja

181. What are the names of the two funds launched by Union Mutual Fund in February 2025?

फरवरी 2025 में यूनियन म्यूचुअल फंड द्वारा लॉन्च किए गए दो फंड के नाम क्या हैं?

- (a) Union Gold Equity Fund and Gold Hybrid Fund
- (b) Union Gold ETF and Union Gold ETF Fund of Fund
- (c) Union Gold Income Fund and Gold Saving Scheme
- (d) Union Gold Balanced Fund and Gold Reserve Fund
- (e) Union Gold Wealth Fund and Gold Index Fund

Ans. b

Sol. Union Mutual Fund launches two new schemes for structured gold investments Union Mutual Fund has launched two new funds that will invest in gold "at a time when investors are looking for diversified solutions", said the company.

Union Gold ETF and Union Gold ETF Fund of Fund opened for subscriptions and will continue till February 24, with a minimum investment requirement of Rs 1,000.

Gold plays a key role in portfolio diversification due to its low correlation with other asset classes and potential as a hedge against inflation. Central banks globally are major buyers of gold, further supporting its demand and price.

The schemes offer key benefits, including cost-effective exposure to gold without concerns related to making charges or storage.

182. In February 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifted the restrictions imposed on _____ regarding onboarding new customers using online and mobile banking channels and issuing new credit cards.

फरवरी 2025 में, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने ऑनलाइन और मोबाइल बैंकिंग चैनलों का उपयोग करके नए ग्राहकों को जोड़ने और नए क्रेडिट कार्ड जारी करने के संबंध में _____ पर लगाए गए प्रतिबंध हटा दिए।

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) ICICI Bank
- (c) Axis Bank
- (d) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- (e) State Bank of India

Ans. d

Sol. RBI lifts restrictions on Kotak Mahindra Bank on onboarding new customers

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifted the restrictions imposed on Kotak Mahindra Bank regarding onboarding new customers using online and mobile banking channels and issuing new credit cards.

In April last year (2024), the RBI placed restrictions on the bank as it failed to plug gaps in its information technology (IT) systems, which resulted in frequent outages in the bank's core banking system and online channels in the preceding two years, inconveniencing customers.

Ten months after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed restrictions on Kotak Mahindra Bank on onboarding new customers via its online and mobile banking channels, as well as the issuance of fresh credit cards, the central bank said that it has lifted all such restrictions, as it was satisfied with submissions and the remedial measures undertaken by the bank.

183. Capital markets regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a new digital platform, MITRA, to assist investors in tracking and reclaiming inactive or unclaimed mutual fund folios. What does the acronym MITRA stand for?

पूंजी बाजार नियामक, भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनियम बोर्ड (सेबी) ने निष्क्रिय या दावा न किए गए म्यूचुअल फंड फोलियो को ट्रैक करने और पुनः प्राप्त करने में निवेशकों की सहायता के लिए एक नया डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म, MITRA पेश किया है। MITRA का संक्षिप्त नाम क्या है?

- (a) Mutual Fund Investment Tracking and Retrieval Application
- (b) Mutual Fund Investor Trust and Registration Assistant
- (c) Mutual Investment Tracing and Record Assistant
- (d) Mutual Fund Investment Tracing and Retrieval Assistant
- (e) Mutual Investment Trust Retrieval Assistant

Ans. d

Sol. SEBI launches MITRA to help investors trace inactive mutual fund folios
 Capital markets regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has introduced a new digital platform, MITRA, to assist investors in tracking and reclaiming inactive or unclaimed mutual fund folios.

The objective of the platform, Mutual Fund Investment Tracing and Retrieval Assistant (MITRA), is to encourage investors to search for forgotten MF investments and update KYC as per the current norms.

The platform addresses a growing concern wherein investors, over time, lose track of their mutual fund investments lack of updated contact information, or unawareness of investments made in their name.

MITRA platform is developed by the RTAs to provide investors with a searchable database of inactive and unclaimed mutual fund folios at an industry-level which will empower the investors.

SEBI has also revised the mandate of the Unit Holder Protection Committee (UHPC) under Mutual Funds rules. The UHPC will now be responsible for reviewing inactive folios along with unclaimed dividends and redemptions, ensuring proactive steps are taken to reduce such cases.

184. The Reserve Bank of India will soon issue _____ denomination banknotes bearing the signature of Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक जल्द ही गवर्नर संजय मल्होत्रा के हस्ताक्षर वाले _____ मूल्यवर्ग के बैंक नोट जारी करेगा।

- (a) Rs 10
- (b) Rs 20
- (c) Rs 50
- (d) Rs 100
- (e) Rs 500

Ans. c

Sol. RBI to issue ₹50 denomination bank notes with signature of new Governor Malhotra

The Reserve Bank of India will soon issue Rs 50 denomination banknotes bearing the signature of Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

Malhotra assumed office in December 2024 replacing Shaktikanta Das who demitted office after completion of his extended term.

The design of these notes is similar in all respects to Rs 50 banknotes in Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series. All banknotes in the denomination of Rs 50 issued by the Reserve Bank in the past will continue to be legal tender.

The Reserve Bank of India will shortly issue ₹50 denomination bank notes in Mahatma Gandhi (new) Series bearing the signature of newly appointed Governor Sanjay Malhotra, the central bank said in a statement.

185. In February 2025, which organizations have signed the \$100 million credit facility agreement to boost green finance for Indian MSMEs?

फरवरी 2025 में, किन संगठनों ने भारतीय एमएसएमई के लिए हरित वित्त को बढ़ावा देने के लिए 100 मिलियन डॉलर के ऋण सुविधा समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) SIDBI and ADB
- (b) NABARD and World Bank
- (c) SIDBI and AFD
- (d) RBI and IMF
- (e) EXIM Bank and European Union

Ans. c

Sol. SIDBI and AFD, France ink \$100 million deal to boost green finance for Indian MSMEs

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and AFD, France have signed a \$100 million credit facility agreement (CFA) to scale up green finance solutions for Indian micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The partnership aims to support sustainable growth and drive the transition towards a low-carbon economy.

Under this agreement, AFD will provide credit line of \$100 million to SIDBI to deploy the funds to expand access to affordable financing for MSMEs investing in energy-efficient technologies, renewable energy solutions, and climate-friendly business practices.

This initiative aligns with both institutions' commitment to fostering sustainable economic development and enhancing climate resilience in emerging markets.

Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with the Karnataka Bulldozers for the Celebrity Cricket League (CCL) 2025
- Bajaj Finance partnered with Bharti Airtel to create a digital platform for financial services.
- PNB MetLife partners with Saraswat Co-operative Bank to offer insurance solutions*
- Suryoday Small Finance Bank partnered with Tata Digital to extend its fixed deposit (FD) offerings via the Tata Neu platform.
- PhonePe partners with ICICI Lombard **to offer Maha Kumbh Mela insurance**
- Tata Power, Canara Bank partner to offer loans for rooftop solar systems

186. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras and ISRO have developed an indigenous microprocessor named 'SHAKTI'. What will the SHAKTI microprocessor primarily used for?

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) मद्रास और इसरो ने 'शक्ति' नामक एक स्वदेशी माइक्रोप्रोसेसर विकसित किया है। शक्ति माइक्रोप्रोसेसर का मुख्य रूप से उपयोग किस लिए किया जाएगा?

- (a) Weather forecasting
- (b) Space command and control systems
- (c) Financial analysis
- (d) Autonomous vehicles
- (e) Blockchain technology

Ans. b

Sol. IIT Madras, ISRO develop semiconductor for space research, other sectors Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras and ISRO have developed an indigenous microprocessor for space applications which can be used in command and control systems and other critical functions in outer space.

The SHAKTI microprocessor project is led by IIT Madras Director V Kamakoti at Prathap Subrahmanyam Centre for Digital Intelligence and Secure Hardware Architecture (PSCDISHA) in Department of Computer Science and Engineering. The SHAKTI class of systems are based on RISC-V, an open-source Instruction Set Architecture (ISA), for designing custom processors.

"SHAKTI" is backed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology under its 'Digital India RISC-V' initiative (DIRV). It aims to promote indigenous development of microprocessor based products that offer best-in-class security and visibility for users adopting RISC-V technology.

The ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU) in Thiruvananthapuram proposed the idea of a 64bit RISC-V-based Controller and collaborated with IIT Madras in defining the specifications and designing of the semiconductor chip.

187. Recently, which financial institutions have been approved by the RBI to offer credit lines on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI)?

हाल ही में, RBI ने किन वित्तीय संस्थानों को यूनिफाइड पेमेंट्स इंटरफेस (UPI) पर क्रेडिट लाइन देने की मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) Public Sector Banks
- (b) Private Sector Banks
- (c) Small Finance Banks
- (d) Cooperative Banks
- (e) Regional Rural Banks

Ans. c

Sol. Small Finance Banks get RBI nod to provide credit lines on UPI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved small finance banks (SFBs) to offer credit lines on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), in accordance with

the regulator's announcement made during the December 2024 monetary policy committee meeting.

This product empowers individuals and small businesses to obtain pre-sanctioned credit lines from banks, which can be utilised immediately for transactions through UPI. It facilitates availability and frictionless usage of credit lines, overdrafts and retail loans.

Small Finance Bank customers will be able to use pre-approved credit lines through UPI, similar to how they currently use linked bank accounts or credit cards. This means they can access short-term credit instantly without the need for a separate loan application.

188. Shohely Akhter has become the first female cricketer to be banned for corruption. What is the nationality of Shohely Akhter?

शोहेली अख्तर भ्रष्टाचार के आरोप में प्रतिबंधित होने वाली पहली महिला क्रिकेटर बन गई हैं। शोहेली अख्तर की राष्ट्रियता क्या है?

- (a) Indian
- (b) Sri Lankan
- (c) Bangladeshi
- (d) Pakistani
- (e) Afghan

Ans. c

Sol. ICC bans Bangladesh's Shohely Akhter for five years on corruption charges
Bangladesh offspinner Shohely Akhter has become the first female cricketer to be banned for corruption.

Akhter, who has played two ODIs and 13 T20Is, was found guilty of attempting to fix, offering a bribe and failing to disclose full details of an approach to the ICC's Anti-Corruption Code (ACU), as well as obstructing the investigation.

She has been banned for five years from all cricket after she admitted breaching five provisions of the anti-corruption code.

The charges against her centre around an approach she made to a Bangladesh cricketer during the 2023 Women's T20 World held in South Africa. Akhter, 36, was not part of the Bangladesh playing squad for that World Cup, having last played in October 2022.

189. National Women's Day is observed annually in India on February 13th.

Whose birth anniversary is commemorated on National Women's Day in India?

भारत में प्रतिवर्ष 13 फरवरी को राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस मनाया जाता है। भारत में राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पर किसकी जयंती मनाई जाती है?

- (a) Indira Gandhi

- (b) Sarojini Naidu
- (c) Rani Lakshmibai
- (d) Kalpana Chawla
- (e) Kasturba Gandhi

Ans. b

Sol. 13 February - National Women's Day

National Women's Day is observed annually in India on February 13th to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu, a renowned political leader, poet, and champion of women's rights.

Known as the "Nightingale of India," Sarojini Naidu was born on this day in 1879.

The day recognizes the diverse struggles and dreams of women, promoting gender equality and leadership.

In 1930, Naidu became the fourth president of the All India Women's Conference (AIWC). She was a strong proponent of women's voting rights, which were later incorporated into India's constitution.

She also urged British authorities to grant women the right to vote, reinforcing her commitment to gender equality.

190. In February 2025, which two companies have signed an MoU to develop future-ready maritime infrastructure?

फरवरी 2025 में, किन दो कंपनियों ने भविष्य के लिए तैयार समुद्री बुनियादी ढांचे को विकसित करने के लिए समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) ONGC and Indian Oil Corporation
- (b) BPCL and SCI
- (c) Reliance and Adani Ports
- (d) Indian Oil and GAIL
- (e) NTPC and BHEL

Ans. b

Sol. BPCL signs major deals with Petrobras and Shipping Corporation of India Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has signed an MoU with the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI). As per the deal, the two companies will collaborate to create a dedicated, efficient, and future-ready maritime infrastructure.

The deal aims to improve operational efficiency, expand capabilities, and drive innovation in the maritime sector. It will ensure a secure and resilient energy supply chain, supporting India's growing energy needs.

State-owned Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) is India's largest shipping company. Its fleet features bulk carriers, crude oil tankers, product tankers,

container vessels, passenger-cum-cargo vessels, LPG and offshore supply vessels.

The MoU encompasses a long-term commitment by BPCL and SCI to explore opportunities that focus on enhancing India's maritime strength while ensuring a reliable energy transportation network.

Recent MoU

- ONGC signed a pact with global oil major BP to explore collaboration in exploration and production, trading and other energy vectors, in India and internationally.
- DPIIT signed an agreement with the Korea Transport Institute to enhance cooperation in logistics and infrastructure development.
- JSW Group signs MoU with Odisha govt to set up 5-MTPA steel plant in Keonjhar
- SBI Payments & Pine Labs Partners to Drive Next-Gen Commerce Solutions
- DPIIT signs MoU with Bhaane Group to promote startup ecosystem in manufacturing sector

191. In February 2025, which company did Bharti Airtel partner with to expand 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) solutions?

फरवरी 2025 में, भारती एयरटेल ने 5G फिक्स्ड वायरलेस एक्सेस (FWA) समाधानों का विस्तार करने के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Ericsson
- (b) Huawei
- (c) Nokia
- (d) Samsung
- (e) Cisco

Ans. c

Sol. Airtel awards contracts to Nokia to expand 5G Wireless Broadband Access
Bharti Airtel has entered into a contract with Nokia to expand 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) and Wi-Fi solutions for regions with low or nil fiber connectivity.

The deployment of fixed wireless broadband access via 5G networks stands out as a significant application of 5G technology, especially in India, which faces low fiber penetration and a high demand for digital services.

Airtel will leverage Nokia's FastMile 5G outdoor receivers that can serve two households concurrently and thus reduce connection expenses. Further, Airtel will implement Nokia's Wi-Fi 6 access point for better in-home experience. Both these products, using Qualcomm Modem-RF and Wi-Fi 6 chipsets, will be produced in India and packaged in fully recyclable materials.

192. Which bank will provide lines of credit totalling \$300 million to Vietnam for procuring high-speed guard boats and offshore patrol vessels?

कौन सा बैंक वियतनाम को हाई-स्पीड गार्ड बोट और अपतटीय गश्ती जहाजों की खरीद के लिए 300 मिलियन डॉलर की कुल ऋण सहायता प्रदान करेगा?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India
- (b) State Bank of India
- (c) Export Import Bank of India
- (d) NABARD
- (e) HDFC Bank

Ans. c

Sol. Exim Bank to provide \$300 mn credit to Vietnam for boats, patrol vessels
The Export Import Bank of India will provide lines of credit totalling \$300 million to Vietnam for procuring high-speed guard boats and offshore patrol vessels.

The Exim Bank had entered into an agreement on July 31, 2024 with the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (GO-VNM), for making available to the latter, Gol supported Line of Credit (LoC) of \$180 million for procurement of four Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV).

The bank had also entered into an agreement with GO-VNM for making available to the latter, India supported LoC of \$120 million for procurement of high-speed guard boats, it said in another circular.

193. Who topped Bloomberg's Asia's 20 Richest Families list?

ब्लूमबर्ग की एशिया के 20 सबसे अमीर परिवारों की सूची में कौन शीर्ष पर है?

- (a) Adani Family
- (b) Ambani Family
- (c) Kwok Family
- (d) Lee Family
- (e) Chearavanont Family

Ans. b

Sol. Asia's 20 richest families: Mukesh Ambani leads

Reliance Industries' Chairman, Mukesh Ambani, has secured the top spot on Bloomberg's Asia's 20 Richest Families list.

Ambani, who took the reins of Reliance Industries in 2002 following the death of his father Dhirubhai Ambani, has expanded the Mumbai-based conglomerate into a global powerhouse with interests in oil refining, tech, retail, financial services, and green energy.

Rank	Name	Country	Company
1	Ambani	India	Reliance Industries
2	Chearavanont	Thailand	Charoen Pokphand Group
3	Hartono	Indonesia	Djarum, Bank Central Asia
4	Mistry	India	Shapoorji Pallonji Group
5	Kwok	Hong Kong	Sun Hung Kai Properties
6	Tsai	Taiwan	Cathay Financial, Fubon Financial
7	Jindal	India	OP Jindal Group
8	Yoovidhya	Thailand	TCP Group
9	Birla	India	Aditya Birla Group
10	Lee	South Korea	Samsung
11	Zhang	China	China Hongqiao, Shandong Weiqiao Textile
12	Cheng	Hong Kong	New World Development, Chow Tai Fook
13	Bajaj	India	Bajaj Group
14	Pao/Woo	Hong Kong	BW Group, Wheelock
15	Kwek / Quek	Singapore / Malaysia	Hong Leong Group
16	Kadoorie	Hong Kong	CLP Holdings
17	Chirathivat	Thailand	Central Group
18	Hinduja	India	Hinduja Group
19	Sy	The Philippines	SM Investments
20	Lee	Hong Kong	Lee Kum Kee

194. Which Indian defence manufacturer has partnered with Saab for the Electronic Warfare Laser Warning System-310 (LWS-310)?

किस भारतीय रक्षा निर्माता ने इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वारफेयर लेजर वार्निंग सिस्टम-310 (LWS-310) के लिए साब के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Bharat Electronics Limited
- (b) Larsen & Toubro
- (c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- (d) Tata Advanced Systems
- (e) Bharat Dynamics Limited

Ans. c

Sol. Global defence firm Saab signs MoU with HAL for laser warning system
Swedish defence and security company Saab has signed an agreement with Indian defence manufacturer Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to collaborate on the Electronic Warfare Laser Warning System-310 (LWS-310). The agreement strengthens the long-standing partnership between Saab South Africa and HAL, which began in 2005 during the development of the Advanced Light Helicopter Programme.

The MoU includes a Maintenance Transfer of Technology (ToT), aligning with India's defence procurement procedure. Under this agreement, HAL will acquire the capability to manufacture LWS-310 domestically, with Saab providing infrastructure support, training programs, and technical expertise. This initiative aims to ensure long-term support for the Indian armed forces while promoting local defence production.

195. Which company has Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) partnered with for IT transformation?

टाटा कंसल्टेंसी सर्विसेज (TCS) ने आईटी परिवर्तन के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) UPM
- (b) Nokia
- (c) Ericsson
- (d) Wärtsilä
- (e) KONE

Ans. a

Sol. TCS partners with UPM to modernise its IT landscape with AI and automation

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) signed an agreement to drive end-to-end IT transformation of UPM, a global company that provides renewable and responsible solutions, to boost adoption of an AI-first operating model. The partnership further solidifies TCS' leadership in Finland, where it has been operational for over 25 years.

The digital transformation aims to accelerate UPM's growth, enhance user experience, and support the adoption of an AI-first operating model.

196. Which organization signed an agreement with the Department of Horticulture and Food Processing (DHFP), Government of Uttarakhand, for a horticulture development project?

किस संगठन ने बागवानी विकास परियोजना के लिए उत्तराखंड सरकार के बागवानी और खाद्य प्रसंस्करण विभाग (डीएचएफपी) के साथ एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) World Bank (WB)
- (b) Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- (c) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- (d) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- (e) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Ans. b

Sol. JICA, Uttarakhand sign agreement for integrated horticulture development promotion project

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Department of Horticulture and Food Processing (DHFP), Government of Uttarakhand, have signed the 'Records of Discussions', an official agreement document, for a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) titled 'Uttarakhand Integrated Horticulture Development Promotion Project'.

The project aims to promote stable production of horticulture crops and strengthen marketing system through the dissemination of integrated model of market-oriented production and proper management of distribution facilities in Tehri Garhwal and Nainital districts of Uttarakhand.

Recent MoU

- Global defence firm Saab signs MoU with HAL for laser warning system
- Airtel awards contracts to Nokia to expand 5G Wireless Broadband Access
- BPCL signs major deals with Petrobras and Shipping Corporation of India
- ONGC signed a pact with global oil major BP to explore collaboration in exploration and production, trading and other energy vectors, in India and internationally.

- DPIIT signed an agreement with the Korea Transport Institute to enhance cooperation in logistics and infrastructure development.
- JSW Group signs MoU with Odisha govt to set up 5-MTPA steel plant in Keonjhar

197. Who is the author of the book titled "The New Icon: Savarkar and the Facts"?

"द न्यू आइकॉन: सावरकर एंड द फैक्ट्स" नामक पुस्तक के लेखक कौन हैं?

- (a) Ramachandra Guha
- (b) Arun Shourie
- (c) Nandan Nilekani
- (d) Shashi Tharoor
- (e) Ramachandra Das

Ans. b

Sol. A Book Titled "The New Icon: Savarkar and the Facts" by Arun Shourie Arun Shourie, a highly respected Indian intellectual, has written a powerful new book titled The New Icon: Savarkar and the Facts.

The book critically examines the life and legacy of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. One major revelation in the book discusses Savarkar's alleged role in Mahatma Gandhi's assassination, which led to the release being postponed by a day to avoid controversy.

Recent Books

- Indian Renaissance: The Modi Decade – Released By Amit Shah
- Mastering Disruption: A practical Guide to understanding – Ganesh Krishnan
- View Finder A memoir – Amol Palekar
- How India Scaled MT G20 – Amitabh Kant
- Middle Class India: Driving Change in the 21st Century - Journalist Manisha Pande
- Will India Get Rich Before It Turns 100 – Prosenjit Datta
- Indian The Meteoric Rise of Indian in America – Meenakshi Ahamed

198. Who has been appointed as the captain of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) for the 2025 IPL season?

2025 आईपीएल सीज़न के लिए रॉयल चैलेंजर्स बेंगलुरु (RCB) का कप्तान किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Virat Kohli
- (b) Faf du Plessis

- (c) Rajat Patidar
- (d) Glenn Maxwell
- (e) Dinesh Karthik

Ans. c

Sol. Rajat Patidar named RCB captain ahead of IPL 2025

Rajat Patidar, the 31-year-old middle order batter, has been appointed as the captain of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) for the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

After having released Faf du Plessis, who had captained the side in the previous seasons, the Bengaluru-franchise were without a captaincy candidate ahead of the 2025 season.

Patidar, who had led Madhya Pradesh to the final of Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy earlier this season, will become the eighth player to lead RCB.

Patidar made his IPL debut in 2021 and has been a part of the franchise since then. With the ability to dominate pace and spin with equal ease, he has featured in 27 games for RCB, scoring 799 runs at a strike rate of 158.85. He was one of the three retentions for RCB ahead of the mega auction, apart from Virat Kohli and Yash Dayal. He was retained for INR 11 Crore.

199. Who chaired the 12th All India Pension Adalat in New Delhi?

नई दिल्ली में 12वीं अखिल भारतीय पेंशन अदालत की अध्यक्षता किसने की?

- (a) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (b) Amit Shah
- (c) Dr. Jitendra Singh
- (d) Piyush Goyal
- (e) Rajnath Singh

Ans. c

Sol. Jitendra Singh chairs 12th All India Pension Adalat

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh chaired the 12th All India Pension Adalat in New Delhi.

During the event, the Minister interacted with pensioners from different states and provided on-the-spot redressal of their pension-related grievances.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister dedicated the Pension Adalat to all the pensioners.

The Pension Adalat sought to resolve long-standing pension cases pending for more than 120 days in 16 departments, as well as ministries, which were also attending the Adalat. Nearly 180 cases pertaining to ministries were discussed during the Adalat.

200. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced prize money for the 2025 Champions Trophy, starting on February 19 in Pakistan. How much prize money will the winning team receive in the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट परिषद (ICC) ने 19 फरवरी से पाकिस्तान में शुरू होने वाली 2025 चैंपियंस ट्रॉफी के लिए पुरस्कार राशि की घोषणा की है। 2025 ICC चैंपियंस ट्रॉफी में विजेता टीम को कितनी पुरस्कार राशि मिलेगी?

- (a) 1.5 million USD
- (b) 2.24 million USD
- (c) 3.34 million USD
- (d) 4.5 million USD
- (e) 5 million USD

Ans. b

Sol. ICC announces prize money for 2025 Champions Trophy

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced prize money for the 2025 Champions Trophy, starting on February 19 in Pakistan.

The total prize pool of this edition has been increased by an impressive 53 per cent from the 2017 edition to a total prize money of US 4.5 million Dollar.

The winners will earn US 2.24 million dollar, while the runners-up will get US 1.12 million dollar. Losing semi-finalists will receive 560,000 dollar each.

Every group match win is worth over US 34,000 dollars, while teams finishing fifth or sixth will earn 350,000 dollars. The seventh and eighth-placed teams will take home 140,000 US dollars. All eight teams are guaranteed 125,000 US dollar for participating.

This is the first ICC event in Pakistan since 1996. The tournament will run for 19 days, with 15 matches being played in Pakistan and the UAE.

The eight teams are divided into two groups where Group A contains Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and New Zealand while Group B features Afghanistan, England, Australia and South Africa.

The top eight-team competition will see 15 matches to be played over 19 days in Pakistan and the UAE. India will play all their matches in Dubai including the semi-final and the final.

201. How much capital has Bank of Baroda approved to raise through common equity shares in February?

फरवरी में बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा ने आम इक्विटी शेयरों के माध्यम से कितनी पूंजी जुटाने की मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) Rs 5,000 crore
- (b) Rs 7,000 crore
- (c) Rs 8,500 crore

(d) Rs 10,000 crore

(e) Rs 12,000 crore

Ans. c

Sol. Bank of Baroda gets board approval to raise up to Rs 8,500 crore equity
The board of public sector lender Bank of Baroda has approved the bank's plan to raise up to Rs 8,500 crore through common equity shares to support business growth and meet regulatory norms.

The Mumbai-based lender would use various modes, including Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP), in suitable tranches up to March 2028 and beyond, as required.

The bank's capital adequacy stood at 15.96 per cent, with Common Equity Tier-I (CET-I) at 12.38 per cent at the end of December 2024. BoB had raised capital via QIP of Rs 4,500 crore during FY21.

202. Which company has won the Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025 in the Water Resilience category?

जल लचीलापन श्रेणी में फॉरवर्ड फास्टर सस्टेनेबिलिटी अवार्ड 2025 किस कंपनी ने जीता है?

(a) Tata Power

(b) Adani Power

(c) NHPC Ltd.

(d) NTPC Ltd.

(e) Reliance Power

Ans. d

Sol. NTPC Wins Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025 for Water Resilience
NTPC Ltd., India's largest integrated power utility, has been honoured with Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025 in the Water Resilience category.

The award was presented at a ceremony organised by the UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) in Chennai.

The Forward Faster Sustainability Awards celebrate organisations in India that have made significant strides in advancing sustainability and corporate responsibility, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This recognition reaffirms NTPC's commitment to integrating sustainable practices in its operations and contributing towards global sustainability goals.

Recent Award

- NETPAC Award 2025 - Bad Girl (Tamil film)
- Honorary doctorate by University of Sussex - Noel Tata

- Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 - Late Chaman Arora (for *Ik Hor Ashwthama* in Dogri).
- BCCI's Lifetime Achievement Award 2024 - Sachin Tendulkar (31st)
- Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2025 - Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) (*In the Institutional Category for its excellent work in Disaster Management*)
- Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025 - Prof Urbasi Sinha

203. In view of the escalating burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the country, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has launched an Intensified Special NCD Screening Campaign. What is the primary objective of the Intensified Special NCD Screening Campaign launched by the Union Health Ministry?

देश में गैर-संचारी रोगों (एनसीडी) के बढ़ते बोझ को देखते हुए, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय ने एक गहन विशेष एनसीडी स्क्रीनिंग अभियान शुरू किया है। केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय द्वारा शुरू किए गए गहन विशेष एनसीडी स्क्रीनिंग अभियान का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य क्या है?

- To provide free medicines for NCDs
- To ensure 100% screening of individuals aged 30 and above
- To set up new hospitals for NCD treatment
- To conduct research on new NCD treatments
- To vaccinate individuals against NCDs

Ans. b

Sol. Union Health Ministry launches Intensified Special NCD Screening Drive to ensure 100% coverage of all individuals

In view of the escalating burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the country, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has launched an Intensified Special NCD Screening Campaign.

Running from 20th February to 31st March 2025, this ambitious initiative aims to achieve 100% screening of all individuals aged 30 years and above for prevalent NCDs, including Diabetes Hypertension, and three common cancers—Oral, Breast, and Cervical.

The campaign will be executed across Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) and various healthcare facilities nationwide, under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD).

The Intensified Screening Campaign aims to achieve the following-

100% Screening Coverage- The campaign aims to ensure early detection and timely intervention for NCDs.

Improved Linkage to Care- By establishing structured treatment and follow-up protocols, the campaign seeks to reduce complications associated with NCDs.
Better Health Outcomes- The initiative is expected to lower healthcare costs and enhance the overall quality of life for individuals across the nation.

204. The third season of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2025 kicked off, featuring five teams competing across four Indian cities. Which two new cities have been added as venues for WPL 2025?

महिला प्रीमियर लीग (WPL) 2025 का तीसरा सीजन शुरू हो गया है, जिसमें पांच टीमों में चार भारतीय शहरों में प्रतिस्पर्धा करेगी। WPL 2025 के लिए कौन से दो नए शहर जोड़े गए हैं?

- (a) Kolkata and Chennai
- (b) Hyderabad and Pune
- (c) Vadodara and Lucknow
- (d) Ahmedabad and Jaipur
- (e) Indore and Rajkot

Ans. c

Sol. Third season of Women's Premier League 2025 begins

The third season of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2025 kicked off, featuring five teams competing across four Indian cities: Vadodara, Bengaluru, Lucknow, and Mumbai.

In the opening match, defending champions Royal Challengers Bangalore, RCB will face Gujarat Giants at the Kotambi Stadium in Vadodara

India's star opener Smriti Mandhana will captain RCB, while Australia's Ashleigh Gardner will lead the Gujarat Giants.

The tournament, featuring five teams, RCB, Gujarat Giants, Delhi Capitals, UP Warriorz, and Mumbai Indians, will run until March 15, with the final scheduled at Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai.

Since its establishment in 2023, the WPL has offered players a golden chance to showcase their talent and act as a springboard to fulfill their ambitions of playing for the Indian team through matches in Mumbai, Bengaluru and New Delhi.

Now this time, for its third season, apart from Mumbai and Bengaluru, the WPL will extend its wings to two new cities – Vadodara and Lucknow – with Gujarat Giants and UP Warriorz set to experience home comforts for the first time.

205. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has constituted a 31-member Select Committee to examine the new Income Tax Bill. Who is the head of the Select Committee examining the new Income Tax Bill?

लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला ने नए आयकर विधेयक की जांच के लिए 31 सदस्यीय चयन समिति का गठन किया है। नए आयकर विधेयक की जांच करने वाली चयन समिति के प्रमुख कौन हैं?

- (a) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (b) Piyush Goyal
- (c) Amit Shah
- (d) Baijayant Panda
- (e) Rajnath Singh

Ans. d

Sol. Lok Sabha Speaker forms 31-member Select Committee to examine new Income Tax Bill

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has constituted a 31-member Select Committee to examine the new Income Tax Bill. The panel will be headed by BJP MP Baijayant Panda and it will submit its report by the first day of the next session.

The Income-Tax Bill 2025 which aims at consolidating and amending the law relating to income tax was introduced in the Lok Sabha. While introducing the Bill, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had urged the Lok Sabha Speaker to refer the draft law to a Select Committee of the House.

Speaking on the Bill, Ms Sitharaman said that the new legislation has fewer sections and chapters in comparison to the existing Income Tax Act, and it has been simplified for easy comprehension by the common people.

Recent Committee in News

- RBI forms Working Group to review trading and settlement timings of financial markets; chaired by Radha Shyam Ratho
- ID verification firm Equal's advisory board; chaired by Retired Justice B.N. Srikrishna
- RBI sets up panel to develop a framework on ethical use of AI in financial sector; chaired by Pushpak Bhattacharyya
- Govt forms committee to look into IAF's overall capability development; Chaired by the Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh,
- The GST Council constituted a 13-member GoM to suggest GST rates on premiums of various health and life insurance products; Chaired by Samrat Choudhary

206. **Where is the third edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam being held?**

काशी तमिल संगमम का तीसरा संस्करण कहाँ आयोजित किया जा रहा है?

- (a) Chennai
- (b) Madurai

- (c) Varanasi
(d) Coimbatore
(e) Prayagraj

Ans. c

Sol. Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0 begins in Uttar Pradesh

The third edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam, an initiative fostering cultural and intellectual ties between Tamil Nadu and Kashi, commence at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.

Union Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan; Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr. L. Murugan and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have inaugurated the prestigious cultural event.

The initiative, organized by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with various ministries and the Government of Uttar Pradesh, aims to celebrate and strengthen the ancient civilizational bond between Tamil Nadu and Kashi.

This year, the government has decided to bring around thousand delegates from Tamil Nadu under five different categories.

The main theme of this year's event is highlighting the significant contributions of Sage Agasthya to the world of Health, Philosophy, Science, Classical Tamil Literature, and cultural unity of the Nation.

This 10-day-long event will conclude on 24th February 2025.

207. Consider the following statements about the 38th National Games 2025:

38वें राष्ट्रीय खेल 2025 के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. The event concluded with a grand ceremony in Haldwani, Uttarakhand.
2. The closing ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama.
3. Maharashtra secured the first position in the overall medal tally.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) only 1
(b) only 2
(c) only 1 & 2
(d) only 2 & 3
(e) all are correct

Ans. a

Sol. 38th National Games 2025 Concludes with Grand Ceremony in Uttarakhand

The closing ceremony of the 38th National Games was held at the International Sports Stadium, Golapar, Haldwani, in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama.

Over 16,000 athletes participated in 35 sports disciplines, winning a total of 448 gold, 448 silver, and 594 bronze medals.

For the first time, traditional sports like yoga and Mallakhamb were included in the National Games. Additionally, a world record was set by organising a nighttime river rafting competition.

The competitions were held across both urban and remote areas, including Dehradun, Haridwar, Rudrapur, Haldwani, Rishikesh, Almora, Pithoragarh, and Tehri. Even a small town like Chakarpur hosted a major event. Water sports were conducted in high-altitude lakes and rivers of Uttarakhand.

The 38th edition of the National Games 2025 was held in Uttarakhand with 28 states, eight union territories and the Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) participating.

Rank	State	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Services Sports Control Board (SSCB)	68	26	27	121
2	Maharashtra	54	71	76	201
3	Haryana	48	47	58	153
4	Madhya Pradesh	34	26	22	82
5	Karnataka	34	18	28	80
6	Tamil Nadu	27	30	35	92
7	Uttarakhand	24	35	44	103
8	West Bengal	16	13	18	47
9	Punjab	15	20	31	66
10	Delhi	15	18	29	62
11	Manipur	14	16	25	55

12	Odisha	14	15	17	46
13	Uttar Pradesh	13	20	23	56
14	Kerala	13	17	24	54
15	Rajasthan	9	11	23	43
16	Gujarat	8	10	20	38
17	Jharkhand	7	6	12	25
18	Andhra Pradesh	7	1	6	14
19	Jammu and Kashmir	5	6	13	24
20	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5	3	2	10
21	Chandigarh	4	6	9	19
22	Himachal Pradesh	4	3	8	15
23	Arunachal Pradesh	4	3	6	13
24	Assam	3	15	16	34
25	Chhattisgarh	3	4	9	16
26	Telangana	3	3	12	18
27	Goa	2	4	4	10
28	Mizoram	2	0	1	3
29	Bihar	1	6	5	12

30	Meghalaya	1	2	2	5
31	Puducherry	0	1	1	2
32	Nagaland	0	0	2	2
33	Sikkim	0	0	2	2

208. What was India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation rate in January 2025?

जनवरी 2025 में भारत की थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (WPI) मुद्रास्फीति दर क्या थी?

- (a) 2.10%
- (b) 2.31%
- (c) 2.50%
- (d) 2.37%
- (e) 2.75%

Ans. b

Sol. Wholesale price inflation eases to 2.31% in January 2025

India's annual Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation eased to 2.31% in January 2025 from 2.37% in December 2024, according to data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

Month-over-month, the WPI declined by 0.45% in January, driven by lower food prices. The index for primary articles fell by 2.01% as food article prices dropped by 3.62%. However, prices of crude petroleum and natural gas (6.34%), non-food articles (0.66%), and minerals (0.22%) increased.

Inflation in the fuel and power category rose by 0.47%, though coal prices remained unchanged from December.

Manufactured products, which account for 64.23% of the index, saw a marginal increase of 0.14%.

The WPI Food Index inflation dropped from 8.89% in December to 7.47% in January.

Recent WPI-based Wholesale inflation in India

- August 2024 – 1.31%
- September 2024 – 1.84%
- October 2024 – 2.36%
- November 2024 – 1.89%
- December 2024 – 2.37%

- January 2025 – 2.31%

209. **Where is the 24th Divya Kala Mela being held?**

24वां दिव्य कला मेला कहाँ आयोजित किया जा रहा है?

- (a) Delhi
- (b) Bengaluru
- (c) Jammu
- (d) Chennai
- (e) Guwahati

Ans. c

Sol. Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the 24th Divya Kala Mela at Jammu. The 24th Divya Kala Mela commenced at Gulshan Ground, Jammu, with a grand inauguration by Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, and Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Virendra Kumar.

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, is organizing the 24th Divya Kala Mela in collaboration with the National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC).

The Divya Kala Mela reflects the Prime Minister's vision of promoting local artisans and entrepreneurs. The event highlights handmade products, skills, and craftsmanship of Divyang (PwD) entrepreneurs from across India.

Previous editions have been successfully held in Delhi, Mumbai, Bhopal, Guwahati, Jaipur, Bengaluru, Chennai, Patna, Nagpur, Pune, and other cities.

210. **Which companies signed MoUs with the Sri Sathya Sai Health & Education Trust (SSSHET) for life-saving surgeries under the 'Nanha Sa Dil' initiative?**

नन्हा सा दिल' पहल के तहत जीवन रक्षक सर्जरी के लिए किन कंपनियों ने श्री सत्य साई हेल्थ एंड एजुकेशन ट्रस्ट (SSSHET) के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Coal India Ltd and Hindustan Zinc
- (b) Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)
- (c) Tata Steel and Reliance Industries
- (d) Indian Oil Corporation and BPCL
- (e) Hindustan Petroleum and Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)

Ans. b

Sol. CIL's subsidiaries ink MoUs with Sri Sathya Sai Health & Education Trust for Life Saving Surgeries under 'Nanha sa Dil'

On Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day, Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd (CIL), under the aegis of Ministry of Coal, signed separate Memorandums of

Understanding (MoUs) with Sri Sathya Sai Health & Education Trust (SSSHET) to provide life-saving surgeries for children suffering from Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) under the 'Nanha Sa Dil' initiative.

These MoUs will yield goodwill equity for Coal India and its subsidiaries in the coming years.

Nanha Sa Dil is a unique CSR initiative by CIL in collaboration with SSSHET, leveraging the trust's expertise in paediatric cardiac surgeries.

Under this initiative, CCL will screen 45,000 children in Jharkhand, with surgeries planned for 500 children diagnosed with CHD and NCL will conduct 345 grassroots-level screening camps for 17,250 children, referring those in need to a dedicated diagnostic centre at NCL Bina Hospital for Echo analysis and further treatment.

211. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has announced a ₹262 crore profit for the third quarter of the financial year, its first since 2007. Who is the current Chairman and Managing Director (MD) of BSNL?

भारत संचार निगम लिमिटेड (बीएसएनएल) ने वित्तीय वर्ष की तीसरी तिमाही में ₹262 करोड़ का मुनाफा कमाया है, जो 2007 के बाद उसका पहला मुनाफा है। बीएसएनएल के वर्तमान अध्यक्ष और प्रबंध निदेशक (एमडी) कौन हैं?

- (a) Sanjay Gupta
- (b) P.K. Purwar
- (c) Robert J. Ravi
- (d) R. K. Gupta
- (e) Amit Sharma

Ans. c

Sol. BSNL achieves ₹262 crore profit in Q3, first profit since 2007.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has announced a ₹262 crore profit for the third quarter of the financial year, its first since 2007.

The company attributed the success to focused efforts on innovation, aggressive network expansion, cost optimisation, and customer-centric service improvements.

Revenue from Mobility, FTTH, and Leased Lines has increased by 15%, 18%, and 14% respectively over Q3 of the previous year. Additionally, BSNL has successfully reduced its finance cost and overall expenditure, leading to a decline in losses by over ₹1,800 crore compared to last year.

Chairman and MD of BSNL - Robert J. Ravi

212. Who has been appointed as the 'Administrator' of New India Cooperative Bank by the RBI?

RBI द्वारा न्यू इंडिया कोऑपरेटिव बैंक का 'प्रशासक' किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Ravindra Sapro
- (b) Abhijeet Deshmukh
- (c) Shreekant
- (d) Raghuram Rajan
- (e) Urjit Patel

Ans. c

Sol. RBI supersedes New India Cooperative Bank board; appoints administrator
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has superseded the board of directors of New India Cooperative Bank, and appointed Shreekant, a former chief general manager of State Bank of India (SBI), as the 'Administrator' to oversee the bank's operations.

The RBI clarified that the board's replacement will remain in effect for a period of 12 months.

In addition, the RBI has established a 'Committee of Advisors' to support the administrator in managing the bank's affairs. The committee members include Ravindra Sapro, former general manager at SBI, and Abhijeet Deshmukh, a chartered accountant.

RBI had imposed restrictions on the Mumbai-based New India Cooperative Bank, barring it from issuing new loans or permitting deposit withdrawals for a period of six months due to ongoing supervisory concerns.

Depositors are eligible for insurance claims up to ₹5 lakh under the deposit insurance scheme. As of March 2024, the bank held deposits exceeding ₹2,400 crore.

213. **Who has been appointed as the CEO of Navi Technologies?**

नवी टेक्नोलॉजीज के सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Abhishek Dwivedi
- (b) Rajiv Naresh
- (c) Sachin Bansal
- (d) Vijay Shekhar Sharma
- (e) Nandan Nilekani

Ans. b

Sol. Navi Group appoints new CEOs, Sachin Bansal to serve as executive chairman

Navi Group, a leading tech-driven financial services provider, has appointed Rajiv Naresh and Abhishek Dwivedi as CEOs of Navi Technologies and Navi Finserv, respectively.

Sachin Bansal, co-founder and outgoing CEO of both subsidiaries, will be the Navi Group's executive chairman.

Bansal will oversee the group's overarching strategic vision, expansion initiatives, fundraising, mergers and acquisitions and compliance frameworks. Rajiv Naresh, previously a key member of Navi's founding team, will effectively spearhead NTL's non-lending businesses, while Dwivedi, another founding member, will lead the lending vertical.

Both executives bring over six years of leadership experience in the Navi ecosystem.

Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector

- Head of Citibank India - K Balasubramanian (replace Ashu Khulla)
- Executive Director of Dhanlaxmi Bank - P. Suriaraj
- MD & CEO of IDBI Bank - Rakesh Sharma
- MD and CEO of Zurich Kotak General Insurance - Alok Kumar Agarwal (Suresh Agarwal).s
- MD and CEO of Indian Bank - Binod Kumar

214. Who has been conferred with The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division) for contributions to UK-India business relations?

यू.के.-भारत व्यापार संबंधों में योगदान के लिए किसे ब्रिटिश साम्राज्य के सबसे उत्कृष्ट आदेश (सिविल डिवीजन) से सम्मानित किया गया है?

- (a) Ratan Tata
- (b) Mukesh Ambani
- (c) Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- (d) Gautam Adani
- (e) Sundar Pichai

Ans. c

Sol. Tata Group's N Chandrasekaran honoured with UK's Most Excellent OBE honour

Chairman of Tata Group, Natarajan Chandrasekaran has been conferred with The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division) in recognition of his contributions to UK-India business relations.

The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division) is awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions in fields such as the arts, sciences, charitable endeavours, and public service outside of the civil service. Natarajan Chandrasekaran has been the chairman of Tata Sons since 2017, having joined its board in October 2016. He also chairs the boards of key Tata Group companies, including Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Tata Power, and Air India.

Recent Award

- Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025 in the Water Resilience category - NTPC Ltd
- NETPAC Award 2025 - Bad Girl (Tamil film)
- Honorary doctorate by University of Sussex - Noel Tata
- Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 - Late Chaman Arora (for Ik Hor Ashwthama in Dogri).
- BCCI's Lifetime Achievement Award 2024 - Sachin Tendulkar (31st)
- Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2025 - Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) (*In the Institutional Category for its excellent work in Disaster Management*)

215. What is the denomination of the commemorative coin issued to mark the birth centenary of Mohammed Rafi?

मोहम्मद रफी की जन्म शताब्दी के उपलक्ष्य में जारी किए गए स्मारक सिक्के का मूल्य क्या है?

- (a) ₹50
- (b) ₹75
- (c) ₹100
- (d) ₹150
- (e) ₹200

Ans. c

Sol. Rafi Saab to be face of new ₹100 commemorative coin

To mark birth centenary of legendary playback singer late Mohammed Rafi, Government has decided to issue a commemorative coin with the denomination of ₹100.

Though commemorative coins are considered legal tender, they are not released for general circulation. One can source them from the specified agencies.

According to a notification, shape will be circular with outside diameter of 44 millimeters. The number of serrations will be 200. The metal composition will be a quaternary alloy with a composition of silver (50 per cent), copper (40 per cent), nickel (05 per cent) and zinc (05 per cent).

The face of both the coins will bear the lion capital of Ashoka Pillar in the centre with the legend 'Satyamev Jayate' inscribed below, flanked on the left periphery with the word 'Bharat' in Devnagri script and on the right periphery with the word 'India' in English.

Rafi (born December 24, 1924, Kotla Sultan Singh, near Amritsar, Punjab—died July 31, 1980, Bombay aka Mumbai) was a legendary Indian playback singer

who recorded more than 25,000 film songs in a career spanning almost 40 years.

216. What is the total penalty amount imposed by the Reserve Bank of India on Nainital Bank and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank for contravention of regulatory norms?

नियामक मानदंडों के उल्लंघन के लिए भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा नैनीताल बैंक और उज्जीवन लघु वित्त बैंक पर कुल कितनी राशि का जुर्माना लगाया गया है?

- (a) ₹50.2 lakh
- (b) ₹61.4 lakh
- (c) ₹88.1 lakh
- (d) ₹72.5 lakh
- (e) ₹68.1 lakh

Ans. e

Sol. RBI imposes penalties on Shriram Finance, Nainital Bank, & Ujjivan Small Finance Bank for regulatory lapses

The Reserve Bank has imposed penalties totalling ₹68.1 lakh on two banks -- Nainital Bank and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank -- for contravention of regulatory norms.

A penalty of ₹61.40 lakh was imposed on Nainital Bank Ltd for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Interest Rate on Advances' and 'Customer Service in Banks.

Further, RBI imposed a penalty of ₹6.70 lakh on Ujjivan Small Finance Bank for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Loans and Advances - Statutory and Other Restrictions.'

RBI also levied a penalty of ₹5.80 lakh on Shriram Finance, a non-banking entity, for non-compliance with certain provisions, including Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines and directions on 'Data Format for Furnishing of Credit Information to Credit Information Companies.'

Recent Penalties imposed on Banks by RBI

- Equitas Small Finance Bank (Rs 65 lakh) - for deficiencies in regulatory compliances
- India Post Payments Bank (26.70 lakh) - for deficiencies in regulatory compliances.
- Aptus Finance India Pvt Ltd (3.10 lakh) - for contravention of certain provisions of norms related to non-banking financial company.
- IndusInd Bank (Rs 27.3 lakh) - for non-compliance with norms.
- Manappuram Finance (Rs 20 lakh) - - for non-compliance with norms.

- RBL Bank (Rs 64 lakh) - failure to obtain an annual declaration in Form B from one of its major shareholders within the stipulated time frame of one month.

217. What new name has the BJP government planned for Delhi's Mohalla Clinics?

भाजपा सरकार ने दिल्ली के मोहल्ला क्लिनिकों को क्या नया नाम देने की योजना बनाई है?

- (a) Ayushman Arogya Mandirs
- (b) Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Kendra
- (c) Bharat Health Centers
- (d) Arogya Seva Kendras
- (e) Swasthya Samridhi Clinics

Ans. a

Sol. Delhi's Mohalla Clinics to be renamed 'Ayushman Arogya Mandirs'

The BJP government plans to rename Delhi's Mohalla Clinics as 'Ayushman Arogya Mandirs' while keeping the existing infrastructure intact.

Despite the name change, the doctors and staff at these clinics will continue providing healthcare services under the new system.

218. Which city will host the 4th South Asian Senior Athletics Championship from May 3 to 5, 2025?

कौन सा शहर 3 से 5 मई, 2025 तक चौथी दक्षिण एशियाई सीनियर एथलेटिक्स चैंपियनशिप की मेजबानी करेगा?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Ranchi
- (d) Kolkata
- (e) Bengaluru

Ans. c

Sol. Ranchi to host the 4th South Asian Senior Athletics Championships

Ranchi will host the 4th South Asian Senior Athletics Championships at the Birsa Munda Athletics Stadium from May 3 to 5, 2025.

Athletes from India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives will compete in the championship.

Ranchi was originally scheduled to host the championships from October 4 to 6 last year, but the event was postponed.

This event marks the return of the championships to India after 17 years, with the last edition held in 2008.

The first two editions of the South Asian Senior Athletics Championships were held in 1997 and 1998.

219. Who won the gold medal in the Men's 3000 metres at the David Hemery Invitational meet?

डेविड हेमरी आमंत्रण मीट में पुरुषों की 3000 मीटर दौड़ में किसने स्वर्ण पदक जीता है?

- (a) Gulveer Singh
- (b) Surendra Singh
- (c) Romain Legendre
- (d) Morgan Beadlescomb
- (e) Manjeet Singh

Ans. c

Sol. India's Gulveer Singh breaks 17-year-old National Record in Indoor Men's 3000 m

India's Gulveer Singh has etched his name in history by breaking a 17-year-old National Record in the indoor Men's 3000 metres at the David Hemery Invitational meet in Boston.

Clocking 7 minutes 38.26 seconds, Singh not only clinched the silver medal but also eclipsed the previous national record set by Surendra Singh by 11 seconds. Romain Legendre, representing Adams State, clinched the gold, while Morgan Beadlescomb bagged the bronze medal.

Gulveer Singh now holds three National Records across multiple categories, the outdoor 5000 metres, the outdoor 10000 metres, and the indoor 3000 metres.

220. President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated Aadi Mahotsav 2025 in New Delhi. Which organization is responsible for organizing Aadi Mahotsav 2025?

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने नई दिल्ली में आदि महोत्सव 2025 का उद्घाटन किया। आदि महोत्सव 2025 के आयोजन की जिम्मेदारी किस संगठन की है?

- (a) National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
- (b) Ministry of Culture
- (c) Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited
- (d) NITI Aayog
- (e) Indian Council of Agricultural Research

Ans. c

Sol. President Murmu inaugurates Aadi Mahotsav 2025

The Aadi Mahotsav 2025, a grand festival celebrating India's rich tribal heritage, will be held from February 16-24, 2025, at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi.

Organized by the Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the event will showcase the vibrant culture, heritage, and economic potential of India's tribal communities.

President of India, Droupadi Murmu, has inaugurated the festival as the Chief Guest. More than 600 tribal artisans, 500 performing artists, and 25 food stalls will participate, representing the diverse traditions of over 30 states and Union Territories.

The festival aims to empower tribal communities by providing them with an extensive marketplace to promote their products and reach modern consumers.

Secretary of Tribal Affairs - Vibhu Nayar

MD of TRIFED - Ashish Chatterjee

221. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has launched the "Nodi Bandhan" scheme. What is the main objective of the "Nodi Bandhan" scheme?

पश्चिम बंगाल की मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी ने "नोदी बंधन" योजना शुरू की है। "नोदी बंधन" योजना का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?

- (a) Promoting tourism in West Bengal
- (b) Improving urban infrastructure
- (c) Combating natural disasters and preventing river erosion
- (d) Increasing agricultural exports
- (e) Building new roads and highways

Ans. c

Sol. West Bengal govt. launched "Nadi Bandhan" Scheme

West Bengal Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, has launched the "Nodi Bandhan" scheme as part of its 2025-26 budget.

The scheme will help combat natural disasters while creating job opportunities. The budget allocates substantial funds for the Ghatal Masterplan, which focuses on flood prevention in West Midnapore.

The primary objectives of Nodi Bandhan include combating natural disasters, preventing Ganga-Padma River erosion, and enhancing job opportunities.

About West Bengal

- Capital – Kolkata
- Chief Minister – Mamata Banerjee
- Governor – C V Ananda Bose

Recent schemes launched by state governments

- Mobile Operation Theatre (Nagaland) - To provide advanced surgical and healthcare facilities to the remote and rural areas of the state.

- **Bana Kaih Scheme (Mizoram) - To provide financial assistance to farmers growing ginger, turmeric, Mizo chilli, and broomsticks**
- **Mukhyamantri Nagar Unnayan Prakalp (Tripura) - To upgrade the drinking water supply in the state's 12 cities benefiting around four lakh people.**
- **Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana (Himachal Pradesh) - to provide financial support to identified socially and economically vulnerable women and parents of disabled children**

222. Which country will host the BRICS leaders' summit from 6 to 7 July in 2025?

2025 में 6 से 7 जुलाई तक ब्रिक्स नेताओं के शिखर सम्मेलन की मेजबानी कौन सा देश करेगा?

- (a) India
- (b) Russia
- (c) China
- (d) Brazil
- (e) South Africa

Ans. d

Sol. Brazil to host BRICS summit in Rio de Janeiro in July 2025

Brazil will host the BRICS leaders' summit in Rio de Janeiro on July 6 and 7, 2025.

Brazil took over the rotating presidency of BRICS on Jan. 1 and is leading working groups to prepare the agenda and topics for the summit, which will bring together heads of state and government.

The decision follows the city's successful hosting of the G20 Leaders' Summit last November.

BRICS was established in 2009 by Brazil, Russia, India, and China, with South Africa joining in 2010 as a counterbalance to the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations.

Last year, the bloc expanded by adding Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia has also been invited to join. Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Malaysia have formally applied for membership, and several other countries have expressed interest.

223. When is Global Tourism Resilience Day observed?

वैश्विक पर्यटन लचीलापन दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) February 15

- (b) February 17
- (c) February 16
- (d) February 18
- (e) February 14

Ans. b

Sol. 17 February - Global Tourism Resilience Day

Global Tourism Resilience Day is observed every year on February 17 to promote sustainable and resilient tourism practices worldwide.

The day highlights the importance of preparedness, crisis management, and recovery strategies to support the tourism industry against global challenges like pandemics and climate change.

Established by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution

A/RES/77/269, Global Tourism Resilience Day is more than just a celebration, it is a global commitment to strengthening tourism against future shocks.

224. Acharya Satyendra Das, chief priest of Ayodhya Ram temple, passed away at 85. Where was Acharya Satyendra Das given 'Jal Samadhi'?

अयोध्या राम मंदिर के मुख्य पुजारी आचार्य सत्येन्द्र दास का 85 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। आचार्य सत्येन्द्र दास को 'जल समाधि' कहाँ दी गई थी?

- (a) Ganga River
- (b) Yamuna River
- (c) Narmada River
- (d) Saryu River
- (e) Brahmaputra River

Ans. d

Sol. Ram temple chief priest Acharya Satyendra Das passed away

Acharya Satyendra Das, chief priest of Ayodhya Ram temple, passed away at the age of 85

He was given 'Jal Samadhi' in the Saryu River in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.

Acharya Satyendra Das had been the chief priest of the Ram temple since before the Babri Masjid demolition on December 6, 1992, taking on the role just nine months prior.

225. Which Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) has raised \$500 million via SACE ECB loan?

किस गैर-बैंकिंग वित्त कंपनी (NBFC) ने SACE ECB ऋण के माध्यम से 500 मिलियन डॉलर जुटाए हैं?

- (a) Bajaj Finance

- (b) Muthoot Finance
- (c) Shriram Finance
- (d) Tata Capital
- (e) Mahindra Finance

Ans. c

Sol. Shriram Finance raises \$500 million via SACE ECB loan

Non-banking finance company (NBFC) major Shriram Finance has raised \$500 million via SACE External Commercial Borrowing Push loan facility, with a tenor of 10 years.

SACE is an Italian export credit agency run under the government of Italy.

Shriram Finance has raised over \$2.5 billion in offshore funding in the current financial year.

HSBC acted as the sole export credit agency, while Coordinator and ING Bank acted as the social loan coordinator for the transaction.

Executive Vice Chairman of Shriram Finance - Umesh Revankar

226. The Karuna Arogya Suraksha Paddhati (KASAP) scheme, which was in the news recently, is related to which state?

करुणा आरोग्य सुरक्षा पद्धति (केएएसएपी) योजना, जो हाल ही में चर्चा में रही, किस राज्य से संबंधित है?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Andhra Pradesh
- (e) Maharashtra

Ans. c

Sol. Kerala govt allocates additional ₹300 crore for integrated healthcare scheme

The Kerala government has allocated an additional ₹300 crore for Karunya Arogya Suraksha Padhathi (KASAP), its integrated health protection scheme designed to provide coverage to over 64 lakh poor and vulnerable people in the State.

With this additional allocation, the total amount earmarked for the flagship scheme in the present financial year has gone up to ₹978.54 crore.

KASAP aims at providing a health cover of ₹5 lakh annually to over 41.99 lakh poor and vulnerable families (approximately 64 lakh beneficiaries) that form the bottom 40 per cent of the Kerala population.

About Kerala

- **Capital** – Thiruvananthapuram
- **Chief Minister** – Pinarayi Vijayan

- **Governor** – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

227. Meta introduced its internet subsea cable project, which will cross 50,000 km in length and bring enhanced connectivity to the U.S., India, Brazil, South Africa. What is the name of this Meta's internet subsea cable project?

मेटा ने अपना इंटरनेट सबसी केबल प्रोजेक्ट पेश किया, जो 50,000 किलोमीटर की लंबाई को पार करेगा और यू.एस., भारत, ब्राजील, दक्षिण अफ्रीका में बेहतर कनेक्टिविटी लाएगा। मेटा के इस इंटरनेट सबसी केबल प्रोजेक्ट का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Project OceanNet
- (b) Project Waterworth
- (c) Project DeepLink
- (d) Project BlueWave
- (e) Project FiberConnect

Ans. b

Sol. Meta introduces subsea internet cable Project Waterworth to cross over 50,000 km

Meta introduced its internet subsea cable Project Waterworth, which will cross 50,000 km in length and bring enhanced connectivity to the U.S., India, Brazil, South Africa, and other locations whilst becoming the longest subsea cable project in the world. The investment involves billions of dollars and is set to span across years, in a bid to bring AI access to users all around the world.

Subsea cables projects, such as Project Waterworth, are the backbone of global digital infrastructure, accounting for more than 95% of intercontinental traffic across the world's oceans to seamlessly enable digital communication, video experiences, online transactions, and more.

According to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) data, the country hosts around 17 international subsea cables across 17 district landing stations.

228. What is India's rank among the most affected countries by climate change from 1993-2022, according to CRI?

सीआरआई के अनुसार, 1993-2022 तक जलवायु परिवर्तन से सबसे अधिक प्रभावित देशों में भारत का स्थान क्या है?

- (a) 4th
- (b) 5th
- (c) 6th
- (d) 7th
- (e) 8th

Ans. c

Sol. India among most affected countries by climate change from 1993-2022: CRI

India is among the nations hit hardest by extreme weather over the past 30 years, according to the newly released 2025 Climate Risk Index (CRI). Between 1993 and 2022, the country endured more than 400 extreme events — including floods, heatwaves, and cyclones — leading to 80,000 fatalities and economic losses nearing \$180 billion.

The CRI measures both the human and economic consequences of climate-related disasters, ranking countries based on fatalities, damages, and the number of people affected.

Climate Risk Index puts India in sixth place among the 10 most affected countries, showing high absolute fatalities and economic losses in addition to high absolute and relative numbers of people affected. The report highlights the country's increasingly frequent extreme weather events over the past three decades, including floods, heat waves, cyclones, and droughts.

It also takes note of cyclones in Gujarat (1998), Odisha (1999), Hudhud (2014), and Amphan (2020), as well as major floods in northern India (1993) and Uttarakhand (2013), in addition to severe floods in 2019

Countries Most Affected by Climate-Related Extreme Weather Events

Rank	1993-2022 (Most Affected Countries)	2022 (Most Affected Countries)
1	Dominica	Pakistan
2	China	Belize
3	Honduras	Italy
4	Myanmar	Greece
5	Italy	Spain
6	India	Puerto Rico
7	Greece	United States of America
8	Spain	Nigeria
9	Vanuatu	Portugal

Rank	1993-2022 (Most Affected Countries)	2022 (Most Affected Countries)
10	Philippines	Bulgaria

229. Jacob Kiplimo has made history in the Run Half-Marathon. He became the first person to run the race in under 57 minutes. Which country does Jacob Kiplimo represent?

जैकब किप्लिमो ने रन हाफ-मैराथन में इतिहास रच दिया है। वह 57 मिनट से कम समय में दौड़ पूरी करने वाले पहले व्यक्ति बन गए हैं। जैकब किप्लिमो किस देश का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं?

- (a) Kenya
- (b) Ethiopia
- (c) Uganda
- (d) Tanzania
- (e) South Africa

Ans. c

Sol. Uganda's Jacob Kiplimo Becomes First to Run Half-Marathon Under 57 Minutes

Jacob Kiplimo from Uganda has made history in the half-marathon. He became the first person to run the race in under 57 minutes.

Kiplimo finished in 56 minutes, 42 seconds in Barcelona. The 24-year-old set the record at the World Athletics Gold Label race.

He broke the old record of 57:30 set by Ethiopia's Yomif Kejelcha in October.

Kiplimo beat the record by 48 seconds, the biggest improvement ever.

He was the half-marathon record holder from 2021 to 2024. With this run, he reclaimed his title. Kiplimo also set a world best time of 39:47 for 15 kilometers during the race

230. Veteran Telugu actress and producer C Krishnaveni passed away at 102. Which prestigious award did C. Krishnaveni receive in 2004?

अनुभवी तेलुगु अभिनेत्री और निर्माता सी कृष्णवेनी का 102 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। सी. कृष्णवेनी को 2004 में कौन सा प्रतिष्ठित पुरस्कार मिला था?

- (a) Nandi Award
- (b) Dadasaheb Phalke Award
- (c) Padma Shri
- (d) Raghupathi Venkaiah Award
- (e) Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award

Ans. d

Sol. Veteran Telugu actress C Krishnaveni dies

Veteran Telugu actress and producer C Krishnaveni passed away at 102.

Krishnaveni was born on December 24, 1924, in Pangidi, West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh. She began her journey as a drama artist before transitioning to films, making her debut as a child artist in Sati Anasuya (1936).

In recognition of her contributions to the film industry, she was honored with the Raghupathi Venkaiah Award in 2004.

231. Which organization signed an MoU with IIIT Dharwad for collaborative research and skill development?

किस संगठन ने सहयोगात्मक अनुसंधान और कौशल विकास के लिए IIIT धारवाड़ के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) DRDO
- (b) ISRO
- (c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- (d) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- (e) Indian Air Force

Ans. c

Sol. HAL and IIIT Dharwad sign MoU for collaborative research, skill development

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Information Technology, Dharwad to strengthen industry-academia collaboration in advanced technologies.

The partnership will focus on joint research, internships, and technical education in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Robotics, AR/VR, and Digital Manufacturing, particularly in applications relevant to the aerospace and defence sectors.

Under this MoU, HAL officers will have opportunities to pursue higher education at IIIT Dharwad, while students will gain hands-on experience through internships at HAL's various divisions.

232. Which organization has launched a marketing technology (MarTech) platform under Project DIVE?

किस संगठन ने प्रोजेक्ट DIVE के तहत मार्केटिंग टेक्नोलॉजी (MarTech) प्लेटफॉर्म लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) SBI Life Insurance
- (b) HDFC Life
- (c) ICICI Prudential

(d) Life Insurance Corporation of India

(e) Max Life Insurance

Ans. d

Sol. LIC launches marketing tech platform under project DIVE; set to redefine customer engagement

State-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched its marketing technology (MarTech) platform to redefine customer engagement. The platform is the first major milestone in project DIVE (Digital Innovation and Value Enhancement).

This launch represents LIC's first step towards becoming a global digital champion in the insurance industry, leveraging world-class technology to revolutionize customer engagement at an unprecedented scale.

The MarTech platform introduces an intelligent, multi-channel engagement capability, enabling LIC to run hyper-personalized, always-on campaigns that enhance customer experience and drive business growth.

233. Until which year has the Centre approved the continuation of the PM-AASHA scheme?

केंद्र ने किस वर्ष तक पीएम-आशा योजना को जारी रखने की मंजूरी दी है?

(a) 2023-24

(b) 2024-25

(c) 2025-26

(d) 2026-27

(e) 2027-28

Ans. c

Sol. Government approves Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan Scheme till 2025-26

The Centre has approved continuation of the integrated Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) scheme during the 15th Finance Commission cycle up to 2025-26.

The integrated PM-AASHA Scheme is aimed at effective implementation of procurement operations, which is crucial for providing remunerative prices to farmers and also controlling price volatility of essential commodities.

Under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) of the integrated PM-AASHA Scheme, the procurement of the notified pulses, oilseeds and copra conforming to the prescribed Fair Average Quality (FAQ) is undertaken by the central nodal agencies at the MSP (minimum support price) directly from the pre-registered farmers through the State level agencies.

The government has allowed the procurement of Tur, Urad and Masur under the PSS, equivalent to 100 per cent of the state's production for the 2024-25 procurement year.

The government in the Budget 2025 has also announced that procurement of Tur (Arhar), Urad and Masur up to 100 per cent of the state's production will be continued for another four years to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses in the country.

Union Minister for Agriculture Shivraj Singh Chouhan has approved the procurement of Tur (Arhar) in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh under the PSS for the Kharif 2024-25 Season for a total quantity consolidating to 13.22 lakh tonnes.

The procurement has already started in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Telangana and a total quantity of 0.15 lakh tonnes of Tur (Arhar) has been procured in these States till 15.02.2025 benefitting 12,006 farmers of these States.

The Centre is committed to purchasing 100 per cent of tur produced by farmers through central nodal agencies namely NAFED and NCCF.

234. Who has been appointed as the new Election Commissioner of India?

भारत के नए चुनाव आयुक्त के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Rajiv Kumar
- (b) Sunil Arora
- (c) Sushil Chandra
- (d) Vivek Joshi
- (e) Gyanesh Kumar

Ans. d

Sol. Gyanesh Kumar appointed as new Chief Election Commissioner

Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has been appointed as the 26th Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). He succeeded Rajiv Kumar.

CEC Gyanesh Kumar is a former IAS officer from the 1988 batch of the Kerala cadre. He has served as secretary in the ministry of parliamentary affairs.

Dr. Vivek Joshi has been appointed as the new Election Commissioner. He is an IAS officer from the 1989 batch of the Haryana cadre. President Droupadi Murmu has appointed both commissioners.

As the next Chief Election Commissioner, he would be in charge of elections in five states - Opposition-ruled Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and NDA-ruled Bihar and Assam -- in the immediate future. The election in Bihar is due later this year - the rest take place in 2026.

About Election Commissioner of India (ECI)

- It is a constitutional body to conduct and regulate elections in the country.
- It consists of a chief election commissioner (CEC) and two election commissioners (usually retired IAS or IRS officers)
- Founded - 25 January 1950
- Headquarters - New Delhi
- 1st Chief - Sukumar Sen
- 1st Women Chief - V.S. Ramadevi
- 26th Chief - Gyanesh Kumar (replace Rajiv Kumar)
- Commissioner - Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi
- Tenure - 6/65yrs

235. In February 2025, what is the purpose of the Letter of Intent signed between Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU)?

फरवरी 2025 में, दूरसंचार विभाग (DoT) और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दूरसंचार संघ (ITU) के बीच हस्ताक्षरित आशय पत्र का उद्देश्य क्या है? है?

- To establish a new telecom company
- To explore AI-driven Digital Twin technologies for infrastructure planning
- To regulate international telecommunication laws
- To develop a new social networking platform
- To ban outdated telecom technologies

Ans. b

Sol. DoT and ITU Join Hands to Explore Future-Ready Infrastructure Planning with AI- Driven Digital Twin Technologies

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) have signed a Letter of Intent to explore AI-driven Digital Twin technologies for advanced infrastructure planning.

DoT's "Sangam: Digital Twin" initiative creates a virtual replica of physical infrastructure, including telecom networks. This initiative enables real-time monitoring, simulation, and analysis to enhance infrastructure planning and development.

By integrating advanced technologies like AI and 5G, Digital Twin optimizes decision-making, improves efficiency and supports future-ready digital infrastructure.

236. Which organization facilitated India's first-ever commercial trial shipments of pomegranates to Australia via sea?

किस संगठन ने समुद्र के रास्ते ऑस्ट्रेलिया को अनार की पहली वाणिज्यिक परीक्षण शिपमेंट की सुविधा प्रदान की?

- (a) Food Corporation of India
- (b) Federation of Indian Export Organizations
- (c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- (d) Ministry of External Affairs
- (e) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority

Ans. e

Sol. APEDA facilitates first-ever sea shipments of Indian pomegranates to Australia

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in collaboration with AgroStar and Kay Bee Exports successfully completed India's first-ever commercial trial shipments of premium Sangola and Bhagwa pomegranates respectively to Australia via sea.

The first air shipment took place in July 2024, following the successful market access facilitation by APEDA and National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO).

The first-ever sea-freight shipment departed from India on December 6, 2024 and arrived in Sydney on January 13, 2025 with 5.7 metric tons (MT) of pomegranates sourced from the Solapur region of Maharashtra, packed into 1,900 boxes, each containing 3 kg of premium fruit.

237. What is Bima Manthan, which was seen in the news recently?

बीमा मंथन क्या है, जो हाल ही में खबरों में देखा गया?

- (a) A government-sponsored insurance scheme
- (b) A quarterly review meeting held by IRDAI with insurance company CEOs
- (c) A new insurance policy for rural areas
- (d) A digital platform for insurance claims
- (e) A financial literacy program for policyholders

Ans. b

Sol. IRDAI unveils Bima Trinity plan, reviews insurance sector at 9th Bima Manthan

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) held the 9th edition of Bima Manthan, its quarterly review meeting with insurance company CEOs.

The discussions focused on the performance of the life and general insurance industry, the progress of the state insurance plan, distribution reforms, and enhancing disclosure and transparency.

A key highlight of the meeting was the unveiling of Bima Trinity, a transformative initiative aimed at enhancing accessibility, affordability, and efficiency in the insurance sector. Bima Trinity consists of three key components:

Bima Sugam: A unified digital marketplace for selling, servicing, and claiming insurance policies across insurers.

Bima Vistaar: A first-of-its-kind composite insurance product covering life, accident, property, and hospitalisation.

Bima Vahaak: A women-centric, localised insurance distribution model to boost insurance penetration.

With Bima Trinity, IRDAI aims to drive insurance inclusion and digital transformation, reinforcing its commitment to a more accessible.

238. Who has been appointed as the CEO of Standard Chartered India?

स्टैंडर्ड चार्टर्ड इंडिया के सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Aditya Puri
- (b) Shaktikanta Das
- (c) Prabdev Singh
- (d) Arundhati Bhattacharya
- (e) Uday Kotak

Ans. c

Sol. PD Singh appointed as CEO of Standard Chartered India

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given its approval to appoint corporate banking veteran and former JP Morgan India CEO Prabdev (PD) Singh as the CEO for Standard Chartered (StanC) in India.

Singh will start his three-year term on April 1 succeeding Zarin Daruwala who retires from the bank at the end of March.

Singh brings nearly three decades of experience, having previously served as CEO of JP Morgan Chase Bank in India, where he played a key role in shaping the bank's corporate banking franchise.

Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **CEO of Navi Technologies** - Rajiv Naresh
- **CEO of Navi Finserv** - Abhishek Dwivedi
- **Head of Citibank India** - K Balasubramanian (replace Ashu Khulla)
- **Executive Director of Dhanlaxmi Bank** - P. Suriaraj
- **MD & CEO of IDBI Bank** - Rakesh Sharma
- **MD and CEO of Zurich Kotak General Insurance** - Alok Kumar Agarwal (Suresh Agarwal)

239. Who has been appointed as the MD & CEO of SBI Cards?

एसबीआई कार्ड्स के एमडी और सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Arundhati Bhattacharya
- (b) Abhijit Chakravorty
- (c) Dinesh Kumar Khara
- (d) Rajnish Kumar
- (e) Salila Pande

Ans. e

Sol. SBI Cards appoints Salila Pande as MD & CEO

Salila Pande has been appointed as the MD & CEO of SBI Cards and Payment Services Board, with effect from 1 April 2025.

The appointment of Pande, who has been nominated by the State Bank of India, will be for a period of two years.

The board has approved the appointment of Pande pursuant to the superannuation of Abhijit Chakravorty from the services of the State Bank of India from March 31, 2025, it said.

Pande is the chief general manager at the State Bank of India. She is a career banker and had joined the SBI in 1995 as a probationary officer and has been with the country's largest banking group since then.

240. Who has been appointed as the Managing Partner and Global Head of Wipro Consulting?

विप्रो कंसल्टिंग के मैनेजिंग पार्टनर और ग्लोबल हेड के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Rajesh Gopinathan
- (b) Nandan Nilekani
- (c) Amit Kumar
- (d) Parul Tyagi
- (e) Anshika Mishra

Ans. c

Sol. Wipro names Amit Kumar as Managing Partner and Global Head of Consulting

Amit Kumar has been appointed as Managing Partner and Global Head of Wipro Consulting.

He will lead Wipro's AI-driven growth and help clients with business and technology transformations.

Amit brings 24 years of experience across various industries like High-Tech, Energy, Automotive, and Retail.

Recent Appointments

- **Brand Ambassador of ICC Championship Trophy 2025** -Shikhar Dhawan (India), Shane Watson (Australia), Tim Southee (New Zealand), Sarfaraz Ahmed (Pakistan).
- **President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for 2025-26** - Charanjot Singh Nanda (73rd)
- **CEO of Nokia** -Justin Hotard (replace Pekka Lundmark) *effect from 1 April*
- **Chairman of Groupe Spécial Mobile Association board** - Gopal Vittal (replace Jose Maria Alvares-Pallete)
- **DG of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)** - Rajesh Nirwan
- **CEO of Vedanta Resources Ltd.** - Deshnee Naidoo

241. Who has inaugurated the National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations (NAKSHA)?

शहरी आवासों के राष्ट्रीय भू-स्थानिक ज्ञान-आधारित भूमि सर्वेक्षण (नक्शा) का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Amit Shah
- (c) Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- (d) Rajnath Singh
- (e) Nitin Gadkari

Ans. c

Sol. Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated NAKSHA program for urban land survey Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has inaugurated the National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations (NAKSHA) in 152 urban local bodies across 26 States and three Union Territories in Madhya Pradesh. The programme aims to create and update land records in urban areas to ensure accurate and reliable documentation of land ownership.

This initiative will empower citizens, improve ease of living, enhance urban planning, and reduce land-related disputes. The IT-based system for property record administration will foster transparency, efficiency and support sustainable development.

242. Which two companies signed an MoU to explore collaboration in ship repair and maintenance in February 2025?

फरवरी 2025 में जहाज की मरम्मत और रखरखाव में सहयोग की संभावना तलाशने के लिए किन दो कंपनियों ने समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Reliance Industries and Indian Navy

- (b) A.P. Moller - Maersk and Cochin Shipyard Ltd.
(c) Tata Steel and Larsen & Toubro
(d) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. and Cochin Shipyard Ltd.
(e) Adani Ports and Maersk

Ans. b

Sol. Maersk signs MoU with Cochin Shipyard to explore ship building, repair in India
A.P. Moller - Maersk (Maersk) and Cochin Shipyard Ltd. (CSL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore collaboration opportunities in ship repair, maintenance, and building activities in India.

This partnership aligns with the Government of India's Vision 2047 maritime objectives and recent Union Budget 2025-26 announcements to position India among the top five global maritime hubs.

Under the MoU, Maersk will leverage its expertise as an off-taker in its global fleet to strengthen CSL's capabilities, primarily focusing on container ship maintenance, repair, and drydocking operations.

243. Which edition of the Dharma Guardian exercise will be held from February 25 to March 9 at Mount Fuji between India and Japan Ground Self Defence Force (JGSDF)?

भारत और जापान ग्राउंड सेल्फ डिफेंस फोर्स (JGSDF) के बीच माउंट फूजी में 25 फरवरी से 9 मार्च तक धर्म गार्जियन अभ्यास का कौन सा संस्करण आयोजित किया जाएगा?

- (a) 6th
(b) 7th
(c) 8th
(d) 9th
(e) 10th

Ans. a

Sol. India, Japan to hold 6th edition of joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian'
The Indian Army will conduct the sixth edition of Exercise Dharma Guardian with the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force (JGSDF) at Mount Fuji, Japan, from February 25 to March 9.

The exercise's primary objective is to improve interoperability between the two forces through joint urban warfare and counter-terrorism drills conducted under a United Nations mandate.

Recent Exercise

- **3rd edition** of military exercise "Cyclone 2025" between India and Egypt - Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.

- **EX Winged Raiders between** Indian Army and the Indian Air Force - Eastern Theater.
- **13th edition of military exercise 'Ekuverin'** between the **Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force** - Archipelago nation.
- Indian Army and the Indian Air Force conducted a major military exercise, **Exercise Devil Strike**
- 18th edition of **Exercise Surya Kiran** between India and Nepal Military - Saljhandi, Nepal

244. The Centre has launched the 'Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs', which was announced in the Union Budget 2025-26 to boost the micro, small, and medium enterprises. What is the maximum loan amount that can be sanctioned under the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs?

केंद्र ने 'एमएसएमई के लिए म्यूचुअल क्रेडिट गारंटी योजना' शुरू की है, जिसकी घोषणा केंद्रीय बजट 2025-26 में सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यमों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए की गई थी। एमएसएमई के लिए म्यूचुअल क्रेडिट गारंटी योजना के तहत स्वीकृत की जा सकने वाली अधिकतम ऋण राशि क्या है?

- (a) Rs 50 crore
- (b) Rs 75 crore
- (c) Rs 100 crore
- (d) Rs 150 crore
- (e) Rs 200 crore

Ans. c

Sol. FM Sitharaman launches Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs

The Centre has launched the 'Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs', which was announced in the Union Budget 2025-26 to boost the micro, small, and medium enterprises.

The scheme facilitates collateral-free loans to MSMEs by providing loans up to Rs 100 crore for the purchase of plant, machinery, or equipment.

The scheme would provide 60 per cent guarantee coverage by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC) to member lending institutions (MLIs) for a credit facility up to Rs 100 crore, sanctioned to eligible MSMEs under MCGS-MSME for the purchase of equipment/machinery.

Under the scheme, the borrower must be an MSME with a valid Udyam Registration Number. The guaranteed loan amount will not exceed Rs 100 crore, although the total project cost can be higher. Additionally, at least 75% of the project cost must be for purchasing equipment or machinery.

FM Sitharaman and Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary also handed over the keys to homebuyers who have benefitted due to the SWAMIH (Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing) Fund during the post-Budget interaction programme with stakeholders here.

As of January 24, the SWAMIH Fund has successfully delivered over 50,000 homes, with a commitment to deliver an additional 20,000 homes each year for the next three years.

245. The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) signed a Programme Agreement with Reliance New Energy Battery Limited under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC). What is the total ACC capacity awarded to Reliance New Energy Battery Limited under the PLI Scheme?

भारी उद्योग मंत्रालय (एमएचआई) ने एडवांस्ड केमिस्ट्री सेल (एसीसी) के लिए उत्पादन से जुड़ी प्रोत्साहन (पीएलआई) योजना के तहत रिलायंस न्यू एनर्जी बैटरी लिमिटेड के साथ एक कार्यक्रम समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए। पीएलआई योजना के तहत रिलायंस न्यू एनर्जी बैटरी लिमिटेड को दी गई कुल एसीसी क्षमता क्या है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. MHI Signs Agreement with Reliance New Energy for 10 GWh ACC Capacity Under PLI Scheme

The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) signed a Programme Agreement with Reliance New Energy Battery Limited under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC), awarding a 10 GWh ACC capacity.

With this signing, a cumulative capacity of 40 GWh has been allocated to four firms under India's ₹18,100 crore PLI ACC scheme, aiming for a total manufacturing capacity of 50 GWh.

The PLI ACC Scheme is designed to boost local value addition, ensure globally competitive battery manufacturing costs, and support the EV and renewable energy storage sectors.

The Union Budget for FY2025-26 introduced measures like exempting 35 additional Capital Goods for EV battery manufacturing from Basic Customs Duty to accelerate domestic battery production.

246. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has disbursed Rs 1.75 lakh crore in claims to more than 23.22 crore farmers over the past nine years, according to the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. What is the primary objective of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)?

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय के अनुसार, प्रधानमंत्री फसल बीमा योजना (पीएमएफबीवाई) ने पिछले नौ वर्षों में 23.22 करोड़ से अधिक किसानों को 1.75 लाख करोड़ रुपये का दावा वितरित किया है। प्रधानमंत्री फसल बीमा योजना (पीएमएफबीवाई) का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य क्या है?

- (a) To provide loans to farmers
- (b) To offer crop insurance against natural disasters
- (c) To supply free fertilizers to farmers
- (d) To promote organic farming exclusively
- (e) To provide subsidies for irrigation

Ans. b

Sol. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana turns Nine

The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), a scheme providing comprehensive coverage for farmers against crop losses caused by unpredictable natural disasters, has disbursed Rs 1.75 lakh crore in claims to more than 23.22 crore farmers over the past nine years, according to the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

Launched on 18 Feb 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, PMFBY has played a crucial role in stabilizing farmers' incomes while promoting the adoption of innovative agricultural practices.

The scheme witnessed a 25% growth in farmer enrolment in 2023-24 compared to the previous year, demonstrating its growing popularity.

The Union Cabinet, recognizing PMFBY's impact, approved its continuation along with the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) till 2025-26, with a budget of Rs.69,515.71 crore. RWBCIS, introduced alongside PMFBY, is a weather index-based scheme that complements PMFBY's crop insurance approach.

247. Which company holds the top position in the 2024 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list?

2024 बरगंडी प्राइवेट हुरुन इंडिया 500 सूची में कौन सी कंपनी शीर्ष स्थान पर है?

- (a) Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
- (b) HDFC Bank
- (c) Reliance Industries
- (d) Infosys
- (e) ICICI Bank

Ans. c**Sol.** Reliance, TCS top Hurun's India's 10 most valuable companies

Reliance Industries, TCS, and HDFC bank are among India's top 10 most valuable companies, according to the 2024 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list.

The list, created by Axis Bank's banking unit Burgundy Private and Hurun India says that India's top 500 companies have a combined value of \$3.8 trillion, which is higher than India's own GDP and also the combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the UAE, Indonesia, and Spain.

The top 10 companies alone have a higher combined value than Saudi Arabia's GDP.

List of top 10 companies in the Hurun India 500 list

Here is the table representing the top 10 companies in the Hurun India 500 list:

Rank	Company Name	Value (₹ Crore)
1	Reliance Industries	17,52,650
2	Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)	16,10,800
3	HDFC Bank	14,22,570
4	Bharti Airtel	9,74,470
5	ICICI Bank	9,30,720
6	Infosys	7,99,400
7	ITC	5,80,670
8	Larsen & Toubro	5,42,770
9	HCL Technologies	5,18,170
10	National Stock Exchange (NSE)	4,70,250

248. In February 2025, which public sector bank has launched Aadhaar-OTP based account opening and API banking services?

फरवरी 2025 में, किस सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंक ने आधार-ओटीपी आधारित खाता खोलने और एपीआई बैंकिंग सेवाएं शुरू की हैं?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Indian Overseas Bank launches Aadhaar-based account opening, API banking services

Public sector Indian Overseas Bank has launched Aadhaar-OTP based account opening and API banking facilities coinciding with its 89th Foundation Day Celebrations.

The initiatives were designed to offer simplified banking services to both individual and corporate customers.

The city-headquartered bank has introduced an Aadhaar OTP based account opening facility, enabling customers to open a savings account effortlessly through the bank website.

About Indian Overseas Bank

- Founded- 10 February 1937
- Headquarters- Chennai
- Founder- M. Ct. M. Chidambaram Chettyar
- MD & CEO - Ajay Kumar Srivastava

249. Reliance Jio recently introduced JioTele OS. What is the primary purpose of JioTele OS?

रिलायंस जियो ने हाल ही में जियोटेली ओएस पेश किया है। जियोटेली ओएस का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य क्या है?

- (a) To enhance mobile phone security
- (b) To provide an affordable smart TV operating system
- (c) To launch a new range of Jio smartphones
- (d) To develop Jio's broadband services
- (e) To introduce a new satellite TV service

Ans. b

Sol. Reliance Jio launches JioTele OS for affordable smart TVs in India

Reliance Jio introduced JioTele OS, as an affordable smart TV operating system designed to meet the unique needs of Indian audiences.

JioTele OS offers AI-driven recommendations, lag-free 4K content, access to TV channels, cloud gaming, and OTT apps, along with regular software updates for compatibility and security.

Jio aims to reach over 35 million connected TV households, with smart TVs from brands like Thomson, Kodak, BPL, and JVC running JioTele OS, available. JioTele OS addresses issues like limited customisation, restricted access to high-quality regional content, and the lack of a seamless, premium user experience in existing smart TVs.

250. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched the "One Man Office" (OMO) service. What is the primary purpose of LIC's "One Man Office" (OMO) service?

भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम (एलआईसी) ने "वन मैन ऑफिस" (ओएमओ) सेवा शुरू की है। एलआईसी की "वन मैन ऑफिस" (ओएमओ) सेवा का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य क्या है?

- (a) To open new LIC branch offices
- (b) To offer free insurance to senior citizens
- (c) To reduce insurance premiums for policyholders
- (d) To introduce new investment policies
- (e) To provide a digital ecosystem for LIC's sales force

Ans. e

Sol. One Man Office: That's LIC's latest bet

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched the "One Man Office" (OMO) service to provide its sales force with a comprehensive digital ecosystem, enabling them to serve policyholders seamlessly.

The initiative aims to enhance efficiency and productivity among LIC agents, development officers, senior business associates, LIC's CEO and Managing Director, Siddhartha Mohanty, described the service as a significant step towards promoting life insurance and improving customer service at any time and from any location.

The initiative aligns with LIC's long-term goal of achieving 'Insurance for All by 2047'.

OMO is designed to facilitate digital policy sales, provide after-sales services, track business performance, and act as a training and knowledge resource for agents. LIC describes it as a mobile digital office that aims to become a single platform for all business and service-related tasks, accessible via mobile phones.

The service is built on LIC's ANANDA (Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application) platform, which helps agents' onboard customers. It offers features such as a premium calculator, benefit illustrations, E-NACH registration, change of address requests, online loan applications, renewal premium payments, and claim-related document submissions.

Additionally, it provides access to a knowledge centre, insurance and health-related calculators, an office locator, and NEFT search tools to assist agents in customer interactions.

251. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and Intel India have launched the 'AI

for Entrepreneurship' micro-learning module. What is the primary goal of the 'AI for Entrepreneurship' initiative?

कौशल विकास और उद्यमिता मंत्रालय (MSDE), राष्ट्रीय कौशल विकास निगम (NSDC) और इंटेल इंडिया ने 'AI फॉर एंटरप्रेन्योरशिप' माइक्रो-लर्निंग मॉड्यूल लॉन्च किया है। 'AI फॉर एंटरप्रेन्योरशिप' पहल का प्राथमिक लक्ष्य क्या है?

- (a) To teach complex AI programming languages
- (b) To provide AI certification for working professionals
- (c) To simplify AI concepts and encourage entrepreneurial thinking
- (d) To develop AI-powered gaming platforms
- (e) To promote AI-based automation in factories

Ans. c

Sol. Centre launches AI programme to empower 1 lakh young innovators

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and Intel India have launched the 'AI for Entrepreneurship' micro-learning module.

The initiative is designed to simplify artificial intelligence (AI) concepts and encourage entrepreneurial thinking among young innovators across India.

The programme aims to empower 1 lakh youth by 2025 by equipping them with essential skills to thrive in a technology-driven economy.

The 'AI for Entrepreneurship' module is part of India's broader vision to foster innovation and promote inclusivity in learning. The initiative will help young minds understand AI in a simple and practical way while inspiring them to explore business opportunities using emerging technologies.

252. Who has won the BBC Sportswoman of the Year award 2024?

बीबीसी स्पोर्ट्सवुमन ऑफ द ईयर अवार्ड 2024 किसने जीता है?

- (a) Aditi Ashok
- (b) Avani Lekhara
- (c) Smriti Mandhana
- (d) Manu Bhaker
- (e) Vinesh Phogat

Ans. d

Sol. Manu Bhaker Named BBC Sportswoman Of The Year After Paris Olympic Triumph

Indian shooter Manu Bhaker received the BBC Sportswoman of the Year after an impressive campaign at the Paris Olympics 2024, where she bagged two bronze medals.

The stellar performances from the 22-year-old established her status as one of the elite sporting talents in the country. She became the first Indian shooter to

win multiple medals at a single Olympics. Also, she became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic shooting medal.

The other contenders for the honour were golfer Aditi Ashok, para-shooter Avani Lekhara, India women's cricket vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, and wrestler Vinesh Phogat.

Her fellow shooter Avani Lekhara was presented with the BBC ISWOTY Para-sportswoman of the Year award.

Archer Sheetal Devi won the Emerging Athlete Award after becoming India's youngest Paralympic medallist.

Mithali Raj was given the Lifetime Achievement Award for her record 18-year captaincy of the Indian women's cricket team.

253. What is the name of the latest AI chatbot introduced by Elon Musk's xAI?

एलन मस्क के xAI द्वारा पेश किए गए नवीनतम AI चैटबॉट का नाम क्या है

- (a) Grok-1
- (b) Grok-2
- (c) Grok-3
- (d) Grok-4
- (e) Grok-5

Ans. c

Sol. Musk's AI Startup Unveils Grok-3 Chatbot

Elon Musk's artificial intelligence startup xAI has introduced Grok-3, the latest iteration of its chatbot, as it looks to compete with Chinese AI firm DeepSeek, Microsoft-backed OpenAI, and Alphabet's Google.

Grok-3 debut comes at a critical moment in the AI arms race, just days after DeepSeek unveiled its powerful open-source model and as Musk moves aggressively to expand xAI's influence.

"Grok-3 across the board is in a league of its own," Musk said during a livestream alongside three xAI engineers late on Monday, adding that the model significantly outperforms its predecessor, Grok-2.

254. Where will the 'Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela' 2025 be held from February 22-24?

22-24 फरवरी तक 'पूसा कृषि विज्ञान मेला' 2025 कहाँ आयोजित किया जाएगा?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Chennai
- (c) Hyderabad
- (d) New Delhi
- (e) Kolkata

Ans. d

Sol. Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela 2025 to be held in Delhi

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will inaugurate the 'Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela' 2025 in New Delhi from February 22-24, showcasing the latest seed varieties and agricultural technologies.

The three-day event, organized by ICAR-IARI, is expected to attract around 1 lakh participants, including farmers, students, and stakeholders.

The theme of the mela is "Unnat Krishi Viksit Bharat," with Minister of State for Agriculture Ramnath Thakur as the Guest of Honour.

Key highlights include live demonstrations of new agricultural technologies, exhibitions by ICAR institutes, agricultural universities, startups, FPOs, and private companies.

255. Which company has introduced Nugget, an AI-powered platform to help businesses scale up?

किस कंपनी ने व्यवसायों को बढ़ाने में मदद करने के लिए AI-संचालित प्लेटफ़ॉर्म नगेट पेश किया है?

- (a) Swiggy
- (b) Uber Eats
- (c) Zomato
- (d) Amazon
- (e) Flipkart

Ans. c

Sol. Zomato unveils AI-powered platform Nugget to help businesses scale up Food and delivery platform Zomato has introduced Nugget, an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered customer support platform designed to help businesses streamline their operations.

What is Nugget?

Nugget is a no-code, AI-powered customer support solution that enables businesses to automate customer service without requiring technical expertise.

It is designed to handle up to 80 per cent of customer queries autonomously, continuously learning and adapting in real time, Goyal boasts.

256. Where was India's first vertical bi-facial solar plant installed?

भारत का पहला वर्टिकल बाइ-फेशियल सोलर प्लांट कहाँ स्थापित किया गया?

- (a) Rajiv Chowk Metro Station
- (b) Okhla Vihar Metro Station
- (c) Kashmere Gate Metro Station

(d) Central Secretariat Metro Station

(e) Mandi House Metro Station

Ans. b

Sol. Manohar Lal Khattar opens Delhi Metro's first vertical solar plant
Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has inaugurated the country's first vertical bi-facial solar plant installation.

He also inaugurated a one-megawatt (MW) rooftop solar plant at Khyber Pass depot of the Delhi Metro.

The 50 kilowatt (KW) capacity vertical solar plant at Okhla Vihar station will use bi-facial panels designed to capture sunlight from both sides. This is a pilot project and more such plants will be installed based on its performance.

With the inauguration of the rooftop capacity at the Khyber Pass metro depot in Timarpur, DMRC currently has 51 MW of total onsite rooftop solar capacity.

These plants are present in 93 Stations and 15 depots of the Delhi metro system.

257. What is the name of the Kerala government's initiative to collect and dispose of expired and unused medicines?

केरल सरकार की एक्सपायर और अप्रयुक्त दवाओं को इकट्ठा करने और निपटाने की पहल का नाम क्या है?

(a) Green Pharma Project

(b) nPROUD

(c) Drug Disposal Mission

(d) Safe Medicine Initiative

(e) MedClean Drive

Ans. b

Sol. Kerala to be first state in country to collect, dispose of expired drugs

The Kerala government has launched 'New Programme for Removal of Unused Drugs' (nPROUD) to collect and scientifically dispose of expired and unused medicines.

This is the first government-led initiative in India to address the safe disposal of medicines, starting in Kozhikode Corporation and Ulliyeri Panchayat.

Unused medicines will be collected from homes or designated disposal facilities, with plans for statewide expansion. Improper disposal of medicines can cause antimicrobial resistance, health hazards, and environmental pollution, making this initiative crucial.

258. Which organization has approved the amalgamation of Chaitanya India Fin Credit and Svatantra Holdings into Svatantra Microfin?

किस संगठन ने चैतन्य इंडिया फिन क्रेडिट और स्वतंत्र होल्डिंग्स को स्वतंत्र माइक्रोफिन में विलय करने की मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (b) Competition Commission of India (CCI)
- (c) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (d) Ministry of Finance
- (e) NITI Aayog

Ans. b

Sol. CCI approves amalgamation of Chaitanya India Fin Credit and Svatanttra Holdings into Svatanttra Microfin

The Competition Commission of India has approved amalgamations of Chaitanya India Fin Credit Private Limited and Svatanttra Holdings Private Limited into Svatanttra Microfin Private Limited.

SHPL is engaged in the business of making investments in equity shares, preference shares and other securities.

The proposed transaction relates to the amalgamation of Svatanttra Holdings Private Limited (SHPL) and Chaitanya India Fin Credit Private Limited (CIFCPL) into Svatanttra Microfin Private Limited (SMPL), through the Scheme of Amalgamation entered into between SHPL, CIFCPL, SMPL and their respective shareholders as has been approved by the board of directors.

CIFCPL is engaged in the business of providing micro finance loans and personal loans to low-income individuals and households in rural/ semi-urban areas. CIFCPL is a middle layer non-deposit taking NBFC-MFI registered with the RBI. in 2009. SMHFCL is a registered Non-deposit Taking Housing Finance Company (NBFC HFC) (Middle Layer).

259. Who has inaugurated the 77th Session of the Executive Committee (EC-77) of the African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) in New Delhi?
 नई दिल्ली में अफ्रीकी-एशियाई ग्रामीण विकास संगठन (AARDO) की कार्यकारी समिति (EC-77) के 77वें सत्र का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Amit Shah
- (c) Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- (d) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (e) Rajnath Singh

Ans. c

Sol. Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated 77th Session of Executive Committee of the AARDO in New Delhi

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has inaugurated the 77th Session of the Executive Committee (EC-77) of the African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) in New Delhi, with participation from senior officials of AARDO member countries.

The session proposed new leadership for AARDO (President and Vice Presidents), review budget estimates, approve new memberships and MOUs, and assess development projects, HRD programs, and regional office activities from May 2023 to October 2024.

AARDO is established in 1962. AARDO is a multilateral organization promoting rural and agricultural development across 32 member countries in Africa and Asia, with India playing a key role in its support and operations.

The Indian government has been a long-term supporter of AARDO, providing financial assistance for infrastructure and facilitating its headquarters in New Delhi, along with active participation in governance and development initiatives.

260. Who inaugurated India's first "Open-Air Art Wall Museum" at Mausam Bhawan, New Delhi?

मौसम भवन, नई दिल्ली में भारत के पहले "ओपन-एयर आर्ट वॉल म्यूजियम" का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Amit Shah
- (c) Jitendra Singh
- (d) Rajnath Singh
- (e) Nirmala Sitharaman

Ans. c

Sol. Union Minister Jitendra Singh has inaugurated India's first 'Open Air Art Wall Museum' at Mausam Bhawan in New Delhi.

It depicts and celebrates the 150-year milestone journey of the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The initiative, developed in collaboration with 'Delhi Street Art', transforms the walls of IMD's headquarters on Lodhi Road into a vibrant visual narrative of India's meteorological advancements, history, and the impact of weather science on society.

261. Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd (TRIFED) has signed MoUs with Meesho, IFCA, and MGIRI during the 'Aadi Mahotsav'. What is the primary goal of TRIFED's MoUs with Meesho, IFCA, and MGIRI?

आदि महोत्सव के दौरान ट्राइबल कोऑपरेटिव मार्केटिंग डेवलपमेंट फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड (ट्राइफेड) ने मीशो, आईएफसीए और एमजीआईआरआई के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। मीशो, आईएफसीए और एमजीआईआरआई के साथ ट्राइफेड के समझौता ज्ञापनों का प्राथमिक लक्ष्य क्या है?

- (a) To promote tribal tourism
- (b) To implement a B2B approach for tribal products
- (c) To set up new tribal villages
- (d) To launch a new tribal education program
- (e) To provide healthcare services to tribal communities

Ans. b

Sol. TRIFED signs MoUs with Meesho, IFCA & Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Industrialisation

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd (TRIFED) has signed MoUs with Meesho, IFCA, and MGIRI during the 'Aadi Mahotsav' event to implement a B2B approach, enhancing market access for tribal products.

Meesho will onboard tribal products onto its platform and provide training, IFCA will connect tribal businesses with culinary professionals and hotels, while MGIRI will offer training and capacity building for artisans.

About TRIFED- TRIFED is an organization under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, GoI, dedicated to the socio-economic development of tribal communities through the marketing development of tribal products.

About Meesho- Meesho is an Indian e-commerce platform that primarily focuses on social commerce. It allows individuals and small businesses to sell products online through their portal and often through social media channels like WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram.

About IFCA- The Indian Federation of Culinary Associations (IFCA) is a professional organization dedicated to the development and promotion of the culinary arts in India. It serves as a national body that represents the interests of chefs and culinary professionals across the country.

About MGIRI- The Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Industrialization (MGIRI) is an institution in India dedicated to promoting rural industrialization. It was established to carry forward the vision of Mahatma Gandhi regarding sustainable rural development and self-reliance through the promotion of small-scale and cottage industries.

262. What is the primary objective of the Bima Applications Supported by Blocked Amount (Bima-ASBA) facility introduced by IRDAI in February 2025?

फरवरी 2025 में IRDAI द्वारा शुरू की गई बीमा एप्लीकेशन सपोर्टेड बाय ब्लॉकड अमाउंट (बीमा-एसबीए) सुविधा का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य क्या है?

- (a) To allow customers to pay insurance premiums in installments
- (b) To block the premium amount through UPI and debit it only upon policy approval
- (c) To provide discounts on life and health insurance policies
- (d) To allow insurers to deduct premiums without customer approval
- (e) both a and d

Ans. b

Sol. IRDAI permits one-time UPI mandate for buying life, health cover
The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has permitted a one-time mandate for blocking the amount towards premium through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) mandate for issue of life and health insurance policies.

Under the facility called the Bima Applications Supported by Blocked Amount (Bima-ASBA), the transfer of money from the prospect to the insurer happens only when an insurance policy is issued. In this facility, insurers can offer a one-time mandate for blocking a certain amount through UPI in the bank account for the concerned prospect.

The amount towards the insurance premium will be debited only after the insurer decides to accept the proposal. In case the insurer does not accept the proposal, the amount shall be unblocked and shall be available at the disposal of the prospect.

Insurers have been asked to send a proposal form to policyholders through a standard declaration to block the amount through UPI and have been mandated to offer the facility to both life and health insurance policyholders. Both the Insurance Councils have to issue a standard declaration within a week of Ir dai's circular to be included in the proposal for authorization.

The amount under Bima-ASBA shall be unblocked automatically after the expiry of 14 days from the initial date of blocking funds, or within one working day from the date of non-acceptance of the proposal form. This facility for customers will go live on or before March 1, 2025.

263. In February 2025, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) cancelled the registrations of how many foreign venture capital institutions (FVCI) after investigations found that they had violated capital market regulations?

फरवरी 2025 में, भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनियम बोर्ड (सेबी) ने कितने विदेशी उद्यम पूंजी संस्थानों (एफवीसीआई) के पंजीकरण रद्द कर दिए, जांच के बाद पाया गया कि उन्होंने पूंजी बाजार नियमों का उल्लंघन किया था?

- (a) 12
- (b) 14
- (c) 15
- (d) 17
- (e) 19

Ans. e

Sol. SEBI cancels registration of 19 foreign venture capital investors

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has cancelled the registrations of 19 foreign venture capital institutions (FVCI) after investigations found that they had been violating capital market regulations. Among the 14 entities whose strike-off dates were available, 11 had been defunct for more than five years, while three had been defunct for periods ranging from 10 months to three years in their respective jurisdictions. SEBI had issued show-cause notices to these 19 entities in December 2024, but did not receive any response.

Some of the entities whose FVCI registration has been cancelled:

- Blackstone Capital Partners (Singapore) VI FVCI
- Axis Capital Mauritius
- IFCI Sycamore India Infrastructure Fund
- Blackstone Family Investment Partnership (Singapore) VI-ESC FVCI
- Summit Partners India Venture Capital Investments

264. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a new mobile application, 'RBIDATA', offering seamless access to over 11,000 series of economic and financial data related to the Indian economy. Which of the following is NOT a feature of the RBIDATA app?

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने एक नया मोबाइल एप्लिकेशन, 'RBIDATA' पेश किया है, जो भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था से संबंधित 11,000 से अधिक आर्थिक और वित्तीय डेटा की श्रृंखला तक सहज पहुँच प्रदान करता है। RBIDATA ऐप की निम्न में से कौन सी विशेषता नहीं है?

- (a) It provides unit of measurement and data sources.
- (b) Users can access data related to SAARC countries.
- (c) It enables users to apply for RBI loans directly.
- (d) It provides information on macroeconomic statistics.
- (e) It provides time series data with graphical representations.

Ans. c

Sol. RBI Launches 'RBIDATA' App for Easy Access to Economic and Financial Data

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a new mobile application, 'RBIDATA', offering seamless access to over 11,000 series of economic and financial data related to the Indian economy.

The mobile app offers macroeconomic and financial statistics relating to the Indian economy in a user-friendly and visually engaging format.

Users will be able to view time series data in graphs/charts and download data for analysis. There will also be details such as data source, unit of measurement, frequency and recent updates.

Further, the app's 'Banking Outlet' section will help users find banking facilities within 20 kilometres of their location and they can also access data about SAARC countries through the 'SAARC Finance'.

265. Which two countries signed an MoU for cooperation in lithium exploration and investment in February 2025?

फरवरी 2025 में लिथियम अन्वेषण और निवेश में सहयोग के लिए किन दो देशों ने समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) India and Brazil
- (b) India and Argentina
- (c) India and Chile
- (d) India and Bolivia
- (e) India and Peru

Ans. b

Sol. India-Argentina forge agreement for Lithium exploration & mining
India and Argentina signed an MoU to expand cooperation in lithium exploration and investment.

The agreement between MECL (India) and the Catamarca government aims to boost critical mineral resource development.

The collaboration is expected to accelerate lithium exploration, enhance resource security, and create investment opportunities for Indian companies. Argentina, known for its vast lithium reserves as part of the 'Lithium Triangle,' is a crucial partner for India in securing essential minerals required for electric vehicle batteries and renewable energy storage.

The discussions covered ongoing lithium exploration efforts by Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) & Greenko in Catamarca and the possibilities of increasing the participation of Indian companies in mining projects of Argentina.

Both sides explored avenues for investment, long-term supply agreements, and joint ventures that would help strengthen India's access to this critical mineral.

266. In February 2025, which two organizations signed an MoU to enhance scientific and technological collaboration?

फरवरी 2025 में किन दो संगठनों ने वैज्ञानिक और तकनीकी सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) ISRO and NASA
- (b) CSIR, India and NAST, Nepal
- (c) IIT Delhi and Kathmandu University
- (d) DRDO and Nepal's Ministry of Science
- (e) BARC and Nepal's Energy Commission

Ans. b

Sol. India and Nepal Strengthen Scientific Ties with CSIR-NAST MoU

India's Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Nepal's Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) signed an MoU to enhance scientific and technological collaboration.

The partnership, dating back to 1994, has facilitated joint research, workshops, and training programs.

The 2025 MoU focuses on collaborative initiatives like knowledge exchange, research projects, and training programs in key scientific fields.

This renewed agreement aims to strengthen Indo-Nepal cooperation in innovation, economic progress, and regional development.

267. India has been elected to the vice presidency of IALA in Singapore. What does IALA stand for?

भारत को सिंगापुर में IALA के उपाध्यक्ष पद के लिए चुना गया है। IALA का क्या मतलब है?

- (a) International Association for Logistics and Aviation
- (b) International Organization of Aids to Marine Navigation
- (c) International Authority for Lighthouse Administration
- (d) Indian Association for Logistics and Anchors
- (e) International Agency for Legal Affairs

Ans. b

Sol. India elected vice president of International Organization of Aids to Marine Navigation

India has been elected to the vice presidency of the International Organization of Aids to Marine Navigation (IALA) in Singapore.

The first General Assembly of IALA also marks its transition from a non-governmental organization (NGO) to an inter-governmental organization (IGO), where India was elected to its Vice Presidency.

India is hosting the IALA Council meeting in December 2025 and the IALA Conference & General Assembly in September 2027 in Mumbai.

India's election to this prominent position reinforces its dedication to advancing maritime safety, enhancing navigational aids, and fostering international cooperation within the maritime sector.

268. Mrs Rekha Gupta takes oath as the new Chief Minister of Delhi at the iconic Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi. Which assembly seat did Rekha Gupta win in the Delhi elections?

श्रीमती रेखा गुप्ता ने नई दिल्ली के प्रतिष्ठित रामलीला मैदान में दिल्ली के नए मुख्यमंत्री के रूप में शपथ ली। दिल्ली चुनाव में रेखा गुप्ता ने कौन सी विधानसभा सीट जीती?

- (a) Karol Bagh
- (b) Shalimar Bagh
- (c) Chandni Chowk
- (d) Laxmi Nagar
- (e) Rajinder Nagar

Ans. b

Sol. Rekha Gupta takes oath as Delhi CM

Mrs Rekha Gupta takes oath as the new Chief Minister of Delhi at the iconic Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi. Rekha Gupta has won the Shalimar Bagh seat in the Delhi assembly elections.

She began her political journey with ABVP at the Daulat Ram College of Delhi University, in 1992. She became the President of the Delhi University Students' Union. Rekha Gupta has also served as the General Secretary of BJP Mahila Morcha in Delhi.

Rekha will be the fourth woman Chief Minister of Delhi after Sushma Swaraj, Sheila Dikshit and Atishi.

The BJP has returned to power in Delhi after over 26 years, ending the 10-year rule of the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP.

269. Who will inaugurate the first edition of the SOUL Leadership Conclave in New Delhi?

नई दिल्ली में SOUL लीडरशिप कॉन्क्लेव के पहले संस्करण का उद्घाटन कौन करेगा?

- (a) Droupadi Murmu
- (b) Narendra Modi
- (c) Amit Shah
- (d) Jitendra Singh
- (e) Rajnath Singh

Ans. b

Sol. PM Modi to inaugurate 1st edition of SOUL Leadership Conclave
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first edition of the SOUL Leadership Conclave at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

Bhutan Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay will deliver the keynote address as the Guest of Honor.

The two-day SOUL Leadership Conclave will serve as a premier platform where leaders from diverse domains like politics, sports, arts and media, the spiritual world, public policy, business and the social sector will share their inspiring life journeys.

The conclave will foster an ecosystem of collaboration and thought leadership, facilitating learning from both failures and successes, to inspire young audiences.

270. Where is the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting being held?

जी-20 विदेश मंत्रियों की बैठक कहाँ आयोजित की जा रही है?

- (a) New Delhi, India
- (b) Beijing, China
- (c) Johannesburg, South Africa
- (d) Washington, USA
- (e) Tokyo, Japan

Ans. c

Sol. EAM Jaishankar to attend G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in South Africa
External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar will participate in the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, scheduled for February 20-21 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Jaishankar will attend the meeting at the invitation of South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ronald Lamola.

On the sidelines of the summit, Jaishankar is also set to hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from other participating countries.

South Africa assumed the G20 presidency on December 1, 2024, and will hold the position until November 2025.

The G20, comprising 19 leading economies along with the European Union and African Union, represents 85% of global GDP, over 75% of international trade, and about two-thirds of the world's population. The presidency rotates annually among members.

271. Where has Google opened its newest and one of its biggest campuses, Ananta?

गूगल ने अपना सबसे नया और सबसे बड़ा कैम्पस, अनंता कहाँ खोला है?

- (a) Hyderabad
- (b) Gurugram
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) Bengaluru
- (e) Chennai

Ans. d

Sol. Google opens new office Ananta in Bengaluru

Google has officially opened Ananta, its newest and one of its biggest campuses globally, in Bengaluru.

Situated in Mahadevapura, the campus marks another step in the company's long-standing presence in India.

Ananta is designed to support teams working across various Google services, and with the launch of this large office space, Google now has over 10,000 employees across multiple locations in India, including Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Gurugram, Mumbai, and Pune.

The Ananta campus, meaning limitless in Sanskrit, spans 1.6 million square feet and can accommodate over 5,000 employees. Various Google teams working on Android, Search, Pay, Cloud, Maps, Play, and DeepMind, among others, will operate from this new space

272. Which Indian defence shipbuilding company has showcased its ships at NAVDEX 2025?

किस भारतीय रक्षा जहाज निर्माण कंपनी ने NAVDEX 2025 में अपने जहाजों का प्रदर्शन किया है?

- (a) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- (b) Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- (c) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited
- (d) Goa Shipyard Limited
- (e) Cochin Shipyard Limited

Ans. d

Sol. Goa Shipyard Showcases Indigenous Naval Vessels at NAVDEX 2025

Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL), one of India's premier defense shipbuilding yards, is showcased its indigenously designed Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) and Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) at NAVDEX 2025 in Abu Dhabi.

These vessels highlight India's growing capabilities in naval innovation and self-reliance under the "Make in India" initiative.

The Fast Patrol Vessel (Model) on display is a 50-meter-long, high-speed craft capable of reaching 35 knots. Designed and built in-house by GSL, it is primarily intended for patrolling, anti-smuggling, and anti-terrorist operations. Additionally, it can serve as a coastal convoy escort and a communication link during wartime. The vessel is powered by three 2,720 kW diesel engines driving independent waterjets, offering high maneuverability and efficiency.

273. World Day of Social Justice is observed annually on February 20. What is the theme for World Day of Social Justice 2025?

विश्व सामाजिक न्याय दिवस प्रतिवर्ष 20 फरवरी को मनाया जाता है। विश्व सामाजिक न्याय दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Achieving Equality for All
- (b) Justice and Fairness in Society
- (c) Empowering Inclusion: Bridging Gaps Of Social Justice
- (d) Eliminating Poverty and Discrimination
- (e) Social Justice for a Sustainable Future

Ans. c

Sol. 20 February - World Day of Social Justice

World Day of Social Justice is observed annually on February 20.

The day highlights the need for social justice in eliminating poverty, ensuring decent work, gender equality, and access to education and healthcare.

Theme 2025 - Empowering Inclusion: Bridging Gaps Of Social Justice

The ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization was unanimously approved by the International Labour Organization (ILO) on June 10, 2008. This is the third significant statement of principles and policies adopted by the International Labour Conference since the 1919 ratification of the ILO Constitution.

274. Where was the 9th Asia Economic Dialogue organized?

9वीं एशिया आर्थिक वार्ता कहाँ आयोजित की गई?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Pune
- (d) Chennai
- (e) Bengaluru

Ans. c

Sol. 9th Asia Economic Dialogue organised in Pune

The 9th Asia Economic Dialogue has organised in Pune, Maharashtra. The Asia Economic Dialogue is External Affairs Ministry's annual flagship 'Track 1.5 Dialogue' on Goeconomics.

The theme of the Dialogue is "Economic Resilience and Resurgence in an Era of Fragmentation."

The Dialogue explored key contemporary topics in geo-economics, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and automation, economic imperatives of Cyber Security, and facets of Blue Economy in Indian Ocean Region and beyond. It also aims to address the complexities of economic fragmentation and identify actionable pathways for resilience and resurgence.

275. The 34th edition of the ITTF-ATTU Asian Cup table tennis tournament begins in Shenzhen, China. Who is leading the Indian men's table tennis team in the tournament?

ITTF-ATTU एशियाई कप टेबल टेनिस टूर्नामेंट का 34वां संस्करण शेनझेन, चीन में शुरू हुआ। टूर्नामेंट में भारतीय पुरुष टेबल टेनिस टीम का नेतृत्व कौन कर रहा है?

- (a) Manav Thakkar
- (b) Harmeet Desai
- (c) Soumyajit Ghosh
- (d) Sathiyar Gnanasekaran
- (e) Sharath Kamal

Ans. e

Sol. 34th ITTF-ATTU Asian Cup table tennis tournament begins in China
The 34th edition of the ITTF-ATTU Asian Cup table tennis tournament begins in Shenzhen, China.

India's men's team is led by world No. 42 Sharath Kamal, a five-time Olympian and reigning Commonwealth Games singles champion.

The squad also includes world No. 60 Manav Thakkar and world No. 70 Harmeet Desai. The Indian women's team features Paris 2024 Olympian Sreeja Akula, Ayhika Mukherjee, and Yashaswini Ghorpade.

The event features men's and women's singles competitions, with 32 players in each category. The top four semi-finalists in both events will qualify for the ITTF World Cup 2025, scheduled for April.

276. Eurobank has established a strategic multi-year partnership with Indian IT giant LTIMindtree to modernise its banking operations and enhance its technology ecosystem. Where has Eurobank established its new global delivery centre in collaboration with LTIMindtree?

यूरोबैंक ने अपने बैंकिंग परिचालन को आधुनिक बनाने और अपने प्रौद्योगिकी पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को बढ़ाने के लिए भारतीय आईटी दिग्गज एलटीआईमाइंडट्री के साथ एक रणनीतिक बहु-वर्षीय साझेदारी स्थापित की है। यूरोबैंक ने एलटीआईमाइंडट्री के सहयोग से अपना नया वैश्विक वितरण केंद्र कहाँ स्थापित किया है?

- (a) Bangalore
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Pune
- (d) Hyderabad
- (e) Chennai

Ans. c

Sol. Eurobank partners with LTIMindtree to elevate banking operations and IT services

Eurobank has established a strategic multi-year partnership with Indian IT giant LTIMindtree to modernise its banking operations and enhance its technology ecosystem.

As part of this collaboration, Eurobank has established a new global delivery centre at LTIMindtree's Pune office.

This centre, set up in partnership with Fairfax Digital Services, a subsidiary of Canada's Fairfax Financial, is designed to spearhead technology innovation, digital transformation, and the maintenance of key banking applications.

LTIMindtree has also been selected as the services partner for Eurobank Luxembourg's Temenos implementation program. This initiative builds on Eurobank's group-wide IT overhaul that began in 2019, leveraging Temenos T24 Transact and T24 Infinity solutions.

277. In February 2025, Mirae Asset Sharekhan partnered with which companies for life insurance distribution?

फरवरी 2025 में, मिराए एसेट शेयरखान ने जीवन बीमा वितरण के लिए किन कंपनियों के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) SBI Life and Max Life
- (b) Bajaj Allianz and Tata AIA
- (c) ICICI Prudential Life and HDFC Life
- (d) LIC and Kotak Life
- (e) Reliance Life and Aditya Birla Sun Life

Ans. c

Sol. Mirae Asset Sharekhan Expands into Life Insurance Distribution with ICICI Prudential, HDFC Life Partnerships

Mirae Asset Sharekhan, a leading financial services platform, has entered the life insurance distribution sector through strategic partnerships with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance and HDFC Life.

This move aligns with the company's vision of offering a one-stop financial platform that integrates wealth creation with long-term financial security. With a growing number of retail investors in the stock market, Mirae Asset Sharekhan aims to bridge the gap between investment and financial protection by providing a diverse range of life insurance products. These include:

- Term Life & Health Plans – Ensuring income protection and financial security for dependents.
- Unit Linked Insurance Plans (ULIPs) – Offering market-linked returns alongside life cover.
- Endowment Plans – Providing risk-free savings with life cover for family security.
- Annuity & Retirement Solutions – Ensuring financial stability post-retirement.

278. Which e-commerce company has introduced a 'creator marketplace platform' to strengthen its influencer-driven content commerce strategy after seeing success with over 14 million influencer-driven purchases in the past year?

किस ई-कॉमर्स कंपनी ने पिछले साल 14 मिलियन से अधिक प्रभावशाली-संचालित खरीदारी के साथ सफलता देखने के बाद अपनी प्रभावशाली-संचालित कंटेंट कॉमर्स रणनीति को मजबूत करने के लिए एक 'क्रिएटर मार्केटप्लेस प्लेटफॉर्म' पेश किया है?

- (a) Amazon
- (b) Meesho
- (c) Myntra
- (d) Meesho
- (e) Flipkart

Ans. d

Sol. Meesho launches 'creator marketplace' to ramp up influencer-driven traffic
Meesho has introduced a 'creator marketplace platform' to strengthen its influencer-driven content commerce strategy after seeing success with over 14 million influencer-driven purchases in the past year.

The company is collaborating with content creators who reflect diverse lifestyles, aiming to provide a personalized shopping experience tailored for the Indian market.

Meesho's influencer-driven approach has led to nearly 10 times growth in categories such as women's Western wear, jewellery, footwear, home décor, kidswear, and beauty products.

Meesho is committed to supporting both large and micro creators across metro and tier-2+ cities by providing tools and resources to thrive in the evolving digital commerce landscape.

279. Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of NCT Delhi. How many seats did the BJP win in the 2025 Delhi Legislative Assembly election?

परवेश साहिब सिंह वर्मा ने एनसीटी दिल्ली के उपमुख्यमंत्री के रूप में शपथ ली। 2025 के दिल्ली विधानसभा चुनाव में भाजपा ने कितनी सीटें जीतीं?

- (a) 40
- (b) 45
- (c) 48
- (d) 52
- (e) 55

Ans. c

Sol. Rekha Gupta sworn in as 9th Chief Minister of Delhi

Mrs Rekha Gupta of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was sworn in as the 4th woman and 9th Chief Minister of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi. While, Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma, who defeated former CM Arvind Kejriwal in the recently held 8th Delhi Legislative Assembly Election 2025, was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of NCT Delhi.

The first-time MLA from Shalimar Bagh constituency, Rekha Gupta and her six cabinet ministers were administered the oath of office and secrecy by the Lieutenant Governor of NCT Delhi, Vinai Kumar Saxena, at a function held at the Ramlila Maidan in Delhi.

Delhi LG V K Saxena administered the oath of office and secrecy to Ms. Gupta and six Cabinet Ministers. They are Parvesh Sahib Singh, Ashish Sood, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Ravinder Indraj Singh, Kapil Mishra, and Pankaj Kumar Singh, who also took the oath.

The BJP won 48 seats in the 70-member Delhi Legislative Assembly election held on 5th February 2025. The ruling Aam Aadmi Party won only 22 seats, and its founder and former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal lost his seat to Parvesh Verma of the BJP.

280. In February 2025, until when has India's Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran's term been extended?

फरवरी 2025 में भारत के मुख्य आर्थिक सलाहकार वी अनंथा नागेश्वरन का कार्यकाल कब तक बढ़ा दिया गया है?

- (a) August 2025
- (b) March 2026
- (c) March 2027
- (d) March 2028
- (e) March 2030

Ans. c

Sol. Govt extends Chief Economic Adviser Nageswaran's term until March 2027
India's Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran's term has been extended by two years until March 2027.

Nageswaran was appointed to the position in 2022 and has also served as a part-time member of the economic advisory council to the prime minister from 2019 to 2021.

Nageswaran authored India's annual economic survey in January that projected GDP growth at 6.3 per cent-6.8 per cent in the next fiscal year that starts on April 1.

281. According to Moody's Analytics, what is India's projected GDP growth rate for 2025?

मूडीज एनालिटिक्स के अनुसार, 2025 के लिए भारत की अनुमानित जीडीपी वृद्धि दर क्या है?

- (a) 5.8%
- (b) 6.0%
- (c) 6.2%
- (d) 6.4%
- (e) 6.6%

Ans. d

Sol. India's GDP growth rate to slow to 6.4% in 2025: Moody's Analytics
India's growth is anticipated to decelerate to 6.4% in 2025 from 6.6% in 2024, due to new US tariffs and weaker global demand affecting exports, according to Moody's Analytics.

The report highlights a broader slowdown in the Asia-Pacific region, with China's GDP growth also decreasing.

In its report titled 'Asia-Pacific Outlook: Chaos Ahead', Moody's Analytics said growth across the Asia-Pacific economy will slow in 2025 as trade tensions, policy shifts, and uneven recoveries knock the region's fortunes.

As per its APAC forecast, India's GDP is expected to grow 6.4 percent both in 2025 and 2026 fiscal years.

Updated GDP List

- RBI – 6.6% (FY25), 6.7% (FY26)
- Deloitte – 6.5-6.8 (FY25)
- FICCI – 6.4% (FY25)
- UN – 6.6% (CY25); 6.7% (CY26)
- SBI – 6.3% (FY25)
- NSO – 6.4% (FY25)

282. The government has introduced an updated scheme to provide high-quality coaching to children covered under the PM CARES scheme along with students from Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

During which Five-Year Plan was the free coaching scheme originally launched?

सरकार ने PM CARES योजना के अंतर्गत आने वाले बच्चों के साथ-साथ अनुसूचित जाति (SC) और अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग (OBC) के छात्रों को उच्च गुणवत्ता वाली कोचिंग प्रदान करने के लिए एक अद्यतन योजना शुरू की है। मुफ्त कोचिंग योजना मूल रूप से किस पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान शुरू की गई थी?

- (a) First Five-Year Plan
- (b) Fourth Five-Year Plan
- (c) Sixth Five-Year Plan
- (d) Eighth Five-Year Plan
- (e) Tenth Five-Year Plan

Ans. c

Sol. Govt removes caste, income restrictions for free coaching under PM-CARES

The government has introduced an updated scheme to provide high-quality coaching to children covered under the PM CARES scheme along with students from Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

Originally launched during the Sixth Five-Year Plan, the free coaching scheme has undergone multiple revisions over the years to enhance its effectiveness.

The latest update extends its benefits to PM CARES beneficiaries, removing caste and income-related restrictions for these students.

Under the scheme, students will receive coaching for a wide range of competitive examinations, according to the guidelines of the updated scheme. These include Civil Services examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and State Public Service Commissions, as well as officer-grade recruitment tests for banks, insurance companies, and public sector undertakings (PSUs).

Additionally, the scheme covers entrance exams for premier institutions in fields such as engineering (IIT-JEE), medicine (NEET), management (CAT), and law (CLAT). Students aspiring for international studies will also receive coaching

for standardized tests like GRE, GMAT, IELTS, TOEFL, and SAT. Furthermore, coaching will be provided for defence-related examinations such as those for the National Defence Academy (NDA) and Combined Defence Services (CDS). Among these, 70 per cent of the seats will be allocated to SC students, while 30 per cent will be reserved for OBC students. Additionally, 30 per cent of the total seats in each category will be reserved for female candidates. If there are not enough female applicants in any category, the remaining seats will be filled by male candidates from the same category.

In the case of PM CARES beneficiaries, there will be no limit on the number of students admitted under the scheme. In the case of PM CARES beneficiaries, there will be no limit on the number of students admitted under the scheme. To be eligible for the scheme, SC and OBC students must come from families with an annual income of Rs 8 lakh or less. Applicants must also have scored at least 50 per cent in their previous board examinations to qualify.

The selection process will be conducted online, with Central Universities empanelled under the scheme reviewing applications and preparing a merit-based shortlist. However, students covered under the PM CARES scheme will not be subject to the selection process and will be granted direct admission. The government will fully cover the coaching fees for students, which will range from Rs 20,000 to Rs 75,000, depending on the course. Additionally, students will receive a monthly stipend of Rs 4,000 for up to 12 months to assist with their expenses.

To further support candidates who pass the mains stage of Civil Services and State Services exams, an additional Rs 15,000 will be provided to help them prepare for interviews.

The implementation of the scheme will be overseen by the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF) in collaboration with Central Universities. Coaching centres under this initiative will operate under the Dr. Ambedkar Centre of Excellence (DACE).

283. Where has Google opened its newest and one of its biggest campuses, Ananta?

गूगल ने अपना सबसे नया और सबसे बड़ा कैम्पस, अनंता कहाँ खोला है?

- (a) Hyderabad
- (b) Gurugram
- (c) Mumbai

(d) Bengaluru

(e) Chennai

Ans. d

Sol. Google opens new office Ananta in Bengaluru

Google has officially opened Ananta, its newest and one of its biggest campuses globally, in Bengaluru.

Situated in Mahadevapura, the campus marks another step in the company's long-standing presence in India.

Ananta is designed to support teams working across various Google services, and with the launch of this large office space, Google now has over 10,000 employees across multiple locations in India, including Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Gurugram, Mumbai, and Pune.

The Ananta campus, meaning limitless in Sanskrit, spans 1.6 million square feet and can accommodate over 5,000 employees. Various Google teams working on Android, Search, Pay, Cloud, Maps, Play, and DeepMind, among others, will operate from this new space

284. Which Indian defence shipbuilding company has showcased its ships at NAVDEX 2025?

किस भारतीय रक्षा जहाज निर्माण कंपनी ने NAVDEX 2025 में अपने जहाजों का प्रदर्शन किया है?

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- (c) Pune
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- (c) Myntra
- (d) Meesho
- (e) Flipkart

Ans. d

Sol. Meesho launches 'creator marketplace' to ramp up influencer-driven traffic Meesho has introduced a 'creator marketplace platform' to strengthen its influencer-driven content commerce strategy after seeing success with over 14 million influencer-driven purchases in the past year.

The company is collaborating with content creators who reflect diverse lifestyles, aiming to provide a personalized shopping experience tailored for the Indian market.

Meesho's influencer-driven approach has led to nearly 10 times growth in categories such as women's Western wear, jewellery, footwear, home décor, kidswear, and beauty products.

Meesho is committed to supporting both large and micro creators across metro and tier-2+ cities by providing tools and resources to thrive in the evolving digital commerce landscape.

291. Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of NCT Delhi. How many seats did the BJP win in the 2025 Delhi Legislative Assembly election?

परवेश साहिब सिंह वर्मा ने एनसीटी दिल्ली के उपमुख्यमंत्री के रूप में शपथ ली। 2025 के दिल्ली विधानसभा चुनाव में भाजपा ने कितनी सीटें जीतीं?

- (a) 40
- (b) 45
- (c) 48
- (d) 52
- (e) 55

Ans. c

Sol. Rekha Gupta sworn in as 9th Chief Minister of Delhi

Mrs Rekha Gupta of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was sworn in as the 4th woman and 9th Chief Minister of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi. While, Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma, who defeated former CM Arvind Kejriwal in the recently held 8th Delhi Legislative Assembly Election 2025, was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of NCT Delhi.

The first-time MLA from Shalimar Bagh constituency, Rekha Gupta and her six cabinet ministers were administered the oath of office and secrecy by the Lieutenant Governor of NCT Delhi, Vinai Kumar Saxena, at a function held at the Ramlila Maidan in Delhi.

Delhi LG V K Saxena administered the oath of office and secrecy to Ms. Gupta and six Cabinet Ministers. They are Parvesh Sahib Singh, Ashish Sood, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Ravinder Indraj Singh, Kapil Mishra, and Pankaj Kumar Singh, who also took the oath.

The BJP won 48 seats in the 70-member Delhi Legislative Assembly election held on 5th February 2025. The ruling Aam Aadmi Party won only 22 seats, and its founder and former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal lost his seat to Parvesh Verma of the BJP.

292. In February 2025, until when has India's Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran's term been extended?

फरवरी 2025 में भारत के मुख्य आर्थिक सलाहकार वी अनंथा नागेश्वरन का कार्यकाल कब तक बढ़ा दिया गया है?

- (a) August 2025
- (b) March 2026
- (c) March 2027
- (d) March 2028
- (e) March 2030

Ans. c

Sol. Govt extends Chief Economic Adviser Nageswaran's term until March 2027
India's Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran's term has been extended by two years until March 2027.

Nageswaran was appointed to the position in 2022 and has also served as a part-time member of the economic advisory council to the prime minister from 2019 to 2021.

Nageswaran authored India's annual economic survey in January that projected GDP growth at 6.3 per cent-6.8 per cent in the next fiscal year that starts on April 1.

293. According to Moody's Analytics, what is India's projected GDP growth rate for 2025?

मूडीज एनालिटिक्स के अनुसार, 2025 के लिए भारत की अनुमानित जीडीपी वृद्धि दर क्या है?

- (a) 5.8%
- (b) 6.0%
- (c) 6.2%
- (d) 6.4%
- (e) 6.6%

Ans. d

Sol. India's GDP growth rate to slow to 6.4% in 2025: Moody's Analytics India's growth is anticipated to decelerate to 6.4% in 2025 from 6.6% in 2024, due to new US tariffs and weaker global demand affecting exports, according to Moody's Analytics.

The report highlights a broader slowdown in the Asia-Pacific region, with China's GDP growth also decreasing.

In its report titled 'Asia-Pacific Outlook: Chaos Ahead', Moody's Analytics said growth across the Asia-Pacific economy will slow in 2025 as trade tensions, policy shifts, and uneven recoveries knock the region's fortunes.

As per its APAC forecast, India's GDP is expected to grow 6.4 percent both in 2025 and 2026 fiscal years.

Updated GDP List

- RBI – 6.6% (FY25), 6.7% (FY26)
- Deloitte – 6.5-6.8 (FY25)
- FICCI – 6.4% (FY25)
- UN – 6.6% (CY25); 6.7% (CY26)
- SBI – 6.3% (FY25)
- NSO – 6.4% (FY25)

294. The government has introduced an updated scheme to provide high-quality coaching to children covered under the PM CARES scheme along with

students from Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

During which Five-Year Plan was the free coaching scheme originally launched?

सरकार ने PM CARES योजना के अंतर्गत आने वाले बच्चों के साथ-साथ अनुसूचित जाति (SC) और अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग (OBC) के छात्रों को उच्च गुणवत्ता वाली कोचिंग प्रदान करने के लिए एक अद्यतन योजना शुरू की है। मुफ्त कोचिंग योजना मूल रूप से किस पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान शुरू की गई थी?

- (a) First Five-Year Plan
- (b) Fourth Five-Year Plan
- (c) Sixth Five-Year Plan
- (d) Eighth Five-Year Plan
- (e) Tenth Five-Year Plan

Ans. c

Sol. Govt removes caste, income restrictions for free coaching under PM-CARES
The government has introduced an updated scheme to provide high-quality coaching to children covered under the PM CARES scheme along with students from Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

Originally launched during the Sixth Five-Year Plan, the free coaching scheme has undergone multiple revisions over the years to enhance its effectiveness. The latest update extends its benefits to PM CARES beneficiaries, removing caste and income-related restrictions for these students.

Under the scheme, students will receive coaching for a wide range of competitive examinations, according to the guidelines of the updated scheme. These include Civil Services examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and State Public Service Commissions, as well as officer-grade recruitment tests for banks, insurance companies, and public sector undertakings (PSUs).

Additionally, the scheme covers entrance exams for premier institutions in fields such as engineering (IIT-JEE), medicine (NEET), management (CAT), and law (CLAT). Students aspiring for international studies will also receive coaching for standardized tests like GRE, GMAT, IELTS, TOEFL, and SAT. Furthermore, coaching will be provided for defence-related examinations such as those for the National Defence Academy (NDA) and Combined Defence Services (CDS). Among these, 70 per cent of the seats will be allocated to SC students, while 30 per cent will be reserved for OBC students. Additionally, 30 per cent of the total seats in each category will be reserved for female candidates. If there are not enough female applicants in any category, the remaining seats will be filled by male candidates from the same category.

In the case of PM CARES beneficiaries, there will be no limit on the number of students admitted under the scheme. In the case of PM CARES beneficiaries, there will be no limit on the number of students admitted under the scheme. To be eligible for the scheme, SC and OBC students must come from families with an annual income of Rs 8 lakh or less. Applicants must also have scored at least 50 per cent in their previous board examinations to qualify.

The selection process will be conducted online, with Central Universities empanelled under the scheme reviewing applications and preparing a merit-based shortlist. However, students covered under the PM CARES scheme will not be subject to the selection process and will be granted direct admission. The government will fully cover the coaching fees for students, which will range from Rs 20,000 to Rs 75,000, depending on the course. Additionally, students will receive a monthly stipend of Rs 4,000 for up to 12 months to assist with their expenses.

To further support candidates who pass the mains stage of Civil Services and State Services exams, an additional Rs 15,000 will be provided to help them prepare for interviews.

The implementation of the scheme will be overseen by the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF) in collaboration with Central Universities. Coaching centres under this initiative will operate under the Dr. Ambedkar Centre of Excellence (DACE).

295. In view of the escalating burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the country, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has launched an Intensified Special NCD Screening Campaign. What is the primary objective of the Intensified Special NCD Screening Campaign launched by the Union Health Ministry?

देश में गैर-संचारी रोगों (एनसीडी) के बढ़ते बोझ को देखते हुए, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय ने एक गहन विशेष एनसीडी स्क्रीनिंग अभियान शुरू किया है। केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय द्वारा शुरू किए गए गहन विशेष एनसीडी स्क्रीनिंग अभियान का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य क्या है?

- (a) To provide free medicines for NCDs
- (b) To ensure 100% screening of individuals aged 30 and above
- (c) To set up new hospitals for NCD treatment
- (d) To conduct research on new NCD treatments
- (e) To vaccinate individuals against NCDs

Ans. b

Sol. Union Health Ministry launches Intensified Special NCD Screening Drive to ensure 100% coverage of all individuals

In view of the escalating burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the country, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has launched an Intensified Special NCD Screening Campaign.

Running from 20th February to 31st March 2025, this ambitious initiative aims to achieve 100% screening of all individuals aged 30 years and above for prevalent NCDs, including Diabetes Hypertension, and three common cancers— Oral, Breast, and Cervical.

The campaign will be executed across Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) and various healthcare facilities nationwide, under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD).

The Intensified Screening Campaign aims to achieve the following-
100% Screening Coverage- The campaign aims to ensure early detection and timely intervention for NCDs.

Improved Linkage to Care- By establishing structured treatment and follow-up protocols, the campaign seeks to reduce complications associated with NCDs.

Better Health Outcomes- The initiative is expected to lower healthcare costs and enhance the overall quality of life for individuals across the nation.

295. Who has been appointed as Principal Secretary II to Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के प्रधान सचिव द्वितीय के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Urjit Patel
- (b) Raghuram Rajan
- (c) Shaktikanta Das
- (d) Parul Tyai
- (e) Nandan Nilekani

Ans. b

Sol. Shaktikanta Das Appointed Principal Secretary II to Prime Minister Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Shaktikanta Das has been appointed Principal Secretary II to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr. Das served as the Governor of the RBI from 2018-2023, a crucial period for the Indian economy along with the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

His appointment is being seen as the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) bolstering its financial management expertise in the uncertain geo-economic situation prevailing currently.

A Tamil Nadu cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1980 batch, Mr. Das will work alongside current Principal Secretary I, P.K. Mishra, who will continue in his post.

Changes in the PMO at this level have been rare under Modi, with former Principal Secretary I, Nripendra Misra, retiring from that post only after he had served a whole term from 2014-2019.

Mr. P.K. Mishra has been serving as Additional Principal Secretary between 2014-19, and after Mr. Nripendra Misra's superannuation, as Principal Secretary I.

Other Important Secretaries

- Revenue Secretary - Tuhin Kanta Pandey
- Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary - Arunish Chawla
- Finance Secretary - Tuhin Kanta Pandey
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs Secretary - Deepti Gaur Mukherjee
- Foreign Secretary - Vikram Misri
- Home Secretary - Govind Mohan
- Cabinet Secretary - T V Somanathan
- Secretary of DPIIT - Amardeep Singh Bhatia
- Expenditure Secretary - Manoj Govil
- Defence Secretary - Rajesh Kumar Singh
- Economic Affairs Secretary - Ajay Seth
- MoSPI Secretary - Dr. G. P. Samanta

297. Who won the Memory League World Championship by recalling 80 digits in 13.50 seconds?

13.50 सेकंड में 80 अंक याद करके मेमोरी लीग विश्व चैंपियनशिप किसने जीती है?

- (a) Rohan Bopanna
- (b) Vishvaa Rajakumar
- (c) Anshika Mishra
- (d) Raghav Sharma
- (e) Ankita Raj

Ans. b

Sol. Indian student wins memory championship by recalling 80 digits in 13.50 seconds

A 20-year-old Indian student has made headlines by winning the Memory League World Championship, an intense online competition where participants compete in rapid memorisation challenges.

Vishvaa Rajakumar, a student at Manakula Vinayagar Institute of Technology in Puducherry, stunned competitors by memorising 80 random digits in just 13.50 seconds. This is an incredible speed of nearly six digits per second.

WHAT IS THIS MEMORY CHALLENGE?

- Memory League World Championship tests participants in various recall tasks, including numbers, words, and images. One of the toughest challenges involves memorising and recalling 80 random numbers displayed on a screen as quickly as possible.

298. Who has received the insignia of the Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE)?

नाइट कमांडर ऑफ द मोस्ट एक्सेलेंट ऑर्डर ऑफ द ब्रिटिश एम्पायर (KBE) का प्रतीक चिन्ह किसे प्राप्त हुआ है?

- (a) Mukesh Ambani
- (b) Ratan Tata
- (c) Sunil Bharti Mittal
- (d) Gautam Adani
- (e) Nandan Nilekani

Ans. c

Sol. Sunil Bharti Mittal receives Honorary Knighthood by British High Commission

Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, has received the insignia of the Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE).

This honor follows the announcement in 2024 that His Majesty The King had graciously conferred the Honorary Knighthood upon Mittal for his significant contributions to UK-India business relations, as stated by the British High Commission in New Delhi.

The KBE is one of the highest honors awarded to foreign nationals in recognition of exceptional contributions to various fields, and Mittal's leadership has undoubtedly had a profound impact on India-UK relations.

Recent Award

- Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division) - Natarajan Chandrasekaran (Chairman of Tata Group)
- Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025 in the Water Resilience category - NTPC Ltd
- NETPAC Award 2025 - Bad Girl (Tamil film)
- Honorary doctorate by University of Sussex - Noel Tata
- Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 - Late Chaman Arora (for Ik Hor Ashwthama in Dogri).
- BCCI's Lifetime Achievement Award 2024 - Sachin Tendulkar (31st)

299. In February 2025, which financial institution was fined Rs 39 lakh by RBI for breaches in 'Large Exposures' limits and delayed reporting?

फरवरी 2025 में, किस वित्तीय संस्थान पर RBI ने 'बड़े जोखिम' की सीमा का उल्लंघन करने और देरी से रिपोर्टिंग करने के लिए 39 लाख रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया था?

- (a) ICICI Bank
- (b) HDFC Bank
- (c) Citibank
- (d) Axis Bank
- (e) Standard Chartered Bank

Ans. c

Sol. RBI imposes penalty on Citibank, Asirvad Micro Finance, JM Fin Home Loans

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties on Citibank, Asirvad Micro Finance, and JM Financial Home Loans for violating regulatory norms.

The central bank fined Citibank Rs 39 lakh for reporting breaches in 'Large Exposures' limits with delay and not uploading rectified data in certain segments within seven days of receiving rejection reports from Credit Information Companies (CICs).

Meanwhile, Asirvad Micro Finance failed to report the household income of certain borrowers to CICs. It also failed to provide factsheets to certain gold loan customers and did not establish a system of auto-escalation for all complaints that were partly or wholly rejected by its internal grievance redress mechanism to the internal ombudsman for a final decision. These deficiencies led to the RBI imposing a penalty of Rs 6.20 lakh on the company.

The action was based on supervisory findings following a statutory inspection of the companies for their financial position as of March 31, 2023.

In the case of JM Financial Home Loans, RBI levied a Rs 1.50 lakh penalty based on an assessment by the National Housing Bank of its financial position for March 31, 2022, and March 31, 2023.

Recent Penalties imposed on Banks by RBI

- Nainital Bank Ltd (₹61.40 lakh) - for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Interest Rate on Advances' and 'Customer Service in Banks.'
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (₹6.70 lakh) - for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Loans and Advances - Statutory and Other Restrictions.'

- Shriram Finance (₹5.80 lakh) - for non-compliance with certain provisions, including Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines and directions on 'Data Format for Furnishing of Credit Information to Credit Information Companies.'
- Equitas Small Finance Bank (Rs 65 lakh) - for deficiencies in regulatory compliances
- India Post Payments Bank (26.70 lakh) - for deficiencies in regulatory compliances.

300. Who has been named in Time Magazine's Women of the Year 2025 list for her conservation efforts?

टाइम मैगजीन की 2025 की महिला संरक्षण सूची में किसे उनके प्रयासों के लिए नामित किया गया है?

- (a) Vandana Shiva
- (b) Medha Patkar
- (c) Arundhati Roy
- (d) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw
- (e) Purnima Devi Barman

Ans. e

Sol. Conservationist Purnima Devi Barman Named in TIME's Women of the Year List

Purnima Devi Barman, a renowned biologist and wildlife conservationist, has been named among Time Magazine's Women of the Year 2025. Barman was featured as a conservationist for saving one of the world's most endangered storks.

The 45-year-old conservationist is the only Indian woman to feature on this year's list that honours 'extraordinary leaders' working toward a better, more equal world, alongside 12 other global honorees.

Hailing from Assam's Kamrup region, Barman attended Gauhati University, where she earned her master's degree in Zoology with a concentration in Ecology and Wildlife Biology.

She has also served as a senior wildlife biologist at Aaranyak, where she oversaw the greater adjutant conservation project. Barman is also the Director of Women in Nature Network (WiNN) India and a member of the IUCN Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group.

In 2017, she received the highest civilian award for Indian women, 'Nari Shakti Puraskar', from former President Ram Nath Kovind. She also received the

Whitley Award, often known as the Green Oscar, in the same year from Anne, Princess Royal of the United Kingdom.

301. Narendra Modi will be the guest of honour at Mauritius' National Day celebrations on 12 March. In which year did Mauritius gain independence from British rule?

12 मार्च को मॉरीशस के राष्ट्रीय दिवस समारोह में नरेंद्र मोदी मुख्य अतिथि होंगे। मॉरीशस को ब्रिटिश शासन से किस वर्ष स्वतंत्रता मिली थी?

- (a) 1950
- (b) 1962
- (c) 1968
- (d) 1975
- (e) 1980

Ans. c

Sol. PM Modi to be guest of honour at Mauritius National Day celebrations
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the guest of honour at Mauritius' National Day celebrations, his Mauritian counterpart Navin Ramgoolam has announced, calling it a testimony of the close bilateral ties.

Mauritius commemorates its National Day on March 12th every year. The day marks the anniversary of Mauritius's independence from British rule in 1968. Addressing the National Assembly, Mauritian Prime Minister Ramgoolam said it is indeed a singular privilege for our country to host such a distinguished personality despite his very tight schedule.

President Droupadi Murmu attended Mauritius' National Day celebrations last year 2024 as the chief guest

302. What is the name of the new Unified Investor App (UIP) launched by NSDL and CDSL in collaboration with Sebi?

सेबी के सहयोग से एनएसडीएल और सीडीएसएल द्वारा लॉन्च किए गए नए यूनिफाइड इन्वेस्टर ऐप (यूआईपी) का नाम क्या है?

- (a) MyEasi-SPEED
- (b) Unified Securities App
- (c) SPEED-MyEasi
- (d) Unified Investor App
- (e) Investor Secure Portal

Ans. d

Sol. NSDL, CDSL launch Unified Investor App

National Securities Depository (NSDL) and Central Depository Services (CDSL), in collaboration with capital market regulator Sebi, have launched the Unified Investor App (UIP), integrating MyEasi by CDSL and SPEED-e by NSDL.

This platform provides investors with a consolidated view of their financial statements, shareholdings, and investments, and financial statements.

A key benefit of this initiative is the ability to access a consolidated view of demat securities across both NSDL and CDSL accounts. Investors no longer need to juggle between different platforms to monitor their holdings. This not only simplifies portfolio management but also ensures greater transparency by providing a unified dashboard for all securities.

The platform also tackles major challenges by eliminating fraudulent intermediaries through direct data sourcing from exchanges, depositories, and clearing corporations.

This ensures that investors receive information from the most reliable sources, significantly reducing the risk of fraud and unauthorised intervention-- longstanding concerns in the investment landscape.

303. What percentage of stake will MobiKwik acquire in Blostem for ₹1.49 crore?

मोबिक्विक ₹1.49 करोड़ में ब्लॉस्टेम में कितने प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी हासिल करेगी?

- (a) 2.5%
- (b) 3.39%
- (c) 4.5%
- (d) 5.0%
- (e) 6.79%

Ans. b

Sol. MobiKwik to acquire 3.39% in B2B infra platform Blostem for Rs 1.49 crore
Fintech firm MobiKwik will acquire a 3.39 per cent stake in business-to-business (B2B) banking infrastructure platform Blostem for ₹1.49 crore.

The aggregate shareholding of the Gurugram-based listed firm in the platform is expected to grow to 6.79 per cent after the deal.

MobiKwik had entered into a share subscription and shareholders' agreement with Blostem in March. It agreed to invest ₹3 crore in two tranches as part of its investment to acquire equity in the B2B platform.

The first tranche of ₹1.5 crore was paid in March for 3.4 per cent of the fully diluted paid-up capital of Blostem.

Founded in 2021, Blostem specialises in fixed deposit (FD) aggregation as its core offering. The company has built partnerships with multiple banks and non-

banking financial companies (NBFCs). For the year-ended March 2024, the company posted a revenue of Rs. 30.76 lakh.

304. Against which team did Md Shami complete his 200 ODI wickets in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025?

मोहम्मद शमी ने आईसीसी चैंपियंस ट्रॉफी 2025 में किस टीम के खिलाफ अपने 200 वनडे विकेट पूरे किए?

- (a) Pakistan
- (b) Australia
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) England
- (e) South Africa

Ans. c

Sol. Shami joins elite list of bowlers with 200 ODI wickets

India's ace pacer, Md Shami, added a historic milestone to his name as he took three wickets in India's first match against Bangladesh in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 in Dubai on, completing 200 wickets in ODI cricket.

Shami is the eighth Indian player to reach this milestone. Ravindra Jadeja, with 224 wickets under his belt, is the only active Indian cricketer ahead of him on the list.

While Shami has completed his 200 ODI wickets at a good pace, he is still 43rd on the list of players with the most ODI wickets overall.

Sri Lankan legend M Muralidaran leads the list with 534 wickets, while Anil Kumble, with 334 wickets, is the highest-ranked Indian player.

305. In February 2025, which company has Tata Power partnered with for a data-driven transformation?

फरवरी 2025 में, टाटा पावर ने डेटा-संचालित परिवर्तन के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Microsoft Azure
- (b) Google Cloud
- (c) Amazon Web Services
- (d) IBM Cloud
- (e) Oracle Cloud

Ans. c

Sol. Tata Power partners with Amazon Web Services for smart energy transition.

Tata Power has entered into a partnership with Amazon Web Services to initiate a data-driven transformation to speed up India's energy transition.

Tata Power has already established a sturdy digital foundation as it has migrated 23 mission-critical applications to AWS using Amazon Elastic Kubernetes Service (EKS).

This transition improves security, scalability, and real-time operational efficiency across major areas such as power generation, grid management, renewables, sales, and finance.

Additionally, the company has transitioned towards server-less architecture with AWS Step Functions, optimizing energy transactions and grid operations to cater to fluctuating demand patterns.

306. Microsoft has introduced its first quantum chip - powered by new state of matter. What is the name of this quantum chip?

माइक्रोसॉफ्ट ने अपनी पहली क्वांटम चिप पेश की है - जो पदार्थ की नई अवस्था द्वारा संचालित है। इस क्वांटम चिप का नाम क्या है?

- (a) QuantumX
- (b) Azure Qubit
- (c) HyperQ
- (d) NanoCore
- (e) Majorana 1

Ans. e

Sol. Microsoft unveils quantum chip 'Majorana 1' - powered by new state of matter

Microsoft has introduced its first quantum chip. The chip, called Majorana 1, is powered by a new Topological Core architecture.

Microsoft developed topological superconducting nanowires using indium arsenide (semiconductor) and aluminum (superconductor), forming MZMs, which are essential building blocks for quantum bits (qubits).

Microsoft aims to scale up to one million qubits on a single chip while claiming that its design is less prone to errors than competing quantum chips.

Majorana 1 represents Microsoft's second quantum milestone, with the company envisioning a future where quantum computing enables breakthroughs in self-healing materials, sustainable agriculture, and chemical discovery.

307. Which country has recently joined the OPEC+ Forum as an observer, signalling a calculated move to balance its role as a major oil producer with its energy transition ambitions?

हाल ही में कौन सा देश ओपेक+ फोरम में पर्यवेक्षक के रूप में शामिल हुआ है, जो अपनी ऊर्जा परिवर्तन महत्वाकांक्षाओं के साथ एक प्रमुख तेल उत्पादक के रूप में अपनी भूमिका को संतुलित करने के लिए एक सुनियोजित कदम का संकेत देता है?

- (a) Algeria
- (b) Congo
- (c) Equatorial Guinea
- (d) Brazil
- (e) Gabon

Ans. d

Sol. Brazil Joins OPEC+ Forum to Balance Oil Production and Energy Transition Goals

Brazil has joined the OPEC+ Forum as an observer, signaling a calculated move to balance its role as a major oil producer with its energy transition ambitions. The decision by the National Council for Energy Policy, allows Brazil to participate in discussions without committing to policies like production cuts or price controls.

As the world's seventh-largest oil producer, Brazil pumps 4.3 million barrels of crude daily, contributing 4% of global output. In 2024, crude oil became the country's top export, accounting for 13.3% of total sales and surpassing soybeans.

OPEC+, which includes 23 countries producing nearly 40% of the world's crude oil, coordinates production policies to stabilize markets.

OPEC members comprise Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

OPEC+ members include Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan. OPEC and OPEC+ members accounted for 53% of global crude oil production in 2023, compared to 60% in 2016. Brazil's crude oil output represented 4% of global oil production in 2023.

308. Recently, what new communication link have India and Bangladesh agreed to establish between their border forces?

हाल ही में भारत और बांग्लादेश ने अपने सीमा बलों के बीच कौन सा नया संचार संपर्क स्थापित करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की है?

- (a) Encrypted email system
- (b) Hotline between deputy commanders
- (c) Satellite-based monitoring system
- (d) Direct radio frequency communication
- (e) Joint mobile application for coordination

Ans. b

Sol. India, Bangladesh agree to launch new 'hotline' between border forces India and Bangladesh have decided to establish a new communication link between the deputy commanders of their respective border-guarding forces and identified about 99 fresh patches for erecting a fence along their shared border.

The decisions were finalised during the biannual director general-level talks between the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) that concluded here.

This was the first time that a high-level meeting between the two forces took place after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh on August 5 last year.

About Bangladesh

- Capital- Dhaka
- Currency – Taka
- President – Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu
- Head of Interim Government - Muhammad Yunus

309. Who has been appointed as the new MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Prime?

कोटक महिंद्रा प्राइम के नए एमडी और सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Uday Kotak
- (b) Shahrukh Todiwala
- (c) Vyomesh Kapasi
- (d) Deepak Parekh
- (e) Aditya Puri

Ans. b

Sol. Kotak Mahindra Prime appoints Shahrukh Todiwala as new MD & CEO Kotak Mahindra Prime, a subsidiary of Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB), has appointed Shahrukh Todiwala as the new MD, CEO of the company.

Todiwala succeeds Vyomesh Kapasi, who will now take over as the head of product-consumer bank vertical at KMB.

Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector

- MD & CEO of SBI Cards - Salila Pande (replace Abhijit Chakravorty); *effect from 1 April 2025*
- CEO of Standard Chartered India - Prabdev (PD) Singh (replace Zarin Daruwala); *effect from 1 April 2025*
- CEO of Navi Technologies - Rajiv Naresh
- CEO of Navi Finserv - Abhishek Dwivedi

- Head of Citibank India - K Balasubramanian (replace Ashu Khulla)

310. Recently, The Centre has extended the tenure of NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer (CEO) B V R Subrahmanyam by how many years?

हाल ही में, केंद्र ने नीति आयोग के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (सीईओ) बी वी आर सुब्रह्मण्यम का कार्यकाल कितने साल के लिए बढ़ा दिया है?

- (a) One year
- (b) Two years
- (c) Three years
- (d) One and Half Years
- (e) Four years

Ans. a

Sol. NITI Aayog CEO Subrahmanyam's tenure extended by one year

The Centre has extended the tenure of NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer (CEO) B V R Subrahmanyam by one year.

Subrahmanyam, a 1987-batch retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Chhattisgarh cadre, was in February 2023 appointed to the post for a period of two years.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in Subrahmanyam's tenure as NITI Aayog CEO for a period of one year beyond February 24, 2025.

NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)

- Founded - 1st January 2015
- Preceding - Planning Commission (15th March 1950)
- Headquarters - New Delhi
- Chairperson - Narendra Modi
- Vice Chairperson - Suman K Bery
- CEO - BVR Subrahmanyam
- NITI Aayog comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

311. In February 2025, what is the total penalty imposed by SEBI on three foreign portfolio investors, Nexpect Ltd, AIRD Investment Commercial LLC, and Aviator Global Investment Fund?

फरवरी 2025 में, सेबी ने तीन विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेशकों, नेक्सपैक्ट लिमिटेड, एआईआरडी इन्वेस्टमेंट कमर्शियल एलएलसी और एविएटर ग्लोबल इन्वेस्टमेंट फंड पर कुल कितना जुर्माना लगाया है?

- (a) Rs 30 lakh

- (b) Rs 40 lakh
- (c) Rs 50 lakh
- (d) Rs 60 lakh
- (e) Rs 70 lakh

Ans. c

Sol. Sebi slaps Rs 10 lakh penalty on Axis Securities for violating stock rules
Capital markets regulator SEBI has slapped penalties totalling Rs 50 lakh on three foreign portfolio investors for exceeding the prescribed limits on short-term investments in debt securities.

In three separate orders, the regulator slapped a fine of Rs 20 lakh each on Nexpect Ltd and AIRD Investment Commercial LLC, while it imposed a penalty of Rs 10 lakh on Aviator Global Investment Fund.

The orders came after Sebi had carried out inspections of the custodian, Orbis Financial Corporation, for FY22.

The regulator observed that investments made by Aviator Global Investment Fund, Nexpect Ltd and AIRD Investment Commercial LLC were not in line with the permissible limits (related to residual maturity) for investment in debt securities applicable for FPIs as on March 31, 2022.

312. Mayadhar Raut, who recently passed away, was a renowned dancer of which classical dance form?

मायाधर राउत, जिनका हाल ही में निधन हो गया, किस शास्त्रीय नृत्य शैली के प्रसिद्ध नर्तक थे?

- (a) Kathak
- (b) Bharatanatyam
- (c) Odissi
- (d) Kuchipudi
- (e) Mohiniyattam

Ans. c

Sol. Odissi dancer Mayadhar Raut dies at 92

Renowned Odissi dancer Mayadhar Raut passed away at 92.

Guruji was born in the village of Kantapanhara in Cuttack district on July 6, 1930.

Mayadhar Raut was honoured with many awards, such as the Padma Shri (2010), Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1985), Sahitya Kala Parishad Award (1984) and the Odissi Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1977).

313. The Income Tax Department has introduced an online self-help tool to assist taxpayers in understanding the changes proposed in the Income Tax Bill 2025. What is the main objective of introducing the new Income Tax Bill 2025?

आयकर विभाग ने आयकर विधेयक 2025 में प्रस्तावित परिवर्तनों को समझने में करदाताओं की सहायता के लिए एक ऑनलाइन स्व-सहायता उपकरण पेश किया है। नए आयकर विधेयक 2025 को पेश करने का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?

- (a) To increase tax rates
- (b) To simplify the complex Income Tax Act of 1961
- (c) To introduce new penalties for tax defaulters
- (d) To promote digital transactions
- (e) To exempt senior citizens from taxes

Ans. b

Sol. CBDT introduces self-help tool to provide instant answers to I-T bill 2025
The Income Tax Department has introduced an online self-help tool to assist taxpayers in understanding the changes proposed in the Income Tax Bill 2025. This tool, available on the official income tax department's website, allows taxpayers to compare the provisions of the new bill with those of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

The comparison tool enables taxpayers to choose a specific section from the current Income Tax Act using a dropdown menu. Upon selection, the corresponding clause from the new Income Tax Bill will be displayed on the right-hand side. To enhance clarity, the mapping can also be presented in a table format.

The New Income Tax Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on February 13, 2025, with the objective of simplifying the complex Income Tax Act of 1961. Over the years, the Act has undergone numerous modifications, with annual updates through the Union Budget.

314. Which organization has signed an MoU with the Government of Madhya Pradesh for a solar project?

किस संगठन ने सौर परियोजना के लिए मध्य प्रदेश सरकार के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) NTPC Limited
- (b) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)
- (c) Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI)
- (d) Power Grid Corporation of India
- (e) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)

Ans. c

Sol. SECI signs MoU with Government of MP for 200 MW Solar Project at Dhar

Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI), a Navratna CPSU under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, has signed an MoU with the Government of Madhya Pradesh for setting up 200 MW Solar Project in Dhar under the CPSU Scheme and a 1000 MWh Battery Storage Project in the state. The 200 MW Solar Project is part of a 500 MW Agreement which was executed in 2023 with MP Power Management Company Limited (MPPMCL) for a period of 25 years under which SECI will supply the electricity to the state.

315. Where will the 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum be held in India from 3 - 5 March?

12वां क्षेत्रीय 3आर और सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी फोरम 3 से 5 मार्च तक भारत में कहाँ आयोजित किया जाएगा?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Jaipur
- (d) Bengaluru
- (e) Hyderabad

Ans. c

Sol. India poised to host the 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific in Jaipur

India will host the 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific. The Forum will take place at the Rajasthan International Centre in Jaipur on 3-5 March 2025.

The event will centre on the theme of "Realizing Circular Societies Towards Achieving SDGs and Carbon Neutrality in Asia-Pacific".

The Forum will host an international '3R trade and technology exhibition', providing a platform for over 40 Indian and Japanese businesses and start-ups to showcase best practices, ideas and solutions that support circularity and 3R principles while encouraging cross-learning.

Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal informed that 'Waste-to-wealth initiatives by NGOs and Self-help Groups across India will also be showcased at the Forum promoting sustainability-driven entrepreneurship and community engagement.

316. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), in collaboration with MyGov, is launching a data-visualization hackathon titled "Innovate with GoStats" aimed at encouraging students and researchers to utilize official statistics for innovative insights from 25th February 2025 to 31st March 2025. What is the theme of the "Innovate with GoStats" hackathon?

सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय (MoSPI), MyGov के सहयोग से, 25 फरवरी 2025 से 31 मार्च 2025 तक "इनोवेट विद गोआईस्टेट्स" नामक एक डेटा-विजुअलाइज़ेशन हैकथॉन शुरू कर रहा है, जिसका उद्देश्य छात्रों और शोधकर्ताओं को नवीन अंतर्दृष्टि के लिए आधिकारिक सांख्यिकी का उपयोग करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना है। "इनोवेट विद गोआईस्टेट्स" हैकथॉन का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Digital Transformation in India
- (b) Smart Cities and AI
- (c) Data-Driven Insights for Viksit Bharat
- (d) Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- (e) Future of Indian Economy

Ans. c

Sol. MoSPI Announces 'Innovate with GoStats' Hackathon: Empowering the Youth to come out with 'Data-Driven Insights

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), in collaboration with MyGov, is launching a data-visualization hackathon titled "Innovate with GoStats" with the theme "Data-Driven Insights for Viksit Bharat", aimed at encouraging students and researchers to utilize official statistics for innovative insights.

The hackathon will be hosted on MyGov from 25th February 2025 to 31st March 2025.

Participants will analyze and visualize data from official reports such as PLFS, HCES, ASI, CPI, and GDP to generate insights that support evidence-based policymaking for India's development.

Undergraduate, postgraduate, and research students can participate, with the top 30 entries winning cash prizes, including a ₹2 Lakh first prize, ₹1 Lakh second prizes, ₹50,000 third prizes, and ₹20,000 consolation prizes.

317. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with which company for the procurement of 149 Software Defined Radios for the Indian Coast Guard at a total cost of Rs 1220.12 crore under Buy (Indian-IDDM) category?

रक्षा मंत्रालय (MoD) ने भारतीय तटरक्षक बल के लिए 149 सॉफ्टवेयर परिभाषित रेडियो की खरीद के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ 1220.12 करोड़ रुपये की कुल लागत पर खरीदें (भारतीय-IDDM) श्रेणी के तहत एक अनुबंध पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- (b) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- (c) Big Bang Boom Solutions Private Limited
- (d) Tata Advanced Systems
- (e) Bharat Electronics Limited

Ans. e

Sol. Ministry of Defence inks contract worth Rs 1220.12 cr with Bharat Electronics Limited

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bengaluru for the procurement of 149 Software Defined Radios for the Indian Coast Guard at a total cost of Rs 1220.12 crore under Buy (Indian-IDDM) category.

These state-of-the-art radios will enable secure and reliable information sharing, collaboration, and situational awareness through high-speed data and secure voice communication.

This will strengthen the Indian Coast Guard's capability to fulfil its core responsibilities, including maritime law enforcement, search and rescue operations, fisheries protection, and marine environment protection.

Additionally, these radios will enhance interoperability for joint operations with the Indian Navy.

318. What is the name of the witness protection scheme launched by the Haryana government in Feb 2025?

हरियाणा सरकार द्वारा फरवरी 2025 में शुरू की गई गवाह सुरक्षा योजना का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Haryana Crime Prevention Scheme 2025
- (b) Haryana Witness Security Program
- (c) Haryana Witness Protection Scheme 2025
- (d) Haryana Law Enforcement Initiative
- (e) Haryana Justice and Safety Act 2025

Ans. c

Sol. Haryana launches witness protection scheme

The Nayab Singh Saini-led BJP government rolled out the "Haryana Witness Protection Scheme, 2025" to ensure the protection of the witnesses as the state gears up to implement the three new criminal laws.

The scheme will be applicable to the witnesses of those offences which are punishable with death or life imprisonment, or imprisonment up to seven years and above.

It will also cover punishments under sections 74, 75, 76, 77, 78 and 79 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, as well as under Sections 8, 10, 12, 14 and 15 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

A government spokesperson said that under the scheme, there will be three categories of witnesses based on the threat perception.

Category A includes situations where the threat extends to the life of the witness, their family members, or any person in whom the witness is interested, during the investigation or trial, or thereafter.

Category- B involves cases where the threat extends to the safety, reputation, or property of the witness, and their family members, while category C applies where the threat is moderate and involves harassment or intimidation of the witness, their family members etc.

About Haryana

- **Capital** – Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister** – Nayab Singh Saini(11th)
- **Governor** – Bandaru Dattatreya
- **Legislative Assembly Seats**- 90

319. The Government e Marketplace (GeM) recently commemorated six years of SWAYATT initiative at its New Delhi headquarters. What does SWAYATT stand for?

सरकारी ई मार्केटप्लेस (GeM) ने हाल ही में अपने नई दिल्ली मुख्यालय में SWAYATT पहल के छह वर्ष पूरे होने का जश्न मनाया। SWAYATT का क्या मतलब है?

- (a) Startups, Women, and Youth Advancement through Technology
- (b) Startups, Women, and Young Entrepreneurs Transforming Trade
- (c) Startups, Women, and Youth Advantage through eTransactions
- (d) Smart Women and Young Adults Thriving Together
- (e) Sustainable Women and Youth Accessing Trade eTransaction

Ans. c

Sol. SWAYATT initiative on GeM celebrates 6 years of transformative impact The Government e Marketplace (GeM) commemorated six years of Startups, Women, and Youth Advantage through eTransactions (SWAYATT) initiative at its New Delhi headquarters (HQ).

Launched on 19 February 2019, SWAYATT was conceptualised with the clear objective of invigorating the participation of women-led enterprises and youth in public procurement.

Rooted in GeM's foundational pillar of social inclusion, SWAYATT is the portal's commitment to enhancing the ease of doing business and establishing direct market linkages to annual public procurement for startups, women entrepreneurs, Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and youth, especially those from backward sections of society.

320. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has conferred gallantry, distinguished service and meritorious service medals to personnel of the Indian Coast Guard at an investiture ceremony in New Delhi. How many total medals were presented to Indian Coast Guard personnel?

रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने नई दिल्ली में एक अलंकरण समारोह में भारतीय तटरक्षक के कर्मियों को वीरता, विशिष्ट सेवा और सराहनीय सेवा पदक प्रदान किए। भारतीय तटरक्षक कर्मियों को कुल कितने पदक प्रदान किए गए?

- (a) 25
- (b) 30
- (c) 32
- (d) 35
- (e) 40

Ans. c

Sol. Rajnath Singh confers 32 medals on Indian Coast Guard personnel
 Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has conferred gallantry, distinguished service and meritorious service medals to personnel of the Indian Coast Guard at an investiture ceremony in New Delhi.

A total of 32 medals were presented including six President's Tatrakshak Medals for Distinguished Service, 11 Tatrakshak Medals for Gallantry and 15 Tatrakshak Medals for Meritorious Service.

321. Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd (TRIFED), under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has entered into a strategic partnership with Rooftop to facilitate tribal businesses. What is the primary objective of the MoU signed between TRIFED and Rooftop?

जनजातीय मामलों के मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत भारतीय जनजातीय सहकारी विपणन विकास संघ लिमिटेड (ट्राइफेड) ने जनजातीय व्यवसायों को सुविधाजनक बनाने के लिए रूफटॉप के साथ रणनीतिक साझेदारी की है। ट्राइफेड और रूफटॉप के बीच हस्ताक्षरित समझौता ज्ञापन का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य क्या है?

- (a) Expansion of tribal tourism
- (b) Financial assistance to tribal businesses
- (c) Skill enhancements of tribal artisans
- (d) Promotion of tribal cuisine
- (e) Establishment of tribal schools

Ans. c

Sol. TRIFED signs MoU with Rooftop to facilitate skill enhancements of tribal artisans and facilitating their businesses

In a significant move to transcend from business-to-consumer (B2C) to business-to-business (B2B) approach for tribal marketing, Tribal Cooperative

Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd (TRIFED), under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has entered into a strategic partnership with Rooftop to facilitate tribal businesses.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Managing Director of TRIFED Ashish Chatterjee during the ongoing flagship event 'Aadi Mahotsav', held at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in the New Delhi.

Rooftop MoU was signed and exchanged between TRIFED Deputy General Manager Preeti Tolia and Rooftop Founder and CEO Kartik Gaggar. The principal objective of the MoU is to aid the skill enhancements of the tribal artisans.

322. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment & Infrastructure Summit 2025 in which city of Assam?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने असम के किस शहर में एडवांटेज असम 2.0 निवेश एवं अवसंरचना शिखर सम्मेलन 2025 का उद्घाटन किया है?

- (a) Tezpur
- (b) Dibrugarh
- (c) Golaghat
- (d) Silchar
- (e) Guwahati

Ans. e

Sol. PM Modi inaugurates Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment & Infrastructure Summit 2025

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment & Infrastructure Summit 2025 in Guwahati, Assam.

The Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit 2025 in Guwahati, is being held from 25th to 26th February. It includes an inaugural Session, seven ministerial sessions and 14 thematic sessions. It also includes a comprehensive exhibition illustrating the state's economic landscape, with a focus on its industrial evolution, global trade partnerships, booming industries, and the vibrant MSME sector, featuring over 240 exhibitors.

323. Which regulatory body imposed a Rs 5.05 crore penalty on the Indian Clearing Corporation (ICCL) in February 2025?

फरवरी 2025 में किस नियामक संस्था ने भारतीय समाशोधन निगम (ICCL) पर 5.05 करोड़ रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- (c) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- (d) Ministry of Finance
- (e) National Stock Exchange (NSE)

Ans. b

Sol. SEBI imposes Rs 5.05 crore penalty on Indian Clearing Corporation

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) imposed a total penalty of Rs 5.05 crore on Indian Clearing Corporation (ICCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of BSE, for alleged violations of cyber security and system audit-related norms.

The market regulator conducted an inspection between December 2022 and July 2023, following which it sent the show-cause notice in October.

Sebi's findings showed that ICCL had submitted the network auditor report to the regulator without any management or board comments.

The norms prescribe that the audit report, along with the management's comments, be placed before the governing board of the market infrastructure institutions. The same, along with the board's comments, must be submitted to Sebi within one month from the completion of the audit.

324. In February 2025, Which bank partnered with the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) as its official Banking Partner?

फरवरी 2025 में, किस बैंक ने प्रोफेशनल गोल्फ टूर ऑफ इंडिया (PGTI) के साथ अपने आधिकारिक बैंकिंग पार्टनर के रूप में भागीदारी की है?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) ICICI Bank
- (c) IndusInd Bank
- (d) Axis Bank
- (e) Yes Bank

Ans. c

Sol. IndusInd Bank partners with PGTI as its Official Banking Partner

IndusInd Bank has partnered with the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) as its official Banking Partner.

This collaboration underscores the bank's commitment to providing a superlative experience to its Ultra High Net Worth Individuals (UHNIs) & High Net Worth Individuals (HNIs) under the umbrella of PIONEER banking.

This partnership is an extension of various initiatives taken by IndusInd Bank over the years that not only caters to the diverse banking requirements of UHNIs and HNIs, but also provides value-added premium experience aligned to their lifestyle and way of living, especially in the field of sports.

Under the leadership of Kapil Dev, President - PGTI and cricketing legend Amandeep Johl, CEO – PGTI, the tour features more than 20 tournaments across

the year. Under this partnership, IndusInd Bank's PIONEER customers stand a chance to participate in various engagement activities across the tournament cities

Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- IndusInd Bank has partnered with the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) as its official Banking Partner.
- Exim Bank to provide \$300 mn credit to Vietnam for boats, patrol vessels
- SIDBI and AFD, France ink \$100 million deal to boost green finance for Indian MSMEs
- Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with the Karnataka Bulldozers for the Celebrity Cricket League (CCL) 2025
- Bajaj Finance partnered with Bharti Airtel to create a digital platform for financial services.
- PNB MetLife partners with Saraswat Co-operative Bank to offer insurance solutions*

325. Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Unilever after the resignation of Hein Schumacher?

हेन शूमाकर के इस्तीफे के बाद यूनिलीवर के नए सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Alan Jope
- (b) Fernando Fernandez
- (c) Paul Polman
- (d) Bob Chapek
- (e) Satya Nadella

Ans. b

Sol. Unilever CEO Schumacher to step down

Unilever CEO Hein Schumacher is stepping down after less than two years in the job, with current CFO Fernando Fernandez set to take his place leading the company.

Schumacher — who took the reins in July 2023 and was tasked with leading the overhaul of the consumer goods giant — will stand down as CEO and board director in March and will leave the company on May 31.

Fernandez' new role will take effect on March 1.

326. In a move to address prolonged delays in the delivery of Tejas Mk-1A, India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), the Ministry of Defence has formed a high-level committee to examine the cause of delay and suggest

measures for faster induction of the fighter jets into the Indian Air Force (IAF). Who is leading the high-level committee addressing the delay in Tejas Mk-1A delivery?

भारत के स्वदेशी लाइट कॉम्बैट एयरक्राफ्ट (LCA) तेजस Mk-1A की डिलीवरी में लंबे समय से हो रही देरी को दूर करने के लिए रक्षा मंत्रालय ने देरी के कारणों की जांच करने और भारतीय वायु सेना (IAF) में लड़ाकू जेट को तेजी से शामिल करने के उपाय सुझाने के लिए एक उच्च स्तरीय समिति का गठन किया है। तेजस Mk-1A की डिलीवरी में देरी को दूर करने वाली उच्च स्तरीय समिति का नेतृत्व कौन कर रहा है?

- (a) Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari
- (b) Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh
- (c) DRDO Chairman Samir V. Kamat
- (d) HAL Chairman C.B. Ananthakrishnan
- (e) CDS General Anil Chauhan

Ans. b

Sol. Defence Ministry forms high-level panel to speed up Tejas jet deliveries
 In a move to address prolonged delays in the delivery of Tejas Mk-1A, India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), the Ministry of Defence has formed a high-level committee to examine the cause of delay and suggest measures for faster induction of the fighter jets into the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The committee will have five members and will be led by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, the report states, adding that the focus will be on resolving issues that have slowed down the production and delivery of these aircraft.

The development comes days after Air Marshal AP Singh, the Chief of the Indian Air Force, expressed his frustration over the delays and publicly criticised Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

327. India will host its first-ever conference on women peacekeepers in New Delhi. What is the title of India's first-ever conference on women peacekeepers?

भारत नई दिल्ली में महिला शांति सैनिकों पर पहली बार सम्मेलन की मेजबानी करेगा। महिला शांति सैनिकों पर भारत के पहले सम्मेलन का शीर्षक क्या है?

- (a) Women in Global Security
- (b) Women in UN Missions
- (c) Women in Peacekeeping: A Global South Perspective
- (d) Women as Global Leaders
- (e) Strengthening Women's Role in UN Peacekeeping

Ans. c

Sol. India to host first-ever conference on women peacekeepers

India is hosting its first-ever conference on women peacekeepers, titled "Women in Peacekeeping: A Global South Perspective," in New Delhi.

The two-day event is organized by the MEA, Ministry of Defence, and Centre for UN Peacekeeping, with participation from 35 Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) from the Global South.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will deliver the keynote address, while UN representatives Jean-Pierre Lacroix and Christian Saunders will also participate. The conference will focus on peacekeeping technology, training, and regional collaboration, and the attending women peacekeepers will meet with President Droupadi Murmu.

328. Recently, what is the maximum withdrawal amount permitted per depositor by RBI from New India Co-operative Bank?

हाल ही में, RBI ने न्यू इंडिया को-ऑपरेटिव बैंक से प्रति जमाकर्ता अधिकतम कितनी निकासी की अनुमति दी है?

- (a) ₹10,000
- (b) ₹15,000
- (c) ₹25,000
- (d) ₹50,000
- (e) ₹1,00,000

Ans. c

Sol. RBI allows withdrawal of up to ₹25,000 per depositor of New India Co-operative Bank

Days after imposing several restrictions on New India Co-operative Bank, the RBI relaxed the conditions and permitted customers to withdraw up to ₹25,000 from their deposit accounts with effect from February 27.

On February 13, the Reserve Bank had imposed All Inclusive Directions (AID) on the Mumbai-based cooperative bank, which included a ban on deposit withdrawals, amid supervisory concerns.

Later, the RBI superseded the Board of Directors of New India Cooperative Bank for a period of 12 months. It also appointed Shreekant, former Chief General Manager of State Bank of India (SBI), as Administrator to manage the affairs of the bank during this period. It also appointed a 'Committee of Advisors' to assist the Administrator.

329. The second edition of the "India in Bahrain Festival" drew more than 2,000 visitors to Dana Mall in Sanabis, showcasing India's cultural diversity through performances, art, and cuisine. What was the title of the art exhibition featured at the festival?

“बहरीन में भारत महोत्सव” के दूसरे संस्करण में सनाबिस के दाना मॉल में 2,000 से अधिक आगंतुक आए, जिसमें प्रदर्शन, कला और व्यंजनों के माध्यम से भारत की सांस्कृतिक विविधता को प्रदर्शित किया गया। महोत्सव में प्रदर्शित कला प्रदर्शनी का शीर्षक क्या था?

- (a) Colors of India
- (b) India's Cultural Heritage
- (c) India Through My Eyes
- (d) Artistic India
- (e) Visions of India

Ans. c

Sol. Second 'India in Bahrain Festival' draws record crowd

The second edition of the "India in Bahrain Festival" drew more than 2,000 visitors to Dana Mall in Sanabis, showcasing India's cultural diversity through performances, art, and cuisine.

The event, organized by the Indian Embassy in collaboration with Lulu Hypermarket Bahrain and Dana Mall.

Indian Ambassador to Bahrain, Vinod K. Jacob, inaugurated the festival, which featured performances by 17 Indian community associations presenting classical and folk traditions from various regions of India.

The event, part of the Ministry of External Affairs' Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora (PCTD) initiative, also included an art exhibition titled 'India Through My Eyes,' featuring 42 paintings by 20 artists.

330. Which organization has signed an MoU with the Madhya Pradesh government for a solar and battery storage project?

किस संगठन ने सौर और बैटरी भंडारण परियोजना के लिए मध्य प्रदेश सरकार के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) NTPC
- (b) Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)
- (c) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)
- (d) Power Grid Corporation of India
- (e) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)

Ans. b

Sol. SECI Inks MoU with MP Government for 200 MW Solar Project and 1,000 MWh BESS Project

Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), a Navratna CPSU under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), has signed an MoU with the Government of Madhya Pradesh for setting up a 200 MW solar project in Dhar under the CPSU Scheme and a 1,000 MWh battery storage project in the state.

The 200 MW solar project is part of a 500 MW agreement which was executed in 2023 with MP Power Management Company (MPPMCL) for a period of 25 years under which SECI will supply the electricity to the state.

331. Where was the first International Conference on Carbon Markets-Prakriti held?

कार्बन मार्केट्स-प्रकृति पर पहला अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन कहाँ आयोजित किया गया था?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Bengaluru
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Hyderabad
- (e) Chennai

Ans. c

Sol. 1st International Conference on Carbon Market Prakriti inaugurated

The first International Conference on Carbon Markets-Prakriti was held in New Delhi. The Conference was organised with the aim of understanding the workings of the Indian carbon market and how to deepen and develop it. It also discussed the latest trends in the global carbon credit market and their dynamic.

The first International Conference on Carbon Markets-Prakriti was organised by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

The International Conference on Carbon Markets-Prakriti was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal Khattar.

332. What is the edition number of the Khajuraho Dance Festival in 2025?

2025 में खजुराहो नृत्य महोत्सव की संस्करण संख्या क्या है?

- (a) 45th edition
- (b) 50th edition
- (c) 51st edition
- (d) 55th edition
- (e) 60th edition

Ans. c

Sol. 51st Khajuraho Dance Festival 2025

The Khajuraho Dance Festival is a famous cultural event held every year. In 2025, it will take place from February 20 to 26.

Organized by the Department of Culture, Madhya Pradesh, with support from Madhya Pradesh Tourism, this festival has been showcasing India's classical dances since 1975.

Set against the beautiful Khajuraho Temples, the festival celebrates India's rich heritage while also encouraging new ideas in traditional dance.

The 51st edition promises an exciting experience with amazing dance performances, heritage tours, craft exhibitions, delicious food, adventure activities, and much more.

333. India has achieved a milestone in wildlife conservation with its first zoo-based biobank at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZP) in Darjeeling, West Bengal. What is another name for a biobank like the one at Darjeeling Zoo?

भारत ने पश्चिम बंगाल के दार्जिलिंग में पद्मजा नायडू हिमालयन जूलॉजिकल पार्क (पीएनएचजेडपी) में अपने पहले चिड़ियाघर-आधारित बायोबैंक के साथ वन्यजीव संरक्षण में एक मील का पत्थर हासिल किया है। दार्जिलिंग चिड़ियाघर जैसे बायोबैंक का दूसरा नाम क्या है?

- (a) Wildlife Sanctuary
- (b) DNA Library
- (c) Frozen Zoo
- (d) Gene Pool Center
- (e) Animal Rescue Hubrch efforts

Ans. c

Sol. India's First Wildlife Biobank Inaugurated at Darjeeling Zoo

India has achieved a milestone in wildlife conservation with its first zoo-based biobank at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZP) in Darjeeling, West Bengal.

The biobank has been operational since July 2024. Often called a 'frozen zoo,' it focuses on preserving genetic materials from endangered species.

The initiative aims to enhance conservation and research efforts.

334. Which airport has become the first in India to receive the "Sarvashrestha Suraksha Puraskar (Golden Trophy)"?

कौन सा हवाई अड्डा भारत में "सर्वश्रेष्ठ सुरक्षा पुरस्कार (गोल्डन ट्रॉफी)" प्राप्त करने वाला पहला हवाई अड्डा बन गया है?

- (a) Indira Gandhi International Airport
- (b) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport
- (c) Manohar International Airport
- (d) Kempegowda International Airport
- (e) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport

Ans. c

Sol. Mopa Airport Wins Prestigious 'Sarvashrestha Suraksha Puraskar'

Manohar International Airport (GOX), which is developed and operated by GMR God International Airport Ltd. (GGIAL), has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first airport in India to be honoured with the prestigious "Sarvashrestha Suraksha Puraskar (Golden Trophy)" at the National Safety Council of India (NSCI) Safety Awards 2024 in the 'Service Sector' category.

This award was presented during a ceremony at The Lalit in Mumbai.

This recognition underscores Manohar International Airport's outstanding performance in Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), its dedication to minimizing workplace injuries, and its implementation of top safety practices.

Recent Award

- **Time Magazine's Women of the Year 2025** - Purnima Devi Barman
- **Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE)**- Sunil Bharti Mittal
- **Memory League World Championship** - Vishvaa Rajakumar
- **Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division)** - Natarajan Chandrasekaran (Chairman of Tata Group)
- **Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025 in the Water Resilience category** - NTPC Ltd
- **NETPAC Award 2025** - Bad Girl (Tamil film)

335. Which organization has partnered with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to support fintech startups?

किस संगठन ने फिनटेक स्टार्टअप्स को समर्थन देने के लिए उद्योग एवं आंतरिक व्यापार संवर्धन विभाग (DPIIT) के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- Paytm
- Google Pay
- PhonePe
- Amazon Pay
- Flipkart Pay

Ans. a

Sol. Paytm, DPIIT partner to support fintech startups with mentorship & funding
 The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has partnered with Paytm to promote innovation and support manufacturing and fintech startups in India.

Paytm will provide mentorship, infrastructure, market access, and funding opportunities to help startups scale and innovate.

This initiative aims to equip entrepreneurs with essential resources, enhancing their ability to develop cutting-edge payment and financial technology solutions.

336. What is the name of the new AI model introduced by Microsoft Research in February 2025?

फरवरी 2025 में Microsoft Research द्वारा पेश किए गए नए AI मॉडल का नाम क्या है?

- Nova
- Magma

- (c) Apex
- (d) Pulse
- (e) Fusion

Ans. b

Sol. Microsoft unveils Magma: A new AI model for controlling software and robots
Microsoft Research has introduced a new AI model called Magma, which could mark a big advancement in artificial intelligence for controlling both software interfaces and robotic systems.

Magma combines visual and language processing, allowing it to operate in both the digital and physical world, making it a potentially versatile AI model.

Microsoft claims this makes Magma unique, as it can process data like text, images, and video and act upon it natively, whether navigating software or controlling robots.

337. The amount under operative Kisan Credit Card (KCC) accounts has more than doubled from ₹4.26 lakh crore in March 2014 to ₹10.05 lakh crore in December 2024. What is the additional Prompt Repayment Incentive (PRI) provided to farmers on timely repayment of KCC loans?

ऑपरेटिव किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड (केसीसी) खातों के अंतर्गत राशि मार्च 2014 में ₹4.26 लाख करोड़ से दोगुनी से अधिक होकर दिसंबर 2024 में ₹10.05 लाख करोड़ हो गई है। केसीसी ऋणों का समय पर पुनर्भुगतान करने पर किसानों को दिया जाने वाला अतिरिक्त शीघ्र पुनर्भुगतान प्रोत्साहन (पीआरआई) क्या है?

- (a) 2%
- (b) 3%
- (c) 1.5%
- (d) 4%
- (e) 5%

Ans. b

Sol. Operative Kisan Credit Card (KCC) amount crosses ₹10 Lakh Crore benefiting 7.72 Crore Farmers

The amount under operative Kisan Credit Card (KCC) accounts has more than doubled from ₹4.26 lakh crore in March 2014 to ₹10.05 lakh crore in December 2024. This indicates significant increase in quantum of affordable working capital loans provided to the farmers for agriculture and allied activities.

In 2019, the KCC scheme was extended to cover the working capital requirements of allied activities, viz. Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries. GoI, under the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS), provides interest subvention of 1.5% to banks for providing short-term agri loans through KCC up to Rs 3 lakh at a concessional interest rate of 7% per annum.

An additional Prompt Repayment Incentive of 3% is provided to farmers on timely repayment of loans, which effectively reduces the rate of interest to 4% for farmers. Loans up to ₹2 lakh are extended on a collateral-free basis, ensuring hassle-free access to credit for small and marginal farmers.

338. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the Ratan Tata Endowment Foundation?

रतन टाटा एंडोमेंट फाउंडेशन के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Ratan Tata
- (b) Cyrus Mistry
- (c) N Chandrasekaran
- (d) Mukesh Ambani
- (e) Gautam Adani

Ans. c

Sol. Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran to lead Ratan Tata Endowment Foundation

N Chandrasekaran, Tata Sons chairman, has been appointed as the chairman of the Ratan Tata Endowment Foundation, a Section 8 company set up by the late Ratan Tata for philanthropic purposes.

This foundation, which will focus on new and impactful social initiatives, remains independent of Tata Trusts.

The executors of Ratan Tata's will appointed Chandrasekaran after seeking an external legal view.

Recent Appointments

- **Head of Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)** - Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi (extension one year)
- **CEO of NITI Aayog** - B V R Subrahmanyam (extension one year)
- **Managing Partner and Global Head of Wipro Consulting** - Amit Kumar
- **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** - Gyanesh Kumar; 26th (replace Rajiv Kumar).
- **Election Commissioner** - Dr. Vivek Joshi (replace Gyanesh Kumar)
- **Brand Ambassador of ICC Championship Trophy 2025** - Shikhar Dhawan (India), Shane Watson (Australia), Tim Southee (New Zealand), Sarfaraz Ahmed (Pakistan).

339. Which bank has launched a fully digital personal loan platform called 'SIB QUICKPL'?

किस बैंक ने 'SIB QUICKPL' नामक पूर्णतः डिजिटल पर्सनल लोन प्लेटफॉर्म लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) State Bank of India

- (b) ICICI Bank
- (c) HDFC Bank
- (d) South Indian Bank
- (e) Axis Bank

Ans. d

Sol. South Indian Bank launches 'SIB QUICKPL', a fully digital personal loan platform Kochi-based Private lender, South Indian Bank has launched the 'SIB QUICKPL', a fully digital personal loan platform for new customers.

This in-house solution enables salaried and self-employed individuals with strong credit profiles to secure unsecured personal loans in 10 minutes.

'SIB QUICKPL' has been integrated with the Account Aggregator framework and Income Tax portal for instant verification. No document uploads are required, and the approved loan amount is credited directly to the applicant's savings account.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- IRDAI launched a new payment mechanism called **Bima-ASBA (Applications Supported by Blocked Amount)**.
- Indian Overseas Bank launches **Aadhaar-based account opening**, API banking services
- IDFC FIRST Bank, Ikonz launch **Amitabh Bachchan's AI avatar**
- IDFC FIRST Bank Launches **Exclusive Banking Package for Senior Citizens**
- L & T Finance introduced **Knowledgeable AI (KAI)**, an AI-powered virtual home loan advisor

340. In February 2025, how many new branches Muthoot Finance received approval to open from the RBI?

फरवरी 2025 में मुथूट फाइनेंस को RBI से कितनी नई शाखाएँ खोलने की मंजूरी मिली है?

- (a) 50
- (b) 75
- (c) 100
- (d) 115
- (e) 150

Ans. d

Sol. **Muthoot Finance gets RBI approval to open 115 new branches**

Finance and insurance corporation Muthoot Finance has received RBI approval to open 115 new branches.

The company is also advised to ensure suitable arrangements for security and for storage of gold jewellery, including a safe deposit vault, as envisaged in the extant directions, to the extent applicable.

Muthoot Finance recently posted a 21 per cent increase in consolidated PAT in Q3 FY25 at ₹1,392 crore as against ₹1,145 crore in Q3 FY24.

341. The Punjab government has made it mandatory for all schools in the state, irrespective of their educational board, to teach Punjabi as a main and compulsory subject. Which educational boards are required to include Punjabi in their curriculum under the new directive?

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੇ ਰਾਜ ਦੇ ਸਾਰੀ ਸਕੂਲਾਂ ਲਈ, ਚਾਹੇ ਵੇ ਕਿਸੀ ਭੀ ਸੈਕਿਸ਼ਨਿਕ ਬੋਰਡ ਦੇ ਹੋਂ, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕੋ ਮੁਖ਼ਯ ਔਰ ਅਨਿਵਾਰਯ ਵਿਸ਼ਯ ਕੇ ਰੂਪ ਮੇਂ ਪੜਨਾ ਅਨਿਵਾਰਯ ਕਰ ਦਿਯਾ ਹੈ। ਨਏ ਨਿਰਦੇਸ਼ ਕੇ ਤਹਿਤ ਕਿਨ ਸੈਕਿਸ਼ਨਿਕ ਬੋਰਡਾਂ ਕੋ ਅਪਨੇ ਪਾਠਯਕ੍ਰਮ ਮੇਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕੋ ਸ਼ਾਮਿਲ ਕਰਨਾ ਆਵਸ਼ਯਕ ਹੈ?

- (a) Punjab School Education Board (PSEB)
- (b) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)
- (c) Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE)
- (d) All of the above
- (e) Only PSEB and CBSE

Ans. d

Sol. Punjab govt makes Punjabi compulsory in all Punjab schools

The Punjab government has made it mandatory for all schools in the state, irrespective of their educational board, to teach Punjabi as a main and compulsory subject.

Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains announced the decision through a fresh notification, applicable immediately.

Under the new directive, all schools, whether affiliated with the Punjab School Education Board (PSEB), Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), or Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE), will be required to include Punjabi in their curriculum.

About Punjab

- Capital – Chandigarh
- Chief Minister – Bhagwant Mann
- Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

342. What is the main objective of the 'One Nation-One Port Process (ONOP)' initiative launched by Sarbananda Sonowal?

ਸਰਬਾਨੰਦ ਸੋਨੋਵਾਲ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕੀ ਗਈ 'ਏਕ ਰਾਸ਼ਟ੍ਰ-ਏਕ ਬੰਦਰਗਾਹ ਪ੍ਰਕ੍ਰਿਯਾ (ONOP)' ਪਹਿਲ ਕਾ ਮੁਖ਼ਯ ਉਦੇਸ਼ਯ ਕਯਾ ਹੈ?

- (a) To privatize all major ports in India
- (b) To standardize and streamline operations across India's major ports
- (c) To increase taxation on port activities

- (d) To introduce new shipping tariffs
- (e) To establish new ports across India

Ans. b

Sol. Sarbananda Sonowal unveils 'One Nation-One Port' to enhance efficiency with ease of doing business

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has launched a series of major initiatives of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) aimed at modernising India's maritime infrastructure, strengthening its global trade presence, and to promote sustainability.

These initiatives were launched during a stakeholder meeting in Mumbai, to discuss on various possibilities from the major announcements made in the Union Budget for the maritime sector.

Sonowal launched the 'One Nation-One Port Process (ONOP)' an initiative to standardise and streamline operations across India's major ports.

The step aims at removing inconsistencies in documentation and processes that led to inefficiencies, increased costs, and operational delays.

Sonowal also launched Sagar Ankalan — the Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) for FY 2023-24, as a significant step towards enhancing efficiency and global competitiveness in India's maritime sector.

Sonowal also launched Bharat Global Ports Consortium to Strengthen global trade by expanding India's maritime reach and enhance global trade resilience; and MAITRI logo (Master Application for International Trade and Regulatory Interface) with an aim to streamline trade processes, reduce bureaucratic redundancies and expedite clearances, reinforcing India's commitment to ease of doing business.

Minister also launched the National Centre of Excellence in Green Port and Shipping (NCoEGPS) website. It is a significant milestone in advancing sustainability in the maritime sector. This platform will offer insights and best practices for green port and shipping operations, focusing on carbon footprint reduction, cleaner fuels, and eco-friendly port management to drive a more sustainable future.

The Union Minister also announced the India Maritime Week to be held from 27th to 31st of October, 2025 in Mumbai with a view to celebrate country's 'Maritime Virasat' and 'Maritime Vikaas', a bi-annual global maritime gathering that will be one of the largest in the world. The week will host 4th edition of Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS), 2nd edition of Sagarmanthan among others. At the India Maritime Week, 'representation from 100 countries and 100,000 delegates are expected to participate.

343. Which company has partnered with AI startup Perplexity to help users with real-time financial assistance?

किस कंपनी ने उपयोगकर्ताओं को वास्तविक समय में वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए एआई स्टार्टअप पेरप्लेक्सिटी के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Google Pay
- (b) PhonePe
- (c) Paytm
- (d) Amazon Pay
- (e) Flipkart Pay

Ans. c

Sol. Paytm Partners with AI Startup Perplexity to Enhance Financial Literacy with AI-Powered Search

Paytm has partnered with Perplexity AI to help users with real-time financial assistance. The payment gateway will be integrating the AI startup's search engine to expand access to Paytm's user base of 100 million active users in the country.

Users will be able to ask finance-related questions and topics in their local language to make informed financial decisions.

This innovation enhances digital literacy and reinforces Paytm's commitment to driving technological advancements for a smarter, AI-driven India.

Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- Paytm, DPIIT partner to support fintech startups with mentorship & funding
- IndusInd Bank has partnered with the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) as its official Banking Partner.
- Exim Bank to provide \$300 mn credit to Vietnam for boats, patrol vessels
- SIDBI and AFD, France ink \$100 million deal to boost green finance for Indian MSMEs
- Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with the Karnataka Bulldozers for the Celebrity Cricket League (CCL) 2025

344. In February 2025, what is the name of the bi-annual Hindi magazine released by Rajnath Singh?

फरवरी 2025 में राजनाथ सिंह द्वारा जारी की जाने वाली द्विवार्षिक हिंदी पत्रिका का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Raksha Bharat
- (b) Veer Sena
- (c) Sashakt Bharat

(d) Shakti Samachar

(e) Suraksha Darpan

Ans. c

Sol. Rajnath Singh releases first edition of MoD's bi-annual Hindi magazine 'Sashakt Bharat'

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh has released the first edition of Ministry of Defence's bi-annual Hindi magazine 'Sashakt Bharat' at South Block, New Delhi. The magazine comprises poems on the valour, patriotism and sacrifices of the Armed Forces personnel as well as articles on the policies of the Government written by the personnel of the Ministry, irrespective of their ranks, showcasing inclusivity and unity in diversity.

The objective of 'Sashakt Bharat' magazine is to highlight the creative talent of the employees of MoD and encourage them to carry out their day-to-day activities in Hindi.

345. The 'Cali Fund' was launched at the 16th Conference of Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Rome. What is the purpose of the newly launched Cali Fund?

'कैली फंड' की शुरुआत रोम में संयुक्त राष्ट्र जैविक विविधता सम्मेलन (CBD) के 16वें सम्मेलन (COP16) में की गई। हाल ही में शुरू किए गए कैली फंड का उद्देश्य क्या है?

(a) To support space exploration projects

(b) To protect biodiversity

(c) To promote digital banking

(d) To fund climate change protests

(e) To support fossil fuel industries

Ans. b

Sol. The Cali Fund launches in the margins of the resumed session of COP16

A new international fund has been created to help protect biodiversity. The 'Cali Fund' was launched at the resumed 16th Conference of Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Rome.

The Cali Fund will receive money from businesses that rely on Digital Sequence Information (DSI). DSI includes genetic data from plants, animals, and microorganisms. Industries like pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, agriculture, and biotechnology use DSI to develop products.

Under this new system, they will now have to contribute a part of their revenue to support biodiversity efforts.

The money collected will be used in several ways. It will support biodiversity conservation projects, help developing countries implement their biodiversity

action plans, and fund scientific research to improve how genetic data is stored and used.

346. National Science Day is observed every year on 28 February to mark the discovery of the Raman Effect by physicist CV Raman in 1928. 4. What is the theme for National Science Day 2025?

राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान दिवस हर साल 28 फरवरी को भौतिक विज्ञानी सी.वी. रमन द्वारा 1928 में रमन प्रभाव की खोज के उपलक्ष्य में मनाया जाता है। राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) 'Science for Sustainable Development'
- (b) 'Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science and Innovation for Viksit Bharat'
- (c) 'Innovations for a Sustainable Future'
- (d) 'Science and Technology for National Development'
- (e) 'Celebrating Indian Science and Innovation'

Ans. b

Sol. 28 February - National Science Day

National Science Day is observed every year on 28 February to mark the discovery of the Raman Effect by physicist CV Raman in 1928.

Since 1986, this day has been celebrated across India to recognise scientific achievements and encourage scientific awareness among students and the public.

The theme for National Science Day 2025 is 'Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science and Innovation for Viksit Bharat'.

The first celebration took place on February 28, 1987, marking the beginning of a tradition that continues to inspire generations.

347. Which organization has signed an MoU with the Government of Assam to implement a student skilling programme for the youth of Assam in the Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) sector at the Advantage Assam 2.0 Summit?

एडवांटेज असम 2.0 शिखर सम्मेलन में बैंकिंग, वित्तीय सेवा और बीमा (बीएफएसआई) क्षेत्र में असम के युवाओं के लिए छात्र कौशल कार्यक्रम लागू करने के लिए किस संगठन ने असम सरकार के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (b) National Stock Exchange (NSE)
- (c) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (d) State Bank of India (SBI)
- (e) NITI Aayog

Ans. b

Sol. NSE & Assam Govt ink MoU to skill youth in BFSI sector at Advantage Assam 2.0 Summit

National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Government of Assam signed an MoU to implement a student skilling programme for the youth of Assam in the Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) sector at the Advantage Assam 2.0 Summit.

Assam is the 4th state after Uttarakhand, Meghalaya and Chhattisgarh to partner with NSE on skilling youth. As part of this understanding, NSE with the support of the Government of Assam, shall implement a student skill building program to increase awareness, build skills and competencies in the BFSI across the State of Assam.

This project will enhance employability and self-employment opportunities in the BFSI sector.

This programme aligns with Assam government's objective and aims to empower the youth of the state with essential skills and knowledge in the BFSI (Banking, Financial Services and Insurance) sector, bridging the skill gap and enhancing their employment opportunities for the future.

348. Who inaugurated the Udan Yatri Cafe at Chennai International Airport in Feb 2025?

फरवरी 2025 में चेन्नई अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर उड़ान यात्री कैफे का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

- (a) Jyotiraditya Scindia
- (b) K. RamMohan Naidu
- (c) Narendra Modi
- (d) Piyush Goyal
- (e) Hardeep Singh Puri

Ans. b

Sol. K. RamMohan inaugurates Udan Yatri Cafe at Chennai Airport
 Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjrapu RamMohan Naidu has inaugurated the Udan Yatri Cafe at Chennai International Airport.

This would benefit all passengers as five to six items like water, tea, coffee, snacks and local sweets will be sold at Rs.10 and Rs. 20.

The first such cafe inaugurated at Kolkata airport last December has registered Rs. 30 thousand sales per day.

349. Which country recently launched the first phase of the Blue Visa system, which provides international citizens with a 10-year residency visa?

किस देश ने हाल ही में ब्लू वीजा सिस्टम का पहला चरण लॉन्च किया है, जो अंतरराष्ट्रीय नागरिकों को 10 वर्षीय रेजिडेंसी वीजा प्रदान करता है?

- (a) United States
- (b) Canada
- (c) United Arab Emirates
- (d) Australia
- (e) United Kingdom

Ans. c

Sol. UAE launched 10-Year Blue Residency Visa System

The first phase of the Blue Visa system has been formally launched by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which grants international nationals a 10-year residency visa.

By attracting people who support environmental sustainability, this project hopes to strengthen the UAE's commitment to a more environmentally friendly future.

The UAE Blue Visa: What is it?

For professionals and contributors working in the areas of sustainability, environmental protection, and climate change, the New Blue Visa System provides a 10-year resident visa.

This UAE Golden Visa is in line with the UAE's overarching goal of advancing sustainable development and environmentally friendly projects.

350. The government of Rajasthan has launched Shiksha Sanjeevani Bima Yojana to provide accidental insurance to schoolchildren in the state. Which company will be the insurance provider for the Shiksha Sanjeevani Bima Yojana?

राजस्थान सरकार ने राज्य में स्कूली बच्चों को दुर्घटना बीमा प्रदान करने के लिए शिक्षा संजीवनी बीमा योजना शुरू की है। शिक्षा संजीवनी बीमा योजना के लिए बीमा प्रदाता कौन सी कंपनी होगी?

- (a) Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)
- (b) ICICI Lombard
- (c) New India Assurance
- (d) Zurich Kotak General Insurance
- (e) Bajaj Allianz

Ans. d

Sol. Accidental Insurance scheme for School Children in Rajasthan launched

The government of Rajasthan has launched Shiksha Sanjeevani Bima Yojana to provide accidental insurance to schoolchildren in the state.

This first-of-its-kind scheme will offer personal accident insurance coverage of Rs 1 lakh to 1.3 lakh to children and their parents enrolled in state government schools. Initially, the scheme will cover schools in the Udaipur Division.

The State Education and Panchayati Raj Minister, Madan Dilawar launched the scheme. The scheme was launched at the Shiksha Jeevan Personal Accident Insurance Ceremony organised at the Residency School of Udaipur. The scheme will be gradually expanded to all the schools in the state, benefitting around 1 crore students.

Wonder Cement, Zurich Kotak General Insurance and State Bank of India are partners of the Shiksha Sanjeevani Bima Yojana scheme.

Wonder Cement will provide money to pay the insurance premium for the insured children in the Udaipur Division while The Zurich Kotak General Insurance Company will be the insurance provider for the scheme.

Under its financial inclusion initiative, the State Bank of India will open a no minimum balance requirement savings bank account for the enrolled students. The State Bank of India will deposit Rs 500 monthly in the account so that students can use the amount for their daily needs.

351. The Indian Navy in collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted the flight test of the indigenously developed Naval Anti-Ship Missile -Short Range (NASM-SR). From which helicopter was the NASM-SR missile launched during the test?

रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (डीआरडीओ) के सहयोग से भारतीय नौसेना ने स्वदेशी रूप से विकसित नौसेना एंटी-शिप मिसाइल-शॉर्ट रेंज (एनएसएम-एसआर) का उड़ान परीक्षण सफलतापूर्वक किया है। परीक्षण के दौरान एनएसएम-एसआर मिसाइल को किस हेलीकॉप्टर से लॉन्च किया गया?

- (a) HAL Dhruv
- (b) Kamov Ka-31
- (c) Sea King MK 42B
- (d) Boeing P-8I
- (e) MiG-29K

Ans. c

Sol. DRDO and Indian Navy Successfully Test NASM-SR Missile in Chandipur
The Indian Navy in collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted the flight test of the indigenously developed Naval Anti-Ship Missile -Short Range (NASM-SR). The missile was launched from the Indian Navy's Sea King MK 42B helicopter from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur in Odisha. NASM-SR is the country's first indigenously developed air-launched anti-ship missile system with a sea-skimming ability. The first test of the missile was conducted in May 2022.

352. Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar attended the first-ever joint mega Nyokum Yullo Celebration in Boasimla, Kamle District of Arunachal Pradesh. Which tribe celebrates the Nyokum Yullo festival in Arunachal Pradesh?

उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़ ने अरुणाचल प्रदेश के कामले जिले के बोसिमला में पहली बार संयुक्त मेगा न्योकुम युल्लो उत्सव में भाग लिया। अरुणाचल प्रदेश में कौन सी जनजाति न्योकुम युल्लो उत्सव मनाती है?

- (a) Apatani
- (b) Monpa
- (c) Nyishi
- (d) Adi
- (e) Mishmi

Ans. c

Sol. Vice President Dhankhar attended Nyokum Yullo celebration in Arunachal Pradesh

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar attended and addressed the first-ever joint mega Nyokum Yullo Celebration in Boasimla, Kamle District of Arunachal Pradesh.

The Nyokum Yullo Celebration is an agrarian festival of the Nyishi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.

The word Nyokum is derived from Nyok meaning land (earth) and Kum meaning collectiveness or togetherness. The festival is linked with cultivation. The vice president also felicitated Kabak Yano on the occasion. Kabak Yano is the 5th woman from Arunachal Pradesh and the first woman from the Nyishi tribe to conquer the world's highest peak, Mount Everest.

The daughter of a casual worker, Kabak Yano climbed Mount Everest on 21st May 2024.

353. Which team defeated India 3-0 in the 2nd Pink Ladies Cup?

दूसरे पिंक लेडीज कप में किस टीम ने भारत को 3-0 से हराया?

- (a) Japan
- (b) South Korea
- (c) China
- (d) United Arab Emirates
- (e) Australia

Ans. b

Sol. Indian Women Football Team finishes 3rd in 2nd Pink Ladies Cup 2025

The Indian senior women football team, popularly known as Blue Tigris, ended their campaign in the 2nd Pink Ladies Cup with a 3-0 defeat to the South Korean side. The Indian team finished third in the Pink Ladies Cup.

The 2nd edition of the Pink Ladies Cup was held at the Al Hamriya Sports Club Stadium in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

The Pink Ladies Cup is a friendly international football tournament. A team's win or loss in friendly matches does not affect its standing or ranking in FIFA's points table.

It is usually played before the start of a competitive season to prepare the team for the upcoming football season.

The Indian women's football team used the 2nd Pink Ladies Cup 2025 to prepare for the upcoming AFC Women Asia Cup Qualifiers to be held in May-June 2025.

354. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)?

भारतीय प्रतिभूति एवं विनिमय बोर्ड (सेबी) के नए अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Ajay Tyagi
- (b) Raghuram Rajan
- (c) Tuhin Kanta Pandey
- (d) Subhash Chandra Garg
- (e) Arvind Subramanian

Ans. c

Sol. Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey appointed as new SEBI Chairman
Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for a term of three years. The Odisha-cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer would replace Madhabi Puri Buch, who completed her three-year tenure on February 28, 2025. Mr. Pandey holds an MA in economics from the Punjab University, Chandigarh and an MBA from the University of Birmingham (U.K.). He has worked in various capacities in the government of Odisha and the government of India.

About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- Founded - 12 April 1988
- Act - 1992
- Headquarters - Mumbai
- Chairman - Tuhin Kanta Pandey (replace Madhabi Puri Buch)
- SEBI Set up - Uday Kotak committee

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