

# Best 300+ MCQs

March 2025

## Current Affairs PDF



**1. When will the Geological Survey of India (GSI) celebrate its 175th Foundation Day?**

**भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण (जीएसआई) अपना 175वां स्थापना दिवस कब मनाएगा?**

- (a) 1st March 2025
- (b) 2nd March 2025
- (c) 3rd March 2025
- (d) 4th March 2025
- (e) 5th March 2025

Ans. b

Sol. G. Kishan Reddy to Inaugurate 175th Foundation Day Celebrations of Geological Survey of India at Kolkata

The Geological Survey of India (GSI), one of the oldest scientific organizations in the country, is set to celebrate its 175th year of geoscientific legacy.

To mark this historic milestone, Union Minister of Coal & Mines, Shri G Kishan Reddy will inaugurate the Foundation Day celebrations on 4th March 2025 at Central Headquarters, Kolkata.

Established in 1851 by Sir Thomas Oldham, GSI has played a pioneering role in geological mapping, mineral exploration, disaster studies, and geoscientific research, significantly contributing to India's industrial and economic growth.

During the 175th Foundation Day celebrations on 4th March 2025, GSI will showcase its rich legacy and scientific contributions through a series of engaging events, insightful publications and unveiling of Special Postal Cover, My stamp and two geoscientific mobile apps.

**2. Union Minister JP Nadda has inaugurated the 9th National Summit on Good and Replicable Practices in the Public Healthcare System in which city?**

**केंद्रीय मंत्री जेपी नड्डा ने किस शहर में सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रणाली में अच्छे और अनुकरणीय व्यवहारों पर 9वें राष्ट्रीय शिखर सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन किया?**

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Puri
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) Bengaluru
- (e) Hyderabad

Ans. b

Sol. JP Nadda inaugurates 9th National Health Mission Summit in Puri

Union Minister JP Nadda has inaugurated the 9th National Summit on Good and Replicable Practices in the Public Healthcare System in Odisha's city of Puri.

The 2-day summit showcases and documents various best practices and innovations adopted by States and UTs for addressing their public health challenges.

**3. Which two organizations signed an MoU for a partnership to finance MSMEs in February 2025?**

**फरवरी 2025 में एमएसएमई को वित्तपोषित करने के लिए साझेदारी के लिए किन दो संगठनों ने समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए?**

- (a) SIDBI and HDFC Bank
- (b) SIDBI and Tata Capital Limited
- (c) SIDBI and ICICI Bank
- (d) SIDBI and Axis Bank
- (e) SIDBI and SBI

Ans. b

Sol. SIDBI signs MoU with Tata Capital Limited to strengthen financing avenues for MSMEs

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Tata Capital Limited (TCL) signed an MoU for a "Partnership for financing MSMEs.

The focus is on the growth and development of the MSME ecosystem by way of providing funding avenues in the field of machinery/equipment financing, working capital/CC/OD/business loans, and loans against property, etc.

Further, risk sharing/ co-lending/ joint financing shall also be explored while extending credit facilities to MSMEs.

**4. Who has been appointed as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SBI Life Insurance Company?**

**एसबीआई लाइफ इंश्योरेंस कंपनी के उप मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (सीईओ) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Rajesh Verma
- (b) Amitabh Chaudhry
- (c) Dorababu Daparti
- (d) Deepak Parekh
- (e) Uday Kotak

Ans. c

Sol. SBI Life appoints Dorababu Daparti as Deputy CEO

Dorababu Daparti has been appointed as Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SBI Life Insurance Company.

This appointment is based on the recommendation of the nomination and remuneration committee.

Dorababu Daparti is a highly accomplished banking professional with over 29 years of experience in the financial industry. He holds a Master's degree in Sciences (M.Sc.) and is a Chartered Associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers (CAIIB).

Daparti began his career with the State Bank of India (SBI) in 1995 and, has since held various managerial and executive roles within the organization.

With extensive expertise in international banking, he has a proven track record of success. Daparti served as the Country Head and CEO of SBIs Maldives operations from September 2021.

### Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** - Tuhin Kanta Pandey (replace Madhabi Puri Buch) *for 3 years*
- **MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Prime** - Shahrukh Todiwala (replace Vyomesh Kapasi)
- **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

### 5. What was India's real GDP growth rate in the third quarter (October to December) of the fiscal year 2024-25?

वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 की तीसरी तिमाही (अक्टूबर से दिसंबर) में भारत की वास्तविक जीडीपी वृद्धि दर क्या थी?

- (a) 5.6%
- (b) 6.5%
- (c) 9.5%
- (d) 6.2%
- (e) 7.1%

Ans. d

Sol. India Retains Fastest-Growing Economy Tag with 6.2% GDP Growth in Q3 FY25  
India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew 6.2% in the October to December 2024 period, the third quarter of the fiscal year, picking up pace from the 5.6% growth recorded in the previous quarter, according to data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO).

However, this was considerably slower than the 9.5% growth seen over the same period in 2023. Third-quarter growth trailed the Reserve Bank of India's estimates by 0.2 percentage points.

As per the First Revised Estimates released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), real GDP is estimated to grow by 6.5 percent in

FY 2024-25, and nominal GDP is expected to witness a growth rate of 9.9 percent in the fiscal year.

MoSPI data also highlighted that India's real GDP grew by 9.2 percent in the financial year 2023-24, the highest annual growth in 12 years, excluding the post-pandemic rebound in FY22.

This growth was attributed to double-digit growth in the 'Manufacturing' sector (12.3 percent), the 'Construction' sector (10.4 percent), and the 'Financial, Real Estate & Professional Services' sector (10.3 percent).

**6. World NGO Day is observed annually on 27th February to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) worldwide. What is the theme for World NGO Day 2025?**

**विश्व एनजीओ दिवस प्रतिवर्ष 27 फरवरी को मनाया जाता है, ताकि दुनिया भर में गैर-सरकारी संगठनों (एनजीओ) के योगदान को पहचाना और मनाया जा सके। विश्व एनजीओ दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?**

- (a) Strengthening Global Partnerships
- (b) NGOs for a Better Future
- (c) Empowering Grassroots Movements for a Sustainable Future
- (d) Innovation in Social Work
- (e) United for Development

Ans. c

Sol. 27 February - World NGO Day

World NGO Day is observed annually on 27th February to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) worldwide.

It aims to raise awareness about the role of NGOs in society and encourage people to support and collaborate with them for global development.

Theme 2025 - Empowering Grassroots Movements for a Sustainable Future

The day was officially recognized in 2010 and was first celebrated by the United Nations, EU, and other international organizations in 2014.

**7. How much is the renewed bilateral currency swap agreement between India and Japan worth?**

**भारत और जापान के बीच नवीनीकृत द्विपक्षीय मुद्रा विनिमय समझौते की कीमत कितनी है?**

- (a) \$50 billion
- (b) \$60 billion
- (c) \$75 billion
- (d) \$80 billion
- (e) \$100 billion

Ans. c

Sol. India and Japan renew \$75 billion bilateral currency swap agreement  
 India and Japan have renewed the \$75 billion bilateral currencies swap agreement.  
 The Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) is a two-way arrangement where both authorities can swap their local currencies in exchange for the US dollar.  
 The Bank of Japan, acting as agent for the Minister of Finance of Japan, and the Reserve Bank of India signed the Second Amendment and Restatement Agreement of the BSA.

**8. Which organization has imposed a penalty of Rs 66.60 lakh and Rs 33.10 lakh on The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) and IIFL Samasta Finance, respectively, for violating norms?**

**किस संगठन ने मानदंडों का उल्लंघन करने के लिए हांगकांग और शंघाई बैंकिंग कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (HSBC) और IIFL समस्ता फाइनेंस पर क्रमशः 66.60 लाख रुपये और 33.10 लाख रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया है?**

- (a) SEBI
- (b) NABARD
- (c) RBI
- (d) Ministry of Finance
- (e) NSE

Ans. c

Sol. RBI imposes penalty on HSBC, IIFL Samasta Finance for violating norms

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 66.60 lakh and Rs 33.10 lakh on The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) and IIFL Samasta Finance, respectively, for violating norms.

**HSBC Violations:** The bank outsourced AML alert closures, failed to report unhedged foreign currency exposures to CICs, and opened savings accounts for ineligible entities.

**IIFL Samasta Finance Violations:** The company charged interest before loan disbursement, misclassified NPAs, and issued multiple customer IDs instead of a unique identification code

**9. The government has introduced a new Aadhaar Governance Portal (<http://swik.meity.gov.in>) aimed at streamlining the approval process for Aadhaar authentication requests. The platform follows the recent amendments to the Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Rules 2025 under \_\_\_\_\_?**

**सरकार ने आधार प्रमाणीकरण अनुरोधों के लिए अनुमोदन प्रक्रिया को सुव्यवस्थित करने के उद्देश्य से एक नया आधार गवर्नेंस पोर्टल (<http://swik.meity.gov.in>) पेश किया है। यह**

प्लेटफॉर्म हाल ही में \_\_\_\_\_ के तहत सुशासन (सामाजिक कल्याण, नवाचार, ज्ञान) नियम 2025 के लिए आधार प्रमाणीकरण में किए गए संशोधनों का अनुसरण करता है?

- (a) IT Act, 2000
- (b) Digital India Act, 2022
- (c) E-Governance Act, 2016
- (d) Consumer Protection Act, 2019
- (e) Aadhaar Act, 2016

Ans. e

Sol. Govt allows Aadhaar face authentication in private apps to ease service access

The government has introduced a new Aadhaar Governance Portal

(<http://swik.meity.gov.in>) aimed at streamlining the approval process for Aadhaar authentication requests.

Launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the platform follows the recent amendments to the Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Rules, 2025, under the Aadhaar Act of 2016.

The new rules are designed to support good governance and improve the delivery of various welfare services and benefits.

According to the ministry, the portal is part of ongoing efforts to simplify processes, enhance service delivery, and improve the overall ease of living for citizens.

Both government and private entities can now use Aadhaar authentication for public services like innovation, knowledge sharing, and improving access to essential services. This will help citizens access services across sectors such as healthcare, education, e-commerce, and hospitality more easily. Service providers will also benefit from Aadhaar authentication for tasks such as staff attendance, customer onboarding, and e-KYC verification.

The portal provides a detailed, step-by-step guide to help entities apply for Aadhaar authentication and onboard seamlessly. Face authentication may also be integrated into customer-facing apps, enabling easy, anytime authentication.

Secretary of MeitY - S. Krishnan

CEO of UIDAI - Bhuvnesh Kumar

**10. The market regulator SEBI has launched a centralized database portal for corporate bonds to create a single, authentic source of information on such securities. What is the name of the centralized database portal launched by SEBI for corporate bonds?**

बाजार नियामक सेबी ने कॉरपोरेट बॉन्ड के लिए एक केंद्रीकृत डेटाबेस पोर्टल लॉन्च किया है, ताकि ऐसी प्रतिभूतियों पर सूचना का एक एकल, प्रामाणिक स्रोत बनाया जा सके। कॉरपोरेट बॉन्ड के लिए सेबी द्वारा लॉन्च किए गए केंद्रीकृत डेटाबेस पोर्टल का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Bond Hub
- (b) Bond Central
- (c) Corporate Bonds Exchange
- (d) SEBI Bonds Platform
- (e) Fixed Income Repository

Ans. b

Sol. SEBI introduces 'Bond Central' to boost transparency in India's corporate bond market

Markets regulator SEBI has launched a centralised database portal for corporate bonds in a bid to create a single, authentic source of information on such securities. The portal, Bond Central, has been developed by the Online Bond Platform Providers Association (OBPP Association) in collaboration with Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIs), which include stock exchanges and depositories.

The Bond Central aims to create a single, authentic source of information on corporate bonds issued in India and is intended as an information repository for the public at large and is accessible free of cost.

This database is expected to enhance transparency and facilitate informed decision-making among investors and other market participants. It will be operated by the OBPP Association, a not-for-profit entity supported by MIs.

Additionally, investors can compare corporate bond prices with Government Securities (G-Secs) and other fixed-income indices to make better decisions.

## 11. What is the interest rate on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) deposits for 2024-25?

**2024-25 के लिए कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि (ईपीएफ) जमा पर ब्याज दर क्या है?**

- (a) 8.10%
- (b) 8.15%
- (c) 8.25%
- (d) 8.35%
- (e) 8.50%

Ans. c

Sol. EPFO retains interest rate on PF deposits at 8.25 per cent for 2024-25

Retirement fund body EPFO has decided to retain the interest rate on employees' provident fund deposits at 8.25 per cent for 2024-25 – the same as the previous year. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation had increased the interest rate on EPF for its 7 crore members to 8.25 per cent for 2023-24, from 8.15 per cent in 2022-23. The proposal will now be sent to the Ministry of Finance for clearance after which the interest rate on EPF for 2024-25 will be credited into the accounts of the EPFO members.

12. **Which company has extended its partnership with DNB Bank ASA, for an additional five years?**

**किस कंपनी ने डीएनबी बैंक एएसए के साथ अपनी साझेदारी को पांच साल के लिए और बढ़ा दिया है?**

- (a) Infosys
- (b) Wipro
- (c) Tata Consultancy Services
- (d) HCL Technologies
- (e) Cognizant

Ans. c

Sol. TCS extends partnership with Norway's DNB Bank ASA for 5 years

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has extended its partnership with Norway's largest financial services group, DNB Bank ASA, for an additional five years.

TCS will continue as DNB's strategic partner, supporting the bank's digital modernization efforts and enhancing cost efficiency.

The renewed partnership includes maintaining and developing new applications, strengthening security, and leveraging AI and quantum computing for modernization initiatives.

#### **Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector**

- SIDBI signs MoU with Tata Capital Limited to strengthen financing avenues for MSMEs
- Paytm Partners with AI Startup Perplexity to Enhance Financial Literacy with AI-Powered Search
- Paytm, DIIIT 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.

13. **What is the name of the Sufi music festival praised by Prime Minister**

**Narendra Modi for its 25-year journey?**

**प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने 25 साल की यात्रा के लिए जिस सूफी संगीत समारोह की प्रशंसा की है, उसका नाम क्या है?**

- (a) Ruhaniyat
- (b) Jahan-e-Khusrau
- (c) Sufi Sutra
- (d) Basant Utsav
- (e) Qawwali Mahotsav

Ans. b

Sol. Jahan-e-Khusrau festival marks 25 years

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the Sufi music festival Jahan-e-Khusrau on its 25-year journey, highlighting its role in preserving India's cultural and artistic heritage.

Jahan-e-Khusrau, a three-day festival running from February 28 to March 2, brings together artists from across the world to celebrate the legacy of Amir Khusrau.

Organized by the Rumi Foundation, the festival was founded by renowned filmmaker and artist Muzaffar Ali in 2001 and has since become a revered annual cultural event.

**14. Neuve-Chapelle War Memorial, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?**

**हाल ही में समाचारों में रहा, चूवे-चैपल युद्ध स्मारक किस देश में स्थित है?**

- (a) United Kingdom
- (b) France
- (c) Germany
- (d) Belgium
- (e) Russia

Ans. b

Sol. Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi Honours WWI Indian Soldiers at Neuve-Chapelle Memorial in France

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi has laid a wreath at the war memorial in Neuve-Chapelle, France, honouring the supreme sacrifice of Indian soldiers who fought during World War I.

The memorial stands as a powerful symbol of India's long-standing commitment to global peace, serving as a poignant tribute to the fallen soldiers and a reminder of their enduring bravery.

The Neuve-Chapelle Memorial commemorates the Indian soldiers who fought alongside Allied forces in the First World War, particularly during the Battle of Neuve-Chapelle in 1915.

**15. Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma has launched the Mizoram chapter of the Women Entrepreneurship Forum (WEP), the first such forum in the Northeast. Which organisation is supporting the Women Entrepreneurship Forum (WEP) in Mizoram?**

**मिजोरम के मुख्यमंत्री लालदुहोमा ने महिला उद्यमिता मंच (WEP) के मिजोरम चैप्टर का शुभारंभ किया है, जो पूर्वोत्तर में इस तरह का पहला मंच है। कौन सा संगठन मिजोरम में महिला उद्यमिता मंच (WEP) का समर्थन कर रहा है?**

- (a) Reserve Bank of India
- (b) Ministry of Finance
- (c) NITI Aayog

(d) Ministry of Women and Child Development

(e) Startup India

Ans. c

Sol. Mizoram launches Women Entrepreneurship Platform, first in NE

Mizoram chief minister Lalduhoma has launched the Mizoram chapter of Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), the first such platform in the Northeast under NITI Aayog.

The launch, held during a state workshop on women-led development through entrepreneurship at Mizoram University (MZU) at Tanhril near Aizawl under the initiative of the NITI Aayog state support mission, was attended by NITI Aayog member Dr VK Paul.

This initiative aims to strengthen regional support for women entrepreneurs by providing resources, mentorship, and business opportunities.

### About Mizoram

- Formation - 20 February 1987
- Capital - Aizawl
- Chief Minister – Lalduhoma
- Governor - General V. K. Singh

16. **The Government of Maharashtra has partnered with Meta (formerly Facebook) during the Mumbai Tech Week 2025. The aim of this collaboration is to provide all citizen services via WhatsApp on a single number, empowering 125 million citizens to access government services from anywhere, at any time. What is the name of the chatbot launched by the Government of Maharashtra in partnership with Meta?**

महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने मुंबई टेक वीक 2025 के दौरान मेटा (पूर्व में फेसबुक) के साथ साझेदारी की है। इस सहयोग का उद्देश्य व्हाट्सएप के माध्यम से एक ही नंबर पर सभी नागरिक सेवाएँ प्रदान करना है, जिससे 125 मिलियन नागरिक कहीं से भी, कभी भी सरकारी सेवाओं तक पहुँच बना सकेंगे। मेटा के साथ साझेदारी में महाराष्ट्र सरकार द्वारा लॉन्च किए गए चैटबॉट का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Maharashtra Chatbot
- (b) Aapple Sarkar
- (c) WhatsApp Sarkar
- (d) Digital Maharashtra
- (e) Citizen Services Bot

Ans. b

Sol. Maharashtra govt collaborates with Meta to launch WhatsApp-based citizen services

The Government of Maharashtra has partnered with Meta (formerly Facebook) during the Mumbai Tech Week 2025.

The aim of this collaboration is to provide all citizen services via WhatsApp on a single number, empowering 125 million citizens to access government services from anywhere, at any time.

The chatbot, 'Aapple Sarkar', will be available in three languages - Marathi, English, and Hindi and will offer service through both text and voice.

The chatbot will offer services like addressing grievances, downloading critical documents and certificates, convenience services like booking bus tickets via Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) or Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) and providing timely information to farmers and citizens across Maharashtra.

#### 17. **By how much did India's core sector output grow in January 2025?**

**जनवरी 2025 में भारत के कोर सेक्टर का उत्पादन कितना बढ़ा?**

- (a) 3.8%
- (b) 4.2%
- (c) 4.6%
- (d) 4.8%
- (e) 5.2%

Ans. c

Sol. India's core sectors' output grew 4.6% in January

Output in India's eight core infrastructure sectors, which constitute about 40% of overall industrial production, grew 4.6% in January, mildly slower than the upgraded 4.8% growth recorded in December but still the second highest uptick in six months. The core sectors had grown 4.2% in January 2024.

On a sequential basis, however, the Index of Core Industries (ICI) was up 2.4% from December 2024 with a reading of 173, which marks a 10-month high and indicates the highest output level recorded so far in 2024-25. January's growth was largely driven by a 14.5% surge in cement production and an 8.3% uptick in refinery products.

The Commerce and Industry ministry also revised upwards core sectors' growth for October to 3.8% from the 3.1% growth estimated earlier, and November's growth to 4.4% from 4.3% reported initially. Steel and electricity generation grew 3.7% and 1.3%, respectively, reflecting the slowest growth in four months for both segments.

#### 18. **Who has inaugurated the workshop on sustainability and circularity in the dairy sector in New Delhi?**

**नई दिल्ली में डेयरी क्षेत्र में स्थिरता और सर्कुलरिटी पर कार्यशाला का उद्घाटन किसने किया है?**

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Rajnath Singh
- (c) Amit Shah
- (d) Piyush Goyal
- (e) Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Ans. c

Sol. Amit Shah inaugurate Workshop on Sustainable Dairy Sector in New Delhi Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah has inaugurated the workshop on sustainability and circularity in the dairy sector in New Delhi.

The workshop focused on policies and initiatives of the Ministry of Cooperation and the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries aimed at promoting sustainable dairy farming while ensuring economic growth with environmental responsibility.

During the workshop, experts from the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), industry, and global organisations discussed ways to expand circular dairy practices and explore financing options, carbon credit opportunities, and waste-to-energy solutions.

**19. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, will organise the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Executive Capacity Building Programme on human rights in New Delhi. Who will inaugurate the ITEC Executive Programme on Human Rights?**

**राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी), विदेश मंत्रालय के साथ साझेदारी में, नई दिल्ली में मानवाधिकारों पर भारतीय तकनीकी और आर्थिक सहयोग (आईटीईसी) कार्यकारी क्षमता निर्माण कार्यक्रम आयोजित करेगा। मानवाधिकारों पर आईटीईसी कार्यकारी कार्यक्रम का उद्घाटन कौन करेगा?**

- (a) Chief Justice of India
- (b) Prime Minister of India
- (c) NHRC Chairperson
- (d) Minister of External Affairs
- (e) United Nations Secretary-General

Ans. c

Sol. NHRC & MEA to Host ITEC Executive Programme on Human Rights for Global South in New Delhi

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, will organise the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Executive Capacity Building Programme on human rights in New Delhi.

This six-day programme for senior-level functionaries of the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) of the Global South will commence from 3 March.

The programme aims to provide insights into various dimensions of human rights and international perspectives and share the NHRC experience to enhance awareness among participants of various NHRIs.

It seeks to strengthen South-South cooperation, enhance collaboration and networking, and improve human rights protection mechanisms through comprehensive capacity building and experience sharing.

The programme will be inaugurated by the Chairperson of the NHRC Justice V. Ramasubramanian. Nearly 47 participants from the NHRIs of 14 countries of the Global South are likely to attend this event. These countries include Madagascar, Uganda, Samoa, Timor Leste, DR Congo, Togo, Mali, Nigeria, Egypt, Tanzania, Mauritius, Burundi, Turkmenistan, and Qatar.

#### 20. **How much total GST revenue was collected in February 2025?**

**फरवरी 2025 में कुल कितना जीएसटी राजस्व एकत्र किया गया?**

- (a) 1.70 lakh crore rupees
- (b) 1.75 lakh crore rupees
- (c) 1.89 lakh crore rupees
- (d) 1.90 lakh crore rupees
- (e) 1.84 lakh crore rupees

Ans. e

Sol. GST collections jump 9.1% in Feb to ₹1.84 lakh crore

India's gross Goods and Services Tax, GST, collections jumped 9.1 per cent in February to 1.84 lakh crore rupees in comparison to the same month last year. February marks the 12th consecutive month of over 1.7 lakh crore rupees of collections.

As per the data, mop up from Central GST stood at 35,204 crore rupees, State GST at 43,704 crore rupees, Integrated GST at 90,870 crore rupees and compensation cess of 13,868 crore rupees.

Total refunds issued during February were 20,889 crore rupees. Net GST collections, after discounting the refunds, for February rose 8.1 per cent to about 1.63 lakh crore rupees.

#### **GST Collection of Previous Months**

- October 2024 – 1.87 lakh crore

- November 2024 – 1.82 lakh crore
- December 2024 – 1.77 lakh crore
- January 2025 – 1.96 lakh crore
- February 2025 – 1.84 lakh crore

**21. Which Indian tennis player won the men's doubles title at the Chile Open 2025?**

**किस भारतीय टेनिस खिलाड़ी ने चिली ओपन 2025 में पुरुष युगल का खिताब जीता?**

- (a) Sumit Nagal
- (b) Yuki Bhambri
- (c) Rithvik Choudary Bollipalli
- (d) Ramkumar Ramanathan
- (e) Prajnesh Gunneswaran

Ans. c

Sol. Chile Open 2025: Indian-Colombian duo claim men's doubles title

In Tennis, India's Rithvik Choudary Bollipalli and his Colombian partner Nicolás Barrientos have claimed the men's doubles title of the Chile Open in Santiago.

The Indian- Columbian duo upset top seeds Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni of Argentina, 6-3, 6-2, in straight sets last night. This is the first title of Rithvik and Nicolas as a team.

In the semifinal, the duo defeated the third seeds, Guido Andreozzi of Argentina and Theo Arribage of France 4-6, 7-6, 10-5.

**22. Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd signed an MoU with the Indian Army for the construction of a 130-foot-long Single Lane Modular (SLM) Steel Bridge (70R) in which state?**

**गार्डन रीच शिपबिल्डर्स एंड इंजीनियर्स (GRSE) लिमिटेड ने किस राज्य में 130 फुट लंबे सिंगल लेन मॉड्यूलर (SLM) स्टील ब्रिज (70R) के निर्माण के लिए भारतीय सेना के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए?**

- (a) Mizoram
- (b) Arunachal Pradesh
- (c) Uttarakhand
- (d) Jammu and Kashmir
- (e) Nagaland

Ans. b

Sol. GRSE Signs Landmark MoU with Army for Modular Steel Bridge in Arunachal Pradesh

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd signed an MoU with the Indian Army for the construction of a 130-foot-long Single Lane Modular (SLM) Steel Bridge (70R) in Arunachal Pradesh.

In 2022, GRSE earned the distinction of being the only Indian company to receive the Green Channel Certification for Portable Steel Bridges (Bailey Type) from the Indian Army.

Earlier, GRSE delivered Modular Bridges to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and the National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL), apart from several state governments and friendly countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.

**23. According to the World Bank, at what average growth rate does India need to grow to achieve high-income status by 2047?**

**विश्व बैंक के अनुसार, 2047 तक उच्च आय का दर्जा प्राप्त करने के लिए भारत को किस औसत वृद्धि दर से बढ़ने की आवश्यकता है?**

- (a) 6.5%
- (b) 7.0%
- (c) 7.8%
- (d) 8.5%
- (e) 9.2%

Ans. c

Sol. World Bank: India needs 7.8 % growth to become Viksit Bharat by 2047

A new World Bank report, India will need to grow by 7.8 per cent on average over the next 22 years to achieve the country's aspirations of reaching high-income status by 2047.

The new India Country Economic Memorandum titled 'Becoming a High-Income Economy in a Generation,' finds that this target is possible.

The World Bank classifies the economy based on Gross National Income (GNI) per capita. GNI is measured in United States dollars (USD) and is determined using conversion factors derived according to the World Bank Atlas method.

The classifications are updated each year on 1st July and are based on the GNI per capita of the previous year.

The World Bank classifies the countries into Low Income, Middle Income, and High Income. The Middle income is again subdivided into Lower -Middle Income and Upper -Middle Income.

According to the World Bank, India is a low-middle-income country, while China is a high-middle-income economy. The GDP per capita of India in 2023 was \$2,480.

**24. Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi chair the NBWL meeting on World Wildlife Day?**

**प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने विश्व वन्यजीव दिवस पर NBWL बैठक की अध्यक्षता कहाँ की?**

- (a) Ranthambore National Park
- (b) Kaziranga National Park
- (c) Sasan Gir
- (d) Jim Corbett National Park
- (e) Sundarbans

Ans. c

Sol. PM Modi chaired NBWL meeting at Sasan Gir on World Wildlife Day

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chaired a meeting of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) at Sasan Gir in Junagadh district of Gujarat on the occasion of World Wildlife Day.

The NBWL has 47 members, including the Chief of Army Staff, members from different states, representatives from NGOs working in this field, chief wildlife wardens and secretaries from various states.

This board works for the promotion of the conservation and development of wildlife and forests with the Prime Minister as its chairperson.

**25. An integrated Tri-Service Special Forces exercise named Exercise Desert Hunt 2025 was conducted by the Indian Air Force at Air Force Station Jodhpur. Which special forces unit from the Indian Army participated in the exercise?**

**भारतीय वायु सेना द्वारा जोधपुर वायु सेना स्टेशन पर अभ्यास डेजर्ट हंट 2025 नामक एक एकीकृत त्रि-सेवा विशेष बल अभ्यास आयोजित किया गया। इस अभ्यास में भारतीय सेना की किस विशेष बल इकाई ने भाग लिया?**

- (a) NSG Commandos
- (b) Ghatak Platoon
- (c) Para (Special Forces)
- (d) COBRA Commandos
- (e) Marcos

Ans. c

Sol. Exercise Desert Hunt 2025

An integrated Tri-Service Special Forces exercise named Exercise Desert Hunt 2025 was conducted by the Indian Air Force at Air Force Station Jodhpur.

The exercise involved elite Para (Special Forces) from the Indian Army, the Marine Commandos from the Indian Navy along with the Garud (Special Forces) from the Indian Air Force.

This high-intensity drill was aimed at enhancing interoperability, coordination and synergy among the three Special Forces units to ensure swift and effective response towards emerging security challenges.

#### Recent Exercise

- **6<sup>th</sup> edition of Exercise Dharma Guardian** between Indian Army and Japan Ground Self-Defence Force (JGSDF) - Mount Fuji, Japan.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

26. **World Seagrass Day is celebrated every year which day to raise awareness about the importance of seagrass ecosystems and the need to conserve them?**  
विश्व समुद्री घास दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है ताकि समुद्री घास पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के महत्व और उनके संरक्षण की आवश्यकता के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाई जा सके?

- (a) 1 March
- (b) 2 March
- (c) 3 March
- (d) 4 March
- (e) 5 March

Ans. a

Sol. 1 March - World Seagrass Day

World Seagrass Day is celebrated every year on March 1st to raise awareness about the importance of seagrass ecosystems and the need to conserve them.

In May 2022, the General Assembly adopted A/RES/76/265 proclaiming 1 March as World Seagrass Day.

27. **Zero Discrimination Day is observed annually on March 1st to promote equality and stand against discrimination in all its forms. What is the theme for Zero Discrimination Day 2025?**

शून्य भेदभाव दिवस समानता को बढ़ावा देने और सभी प्रकार के भेदभाव के खिलाफ खड़े होने के लिए हर साल 1 मार्च को मनाया जाता है। शून्य भेदभाव दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Equality for All
- (b) We stand together

- (c) No More Discrimination
- (d) Break the Barriers
- (e) United for Change

Ans. b

Sol. 1 March - Zero Discrimination Day

Zero Discrimination Day is observed annually on March 1st to promote equality and stand against discrimination in all its forms.

Theme 2025 - We stand together

Launched by UNAIDS in 2014, the day emphasizes the right of every individual to live with dignity, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, health status, disability, or other differences.

**28. Ron Draper, who was the oldest living Test cricketer, passed away recently at 98. He was from which country?**

**रॉन ड्रेपर, जो सबसे उम्रदराज जीवित टेस्ट क्रिकेटर थे, का हाल ही में 98 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह किस देश से थे?**

- (a) England
- (b) South Africa
- (c) Australia
- (d) New Zealand
- (e) West Indies

Ans. b

Sol. Oldest Test Cricketer Ron Draper Dies In South Africa

Ron Draper, who was the oldest living Test cricketer, has died in Gqeberha at the age of 98 years.

Draper, a top-order batsman and occasional wicketkeeper, played in two Test matches for South Africa against Australia in 1950.

One of his opponents, Neil Harvey, now becomes the oldest living Test player at the age of 96. Both previous oldest Test cricketers were South Africans -- Norman Gordon, who died aged 103 in 2016, and John Watkins, who was 98 when he died in 2021.

**29. Uttam Mohanty passed away recently at the age of 66. In which field did Uttam Mohanty primarily work?**

**हाल ही में 66 वर्ष की आयु में उत्तम मोहंती का निधन हो गया। उत्तम मोहंती ने मुख्य रूप से किस क्षेत्र में काम किया?**

- (a) Music
- (b) Film
- (c) Theater

- (d) Dance
- (e) Literature

Ans. b

Sol. Veteran Odia actor Uttam Mohanty dies at 66

Legendary Odia film actor Uttam Mohanty passed away at the age of 66.

A celebrated figure in the Odia film industry, 66-year-old Uttam Mohanty starred in 135 Odia films, leaving an indelible mark on regional cinema. His contributions extended beyond Odisha, with appearances in 30 Bengali films and a Hindi movie, *Naya Zahar*.

He is the only Odia actor to win the Odisha State Film Award for Best Actor for three consecutive years (1982–1984). In 1999, he received the prestigious Jaydev Puraskar, the highest film award in Odisha, alongside Odisha Living Legend Award in 2012.

**30. World Wildlife Day is celebrated annually on March 3rd to raise awareness about the importance of conserving wildlife and their habitats. What is the theme for World Wildlife Day 2025?**

**वन्यजीवों और उनके आवासों के संरक्षण के महत्व के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए हर साल 3 मार्च को विश्व वन्यजीव दिवस मनाया जाता है। विश्व वन्यजीव दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?**

- (a) Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet
- (b) Life Below Water: For People and Planet
- (c) Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet
- (d) Big Cats: Predators Under Threat
- (e) Recovering Key Species for Ecosystem Restoration

Ans. c

Sol. 3 March - World Wildlife Day



World Wildlife Day is celebrated annually on March 3rd to raise awareness about the importance of conserving wildlife and their habitats.

Theme 2025 - Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet

It was initiated by the United Nations in 2013 to celebrate the wonderful animals and plants that inhabit our planet.

**31. What was the total UPI transaction volume in February 2025?**

**फरवरी 2025 में कुल UPI लेनदेन की मात्रा कितनी थी?**

- (a) 16.99 billion
- (b) 16.73 billion
- (c) 16.11 billion
- (d) 17.25 billion
- (e) 15.50 billion

Ans. c

Sol. UPI posts 5% dip in volume to 16.11 billion, 7% in value in February

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions saw a 5 per cent month-on-month dip in volume to 16.11 billion in February, from 16.99 billion in January, owing to fewer days in the month.

Similarly, the value also declined 6.5 per cent to Rs 21.48 trillion in February, compared to Rs 23.48 trillion in January.

This is compared to 16.73 billion in volume and Rs 23.25 trillion in value in December. However, this was a 33 per cent rise in volume and 20 per cent in value compared to February 2024, said data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) transactions were 9 per cent down in February to 405 million as against 444 million in January. In value terms, too, it was down by 7 per cent to Rs 5.63 trillion in February versus Rs 6.06 trillion in January.

In December, this was seen at 441 million in volume and Rs 6.02 trillion in value. In volume terms, this was a 24 per cent decline, and in value terms, a 1 per cent dip compared to February 2024.

FASTag transactions increased by 1 per cent to 384 million during the month, compared to 380 million in January and 382 million in December. The value dipped marginally to Rs 6,601 crore in February versus Rs 6,614 crore in January.

Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) transactions were seen as flat at 94 million in February. However, in value terms, this was up by 2 per cent, from Rs 24,026 crore in January to Rs 24,410 crore in February. This was compared to Rs 24,020 crore in December.

**32. City Union Bank Ltd, an old private sector bank, has partnered with Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to launch a co-branded credit card. Which payment networks power the CUB-CSK Co-Branded Credit Card?**

**सिटी यूनियन बैंक लिमिटेड, एक पुराना निजी क्षेत्र का बैंक, ने चेन्नई सुपर किंग्स (CSK) के साथ मिलकर एक सह-ब्रांडेड क्रेडिट कार्ड लॉन्च किया है। CUB-CSK सह-ब्रांडेड क्रेडिट कार्ड को कौन से भुगतान नेटवर्क संचालित करते हैं?**

- (a) MasterCard only
- (b) RuPay only
- (c) MasterCard and RuPay
- (d) Visa and American Express
- (e) Discover and Diners Club

Ans. c

Sol. CUB-CSK co-branded credit card launched with sports and lifestyle perks

City Union Bank Ltd, an old private sector bank, has partnered with Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to launch a co-branded credit card.

The CUB-CSK Co-Branded Credit Card will be available in three variants – MasterCard, Platinum, and Signature Powered by MasterCard and RuPay, the card promises global acceptance, top-notch security, and contactless payment options.

These cards go beyond just ticket purchases. While the initial focus will be on sports-related perks for the first two to three months, we will introduce additional rewards to encourage everyday spending.

The co-branded card's initial focus will be existing customers across savings accounts, current accounts, term deposits, and loan portfolios. However, it will also be extended to new customers through a fully digital onboarding process.

**33. US President Donald Trump signed an executive order designating English as the official language of the United States. Which former US President was introduced the policy requiring federal agencies to offer language assistance to non-English speakers?**

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने अंग्रेजी को संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की आधिकारिक भाषा के रूप में नामित करने वाले एक कार्यकारी आदेश पर हस्ताक्षर किए। किस पूर्व अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति ने संघीय एजेंसियों को गैर-अंग्रेजी बोलने वालों को भाषा सहायता प्रदान करने की आवश्यकता वाली नीति पेश की थी?

- (a) Ronald Reagan
- (b) Bill Clinton
- (c) George H.W. Bush
- (d) Barak Obama
- (e) Richard Nixon

Ans. b

Sol. Donald Trump declared English as official language of United States  
US President Donald Trump signed an executive order designating English as the official language of the United States.

The order rescinds a policy introduced by former President Bill Clinton that required federal agencies and organisations receiving government funding to offer language assistance to non-English speakers.

The move aligns with a long-standing campaign promise by Trump and reflects efforts by lawmakers who have attempted for decades to pass similar legislation. More than 30 states have already declared English their official language.

**34. Where is Tesla opening its first showroom in India?**

**टेस्ला भारत में अपना पहला शोरूम कहां खोल रहा है?**

- (a) Delhi
- (b) Bengaluru
- (c) Chennai

- (d) Mumbai
- (e) Hyderabad

Ans. d

Sol. Tesla to open India's first showroom at Maker Maxity in BKC Mumbai  
Elon Musk's automotive company Tesla has finalized its showroom space in Mumbai's Maker Maxity, a mixed-use development located in the Bandra Kurla Complex, at a monthly rent of around ₹35 lakh.

The car showroom space spread across an area of around 3000 sq ft is located on the ground floor of the commercial tower in Maker Maxity and the rent is around ₹35 lakh per month.

BKC is the country's most expensive commercial real estate hub.

### 35. Who has been re-elected as the chairman of the Bar Council of India (BCI) for the seventh consecutive term?

**बार काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया (बीसीआई) के अध्यक्ष के रूप में लगातार सातवीं बार किसे चुना गया है?**

- (a) Kapil Sibal
- (b) Harish Salve
- (c) Manan Kumar Mishra
- (d) Ranjan Gogoi
- (e) Fali S. Nariman

Ans. c

Sol. Manan Kumar Mishra re-elected as Chairman of Bar Council of India  
Senior Advocate Manan Kumar Mishra has been re-elected chairman of the Bar Council of India (BCI) for the seventh consecutive term. He was elected unopposed. Mishra is a Rajya Sabha member from Bihar and represents the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

#### About Bar Council of India (BCI)

- BCI is a statutory body established under the Advocates Act of 1961, responsible for regulating the legal profession and education in India.
- Headquarters – New Delhi

#### Recent Appointments

- **Chairman of Ratan Tata Endowment Foundation** - N Chandrasekaran
- **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).

36. **Who has been given the additional charge of the Revenue Department after Revenue Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey was appointed as the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)?**

राजस्व सचिव तुहिन कांता पांडे को भारतीय प्रतिभूति एवं विनियम बोर्ड (सेबी) का अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किए जाने के बाद राजस्व विभाग का अतिरिक्त प्रभार किसे दिया गया है?

- (a) Tuhin Kanta Pandey
- (b) Ajay Seth
- (c) Shaktikanta Das
- (d) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (e) Urjit Patel

Ans. b

Sol. Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth gets additional charge of Revenue Department

Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth was given additional charge of the post of Secretary, Department of Revenue.

The vacancy was necessitated following the appointment of Revenue Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey as the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The competent authority has approved the assignment of the additional charge of the secretary of the Department of Revenue to Ajay Seth, secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs till the appointment of a regular incumbent.

### Other Important Secretaries

- **Principal Secretary to PM** - PK Mishra (I) & Shaktikanta Das (II)
- **Secretary in Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** - Arunish Chawla
- **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

**37. Markets regulator SEBI has allowed all non-banking financial companies (NBFC), including housing finance companies, to invest in security receipts issued by Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs). What is the primary objective of allowing NBFCs to invest in security receipts issued by ARCs?**

बाजार नियामक सेबी ने हाउसिंग फाइनेंस कंपनियों सहित सभी गैर-बैंकिंग वित्तीय कंपनियों (एनबीएफसी) को एसेट रिकंस्ट्रक्शन कंपनियों (एआरसी) द्वारा जारी सुरक्षा रसीदों में निवेश करने की अनुमति दे दी है। एनबीएफसी को एआरसी द्वारा जारी सुरक्षा रसीदों में निवेश करने की अनुमति देने का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य क्या है?

- (a) To reduce the number of bad loans in the banking system
- (b) To increase the liquidity in the distressed asset market
- (c) To encourage investments in the bad loans space
- (d) To provide relief to defaulting promoters
- (e) To reduce the role of ARCs in the financial system

Ans. c

Sol. SEBI permits all NBFCs, HFCs to invest in security receipts by ARCs

Markets regulator SEBI has allowed all non-banking financial companies (NBFC), including housing finance companies, to invest in security receipts issued by Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs), a move aimed at encouraging investments in the bad loans space.

This has widened the scope of participants who can acquire security receipts from ARCs, thereby boosting liquidity in the distressed asset market.

ARCs are set-up to acquire bad loans from banks and financial institutions after appropriate haircuts and issue security receipts (SRs).

This comes with safeguards to avert defaulting promoters from claiming back the secured assets through SRs.

Sebi said that such "NBFCs including HFCs will have to ensure that the defaulting promoters or their related parties do not directly or indirectly gain access to secured assets through security receipts; and such NBFCs including HFCs shall comply with such other conditions as the RBI may specify from time to time".

As per the SARFAESI Act, only qualified buyers can invest in security receipts.

**38. Who was conferred with the Icon of Excellence award at the Forbes India Leadership Awards (FILA 2025)?**

फोर्ब्स इंडिया लीडरशिप अवार्ड्स (FILA 2025) में आइकॉन ऑफ एक्सीलेंस अवार्ड से किसे सम्मानित किया गया?

- (a) Sourav Ganguly
- (b) N. Srinivasan
- (c) Jay Shah
- (d) Rahul Dravid

(e) Roger Binny

Ans. c

Sol. ICC chairman Jay Shah conferred with Icon of Excellence award at FILA 2025  
Jay Shah, chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), has been honoured with the prestigious Icon of Excellence award at the 14th edition of the Forbes India Leadership Awards (FILA 2025).

This award recognises his exceptional contributions to cricket administration and his role in driving innovation and inclusivity in the sport.

Under his leadership, cricket has witnessed a remarkable transformation, making the game more accessible and globally competitive.

At the age of 36, Jay Shah made history by becoming the youngest-ever chairman of the ICC.

#### **About International Cricket Council (ICC)**

- The International Cricket Council is the global governing body of cricket.
- **Formation** - 15 June 1909
- **Headquarters** - Dubai, UAE
- **Chairman** – Jay Shah (replace Greg Barclay)
- **Deputy Chairman** - Imran Khwaja (Singapore)
- **CEO** - Geoff Allardice (Australia)
- **General Manager** – Wasim Khan
- **Membership** - 108 members

39. **Who has won the ATP Challenger singles title at the Bengaluru Open 2025?**

**बेंगलुरु ओपन 2025 में एटीपी चैलेंजर एकल खिताब किसने जीता है?**

- (a) Shintaro Mochizuki
- (b) Brandon Holt
- (c) Anirudh Chandrasekar
- (d) Ray Ho
- (e) Matthew Christopher Romios

Ans. b

Sol. Tennis: Brandon Holt wins Bengaluru Open Title, Beats Shintaro Mochizuki in Final

In tennis, Brandon Holt of the USA clinched his second ATP Challenger singles title of the season after beating Japan's Shintaro Mochizuki 6-3, 6-3 in the Bengaluru Open 2025 tennis tournament's singles final.

Consequently, the 26-year-old Holt became the first American winner in the Bengaluru Open history.

This was the ninth edition of the ATP Challenger 125 tennis tournament. Indian tennis player Anirudh Chandrasekar and Chinese Taipei's Ray Ho beat Blake Bayldon and Matthew Christopher Romios 6-2, 6-4 to win the doubles title.

**40. One of India's greatest cricketers, Virat Kohli has reached a historic milestone. During the Champions Trophy match against New Zealand in Dubai, he played his 300th One Day International (ODI) match. Who holds the record for playing the most ODIs in cricket history?**

भारत के महानतम क्रिकेटरों में से एक विराट कोहली ने एक ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि हासिल की है। दुबई में न्यूजीलैंड के खिलाफ चैम्पियंस ट्रॉफी मैच के दौरान उन्होंने अपना 300वां वनडे इंटरनेशनल (ODI) मैच खेला। क्रिकेट इतिहास में सबसे ज्यादा वनडे खेलने का रिकॉर्ड किसके नाम है?

- (a) MS Dhoni
- (b) Ricky Ponting
- (c) Virat Kohli
- (d) Sachin Tendulkar
- (e) Sourav Ganguly

Ans. d

Sol. Kohli becomes seventh Indian player to play 300 ODIs

One of India's greatest cricketers, Virat Kohli has reached a historic milestone. During the Champions Trophy match against New Zealand in Dubai, he played his 300th One Day International (ODI) match.

With this achievement, Kohli became the seventh Indian and 22nd player in the world to reach this milestone.

The list is led by Sachin Tendulkar, who played 463 matches, followed by MS Dhoni with 347 matches.

**41. Which team won the 90th edition of the Ranji Trophy?**

रणजी ट्रॉफी का 90वां संस्करण किस टीम ने जीता है?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Vidarbha
- (d) Saurashtra
- (e) Delhi

Ans. c

Sol. Vidarbha clinch third title of Ranji Trophy

The 90th edition of the Ranji Trophy has concluded with Vidarbha lifting their third title, as they finished the final against Kerala with a draw at the VCA Stadium in Jamtha, Nagpur.

Vidarbha took the first innings lead and hence was declared the champions for this year.

The Ranji Trophy, India's premier red-ball cricket competition, was first introduced in the 1934-35 season under the name "Cricket Championship of India" before it was renamed the following year.

The inaugural champions were Bombay, who have since dominated the tournament with a remarkable 42 titles, the latest of which came last year when they triumphed over Vidarbha in the final at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. Karnataka, previously known as Mysore, holds the second-highest number of titles with eight.

Vidarbha made their debut in the Ranji Trophy final during the 2017-18 season, when they defeated Delhi, and then successfully defended their title the next year against Saurashtra.

**42. Which company has partnered with Hyundai India Insurance Broking Pvt. Ltd. (HIIIB) to expand motor insurance accessibility in March 2025?**

**मार्च 2025 में मोटर बीमा सुलभता का विस्तार करने के लिए किस कंपनी ने हुंडई इंडिया इंश्योरेंस ब्रोकिंग प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (HIIIB) के साथ साझेदारी की है?**

- (a) ICICI Lombard
- (b) Bajaj Allianz
- (c) Magma General Insurance Limited
- (d) Reliance General Insurance
- (e) HDFC ERGO

Ans. c

Sol. Magma GI partners with Hyundai India Insurance Broking for vehicle coverage. Magma General Insurance Limited (Magma) has forged a strategic alliance with Hyundai India Insurance Broking Pvt. Ltd. (HIIIB) to enhance motor insurance accessibility across the country.

Under this collaboration, HIIIB will offer Magma's motor insurance policies for private and commercial passenger vehicles through its extensive network of 600+ dealerships across India.

This partnership is aimed at providing vehicle owners with comprehensive insurance coverage against risks such as accidents, theft, natural calamities, and third-party liabilities. By joining forces, both companies seek to deliver seamless, cost-effective, and easily accessible insurance solutions to customers nationwide.

MD and CEO of Magma General Insurance - Rajive Kumaraswami

#### **Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector**

- TCS extends partnership with Norway's DNB Bank ASA for 5 years
- SIDBI signs MoU with Tata Capital Limited to strengthen financing avenues for MSMEs

- Paytm Partners with AI Startup Perplexity to Enhance Financial Literacy with AI-Powered Search
- 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.

**43. What is the title of the report recently released by NITI Aayog on women's role in India's financial growth?**

**नीति आयोग द्वारा हाल ही में भारत के वित्तीय विकास में महिलाओं की भूमिका पर जारी की गई रिपोर्ट का शीर्षक क्या है?**

- (a) "Women's Empowerment through Financial Inclusion"
- (b) "From Borrowers to Builders: Women's Role in India's Financial Growth Story"
- (c) "Financial Growth and Women's Participation"
- (d) "Women's Financial Literacy and Empowerment"
- (e) "India's Financial Growth and Women's Contribution"

Ans. b

Sol. NITI Aayog launches report on "From Borrowers To Builders: Women's Role in India's Financial Growth Story"

NITI Aayog released a report called "From Borrowers to Builders: Women's Role in India's Financial Growth Story."

The report, launched by NITI Aayog CEO Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, shows that more women in India are taking loans and checking their credit scores.

By December 2024, 27 million women were monitoring their credit, which is 42% more than the previous year. This increase shows that women are becoming more aware of financial matters.

The report was prepared by TransUnion CIBIL, NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), and MicroSave Consulting (MSC).

The percentage of women checking their credit reports increased from 17.89% in 2023 to 19.43% in 2024. Women in non-metro areas are becoming more financially active, with 48% growth, compared to 30% growth in metro cities.

Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana accounted for 49% of all women self-monitoring credit, with the southern region leading at 10.2 million women.

Northern and central states like Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh have shown the highest growth in active women borrowers.

Since 2019, women's share of business loans has increased by 14%, and their share of gold loans has grown by 6%. By December 2024, women made up 35% of business borrowers.

44. **World Hearing Day is observed every year on March 3rd to raise awareness about hearing loss, ear health, and the importance of early intervention. What is the theme for World Hearing Day 2025?**

विश्व श्रवण दिवस हर साल 3 मार्च को श्रवण हानि, कान के स्वास्थ्य और समय रहते हस्तक्षेप के महत्व के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए मनाया जाता है। विश्व श्रवण दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Hearing for All: Making it a Reality
- (b) Changing Mindsets: Empower Yourself to Make Ear and Hearing Care a Reality for All
- (c) Listen with Care: Protect Your Hearing
- (d) Preventing Hearing Loss: A Global Effort
- (e) Healthy Ears, Healthy Life

Ans. b

Sol. 3 March - World Hearing Day

World Hearing Day is observed every year on March 3rd to raise awareness about hearing loss, ear health, and the importance of early intervention.

Theme 2025 - Changing mindsets: empower yourself to make ear and hearing care a reality for all

The World Health Organization (WHO) leads this global initiative to promote hearing care and prevent deafness

45. **National Safety Day is observed every year on March 4th in India to promote awareness about workplace safety, health, and environmental protection. What is the theme for National Safety Day 2025?**

कार्यस्थल सुरक्षा, स्वास्थ्य और पर्यावरण संरक्षण के बारे में जागरूकता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए भारत में हर साल 4 मार्च को राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा दिवस मनाया जाता है। राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Safety First: A Way of Life
- (b) Safety & Well-being Crucial for Viksit Bharat
- (c) Focus on Safety Leadership for ESG Excellence
- (d) A Safe Workplace for All
- (e) Prevention is Better Than Cure

Ans. b

Sol. 4 March - National Safety Day

National Safety Day is observed every year on March 4th in India to promote awareness about workplace safety, health, and environmental protection.

Theme 2025 - Safety & Well-being Crucial for Viksit Bharat" (Developed India)

It marks the foundation day of the National Safety Council (NSC), which was established in 1966 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.

46. **Which film won the award for Best Picture at the 97th Academy Awards?**

**97वें अकादमी पुरस्कार में किस फिल्म ने सर्वश्रेष्ठ फिल्म का पुरस्कार जीता है?**

- (a) The Brutalist
- (b) Emilia Perez
- (c) Anora
- (d) Dune: Part Two
- (e) In the Shadow of the Cypress

Ans. c

Sol. The 97th Academy Awards took place at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. All eyes were on Jacques Audiard's audacious musical *Emilia Perez* as it was leading with 13 nominations. But it was the night for Sean Baker's *Anora*. The film took home five Oscars including Best Actress, Best Director, Best Film, Best Original Screenplay and Best Film Editing.

<b>Best Category</b>	<b>Winner</b>
Best Actor in a Leading Role	Adrien Brody – <i>The Brutalist</i>
Best Actor in a Supporting Role	Kieran Culkin – <i>A Real Pain</i>
Actress in a Leading Role	Mikey Madison – <i>Anora</i>
Actress in a Supporting Role	Zoe Saldaña – <i>Emilia Pérez</i>
Animated Feature Film	Flow
Animated Short Film	<i>In the Shadow of the Cypress</i>
Cinematography	<i>The Brutalist</i> – Lol Crawley
Costume Design	<i>Wicked</i> – Paul Tazewell
Directing	Anora – Sean Baker
Documentary Feature Film	<i>No Other Land</i>
Documentary Short Film	<i>The Only Girl in the Orchestra</i>
Film Editing	Anora – Sean Baker
International Feature Film	<i>I'm Still Here (Brazil)</i>

Makeup and Hairstyling	The Substance
Music (Original Score)	The Brutalist – Daniel Blumberg
Music (Original Song)	El Mal (Emilia Pérez)
Best Picture	Anora
Production Design	Wicked
Live Action Short Film	I'm Not a Robot
Sound	Dune: Part Two
Visual Effects	Dune: Part Two
Writing (Adapted Screenplay)	Conclave – Peter Straughan
Writing (Original Screenplay)	Anora – Sean Baker

47. **The Government of India upgraded the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) to the prestigious status of Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE). With the upgrade, IRCTC and IRFC became the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Navratna CPSEs, respectively. भारत सरकार ने भारतीय रेलवे खानपान और पर्यटन निगम (IRCTC) और भारतीय रेलवे वित्त निगम (IRFC) को नवरत्न केंद्रीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र उद्यम (CPSE) के प्रतिष्ठित दर्जे में अपग्रेड किया। अपग्रेड के साथ, IRCTC और IRFC क्रमशः \_\_\_\_\_ और \_\_\_\_\_ नवरत्न CPSE बन गए।**

- (a) 20th and 21st
- (b) 30th and 31st
- (c) 10th and 11th
- (d) 25th and 26th
- (e) 15th and 16<sup>th</sup>

Ans. d

Sol. Govt grants Navratna status to IRCTC and IRFC

The Government of India upgraded the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) to the prestigious status of Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).

With this, IRCTC and IRFC have become the 25th and 26th Navratna among the CPSEs, respectively, marking a major milestone for the Indian Railway companies.

The elevation to Navratna status grants the two companies greater financial autonomy, allowing it to invest up to Rs 1,000 crore without seeking government approval, thereby fast-tracking their decision-making abilities.

Founded in 1986, IRFC is primarily responsible for mobilising funds for Indian Railways' massive infrastructure expansion and modernization projects. Meanwhile, IRCTC, which was founded in 1999, provides ticketing, catering, and tourism services for the state-owned Indian Railways.

The Indian government categorizes CPSEs into three groups: Maharatna, Navratna, and Miniratna. The centre's aim is to make these PSUs much more competitive and efficient.

**48. What is the GDP growth rate projected by Crisil for FY26?**

**क्रिसिल द्वारा वित्त वर्ष 26 के लिए अनुमानित जीडीपी वृद्धि दर क्या है?**

- (a) 7.5%
- (b) 8.0%
- (c) 6.5%
- (d) 5.5%
- (e) 9.2%

Ans. c

Sol. Crisil projects FY26 GDP growth to be steady at 6.5%

Crisil has forecast India's GDP growth to be steady at 6.5 per cent. The rating agency estimated GDP growth for this fiscal at 6.5 per cent, slower than 9.2 per cent in the previous fiscal.

However, growth remains close to the pre-pandemic decadal average of 6.6 per cent between fiscals 2011 and 2020 and will allow India to retain its tag of fastest growing large economy.

**Updated GDP List**

- CRISIL – 6.5% (FY26)
- Moody's Analytics - 6.4% (FY25)
- RBI – 6.6% (FY25), 6.7% (FY26)
- Deloitte – 6.5-6.8 (FY25)
- FICCI – 6.4% (FY25)
- UN – 6.6% (CY25); 6.7% (CY26)

**49. Which bank has launched a facility for customers to download their housing loan interest certificate from DigiLocker?**

**किस बैंक ने ग्राहकों के लिए डिजीलॉकर से अपने आवास ऋण ब्याज प्रमाणपत्र डाउनलोड करने की सुविधा शुरू की है?**

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

Ans. c

Sol. IOB bank user can access Housing Loan Interest Certificate on DigiLocker

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched a new facility enabling customers to download their housing loan interest certificate directly from DigiLocker.

This initiative eliminates the need for branch visits, providing a seamless, secure, and efficient way to access financial documents.

MD & CEO of Indian Overseas Bank - Ajay Kumar Srivastava

### What is DigiLocker?

- DigiLocker is an initiative under the central government digital India programme, which provides a secure platform for users to store and access important documents anytime, anywhere.
- By integrating with DigiLocker, Indian Overseas Bank is making financial document retrieval faster, paperless, and more environmentally sustainable.

50. **Poonawalla Fincorp Limited has launched a new fully digital personal loan product targeting salaried professionals. What is the name of this digital personal loan product?**

पूनावाला फिनकॉर्प लिमिटेड ने वेतनभोगी पेशेवरों को लक्षित करते हुए एक नया पूर्णतः डिजिटल पर्सनल लोन उत्पाद लॉन्च किया है। इस डिजिटल पर्सनल लोन उत्पाद का नाम क्या है?

- (a) PL Express Loan
- (b) PL Prime Digital 24x7
- (c) Instant Cash 24x7
- (d) Poonawalla Quick Loan
- (e) Digital Loan Plus

Ans. b

Sol. Poonawalla Fincorp launches digital personal loan for salaried professionals

Poonawalla Fincorp Limited has launched a new fully digital personal loan product called "PL Prime Digital 24x7" targeting salaried professionals.

The new offering provides instant loan approvals of up to ₹15 lakh within 15 minutes through a completely paperless process. The service is available around the clock and accessible through the company's mobile app, website, and authorized partners.

The product aims to eliminate paperwork and delays in the lending process, particularly for professionals from prime corporates requiring quick access to funds.

MD & CEO of Poonawalla Fincorp - Arvind Kapil

51. **Who has been sworn in as Austria's new chancellor?**

**ऑस्ट्रिया के नए चांसलर के रूप में किसने शपथ ली है?**

- (a) Sebastian Kurz
- (b) Karl Nehammer
- (c) Christian Stocker
- (d) Alexander Van der Bellen
- (e) Heinz-Christian Strache

Ans. c

Sol. Christian Stocker becomes Austrian chancellor as three-party govt sworn in  
Conservative Christian Stocker has been sworn in as Austria's chancellor at the head  
of a three-party coalition government, ending five months of political deadlock that  
followed a far-right party's election win.

The swearing-in came days after Stocker said a "common programme" had been  
agreed by his Austrian People's Party (OVP), the centre-left Social Democrats and the  
liberal Neos.

**Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President**

- Romania's Interim President - Ilie Bolojans
- 72nd US Secretary of State in the Trump Administration - Marco Rubio
- PM of Belgium - Bart De Wever
- President of Belarus - Alexander Lukashenkos
- PM of Ireland - Micheal Martin
- President of the United States - Donald Trump (47th)

52. **Recently, which American clothing brand has signed Diljit Dosanjh as its  
brand ambassador?**

**हाल ही में, किस अमेरिकी कपड़ों के ब्रांड ने दिलजीत दोसांझ को अपना ब्रांड एंबेसडर बनाया  
है?**

- (a) Nike
- (b) Adidas
- (c) Levi's
- (d) Puma
- (e) Calvin Klein

Ans. c

Sol. Levi's ropes in Diljit Dosanjh as global ambassador

In an iconic partnership, American clothing brand, Levi's, has signed up Punjabi  
singer and actor Diljit Dosanjh to be the face of the brand.

This collaboration marks a significant moment in the fashion industry, bringing together two Greatest Of All Times (G.O.A.T.) forces that resonate with the youth.

This fusion of Levi's exclusive style and Diljit's genre-defying artistry has set the stage for a new era in fashion and music.

### Recent Brand Ambassador

- PV Sindhu - PUMA India
- Mo Farah - Tata Mumbai Marathon
- MS Dhoni - Eurogrip Tyres
- Rashmika Mandanna - Chennai-based real estate developer, DRA
- Sonu Sood - Brand Ambassador and Honourary Tourism Advisor for Thailand
- Harbhajan Singh & Sania Mirza - Dubai Sports Council brand ambassador

53. **What is the name of the new long-term savings product launched by ICICI**

**Prudential Life Insurance, aimed at providing customers with guaranteed**

**immediate income to navigate the uncertainties of the current market?**

**आईसीआईसीआई प्रूडेंशियल लाइफ इंश्योरेंस द्वारा लॉन्च किए गए नए दीर्घकालिक बचत उत्पाद का नाम क्या है, जिसका उद्देश्य ग्राहकों को मौजूदा बाजार की अनिश्चितताओं से निपटने के लिए तत्काल आय की गारंटी प्रदान करना है?**

- (a) ICICI Pru Secure Plan
- (b) ICICI Pru Wealth Plus
- (c) ICICI Pru GIFT Select
- (d) ICICI Pru Future Secure
- (e) ICICI Pru Growth Plan

Ans. c

Sol. ICICI Prudential launches 'Pru GIFT Select' for guaranteed income

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has unveiled a new long-term savings product, ICICI Pru GIFT Select, aimed at providing customers with guaranteed immediate income to navigate the uncertainties of the current market.

The plan offers multiple benefits, including guaranteed returns, wealth preservation, and an inflation-adjusted increasing income option.

ICICI Pru GIFT Select enables customers to customise their income by choosing the start date, duration, and amount of their guaranteed payouts. Additionally, the plan includes a life cover component, ensuring financial security for policyholders and their families.

One of the standout features of this product is the increasing income option, where the guaranteed income grows at a compounded rate of 5 per cent per annum, making it an effective hedge against inflation. This ensures that customers' purchasing power remains intact, even in an unpredictable economic environment.

54. **Legendary Mumbai spinner Padmakar Shivalkar died at the age of 84. Which prestigious award was Padmakar Shivalkar honored with in 2017?**

मुंबई के दिग्गज स्पिनर पद्माकर शिवालकर का 84 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। पद्माकर शिवालकर को 2017 में किस प्रतिष्ठित पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया था?

- (a) Arjuna Award
- (b) Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award
- (c) Padma Shri
- (d) CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award
- (e) Dronacharya Award

Ans. d

Sol. Padmakar Shivalkar, legendary Mumbai spinner, dies

Legendary Mumbai spinner Padmakar Shivalkar died at the age of 84.

Considered one of the best spinners to have never played for India, Shivalkar featured in a total of 124 first-class matches and claimed 589 wickets at 19.69 between 1961-62 to 1987-88.

The left-arm spinner made his debut at the age of 22 in Ranji Trophy and continued playing until he was 48 and took 361 wickets in India's premier domestic competition, including eleven 10-wicket hauls. Shivalkar also played 12 List A matches and took 16 wickets.

He was honoured with the CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017 by the Indian cricket board.

55. **In which category has Rishabh Pant been nominated for the Laureus World Sports Award 2025?**

ऋषभ पंत को लॉरेयस वर्ल्ड स्पोर्ट्स अवार्ड 2025 के लिए किस श्रेणी में नामित किया गया है?

- (a) Breakthrough Player of the Year
- (b) Sportsman of the Year
- (c) Best Cricket Performance
- (d) Comeback of the Year
- (e) Rising Star Award

Ans. d

Sol. Rishabh Pant nominated for Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award

Indian cricket team's swashbuckling batter-keeper, Rishabh Pant has been nominated for the prestigious Laureus World Sports Award 2025 in the comeback of the year category. The awards ceremony will take place in Madrid on April 21.

Pant suffered the near-fatal car accident on December 30, 2022 while driving from Delhi to his hometown Roorkee.

After undergoing initial treatment at a hospital in Dehradun, Pant was airlifted to Mumbai where he was under the care of the BCCI's specialist consultant

#### Recent Award

- **Icon of Excellence award at Forbes India Leadership Awards 2025** -ICC Chairman Jay Shah
- **Sarvashrestha Suraksha Puraskar (Golden Trophy)** - Manohar International Airport, Goa
- **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

56. **How much amount has been released as the second installment of Untied Grants for Rural Local Bodies in West Bengal for FY 2024-25?**

**वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए पश्चिम बंगाल में ग्रामीण स्थानीय निकायों के लिए अनटाइड अनुदान की दूसरी किस्त के रूप में कितनी राशि जारी की गई है?**

- (a) ₹500 crore
- (b) ₹650 crore
- (c) ₹694 crore
- (d) ₹754 crore
- (e) ₹800 crore

Ans. c

Sol. 15th Finance Commission Releases Grants worth Rs.699 Crores for Rural Local Bodies of West Bengal

The Centre has released the 15th Finance Commission Grants for the Financial Year 2024-25 for Rural Local Bodies in West Bengal, which includes the second installment of Untied Grants of Rs 694.4 crore and the withheld portion of the first installment of Untied Grants of Rs 4.9 crore.

According to the Panchayati Raj Ministry, these funds are for the 21 eligible District Panchayats, 326 eligible Block Panchayats and 3,220 eligible Gram Panchayats.

The Untied Grants would be utilised by Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) for location-specific needs under the Twenty-Nine (29) Subjects enshrined in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, except for salaries and other establishment costs.

57. **Who has been appointed as the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)?**

**रक्षा लेखा महानियंत्रक (CGDA) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Dr Ramesh Verma
- (b) Dr Mayank Sharma
- (c) Dr Anil Kumar
- (d) Dr Pankaj Gupta
- (e) Dr Rajeev Mehta

Ans. b

Sol. Dr Mayank Sharma takes charge as Controller General of Defence Accounts  
Dr Mayank Sharma assumed the office of Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA).

He is a 1989-batch officer of the Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS) and has had a distinguished career in the government spanning more than three decades. Dr Mayank Sharma has served in various capacities within the Government of India, including the Defence Accounts Department.

#### Recent Appointments

- **Chairman of Bar Council of India (BCI)** - Manan Kumar Mishra (7<sup>th</sup> time)
- **Chairman of Ratan Tata Endowment Foundation** - N Chandrasekaran
- **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)

58. Who has been appointed as the Chief Operations Officer (COO) of RBL Bank?

आरबीएल बैंक के मुख्य परिचालन अधिकारी (सीओओ) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) T S Pari
- (b) Narendra Agrawal
- (c) Ramesh Gupta
- (d) Vikram Sharma
- (e) Parul Tyagi

Ans. a

Sol. RBL Bank appoints Agrawal as president of branch banking, Pari as COO  
Private sector lender RBL Bank appointed Narendra Agrawal as president and head of branch banking and retail liabilities and T S Pari as chief operations officer (COO).

Agrawal has over 25 years of experience across deposits, lending, distribution, and payments. He brings strong track record of scaling businesses and driving profitable growth through digital-first approach.

Agrawal will focus on deposit growth, enhancing customer experience through an omnichannel strategy, and strengthening the business's contribution to the lender's long-term plan.

Pari, who has more than 25 years of experience in leadership roles across foreign and private sector banks, will be responsible for driving efficiencies, customer centricity, and strengthening risk management practices in core business operations.

**59. Who has become the first Indian woman to cross the 16-metre mark in indoor shot put?**

**इनडोर शॉट पुट में 16 मीटर का आंकड़ा पार करने वाली पहली भारतीय महिला कौन बनी हैं?**

- (a) Poornarao Rane
- (b) Krishna Jayasankar
- (c) Abha Khatua
- (d) Mya Lesnar
- (e) Gabby Morns

Ans. b

Sol. Krishna Jayasankar becomes 1st Indian woman to cross 16m in indoor shot put India's Krishna Jayasankar made history at the 2025 Mountain West Indoor Track and Field Championships by becoming the first Indian woman to cross the 16-metre mark in indoor shot put. Her record-breaking throw measured 16.03 metres.

The 22-year-old broke the previous Indian indoor record of 15.54 metres. Poornarao Rane set that record at the 2023 American Athletic Conference Indoor Championships.

Krishna was in fourth place until the penultimate round. However, she clinched the bronze medal with her final throw. Mya Lesnar of the USA bagged the Gold while compatriot Gabby Morns claimed a sliver.

Krishna's previous best indoor throw was 15.03 metres, recorded last month at the same venue. India's overall women's shot put record remains 18.41 m. Abha Khatua set it at the Federation Cup 2024.

**60. Brandon Holt has won the singles title at the Bengaluru Open 2025 tennis tournament. Which country does Brandon Holt represent?**

**ब्रैंडन होल्ट ने बेंगलुरु ओपन 2025 टेनिस टूर्नामेंट में एकल खिताब जीता है। ब्रैंडन होल्ट किस देश का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं?**

- (a) Japan
- (b) Australia
- (c) USA
- (d) Canada
- (e) Germany

Ans. c

Sol. Tennis: Brandon Holt wins Bengaluru Open Title, Beats Shintaro Mochizuki in Final

In tennis, Brandon Holt of the USA clinched his second ATP Challenger singles title of the season after beating Japan's Shintaro Mochizuki 6-3, 6-3 in the Bengaluru Open 2025 tennis tournament's singles final.

Consequently, the 26-year-old Holt became the first American winner in the Bengaluru Open history. This was the ninth edition of the ATP Challenger 125 tennis tournament.

Indian tennis player Anirudh Chandrasekar and Chinese Taipei's Ray Ho beat Blake Bayldon and Matthew Christopher Romios 6-2, 6-4 to win the doubles title.

**61. In February 2025, which two countries signed an MoU to enhance cooperation in the WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) sector?**

**फरवरी 2025 में, किन दो देशों ने WASH (जल, स्वच्छता और स्वास्थ्य) क्षेत्र में सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए?**

- (a) India and Bangladesh
- (b) India and Sri Lanka
- (c) India and Nepal
- (d) India and Bhutan
- (e) India and Maldives

Ans. c

Sol. India and Nepal Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Cooperation in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Sector

The Government of India and the Government of Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance cooperation in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector, including waste management.

The agreement aims to promote collaboration between the two nations and strengthen intergovernmental cooperation in the WASH sector, ensuring better access to clean drinking water and sanitation for their populations.

The comprehensive MoU outlines a collaborative framework encompassing several key areas:-

- **Capacity Building:** Training programs for Nepali personnel in water resource management and related fields.
- **Technology & Knowledge Transfer:** Sharing of technological expertise and best practices between India and Nepal in WASH sector.
- **Groundwater Management:** Joint efforts in monitoring, assessment, and management of groundwater resources, including quality improvement, artificial recharge, and rainwater harvesting.

This MoU marks a new chapter in the India-Nepal partnership, ensuring that both countries work together for the well-being of their people and for a sustainable future.

**62. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Vantara initiative in Jamnagar, Gujarat. What is the primary purpose of the Vantara initiative? प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने गुजरात के जामनगर में वंतारा पहल का उद्घाटन किया है। वंतारा पहल का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य क्या है?**

- (a) To promote agriculture
- (b) To provide a safe haven for animals
- (c) To build a zoo
- (d) To construct wildlife tourism parks
- (e) To increase urban development

Ans. b

Sol. PM Modi inaugurates Vantara in Jamnagar, feeds lion cubs, giraffes

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Vantara, a unique wildlife conservation, rescue and rehabilitation initiative in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

The initiative provides a safe haven for animals while promoting ecological sustainability and wildlife welfare.

It is established by Reliance Industries with Reliance Foundation

**63. India's first-ever riverine dolphin estimation report has recorded 6,327 dolphins across 28 rivers in eight states. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number, followed by Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam. Which river systems were covered in the dolphin population survey conducted under Project Dolphin?**

भारत की पहली नदी डॉल्फिन अनुमान रिपोर्ट में आठ राज्यों की 28 नदियों में 6,327 डॉल्फिन दर्ज की गई हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश में सबसे ज्यादा संख्या दर्ज की गई, उसके बाद बिहार, पश्चिम बंगाल और असम का स्थान है। प्रोजेक्ट डॉल्फिन के तहत किए गए डॉल्फिन जनसंख्या सर्वेक्षण में कौन सी नदी प्रणालियाँ शामिल थीं?

- (a) Ganga, Yamuna, and Godavari
- (b) Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Koshi
- (c) Narmada, Godavari, and Krishna
- (d) Brahmaputra, Yamuna, and Mahanadi
- (e) Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Indus

Ans. e

Sol. India's river dolphin population stands at 6,327, survey finds

India's first-ever riverine dolphin estimation report has recorded 6,327 dolphins across 28 rivers in eight states. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number, followed by Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the report during his visit to Gir National Park in Gujarat, where he chaired the 7th meeting of the National Board for Wildlife.

The dolphin population survey, conducted under Project Dolphin, spanned 8,500 kilometers across the Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Indus river systems over two years. The survey, conducted from 2021 to 2023, was a joint effort by the Wildlife Institute of India, state forest departments of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Jharkhand, and Rajasthan, and non-profit organizations including Aaranyak, World Wildlife Fund, Turtle Survival Alliance, and Wildlife Trust of India.

**64. The Uttarakhand Cabinet, under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, has approved the implementation of the Central Government's Unified Pension Scheme for officers and employees in the state. What is the primary purpose of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)?**

**मुख्यमंत्री पुष्कर सिंह धामी की अध्यक्षता में उत्तराखण्ड कैबिनेट ने राज्य में अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों के लिए केंद्र सरकार की एकीकृत पेंशन योजना के कार्यान्वयन को मंजूरी दे दी है। एकीकृत पेंशन योजना (यूपीएस) का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य क्या है?**

- (a) To provide free healthcare to retirees
- (b) To ensure an assured payout after retirement
- (c) To offer tax benefits to employees
- (d) To replace the National Pension System (NPS)
- (e) To increase the retirement age of employees

Ans. b

Sol. Uttarakhand Cabinet approves implementation of Unified Pension Scheme  
The Uttarakhand Cabinet, under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, has approved the implementation of the Central Government's Unified Pension Scheme for officers and employees in the state.

The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) has been introduced as an option under the National Pension System (NPS) by the Central Government for the Central Government employees covered under NPS so that they may receive an assured payout after their retirement. The Unified Pension Scheme will be operational from April 1, 2025

#### **About Uttarakhand**

- **Capital** - Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)
- **Chief Minister** - Pushkar Singh Dhami
- **Governor** - Gurmit Singh

**65. Architect and educator, Liu Jiakun has won the 2025 Pritzker Architecture Prize, the most important award in architecture. He is from which country?**

**वास्तुकार और शिक्षक, लियू जियाकुन ने 2025 प्रित्जकर आर्किटेक्चर पुरस्कार जीता है, जो वास्तुकला में सबसे महत्वपूर्ण पुरस्कार है। वह किस देश से है?**

- (a) Japan
- (b) South Korea
- (c) Russia
- (d) Bhutan
- (e) China

Ans. e

Sol. Chinese Architect Liu Jiakun Receives the 2025 Pritzker Architecture Prize  
Chinese architect and educator Liu Jiakun has won the 2025 Pritzker Architecture Prize, the most important award in architecture.

This prize honors him for combining traditional Chinese styles with modern design and for his efforts to create fair and inclusive spaces.

Jiakun, who was born and still works in Chengdu, China, is the second Chinese architect to receive this award after Wang Shu in 2012.

Liu, 68, becomes the 54th laureate of the prize, considered akin to a Nobel in the field of architecture.

Previous winners include Riken Yamamoto (2024), David Chipperfield (2023), and Francis Kéré (2022).

The award ceremony will take place this spring at the Louvre Abu Dhabi, designed by Jean Nouvel.

#### Recent Award

- **Laureus World Sports Award 2025 (in comeback of the year category) -** Rishabh Pant
- **Icon of Excellence award at Forbes India Leadership Awards 2025 -** ICC Chairman Jay Shah
- **Sarvashrestha Suraksha Puraskar (Golden Trophy) -** Manohar International Airport, Goa
- **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

66. **Which brand has Shubman Gill signed a deal with as his new bat sponsor?**

**शुभमन गिल ने अपने नए बैट प्रायोजक के रूप में किस ब्रांड के साथ डील साइन की है?**

- (a) Adidas
- (b) Nike
- (c) MRF
- (d) Puma
- (e) Reebok

Ans. c

Sol. MRF appoints Shubman Gill as brand ambassador

India batter Shubman Gill has signed a deal with renowned tyre brand MRF as his new bat sponsor.

Gill was signed by his previous sponsor Ceat during his Under-19 days and the association has finally ended during the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy 2025.

With his deal, Gill now follows the footsteps of his idols Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli to have signed deal with MRF.

### Recent Brand Ambassador

- Punjabi singer and actor Diljit Dosanjh - American clothing brand, Levi's
- PV Sindhu - PUMA India
- Tata Mumbai Marathon - Mo Farah
- MS Dhoni - Eurogrip Tyres
- Rashmika Mandanna - Chennai-based real estate developer, DRA
- Sonu Sood - Brand Ambassador and Honorary Tourism Advisor for Thailand

**67. Paytm has launched a new feature in Paytm UPI called UPI Trading Blocks (also known as Single Block Multiple Debits). This feature allows automatic payments directly from bank accounts for stock trading. How does UPI Trading Blocks benefit investors?**

**पेटीएम ने पेटीएम यूपीआई में यूपीआई ट्रेडिंग ब्लॉक (जिसे सिंगल ब्लॉक मल्टीपल डेबिट भी कहा जाता है) नामक एक नया फीचर लॉन्च किया है। यह फीचर स्टॉक ट्रेडिंग के लिए सीधे बैंक अकाउंट से ऑटोमैटिक पेमेंट की सुविधा देता है। यूपीआई ट्रेडिंग ब्लॉक निवेशकों को कैसे लाभ पहुंचाता है?**

- (a) It transfers large sums of money to broker apps in advance
- (b) It blocks funds in the user's bank account until a trade happens
- (c) It provides cash rewards for every trade
- (d) It requires manual fund transfers for every trade
- (e) It eliminates the need for using UPI PIN altogether

Ans. b

Sol. Paytm introduces UPI Trading Blocks with auto payment from bank accounts. Paytm has launched a new feature in Paytm UPI called UPI Trading Blocks (also known as Single Block Multiple Debits). This feature allows automatic payments directly from bank accounts for stock trading.

With this update, investors can block money in their bank accounts instead of transferring large amounts to broker apps in advance. This makes trading safer and more convenient.

Built on NPCI's UPI system, the feature ensures that users' money stays in their bank accounts and continues earning interest until a trade happens. Once a trade is

completed, the exact amount needed is deducted automatically. This reduces the need for manual transfers and makes stock trading more transparent.

Currently supported for UPI handles of Axis Bank (@ptaxis) and Yes Bank (@ptyes), this feature will soon extend to other UPI handles, including those of State Bank of India (@ptsbi) and HDFC Bank (@pthdfc). It allows investors to keep funds in their bank accounts while providing a seamless and convenient way to manage and pay for trades.

### What are UPI trading blocks?

- Also known as Single Block Multiple Debits, UPI Trading Blocks allow investors to authorise fund blocking directly from their bank accounts while placing trade requests on brokerage apps.
- The feature eliminates the need for repeated UPI PIN entries and offers greater flexibility by keeping funds accessible until required.

68. State Bank of India (SBI) has decided to divest its \_\_\_\_\_ stake in Jio Payments Bank Limited, a joint venture between the state-owned bank and Jio Financial Services (JFS).

भारतीय स्टेट बैंक (एसबीआई) ने जियो पेमेंट्स बैंक लिमिटेड में अपनी \_\_\_\_\_ हिस्सेदारी बेचने का फैसला किया है, जो सरकारी स्वामित्व वाले बैंक और जियो फाइनेंशियल सर्विसेज (जेएफएस) के बीच एक संयुक्त उद्यम है।

- (a) 14.8%
- (b) 15.8%
- (c) 16.8%
- (d) 17.8%
- (e) 18.8%

Ans. d



Sol. Jio Financial buys out SBI's stake in payments bank JV

State Bank of India (SBI) has decided to divest its entire 17.8 per cent stake in Jio Payments Bank Limited, a joint venture between the state-owned bank and Jio Financial Services (JFS).

JFS will acquire the SBI's stake for ₹104.5 crore, after which Jio Payments Bank will become its wholly-owned subsidiary. Currently, JFS holds 82.17 per cent stake in Jio Payments Bank.

Jio Payment Bank is a joint venture of Jio Financial Service Limited and SBI, and it started its operation in April 2018.

Jio Financial Services Limited holds 82.17% of the paid-up equity share capital of Jio Payments Bank Limited, while SBI holds 17.8 % of the shares.

Chairman and MD of Jio Financial Services - Hitesh Kumar Sethia

Chairman and MD of Jio Payment Bank - Vinod Easwaran

69. **Belgium's John Cockerill Defence (JCD), a leading global manufacturer of tank turrets, has teamed up with Electro Pneumatics & Hydraulics (EPH), a company based in Pune, India, to form a joint venture (JV). The initial focus of this partnership is the Indian Army's Light Tank project, particularly the Zorawar tank, which is being developed by DRDO and L&T. What is the ownership split in the JCD-EPH joint venture?**

बेल्जियम की जॉन कॉकरिल डिफेंस (जेसीडी), जो टैंक बुर्ज बनाने वाली एक अग्रणी वैश्विक कंपनी है, ने भारत के पुणे में स्थित इलेक्ट्रो न्यूमेटिक्स एंड हाइड्रोलिक्स (ईपीएच) के साथ मिलकर एक संयुक्त उद्यम (जेवी) बनाया है। इस साझेदारी का प्रारंभिक फोकस भारतीय सेना की लाइट टैंक परियोजना, विशेष रूप से ज़ोरावर टैंक है, जिसे डीआरडीओ और एलएंडटी द्वारा विकसित किया जा रहा है। जेसीडी-ईपीएच संयुक्त उद्यम में स्वामित्व का विभाजन क्या है?

- (a) 50:50
- (b) 60:40
- (c) 70:30
- (d) 80:20
- (e) 55:45

Ans. b

Sol. JCD ties up with EPH to manufacture tank turrets

Belgium's John Cockerill Defence (JCD), a leading global manufacturer of tank turrets, has teamed up with Electro Pneumatics & Hydraulics (EPH), a company based in Pune, India, to form a joint venture (JV).

The initial focus of this partnership is the Indian Army's Light Tank project, particularly the Zorawar tank, which is being developed by DRDO and L&T. This tank is currently in advanced testing stages, and the new JV will supply turrets for it.

This collaboration is part of a larger effort to strengthen defense ties between India and Belgium, with both countries planning to sign a defense cooperation agreement by the end of 2025.

In this JV, JCD will hold 60% and EPH will hold 40%. JCD will provide the technology, while EPH will handle the manufacturing. According to JCD's CEO, Thierry Renaudin, the project aims to create a world-class turret, and at least 50% of the components must be made in India.

70. **In March 2025, which company has received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to acquire 72.8 per cent stake in Orient Cement?**

मार्च 2025 में, किस कंपनी को ओरिएंट सीमेंट में 72.8 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी हासिल करने के लिए भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (CCI) से मंजूरी मिली है?

- (a) ACC Ltd

- (b) Ambuja Cements Ltd
- (c) UltraTech Cement
- (d) Dalmia Bharat Cement
- (e) Shree Cement

Ans. b

Sol. Ambuja Cements gets CCI nod for 72.8% stake acquisition in Orient Cement  
The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed acquisition of up to 72.8 per cent shareholding in Orient Cement Ltd by Ambuja Cements Ltd, marking a significant consolidation move in the Indian cement sector.

With this acquisition, Ambuja aims to strengthen its market presence by adding Orient Cement's three manufacturing facilities in Telangana, Karnataka and Maharashtra to its portfolio. These facilities serve 10 States, ensuring a stronger regional footprint.

**71. Ajit Ratnakar Joshi has been appointed as the Executive Director (ED) of Reserve Bank of India. What departments will Ajit Ratnakar Joshi oversee as Executive Director?**

**अजीत रत्नाकर जोशी को भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक का कार्यकारी निदेशक (ED) नियुक्त किया गया है। कार्यकारी निदेशक के रूप में अजीत रत्नाकर जोशी किन विभागों की देखरेख करेंगे?**

- (a) Department of Financial Inclusion
- (b) Department of Currency Management
- (c) Department of Statistics and Information Management and Financial Stability Dept.
- (d) Department of Bank Supervision
- (e) Department of Monetary Policy

Ans. c

Sol. RBI appoints Ajit Ratnakar Joshi as Executive Director

The Reserve Bank has appointed Ajit Ratnakar Joshi as Executive Director (ED) who will look after Department of Statistics and Information Management and Financial Stability Department.

Prior to being promoted as ED, Mr. Joshi was serving as principal adviser in Department of Statistics and Information Management.

He has over thirty years of experience in statistics, information technology, and cyber risk management. He has served as a member of the faculty at the Institute of Development and Research in Banking Technology, Hyderabad.

**72. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Government e Marketplace (GeM)?**

गवर्नमेंट ई मार्केटप्लेस (GeM) के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (CEO) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Ajay Bhadoo
- (b) Shaktikanta Das
- (c) Anshika Raj
- (d) Parul Tyagi
- (e) Rajiv Kumar

Ans. a

Sol. Ajay Bhadoo appointed as CEO of Government e Marketplace

The Government of India has appointed Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce Ajay Bhadoo, as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Government e Marketplace (GeM). He will assume this role in addition to his existing responsibilities in the Department of Commerce.

An Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1999 batch from the Gujarat cadre, Bhadoo brings over two decades of experience in policy formulation and implementation across diverse sectors, including urban infrastructure development.

#### Recent Appointments

- **Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)** - Dr Mayank Sharma
- **Chairman of Bar Council of India (BCI)** - Manan Kumar Mishra (7<sup>th</sup> time)
- **Chairman of Ratan Tata Endowment Foundation** - N Chandrasekaran
- **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)

73. **A. Sharath Kamal, who recently announced his retirement, is associated with which sport?**

ए. शरत कमल, जिन्होंने हाल ही में संन्यास की घोषणा की, किस खेल से जुड़े हैं?

- (a) Badminton
- (b) Tennis
- (c) Table Tennis
- (d) Cricket
- (e) Hockey

Ans. c

Sol. Table Tennis legend A. Sharath Kamal announces retirement

Indian table tennis legend A. Sharath Kamal announced that he will retire later this month, ending a career spanning more than 22 years at the top of the sport.

Sharath will bid farewell in front of friends and family in Chennai, where the WTT Star Contender event, his final tournament, will take place from March 25 to 30.

His impact on the sport extends beyond his achievements, which include seven Commonwealth Games gold medals, two historic Asian Games bronze medals, and five Olympic appearances.

### Recently Retired Players

- Martin Guptill (New Zealand) – International cricket
- Rishi Dhawan (India) – Cricket
- Moeen Ali (England) - International Cricket
- Shannon Gabriel (West Indies) – International Cricket
- Dawid Malan (England) – International Cricket
- Dimuth Karunaratne (Sri Lanka) -International cricket
- Marcelo (Brazil) – International Football

### 74. When is the International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness observed?

**अंतर्राष्ट्रीय निरस्त्रीकरण एवं अप्रसार जागरूकता दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) March 4
- (b) March 6
- (c) March 3
- (d) March 7
- (e) March 5

Ans. e

Sol. 5 March - International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness is observed on March 5 each year.



This day aims to raise global awareness about the importance of disarmament and the prevention of the spread of weapons, particularly weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) like nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

### 75. Union Cabinet has approved the development of two major ropeway projects in Uttarakhand under the National Ropeways Development Programme – Parvatmala Pariyojana. What is the total capital cost of the two major ropeway projects in Uttarakhand?

**केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने राष्ट्रीय रोपवे विकास कार्यक्रम - पर्वतमाला परियोजना के तहत उत्तराखण्ड में दो प्रमुख रोपवे परियोजनाओं के विकास को मंजूरी दी है। उत्तराखण्ड में दो प्रमुख रोपवे परियोजनाओं की कुल पूँजी लागत कितनी है?**

- (a) Rs. 3,500 crore
- (b) Rs. 4,081 crore
- (c) Rs. 5,081 crore

- (d) Rs. 2,820 crore
- (e) Rs. 6,000 crore

Ans. b

Sol. Cabinet approves development of Ropeway Project from Sonprayag to Kedarnath in Uttarakhand

Union Cabinet has approved the development of two major ropeway projects in Uttarakhand under the National Ropeways Development Programme – Parvatmala Pariyojana.

The 12.9 km ropeway from Sonprayag to Kedarnath and the 12.4 km ropeway from Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib will significantly reduce travel time.

The project will be developed on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) mode at a total capital cost of Rs. 4,081.28 crore.

The ropeway is planned to be developed in public-private partnership and will be based on the most advanced Tri-cable Detachable Gondola (3S) technology with a design capacity of 1,800 passengers per hour per direction (PPHPD) carrying 18,000 passengers per day.

The ropeway project will be a boon to the pilgrims visiting Kedarnath as it would provide an environment-friendly, comfortable and fast connectivity and reduce travel time in one direction from about 8 to 9 hours to about 36 minutes.

Kedarnath is one of the 12 sacred Jyotirlingas situated at an elevation of 3,583 m (11968 ft) in the Rudraprayag district of the State of UK.

**76. What is the total outlay for the Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP) recently approved by the Union Cabinet for two years?**  
**हाल ही में केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल द्वारा दो वर्षों के लिए स्वीकृत पशुधन स्वास्थ्य और रोग नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम (LHDCP) के लिए कुल परिव्यय कितना है?**

- (a) ₹2,000 crore
- (b) ₹3,080 crore
- (c) ₹4,500 crore
- (d) ₹5,080 crore
- (e) ₹3,880 crore

Ans. e

Sol. Cabinet nod to livestock disease control programme with Rs 3,880 cr outlay

The Union Cabinet has approved the revision of the Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP), with an outlay of ₹3,880 crore for two years.

The scheme aims to improve the animal health sector by implementing prophylactic vaccination programmes against various diseases of livestock and poultry, capacity building, disease surveillance, and strengthening the veterinary infrastructure.

The scheme has three components, namely the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP), LH&DC and Pashu Aushadhi. The Pashu Aushadhi is a new component added to the LHDCP scheme. The total outlay of the scheme is Rs 3,880 crore for two years, i.e., 2024-25 and 2025-26.

The programme also has three sub-components, namely: Critical Animal Disease Control Programme (CADCP), Establishment and Strengthening of Existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries - Mobile Veterinary Unit (ESVHD-MVU) and Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD).

The scheme also has a provision of ₹75 crore to provide good quality and affordable generic veterinary medicine and incentive for sale of medicines under Pashu Aushadhi component. This is included in the total outlay of Rs 3,880 crore for the scheme.

**77. Which regulatory body has approved the proposed acquisition of Raj Petro Specialities Private Limited?**

**किस नियामक संस्था ने राज पेट्रो स्पेशियलिटीज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के प्रस्तावित अधिग्रहण को मंजूरी दे दी है?**

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (c) Competition Commission of India (CCI)
- (d) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- (e) National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)

Ans. c

Sol. CCI approves Shell's 100% acquisition of Raj Petro Specialities

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed acquisition of 100% equity share capital of Raj Petro Specialities Private Limited by Shell Deutschland GmbH and Shell Overseas Investments B.V.

The proposed combination envisages acquisition of 100% equity share capital of Raj Petro Specialities Private Limited (Raj Petro Specialities), by Shell Deutschland GmbH and Shell Overseas Investments B.V.

Shell Plc is the ultimate parent company of the Shell Group of companies. Shell Group is a global group of energy and petrochemical companies, active in oil and gas exploration, production, manufacturing, marketing and shipping of oil products and chemicals, as well as renewable energy products.

**78. According to the Global Wealth Report by Knight Frank, which country has emerged as a leading global wealth hub with the largest population of High Net-Worth Individuals (HNWIs)?**

नाइट फ्रैंक की ग्लोबल वेल्थ रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, कौन सा देश हाई नेट-वर्थ इंडिविजुअल्स (HNWI) की सबसे बड़ी आबादी के साथ एक अग्रणी वैश्विक धन केंद्र के रूप में उभरा है?

- (a) United Kingdom
- (b) USA
- (c) Australia
- (d) India
- (e) China

Ans. b

Sol. India ranks 4th globally with 85,698 super rich, behind US, China and Japan. India has emerged as a leading global wealth hub, with a current population of 85,698 High Net-Worth Individuals (HNWIs), placing it fourth globally, behind only the US, China, and Japan, according to the latest Global Wealth Report by property consulting firm Knight Frank.

The number of HNWIs—defined as individuals with at least US\$1 million in investable assets—rose by 4.4% globally in 2024, reaching over 2.3 million people. Notably, the population of ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs), those with assets exceeding US\$100 million, surpassed 100,000 for the first time, reflecting a broader trend of growing wealth across the world.

America continues to dominate as the world's primary wealth creator, with nearly 40% of global HNWIs residing in the US, a figure far surpassing China, which holds 20%, and Japan, which accounts for just over 5%.

**79. The Union government has launched a groundbreaking initiative to foster gender-sensitive governance at the grassroots level. The initiative focuses on developing Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats (MWFGP). Which ministry is responsible for launching the Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats (MWFGP) initiative?**

केंद्र सरकार ने जमीनी स्तर पर लैंगिक संवेदनशीलता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण पहल शुरू की है। इस पहल का उद्देश्य आदर्श महिला-अनुकूल ग्राम पंचायत (MWFGP) विकसित करना है। आदर्श महिला-अनुकूल ग्राम पंचायत (MWFGP) पहल शुरू करने के लिए कौन सा मंत्रालय जिम्मेदार है?

- (a) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- (b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- (d) Ministry of Rural Development
- (e) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Ans. c

Sol. Govt launched model women-friendly gram panchayats nationwide

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has launched a groundbreaking initiative aimed at fostering gender-sensitive governance at the grassroots level.

The initiative, which focuses on the development of Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats (MWFGP), unveiled at a National Convention, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

This event, a key part of the Ministry's International Women's Day 2025 celebrations, seeks to ensure safety, inclusivity, and gender equality for women and girls in Gram Panchayats across the country.

The initiative aims to establish at least one Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat in each district, setting a benchmark for gender-sensitive and girl-friendly governance. These model panchayats will reflect Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of fostering safer and more inclusive rural communities, contributing to the broader goal of Viksit Bharat through Viksit Panchayats.

**80. Recently, which two new locations have been selected for the expansion of the Cheetah Introduction Program after Kuno National Park?**

**हाल ही में, कुनो राष्ट्रीय उद्यान के बाद चीता परिचय कार्यक्रम के विस्तार के लिए किन दो नए स्थानों का चयन किया गया है?**

- (a) Jim Corbett National Park and Ranthambore National Park
- (b) Sundarbans National Park and Gir National Park
- (c) Banni Grasslands and Gandhisagar Sanctuary
- (d) Kaziranga National Park and Sariska Tiger Reserve
- (e) Kanha National Park and Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary

Ans. c

Sol. Cheetah reintroduction plan to be expanded to Gujarat

After Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park, cheetah introduction will be expanded to Banni Grasslands in Gujarat and Gandhisagar Sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh.

African cheetahs were reintroduced at Kuno National Park in two batches in September 2022 and February 2023.

Banni Grasslands is a 2,500 sq km protected forest in the Kutch district of Gujarat that supports numerous animal genetic resources like Banni buffalo, Kankrej cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and horses.

The grassland is a breeding and nesting ground for more than 250 bird species, including resident and winter migratory birds.

Gandhisagar Sanctuary in eastern Madhya Pradesh spreads over Mandsaur and Neemuch districts. It is known as Nimar region, with borders touching Rajasthan and is more or less dry.

The sanctuary is spread over the area surrounding Gandhisagar dam backwater, and is known for some rare wildlife species like wild dogs (dholes), chinkaras, leopards, otters and crocodiles.

Under the "Action Plan for Reintroduction of Cheetah in India", around 50 cheetahs are estimated to be brought from African countries to various national parks over five years.

**81. Which company has launched the first-ever trials of hydrogen-powered heavy-duty trucks in India?**

**किस कंपनी ने भारत में हाइड्रोजन से चलने वाले हेवी-ड्यूटी ट्रकों का पहला परीक्षण शुरू किया है?**

- (a) Mahindra & Mahindra
- (b) Ashok Leyland
- (c) Volvo India
- (d) Hyundai
- (e) Tata Motors

Ans. e

Sol. Tata Motors begins India's first hydrogen truck trials for net-zero goal. In a landmark development towards India's vision of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, Tata Motors, the country's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, has launched the first-ever trials of hydrogen-powered heavy-duty trucks.

The trial phase will span up to 24 months and involves the deployment of 16 advanced hydrogen-powered vehicles with varying configurations and payload capacities.

These trucks, equipped with new-age hydrogen internal combustion engines (H2-ICE) and fuel cell (H2-FCEV) technologies, will be tested on India's most prominent freight routes, including those around Mumbai, Pune, Delhi-NCR, Surat, Vadodara, Jamshedpur, and Kalinganagar.

Tata Motors was awarded the tender for this trial, which is funded by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy under the National Green Hydrogen Mission. It marks a significant step forward in assessing the real-world commercial viability of using hydrogen-powered vehicles for long-distance haulage as well as setting up the requisite enabling infrastructure for their seamless operation.

The flagged-off vehicles exemplify Tata Motors' comprehensive approach to hydrogen mobility, displaying both hydrogen internal combustion engine (H2-ICE) and hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle (FCEV) technologies. This includes two Tata Prima H.55S prime movers—one powered by H2-ICE and the other by FCEV—alongside the Tata Prima H.28, an advanced H2-ICE truck.

With an operational range of 300-500 km, these vehicles are engineered for sustainable, cost-efficient, and high-performance transportation

**82. According to SEBI's annual statement of accounts 2023-24, By what percentage did SEBI's total income rise in 2023-24 compared to the previous year?**

सेबी के 2023-24 के वार्षिक लेखा विवरण के अनुसार, 2023-24 में सेबी की कुल आय में पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में कितने प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई?

- (a) 35%
- (b) 40%
- (c) 48%
- (d) 50%
- (e) 55%

Ans. c

Sol. SEBI's total income rises 48% to ₹2,075 crore in 2023-24

Capital markets regulator SEBI's total income rose 48% year-on-year to ₹2,075 crore in 2023-24, driven by increased earnings from fees and subscriptions.

Of the total income, the regulator earned a fee income of ₹1,851.5 crore, which was way higher than ₹1,213.22 crore garnered in the preceding financial year, according to Sebi's annual statement of accounts 2023-24.

Additionally, income from investments widened to ₹192.41 crore from ₹161.42 crore and other income increased to nearly ₹18 crore from close to ₹15 crore.

Overall, the market watchdog's total income rose to ₹2,075 crore in the financial year ended March 31, 2024 from ₹1,404.36 crore in the preceding fiscal, indicating a growth of 48%, the annual accounts showed.

Apart from total income, the total expenditure of the regulator rose to ₹1,006 crore for the year ended March 31, 2024, from ₹851.33 crore in the previous fiscal.

**83. Who was honored with the 'Lifetime Achievement in Hospitality and Education Through Technology' award?**

‘लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट इन हॉस्पिटैलिटी एंड एजुकेशन थ्रू टेक्नोलॉजी’ पुरस्कार से किसे सम्मानित किया गया?

- (a) Ratan Tata
- (b) Dr. Suborno Bose
- (c) Narayana Murthy
- (d) Anand Mahindra
- (e) Mukesh Ambani

Ans. b

## Sol. Suborno Bose Receives Lifetime Achievement Award for Hospitality and Education

Dr. Suborno Bose, Chairman of the International Institute of Hotel Management (IIHM), one of India's foremost hospitality educators and a visionary in integrating technology with hospitality, has been honoured with the 'Lifetime Achievement in Hospitality and Education Through Technology' award by Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Shekhawat.

The award was conferred at the Vibrant Bharat Global Summit 2025, an event organized by Bharat 24, one of the country's leading language media networks. This prestigious recognition marks a significant milestone in Dr. Bose's relentless efforts to revolutionize hospitality, tourism, and education through technology, particularly artificial intelligence (AI).

- **Pritzker Architecture Prize 2025** - Chinese architect and educator Liu Jiakun
- **Laureus World Sports Award 2025 (in comeback of the year category)** - Rishabh Pant
- **Icon of Excellence award at Forbes India Leadership Awards 2025** - ICC Chairman Jay Shah
- **Sarvashrestha Suraksha Puraskar (Golden Trophy)** - Manohar International Airport, Goa
- **Time Magazine's Women of the Year 2025** - Purnima Devi Barman

## 84. Which Australian cricketer has announced his retirement from One-Day Internationals (ODIs) in March 2025?

किस ऑस्ट्रेलियाई क्रिकेटर ने मार्च 2025 में एक दिवसीय अंतरराष्ट्रीय (ODI) से संन्यास लेने की घोषणा की है?

- (a) David Warner
- (b) Mitchell Starc
- (c) Steve Smith
- (d) Pat Cummins
- (e) Glenn Maxwell

Ans. c

Sol. Steve Smith retires from ODI cricket

Australian cricket legend Steve Smith has officially announced his retirement from One-Day Internationals (ODIs), marking the end of an illustrious 14-year career in the 50-over format. He will continue to be available for Test and T20I selection.

Smith's decision came just after Australia's semi-final defeat to India by four wickets in the ICC Champions Trophy, where Smith top-scored with 73 runs in what turned out to be his final ODI innings.

The 35-year-old batter leaves behind an impressive legacy. Across 170 ODIs, scoring 5800 runs at an average of 43.28 and a strike rate of 86.96, including 12 centuries and 35 half-centuries. He finished his career as the 12th-highest run-getter for Australia in ODIs. Having made his debut as a leg-spinning allrounder, he also picked 28 wickets and took 90 catches.

He captained Australia in 64 matches, winning 32 and losing 28.

### Recently Retired Players

- A. Sharath Kamal - Table Tennis
- Martin Guptill (New Zealand) – International cricket
- Rishi Dhawan (India) – Cricket
- Moeen Ali (England) - International Cricket
- Shannon Gabriel (West Indies) – International Cricket
- Dawid Malan (England) – International Cricket

85. \_\_\_\_\_ -based AI-powered collections platform CredResolve raised \$1.1 million in a seed funding round led by Japanese venture capital firm UNLEASH Capital Partners, with additional participation from CDM Capital.

\_\_\_\_\_ -आधारित एआई-संचालित संग्रह प्लेटफॉर्म क्रेडरिजॉल्ट्व ने जापानी वेंचर कैपिटल फर्म UNLEASH कैपिटल पार्टनर्स के नेतृत्व में सीड फंडिंग राउंड में \$1.1 मिलियन जुटाए, जिसमें CDM कैपिटल की अतिरिक्त भागीदारी भी शामिल है।

- (a) Gurugram
- (b) Bengaluru
- (c) Hyderabad
- (d) Chennai
- (e) Mumbai

Ans. a

Sol. CredResolve Secures \$1.1 Million in Seed Funding Led by UNLEASH Capital to Revolutionize Debt Recovery with AI

Gurugram-based AI-powered collections platform CredResolve raised \$1.1 million in a seed funding round led by Japanese venture capital firm UNLEASH Capital Partners, with additional participation from CDM Capital.

This funding is set to accelerate CredResolve's mission of transforming debt recovery in India through artificial intelligence and regulatory-driven automation.

Founded in August 2023 by Balaji Koustubha, G Prashant Kumar, and Vijay Kumar, CredResolve is redefining the collections ecosystem by integrating AI with borrower engagement strategies.

Unlike traditional debt collection models, the platform enhances efficiency through automated recovery workflows, improved borrower communication, and compliance with RBI regulations.

**86. Who accepted the 'Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados' on behalf of PM Narendra Modi?**

**प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की ओर से 'बारबाडोस की स्वतंत्रता का मानद आदेश' किसने स्वीकार किया?**

- (a) S. Jaishankar
- (b) Rajnath Singh
- (c) Pabitra Margherita
- (d) Amit Shah
- (e) Nirmala Sitharaman

Ans. c

Sol. PM Modi conferred 'Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados'

Union Minister Pabitra Margherita accepted the 'Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados' on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The award was given by Barbados President Dame Sandra Mason to recognize PM Modi's leadership and support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ceremony took place at Government House in Bridgetown and was attended by Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley, Foreign Minister Kerrie Symmonds, and other dignitaries.

The award was announced on November 20, 2024, at the India-CARICOM Leaders' Summit in Guyana. At the summit, PM Mottley praised PM Modi for his role in global cooperation and providing crucial support during the crisis.

**87. Sahitya Akademi, India's premier literary institution working under the Ministry of Culture, will be organizing its annual Festival of Letters at Rabindra Bhavan in New Delhi from 7th March 2025 to 12th March 2025. What is the theme of the Festival of Letters 2025?**

**संस्कृति मंत्रालय के अधीन कार्यरत भारत की प्रमुख साहित्यिक संस्था साहित्य अकादमी 7 मार्च 2025 से 12 मार्च 2025 तक नई दिल्ली के रवींद्र भवन में अपना वार्षिक साहित्य महोत्सव आयोजित करेगी। साहित्य महोत्सव 2025 का विषय क्या है?**

- (a) Literature and Modern India
- (b) Indian Literary Traditions
- (c) Poetry and Prose of India
- (d) The Evolution of Indian Writing
- (e) Global Literary Influence

Ans. b

Sol. Sahitya Akademi organised "Festival of Letters" 2025

Sahitya Akademi, India's premier literary institution working under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, will be organizing its annual Festival of Letters at Rabindra Bhavan in New Delhi from 7th March 2025 to 12th March 2025.

Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, has inaugurated the festival.

Sri Mahesh Dattani, eminent English Playwright will be the chief guest of the award ceremony in which the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Awards in 23 languages will be presented and Sri Upamanyu Chatterjee, eminent Writer and Scholar will deliver this year's Samvatsar Lecture.

This is Asia's Largest Literature Festival with about 700 writers from different parts of the country representing more than 50 languages participating in the festival that spans over 100 sessions. The theme of the festival will be Indian Literary Traditions and a National Seminar on the topic featuring eminent thinkers and writers will be organized during the last three days of the festival.

**88. Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav has inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2025 in New Delhi. What is the theme of the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2025?**

**केंद्रीय पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्री भूपेंद्र यादव ने नई दिल्ली में विश्व सतत विकास शिखर सम्मेलन (WSDS) 2025 का उद्घाटन किया। विश्व सतत विकास शिखर सम्मेलन (WSDS) 2025 का विषय क्या है?**

- (a) Climate Action for All
- (b) Renewable Energy for Sustainable Future
- (c) Partnerships for Accelerating Sustainable Development and Climate Solutions
- (d) Global Goals for the Future
- (e) Sustainable Development through Innovation

Ans. c

Sol. Bhupender Yadav inaugurates World Sustainable Development Summit 2025 Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav has inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2025 in New Delhi. The summit-themed Partnerships for Accelerating Sustainable Development and Climate Solutions was Organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). The event was attended by distinguished dignitaries, including Prime Minister of Guyana, Brigadier Mark Phillip, and Brazil's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Marina Silva, were present at the event.

89. HDFC Bank has launched Project HAKK to provide support and services to Indian Air Force (IAF) pensioners, veterans and their families. What does HAKK stand for in the newly launched project by HDFC Bank?

एचडीएफसी बैंक ने भारतीय वायुसेना (आईएएफ) के पेंशनर्सोंगियों, दिग्गजों और उनके परिवारों को सहायता और सेवाएं प्रदान करने के लिए प्रोजेक्ट HAKK लॉन्च किया है।

एचडीएफसी बैंक द्वारा हाल ही में लॉन्च की गई परियोजना में HAKK का क्या अर्थ है?

- (a) Hindustan Air Kalyan Kendra
- (b) Hawai Anubhavi Kalyan Kendra
- (c) Haryana Armed Kendra Knowledge
- (d) Healthy Anubhavi Kalyan Kendra
- (e) Hub of Army Knowledge and Kendra

Ans. b

Sol. HDFC Bank launches Project HAKK to support IAF veterans

HDFC Bank has launched Project HAKK (Hawai Anubhavi Kalyan Kendra) to provide support and services to Indian Air Force (IAF) pensioners, veterans and their families. The bank, in association with CSC Academy (promoted by Common Service Centre E-Governance Limited), will provide skill development and training across financial products and services, empowering defence service veterans and next of kin to be financially independent.

#### About HDFC Bank

- **Founded** – August 1994
- **Founder** - Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **MD & CEO** - Sashidhar Jagdoshan
- **Chairman** – Atanu Chakraborty
- **Tagline** - We understand your world

90. PhonePe has launched the 'insuring HEROES' campaign. As part of the initiative, the company is offering exclusive discounts of up to 30 per cent on select term life and health insurance plans. Which group of people is the 'Insuring HEROES' campaign specifically targeted at?

PhonePe ने 'इंश्योरिंग हीरोज' अभियान शुरू किया है। इस पहल के तहत, कंपनी चुनिंदा टर्म लाइफ और स्वास्थ्य बीमा योजनाओं पर 30 प्रतिशत तक की विशेष छूट दे रही है। 'इंश्योरिंग हीरोज' अभियान विशेष रूप से किस समूह के लोगों को लक्षित करता है?

- (a) Children
- (b) Senior citizens
- (c) Women
- (d) Men
- (e) Small businesses

Ans. c

Sol. PhonePe launches 'Insuring HEROES' campaign for International Women's Day

PhonePe has launched the 'insuring HEROES' campaign on the occasion of International Women's Day.

As part of the initiative, the company is offering exclusive discounts of up to 30 per cent, specifically for women, on select term life and health insurance plans.

Women can avail of these exclusive offers on the PhonePe app to ensure their overall economic well-being and enjoy long-term stability.

Discounts include up to 15 per cent off on health insurance plans, and up to 30 per cent off on term life insurance plans.

**91. Which two organizations have signed an MoU to provide financial support to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in March 2025?**

**मार्च 2025 में सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यमों (एमएसएमई) को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए किन दो संगठनों ने एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) SIDBI and ICICI Bank
- (b) SIDBI and The Federal Bank
- (c) SBI and HDFC Bank
- (d) SIDBI and Bank of Baroda
- (e) SIDBI and Axis Bank

Ans. b

Sol. SIDBI, Federal Bank join hands to boost MSME financing

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and The Federal Bank have signed an MoU to provide financial support to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

This partnership aims to strengthen the MSME ecosystem by offering various financial services, including project finance, machinery and equipment finance, working capital support, and loans against property.

Under this agreement, both institutions will also explore joint financing options to extend credit facilities to MSMEs.

**About Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**

- **Founded** - 2 April 1990
- **Jurisdiction** – Ministry of Finance
- **Headquarters** - Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- **Chairman & MD** - Manoj Mittal (replace Siva S Ramann)

**92. Who has been appointed as the Secretary of the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice?**

**विधि एवं न्याय मंत्रालय के विधिक मामलों के विभाग के सचिव के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Dr. Anju Rathi Rana
- (b) Dr. Ramesh Gupta
- (c) Dr. Meera Sharma
- (d) Dr. Sunita Verma
- (e) Dr. Anil Kumar

Ans. a

Sol. Dr. Anju Rathi Rana Appointed As Secretary, Department Of Legal Affairs.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, ILS, as the Secretary, the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice.

She will assume the role for an initial period of two years from the date she takes charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Dr. Rana, who previously served as Additional Secretary in the Department of Legal Affairs, brings extensive experience in legal administration and policymaking. Her appointment is expected to strengthen the department's role in providing legal advice to the government and overseeing key legislative matters.

**93. International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated globally on March 8 each year to honour women's achievements and advocate for gender equality. What is the theme of International Women's Day 2025?**

**महिलाओं की उपलब्धियों का सम्मान करने और लैंगिक समानता की वकालत करने के लिए हर साल 8 मार्च को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस (IWD) विश्व स्तर पर मनाया जाता है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?**

- (a) Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress
- (b) Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow
- (c) For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, and Empowerment
- (d) Break the Bias
- (e) DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality

Ans. c

Sol. 8 March - International Women's Day

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated globally on March 8 each year to honour women's achievements and advocate for gender equality.

It is a day to recognize women's contributions in various fields, highlight ongoing struggles, and push for a more inclusive and equitable world.

Theme 2025 - For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, and Empowerment.

IWD traces its roots to the early 20th-century labor movements. The first National Women's Day was observed in the U.S. on February 28, 1909, inspired by protests for better working conditions.

**94. Who has been appointed as the Executive Board Member on the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Board from BCCI?**

**बीसीसीआई से एशियाई क्रिकेट परिषद (एसीसी) बोर्ड में कार्यकारी बोर्ड के सदस्य के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Jay Shah
- (b) Sourav Ganguly
- (c) Rajeev Shukla
- (d) Ashish Shelar
- (e) Anurag Thakur

Ans. c

Sol. BCCI appoints Rajeev Shukla and Ashish Shelar to Asian Cricket Council Board Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) vice-president Rajeev Shukla will represent India as an Executive Board Member on the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Board. Shukla will take over a vacant spot that emerged after Jay Shah stepped down as president of the governing body of continental cricket.

Meanwhile, former BCCI treasurer Ashish Shelar has been appointed as the BCCI representative on the ACC Board as an Ex-Officio Board Member.

Jay Shah vacated the ACC presidency in December 2024 after serving three consecutive terms. The Indian cricket administrator, who was also the BCCI secretary, was elected unopposed as the International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman.

Shah officially assumed the ICC chairman role on December 1, 2024.

Following Jay Shah's departure, Sri Lanka Cricket Board chief Shammi Silva took over as the president of the Asian Cricket Council.

The upcoming edition of the Asia Cup, which will be played in the T20 format, is scheduled to take place in the UAE in September 2025.

### Recent Appointments

- **CEO of Government e Marketplace (GeM)** - Ajay Bhadoo
- **Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)** - Dr Mayank Sharma
- **Chairman of Bar Council of India (BCI)** - Manan Kumar Mishra (7<sup>th</sup> time)
- **Chairman of Ratan Tata Endowment Foundation** - N Chandrasekaran
- **Head of Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)** - Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi (extension one year)

95. **Which ministry has released a significant publication titled “The Life and Contributions of the Women Members of the Constituent Assembly”?**

**किस मंत्रालय ने “संविधान सभा की महिला सदस्यों का जीवन और योगदान” शीर्षक से एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रकाशन जारी किया है?**

- (a) Ministry of Education
- (b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Law & Justice
- (d) Ministry of Women and Child Development of India
- (e) Ministry of External Affairs

Ans. c

Sol. Legislative Department Releases Book on Women Members of the Constituent Assembly on International Women's Day

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law & Justice, formally released a significant publication titled “The Life and Contributions of the Women Members of the Constituent Assembly”.

This scholarly work pays homage to fifteen distinguished women who played an instrumental role in drafting the Constitution of India — their invaluable contributions having remained largely unrecognized in mainstream historical and legal narratives.

The book meticulously documents the achievements of these pioneering women, including prominent lawyers, social reformers, and freedom fighters who overcame entrenched structural barriers within a predominantly male-dominated political framework.

Despite adversities, these women emerged as key voices in the Constituent Assembly, profoundly shaping deliberations on fundamental rights, social justice, gender equality, and democratic governance.

### Recent Books

- **Diyaslai** – Kailash Satyarthi
- **FEARLESS: A Memoir** - Mohinder Amarnath and Rajender Amarnath
- **The New Icon: Savarkar and the Facts** - Arun Shourie
- **Indian Renaissance: The Modi Decade** – Released By Amit Shah
- **Mastering Disruption**: A practical Guide to understanding – Ganesh Krishnan

### 96. What will be the new name of Bangalore City University?

**बैंगलोर सिटी यूनिवर्सिटी का नया नाम क्या होगा?**

- (a) Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Bengaluru City University
- (b) Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University
- (c) Jawaharlal Nehru Bengaluru City University
- (d) Sardar Patel Bengaluru City University
- (e) Indira Gandhi Bengaluru City University

Ans. b

Sol. Karnataka to rename Bengaluru City University after Manmohan Singh in his honour

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced during his budget speech in the Legislative Assembly that Bangalore City University will be renamed Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University, in honor of the former Prime Minister of India, who passed away on February 26.

The move is aimed at transforming the institution into a model university in the country. Dr. Manmohan Singh, India's 13th Prime Minister, was known for his role in economic liberalization and financial reforms, which played a crucial part in shaping modern India's economy.

His contributions to education, economy, and governance were widely recognized, and Karnataka's decision to rename the university after him is seen as a tribute to his legacy.

### 97. As per the Brand Finance Insurance 100 2025 report, what is the rank of LIC among the world's strongest insurance brands?

**ब्रांड फाइनेंस इंश्योरेंस 100 2025 रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, दुनिया के सबसे मजबूत बीमा ब्रांडों में एलआईसी की रैंक क्या है?**

- (a) First
- (b) Second
- (c) Third
- (d) Fourth

(e) Fifth

Ans. c

Sol. LIC Ranked World's 3rd Strongest Insurance Brand

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has been ranked third among the world's strongest insurance brands, achieving a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 88 out of 100, as per the Brand Finance Insurance 100 2025 report.

Poland-based PZU secured the top spot with a BSI score of 94.4, followed by China Life Insurance, which ranked second with a BSI score of 93.5.

In terms of overall brand value, LIC holds the 12th position among the most valuable insurance brands globally, while SBI Life ranks 76th, making them the only two Indian insurers in the top 100.

As per the Brand Finance report, the top 100 insurance brands have grown 9 per cent in brand value in 2025, driven by improved underwriting results, higher investment income, rising interest rates, and increased profitability.

**98. Which organization has signed an MoU with Mercedes-Benz India to advance India's manufacturing ecosystem, road safety, and environmental sustainability?**

**भारत के विनिर्माण पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र, सड़क सुरक्षा और पर्यावरणीय स्थिरता को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए किस संगठन ने मर्सिडीज-बेंज इंडिया के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- (c) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- (d) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- (e) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Ans. c

Sol. DPIIT and Mercedes-Benz India sign MoU to boost manufacturing, road safety, and sustainability

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Mercedes-Benz India Private Limited have signed an MoU to advance India's manufacturing ecosystem, road safety, and environmental sustainability.

The partnership aims to support startups, innovators, and entrepreneurs in achieving technological excellence and, fostering societal development.

The collaboration will focus on creating structured programs that provide startups with infrastructure, mentorship, funding opportunities, and market linkages.

MD of Mercedes-Benz India - Santosh Iyer.

**99. Which country did Razorpay officially enter after its successful operations in Malaysia?**

**मलेशिया में अपने सफल संचालन के बाद रेजरपे ने आधिकारिक तौर पर किस देश में प्रवेश किया?**

- (a) Thailand
- (b) Indonesia
- (c) Singapore

- (d) Vietnam
- (e) Philippines

Ans. c

Sol. Razorpay Takes Over Singapore Fintech Giant Slashes Payment Costs by 40%  
Leading fintech company Razorpay officially entered the Singapore market, marking its second expansion in Southeast Asia after its successful operations in Malaysia. With this move, Razorpay aims to enhance digital payment infrastructure and streamline cross-border transactions for businesses in Singapore, enabling seamless, secure, and cost-effective financial operation.

Razorpay's advanced payment solutions are designed to help businesses cut transaction costs by 30-40% while providing real-time, multi-currency payment capabilities. Currently, businesses in Singapore face high transaction fees of 4-6% for cross-border payments, limiting scalability and efficiency. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) also struggle with fragmented payment systems that drive up costs and delay settlements.

**100. Which company has signed an MoU with IIT Hyderabad for establishing a Centre of Clean Coal Energy and Net Zero?**

**किस कंपनी ने स्वच्छ कोयला ऊर्जा और नेट जीरो केंद्र की स्थापना के लिए आईआईटी हैदराबाद के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) NTPC
- (b) Coal India Limited
- (c) Power Grid Corporation
- (d) Indian Oil Corporation
- (e) Hindustan Zinc

Ans. b

Sol. CIL joins hands with IIT, Hyderabad for R&D in clean coal tech  
Coal India Limited (CIL) has inked an MoU with Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H) for establishing a Centre of Clean Coal Energy and Net Zero (CLEANZ) at Hyderabad.

The joint initiative between CIL and IITH aims to develop clean coal technologies and diversification in coal utilization.

Both the entities will synergize their efforts in developing cutting edge technology readiness level (TRL) for sustainable utilization of Indian coal. This is in line with the country's Net Zero commitments.

**101. The Government of India has introduced a new scheme to help Cooperative Sugar Mills (CSMs) under the modified Ethanol Interest Subvention Scheme. What is the main objective of the modified Ethanol Interest Subvention Scheme introduced by the Government of India?**

**भारत सरकार ने संशोधित इथेनॉल ब्याज छूट योजना के तहत सहकारी चीनी मिलों (सीएसएम) की मदद के लिए एक नई योजना शुरू की है। भारत सरकार द्वारा शुरू की गई संशोधित इथेनॉल ब्याज छूट योजना का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?**

- (a) To promote sugarcane cultivation

- (b) To increase ethanol production from sugarcane
- (c) To help Cooperative Sugar Mills convert to multi-feedstock plants
- (d) To reduce ethanol imports
- (e) To increase ethanol exports

Ans. c

Sol. Govt notifies scheme to make cooperative sugar mills loan eligible

The Government of India has introduced a modified Ethanol Interest Subvention Scheme to help Cooperative Sugar Mills (CSMs) convert their existing ethanol plants into multi-feedstock plants, allowing them to use grains like maize and damaged food grains (DFG) for ethanol production.

The government will provide interest subvention on loans taken for the conversion. It will cover 6% interest per year or 50% of the rate charged by banks, whichever is lower, for a period of five years, including one year of moratorium.

By converting to multi-feedstock plants, sugar mills can operate year-round instead of only during the 4-5 month sugarcane crushing season. This will help improve their efficiency and productivity.

The scheme aims to enhance the financial viability of sugar mills by allowing them to function throughout the year, using alternative feedstocks, thus reducing their dependence on seasonal sugarcane availability.

**102. Which Indian company will receive the Transfer of Technology (ToT) from Rosoboronexport (RoE) for the production of 1,000-horsepower (HP) engines for T-72 battle tanks?**

**कौन सी भारतीय कंपनी T-72 युद्धक टैंकों के लिए 1,000-हॉर्सपावर (HP) इंजन के उत्पादन के लिए रोसोबोरोनएक्सपोर्ट (RoE) से प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण (ToT) प्राप्त करेगी?**

- (a) Tata Motors
- (b) Mahindra Defence Systems
- (c) Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited
- (d) Bharat Forge
- (e) Larsen & Toubro

Ans. c

Sol. Ministry of Defence signs \$ 248 million Deal for procurement of engines for T-72 Tanks for Indian Army

The Ministry of Defence has signed a USD248 million contract with Russian defence firm Rosoboronexport (RoE) to procure 1,000-horsepower (HP) engines for T-72 battle tanks in fully-assembled, completely knocked-down, and semi-knocked-down conditions.

The deal includes the Transfer of Technology (ToT) from the Russian defence manufacturer to Chennai-based Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (Heavy Vehicle Factory), for integration and subsequent licenced production of engines under ToT to boost the 'Make in India' initiative in the defence sector.

T-72 is the mainstay of tank fleet of the Indian Army which is at present fitted with 780 HP Engine. Equipping the existing fleet of T-72 Tanks with 1000 HP Engine will enhance the battle field mobility and offensive capability of Indian Army.

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103. Recently, who has been announced to return to the Indian football team for FIFA Window matches by the All India Football Federation?

हाल ही में, अखिल भारतीय फुटबॉल महासंघ द्वारा FIFA विंडो मैचों के लिए भारतीय फुटबॉल टीम में किसकी वापसी की घोषणा की गई है?

- (a) Sunil Chhetri
- (b) Bhaichung Bhutia
- (c) Sandesh Jhingan
- (d) Gurpreet Singh Sandhu
- (e) Jeje Lalpekhlua

Ans. a

Sol. Sunil Chhetri returns to Indian team for FIFA Window matches

The All India Football Federation has announced that former Indian captain Sunil Chhetri is all set to return to the national team for the FIFA International Window matches against Maldives and Bangladesh this month.

Earlier, Chhetri had announced retirement from international Football, having played his last game against Kuwait in June last year.

However, Chhetri's return comes at a pivotal moment ahead of the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Qualifiers Third Round. India will play a friendly match against the Maldives on the 19th of March in Shillong, before hosting Bangladesh at the same venue in their opening qualifier.

104. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy?

2025 ICC चैंपियंस ट्रॉफी के संबंध में निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा कथन सही है/हैं?

1. India won the tournament for defeating New Zealand by 4 wickets in the final held at Dubai International Cricket Stadium.
2. The tournament was hosted entirely in Pakistan, with all matches played in Karachi, Lahore, and Rawalpindi.
3. Rachin Ravindra of New Zealand was named Player of the Series, while Rohit Sharma was declared Player of the Match in the final.
4. India chased a target of 252 runs in the final with an over to spare, marking their second ICC trophy win in two years.
5. India became the second team to win the ICC Champions Trophy three times, with their latest victory against New Zealand in 2025.

- (a) only 1, 2 and 3
- (b) only 2, 3 and 4
- (c) only 1, 4, and 5
- (d) only 1, 3 and 4
- (e) all are correct except 2

Ans. d

Sol. India triumph over New Zealand to win record third ICC Champions Trophy

In Cricket, Team India etched their name in history, lifting the ICC Champions Trophy for a record third time after a commanding victory over New Zealand by four wickets in the grand finale at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

India had previously won the tournament in 2002 and 2013. Chasing a target of 252 runs in the summit clash, India achieved it with an over to spare.

Skipper Rohit Sharma was declared Player of the Match and New Zealand player Rachin Ravindra was declared Player of the Series.

The triumph marked India's second ICC trophy in as many years, following their T20 World Cup victory last year, further cementing their dominance on the global stage.

### 2025 ICC Champions Trophy

- Dates- February 19 – March 9, 2025
- Host Country- Pakistan and UAE
- Winner- India (Won by 4 wickets in the final)
- Runner-up- New Zealand
- Player of the Series- Rachin Ravindra (New Zealand)
- Most Runs- Rachin Ravindra; New Zealand (263 runs)
- Most Wickets- Matt Henry; New Zealand (10 wickets)
- Winner's Prize- \$2.365 million USD
- Match Venues- Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi
- India's Matches- Played in Dubai
- Final Venue- Dubai International Cricket Stadium
- Final - Player of the Match- Rohit Sharma (76 runs)
- Interesting Fact - In the 2024 T20 World Cup final, Virat Kohli scored 76 runs and won Player of the Match, and in the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy final, Rohit Sharma also scored 76 runs to claim this honor

105. **Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL)?**

**हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन (एचपीसीएल) के अध्यक्ष और प्रबंध निदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Rajesh Verma
- (b) Anil Kumar Sharma
- (c) Vikas Kaushal
- (d) Ramesh Gupta
- (e) Sanjay Malhotra

Ans. c

Sol. Vikas Kaushal appointed as CMD of HPCL

The government has appointed Vikas Kaushal as the Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) for five years.

He has also served as the Managing Director & Country Head for five years.

### About Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)

- **Founded** - 1974

- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman and Managing Director** - Vikas Kaushal

106. **What is the name of the AI-driven media company launched by Ajay Devgn?**

अजय देवगन द्वारा लॉन्च की गई AI-संचालित मीडिया कंपनी का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Prismix
- (b) Cinemax
- (c) Devgn Studios
- (d) AI Films
- (e) Visionary Media

Ans. a

Sol. Ajay Devgn launches 'Prismix,' an AI-driven media company to revolutionise content creation

Bollywood superstar Ajay Devgn launches 'Prismix,' an AI-driven media company to revolutionise content creation

This venture reinforces his commitment to innovation, empowering filmmakers, brands, and creators to craft high-quality, scalable, and visually compelling narratives with cutting-edge AI technology.

Prismix is dedicated to bridging creativity and generative AI to transform the media landscape. From short films and series to animated graphic novels, music videos, corporate content, and social media campaigns.

107. **Which company became the first two-wheeler EV manufacturer in India to receive incentives under the PLI-Auto Scheme?**

कौन सी कंपनी भारत में पीएलआई-ऑटो योजना के तहत प्रोत्साहन प्राप्त करने वाली पहली दोपहिया ईवी निर्माता बन गई?

- (a) Ather Energy
- (b) Hero Electric
- (c) TVS Motor
- (d) Bajaj Auto
- (e) Ola Electric

Ans. e

Sol. Ola Electric becomes first 2W EV manufacturer to bag PLI incentives

Ola Electric, India's largest electric vehicle company, has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first two-wheeler automotive electric vehicle (EV) manufacturer in India to receive incentives under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automotive and Auto Component (PLI-Auto Scheme).

The company has been granted a total incentive of ₹73.74 crore for the Determined Sales Value of FY 2023-24 under the scheme.

The company has been granted a total incentive of ₹73.74 crore for the Determined Sales Value of FY 2023-24 under the scheme, according to a stock exchange filing by the company.

The PLI-Auto Scheme, launched by the Government of India, aims to boost domestic manufacturing in the automotive sector and promote the adoption of advanced, clean, and sustainable mobility solutions.

Launched in September 2021, the PLI-Auto Scheme aims to boost domestic manufacturing in the automotive sector and promote the adoption of advanced, clean, and sustainable mobility solutions. With a budget outlay of ₹25,938 crore over five years, the scheme is targeted towards reducing dependency on imports and positioning the country as a key player in the global EV supply chain.

**108. The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and Bangalore-based NGO, Sustain Plus have joined forces to roll out a large-scale circular dairy programme. How many biogas plants will be installed under the circular dairy programme across India?**

**राष्ट्रीय डेयरी विकास बोर्ड (एनडीडीबी) और बैंगलोर स्थित एनजीओ, सस्टेन प्लस ने बड़े पैमाने पर सर्कुलर डेयरी कार्यक्रम शुरू करने के लिए हाथ मिलाया है। पूरे भारत में सर्कुलर डेयरी कार्यक्रम के तहत कितने बायोगैस संयंत्र स्थापित किए जाएंगे?**

- (a) 5,000 biogas plants
- (b) 7,000 biogas plants
- (c) 10,000 biogas plants
- (d) 15,000 biogas plants
- (e) 20,000 biogas plants

Ans. c

Sol. NDDB ties up with NGO for setting up 10,000 biogas plants across 15 states. The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and Bangalore-based NGO, Sustain Plus have joined forces to roll out a large-scale circular dairy programme that will install 10,000 biogas plants across 15 states in India including Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar.

The circular dairy programme, unveiled at the 'Workshop on Sustainability and Circularity in Dairy Sector' at New Delhi -- hosted by the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) --- aims to create climate-smart dairy villages and build scalable and sustainable farming practices across the country.

In the next four years, 10,000 biogas digesters installed across multiple states are expected to generate 3 lakh tonnes of organic slurry annually, improving soil health and reducing the need for chemical fertilisers. They will also produce more than 7 million cubic meters of biogas every year, providing clean cooking fuel to 10,000 rural households.

In addition, the program will enable the production of nearly 60,000 tonnes of Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM) each year, replacing an equivalent quantity of chemical phosphate fertilisers, further supporting affordable and sustainable farming practices.

**109. Which ministry has launched the Swavalambini initiative to promote women entrepreneurship in India?**

## भारत में महिला उद्यमिता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किस मंत्रालय ने स्वावलंबिनी पहल शुरू की है?

- (a) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- (b) Ministry of Finance
- (c) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- (d) Ministry of Education
- (e) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Ans. c

Sol. Jayant Chaudhary launches Swavalambini, a Women Entrepreneurship Programme. The Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in collaboration with NITI Aayog has launched the Swavalambini initiative to promote women entrepreneurship in the country.

The Swavalambini initiative at the Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, was launched by Union Minister (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary.

This initiative empowers female students in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) by providing them with the necessary entrepreneurial mindset, resources, and mentorship to successfully build and scale their ventures.

The Swavalambini initiative is being implemented by the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and in joint partnership with NITI Aayog. NIESBUD comes under the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

The Swavalambini initiative was initially launched in the Higher Educational Institutions of the Eastern region of the country. It was successfully launched at IIT Bhubaneswar and Utkal University in Odisha; North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong; Kiang Nangbah Government College, Jowai; and Ri Bhoi College in Meghalaya, etc. It is being gradually expanded to other parts of the country.

## 110. Who has been awarded the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2024?

EY एंटरप्रेनर ऑफ द ईयर अवार्ड 2024 किसे दिया गया है?

- (a) Ratan Tata
- (b) Nithin Kamath
- (c) Mukesh Ambani
- (d) Vijay Shekhar Sharma
- (e) Sundar Pichai

Ans. b

Sol. Nithin Kamath Wins EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2024

Nithin Kamath, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Zerodha, has been awarded the esteemed EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2024.

A self-made entrepreneur, Nithin has not only bootstrapped Zerodha to a billion-dollar valuation but also actively supports start-ups in fintech and climate space, and advocates for social initiatives.

Nithin Kamath will represent India at the global stage at the EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year Award (WEOY) in Monte Carlo to be held in June 2025.

The Chief Guest, Shri Bhupender Yadav, the Honourable Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change felicitated Nithin Kamath, KV Kamath and Dr. S Somanath along with the EOY 2024 category winners.

### Recent Award

- **Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados** - PM Narendra Modi.
- **Lifetime Achievement in Hospitality and Education Through Technology Award** - Dr. Suborno Bose (Chairman of International Institute of Hotel Management)
- **Pritzker Architecture Prize 2025** - Chinese architect and educator Liu Jiakun
- **Laureus World Sports Award 2025 (in comeback of the year category)** - Rishabh Pant
- **Icon of Excellence award at Forbes India Leadership Awards 2025** - ICC Chairman Jay Shah

111. **Mushfiqur Rahim has announced his retirement from One Day Internationals (ODI) following the team's early exit from the ICC Champions Trophy. Which country is he from?**

**मुशफिकुर रहीम ने आईसीसी चैपियंस ट्रॉफी से टीम के जल्दी बाहर होने के बाद एक दिवसीय अंतरराष्ट्रीय (ODI) से संन्यास की घोषणा की है। वह किस देश से हैं?**

- (a) Pakistan
- (b) Afghanistan
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) Sri Lanka
- (e) South Africa

Ans. c

Sol. Mushfiqur Rahim Announces Retirement from ODIs

Former Bangladesh captain and wicketkeeper-batter Mushfiqur Rahim announced his retirement from One Day Internationals (ODIs) following the team's early exit from the ICC Champions Trophy, hosted by Pakistan and the UAE.

The 37-year-old made his ODI debut against Zimbabwe in August 2006. He retires as Bangladesh's most-capped player in the format, having played 274 matches.

Over his illustrious career, he scored 7,795 runs at an average of 36.42, including nine centuries, with a career-best score of 144. As a wicketkeeper, he took 243 catches and effected 56 stumpings.

Widely regarded as a giant in Bangladesh's ODI history, Mushfiqur Rahim first made his mark in the 2007 World Cup when he was picked ahead of veteran wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud.

### Recently Retired Players

- Steve Smith (Australia) - One Day Internationals Cricket
- A. Sharath Kamal - Table Tennis
- Martin Guptill (New Zealand) – International cricket
- Rishi Dhawan (India) – Cricket

- Moeen Ali (England) - International Cricket

**112. Which pair did Siddhant Banthia and Alexander Donski defeat in the ATP Kigali Challenger final?**

एटीपी किंगाली चैलेंजर फाइनल में सिद्धांत बंथिया और अलेक्जेंडर डोंस्की ने किस जोड़ी को हराया?

- (a) Geoffrey Blancaneaux and Kolar Zdenek
- (b) Alexander Donski and Geoffrey Blancaneaux
- (c) Geoffrey Blancaneaux and Alexander Donski
- (d) Kolar Zdenek and Siddhant Banthia
- (e) Kolar Zdenek and Jeffrey Blancaneaux

Ans. a

Sol. Siddhant Banthia and Alexander Donski clinch ATP Kigali Challenger title

In tennis, India's Siddhant Banthia and his partner Alexander Donski of Bulgaria have clinched the ATP Kigali Challenger title in Kigali, Rwanda.

The Indian-Bulgarian duo defeated the third-seeded pair, Geoffrey Blancaneaux of France and Kolar Zdenek of Czechia, in the summit clash.

This marks Banthia's first ATP Challenger title. With the win, he has achieved a career-high ranking of 196 and also became the 11th Indian to break into the top 200 in the ATP doubles rankings.

**113. Who has won the FIDE World Junior Championship 2025 in Montenegro?**

मोंटेनेग्रो में आयोजित FIDE वर्ल्ड जूनियर चैंपियनशिप 2025 किसने जीती है?

- (a) Pranav Venkatesh
- (b) Viswanathan Anand
- (c) Pentala Harikrishna
- (d) Abhijeet Gupta
- (e) Aravindh Chithambaram

Ans. a

Sol. Pranav Venkatesh becomes World Junior Chess Champion 2025

In chess, 18-year-old Indian Grandmaster Pranav Venkatesh dominated the FIDE World Junior Championship 2025 to claim the title in Montenegro.

Pranav becomes the fourth Indian to win the World Junior title, following Viswanathan Anand, Pentala Harikrishna, and Abhijeet Gupta.

Meanwhile, Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram won the prestigious Prague Masters in the Czech Republic.

In the final round, Aravindh held a solid draw against Turkey's Ediz Gurel to clinch sole first place.

**114. Who has won the Prague Masters 2025 Chess title?**

प्राग मास्टर्स 2025 शतरंज का खिताब किसने जीता है?

- (a) Aravindh Chithambaram
- (b) Viswanathan Anand

- (c) Pentala Harikrishna
- (d) Abhijeet Gupta
- (e) Pranav Venkatesh

Ans. a

Sol. Indian Grandmaster A Chithambaram clinches Prague Masters 2025 Chess title  
Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram has clinched the Prague Masters 2025 Chess title.

He finished the tournament with six points after settling for a draw against Turkey's Ediz Gurel in the final round.

**115. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of Sumant Kathpalia as the Managing Director and CEO of which bank for one year?**

**भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने किस बैंक के प्रबंध निदेशक और CEO के रूप में सुमंत कथपालिया की एक साल के लिए पुनर्नियुक्ति को मंजूरी दी है?**

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) ICICI Bank
- (c) IndusInd Bank
- (d) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- (e) Axis Bank

Ans. c

Sol. RBI approves one-year extension for IndusInd Bank CEO Sumant Kathpalia  
Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of Sumant Kathpalia as the Managing Director and CEO of the Private sector lender IndusInd Bank Ltd for one year. Kathpalia is a career banker with over 37 years of rich experience in large multi-national banks such as Citibank, Bank of America and ABN AMRO prior to joining IndusInd Bank. At IndusInd Bank, Kathpalia has been part of the core leadership team and joined the Bank 17 years ago and has been pivotal in turning the Bank around.

**IndusInd Bank**

- **Founded** - 1994
- **Founder** - S.P. Hinduja
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- **MD & CEO** - Sumant Kathpalia
- **Tagline** - We Make You Feel Richer

**116. Who has been appointed as the first-ever brand ambassador of Federal Bank?**

**फेडरल बैंक का पहला ब्रांड एंबेसडर किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Deepika Padukone
- (b) Alia Bhatt
- (c) Sunny Leone
- (d) Priyanka Chopra
- (e) Vidya Balan

Ans. e

Sol. Federal Bank appoints Vidya Balan as brand ambassador

Federal Bank has appointed actor Vidya Balan its first-ever brand ambassador. This move sets progressive growth narratives for Banking in India.

Vidya, who is known for breaking stereotypes and choosing substance over glamour, brings authenticity that resonates with modern Indian consumers.

### About Federal Bank

- Founded- 23 April 1931
- Founder- K.P Hormis
- Headquarters - Kochi, Kerala.
- MD & CEO- - KVS Manian (replace Shyam Srinivasan)

**117. Who has been appointed as the convenor of the GoM on revenue mobilisation for natural calamities?**

**प्राकृतिक आपदाओं के लिए राजस्व जुटाने पर गठित मंत्री समूह का संयोजक किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Pramod Sawant
- (b) Suresh Khanna
- (c) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (d) Pinarayi Vijayan
- (e) Himanta Biswa Sarma

Ans. b

Sol. GST Council constitute GoM to examine levy of natural calamity cess by a particular state

GST Council has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to suggest recommendations for revenue mobilisation in case of natural calamities or disasters. It has reconstituted another GoM on analysis of revenue from GST.

These actions have been taken on the basis of recommendation of GST Council meeting held on December 21, 2024.

The GoM on revenue mobilisation in case of natural calamities or disaster will have Finance Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Suresh Khanna as convenor.

The reconstituted GoM on 'Analysis of Revenue from GST' under Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

**118. What is the name of the new collateral-free digital SME (small and medium enterprise) loan product launched by SBI for women entrepreneurs?**

**महिला उद्यमियों के लिए एसबीआई द्वारा शुरू किए गए नए संपार्श्विक-मुक्त डिजिटल एसएमई (लघु और मध्यम उद्यम) ऋण उत्पाद का नाम क्या है?**

- (a) SBI Nari Shakti
- (b) SBI Udyogini
- (c) SBI Asmita
- (d) SBI Sakhi
- (e) SBI Pragati

Ans. c

Sol. SBI launches collateral free digital SME loan for women entrepreneurs

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a collateral free digital SME (small and medium enterprise) loan product 'SBI Asmita' for women entrepreneurs to help them expand their business.

It also launched a 'Nari Shakti' platinum debit card to cater to the needs of women across various segments.

A special add-on to the product is that top women entrepreneurs will be identified among borrowers of SBI Asmita to provide them with entrepreneurial and management training.

The newly launched 'Nari Shakti' platinum debit card (made from 100% recycled plastic) is a RuPay-powered card designed exclusively for women. It offers features across segments such as entertainment, shopping, travel, lifestyle, insurance, etc.

### Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- PhonePe launched the '**insuring HEROES**' campaign on the occasion of International Women's Day.
- HDFC Bank launches Project **HAKK (Hawai Anubhavi Kalyan Kendra)** to support IAF veterans
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launches '**Pru GIFT Select**' for guaranteed income
- Poonawalla Fincorp Limited launched a new fully digital personal loan product called "**PL Prime Digital 24x7**" targeting salaried professionals

119. **Bank of Baroda has launched a specialised savings account for women NRIs, becoming the first Indian public sector bank to offer such a product. What is the name of the specialised savings account launched by Bank of Baroda for women NRIs?**

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा ने महिला एनआरआई के लिए एक विशेष बचत खाता शुरू किया है, जो इस तरह का उत्पाद पेश करने वाला पहला भारतीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र का बैंक बन गया है। महिला एनआरआई के लिए बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा द्वारा शुरू किए गए विशेष बचत खाते का नाम क्या है?**

- (a) BoB Women Global Account
- (b) BoB NRI Savings Elite & NRO Savings Account
- (c) BoB Global Women NRE & NRO Savings Account
- (d) BoB Women's Power Account
- (e) BoB Nari Shakti Savings & NRO Savings Account

Ans. c

Sol. Bank of Baroda launches first savings account for women NRIs

Bank of Baroda has launched a specialised savings account for women NRIs, becoming the first Indian public sector bank to offer such a product.

The BoB Global Women NRE & NRO Savings Account provides benefits including concessional rates on home and auto loans, reduced processing fees, full waivers on locker rent, and a customised debit card with complimentary airport lounge access. The account also comes with free personal and air accident insurance coverage.

The bob Global Women NRE & NRO Savings Account recognises the changing dynamics of today's global Indian women and is designed to empower them.

### About Bank of Baroda (BOB)

- **Founded** - 1908
- **Headquarters** - Vadodara, Gujarat
- **MD & CEO** - Debadatta Chand
- **Chairman** - Mukesh Kumar Bansal
- **Tagline** - India's International Bank

120. Which Indian bank has become the first to execute an aircraft financing transaction through its International Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT City IFSC?

कौन सा भारतीय बैंक GIFT सिटी IFSC में अपनी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बैंकिंग इकाई (IBU) के माध्यम से विमान वित्तपोषण लेनदेन को अंजाम देने वाला पहला बैंक बन गया है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Axis Bank executes aircraft financing deal from GIFT City IFSC unit

Axis Bank has become the first Indian bank to execute an aircraft financing transaction through its International Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT City IFSC.

The deal was completed for AI Fleet Services Limited (AIFS), the leasing arm and wholly owned subsidiary of Air India (a Tata Group Company).

It involves a long-term USD Loan for the purchase of 34 training aircraft, which will be deployed at Air India's upcoming pilot training institute in Amravati, Maharashtra.

For the first time, all key stakeholders in the transaction — Lender, Borrower, Law Firm, Facility Agent, and Security Agent are GIFT City entities.

Air India has embarked on a five-year transformation journey Vihaan.AI, placing an order for 570 aircraft, and GIFT City will be important for financing of these aircraft.

### About Axis Bank

- **Founded** - 1993
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman** - Rakesh Makhija
- **MD & CEO** - Amitabh Chaudhary
- **Tagline** - Badhti Ka naam Zindagi

121. Which countries are participating in the "Security Belt-2025" naval exercises?

"सिक्योरिटी बेल्ट-2025" नौसैनिक अभ्यास में कौन से देश भाग ले रहे हैं?

- (a) Russia, China, and India
- (b) Russia, China, and Iran

- (c) Russia, Iran, and Pakistan
- (d) China, Iran, and Saudi Arabia
- (e) China, India, and the USA

Ans. b

Sol. Russia set to hold joint naval exercises with China, Iran in Indian Ocean  
Russia, China, and Iran are going to hold joint naval exercises in the Indian Ocean later this month.

The exercises, called "Security Belt-2025", will take place near the Iranian port of Chabahar.

This is the seventh time the three countries are holding these exercises together.  
The exercises aim to strengthen military cooperation and trust among the participating countries.

#### Recent Exercise

- **Exercise Desert Hunt 2025** between Indian Navy, Indian Army and India Air Force - Indian Air Force at Air Force Station Jodhpur.
- **6<sup>th</sup> edition of Exercise Dharma Guardian** between Indian Army and Japan Ground Self-Defence Force (JGSDF) - Mount Fuji, Japan.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> 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.
- **13<sup>th</sup> edition of military exercise 'Ekuverin'** between the **Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force** - archipelago nation.

122. Which of the following statements about the 'Medical Innovations Patent Mitra' initiative by ICMR is/are correct?

आईसीएमआर द्वारा 'मेडिकल इनोवेशन पेटेंट मित्र' पहल के बारे में निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा कथन सही है/हैं?

1. The initiative was launched by PM Modi to boost biomedical innovations in India.
2. It provides comprehensive support for patent filings and technology transfer of medical innovations to industry.
3. The program was developed solely by ICMR without any external partnerships or guidance.
4. The initiative was unveiled at the International Symposium on Health Technology Assessment (ISHTA).

- (a) only 1
- (b) only 2 and 4
- (c) only 1 and 2
- (d) only 1, 2, and 4
- (e) only 2, 3, and 4

Ans. b

Sol. ICMR launches patent filing support initiative to boost biomedical innovations in India

Union Health Minister J P Nadda has launched the Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) flagship initiative 'Medical Innovations Patent Mitra' to enhance India's healthcare innovation ecosystem.

The initiative aims at providing end-to-end guidance and handholding support to innovators for patent filings and technology transfer of medical innovations to industry. The initiative was launched at the International Symposium on Health Technology Assessment (ISHTA).

This program, developed under the guidance of NITI Aayog and in partnership with the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), is supported by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Medical innovation Patent Mitra is a testament of ICMR's commitment to advancing medical innovation.

**123. In March 2025, the Centre declared the Madhav National Park in Madhya Pradesh as the country's 58th tiger reserve. How many tiger reserves are there in Madhya Pradesh, excluding the newly added Madhav Tiger Reserve?**

**मार्च 2025 में केंद्र सरकार ने मध्य प्रदेश के माधव राष्ट्रीय उद्यान को देश का 58वां बाघ अभ्यारण्य घोषित किया। नए जोड़े गए माधव टाइगर रिजर्व को छोड़कर मध्य प्रदेश में कितने बाघ अभ्यारण्य हैं?**

- (a) 5
- (b) 7
- (c) 9
- (d) 8
- (e) 10

Ans. d

Sol. Madhav National Park in Madhya Pradesh becomes India's 58th Tiger Reserve. The Centre declared the Madhav National Park in Madhya Pradesh as the country's 58th tiger reserve. The newly added national park was also the ninth from the State to get the recognition.

The newly designated Madhav Tiger Reserve is located in Shivpuri district in the Gwalior-Chambal region. It covers 1,751 square kilometres, with a core area of 375 square kilometres and a buffer zone of 1,276 square kilometres.

The newly added Madhav Tiger Reserve follows the recent designation of Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary, located between Bhopal and Raisen districts, as the state's eighth Tiger Reserve.

Three tigers, including two females, were introduced to the Madhav National Park in 2023 as part of the tiger reintroduction project 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

124. **What is the name of the ₹2,500 monthly cash scheme for women approved by the Delhi government?**

**दिल्ली सरकार द्वारा स्वीकृत महिलाओं के लिए ₹2,500 मासिक नकद योजना का नाम क्या है?**

- (a) Nari Samman Yojana
- (b) Mahila Vikas Yojana
- (c) Mahila Samriddhi Yojana
- (d) Delhi Women's Welfare Scheme
- (e) Shakti Yojana

Ans. c

Sol. Delhi Cabinet Approves Rs 2,500 Monthly Cash Scheme For Women

The Delhi government approved the Mahila Samriddhi Yojana in a cabinet meeting. On International Women's Day, Delhi CM Rekha Gupta has fulfilled the promise to provide ₹2,500 to eligible women.

A provision of ₹5,100 crore has been made in the Budget of the national capital to implement the scheme. A committee, led by the Delhi chief minister, has also been formed.

125. **Which edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise Khanjar is being held in Kyrgyzstan from March 10 to March 23, 2025?**

**भारत-किर्गिज़स्तान संयुक्त विशेष बल अभ्यास खंजर का कौन सा संस्करण 10 मार्च से 23 मार्च, 2025 तक किर्गिज़स्तान में आयोजित किया जा रहा है?**

- (a) 11th
- (b) 12th
- (c) 13th
- (d) 14th
- (e) 15th

Ans. b

Sol. India-Kyrgyzstan joint military exercise Khanjar-XII begins in Tokmok

The 12th edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR-XII is set to take place in Kyrgyzstan from 10 March to 23 March 2025.

The opening ceremony of the Joint Military Exercise Khanjar-XII, between special forces of India and Kyrgyzstan, was held at Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan.

Exercise Khanjar-XII 2025 aims to enhance military cooperation and interoperability and share the best practices between the Special Forces of the Indian Army and the Kyrgyzstan Army.

126. **On which date is the International Day of Women Judges observed annually?**

**अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला न्यायाधीश दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) March 5
- (b) March 8
- (c) March 10
- (d) March 15

(e) March 20

Ans. c

Sol. 10 March - International Day Of Women Judges

The International Day of Women Judges is observed annually on March 10 to recognize the significant role of women in the judiciary and promote gender equality in legal systems worldwide.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared March 10 as the International Day of Women Judges in 2021 through Resolution 75/274.

**127. Former Supreme Court judge V. Ramaswami passed away at 96. Which High Court did V. Ramaswami serve as Chief Justice before being elevated to the Supreme Court?**

**सुप्रीम कोर्ट के पूर्व न्यायाधीश वी. रामास्वामी का 96 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। सुप्रीम कोर्ट में पदोन्त होने से पहले वी. रामास्वामी किस उच्च न्यायालय में मुख्य न्यायाधीश के रूप में कार्यरत थे?**

- (a) Madras High Court
- (b) Delhi High Court
- (c) Bombay High Court
- (d) Punjab High Court
- (e) Calcutta High Court

Ans. d

Sol. Former Supreme Court judge V. Ramaswami dead

Former Supreme Court judge V. Ramaswami passed away at 96.

He enrolled as an advocate on July 13, 1953 and practiced in civil and criminal matters. He was appointed as an Additional Government Pleader in 1962 and as State Public Prosecutor in 1969 before being elevated as a judge of the Madras High Court in 1971. In 1987, he got appointed as Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court and was elevated to the Supreme Court in 1989. An impeachment motion was moved against him for extravagant spending during his tenure in Punjab and Haryana High Court but the motion failed in 1993 and he retired from service in 1994.

**128. Who is leading India's delegation at the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)?**

**महिलाओं की स्थिति पर आयोग (CSW) के 69वें सत्र में भारत के प्रतिनिधिमंडल का नेतृत्व कौन कर रहा है?**

- (a) Smriti Irani
- (b) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (c) Annapurna Devi
- (d) Draupadi Murmu
- (e) Meenakshi Lekhi

Ans. c

Sol. Union minister Annapurna Devi to lead India's delegation at Commission on Status of Women at UN

Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Annapurna Devi will lead India's delegation at the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

The session will focus on global progress in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

She will also participate in discussions on resourcing and accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**129. What is the name of the financial grant scheme implemented by the Ministry of Culture to support young artists, in March 2025?**

**मार्च 2025 में, युवा कलाकारों को सहायता देने के लिए संस्कृति मंत्रालय द्वारा कार्यान्वित वित्तीय अनुदान प्रोजेक्ट का नाम क्या है?**

- (a) National Talent Scholarship
- (b) Young Artists Grant Program
- (c) Scholarships to Young Artists in Different Cultural Fields
- (d) Traditional Art Development Fund
- (e) Cultural Heritage Scholarship Scheme

Ans. c

Sol. Financial Grant Scheme for Young Artists

The Ministry of Culture is implementing a financial grant Scheme by the name of 'Scholarships to Young Artists in Different Cultural Fields (SYA)' to support young artists specialising in various cultural fields such as classical dance forms, indigenous artwork and other traditional art-forms for undergoing advanced training in their respective fields.

Under this scheme component, a Scholarship of Rs. 5,000/- per month is provided upto a maximum of 400 Scholars for a period of 02 years in four equal six-monthly instalments. The selected scholars should be in the age group of 18 years to 25 years and have been undergoing training under any Guru or Institution for a minimum of 5 years.

The Scholars are selected on the basis of their performance in a personal interview / interaction before an Expert Committee constituted by the Ministry.

**130. The Union government appointed justice Joymalya Bagchi as a judge of the Supreme Court, following the recommendation made by the Supreme Court collegium. When is Justice Joymalya Bagchi expected to become the Chief Justice of India (CJI)?**

**केंद्र सरकार ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट कॉलेजियम की सिफारिश के बाद न्यायमूर्ति जॉयमाल्या बागची को सुप्रीम कोर्ट का न्यायाधीश नियुक्त किया है। न्यायमूर्ति जॉयमाल्या बागची के भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश (सीजेआई) बनने की संभावना कब है?**

- (a) May 2029
- (b) May 2030

- (c) May 2031
- (d) May 2032
- (e) May 2033

Ans. c

Sol. Justice Bagchi appointed as SC judge, set to become CJI in 2031

The Union government appointed justice Joymalya Bagchi as a judge of the Supreme Court, following the recommendation made by the Supreme Court collegium.

With this elevation, justice Bagchi is set to become the Chief Justice of India (CJI) in May 2031, albeit for a little over four months, before retiring on October 2, 2031.

His appointment fills one of the two vacancies in the Supreme Court, which has a sanctioned strength of 34 judges.

The Supreme Court collegium, comprising Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and justices Bhushan R Gavai, Surya Kant, Abhay S Oka and Vikram Nath, had recommended Justice Bagchi's appointment on March 6.

Justice Bagchi was appointed as a judge of the Calcutta high court in June 2011. In January 2021, he was transferred to the Andhra Pradesh high court, before being repatriated to the Calcutta high court in November 2021. Over his 13-year tenure as a high court judge, he has gained extensive experience across diverse fields of law.

**131. In March 2025, which life insurance company partnered with GIC Housing Finance Limited to provide credit life insurance solutions?**

**मार्च 2025 में, किस जीवन बीमा कंपनी ने क्रेडिट जीवन बीमा समाधान प्रदान करने के लिए जीआईसी हाउसिंग फाइनेंस लिमिटेड के साथ साझेदारी की?**

- (a) LIC of India
- (b) HDFC Life Insurance
- (c) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- (d) SBI Life Insurance
- (e) Canara HSBC Life Insurance

Ans. e

Sol. Canara HSBC Life Insurance Partners with GIC Housing Finance for Home Loan Security

Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited ("Canara HSBC Life Insurance") has partnered with GIC Housing Finance Limited ("GICHF") to provide credit life insurance solutions to home loan borrowers.

This collaboration aims to ensure financial security for borrowers and their families by offering protection against loan liabilities, in case of unforeseen circumstances.

As part of this partnership, Canara HSBC Life Insurance will introduce its 'Group Asset Secure' plan—a specialised credit life insurance product—through GIC Housing Finance's extensive customer network.

MD and CEO of GIC Housing Finance Limited - Sachindra Salvi

**132. Rohit Sharma became the second-most successful Indian captain by clinching his second ICC title. What record did India achieve by winning the Champions Trophy under Rohit Sharma's captaincy?**

**रोहित शर्मा अपना दूसरा ICC खिताब जीतकर दूसरे सबसे सफल भारतीय कप्तान बन गए।  
रोहित शर्मा की कप्तानी में चैंपियंस ट्रॉफी जीतकर भारत ने कौन सा रिकॉर्ड बनाया?**

- (a) First country to win the Champions Trophy twice
- (b) First country to win the Champions Trophy three times
- (c) First country to win all ICC tournaments
- (d) First country to win the Champions Trophy and T20 World Cup in the same year
- (e) First country to win the Champions Trophy and ODI World Cup in the same year

Ans. b

Sol. Rohit Sharma becomes 2nd-most successful Indian captain with two ICC titles  
Rohit Sharma became the second-most successful Indian captain by clinching his second ICC title.

Under Rohit's captaincy, India lifted their second ICC silverware in less than nine months after winning the 2024 T20 World Cup against South Africa in Bridgetown. It was also India's fourth consecutive ICC final in less than two years – the World Test Championship (WTC) in 2023, the ODI World Cup in 2023, and the T20 World Cup in 2024 before playing their third successive Champions Trophy final in Dubai.

Rohit became the first captain in international cricket to lead his team in the final of all four major ICC events. The Rohit Sharma-led India won the 2024 T20 World Cup last year to end a more-than-decade-long ICC title drought stretching to the Champions Trophy win under MS Dhoni's leadership in 2013.

Rohit has joined the list with two ICC titles in less than a year's gap to finish ahead of legendary cricketers Sourav Ganguly (2002 Champions Trophy) and Kapil Dev (1983 ODI World Cup).

India also became the first country to win the Champions Trophy for a record third time in the eight-team tournament's history.

**133. Former Minister Ananta Das passed away recently at the age of 85. Which party did Ananta Das represent during his political career?**

**पूर्व मंत्री अनंत दास का हाल ही में 85 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। अनंत दास ने अपने राजनीतिक जीवन में किस पार्टी का प्रतिनिधित्व किया?**

- (a) Indian National Congress
- (b) Bharatiya Janata Party
- (c) Biju Janata Dal
- (d) Communist Party of India
- (e) Aam Aadmi Party

Ans. c

Sol. Senior BJD leader Ananta Das passes away

Veteran Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader and former Minister Ananta Das passed away at the age of 85 in Bhubaneshwar.

Das represented the Bhograi constituency of Balasore district in the Odisha Assembly by winning the seat for four times consecutively between 2004 and 2019 on a BJD ticket.

Das also held several ministerial portfolios, including higher education and industries departments, between 2017 and 2019. He was also the chief whip in the Odisha Assembly from 2014 to 2017.

**134. The Assam state government has announced plans to launch its own satellite, aiming to strengthen data access for key socio-economic initiatives and enhance border surveillance. What is the name of the satellite that the Assam state government plans to launch?**

असम राज्य सरकार ने प्रमुख सामाजिक-आर्थिक पहलों के लिए डेटा एक्सेस को मजबूत करने और सीमा निगरानी को बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से अपना स्वयं का उपग्रह लॉन्च करने की योजना की घोषणा की है। असम राज्य सरकार द्वारा लॉन्च किए जाने वाले उपग्रह का नाम क्या है?

- (a) ASSAMNET
- (b) ASSAMSAT
- (c) ASSAMSPACE
- (d) ASSAMVIEW
- (e) SATASSAM

Ans. b

Sol. Assam to launch its satellite, talks on with ISRO for ASSAMSAT project

The Assam state government has announced plans to launch its own satellite, ASSAMSAT soon, aiming to strengthen data access for key socio-economic initiatives and enhance border surveillance.

The ASSAMSAT satellite can help providing dedicated services for agriculture, disaster management, infrastructure development, and security border management and police operations.

The satellite will be set up in collaboration with IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center) which promotes private investment and innovation in the space sector and Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro).

#### About Assam

- **Formation** - 26 January 1950
- **Capital** - Dispur
- **Chief Minister** - Himanta Biswa Sarma
- **Governor** - Lakshman Prasad Acharya

**135. PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY), the world's largest domestic rooftop solar initiative, has achieved a significant milestone by completing 10.09 lakh installations across the country as of 10th March 2025. Which of the following Union Territories has achieved 100% rooftop solar installation on government buildings?**

पीएम सूर्य घर: मुफ्त बिजली योजना (पीएमएसजीएमबीवाई), दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी घरेलू रूफटॉप सोलर पहल, ने 10 मार्च 2025 तक देश भर में 10.09 लाख इंस्टॉलेशन पूरा करके एक महत्वपूर्ण मील का पत्थर हासिल किया है। निम्नलिखित में से किस केंद्र शासित प्रदेश ने सरकारी भवनों पर 100% रूफटॉप सोलर इंस्टॉलेशन हासिल कर लिया है?

- (a) Puducherry and Daman & Diu
- (b) Lakshadweep and Chandigarh
- (c) Delhi and Chandigarh
- (d) Chandigarh and Daman & Diu
- (e) Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Ans. d

**Sol. PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana Crosses Milestone of 10 Lakh Installations**  
**PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY)**, the world's largest domestic rooftop solar initiative, has achieved a significant milestone by completing 10.09 lakh installations across the country as of 10th March 2025.

This ambitious scheme, launched by PM Modi on 13th February 2024, aims to provide free electricity through rooftop solar systems to 1 crore residential households and reduce dependence on conventional power sources while enabling citizens to become energy producers.

The scheme enables every household to contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing carbon emissions equivalent to planting 100 trees.

The scheme, implemented by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has received 47.3 lakh applications. 6.13 lakh beneficiaries have successfully received subsidies, amounting to ₹ 4,770 crore. With a fully automated application, vendor selection and subsidy redeem process through [www.pmsuryaghar.gov.in](http://www.pmsuryaghar.gov.in) subsidies get credited to applicants' bank accounts within 15 days.

Under PM Modi's leadership, a key feature of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana is the provision of collateral-free loans through 12 Public Sector Banks (PSBs) at a subsidized interest rate of 6.75% for loans up to Rs. 2 lakhs, making rooftop solar installations more accessible to the masses. With the easy loan facility, a 3 KW rooftop solar system could be installed with an investment as low as ₹15,000/- giving returns up to ₹15 lakh in 25 years.

Loan application process is also fully automated and online. So far, 3.10 lakh loan applications have been received, with 1.58 lakh loans sanctioned and 1.28 lakh disbursed, ensuring wider accessibility for potential beneficiaries. Beneficiaries receive subsidy of upto ₹78000 for upto 3KW rooftop solar systems, significantly reducing installation costs.

Notably, Chandigarh and Daman & Diu have achieved 100% of their government-building rooftop solar targets, leading the nation in clean energy adoption. States like Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu also perform exceptionally well, contributing significantly to the overall installation figures.

The Government is actively monitoring the progress across all states to ensure the smooth and timely execution of the scheme, with the goal of reaching 1 crore households by 2026-27.

The scheme has a total outlay of ₹75,021 crore.

**136. A significant MoU was signed between National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) and the Inland Waterways Authority of India**

**(IWAI) to develop a state-of-the-art Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP). Where will the Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) be located?**

**राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग लॉजिस्टिक्स प्रबंधन लिमिटेड (NHLML) और भारतीय अंतर्देशीय जलमार्ग प्राधिकरण (IWAI) के बीच अत्याधुनिक मल्टी-मॉडल लॉजिस्टिक्स पार्क (MMLP) विकसित करने के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए। मल्टी-मॉडल लॉजिस्टिक्स पार्क (MMLP) कहाँ स्थित होगा?**

- (a) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh
- (e) Agra, Uttar Pradesh

Ans. c

Sol. India signs MoU for development of state-of-the-art multi-modal logistics park in Varanasi

A significant MoU was signed between National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) and the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to develop a state-of-the-art Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The MMLP will be located on a 150-acre site and will be strategically connected to National Highway 7 (NH7) via a 650-meter access road. It is positioned just 1.5 kilometres from the crucial NH7-NH2 junction, enhancing connectivity within the region.

In addition to road access, the park will seamlessly integrate with the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor through a 5.1 km railway line from Jeonathpur Station. The location is also well connected to National Waterway-1, and is only 30 kilometres from Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport, ensuring robust transportation links for both domestic and international trade.

The project is expected to create significant investment opportunities and generate employment, providing a major boost to India's logistics sector.

**137. SBI Life Insurance has introduced two new child insurance plans, named "SBI Life - Smart Future Star" and "SBI Life - Smart Platina Young Achiever". What is the primary goal of the two new child insurance plans introduced by SBI Life Insurance?**

**एसबीआई लाइफ इंश्योरेंस ने दो नई बाल बीमा योजनाएं शुरू की हैं, जिनका नाम "एसबीआई लाइफ - स्मार्ट फ्यूचर स्टार" और "एसबीआई लाइफ - स्मार्ट प्लेटिना यंग अचीवर" है। एसबीआई लाइफ इंश्योरेंस द्वारा शुरू की गई दो नई बाल बीमा योजनाओं का प्राथमिक लक्ष्य क्या है?**

- (a) To help parents secure their children's financial future
- (b) To provide short-term loans for education
- (c) To offer free healthcare for children
- (d) To fund travel expenses for families
- (e) To replace existing retirement plans

Ans. a

Sol. SBI Life Insurance expands product line with two new Child Insurance Plans

SBI Life Insurance has introduced two new child insurance plans, "SBI Life - Smart Future Star" and "SBI Life - Smart Platina Young Achiever," aimed at helping parents secure their children's financial future.

These plans address rising concerns like increasing education costs, evolving career goals, and lifestyle expenses, offering a comprehensive financial safety net for children. Key features include flexible payout options, premium waivers in case of a parent's death or disability, and opportunities for long-term savings or guaranteed benefits, depending on the plan.

The launch reflects SBI Life's commitment to empowering parents with innovative solutions that blend protection and financial growth, ensuring children can pursue their aspirations confidently.

### Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- Bank of Baroda launched a specialised savings account for women NRIs named, **BoB Global Women NRE & NRO Savings Account**
- SBI launched a collateral free digital SME (small and medium enterprise) loan product **'SBI Asmita'** for women entrepreneurs to help them expand their business
- SBI launched **'Nari Shakti' platinum debit card** to cater to the needs of women across various segments.
- PhonePe launched the 'insuring HEROES' campaign on the occasion of International Women's Day.
- HDFC Bank launches Project **HAKK (Hawai Anubhavi Kalyan Kendra)** to support IAF veterans
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launches **'Pru GIFT Select'** for guaranteed income

138. **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) has launched DesignShaala™, an initiative aimed at promoting financial innovation through Human-Centered Design (HCD). Who has launched the DesignShaala™ initiative?**

**रिजर्व बैंक इनोवेशन हब (RBIH) ने मानव-केंद्रित डिज़ाइन (HCD) के ज़रिए वित्तीय नवाचार को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से DesignShaala™ लॉन्च किया है। DesignShaala™ पहल किसने लॉन्च की है?**

- (a) Raghuram Rajan
- (b) Urjit Patel
- (c) Nandan Nilekani
- (d) Shaktikanta Das
- (e) Nirmala Sitharaman

Ans. c

Sol. RBIH Launches DesignShaala™ to Drive Financial Innovation Through Human-Centered Design

Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) has launched DesignShaala™, an initiative aimed at promoting financial innovation through Human-Centered Design (HCD).

The program was launched by Nandan Nilekani, Chairman and Co-Founder of Infosys, during the 'Building for Billions' event in Bengaluru.

DesignShaala™ is designed to ensure financial solutions are built around real user needs, behaviors, and experiences, making finance more intuitive, inclusive, and impactful. The initiative aims to empower financial innovators to develop solutions that go beyond functionality and deliver truly transformative user experiences.

**139. Former central banker Mark Carney has become the next Prime Minister of Canada. Which political party elected Mark Carney as its leader?**

**पूर्व केंद्रीय बैंकर मार्क कार्नी कनाडा के अगले प्रधानमंत्री बन गए हैं। किस राजनीतिक दल ने मार्क कार्नी को अपना नेता चुना है?**

- (a) Conservative Party
- (b) Liberal Party
- (c) New Democratic Party
- (d) Green Party
- (e) Bloc Québécois

Ans. b

Sol. Former central banker Mark Carney to become Canada's next PM

Former central banker Mark Carney will become Canada's next Prime Minister after the governing Liberal Party elected him as its leader.

He will replace Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who announced his resignation in January.

59-year-old Mark Carney previously served as Governor of the Bank of Canada before making history in 2013 as the first non-citizen to lead the Bank of England.

#### **Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President**

- PM of Canada - Mark Carney (replace Justin Trudeau)
- Chancellor of Austria - Christian Stocker
- Romania's Interim President - Ilie Bolojans
- 72nd US Secretary of State in the Trump Administration - Marco Rubio
- PM of Belgium - Bart De Wever
- President of Belarus -Alexander Lukashenkos

**140. Who has been appointed as the new President & CEO of Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL)?**

**होंडा कार्स इंडिया लिमिटेड (एचसीआईएल) के नए अध्यक्ष और सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Takuya Tsumura
- (b) Toshihiro Mibe
- (c) Masayuki Igarashi
- (d) Kenichi Ayukawa
- (e) Takashi Nakajima

Ans. e

Sol. Takashi Nakajima named new president & CEO of Honda Cars India

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. has appointed Takashi Nakajima as the new president & CEO of Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL).

He will take charge from April 1, 2025, consequent to the management changes announced annually by the parent company.

Mr. Nakajima joined Honda in 1994 and has been associated with Honda Motor Co. Ltd. for more than 30 years. He has gained experience having worked in various positions of responsibility in several international markets like Japan, China, Spain, Czech Republic and Russia in the areas of Business Planning, Product Planning, Marketing and Sales Promotion.

**150. Which Bollywood actor has been appointed as the brand ambassador for GRM Overseas' new campaign?**

**जीआरएम ओवरसीज के नए अभियान के लिए किस बॉलीवुड अभिनेता को ब्रांड एंबेसडर नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Akshay Kumar
- (b) Amitabh Bachchan
- (c) Salman Khan
- (d) Ranveer Singh
- (e) Shah Rukh Khan

Ans. c

Sol. Salman Khan joins this small-cap FMCG company as brand ambassador GRM Overseas or "GRM", a prominent FMCG player in India, is poised to transform the Wheat Flour market with its new campaign for 10X Classic Chakki Fresh Atta, featuring the company's recently appointed brand ambassador, Bollywood actor Salman Khan. GRM aims to help consumers shift from unpackaged to branded packaged Atta, ensuring better hygiene and quality. The company provides pure, unadulterated wheat flour with consistent quality and nutrition for families across India.

MD of GRM Overseas - Atul Garg

**Recent Brand Ambassador**

- Vidya Balan - Federal Bank
- Shubman Gill - Tyre brand MRFs
- Punjabi singer and actor Diljit Dosanjh - American clothing brand, Levi's
- PV Sindhu - PUMA India
- Tata Mumbai Marathon - Mo Farah
- MS Dhoni - Eurogrip Tyres

**151. What is the name of the specialized education loan launched by Avanse Financial Services for female students?**

**अवनसे फाइनेंशियल सर्विसेज द्वारा महिला छात्राओं के लिए शुरू किए गए विशेष शिक्षा ऋण का नाम क्या है?**

- (a) SWAYAM
- (b) SHIKSHA

- (c) SWALAKSH
- (d) VIDYA LAKSHMI
- (e) NARI SHAKTI

Ans. c

Sol. Avanse Financial Unveils 'SWALAKSH'—A Special Education Loan for Women.

Avanse Financial Services Ltd. (Avanse) has launched 'SWALAKSH', a specialised education loan tailored for female students aspiring to study abroad.

This initiative aims to empower more women by providing financial support and exclusive benefits, reinforcing Avanse's commitment to fostering higher education for women.

With 'SWALAKSH', Avanse Financial Services reaffirms its dedication to providing financial access and opportunities to women, fostering an inclusive and educated future for India.

**152. Which organization signed an MoU with Adamas University for academic and research collaboration in homoeopathy?**

**होम्योपैथी में अकादमिक और अनुसंधान सहयोग के लिए किस संगठन ने एडमास विश्वविद्यालय के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए?**

- (a) Ministry of AYUSH
- (b) National Institute of Homoeopathy
- (c) Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH)
- (d) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- (e) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)

Ans. c

Sol. Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy and Adamas University Sign MoU to Advance Homoeopathy Research

The Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH), New Delhi and Adamas University, Kolkata, have signed an MoU to foster academic and research collaboration in the field of Homoeopathy.

This MoU marks a significant milestone in interdisciplinary research, paving the way for scientific advancements in homoeopathy through knowledge exchange and collaborative initiatives. It reflects the shared commitment of both institutions to furthering innovation and evidence-based research in alternative medicine.

**153. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive (CE) of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA)?**

**भारतीय बैंक संघ (आईबीए) के मुख्य कार्यकारी (सीई) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Sunil Mehta
- (b) Shaktikanta Das
- (c) Atul Kumar Goel
- (d) Rajnish Kumar
- (e) Uday Kotak

Ans. c

Sol. Atul Kumar Goel assumes charge as Chief Executive of IBA

Atul Kumar Goel has appointed as the Chief Executive (CE) of The Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

Goel was MD and CEO of Punjab National Bank (PNB) from February 2022 to December 2024. He was Chairman of IBA for two terms – 2021-22 and 2022-23.

His predecessor at IBA, Sunil Mehta, too was MD & CEO of PNB (from May 2017 to September 2019) and Chairman of the Association (2018-19). Mehta was IBA CE from January 2020 till September 2024.

The new IBA Chief Executive is a qualified Chartered Accountant. He has three decades of banking experience in four Banks -- Allahabad Bank (now Indian Bank), Union Bank of India (as Executive Director), UCO Bank (MD & CEO) and PNB (MD & CEO).

**154. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has inaugurated the 5th Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW), an initiative aimed at spreading awareness about the significance of digital transactions and ensuring their safe usage. What is the theme of Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) 2025?**

**भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने 5वें डिजिटल भुगतान जागरूकता सप्ताह (DPAW) का उद्घाटन किया है, जिसका उद्देश्य डिजिटल लेनदेन के महत्व के बारे में जागरूकता फैलाना और उनका सुरक्षित उपयोग सुनिश्चित करना है। डिजिटल भुगतान जागरूकता सप्ताह (DPAW) 2025 का विषय क्या है?**

- (a) Digital India: Cashless Economy
- (b) Secure Payments for a Digital Future
- (c) Digital Payments – The Future of Finance
- (d) India Pays Digitally
- (e) Transforming Transactions with Digital Payments

Ans. d

Sol. RBI Inaugurates Digital Payments Awareness Week 2025 to Promote Safe and Inclusive Digital Transactions

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has inaugurated the 5th Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW), an initiative aimed at spreading awareness about the significance of digital transactions and ensuring their safe usage.

The event, observed from March 10 to 16, 2025, is part of RBI's mission 'Har Payment Digital.'

This year's theme 'India Pays Digitally' reflects the country's remarkable progress toward a digitally empowered society where digital payments are increasingly becoming a way of life.

During the week, RBI, in collaboration with banks, payment system operators, and other stakeholders, will conduct various awareness activities nationwide. These include multimedia campaigns, on-ground educational programs, and extensive outreach through social media platforms.

155. **The World Para Athletics Grand Prix (WPA GP) 2025 kicked off at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. Which Indian Paralympic gold medallist will lead the Indian contingent?**

**विश्व पैरा एथलेटिक्स ग्रैंड प्रिक्स (WPA GP) 2025 नई दिल्ली के जवाहरलाल नेहरू स्टेडियम में शुरू हुआ। कौन सा भारतीय पैरालंपिक स्वर्ण पदक विजेता भारतीय दल का नेतृत्व करेगा?**

- (a) Devendra Jhajharia
- (b) Mariyappan Thangavelu
- (c) Praveen Kumar
- (d) Sumit Antil
- (e) Manish Narwal

Ans. c

Sol. World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025 begins at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium  
The World Para Athletics Grand Prix (WPA GP) 2025 will kick off at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi.

The three-day event will feature a total of 250 para-athletes with 145 Indians and 105 international competitors from 20 countries.

They will compete in 90 athletics competitions, making it one of the largest para-athletics events ever hosted by India. The Indian contingent will be led by Paris 2024 Paralympics gold medallists Praveen Kumar, Navdeep Singh and Dharambir.

156. **What is the new name of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF)?**

**राष्ट्रमंडल खेल महासंघ (CGF) का नया नाम क्या है?**

- (a) Commonwealth Athletics
- (b) Commonwealth Sports
- (c) Global Commonwealth Federation
- (d) Commonwealth Games Association
- (e) Commonwealth Nations Sports

Ans. b

Sol. CWG Federation rebranded as Commonwealth Sport

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) has changed its name to Commonwealth Sports under the 'More in Common' brand campaign.

The announcement was made on the occasion of Commonwealth Day, an annual celebration of the Commonwealth of Nations held on the second Monday in March. The Commonwealth Day also marks the launch of the Commonwealth Sport King's Baton Relay at Buckingham Place, starting the relay with 500 days to go to the Opening Ceremony of Glasgow 2026.

CEO of Commonwealth Sport - Katie Sadleir

157. **The Subhadra Yojana, which has recently been in the news, is related to which state in India?**

**सुभद्रा योजना, जो हाल ही में चर्चा में रही है, भारत के किस राज्य से संबंधित है?**

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Odisha

- (c) Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Andhra Pradesh
- (e) Assam

Ans. b

Sol. Odisha govt disburses ₹5,000 cr under Subhadra Yojana

The Odisha government has disbursed ₹5,000 crore under the Subhadra Yojana, benefiting 1.18 crore women across the state.

The scheme aims to provide financial assistance to married women, enhancing their economic empowerment and social security.

The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday in Odisha on September 17, 2024.

### About Odisha

- **Capital** - Bhubaneswar
- **Chief Minister** - Mohan Charan Majhi (replace Naveen Patnaik)
- **Deputy CM** - KV Singhdeo and Pravati Parida
- **Governor** - Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati
- **Legislative Assembly Seat** - 147

158. **Which state government has launched Project Hifazat to protect women from violence?**

**महिलाओं को हिंसा से बचाने के लिए किस राज्य सरकार ने प्रोजेक्ट हिफाजत शुरू किया है?**

- (a) Haryana
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Punjab
- (d) Uttar Pradesh
- (e) Madhya Pradesh

Ans. c

Sol. Punjab Govt launches Project Hifazat to protect women

Punjab government has launched Project Hifazat to protect women from violence on the eve of International Women's Day.

The Project was launched by Punjab's Social Security, Women, and Child Development Minister Dr Baljit Kaur in Chandigarh.

The project aims to protect women and children from violence by providing immediate assistance from government departments. It provides a dedicated helpline number, '181', which the victim can call for help.

The initiative aims to improve the response mechanism of the government departments to report of violence against women through better inter-departmental coordination.

### About Punjab

- **Capital** - Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister** - Bhagwant Mann
- **Governor** - Gulab Chand Kataria

159. **Recently, which organizations have been banned by the Centre for five years?**

## हाल ही में केंद्र सरकार ने किन संगठनों पर पांच साल के लिए प्रतिबंध लगाया है?

- (a) Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and Hurriyat Conference
- (b) Awami Action Committee (AAC) and Jammu and Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen (JKIM)
- (c) People's Democratic Party (PDP) and National Conference (NC)
- (d) Hizbul Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Taiba
- (e) Bajrang Dal and Popular Front of India (PFI)

Ans. b

Sol. Centre bans Awami Action Committee, J&K Ittihadul Muslimeen for 5 years  
The Awami Action Committee (AAC), headed by Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, and Jammu and Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen (JKIM), led by Shia leader Masroor Abbas Ansari, were banned by the Centre for their alleged anti-national activities, supporting terrorism and fuelling secessionist activities.

Union Home Ministry banned Awami Action Committee (AAC) and Jammu and Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen (JKIM) as an unlawful association and banned both the organisations with immediate effect for a period of five years.

## 160. Which country has conferred its highest civilian award, "The Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean," to Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

किस देश ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को अपना सर्वोच्च नागरिक पुरस्कार, "द ग्रैंड कमांडर ऑफ द ऑर्डर ऑफ द स्टार एंड की ऑफ द इंडियन ओशन" प्रदान किया है?

- (a) Maldives
- (b) Mauritius
- (c) Bhutan
- (d) Russia
- (e) USA

Ans. b

Sol. PM Modi receives the highest Civilian Award of Mauritius at the National Day Celebrations

The Mauritius government conferred its highest civilian award, "The Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean", to the visiting Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

This is his second official visit to Mauritius after 2015.

During his visit, eight Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between the two countries, and PM Modi was also the Chief Guest of the National Day celebration of Mauritius.

PM Modi attended the 57th National Day celebrations of the Republic of Mauritius as the Chief Guest.

During the celebrations, the President of the Republic of Mauritius H.E. Mr. Dharambeer Gokhool conferred the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (G.C.S.K) award, the highest civilian award of Mauritius, on PM Modi.

This is the first time that an Indian leader has received this honour.

161. **Majhi Ladki Behan Yojana**, which was in the news recently, is related to which state?

**माझी लड़की बहिन योजना, जो हाल ही में खबरों में रही, किस राज्य से संबंधित है?**

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Assam
- (e) West Bengal

Ans. a

Sol. Maharashtra Disburses ₹17,000 Crore to 2.38 Crore Women Under Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana

The Maharashtra government disbursed over ₹17,000 crore in financial assistance to 2.38 crore women in a period of seven months since it launched the Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana last year.

The State has launched Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana in June 2024, with the objectives to promote rehabilitation, economic development and empowerment of women and girls in the age group 21 to 65 years.

Through the disbursement of ₹1,500 per month, the scheme intends to rehabilitate women economically and socially, to make them self-reliant, to promote their empowerment and to improve the health and nutritional status of women and children dependent on them.

#### About Maharashtra

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

162. Which Indian Naval Ship arrived in Port Louis, Mauritius, ahead of the country's 57th National Day celebrations?

**देश के 57वें राष्ट्रीय दिवस समारोह से पहले कौन सा भारतीय नौसेना जहाज मॉरीशस के पोर्ट लुइस पहुंचा?**

- (a) INS Vikramaditya
- (b) INS Viraat
- (c) INS Imphal
- (d) INS Kolkata
- (e) INS Delhi

Ans. c

Sol. INS Imphal to participate in Mauritius National Day celebrations 2025

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Imphal arrived in Port Louis, Mauritius, ahead of the country's 57th National Day celebrations on March 12, reinforcing strong maritime ties between the two nations.

INS Imphal will contribute a marching contingent, a naval band, and a helicopter for the ceremonial flypast, with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi attending as the Chief Guest.

Commissioned in December 2023, INS Imphal is a Project 15B (Visakhapatnam-class) indigenous destroyer with advanced weaponry and technology, aligning with India's Neighbourhood First policy and SAGAR vision for regional security.

**163. Under which policy did the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Government of Assam sign an MoU?**

**जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग (डीबीटी) और असम सरकार ने किस नीति के तहत समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए?**

- (a) BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment) Policy
- (b) National Biotech Development Policy
- (c) Assam Sustainable Biotech Policy
- (d) BioIndia Vision 2030
- (e) Green Biotechnology Policy

Ans. a

Sol. Department of Biotechnology and Assam Govt Sign Historic MoU for Centre-State Partnership

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Government of Assam signed a landmark MoU under the BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment) Policy.

This Centre-State partnership is the first of its kind under the BioE3 framework and aims to accelerate high-performance biomanufacturing while fostering a sustainable biotechnology ecosystem in Assam.

The MoU signing is a culmination of extensive consultations, high-level meetings, and collaborative efforts made by the DBT and the Government of Assam.

The BioE3 Policy, approved by the Union Cabinet on 24th August 2024, envisages to establish India as a global leader in bio-based innovations, emphasizing sustainable biomanufacturing across various thematic areas including bio-based chemicals, APIs, biopolymers, enzymes, climate-resilient agriculture, functional foods, smart proteins, carbon capture& utilization, precision biotherapeutics (cell & gene therapy, mRNA therapeutics & monoclonal antibody), as well as futuristic marine and space research.

**164. Who led the Indian delegation at the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2025?**

**2025 में महिलाओं की स्थिति पर आयोग के 69वें सत्र में भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल का नेतृत्व किसने किया?**

- (a) Smriti Irani
- (b) Annpurna Devi
- (c) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (d) Draupadi Murmu
- (e) Meenakshi Lekhi

Ans. b

Sol. India takes part in the 69th Session of UNCSW starting in New York. A delegation of the Government of India, led by Annpurna Devi, Union Minister of Women and Child Development (WCD), participated in the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which started on 10 March 2025 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The session witnessed large-scale participation from all UN member states, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, philanthropists, academia, civil society, women's collectives, and UN agencies.

At the 69th CSW session, the Minister held bilateral meetings with leaders including Ms Melrose Karminty (Sierra Leone), Mr Sodyq S. Safoev (Uzbekistan), Dr Vindhya Persaud (Guyana), and Ms Antonia Orellana Guarcello (Chile) to strengthen cooperation on gender equality and social welfare.

CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality, the rights and the empowerment of women.

A functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the forthcoming session of the Commission will be held from 10th to 21st March, 2025.

**165. Which organization showcased India's agricultural and processed food excellence at the 39th edition of AAHAR 2025?**

**किस संगठन ने आहार 2025 के 39वें संस्करण में भारत की कृषि और प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य उत्कृष्टता का प्रदर्शन किया?**

- (a) India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)
- (b) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
- (c) National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)
- (d) Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC)
- (e) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

Ans. b

Sol. APEDA Showcases India's Agricultural and Processed Food Excellence at the 39th Edition of AAHAR 2025

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) showcased India's agricultural and processed food excellence at the 39th edition of AAHAR 2025, organized by the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

The event marked a significant milestone in highlighting India's prowess in the agriculture and food processing sector.

APEDA facilitated the participation of 95 exhibitors, including Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), entrepreneurs, and manufacturing companies from 17 States, including Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Hyderabad, Kerala, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu, as well as Union Territories such as Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh, and Jammu & Kashmir.

The participation of states and UTs showcased India's strength in the agriculture and processed food sectors while highlighting the collaborative spirit driving innovation and growth within the industry.

**166. Recently, what is the name of the initiative undertaken by the Department of Posts for a standardized, geo-coded addressing system?**

**हाल ही में डाक विभाग द्वारा मानकीकृत, जियो-कोडेड एड्रेसिंग सिस्टम के लिए शुरू की गई पहल का नाम क्या है?**

- (a) Digital Postal Code
- (b) Smart Address Locator
- (c) Digital Address Code
- (d) e-Address System
- (e) GeoTag Addressing Network

Ans. c

Sol. Department of Posts Signs MoU with FSID, IISC, for documentation of Technology Architecture for Digital Address DPI

Department of Posts has undertaken an initiative namely “Digital Address Code” aimed at establishing a digital public infrastructure for a standardized, geo-coded addressing system in India ensuring simplified addressing solutions for citizen-centric delivery of public and private services to establish –Address as a Service|| (AaaS) in India.

As a part of this initiative, the Department of Posts (DoP), under the Ministry of Communications, has signed an MoU with the Foundation for Science Innovation and Development (FSID), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, for designing and documenting the technology architecture for the Digital Address Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).

The collaboration between the Department of Posts and FSID, IISc marks a significant step towards a seamless, efficient, and technology-driven addressing system, reinforcing India's leadership in digital innovation.

**167. Which film has won the Best Picture award at the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) 2025?**

**किस फिल्म ने अंतर्राष्ट्रीय भारतीय फिल्म अकादमी (IIFA) 2025 में सर्वश्रेष्ठ फिल्म का पुरस्कार जीता है?**

- (a) Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3
- (b) Kill
- (c) Laapataa Ladies
- (d) Article 370
- (e) Merry Christmas

Ans. c

Sol. IIFA Awards celebrated its silver jubilee edition in Jaipur

The International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards has completed 25 years this year. Its Silver Jubilee edition was celebrated this year in Jaipur on March 8, 2025.

IIFA 2025 Full List of Winners

IIFA Awards	Winners
Best Picture	Laapataa Ladies
Best Performance In A Leading Role (Male)	Kartik Aaryan (Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3)
Best Performance In A Leading Role (Female)	Nitanshi Goel (Laapataa Ladies)
Best Direction	Kiran Rao (Laapataa Ladies)
Best Performance In A Negative Role	Raghav Juyal (Kill)
Best Performance In A Supporting Role (Female)	Janki Bodiwala (Shaitaan)
Best Performance In A Supporting Role (Male)	Ravi Kishan (Laapataa Ladies)
Best Story (Original) In The Popular Category	Biplab Goswami (Laapataa Ladies)
Best Story (Adapted)	Sriram Raghavan, Arijit Biswas, Pooja Ladha Surti, and Anukriti Pandey (Merry Christmas)
Best Directorial Debut	Kunal Kemmu (Madgaon Express)
Best Debut (Male)	Lakshya Lalwani (Kill)
Best Debut (Female)	Pratibha Ranta (Laapataa Ladies)
Best Music Director	Ram Sampath (Laapataa Ladies)
Best Lyrics	Prashant Pandey (Sajni from Laapataa Ladies)
Best Singer (Male)	Jubin Nautiyal (Dua from Article 370)
Best Singer (Female)	Shreya Ghoshal (Ami Je Tomar 3.0 from Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3)
Best Sound Design	Subash Sahoo, Boloy Kumar Doloi, Rahul Karpe (Kill)

Best Screenplay	Sneha Desai (Laapataa Ladies)
Best Dialogue	Arjun Dhawan, Aditya Dhar, Aditya Suhas Jambhale, Monal Thaakar (Article 370)
Best Editing	Jabeen Merchant (Laapataa Ladies)
Best Cinematography	Rafey Mahmood (Kill)
Best Choreography	Bosco-Caesar (Tauba Tauba from Bad Newz)
Best Special Effects	Red Chillies VFX (Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3)
Outstanding Achievement In Indian Cinema	Rakesh Roshan

168. **The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a ₹2,906 crore contract with which company for the procurement of Low-level Transportable Radar (LLTR)?**

**रक्षा मंत्रालय (MoD) ने निम्न-स्तरीय परिवहन योग्य रडार (LLTR) की खरीद के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ ₹2,906 करोड़ का अनुबंध किया है?**

- (a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- (b) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- (c) Larsen & Toubro (L&T)
- (d) Tata Advanced Systems
- (e) BEML Limited

Ans. b

Sol. Ministry of Defence signs ₹2,906 crore radar contract with BEL for the Indian Air Force

The Union Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a ₹2,906 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Ghaziabad for the procurement of Low-level Transportable Radar, LLTR (Ashwini).

The radar is indigenously designed and developed by the Electronics and Radar Development Establishment, DRDO.

The radar is capable of tracking aerial targets from high-speed fighter aircraft to slow moving targets such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and helicopters. Its acquisition will significantly enhance the operational preparedness of the Indian Air Force.

169. **CISF Raising Day is celebrated every year on 10th March to mark the establishment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). In which year was CISF established?**

**CISF स्थापना दिवस हर साल 10 मार्च को केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल (CISF) की स्थापना के उपलक्ष्य में मनाया जाता है। CISF की स्थापना किस वर्ष हुई थी?**

- (a) 1956

- (b) 1969
- (c) 1984
- (d) 1992
- (e) 2001

Ans. b

Sol. 10 March - CISF Raising Day

CISF Raising Day is celebrated every year on 10th March to mark the establishment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in 1969.

The day recognizes the contribution of CISF in safeguarding India's critical infrastructure, public sector undertakings (PSUs), airports, metro networks, government buildings, and various strategic installations.

**170. 11th March 2025 was the 135th Foundation Day of the National Archives of India (NAI) celebrated. What is the theme of the exhibition organized by NAI on its 135th Foundation Day?**

**11 मार्च 2025 को भारतीय राष्ट्रीय अभिलेखागार (एनएआई) का 135वां स्थापना दिवस मनाया गया। एनएआई द्वारा अपने 135वें स्थापना दिवस पर आयोजित प्रदर्शनी का विषय क्या है?**

- (a) India's Freedom Struggle
- (b) Indian Heritage through Architecture
- (c) Evolution of Indian Literature
- (d) Gandhi and the Indigo Movement
- (e) Ancient Manuscripts of India

Ans. b

Sol. 'Gyan Bharatam Mission,' a visionary initiative aimed at expanding access to India's vast repository of knowledge

The National Archives of India (NAI) celebrated its 135th Foundation Day on 11th March 2025 with an exhibition titled "Indian Heritage through Architecture." Union Minister of Culture & Tourism, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has inaugurated the exhibition.

The exhibition showcased India's rich cultural heritage as reflected in its diverse architectural marvels, spanning thousands of years and encompassing a variety of styles, influences, and historical periods.

From the ancient Indus Valley Civilization to medieval temples, Mughal monuments, and colonial-era structures, Indian architecture narrates the nation's spiritual, cultural, and historical evolution.

On this occasion, the National Archives of India also launched a book titled 'Thumb Printed: Champaran, Indigo Peasants Speak to Gandhi Volume III.' This volume contains 423 testimonies, including 143 principal testators, among whom five were women, 11 were minors, 76 signed the documents, and four had no signature or thumb impression. The National Archives of India, an attached office under the Ministry of Culture, was originally established as the Imperial Record Department on 11 March 1891 in Kolkata (Calcutta).

Following the transfer of the capital to Delhi in 1911, the present NAI building, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was completed in 1926. The complete transfer of records from Calcutta to New Delhi was finalized in 1937. The National Archives of India also serves

as the nodal agency for implementing the Public Records Act, 1993, and the Public Record Rules, 1997.

**171. The Ministry of Education has launched the third edition of the Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors (PM-YUVA 3.0). Which organization is responsible for implementing PM-YUVA 3.0?**

**शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने युवा लेखकों को सलाह देने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री की योजना (पीएम-युवा 3.0) का तीसरा संस्करण लॉन्च किया है। पीएम-युवा 3.0 को लागू करने के लिए कौन सा संगठन जिम्मेदार है?**

- (a) National Book Trust, India
- (b) Ministry of Culture
- (c) Indian Council of Historical Research
- (d) Sahitya Akademi
- (e) University Grants Commission

Ans. a

Sol. Govt introduces third edition of PM-YUVA for aspiring writers

The Ministry of Education has launched the third edition of the Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors (PM-YUVA 3.0).

The initiative aims to train young authors under the age of 30 to promote reading, writing, and book culture in India. The program provides mentorship and publishing opportunities to enhance Indian literature on a global platform.

PM-YUVA 3.0 builds on the participation of young authors in 22 Indian languages and English in its previous editions. It focuses on three themes: the role of the Indian diaspora in nation-building, the Indian Knowledge System, and the makers of modern India from 1950 to 2025.

The National Book Trust, India, will oversee the implementation of PM-YUVA 3.0. The selected manuscripts will be published and translated into multiple Indian languages to encourage literary exchange.

PM-YUVA 3.0 will begin with an all-India contest conducted via MyGov from March 11 to April 10. Fifty young authors will be selected—10 for the Indian diaspora theme, 20 for the Indian Knowledge System, and 20 for makers of modern India. The selected candidates will be announced between May and June 2025 and will receive mentorship from June 30 to December 30, 2025. A national camp for the authors will take place at the New Delhi World Book Fair in 2026. Managing Director of Bridgestone India, is the new Vice Chairman of ATMA.

**172. What is the maximum amount that Power Finance Corporation can raise through the newly notified Zero Coupon Bonds (ZCB)?**

**पावर फाइनेंस कॉर्पोरेशन नए अधिसूचित जीरो कूपन बॉन्ड (ZCB) के माध्यम से अधिकतम कितनी राशि जुटा सकता है?**

- (a) ₹5,000 crore
- (b) ₹7,500 crore
- (c) ₹10,000 crore

(d) ₹12,000 crore  
(e) ₹15,000 crore

Ans. c

Sol. Finance Ministry notifies 10-year Zero Coupon Bond of Power Finance Corporation  
The Finance Ministry has notified Zero Coupon Bond (ZCB) for Power Finance Corporation. The company can raise up to ₹10,000 crore.

ZCB is an instrument that doesn't pay interest during its term but instead is sold at a discount to its face value. When the bond matures, the investor receives the full face value. There will be no periodic payment of interest.

The bond will be issued with a discount of ₹49,546 for a face value of ₹1 lakh. In other words, the investor will pay ₹50,454 at the time of issuance, while get ₹1 lakh at maturity. These bonds will have the maturity value of 121 months or 10 years and one month.

The notification has capped the number of bonds to be issued at 10 lakhs.

### 173. What was India's retail inflation rate in February 2025?

**फरवरी 2025 में भारत की खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति दर क्या थी?**

(a) 4.5%  
(b) 4.26%  
(c) 3.6%  
(d) 5.1%  
(e) 3.9%

Ans. c

Sol. Retail inflation at 7-month low of 3.6%

India's retail inflation dipped to a seven-month low of 3.6% as food prices eased in February 2025, led by vegetables, pulses, and eggs. The annual change in consumer prices was 4.26% in January 2025.

The increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures retail prices, has slowed for the fourth consecutive month and is now lower than the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) target inflation of 4%, increasing the likelihood of another 0.25% rate cut by the central bank next month.

#### Previous Months CPI-based Retail inflation

- November 2024 – 5.48 %
- December 2024 – 5.22%
- January 2025 – 4.26%
- February 2025 – 3.6%

### 174. In March 2025, which banknote denominations will be issued in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series with the new Governor's signature?

**मार्च 2025 में, नए गवर्नर के हस्ताक्षर के साथ महात्मा गांधी (नई) श्रृंखला में कौन से बैंक नोट जारी किए जाएंगे?**

(a) ₹50 and ₹100  
(b) ₹100 and ₹200

- (c) ₹200 and ₹500
- (d) ₹500 and ₹2000
- (e) ₹10 and ₹50

Ans. b

Sol. RBI to issue ₹100 and ₹200 banknotes with new Governor's signature

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will soon issue ₹100 and ₹200 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series bearing the signature of Shri Sanjay Malhotra, the newly appointed Governor.

The design of these new banknotes will remain unchanged and will be identical to the existing ₹100 and ₹200 notes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series. The introduction of these banknotes is a routine process following the appointment of a new RBI Governor. The central bank has also confirmed that all previously issued ₹100 and ₹200 denomination banknotes will continue to be legal tender. There is no impact on the validity of older banknotes in circulation.

**175. With which country has India signed an MoU for cooperation in the field of medical products regulation in March 2025?**

**मार्च 2025 में भारत ने किस देश के साथ चिकित्सा उत्पाद विनियमन के क्षेत्र में सहयोग के लिए समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) Iran
- (b) Armenia
- (c) Russia
- (d) France
- (e) Japan

Ans. b

Sol. India signs MoU with Armenia for cooperation in field of medical products regulation

India has signed an MoU with Armenia for cooperation in the field of medical products regulation.

The MoU was signed in the presence of External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar and Foreign Minister of Armenia, Ararat Mirzoyan in Delhi.

The two ministers agreed to explore cooperation in digital technologies and pharmaceuticals. They also reviewed the whole range of growing India-Armenia bilateral cooperation including in the areas of political exchanges, trade, economics, connectivity, education, culture, and people-to-people contacts.

The two nations also signed an MoU on Cooperation between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service and the Diplomatic School of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia.

#### **Recently India signed MoUs with others countries**

- India and Nepal Sign MoU to Strengthen Cooperation in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Sector
- India and Spain have signed two MoUs on cooperation in sports and sustainable urban development.

- India and Kuwait signed an MoU to establish a Joint Commission for Cooperation at the Foreign Minister level to strengthen bilateral ties.
- India UK sign agreement on Electric Propulsion System for Indian Navy
- India, Algeria sign MoU on bilateral defence cooperation

**176. Who has been elected as the new Chairman of the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA)?**

**ऑटोमोटिव टायर मैन्युफैक्चरर्स एसोसिएशन (ATMA) के नए अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे चुना गया है?**

- (a) Hiroshi Yoshizane
- (b) Raghupati Singhania
- (c) Arun Mammen
- (d) Rajiv Poddar
- (e) Neeraj Kanwar

Ans. c

Sol. Arun Mammen elected as new ATMA chairman

Arun Mammen, Vice Chairman & Managing Director of MRF Ltd, has been elected as the new Chairman of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA), the national industry body for the automotive tyre sector in India.

Hiroshi Yoshizane, Managing Director of Bridgestone India, is the new Vice Chairman of ATMA.

Founded in 1975, ATMA represents India's ₹90,000 crore (approximately US\$11 billion) automotive tyre industry.

Its members include six leading tyre manufacturers—Apollo, Bridgestone India, Ceat, Goodyear India, JK Tyre, and MRF—who collectively account for over 90% of the country's tyre production.

**177. Which company has Jio Platforms Limited signed a deal with to bring Starlink's internet services to India?**

**जियो प्लेटफॉर्म्स लिमिटेड ने स्टारलिंक की इंटरनेट सेवाओं को भारत में लाने के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ समझौता किया है?**

- (a) Amazon Web Services
- (b) OneWeb
- (c) SpaceX
- (d) Google Fiber
- (e) HughesNet

Ans. c

Sol. Jio Partners with SpaceX to Bring Starlink Internet to India

Mukesh Ambani-led Jio Platforms Limited signed a deal with SpaceX to bring Starlink's internet services to India, a day after rival Bharti Airtel inked a similar pact.

This agreement, which is subject to SpaceX receiving its own authorisations to sell Starlink in India, enables Jio and SpaceX to explore how Starlink can extend Jio's

offerings and how Jio can complement SpaceX's direct offerings to consumers and businesses.

Under this partnership, Jio's extensive presence as the world's largest mobile operator by data traffic and Starlink's leadership in low Earth orbit satellite technology will be utilized to provide reliable broadband connectivity across India, including its most remote and rural areas.

**178. In March 2025, what percentage of stake did Bharti Airtel transfer in Airtel Payments Bank to its wholly-owned subsidiary?**

**मार्च 2025 में भारती एयरटेल ने एयरटेल पेमेंट्स बैंक में अपनी पूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली सहायक कंपनी को कितने प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी हस्तांतरित की?**

- (a) 49.94%
- (b) 59.94%
- (c) 89.94%
- (d) 79.94%
- (e) 69.94%

Ans. e

Sol. Bharti Airtel transfers 69.94% stake in Airtel Payments bank to Airtel  
Bharti Airtel has transferred its entire 69.94 per cent stake in Airtel Payments Bank to wholly-owned subsidiary Airtel Limited.

The shareholding of 69.94 per cent, held by Bharti Airtel Limited in Airtel Payments Bank Limited, is being transferred to the Company's wholly-owned subsidiary (i.e. Airtel Limited), post receiving requisite regulatory and corporate approvals.

**179. What is the name of the Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) tested by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)?**

**एयरोनॉटिकल डेवलपमेंट एजेंसी (ADA) द्वारा परीक्षण की गई बियॉन्ड विजुअल रेंज एयर-टू-एयर मिसाइल (BVRAAM) का नाम क्या है?**

- (a) BrahMos
- (b) Agni
- (c) Astra
- (d) Nirbhay
- (e) Akash

Ans. c

Sol. Tejas fighter jet successfully test fires air-to-air Astra missile

The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has successfully conducted the test launch of India's homegrown Astra, a Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM), from the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) AF MK1 prototype. The test was carried out off the coast of Chandipur, Odisha.

Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Astra missile is designed to engage targets over 100 kilometers away.

180. **Who has been appointed as the chairman of Tata Communications' board of directors?**

**टाटा कम्प्युनिकेशंस के निदेशक मंडल के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Rajesh Gopinathan
- (b) N Chandrasekaran
- (c) N G Subramaniam
- (d) Amur S Lakshminarayanan
- (e) Mukesh Ambani

Ans. c

Sol. N G Subramaniam appointed as chairman of Tata Communications board

Tata Communications has appointed N Ganapathy Subramaniam (NGS) as the chairman of the board of directors of the company.

NGS has been part of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), the IT major, for 40 years. He stepped down from TCS in May 2024 as the chief operating officer and executive director.

### Recent Appointments

- **Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA)** - Hiroshi Yoshizane
- **President & CEO of Honda Cars India Ltd** - Takashi Nakajima (replace Takuya Tsumura) South Korea brand
- **Judge of Supreme Court** - Justice Joymalya Bagchi (*set to become CJI in May 2031*)
- **CMD of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL)** - Vikas Kaushal (for five years)
- **Controller General of Defence Accounts** - Dr Mayank Sharma

181. **Shubman Gill and Alana King have won the ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month awards for February 2025, respectively. Which country does Alana King represent?**

**शुभमन गिल और अलाना किंग ने क्रमशः फरवरी 2025 के लिए ICC पुरुष और महिला प्लेयर ऑफ द मंथ पुरस्कार जीते हैं। अलाना किंग किस देश का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं?**

- (a) England
- (b) India
- (c) Australia
- (d) South Africa
- (e) New Zealand

Ans. c

Sol. Shubman Gill and Alana King Shine named ICC Men's Player of the Month for February 2025

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the winners of the ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month Awards for February 2025.

India's Shubman Gill won the ICC Men's Player of the Month, while Australia's Alana King claimed the ICC Women's Player of the Month title.

Alana became the third consecutive Australian cricketer to win the ICC Women's Player of the Month award.

### ICC Men's Player of the Month

- October 2024 - Noman Ali (Pakistan)
- November 2024 - Haris Rauf (Pakistan)
- December 2024 - Jasprit Bumrah (India)
- January 2025 - Jomel Warrican (West Indies)

### ICC Women's Player of the Month

- October 2024 - Amelia Kerr (New Zealand)
- November 2024 - Danni Wyatt-Hodge (England)
- December 2024 - Annabel Sutherland (Australia)
- January 2025 - Beth Mooney (Australia)

182. **Former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte was recently arrested by the International Criminal Court (ICC). What was the main reason for the ICC warrant against Duterte?**

**फिलीपीन के पूर्व राष्ट्रपति रोड्रिगो दुतेर्ते को हाल ही में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय आपराधिक न्यायालय (आईसीसी) ने गिरफ्तार कर लिया। दुतेर्ते के खिलाफ ICC के वारंट का मुख्य कारण क्या था?**

- (a) Illegal business dealings
- (b) Alleged involvement in drug trade
- (c) Deadly anti-drugs crackdowns
- (d) Military coup attempt
- (e) Violation of environmental laws

Ans. c

Sol. ICC takes custody of former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte in crimes against humanity case

Former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte was turned over to the custody of the International Criminal Court (ICC), following his arrest on a warrant accusing him of crimes against humanity over deadly anti-drugs crackdowns he oversaw while in office. The 79-year-old former president arrived in the Netherlands on a flight from Manila, where he was arrested on an ICC request.

### About Philippines

- Capital - Manila
- Currency - Peso
- President - Bongbong Marcos

183. **The Delhi government has signed an MoU with the National Health Authority (NHA) to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). With the implementation of AB-PMJAY, Delhi became the \_\_\_\_\_ state/UT to adopt the scheme.**

**दिल्ली सरकार ने आयुष्मान भारत प्रधानमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजना (AB-PMJAY) को लागू करने के लिए राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य प्राधिकरण (NHA) के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं।**

**AB-PMJAY के कार्यान्वयन के साथ, दिल्ली इस योजना को अपनाने वाला \_\_\_\_\_ राज्य/केंद्र शासित प्रदेश बन गया।**

- (a) 30th
- (b) 32nd
- (c) 35th
- (d) 36th
- (e) 37th

Ans. c

Sol. Ayushman Bharat scheme expands to Delhi, millions to get Rs 5 lakh cover  
The Delhi government has signed an MoU with the National Health Authority (NHA) to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). With this move, Delhi became the 35th state/UT to adopt the flagship healthcare scheme. West Bengal is the only state yet to implement AB-PMJAY.

**What is AB-PMJAY?**

- The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is the world's largest government-funded health insurance scheme.
- It provides Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary hospital care to nearly 550 million beneficiaries from 123.7 million economically weaker families, covering the bottom 40 per cent of India's population

**184. What is the primary goal of the UN80 Initiative launched by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres?**

**संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासचिव एंटोनियो गुटेरेस द्वारा शुरू की गई UN80 पहल का प्राथमिक लक्ष्य क्या है?**

- (a) Expand the UN's global presence
- (b) Enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness
- (c) Create new peacekeeping missions
- (d) Increase the UN's workforce
- (e) Focus on climate change policies

Ans. b

Sol. UN chief announces new 'UN80 Initiative' to improve efficiencies amid shrinking resources, uncertainty

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres launched the 'UN80 Initiative' to enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness within the 80-year-old organization, addressing concerns over dwindling resources and a liquidity crisis in an uncertain global environment.

The initiative will focus on identifying quick efficiency improvements, reviewing the growing number of mandates from member states, and conducting a strategic assessment of structural changes and program realignment across the UN system. Guterres has appointed a dedicated internal task force led by Under-Secretary-General Guy Ryder and composed of principals representing the entire UN system.

The UN General Assembly approved a USD 3.72 billion budget for the United Nations for 2025. The US is the single largest financial contributor to the UN, paying 22% of the regular budget and 27% of the peacekeeping budget.

The approved budget for UN Peacekeeping operations for the fiscal year 1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025 is USD 5.6 billion and at 26.95%, the US is the largest contributor to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

### About United Nations (UN)

- **Founded** - 24 October 1945
- **Headquarters** - New York, US
- **Official languages** - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian & Spanish
- **Membership** - 193 members (193<sup>rd</sup> - South Sudan)
- **1st Secretary General** - Trygve Halvdan Lie (Norway)
- **9th Secretary-General** - António Guterres (Portugal)

**185. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched the Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) app, a move which will make it easier for youngsters to apply for the programme. Where is the first facilitation centre for the Prime Minister Internship Scheme being set up?**

केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने प्रधानमंत्री इंटर्नशिप योजना (पीएमआईएस) ऐप लॉन्च किया है, जिससे युवाओं के लिए इस कार्यक्रम के लिए आवेदन करना आसान हो जाएगा। प्रधानमंत्री इंटर्नशिप योजना के लिए पहला सुविधा केंद्र कहाँ स्थापित किया जा रहा है?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Bengaluru
- (d) Kolkata
- (e) Chennai

Ans. d

Sol. FM Nirmala Sitharaman launched PM Internship Scheme app Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched the Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) app, a move which will make it easier for youngsters to apply for the programme.

The FM also launched the first facilitation centre for the Internship Scheme being set up in Kolkata by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

The centre is meant to provide assistance and guidance to the youth regarding the scheme.

The app has been developed by Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG), a national agency by the Gujarat government. BISAG is also managing the internship portal at present.

The CII will also set facilitation desks at its 47 Model Career Centres across the country.

**186. Pi Day is celebrated annually on March 14, honours the mathematical constant Pi, which is approximately 3.14. Who first calculated the value of Pi?**

**पाई दिवस हर साल 14 मार्च को मनाया जाता है, यह गणितीय स्थिरांक पाई का सम्मान करता है, जो लगभग 3.14 है। पाई का मान सबसे पहले किसने निकाला था?**

- (a) Leonhard Euler
- (b) Pythagoras
- (c) Archimedes
- (d) Aryabhata
- (e) Euclid

Ans. c

Sol. 14 March - Pi Day

Pi Day is celebrated annually on March 14, honours the mathematical constant Pi, which is approximately 3.14.

The date, when written as 3/14, mirrors the first three digits of Pi, making it a fitting day for mathematicians and numerophiles to celebrate this important number.

In 1988, physicist Larry Shaw first recognized Pi Day. In 2009, the United States House of Representatives officially designated March 14 as Pi Day.

Later, in 2019, UNESCO declared Pi Day as the "International Day of Mathematics" during its general conference.

Albert Einstein, the renowned physicist behind the "General Theory of Relativity," was born on Pi Day in 1879. The value of Pi was first calculated by the ancient mathematician Archimedes of Syracuse.

It was widely accepted after Leonhard Euler used the symbol Pi in 1737. Physicist Shaw linked Pi's digits with March 14, organizing a special event for the staff at San Francisco's Exploratorium.

**187. World Sleep Day is observed annually on March 14 to promote healthy sleep habits, raise awareness about sleep disorders, and highlight the importance of quality rest. What is the theme for World Sleep Day 2025?**

**विश्व नींद दिवस हर साल 14 मार्च को स्वस्थ नींद की आदतों को बढ़ावा देने, नींद संबंधी विकारों के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने और गुणवत्तापूर्ण आराम के महत्व को उजागर करने के लिए मनाया जाता है। विश्व नींद दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?**

- (a) Sleep Well, Live Well
- (b) Healthy Sleep, Healthy Life
- (c) Prioritize Your Sleep
- (d) Make Sleep Health a Priority
- (e) Sleep for a Better Tomorrow

Ans. d

Sol. 14 March - World Sleep Day

World Sleep Day is observed annually on March 14 to promote healthy sleep habits, raise awareness about sleep disorders, and highlight the importance of quality rest.

Theme 2025 - Make Sleep Health a Priority

Organised by the World Sleep Day Committee of the World Sleep Society, this global initiative sheds light on the negative impact of sleep disorders on overall health while advocating for their prevention and treatment.

188. **World Consumer Rights Day is observed annually on March 15 to raise awareness about consumer rights and protection. What is the theme for World Consumer Rights Day 2025?**

**विश्व उपभोक्ता अधिकार दिवस प्रतिवर्ष 15 मार्च को उपभोक्ता अधिकारों और संरक्षण के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए मनाया जाता है। विश्व उपभोक्ता अधिकार दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?**

- (a) Fair Digital Transactions
- (b) Consumer Protection in the Digital Age
- (c) A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles
- (d) Ethical Consumerism for a Better Future
- (e) Global Consumer Awareness

Ans. c

Sol. 15 March - World Consumer Rights Day

World Consumer Rights Day is observed annually on March 15 to raise awareness about consumer rights and protection.

Theme 2025 - A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles

It was inspired by former U.S. President John F. Kennedy's speech on consumer rights in 1962, where he outlined four fundamental rights: the right to safety, the right to be informed, the right to choose, and the right to be heard.

189. **Mumbai Indians won the 3rd edition of the Women's Premier League after defeating the Delhi Capitals. Who has won the Purple Cap for the most wickets in the tournament?**

**मुंबई इंडियंस ने दिल्ली कैपिटल्स को हराकर महिला प्रीमियर लीग का तीसरा संस्करण जीता। टूर्नामेंट में सबसे अधिक विकेट लेने के लिए पर्फेक्ट कैप किसने जीती है?**

- (a) Marizanne Kapp
- (b) Nat Sciver-Brunt
- (c) Saika Ishaque
- (d) Amelia Kerr
- (e) Shikha Pandey

Ans. d

Sol. Mumbai Indians clinch second Women's Premier League title

In the Women's Premier League cricket summit clash, Mumbai Indians clinched their second title as Delhi Capitals choked for the third time in succession.

In the summit clash played at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai, Harmanpreet Kaur's scintillating 44-ball 66 powered Mumbai Indians to a fighting 149 for the loss of 7 wickets.

In reply, Delhi Capitals batters put undue pressure on themselves to finish at 141 for 9 despite late surge from Marizanne Kapp and teenager Niki Prasad.

Harmanpreet Kaur was awarded player of the match for her knock. Nat Sciver-Brunt was chosen as the Most Valuable Player of the tournament. She also won the Orange Cap for her 523 runs this season.

Amelia Kerr won the Purple Cap for her 18 wickets this season while Amanjot Kaur won the Emerging Player of the Season award. This match was a rematch of the inaugural WPL final in 2023, where Mumbai Indians emerged victorious by seven wickets.

190. **Which regulatory body approved the first reinsurance licence to a private player, Valueattics Reinsurance?**

**किस विनियामक निकाय ने निजी खिलाड़ी वैल्यूएटिक्स रीइंश्योरेंस को पहला पुनर्बीमा लाइसेंस स्वीकृत किया?**

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (c) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- (d) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
- (e) National Housing Bank (NHB)

Ans. c

Sol. Valueattics Reinsurance set to become India's first private reinsurer IRDAI has approved the first reinsurance licence to a private player, Valueattics Reinsurance, backed by Prem Watsa and Kamesh Goyal.

They are also the promoters of Go Digit General Insurance and Go Digit Life Insurance.

Valueattics Reinsurance is owned by Oben Ventures LLP, promoted by Goyal, and FAL Corporation, backed by Watsa with Fairfax Financial Holdings.

191. **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been selected for the Digital Transformation Award 2025 by Central Banking in London, UK. What are the names of the digital initiatives for which RBI won the Digital Transformation Award 2025?**

**भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) को लंदन, यूके में सेंट्रल बैंकिंग द्वारा डिजिटल ट्रांसफ़ॉर्मेशन अवार्ड 2025 के लिए चुना गया है। उन डिजिटल पहलों के नाम क्या हैं जिनके लिए RBI ने डिजिटल ट्रांसफ़ॉर्मेशन अवार्ड 2025 जीता है?**

- (a) UPI and Bharat BillPay
- (b) e-Rupi and RuPay
- (c) Pravaah and Sarthi
- (d) DigiYatra and e-Shakti
- (e) FASTag and Aadhaar Pay

Ans. c

Sol. RBI awarded Digital Transformation Award 2025 for digital initiatives

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been selected for the Digital Transformation Award 2025 by Central Banking at London in UK.

The central bank was awarded for its digital initiatives named Pravaah and Sarthi, which were developed by its in-house developer team.

The awards committee noted how these digital initiatives have reduced the use of paper-based submissions, thus transforming RBI's internal and external processes. Sarthi, launched in January 2023, digitised RBI's internal workflows, enabling its employees to store and share documents securely, improving record management, and increasing the options for data analysis through reports and dashboards.

Launched in May 2024 as Pravaah, a digitised means was created for external users to submit regulatory applications to the RBI.

Pravaah has so far allowed more than 70 different regulatory applications to be digitised, supporting the work of nine RBI departments.

### Recent Award

- **The Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (Maurisis)**- PM Narendra Modi.
- **EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2024** - Nithin Kamath (Founder and CEO of Zerodha)
- **Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados** - PM Narendra Modi.
- **Lifetime Achievement in Hospitality and Education Through Technology Award** - Dr. Suborno Bose (Chairman of International Institute of Hotel Management)
- **Pritzker Architecture Prize 2025** - Chinese architect and educator Liu Jiakun

192. **Which Indian Navy ship participated in the Bongosagar 2025 exercise conducted between India and Bangladesh?**

**भारत और बांग्लादेश के बीच आयोजित बोंगोसागर 2025 अभ्यास में किस भारतीय नौसेना जहाज ने भाग लिया?**

- (a) INS Vikrant
- (b) INS Kolkata
- (c) INS Delhi
- (d) INS Arihant
- (e) INS Ranvir

Ans. e

Sol. INS Ranvir participates in Exercise Bongosagar 2025

The India-Bangladesh Naval Exercise Bongosagar 2025 and Coordinated Patrol was conducted in Bay of Bengal.

The exercise saw participation of INS Ranvir from Indian Navy and BNS Abu Ubaidah from Bangladesh Navy.

The exercise enhanced interoperability between the two navies, facilitating collaborative responses to shared maritime security challenges.

### Recent Exercise

- **12th edition** of Exercise **KHANJAR-XII between** India and Kyrgyzstan - Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan
- **7th edition of Security Belt-2025 between Russia, China and Iran** - Iranian port of Chabahar near Indian Ocean
- **Exercise Desert Hunt 2025** between Indian Navy, Indian Army and India Air Force - Indian Air Force at Air Force Station Jodhpur.
- **6<sup>th</sup> edition of Exercise Dharma Guardian** between Indian Army and Japan Ground Self-Defence Force (JGSDF) - Mount Fuji, Japan.

193. **The 1st Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting was held between India and Chile in virtual mode in March 2025. What was the main focus of the JWG meeting between India and Chile?**

**भारत और चिली के बीच पहली संयुक्त कार्य समूह (JWG) बैठक मार्च 2025 में वर्चुअल मोड में आयोजित की गई थी। भारत और चिली के बीच JWG बैठक का मुख्य फोकस क्या था?**

- (a) Establishing a free trade agreement
- (b) Discussing military cooperation
- (c) Enhancing agricultural productivity and farmers' welfare
- (d) Promoting tourism between the two nations
- (e) Strengthening space research collaboration

Ans. c

Sol. India and Chile 1st JWG meeting on Agriculture held

The 1st Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on Agriculture was held between India and Chile in virtual mode.

The meeting was co-chaired by Ajeet Kumar Sahu, Joint Secretary (IC), Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfares and Gabriel Layseca, Director of the Department of International Affairs, Bureau of Agricultural Studies and Policies (ODEPA).

Both countries, with their rich experience in agriculture, have the potential to complement each other in boosting agricultural productivity, promoting rural development, and improving farmers' welfare.

194. **How many Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between India and Mauritius during PM Modi's visit?**

**प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की यात्रा के दौरान भारत और मॉरीशस के बीच कितने समझौता ज्ञापनों (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए?**

- (a) 5
- (b) 6
- (c) 7
- (d) 8
- (e) 10

Ans. d

Sol. India, Mauritius ink 8 MoUs to bolster strategic, economic relations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Mauritius witnessed the signing of multiple MoUs aimed at enhancing strategic cooperation and economic collaboration between the two nations.

These agreements covered areas such as currency settlement, water management, and shipping information sharing, further deepening bilateral ties.

Among the key agreements was an MoU between the Central Bank of Mauritius and the Reserve Bank of India on a Local Currency Settlement System, facilitating smoother financial transactions.

Additionally, a Credit Facility Agreement was signed between the Government of Mauritius and the State Bank of India to finance projects under the Central Water Authority's Pipe Replacement Programme.

In the financial sector, an MoU was signed between the Financial Crimes Commission of Mauritius and India's Enforcement Directorate to bolster cooperation in combating financial crimes.

#### **About Mauritius**

- **Capital** - Port Louis
- **Currency** - Rupee
- **Prime Minister** - Navin Ramgoolam (replace Pravind Jugnauth)

195. **What is the name of the next-generation AI model recently announced by Google?**

**हाल ही में Google द्वारा घोषित अगली पीढ़ी के AI मॉडल का नाम क्या है?**

- (a) Bard 3
- (b) Gemini 3
- (c) Gemma 3
- (d) AlphaFold 3
- (e) PaLM 3

Ans. c

Sol. Google brings Gemma 3 open model to compete with Meta's Llama, DeepSeek V3

Google has expanded its open models line-up by announcing the next-generation Gemma AI model, the Gemma 3.

Gemma 3 is "built from the same research and technology that powers" the Gemini 2.0 models. It's available in 1B, 4B, 12B, and 27B sizes.

The company has claimed to outperform Llama-405B, DeepSeek-V3 and o3-mini models on the benchmarking platform LMArena.

**196. According to Morgan Stanley, by which year will India become the world's third-largest economy?**

**मॉर्गन स्टेनली के अनुसार, किस वर्ष तक भारत दुनिया की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था बन जाएगा?**

- (a) 2026
- (b) 2027
- (c) 2030
- (d) 2029
- (e) 2028

Ans. e

Sol. India to become world's third-largest economy by 2028: Morgan Stanley India will be the world's third-largest economy by 2028 as it becomes the world's most sought-after consumer market and gains share in global output, driven by macro stability influenced policy and better infrastructure, Morgan Stanley said. In 2028, India will overtake Germany as its economy will expand to \$5.7 trillion. From a \$3.5 trillion economy in 2023, the Indian economy is projected to expand to \$4.7 trillion in 2026, which will make it the fourth largest in the world behind the US, China and Germany.

According to Morgan Stanley, India was the 12th largest economy in the world in 1990, slipped to 13th position in 2000 before rising to 9th rank in 2020 and 5th in 2023.

**197. Where was the 353rd Governing Body meeting of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) held?**

**अंतर्राष्ट्रीय श्रम संगठन (ILO) की 353वीं शासी निकाय बैठक कहाँ आयोजित की गई?**

- (a) New York, USA
- (b) Geneva, Switzerland
- (c) Paris, France
- (d) Vienna, Austria
- (e) London, UK

Ans. b

Sol. India Participates in 353rd Governing Body Meeting of International Labour Organisation in Geneva

The 353rd Governing Body meeting of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) was held in Geneva, Switzerland.

The meeting brings together the tripartite constituents of ILO i.e. representatives from governments, workers, and employers, to discuss crucial matters relating to the world of work and the governance of ILO.

India extended its support to ILO on the organization of the UN led Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha, Qatar later this year, as it aims at reinforcing the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Social Development.

India's inspiring progress in promoting social justice and development was highlighted, as India has doubled its social protection coverage to 48.8 percent, increasing the average global social protection coverage by over 5 percent.

198. **Which private sector bank has introduced a Goods and Services Tax (GST) payment facility?**

**किस निजी क्षेत्र के बैंक ने माल एवं सेवा कर (जीएसटी) भुगतान सुविधा शुरू की है?**

- (a) ICICI Bank
- (b) HDFC Bank
- (c) Axis Bank
- (d) YES Bank
- (e) Kotak Mahindra Bank

Ans. d

Sol. YES Bank launches seamless GST payment facility for businesses and individuals. Private sector lender YES Bank Ltd has introduced a Goods and Services Tax (GST) payment facility, further expanding its digital banking services.

The initiative, authorised by the Government of India, enables businesses and individuals to make GST payments efficiently through YES BANK's NetBanking platform and branch network.

Through direct integration with the GST portal, this initiative enables corporates and sole proprietor businesses to meet their tax obligations swiftly and securely using YES BANK's Retail and Corporate Internet Banking platforms, as well as any of its extensive branch network.

MD and CEO of Yes Bank- Prashant Kumar

199. **Which company's flagship payment gateway brand has partnered with The Sutex Co-operative Bank Ltd?**

**किस कंपनी के प्रमुख भुगतान गेटवे ब्रांड ने सुटेक्स को-ऑपरेटिव बैंक लिमिटेड के साथ साझेदारी की है?**

- (a) PayU
- (b) Razorpay
- (c) Infibeam Avenues Ltd
- (d) BillDesk
- (e) EBS

Ans. c

Sol. Infibeam partners with Sutex Cooperative Bank for enhancing net banking facility Infibeam Avenues Ltd's flagship payment gateway brand, CCAvenue, has partnered with The Sutex Co-operative Bank Ltd to help bolster the bank's net banking facility. The new collaboration will enable Sutex Co-operative Bank Ltd to route secure direct debit digital payments to its merchants, including multi-currency payments, simplifying transactions.

The Sutex Co-operative Bank was initially founded with the noble purpose of helping Surat Textile Market shopkeepers with banking facilities and assisting them in starting and managing their businesses.

**200. World Consumer Rights Day is observed annually on March 15 to raise awareness about consumer rights and advocate for fair trade practices, ethical business conduct, and consumer protection. What is the theme for World Consumer Rights Day 2025?**

**विश्व उपभोक्ता अधिकार दिवस प्रतिवर्ष 15 मार्च को उपभोक्ता अधिकारों के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने और निष्पक्ष व्यापार प्रथाओं, नैतिक व्यावसायिक आचरण और उपभोक्ता संरक्षण की वकालत करने के लिए मनाया जाता है। विश्व उपभोक्ता अधिकार दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?**

- (a) Digital Consumer Protection
- (b) Sustainable Consumption and Production
- (c) Fair Digital Finance
- (d) A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles
- (e) Ethical Business Practices

Ans. d

Sol. 15 March - World Consumer Rights Day

World Consumer Rights Day is observed annually on March 15 to raise awareness about consumer rights and advocate for fair trade practices, ethical business conduct, and consumer protection.

The day serves as a global platform for highlighting issues consumers face and encouraging governments and businesses to prioritize consumer welfare.

Theme 2025 - A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles

201. **Which team has won the 15th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2025?**

**किस टीम ने 15वीं हॉकी इंडिया सीनियर महिला राष्ट्रीय चैम्पियनशिप 2025 जीती है?**

- (a) Hockey Haryana
- (b) Hockey Mizoram
- (c) Hockey Maharashtra
- (d) Hockey Jharkhand
- (e) Hockey Punjab

Ans. d

Sol. Jharkhand crowned 15th Hockey India Senior Women National Champion

Hockey Jharkhand defeated the defending champion Hockey Haryana in the final to win the 15th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2025.

The final match was played at the Tau Devi Lal Complex in Panchkula, Haryana.

Hockey Mizoram defeated Hockey Maharashtra to take the third spot with Hockey Maharashtra at the fourth position.

Hockey India organised the 15th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2025 at Tau Devi Lal Complex in Panchkula, Haryana.

The teams were divided into four groups, with the top team from each group qualified for the quarter finals.

#### **About Hockey India**

- Hockey India was established in 2009 as the governing body for the sport of hockey in India. It replaced the Indian Hockey Federation.
- Headquarters - New Delhi
- President - Dileep Tirkey

202. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards to Mauritius' Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam and his wife, Veena Ramgoolam.**

**What does the OCI card allow holders to do in India?**

**प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने मॉरीशस के प्रधानमंत्री नवीन रामगुलाम और उनकी पत्नी वीना रामगुलाम को ओवरसीज सिटीजन ऑफ इंडिया (OCI) कार्ड प्रदान किए। OCI कार्ड धारकों को भारत में क्या करने की अनुमति देता है?**

- (a) It allows them to live and work in Mauritius without a visa
- (b) It allows them to live, work, and study in India without a visa
- (c) It allows them to travel to India without a passport
- (d) It allows them to invest in Indian businesses without any restrictions
- (e) It allows them to participate in Indian elections

Ans. b

Sol. PM Modi Hands Over Overseas Citizen Card To Mauritius Counterpart

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards to Mauritius' Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam and his wife, Veena Ramgoolam, during a special event.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi also handed OCI cards to Mauritius' President Dharambeer Gokhool and First Lady Vrinda Gokhool. This gesture highlights India's strong ties with Mauritius and its commitment to the Indian-origin community there. Mauritius has a significant Indian presence, with 22,188 Indian nationals and 13,198 OCI card holders.

The OCI card allows holders to live, work, and study in India without a visa, making it easier for them to stay connected with their Indian roots.

**203. How much funding has the government announced for the creator's economy ahead of WAVES 2025?**

**सरकार ने WAVES 2025 से पहले क्रिएटर की अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए कितनी धनराशि की घोषणा की है?**

- (a) \$500 million
- (b) \$750 million
- (c) \$1 billion
- (d) \$2 billion
- (e) \$5 billion

Ans. c

Sol. Govt announces 1-billion-dollar fund for creators' economy, ahead of WAVES 2025



Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced a 1-billion-dollar fund for the creator's economy as part of the World Audio-Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025.

The event to be held in Mumbai from May 1 to 4, will give creators community a platform to create high value content.

The session, organised by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, sought to engage the international community ahead of the WAVES 2025.

Mr. Vaishnaw also informed that the first Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT) will be established near Film City in Goregaon, Mumbai.

**204. Syed Abid Ali passed away recently at the age of 83. Who was he?**

**सैयद आबिद अली का हाल ही में 83 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह कौन थे?**

- (a) Politician
- (b) Cricketer
- (c) Writer
- (d) Historian

(e) Footballer

Ans. b

Sol. Former Indian All-Rounder Syed Abid Ali Passes Away

Former Indian all-rounder Syed Abid Ali passed away at the age of 83.

He played pivotal roles in India's first Test series victories in the West Indies and England in 1971, notably delivering the winning boundary against England at The Oval.

Abid Ali played 29 Test matches for India between 1967 and 1974, known for his all-round skills as a dependable batsman and medium-pace bowler.

**205. Which organization organized the "Water Sustainability Conference 2025" along with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)?**

**किस संगठन ने ऊर्जा और संसाधन संस्थान (TERI) के साथ मिलकर "जल स्थिरता सम्मेलन 2025" का आयोजन किया?**

- (a) Central Water Commission (CWC)
- (b) Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE)
- (c) National Green Tribunal (NGT)
- (d) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
- (e) NITI Aayog

Ans. b

Sol. C. R. Patil inaugurates Water Sustainability Conference 2025

The Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) under the National Water Mission (NWM), Ministry of Jal Shakti, in association with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), organized a one-day conference titled "Water Sustainability Conference 2025", with a focus on Industrial Water Use Efficiency.

The conference was held at the NDMC Convention Centre, Palika Kendra, Sansad Marg, New Delhi.

The event was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, C R Patil, who highlighted the Government's commitment towards promoting industrial water use efficiency through innovative technologies and strategic frameworks.

The workshop brought together various Ministries, Organisations, Policymakers, Industry Leaders, Experts, and Stakeholders to deliberate on strategies and technological advancements to enhance water use efficiency in the industrial sector.

**206. To support media organizations, PB-SHABD's free subscription has been extended until March 2026. What does PB-SHABD stand for?**

**मीडिया संगठनों को समर्थन देने के लिए, PB-SHABD की मुफ्त सदस्यता मार्च 2026 तक बढ़ा दी गई है। PB-SHABD का क्या अर्थ है?**

- (a) Prasar Bharati - Shared Hub for Audio-Visual Broadcast and Distribution
- (b) Prasar Bharati - Shared Audio-Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination
- (c) Public Broadcasting - Shared Audio-Visual Database
- (d) Prasar Bharati - Strategic Hub for Audio-Visual Broadcasting
- (e) Public Broadcasting - Secure Hub for Audio-Visual Dissemination

Ans. b

Sol. PB-SHABD: Free subscription extended till March 2026 to support media organisations

Prasar Bharati's Shared Audio-Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination (PB-SHABD), a 24/7 news hub, has completed one year since its launch in March 2024.

The platform provides over 1,000 daily stories in more than 50 categories, delivering high-quality news content without logos in text, video, picture, and audio formats. It is supported by an extensive network of over 1,500 reporters, correspondents, and stringers, ensuring comprehensive coverage from across India.

To further support media organisations, especially smaller ones, Prasar Bharati has announced that access to PB-SHABD will remain free until March 2026.

This initiative is aimed at helping media outlets by providing them with ready-to-use, logo-free content, saving time and resources.

PB-SHABD offers content across a wide range of news categories, such as agriculture, technology, foreign affairs, political developments, and more. The stories are uploaded in all major Indian languages, sourced from Prasar Bharati's Regional News Units (RNUs) and headquarters.

**207. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 10th edition of Raisina Dialogue 2025 in New Delhi. What is the theme of Raisina Dialogue 2025?**

**प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने नई दिल्ली में रायसीना डायलॉग 2025 के 10वें संस्करण का उद्घाटन किया। रायसीना डायलॉग 2025 का विषय क्या है?**

- (a) Global Unity and Progress
- (b) Economic Growth and Sustainability
- (c) Kālachakra — People, Peace, and Planet
- (d) Future of Democracy
- (e) Strengthening Global Partnerships

Ans. c

Sol. PM Modi inaugurated 10th edition of Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 10th edition of Raisina Dialogue 2025 in New Delhi.

Prime Minister of New Zealand Christopher Luxon was the chief guest at the inaugural session and delivered the keynote address.

This year's theme is "Kālachakra —People, Peace and Planet." During the event, decision-makers and thought leaders from around the world will engage in conversations in various formats, focusing on six thematic pillars.

The Raisina Dialogue is India's premier conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community.

208. **Who inaugurated the first edition of the Fit India Carnival in Delhi?**

**दिल्ली में फिट इंडिया कार्निवल के पहले संस्करण का उद्घाटन किसने किया?**

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Rajnath Singh
- (c) Mansukh Mandaviya
- (d) Anurag Thakur
- (e) Amit Shah

Ans. c

Sol. Mansukh Mandaviya Inaugurates Fit India Carnival in Delhi

Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated the first edition of Fit India Carnival in Delhi.

The Fit India Carnival is a three-day fitness and wellness festival that aims to promote a healthy and active lifestyle, aligning with the Fit India Movement's vision of a fitter, healthier, and obesity-free nation.

A host of sports activities including rope skipping, stationary cycling, arm wrestling, cricket bowling, squat and push-up challenges will be the highlight of the three-day carnival.

209. **How much has Standard Chartered raised through its first social bond?**

**स्टैंडर्ड चार्टर्ड ने अपने पहले सामाजिक बांड के माध्यम से कितनी धनराशि जुटाई है?**

- (a) 500 million euros
- (b) 750 million euros
- (c) 1 billion euros
- (d) 2 billion euros
- (e) 5 billion euros

Ans. c

Sol. Standard Chartered raises €1 billion via first social bond

Standard Chartered has raised 1 billion euro (about ₹9,400 crore) through issuance of the first social bond which will support sustainable development projects across the bank's emerging market footprint, including India.

The 8-year bond will primarily facilitate lending to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), ensuring access to finance, helping create jobs and empowering and nurturing women-owned SMEs, StanChart said in a statement on Friday.

Of the total, about 50% would be allocated for India for sustainable projects. The top five countries where StanChart's social assets are located include India (57%), Malaysia (10%), Bangladesh (6%), Mainland China (5%), and Nepal (4%).

**211. Who has been appointed as the CEO of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)?**

**अनुसंधान नेशनल रिसर्च फाउंडेशन (एनआरएफ) के सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Professor Abhay Karandikar
- (b) Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman
- (c) Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar
- (d) Dr. K. Sivan
- (e) Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy

Ans. b

Sol. Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman assumes charge of CEO Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)

Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman has taken over as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).

Earlier, Professor Abhay Karandikar, Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), was serving as the acting CEO. He officially handed over the position to Dr. Shivkumar

Dr. Shivkumar previously worked as the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) for the Energy Industry in Asia at Microsoft.

ANRF will act as an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country as per recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP).

**Recent Appointments**

- **Chairman of Tata Communications Board** - N G Subramaniam
- **Chairman of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA)** - Arun Mammen
- **Vice chairman of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA)** - Hiroshi Yoshizane
- **President & CEO of Honda Cars India Ltd** - Takashi Nakajima (replace Takuya Tsumura) South Korea brand
- **Judge of Supreme Court** - Justice Joymalya Bagchi (*set to become CJI in May 2031*)

**212. Where is the 2nd edition of the Kabaddi World Cup 2025 being held?**

## कबड्डी विश्व कप 2025 का दूसरा संस्करण कहाँ आयोजित किया जा रहा है?

- (a) India
- (b) Pakistan
- (c) Malaysia
- (d) England
- (e) Iran

Ans. d

Sol. Kabaddi World Cup 2025 begins in England

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Kabaddi World Cup 2025 begins in England. The Indian Men's team will start their campaign against Italy at Wolverhampton.

The competition will span seven days with over 60 matches, taking place in Birmingham, Coventry, Walsall, and Wolverhampton – in the West Midlands region of the United Kingdom.

The men's competition will start with 10 teams split into two equal groups – A and B.

India will compete in Group B along with Italy, Scotland, Wales and China.

On the other hand, the women's competition will be among six teams with two groups – D and E. India will compete in Group D along with Wales and Poland.

At the inaugural edition hosted by Malaysia in 2019, India won both the men's and women's crowns. Also, this is the first time the Kabaddi World Cup has been hosted outside of Asia.

Moreover, this Kabaddi World Cup is different from the one hosted by the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF), whose all editions have been hosted in India.

213. **India Masters clinched the inaugural International Masters League T20 title beating West Indies Masters by 6 wickets at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur. Who was the captain of the winning team, India Masters?**

इंडिया मास्टर्स ने रायपुर के शहीद वीर नारायण सिंह इंटरनेशनल स्टेडियम में वेस्टइंडीज मास्टर्स को 6 विकेट से हराकर पहला इंटरनेशनल मास्टर्स लीग टी20 खिताब जीता। विजेता टीम इंडिया मास्टर्स के कप्तान कौन थे?

- (a) Virender Sehwag
- (b) Rahul Dravid
- (c) Sourav Ganguly
- (d) Sachin Tendulkar
- (e) MS Dhoni

Ans. d

Sol. India Masters beat West Indies Masters by 6 wickets to clinch International Masters League T20 title

In Cricket, Sachin Tendulkar led India Masters clinched the inaugural International Masters League T20 title beating Brian Lara's West Indies Masters by 6 wickets at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur.

After electing to bat first, West Indies Masters got restricted to 148 for 7 due to Vinay Kumar and Shahbaz Nadeem's wicket-taking spells.

In response to this, India Masters got home in just 17.1 overs with Ambati Rayudu's 74 off 50 balls, who also got the Player of the Match award.

Shane Watson got the Elevated Most Sixes of the Season award and Kumar Sangakkara bagged the Masterstroke of the Season award.

**214. How many total medals did Indian athletes win at the Special Olympics**

**World Winter Games 2025?**

**विशेष ओलंपिक विश्व शीतकालीन खेल 2025 में भारतीय एथलीटों ने कुल कितने पदक जीते?**

- (a) 25
- (b) 28
- (c) 37
- (d) 39
- (e) 33

Ans. e

Sol. India conclude Special Olympics Winter Games with 33 medals

Indian athletes concluded their remarkable campaign at the Special Olympics World Winter Games with 33 medals having 8 Gold, 18 Silver, and 7 Bronze – in Turin, Italy. This was the 12th edition of the Special Olympics Winter Games, happening after a long wait of 8 years.

This was also the first time that Italy hosted the Special Olympics World Games.



**215. Which two financial institutions have partnered to improve credit access for middle and low-income borrowers in March 2025?**

**मार्च 2025 में मध्यम और निम्न आय वाले उधारकर्ताओं के लिए ऋण पहुंच में सुधार के लिए किन दो वित्तीय संस्थानों ने साझेदारी की है?**

- (a) HDFC Bank & SBI
- (b) Piramal Finance & Punjab & Sind Bank
- (c) ICICI Bank & Axis Bank
- (d) Bajaj Finance & Kotak Mahindra Bank
- (e) Yes Bank & Bank of Baroda

Ans. b

Sol. Piramal Finance and Punjab & Sind Bank Join Hands to Expand Credit Access

Piramal Finance has partnered with Punjab & Sind Bank to make loans more accessible to middle and low-income borrowers, especially in rural and semi-urban areas.

This partnership aims to improve financial inclusion by providing affordable and customized loan options in smaller cities (Tier 2 & Tier 3).

Punjab & Sind Bank's 1,575 branches and Piramal Finance's 514+ branches, covering 13,000 pin codes and serving 4.5 million customers across 26 states, will work together to offer better credit solutions.

By combining Punjab & Sind Bank's financial expertise with Piramal Finance's technology-driven approach, the initiative will support small businesses (MSMEs) and home loan seekers.

MD of Piramal Finance - Jairam Sridharan

216. **SATYA MicroCapital Ltd, a NBFC-MFI committed to promoting entrepreneurship and financial independence, has unveiled an ambitious goal of reaching 10 million households by \_\_\_\_\_.**

उद्यमिता और वित्तीय स्वतंत्रता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध एनबीएफसी-एमएफआई सत्या माइक्रोकैपिटल लिमिटेड ने \_\_\_\_\_ तक 10 मिलियन परिवारों तक पहुंचने का महत्वाकांक्षी लक्ष्य रखा है।

- (a) 2026
- (b) 2028
- (c) 2029
- (d) 2030
- (e) 2047

Ans. d

Sol. SATYA MicroCapital unveils bold vision to empower 10 Million households by 2030

SATYA MicroCapital Ltd, a NBFC-MFI committed to promoting entrepreneurship and financial independence, has unveiled an ambitious goal of reaching 10 million households by 2030.

This milestone aligns with the company's core mission of promoting financial inclusion, with a particular focus on supporting women-led enterprises.

This initiative aims to extend access to affordable financial resources, empowering underprivileged families with seamless opportunities for economic growth.

By providing tailored financial solutions such as microloans, SATYA seeks to drive entrepreneurship, elevate household incomes, and contribute to sustainable development.

MD & CEO of SATYA MicroCapital - Vivek Tiwari

**217. Recently, which bank has started accepting deposits under the Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme (SCSS)?**

**हाल ही में, किस बैंक ने वरिष्ठ नागरिक बचत योजना (SCSS) के तहत जमा स्वीकार करना शुरू किया है?**

- (a) ICICI Bank
- (b) Axis Bank
- (c) HDFC Bank
- (d) Yes Bank
- (e) Airtel Payment Bank

Ans. c

Sol. HDFC Bank is now accepting deposits under Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme. India's leading private sector bank, HDFC Bank will now accept deposits under the Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme (SCSS), a savings instrument run by the Government of India for the elderly.

HDFC Bank will act as an agency bank for the Government of India and help source scheme deposits, while providing seamless service to customers. All eligible customers can apply for SCSS by visiting any branch of the Bank.

As of March 17, 2025, the Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS) interest rate is 8.2% per annum. This rate is fixed by the government and is applicable for the period from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

Customers eligible for this scheme include individuals at or above the age of 60 and people who have superannuated at/above the age of 55 years. Further, retired personnel of Defence Services are also eligible to apply for the scheme on attaining the age of 50 years.

Investment in SCSS is eligible for benefits under Section 80C of the Income-Tax Act. The scheme offers a quarterly interest payout with a five-year lock-in period. It is extendable by three years, multiple times. In addition, the rate of interest offered under SCSS is notified by the Government from time to time.

**218. Which regulatory body approved the acquisition of Uprising Science Private Limited by Hindustan Unilever Limited?**

**किस नियामक संस्था ने हिंदुस्तान यूनिलीवर लिमिटेड द्वारा अपराइजिंग साइंस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के अधिग्रहण को मंजूरी दी?**

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (c) Competition Commission of India (CCI)
- (d) Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)
- (e) NITI Aayog

Ans. c

Sol. CCI approves acquisition of Uprising Science Private Limited by Hindustan Unilever Limited

The Competition Commission of India has approved acquisition of Uprising Science Private Limited by Hindustan Unilever Limited.

The proposed transaction involves the acquisition by Hindustan Unilever Limited (Acquirer/HUL), of 90.5% shareholding of Uprising Science Private Limited (Target), with eventual acquisition of the remaining 9.5% shareholding of the Target in about two years from the completion date as per the terms set out in the Share Purchase & Subscription Agreement executed by and between HUL and the Target.

**219. Ramakanta Rath, who recently passed away, was a renowned poet in which language?**

**रमाकांत रथ, जिनका हाल ही में निधन हो गया, किस भाषा के प्रसिद्ध कवि थे?**

- (a) Bengali
- (b) Odia
- (c) Hindi
- (d) Marathi
- (e) Tamil

Ans. b

Sol. Renowned Odia poet Padma Bhushan Ramakanta Rath passes away

Padma Bhushan Ramakanta Rath, one of the most renowned modernist poets in Odia literature, passed away at the age of 91.

A 1957-batch IAS officer, Ramakanta Rath also served as the Chief Secretary of Odisha and held several key positions in the Union Government. His poetic works, celebrated for their depth and insight, include iconic poems 'Sri Radha' among many others. His works have been translated into English and several Indian languages. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to literature, Ramakanta Rath was conferred with the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award, in 2006 and many other coveted literary awards. He also served as president of the Sahitya Akademi of India from 1998 to 2003.

**220. What was the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation rate in February 2025?**

**फरवरी 2025 में थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (WPI) मुद्रास्फीति दर क्या थी?**

- (a) 2.31 per cent
- (b) 2.38 per cent
- (c) 5.94 per cent
- (d) 7.47 per cent
- (e) 2.00 per cent

Ans. b

Sol. Wholesale price inflation rises to 2.38% in February

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation slightly increased to 2.38 per cent last month.

The data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry revealed that the positive rate of inflation in February is primarily due to the price increase in manufactured food items like vegetable oil and beverages.

The WPI inflation was at 2.31 per cent in January this year.

As per the data, vegetable prices witnessed a decline in February. WPI food inflation dropped to 5.94 per cent in February from 7.47 per cent in January 2025. The potato prices declined to 27.54 per cent from 74.28 per cent in the previous month.

The fuel and power sector experienced a deflation of 0.71 per cent in February, compared to a deflation of 2.78 per cent in January.

### Recent WPI-based Wholesale inflation in India

- **October 2024** – 2.36%
- **November 2024** – 1.89%
- **December 2024** – 2.37%
- **January 2025** – 2.31%
- **February 2025** – 2.38%

221. **Ordnance Factories Day is observed in India on March 18 every year to commemorate the establishment of the first ordnance factory in 1801. Where was the first ordnance factory in India established?**

भारत में हर साल 18 मार्च को आयुध निर्माणी दिवस मनाया जाता है, जो 1801 में पहली आयुध फैक्ट्री की स्थापना की याद में मनाया जाता है। भारत में पहली आयुध फैक्ट्री कहाँ स्थापित की गई थी?

(a) Chennai  
(b) Mumbai  
(c) Hyderabad  
(d) Kolkata  
(e) Bengaluru

Ans. d

Sol. March 18 – National Ordnance Factories Day

Ordnance Factories Day is observed in India on March 18 every year to commemorate the establishment of the first ordnance factory in Cossipore, Kolkata, in 1801.

The day highlights the contribution of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) and its network of factories in strengthening India's defense sector.

First Ordnance Factory- Established in Cossipore, Kolkata, in 1801.

Purpose- To manufacture arms, ammunition, and defense equipment for the Indian Armed Forces.

Managed by- Initially under the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), which was later restructured into seven defense PSUs in 2021.

Celebrations- Exhibitions and public awareness programs showcasing defense manufacturing capabilities.

**222. Which Indian state recently initiated scientific coal mining after almost a decade of ban on rat-hole coal mining imposed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT)?**

**राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण (एनजीटी) द्वारा रैट-होल कोयला खनन पर लगाए गए लगभग एक दशक के प्रतिबंध के बाद हाल ही में किस भारतीय राज्य ने वैज्ञानिक कोयला खनन शुरू किया है?**

- (a) Assam
- (b) Nagaland
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh
- (e) Manipur

Ans. c

Sol. Meghalaya inaugurates first scientific coal mine after nearly a decade long ban. Meghalaya initiated the scientific mining of coal after almost a decade of ban on rat-hole coal mining imposed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma virtually inaugurated the first scientific coal mining block at Saryngkham-A block in the Byndihat area of East Jaintia Hills district.

The NGT enforced the ban on rat-hole coal mining in 2014 after a series of coal mine tragedies in Meghalaya over the years. Later, the Supreme Court had upheld the ban order.

#### **About Meghalaya**

- **Capital** – Shillong
- **Chief Minister** - Conrad Kongkal Sangma
- **Governor** - C. H. Vijayashankar

**223. Which German insurer is selling its 26% stake in joint ventures with Bajaj Finserv?**

**कौन सी जर्मन बीमा कंपनी बजाज फिनसर्व के साथ संयुक्त उद्यम में अपनी 26% हिस्सेदारी बेच रही है?**

- (a) AXA
- (b) Zurich Insurance

- (c) Allianz SE
- (d) Munich Re
- (e) Generali Group

Ans. c

Sol. Allianz exits Bajaj Insurance JVs after 24 years in €2.6 billion sale

German insurer Allianz SE has announced the sale of its 26% stake in two joint ventures with India's Bajaj Finserv for approximately €2.6 billion (\$2.84 billion).

The agreement will see Bajaj Group gain complete ownership of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company (BAGIC) and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company (BALIC), marking the end of a 24-year-old partnership.

The acquisition is subject to regulatory approvals from the Competition Commission of India and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). Once the transaction is completed, Bajaj Group will increase its ownership in BAGIC and BALIC from 74% to 100%. The deal will be executed in tranches, with at least 6.1% being acquired in the first phase, which will also see Allianz reclassified from "Promoter" to "Investor."

The agreed purchase price for Allianz's stake is Rs. 13,780 crore for BAGIC and Rs. 10,400 crore for BALIC. The transaction also includes the acquisition of Allianz's stake in Bajaj Allianz Financial Distributors Ltd. (BAFDL), a 50:50 joint venture, for a consideration of up to Rs. 12.5 crore. Post-acquisition, Bajaj Finserv will hold full ownership of BAFDL

#### 224. Who has launched the mobile app for the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme?

प्रधानमंत्री इंटर्नशिप योजना के लिए मोबाइल ऐप किसने लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Rajnath Singh
- (b) Piyush Goyal
- (c) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (d) Amit Shah
- (e) Dharmendra Pradhan

Ans. c

Sol. FM Nirmala Sitharaman Launches Mobile App for PM Internship Scheme Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman has launched a dedicated mobile app for the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme in New Delhi.

The App provides various facilities including intuitive interface with a clean design and effortless navigation, easy registration through Aadhaar face authentication and real time alerts to keep candidates abreast of new updates.

The PM Internship Scheme has the potential to bridge the gap between classroom learning and industry expectations, thereby enhancing youth employability.

The Prime Minister's Internship Scheme was announced in the Budget 2024-25. It aims to provide internship opportunities to one crore youth in top 500 companies in five years. As an initiation to this Scheme, the Pilot Project targeted at providing 1.25 lakh internship opportunities to the youth was launched in October last year. In the round- I of the pilot project, over 1.27 lakh opportunities in about 745 districts were posted by around 280 companies across 25 sectors. Over 82,000 offers were made to the candidates. The round-II of the Pilot Project commenced in January 2025 and about 327 companies have posted more than 1.18 lakh opportunities. The internship application window for this round is open till the end of this month.

**225. Which company has won two Gold Awards at the SKOCH Awards 2025?**

**किस कंपनी ने SKOCH अवार्ड्स 2025 में दो स्वर्ण पुरस्कार जीते हैं?**

- (a) Bajaj Finserv
- (b) Muthoot Microfin
- (c) Mahindra Finance
- (d) HDFC Bank
- (e) Bandhan Bank

Ans. b

Sol. Muthoot Microfin wins Double Gold at SKOCH Awards 2025

Muthoot Microfin, a leading microfinance institution committed to empowering women entrepreneurs, has achieved a remarkable double victory at the SKOCH Awards 2025, securing two prestigious Gold Awards.

The accolades were presented to Sadaf Sayeed, CEO of Muthoot Microfin, by Sameer Kochhar, Chairman of SKOCH Group, and Gursharan Dhanjal, Vice-Chairman of SKOCH Group, at a distinguished ceremony in New Delhi.

The company was recognized for its excellence in digital financial inclusion and insurance solutions, winning:

- Corporate Excellence - "Best Customer Application on Digital Financial Inclusion" for its groundbreaking Mahila Mitra initiative.
- BFSI Award - "Best Insurance Scheme" for its Griha Raksha Insurance Scheme, which has provided coverage to 2.66 million beneficiaries, reinforcing Muthoot Microfin's commitment to financial security and social empowerment.

**226. Which airport has won the Air Service Quality (ASQ) award for the third consecutive year?**

**किस हवाई अड्डे ने लगातार तीसरे वर्ष वायु सेवा गुणवत्ता (ASQ) पुरस्कार जीता हैं?**

- (a) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport
- (b) Indira Gandhi International Airport
- (c) Kempegowda International Airport

(d) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport  
(e) Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport

Ans. c

Sol. Bengaluru Airport wins air service quality award for third year running  
Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIAB) has been honored with the Air Service Quality (ASQ) award for the third consecutive year.  
KIAB's sustained commitment to delivering superior passenger experiences has been recognized through this consecutive accolade.  
The ASQ award is a testament to KIAB's dedication to maintaining high service standards, reinforcing its position as a leading airport on the international stage.

#### 227. Who will be sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago?

**त्रिनिदाद और टोबैगो के नए प्रधान मंत्री के रूप में कौन शपथ लेगा?**

(a) Keith Rowley  
(b) Kamla Persad-Bissessar  
(c) Stuart Young  
(d) Patrick Manning  
(e) Basdeo Panday

Ans. c

Sol. Stuart Young to be sworn in as new Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago  
During a ceremony at the President's House in St. Ann's, Stuart Young will be sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr Young is currently serving as the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries. He will succeed the outgoing Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley, who made his last public appearance, during the People's National Movement (PNM)'s Special Convention.

#### Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President

- PM of Canada - Mark Carney (replace Justin Trudeau)
- Chancellor of Austria - Christian Stocker
- Romania's Interim President - Ilie Bolojans
- 72nd US Secretary of State in the Trump Administration - Marco Rubio
- PM of Belgium - Bart De Wever

#### 228. Who has inaugurated the India Innovation Summit – Pioneering Solutions to End TB?

**टीबी को समाप्त करने के लिए भारत इनोवेशन समिट - पायनियरिंग सॉल्यूशंस का उद्घाटन किसने किया है?**

(a) Mansukh Mandaviya  
(b) Anupriya Patel

- (c) Harsh Vardhan
- (d) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (e) Amit Shah

Ans. b

Sol. Anupriya Patel inaugurates the India Innovation Summit

Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel has inaugurated the India Innovation Summit – Pioneering Solutions to End TB, at Bharat Mandapam Convention Centre.

The Summit was organized jointly by the Department of Health Research-Indian Council of Medical Research (DHR-ICMR) and the Central TB Division (CTD), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The summit aims to accelerate India's progress towards TB elimination by 2025.

The Program is steadily progressing towards the goal of eliminating TB by 2025. The number of missing cases has been reduced from 15 lakh in 2015 to 2.5 lakhs in 2023. The programme was able to notify 25.5 lakh TB and 26.07 lakh cases in 2023 and 2024-the highest ever.

A shorter and safer oral Bedaquiline-containing drug resistant TB treatment regimen has been rolled out across all State/ UTs that has improved treatment success rates of drug-resistant TB patients from 68% in 2020 to 75% in 2022.

**229. In March 2025, which sport has been approved for inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)?**

**मार्च 2025 में, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ओलंपिक समिति (IOC) द्वारा 2028 लॉस एंजिल्स ओलंपिक खेलों में शामिल करने के लिए किस खेल को मंजूरी दी गई है?**

- (a) Wrestling
- (b) Weightlifting
- (c) Cricket
- (d) Karate
- (e) Boxing

Ans. e

Sol. IOC Board approves boxing for inclusion in 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has approved the inclusion of boxing in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics games.

The decision follows the IOC's granting of provisional recognition to World Boxing last month (February), effectively sidelining the International Boxing Association (IBA) and transferring authority to the new governing body.

World Boxing President Boris van der Vorst, said this is a significant decision for Olympic boxing and takes the sport one step closer to being restored to the Olympic programme.

The IOC Executive Board on February 26 decided to provisionally recognise World Boxing, which is currently composed of 84 national federations over the five continents.

**230. Indian athletes concluded their remarkable campaign at the Special Olympics World Winter Games with 33 medals in Turin, Italy. What is the breakdown of India's medal tally at the Special Olympics World Winter Games?**  
**भारतीय एथलीटों ने इटली के ट्यूरिन में आयोजित विशेष ओलंपिक विश्व शीतकालीन खेलों में 33 पदकों के साथ अपने उल्लेखनीय अभियान का समापन किया। विशेष ओलंपिक विश्व शीतकालीन खेलों में भारत की पदक तालिका का विवरण क्या है?**

- (a) 8 gold, 15 silver, and 10 bronze
- (b) 6 gold, 12 silver, and 15 bronze
- (c) 8 gold, 18 silver, and 7 bronze
- (d) 10 gold, 15 silver, and 8 bronze
- (e) 12 gold, 10 silver, and 11 bronze

Ans. c

Sol. India secures 33 medals at Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025  
India clinched 12 medals in four events on the final day, concluding their campaign at the Special Olympics World Winter Games with a total of 33 medals in Turin, Italy.  
India's medal tally included 8 gold, 18 silver, and 7 bronze medals.  
This was the 12th edition of the Special Olympics Winter Games, happening after a long wait of 8 years. This was also the first time that Italy hosted the Special Olympics World Games.

**231. What is one of the key areas India and New Zealand agreed to boost cooperation in during New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon's visit?**  
**न्यूजीलैंड के प्रधानमंत्री क्रिस्टोफर लक्सन की यात्रा के दौरान भारत और न्यूजीलैंड ने किस प्रमुख क्षेत्र में सहयोग बढ़ाने पर सहमति व्यक्त की?**

- (a) Digital payments
- (b) Space exploration
- (c) Military defense
- (d) Renewable energy
- (e) Artificial intelligence

Ans. a

Sol. India and New Zealand explore digital payments, trade, and investment ties  
India and New Zealand have agreed to boost cooperation in digital payments and greater two-way trade and investment during the ongoing visit of New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon.

India's merchandise exports to New Zealand stood at \$535 million in 2023-24, while imports stood at \$335.07 million, representing a total trade value of \$873 million.

The country is only the 59th largest source of historical foreign direct investment into India, accounting for \$87.2 million of inward investments since 2000.

Both leaders also welcomed the signing of the Authorised Economic Operators Mutual Recognition Arrangement under the aegis of the Customs Cooperation Arrangement signed in 2024, which would facilitate easier movement of goods between the two countries.

After updating the bilateral air services agreement, both sides have also agreed to encourage their carriers to commence direct (non-stop) flight operations between the two countries.

The two nations have signed multiple memorandums of understanding. These include cooperation in horticulture and forestry, which will promote knowledge and research exchanges, development of post-harvest and marketing infrastructure, and technical exchanges. The countries are also working on an agreement on earthquake mitigation cooperation between relevant authorities.

### About New Zealand

- **Capital** – Wellington
- **Currency** – Dollar
- **Prime Minister** - Christopher Luxon

232. **Canara Bank has become the first in India to introduce an Online Digital Balance Confirmation Certificate. Through which platform has Canara Bank introduced the Online Digital Balance Confirmation Certificate?**

केनरा बैंक भारत में ऑनलाइन डिजिटल बैलेंस कन्फर्मेशन सर्टिफिकेट पेश करने वाला पहला बैंक बन गया है। केनरा बैंक ने किस प्लेटफॉर्म के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन डिजिटल बैलेंस कन्फर्मेशन सर्टिफिकेट पेश किया है?

- (a) PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd portal
- (b) National Payments Corporation of India
- (c) Reserve Bank of India website
- (d) Canara Bank mobile app
- (e) Unified Payments Interface

Ans. a

Sol. Canara Bank becomes the first bank to introduce Online Digital Balance Confirmation Certificate

In a significant step toward digitisation and operational efficiency, Canara Bank has become the first bank in India to introduce an Online Digital Balance Confirmation Certificate through the PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd portal.

This initiative reduces the time required for auditors to complete the auditing process by replacing the traditional manual approach with a seamless digital solution. Previously, auditors had to approach banks individually with authority letters to obtain Balance Confirmation Certificates, a time-consuming process. With this digital service, confirmation will flow directly to auditors through the online portal after obtaining online consent from the customer, eliminating the need for manual intervention.

### **About Canara Bank**

- Founded - 1906
- Headquarters- Bengaluru, Karnataka
- MD & CEO - K Satyanarayana Raju
- Tagline - Together with Can

233. **What is the name of the bilateral naval exercise between the Indian and French Navies scheduled from 19 - 22 March 2025?**

**19 से 22 मार्च 2025 तक भारतीय और फ्रांसीसी नौसेनाओं के बीच निर्धारित द्विपक्षीय नौसैनिक अभ्यास का नाम क्या है?**

- (a) Varuna
- (b) Malabar
- (c) Garuda
- (d) Surya Kiran
- (e) Indra

Ans. a

Sol. India and France to Strengthen Naval Ties with VARUNA 2025 Exercise in Arabian Sea

The Indian and French Navies are set to strengthen their maritime partnership with the 23rd edition of their bilateral naval exercise, Varuna 2025, scheduled to take place from March 19 to 22, 2025.

This long-standing exercise, which began in 2001, continues to serve as a cornerstone of cooperation between the two nations, showcasing their commitment to enhancing naval interoperability and operational synergy in the Indo-Pacific region.

The exercise, to be conducted in the Arabian Sea, will feature an impressive lineup of naval assets, including the Indian Navy's aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and the French Navy's nuclear-powered carrier Charles de Gaulle.

VARUNA 2025 will feature advanced air defence drills and fighter exercises, including mock air-to-air combat between the French Rafale-M and Indian MiG-29K, designed to refine tactical and operational capabilities.

### Recent Exercise

- **12th edition** of Exercise **KHANJAR-XII** between India and Kyrgyzstan - Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan
- **7th edition of Security Belt-2025 between Russia, China and Iran** - Iranian port of Chabahar near Indian Ocean
- **Exercise Desert Hunt 2025** between Indian Navy, Indian Army and India Air Force - Indian Air Force at Air Force Station Jodhpur.
- **6<sup>th</sup> edition of Exercise Dharma Guardian** between Indian Army and Japan Ground Self-Defence Force (JGSDF) - Mount Fuji, Japan.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

234. **When is the International Day to Combat Islamophobia observed?**

**इस्लामोफोबिया से निपटने के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) March 10
- (b) March 15
- (c) March 18
- (d) March 17
- (e) March 19

Ans. b

Sol. 15 March - International Day to Combat Islamophobia

The International Day to Combat Islamophobia is observed annually on March 15.

This day was established by the United Nations (UN) in 2022 to address and raise awareness about Islamophobia, discrimination, and violence faced by Muslims worldwide.

The UN General Assembly declared March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia in response to the 2019 Christchurch Mosque attacks in New Zealand, where 51 people were killed.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution sponsored by 60 Member-States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which designated 15 March as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia.

235. **Who has been appointed as the Vice Chairman of Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE)?**

**ट्रैक्टर्स एंड फार्म इकिपमेंट लिमिटेड (TAFE) के उपाध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Shivani Sharma
- (b) Anand Mahindra
- (c) Lakshmi Venu
- (d) N. Chandrasekaran
- (e) Parul Tyagi

Ans. c

Sol. TAFE appoints Lakshmi Venu as vice chairman

Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE) has appointed Lakshmi Venu as Vice Chairman.

Lakshmi has been a key member of our leadership team and a member of TAFE's Board.

Chairman & MD - Mallika Srinivasan

### Recent Appointments

- **CEO of Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** - Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman
- **Chairman of Tata Communications Board** - N G Subramaniam
- **Chairman of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA)** - Arun Mammen
- **Vice chairman of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA)** - Hiroshi Yoshizane
- **President & CEO of Honda Cars India Ltd** - Takashi Nakajima (replace Takuya Tsumura)

236. Who has been appointed as the Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL)?

हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (एचपीसीएल) के अध्यक्ष और प्रबंध निदेशक (सीएमडी) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Mukesh Kumar
- (b) Sanjay Mehta
- (c) Anshika Mishra
- (d) Anil Agrawal
- (e) Vikas Kaushal

Ans. e

Sol. Vikas Kaushal takes charge as HPCL CMD

Vikas Kaushal has assumed charge as the Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL).

A Chemical Engineering graduate from DCET, Panjab University, he holds an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

He started his career with ICICI Limited in Project Finance and Advisory Services before transitioning into global management consulting. Since 2000, he has been associated with A.T. Kearney.

**237. The government has set up an inter-ministerial-industry committee on fintech (IMICF) to look into entire gamut of issues that affect growth of fintech sector and suggest long term strategy for its development. Who is the chairperson of the newly formed fintech committee (IMICF)?**

सरकार ने फिनटेक क्षेत्र के विकास को प्रभावित करने वाले सभी मुद्दों पर विचार करने और इसके विकास के लिए दीर्घकालिक रणनीति सुझाने के लिए फिनटेक पर एक अंतर-मंत्रालयी-उद्योग समिति (IMICF) का गठन किया है। नवगठित फिनटेक समिति (IMICF) के अध्यक्ष कौन हैं?

- (a) Shaktikanta Das
- (b) T. V. Somanathan
- (c) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (d) M. Nagaraju
- (e) Ajay Seth

Ans. d

Sol. Government sets up inter-ministerial-industry panel on fintech, DFS Secretary to head Panel

The government has set up an inter-ministerial-industry committee on fintech (IMICF) to look into entire gamut of issues that affect growth of fintech sector and suggest long term strategy for its development.

The Panel, which is being chaired by DFS Secretary M Nagaraju, will also look into how fintech has influenced the broader banking and financial services industry, identify obstacles that hinder growth, and analyse global best practices in governance and regulation.

The panel will analyse the growth of fintech sector and its contribution to BFSI sector; understand the issues and challenges of the fintech sector; take stock of the regulatory and policy developments in the fintech sector.

The Committee is also expected to frame a "vision strategy" that would outline policy interventions and come up with industry recommendations.

**238. Who has been reappointed as the Managing Director and CEO of Bajaj Auto?**

बजाज ऑटो के प्रबंध निदेशक और सीईओ के रूप में किसे पुनः नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Sanjiv Bajaj
- (b) Pawan Munjal
- (c) Rajivnayan Rahulkumar Bajaj

(d) Vikram Kirloskar

(e) Uday Kotak

Ans. c

Sol. Bajaj Auto Reappoints Rajiv Bajaj as MD & CEO

Bajaj Auto has reappointed Rajivnayan Rahulkumar Bajaj as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for a five-year term starting April 1, 2025.

The company's board also approved a Rs 1,500 crore fund infusion into its wholly-owned subsidiary, Bajaj Auto Credit Ltd (BACL), to be disbursed in phases during FY 2025-26, aimed at boosting BACL's assets under management.

239. **What is the name of the dedicated squad launched by Delhi Police against eve teasing?**

**छेड़छाड़ के खिलाफ दिल्ली पुलिस द्वारा शुरू की गई समर्पित टीम का नाम क्या है?**

(a) Nirbhaya Squad

(b) Shishtachar

(c) Suraksha Team

(d) Mahila Rakshak

(e) Tejaswini Force

Ans. b

Sol. Delhi Police launches 'Shishtachar' anti-eve-teasing squad to ensure women's safety

Delhi Police has launched a dedicated squad against eve teasing, 'Shishtachar,' with at least 30 teams deployed across the national capital, especially in hotspots, to check incidents of harassment and ensure the safety of women in public spaces.

These squads, consisting of male and female officers, will patrol high-risk areas, swiftly act on complaints and spread awareness regarding laws against harassment.

The initiative adopts a multi-faceted approach, involving prevention, intervention and victim assistance. The squads have been directed to focus on enforcing the law without imposing personal or cultural morality, while also ensuring that victims are protected from undue public scrutiny or embarrassment.

240. **What is the total budget outlay for the Revised National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26?**

**2021-22 से 2025-26 की अवधि के लिए संशोधित राष्ट्रीय डेयरी विकास कार्यक्रम**

**(एनपीडीडी) के लिए कुल बजट परिव्यय क्या है?**

(a) ₹1,000 crore

(b) ₹2,790 crore

(c) ₹5,009 crore

(d) ₹3,510 crore

(e) ₹2,000 crore

Ans. b

Sol. Cabinet approves revised ₹2,790 crore dairy development scheme to boost infrastructure

The Union Cabinet has approved the Revised National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD), aimed at modernizing India's dairy sector and ensuring its long-term growth.

The scheme, classified as a Central Sector initiative, has been allocated an additional ₹1,000 crore, taking the total budget outlay to ₹2,790 crore for the duration of the 15th Finance Commission period from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The revised programme is focused on strengthening the dairy infrastructure across the country. It seeks to boost milk procurement and processing capacity, improve quality control systems, and ensure better market access for dairy farmers.

The initiative is designed to encourage value addition in the sector, streamline supply chain efficiency, and ultimately raise rural incomes, particularly benefiting women, who represent 70% of India's dairy workforce.

The revised NPDD is structured around two key components. The first focuses on developing essential dairy infrastructure, including the establishment of milk chilling plants, advanced milk testing laboratories, and certification systems. It also prioritizes the formation of new village-level dairy cooperative societies and aims to bolster milk procurement and processing capacities, particularly in the North Eastern Region, hilly areas, Union Territories, and other remote regions. This component also includes financial support for the formation of two new Milk Producer Companies (MPCs).

The second component, known as "Dairying through Cooperatives (DTC)," continues efforts to sustainably develop dairy cooperatives. This component is being implemented in partnership with the Government of Japan and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) under existing agreements. It targets improving dairy production, processing, and marketing infrastructure in nine states: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

Under the revised NPDD, the government aims to establish 10,000 new Dairy Cooperative Societies and form two new Milk Producer Companies. The initiative is projected to generate an additional 3.2 lakh employment opportunities and further promote the use of advanced technology and quality testing infrastructure in the dairy sector.

**241. What is the total allocation for the Revised Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26?**

## संशोधित राष्ट्रीय गोकुल मिशन (आरजीएम) के लिए 2021-22 से 2025-26 की अवधि के लिए कुल आवंटन कितना है?

- (a) ₹2,400 crore
- (b) ₹3,000 crore
- (c) ₹3,400 crore
- (d) ₹4,000 crore
- (e) ₹3,200 crore

Ans. c

Sol. Cabinet approves implementation of Revised Rashtriya Gokul Mission with enhanced allocation for 2024-25 and 2025-26

The Union Cabinet has approved the Revised Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) to boost growth in the livestock sector.

The revised mission will be implemented as a Central Sector component of the Development Programmes scheme, with an additional outlay of ₹1,000 crore, bringing the total allocation to ₹3,400 crore for the 15th Finance Commission cycle from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Two new activities have been introduced under the revised RGM. The first is a one-time assistance of 35 percent of the capital cost for the establishment of Heifer Rearing Centres, which will help in creating 30 housing facilities with a total of 15,000 heifers.

The second initiative aims to encourage farmers to purchase High Genetic Merit (HGM) IVF heifers by providing a 3 percent interest subvention on loans taken from milk unions, financial institutions, or banks for such purchases. This will facilitate the systematic induction of high-yielding breeds.

With the implementation of the Rashtriya Gokul Mission and other government efforts, milk production has increased by 63.55 percent over the past decade. The availability of milk per capita, which stood at 307 grams per day in 2013-14, has risen to 471 grams per day in 2023-24. Productivity has also improved by 26.34 percent in the last ten years.

The Nationwide Artificial Insemination Programme (NAIP) under RGM provides free artificial insemination at farmers' doorsteps in 605 districts across the country where baseline AI coverage was below 50 percent. To date, over 8.39 crore animals have been covered, and 5.21 crore farmers have benefitted.

RGM has also been at the forefront of introducing advanced breeding technologies to farmers. A total of 22 in vitro fertilization (IVF) labs have been set up under State Livestock Boards or universities, leading to the birth of 2,541 high-genetic-merit calves.

**142. Consider the following statements about the Brownfield Ammonia-Urea Complex approved by the Union Cabinet:**

**केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल द्वारा स्वीकृत ब्राउनफील्ड अमोनिया-यूरिया कॉम्प्लेक्स के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:**

1. The project is located at Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL) in Namrup, Assam.
2. The annual production capacity of the complex is 12.7 Lakh Metric Tonnes.
3. The project follows a 50:50 Debt-Equity ratio under the New Investment Policy, 2012.

**Which of the above statements is/are CORRECT?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only
- (e) 1, 2 and 3

Ans. c

Sol. Union Cabinet approves new ammonia-urea complex in Assam

The Union Cabinet has approved a new Brownfield Ammonia-Urea Complex at Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL), Namrup, Assam, with an annual production capacity of 12.7 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT).

The project will be executed under a Joint Venture (JV) with a 70:30 Debt-Equity ratio at a cost of ₹10,601.40 crore, following the New Investment Policy, 2012, and its 2014 amendments, with a completion timeline of 48 months.

National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has been granted an 18% equity stake, exceeding the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) guidelines, and an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) will oversee the project's execution.

The equity structure includes 40% by the Government of Assam, 11% by BVFCL, 18% each by National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) and Oil India Limited (OIL), and 13% by Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited (HURL).

The project aims to boost domestic Urea production, benefiting North-East India, Bihar, West Bengal, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand while promoting energy efficiency and generating employment opportunities.

**243. Consider the following statements regarding the ₹1,500 crore incentive scheme approved by the Union Cabinet:**

**केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल द्वारा स्वीकृत ₹1,500 करोड़ की प्रोत्साहन योजना के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:**

1. The scheme promotes low-value BHIM-UPI transactions (P2M) for FY 2024-25.
2. It will be operational from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

3. The scheme targets transactions above ₹2,000 to encourage digital payments.

**Which of the above statements is/are CORRECT?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 3 only
- (e) 1, 2, and 3

Ans. a

Sol. Cabinet approves Rs 1,500 crore incentive scheme to promote low-value BHIM-UPI transactions

The Union Cabinet has approved a ₹1,500 crore incentive scheme to promote low-value BHIM-UPI transactions (P2M) for FY 2024-25, running from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

The scheme is designed to encourage the adoption of the BHIM-UPI platform among small merchants and aligns with the government's broader vision of transitioning towards a less-cash economy.

The scheme focuses on transactions under ₹2,000, offering a 0.15% incentive per transaction for small merchants, while large merchants are not eligible.

80% of the admitted claim amount will be disbursed each quarter unconditionally, while the remaining 20% depends on meeting performance criteria, including a technical decline rate below 0.75% and system uptime above 99.5%.

The initiative aims to enhance financial inclusion by promoting digital payments, particularly through UPI services like UPI 123PAY and UPI Lite, reducing cash dependence in rural and remote areas.

The government targets a transaction volume of ₹20,000 crore in FY 2024-25, aiming to strengthen the BHIM-UPI platform and expand digital payment infrastructure in underserved regions.

**244. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by PM Modi, has approved the construction of a six-lane access-controlled Greenfield High-Speed National Highway from JNPA Port (Pagote) to Chowk in Maharashtra.**

**Under which mode will the new Greenfield Highway project be developed?**

**प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की अध्यक्षता में आर्थिक मामलों की मंत्रिमंडलीय समिति ने महाराष्ट्र में जेएनपीए पोर्ट (पगोटे) से चौक तक छह लेन वाले एक्सेस-नियंत्रित ग्रीनफील्ड हाई-स्पीड नेशनल हाईवे के निर्माण को मंजूरी दे दी है। नई ग्रीनफील्ड हाईवे परियोजना किस मोड के तहत विकसित की जाएगी?**

- (a) Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)
- (b) Build, Operate, and Transfer (BOT)
- (c) Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC)

(d) Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

(e) Direct Government Funding

Ans. b

Sol. Cabinet approves construction of 6-lane high-speed highway in Maharashtra  
The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by PM Modi, has approved the construction of a six-lane access-controlled Greenfield High-Speed National Highway from JNPA Port (Pagote) to Chowk in Maharashtra.

The project, spanning 29.219 km, will be developed under the Build, Operate, and Transfer (BOT) mode at a total capital cost of ₹4,500.62 crore.

The development of road connectivity to major and minor ports in India is a key focus area under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan principles. With the increasing container volume at JNPA Port and the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport, the need for enhanced National Highway connectivity in the region has been identified.

The newly approved project aims to address these connectivity challenges and enhance logistics efficiency between JNPA Port and Navi Mumbai International Airport. The highway alignment will commence at JNPA Port (NH 348) in Pagote village and conclude at Mumbai-Pune Highway (NH-48), while also linking the Mumbai-Pune Expressway and the Mumbai-Goa National Highway (NH-66).

**245. In March 2025, Reserve Bank of India and the Bank of Mauritius have signed an MoU for establishing a framework. What is the primary objective of the MoU signed between the Reserve Bank of India and the Bank of Mauritius? मार्च 2025 में भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक और बैंक ऑफ मॉरीशस ने एक रूपरेखा स्थापित करने के लिए एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक और बैंक ऑफ मॉरीशस के बीच हस्ताक्षरित समझौता ज्ञापन का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य क्या है?**

(a) To promote the use of INR and MUR in bilateral trade

(b) To establish a common currency for India and Mauritius

(c) To restrict cross-border transactions to USD only

(d) To eliminate the use of local currencies in trade

(e) To create a new financial regulatory body

Ans. a

Sol. RBI and Bank of Mauritius sign pact on use of local currencies for bilateral transactions

Reserve Bank and the Bank of Mauritius (BOM) have signed a pact for establishing a framework to promote the use of the Indian Rupee and the Mauritian Rupee (MUR) for cross-border transactions.

The MoU was signed by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra and BOM Governor Rama Krishna Sithanen G C S K.

The MoU aims to promote the use of INR and MUR in bilateral trade. The MoU covers all current account transactions and permissible capital account transactions as agreed upon by both the countries.

The framework would enable exporters and importers to invoice and pay in their respective domestic currencies, which in turn, would enable the development of a market in the INR-MUR pair.

Use of local currencies in bilateral transactions will eventually contribute to promoting trade between India and Mauritius as well as deepen financial integration and strengthen the historical, cultural, and, economic relations between India and Mauritius.

**246. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has infused over Rs. 5 lakh crore into the banking system since mid-January through bond purchases, forex swaps, and early-April maturity repos. What is the primary objective of RBI's liquidity infusion into the banking system?**

**भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने जनवरी के मध्य से लेकर अब तक बॉन्ड खरीद, विदेशी मुद्रा स्वैप और अप्रैल की शुरुआत में परिपक्ता वाले रेपो के माध्यम से बैंकिंग सिस्टम में 5 लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक डाले हैं। बैंकिंग सिस्टम में RBI द्वारा तरलता डालने का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य क्या है?**

- (a) To increase inflation
- (b) To strengthen the rupee against the dollar
- (c) To ensure the transmission of rate cut benefits to borrowers
- (d) To decrease foreign exchange reserves
- (e) To control the fiscal deficit

Ans. c

Sol. RBI infuses Rs. 5 Lakh Crore into Banking System

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has infused over Rs. 5 lakh crore into the banking system since mid-January through bond purchases, forex swaps, and early-April maturity repos.

Aiming to maintain surplus liquidity and ensure the transmission of its rate cut benefits to borrowers, the central bank is set to inject an additional Rs. 50,000 crore via bond repurchases.

Additionally, even as RBI injects liquidity, it continues to withdraw rupees by selling dollars from its forex reserves. This strategy has helped stabilize the financial system, but short-term interest rates remain elevated due to liquidity deficits and economic uncertainties.

247. **What is the primary focus of the two new investment schemes launched by SBI Mutual Fund named "SBI BSE PSU Bank Index Fund" and "SBI BSE PSU Bank ETF"?**

एसबीआई म्यूचुअल फंड द्वारा शुरू की गई दो नई निवेश योजनाओं "एसबीआई बीएसई पीएसयू बैंक इंडेक्स फंड" और "एसबीआई बीएसई पीएसयू बैंक ईटीएफ" का प्राथमिक फोकस क्या है?

- (a) India's public sector banking sector
- (b) Private sector technology companies
- (c) International equity markets
- (d) Government bonds and securities
- (e) Real estate investment trusts

Ans. a

Sol. SBI Mutual Fund launches two new PSU bank-focused investment schemes. SBI Mutual Fund has introduced two new investment options centred around India's public sector banking sector.

- **SBI BSE PSU Bank Index Fund** – An open-ended scheme that mirrors or tracks the BSE PSU Bank Index.
- **SBI BSE PSU Bank ETF** – An open-ended exchange-traded fund (ETF) that also replicates the BSE PSU Bank Index.

Their objective is to deliver returns closely aligned with the performance of the BSE PSU Bank Index, subject to tracking error. However, SBI Mutual Fund has clarified that achieving this investment objective is not guaranteed.

The funds will primarily allocate 95% to 100% of their assets to stocks listed in the BSE PSU Bank Index.

### Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- Canara Bank becomes the first bank to introduce **Online Digital Balance Confirmation Certificate** through the PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd portal.
- Avanse Financial Services Ltd. (Avanse) launched '**SWALAKSH**', a specialised education loan tailored for female students aspiring to study abroad.
- RBIH Launches **DesignShaala™** to Drive Financial Innovation Through Human-Centred Design (launched by Nandan Nilekani)
- SBI Life Insurance launched two new child insurance plans, "**SBI Life - Smart Future Star**" and "**SBI Life - Smart Platina Young Achiever**," aimed at helping parents secure their children's financial future.
- Axis Bank become the first Indian bank to execute an aircraft financing transaction through its International Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT City IFSC.

248. **World Oral Health Day is celebrated annually on March 20 to raise awareness about the importance of oral hygiene, dental care, and overall oral health. What is the theme of World Oral Health Day for the year 2025?**

विश्व मौखिक स्वास्थ्य दिवस मौखिक स्वच्छता, दंत चिकित्सा देखभाल और समग्र मौखिक स्वास्थ्य के महत्व के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए प्रतिवर्ष 20 मार्च को मनाया जाता है। वर्ष 2025 के लिए विश्व मौखिक स्वास्थ्य दिवस का विषय क्या है?

- (a) A Happy Mouth is... A Happy Mind
- (b) Strong Teeth, Strong Body
- (c) Smile Bright, Live Right
- (d) Oral Care for All Ages
- (e) Healthy Gums, Healthy Life

Ans. a

Sol. 20 March - World Oral Health Day

World Oral Health Day is celebrated annually on March 20 to raise awareness about the importance of oral hygiene, dental care, and overall oral health.

The day encourages individuals to adopt healthy oral habits and emphasizes the impact of oral health on overall well-being.

Theme 2025 - A Happy Mouth is... A Happy Mind

249. **World Sparrow Day is observed annually on March 20 to raise awareness about the declining population of sparrows and the need for their conservation. What is the theme for World Sparrow Day 2025?**

विश्व गौरैया दिवस हर साल 20 मार्च को गौरैया की घटती आबादी और उनके संरक्षण की आवश्यकता के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए मनाया जाता है। विश्व गौरैया दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Protecting Our Birds
- (b) Save the Sparrows
- (c) A Tribute to Nature's Tiny Messengers
- (d) Birds and Biodiversity
- (e) Wings of Hope

Ans. c

Sol. 20 March - World Sparrow Day

World Sparrow Day is observed annually on March 20 to raise awareness about the declining population of sparrows and the need for their conservation.

Theme 2025 - A Tribute to Nature's Tiny Messengers

First observed in 2010 to highlight the challenges faced by sparrows due to urbanization, habitat loss, pollution, and radiation from mobile towers.

250. **The International Day of Happiness is celebrated every year on March 20 to recognize the importance of happiness and well-being in people's lives worldwide. What is the theme of International Day of Happiness 2025?**

दुनिया भर में लोगों के जीवन में खुशी और खुशहाली के महत्व को पहचानने के लिए हर साल 20 मार्च को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय खुशी दिवस मनाया जाता है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय खुशी दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Happier Together
- (b) Build Back Happier
- (c) Caring and Sharing
- (d) Gross National Happiness
- (e) Spread Positivity

Ans. c

Sol. 20 March - International Day of Happiness

The International Day of Happiness is celebrated every year on March 20 to recognize the importance of happiness and well-being in people's lives worldwide.

Theme 2025 - CARING AND SHARING

The General Assembly of the United Nations passed a resolution 66/281 of 12 July 2012 announcing March 20 as the International Day of Happiness, recognising the relevance of happiness and well-being as universal goals.

251. **Which state has recently imposed Rs 50 as entry fee for tourists entering the state?**

हाल ही में किस राज्य ने राज्य में प्रवेश करने वाले पर्यटकों के लिए 50 रुपये प्रवेश शुल्क लगाया है?

- (a) Sikkim
- (b) Goa
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Meghalaya
- (e) Nagaland

Ans. a

Sol. Sikkim Government imposes a tourist fee of Rs 50 per person

The Prem Singh Tamang government in Sikkim has imposed Rs 50 as entry fee for tourists entering the state. The fees have been introduced under the provisions of the Sikkim Registration of Tourist Trade Rules, 2025.

The Rs 50 person fees will be paid by tourists visiting the state and will be valid for a stay upto 30 days. If the tourist again visits the state after 30 days then they will again have to pay the fees of Rs 50 per person.

Children below five years old and visiting government officials on official duties are exempted from the fees.

The tourist fees will be collected by the hotels where the tourist is checking in. The fees will be deposited by the hotels into the state tourism account every week. The fees collected from the tourist will be deposited into the Tourism Sustainability Development Fund of the Sikkim government.

### About Sikkim

- **Capital** - Gangtok
- **Chief Minister** - Prem Singh Tamang (2<sup>nd</sup> time)
- **Governor** – Om Prakash Mathur

252. **Who has won the 2025 Australian Grand Prix?**

**2025 ऑस्ट्रेलियन ग्रैंड प्रिक्स किसने जीता है?**

- (a) Max Verstappen
- (b) Lewis Hamilton
- (c) Charles Leclerc
- (d) Lando Norris
- (e) George Russell

Ans. d

Sol. Australian GP 2025: McLaren's Norris wins F1 season opener

McLaren's Lando Norris won the 2025 Australian Grand Prix, the season-opening race at Albert Park, beating Red Bull's Max Verstappen by 0.811 seconds in a dramatic wet-dry race, marking his fifth career win and establishing an early lead in the drivers' championship.

Max Verstappen of Red Bull finished second, unable to challenge Norris's pace despite a late surge, while Mercedes' George Russell took third place, capitalizing on a clean race amidst chaotic conditions to secure a podium spot.

253. **Which fintech app recently rose to the fifth position in the UPI market, overtaking CRED?**

**हाल ही में कौन सा फिनेटेक ऐप CRED को पछाड़कर UPI बाजार में पांचवें स्थान पर पहुंच गया है?**

- (a) PhonePe
- (b) Google Pay
- (c) super.money
- (d) Paytm
- (e) Amazon Pay

Ans. c

Sol. Flipkart's super.money Rises to Fifth Place in UPI Market, Overtaking CRED

Flipkart Group's payment app, super.money, has risen to become the fifth-largest UPI player, surpassing Kunal Shah-led CRED in February 2025. This reshuffling in the rankings reflects the increasing competition in the digital payments ecosystem. According to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Flipkart's super.money recorded approximately 139 million UPI transactions in February, overtaking CRED, which saw its transaction volume remain stagnant at around 130 million for the past year.

Meanwhile, Navi, a fintech and credit platform founded by Sachin Bansal, secured the fourth position in November 2024 and further solidified its standing with 261 million UPI transactions in February.

This development underscores the growing influence of new-age fintech players in a sector long dominated by market leaders PhonePe and Google Pay.

The influx of these platforms has begun to fragment the market, chipping away at the share of established giants.

**254. Which two organizations have signed an MoU to collaborate on mental health services for military personnel?**

**सैन्य कर्मियों के लिए मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं पर सहयोग करने के लिए किन दो संगठनों ने समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) AIIMS & DRDO
- (b) AFMS & NIMHANS
- (c) ICMR & AFMC
- (d) AIIMS & Armed Forces Medical College
- (e) DRDO & NIMHANS

Ans. b

Sol. AFMS, NIMHANS sign MoU to boost mental health support for military personnel & families

The Armed Forces Medical Services – AFMS and the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences – NIMHANS have signed a Memorandum of Understanding – MoU to collaborate on research, training, and specialized mental health support for military personnel and their families.

The collaboration between AFMS and NIMHANS will focus on strengthening mental health services, conducting specialized training for medical personnel, and developing innovative programs to address the mental health issues faced by Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, their families and dependents.

**255. Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated the National Dope Testing Laboratory Annual Conference-2025 in**

**New Delhi. What was the theme of the National Dope Testing Laboratory****Annual Conference 2025?**

केंद्रीय युवा मामले और खेल मंत्री डॉ. मनसुख मंडाविया ने नई दिल्ली में राष्ट्रीय डोप परीक्षण प्रयोगशाला वार्षिक सम्मेलन-2025 का उद्घाटन किया। राष्ट्रीय डोप परीक्षण प्रयोगशाला वार्षिक सम्मेलन 2025 का विषय क्या था?

- (a) Future of Sports Medicine
- (b) Anti-Doping Science: Innovations and Challenges
- (c) Enhancing Fair Play in Sports
- (d) Drug-Free Sports: A Global Perspective
- (e) Advancements in Athletic Performance

Ans. b

Sol. Annual Conference on Anti-Doping Science to spread awareness

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated the National Dope Testing Laboratory Annual Conference-2025 in New Delhi.

The theme for the annual conference is Anti-Doping Science: Innovations and Challenges.

The event provided a vital platform for scientists, coaches, physical education professionals, sports federations, and students to engage in insightful discussions on the latest advancements and challenges in anti-doping science.

**256. Which organization has signed an MoU with YES BANK to foster innovation and provide crucial support to product startups, innovators, and entrepreneurs across the country?**

किस संगठन ने देश भर में नवाचार को बढ़ावा देने और उत्पाद स्टार्टअप, इनोवेटर्स और उद्यमियों को महत्वपूर्ण सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए यस बैंक के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) RBI
- (c) DPIIT
- (d) SEBI
- (e) Ministry of Finance

Ans. c

Sol. DPIIT and YES BANK Partner to Strengthen India's Startup Ecosystem

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has signed an MoU with YES BANK. This collaboration aims to foster innovation and provide crucial support to product startups, innovators, and entrepreneurs across the country.

The partnership will leverage DPIIT's Startup India initiative and YES BANK's financial expertise to facilitate market linkages, funding access, mentorship, and infrastructure support for early-stage ventures.

Startups will benefit from YES BANK's Head Startup program, which offers tailored banking and financial solutions, including working capital, credit access, and, cash flow management. Additionally, they will gain access to YES BANK's extensive network, strategic partnerships, and industry expertise, enabling them to scale operations and attract investments effectively.

**257. Recently, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has signed an MoU with Kyndryl Solutions Pvt Ltd. What is the main goal of the MoU between DPIIT and Kyndryl Solutions Pvt Ltd?**

हाल ही में, उद्योग और आंतरिक व्यापार संवर्धन विभाग (DPIIT) ने Kyndryl Solutions Pvt Ltd के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। DPIIT और Kyndryl Solutions Pvt Ltd के बीच समझौता ज्ञापन का मुख्य लक्ष्य क्या है?

- (a) To promote rural development
- (b) To accelerate innovation and scale India's startup ecosystem
- (c) To regulate IT companies
- (d) To provide free software to startups
- (e) To improve banking services

Ans. b

Sol. DPIIT and Kyndryl Partner to Drive Innovation in India's Manufacturing and IT Startup Ecosystem

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has signed an MoU with Kyndryl Solutions Pvt Ltd to accelerate innovation and scale India's startup ecosystem.

The partnership will focus on supporting startups in the manufacturing and IT sectors by leveraging Kyndryl's expertise in digital transformation and Generative AI solutions.

Under this partnership, startups will be empowered through mentorship, infrastructure support, and market access, enabling them to integrate their solutions into enterprise ecosystems across industries such as automotive, pharmaceuticals, BFSI, oil & gas, and government services.

**258. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, approved eight capital acquisition proposals to strengthen India's defence forces' operational capabilities. What is the total value of the capital acquisition proposals approved by the DAC?**

रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह की अध्यक्षता में रक्षा अधिग्रहण परिषद (डीएसी) ने भारत के रक्षा बलों की परिचालन क्षमताओं को मजबूत करने के लिए आठ पूंजी अधिग्रहण प्रस्तावों को मंजूरी दी। डीएसी द्वारा अनुमोदित पूंजी अधिग्रहण प्रस्तावों का कुल मूल्य क्या है?

- (a) ₹54,000 crore

- (b) ₹45,000 crore
- (c) ₹65,000 crore
- (d) ₹50,000 crore
- (e) ₹70,000 crore

Ans. a

Sol. DAC Approves ₹54,000 Crore Defence Deals to Boost India's Military Might  
The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, approved eight capital acquisition proposals worth over ₹54,000 crore to strengthen the operational capabilities of India's defence forces.

As part of designating 2025 as the 'Year of Reforms', the DAC approved guidelines to streamline the Capital Acquisition Process, reducing timelines to make it faster, more effective, and efficient.

For the Indian Army, the DAC greenlit the procurement of 1350 HP engines to upgrade the existing 1000 HP engines of T-90 tanks, improving battlefield mobility, particularly in high-altitude areas, by enhancing the power-to-weight ratio.

The DAC also approved the acquisition of Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) Aircraft Systems for the Indian Air Force, which are expected to revolutionize warfare by significantly increasing the combat potential of other weapon systems.

259. **What is the new minimum investment amount for Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) instruments on the Social Stock Exchange (SSE)?**

**सोशल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज (SSE) पर जीरो कूपन जीरो प्रिंसिपल (ZCZP) इंस्ट्रमेंट्स के लिए नई न्यूनतम निवेश राशि क्या है?**

- (a) ₹15,000
- (b) ₹1,000
- (c) ₹5,000
- (d) ₹10,000
- (e) ₹50,000

Ans. b

Sol. SEBI Slashes Minimum Investment in Social Stock Exchange to ₹1,000  
The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reduced the minimum investment amount for Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) instruments on the Social Stock Exchange (SSE) from ₹10,000 to ₹1,000, effective March 20, 2025. This decision aims to boost retail investor participation in social impact investing, making it more accessible for individuals to support non-profit organizations listed on the SSE.

The reduction follows recommendations from the Social Stock Exchange Advisory Committee and public feedback on a consultation paper, reflecting SEBI's intent to enhance funding for social enterprises in sectors like education and healthcare. ZCP instruments allow investors to donate to social causes without expecting financial returns, and the lowered threshold is expected to increase the flow of funds to these initiatives.

### **About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**

- **Founded** - 12 April 1988
- **Act** - 1992
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai
- **Chairman** - Tuhin Kanta Pandey (replace Madhabi Puri Buch)
- **Executive Director** - G Ram Mohan Rao
- **SEBI Set up** - Uday Kotak committee

260. **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has collaborated with DigiLocker to address various challenges in the Indian securities market. Which of the following is the primary reason for this partnership?**

**भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनियम बोर्ड (सेबी) ने भारतीय प्रतिभूति बाजार में विभिन्न चुनौतियों का समाधान करने के लिए डिजिलॉकर के साथ सहयोग किया है। इस साझेदारी का मुख्य कारण निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा है?**

- (a) To increase high-frequency trading and algorithmic trading in stock markets
- (b) To facilitate online stock trading directly through DigiLocker without brokerage involvement
- (c) To reduce unclaimed assets, streamline asset transmission, and enhance investor protection
- (d) To allow foreign investors direct access to Indian stock markets via DigiLocker
- (e) To integrate DigiLocker with blockchain-based decentralized finance (DeFi) platforms

Ans. c

Sol. SEBI Partners with DigiLocker to Tackle Unclaimed Assets in Securities Market  
The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has partnered with DigiLocker, a government-backed digital document storage platform, to reduce unclaimed assets in the Indian securities market and enhance investor protection.

This collaboration allows investors to securely store and access their demat account holdings, mutual fund statements, and consolidated account statements (CAS) through DigiLocker, effective from April 1, 2025.

SEBI aims to address issues like dormant accounts and outdated contact or bank details by integrating DigiLocker, which will help streamline the transmission of assets and reduce unclaimed financial assets.

KYC Registration Agencies (KRAs) will share information about investor deaths with DigiLocker, triggering automatic notifications to nominated individuals to facilitate the asset transfer process.

SEBI has directed asset management companies (AMCs), registrars and transfer agents (RTAs), and depositories to register with DigiLocker as issuers, ensuring seamless access to financial documents for investors.

The initiative builds on DigiLocker's existing services—such as storing bank statements, insurance policies, and National Pension System details—expanding its role as a centralized platform for managing financial information.

**261. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Indranil Bhattacharyya as an Executive Director to strengthen its leadership team. Which of the following combinations of responsibilities best reflects his new role, based on his expertise and the RBI's current priorities?**

**भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने अपनी नेतृत्व टीम को मजबूत करने के लिए इंद्रनील भट्टाचार्य को कार्यकारी निदेशक के रूप में नियुक्त किया है। उनकी विशेषज्ञता और RBI की वर्तमान प्राथमिकताओं के आधार पर, निम्नलिखित में से कौन सी जिम्मेदारियों का संयोजन उनकी नई भूमिका को सबसे अच्छी तरह दर्शाता है?**

- (a) Department of Statistics and Information Management and FinTech Department
- (b) Monetary Policy Department and Foreign Exchange Department
- (c) Banking Regulation Department and Consumer Education Division
- (d) Payment Systems Department and Rural Banking Division
- (e) Financial Markets Department and Currency Management Division

Ans. a

Sol. RBI Names Indranil Bhattacharyya as New Executive Director

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Indranil Bhattacharyya as an Executive Director to strengthen its leadership team.

In his new role, Bhattacharyya will oversee critical areas such as the Department of Statistics and Information Management and the FinTech Department, leveraging his extensive experience within the RBI.

Prior to this appointment, Bhattacharyya served as the Chief General Manager in the Monetary Policy Department, contributing significantly to monetary policy formulation and implementation.

#### **Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- **Chief Executive of Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** - Atul Kumar Goel

- **MD and CEO of IndusInd Bank Ltd** - Suman Kathpalia (reappointment for one year)
- **ED of RBI** - Ajit Ratnakar (Dept. of Statistics and Information Management and Financial Stability Dept)
- **President & Head of Branch Banking and Retail Liabilities** - Narendra Agrawal
- **Chief Operations Officer (COO) of RBL Bank** - T S Pari

262. **Who has been appointed as the Interim Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company (EARC)?**

एडलवाइस एसेट रिकंस्ट्रक्शन कंपनी (ईएआरसी) के अंतरिम प्रबंध निदेशक और मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Mythili Balasubramanian
- (b) Raj Kumar Bansal
- (c) Indranil Bhattacharyya
- (d) Korn Ferry
- (e) Parul Tyagi

Ans. a

Sol. Mythili Balasubramanian Named Interim MD & CEO of Edelweiss ARC Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company (EARC) has appointed Mythili Balasubramanian as its Interim Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, with approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Balasubramanian, who has been with EARC for nearly five years, brings over four decades of experience in banking, non-performing asset (NPA) resolution, and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) processes to lead the company until September 30, 2025.

The appointment follows the RBI's rejection of reappointing the previous MD and CEO, Raj Kumar Bansal, in June 2024, prompting EARC to form a Search Committee, supported by Korn Ferry, to identify a permanent successor.

263. **Who has been re-appointed as an Additional Director in the capacity of Independent Director at Fino Payments Bank?**

फिनो पेमेंट्स बैंक में स्वतंत्र निदेशक की हैसियत से अतिरिक्त निदेशक के रूप में किसे पुनः नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Deena Mehta
- (b) Mythili Balasubramanian
- (c) Indranil Bhattacharyya
- (d) Raj Kumar Bansal

(e) SEBI Chairperson

Ans. a

Sol. Deena Mehta Re-Appointed as Independent Director of Fino Payments Bank

Fino Payments Bank's Board of Directors has re-appointed Deena Mehta as an Additional Director in the capacity of Independent Director for a second term.

Mehta has over four decades of experience in capital markets, contributing to key reforms such as the BOLT system at BSE, the Central Depository Service, and the streamlining of Clearing Corporation BOISL.

She served on the BSE Board for nine years, including as Vice President and President. She has been part of various SEBI committees for 21 years, contributing to multiple market reforms. She is a founding member of SAFE, the Association of Stock Exchanges of SAARC countries.

**264. Finland has been named the happiest country in the world for the eighth consecutive year in the World Happiness Report 2025. India ranks 118th out of 147 countries, showing a slight improvement from its 126th position in the previous year. Which country was ranked as the unhappiest in the World Happiness Report 2025?**

**विश्व खुशहाली रिपोर्ट 2025 में फिनलैंड को लगातार आठवें साल दुनिया का सबसे खुशहाल देश घोषित किया गया है। भारत 147 देशों में से 118वें स्थान पर है, जो पिछले साल के 126वें स्थान से थोड़ा सुधार दर्शाता है। विश्व खुशहाली रिपोर्ट 2025 में किस देश को सबसे दुखी देश माना गया?**

- (a) Chad
- (b) Lebanon
- (c) Afghanistan
- (d) Sierra Leone
- (e) Gambia

Ans. c

Sol. World Happiness Report 2025: Topped by Finland; India at 118th spot

Finland has been named the happiest country in the world for the eighth consecutive year in the World Happiness Report 2025. The Nordic countries continue to dominate the top positions, with Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, and Netherlands maintaining their respective rankings in the top five spots.

For the eighth year in a row, Finland secured the top spot, with its citizens reporting an average life satisfaction score of 7.74 on a scale of 1 to 10, reported the Fortune. The rankings were determined through self-evaluation surveys where individuals rated their own lives. The research was conducted collaboratively by the Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford, alongside Gallup and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

The United States has dropped to its lowest-ever position at 24th place, attributed to a rise in social isolation, with 25% of Americans reporting eating all meals alone in 2023, signaling a loneliness epidemic.

India ranks 118th out of 147 countries, showing a slight improvement from its 126th position in the previous year, though it remains behind nations like Nepal, Pakistan, and Ukraine.

Afghanistan remains the unhappiest country, with conditions particularly dire for women, while the report emphasizes that wealth alone does not guarantee happiness, as seen in the U.S.'s decline despite its economic status.

**265. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has organised the Annual Conference of RBI Ombudsmen in Mumbai. What was the theme of the Annual Conference of RBI Ombudsmen?**

**भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने मुंबई में RBI लोकपालों का वार्षिक सम्मेलन आयोजित किया है। RBI लोकपालों के वार्षिक सम्मेलन का विषय क्या था?**

- (a) Digital Banking and Future Innovations
- (b) Financial Inclusion Through Technology
- (c) Transforming Grievance Redress: The AI Advantage
- (d) Strengthening Banking Regulations
- (e) Customer Satisfaction in Banking

Ans. c

Sol. RBI organises Annual Conference of the RBI Ombudsmen

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has organised the Annual Conference of RBI Ombudsmen in Mumbai.

The theme of the Conference was "Transforming Grievance Redress: The AI Advantage".

Sanjay Malhotra, Governor, inaugurated the Conference in the presence of the Deputy Governor, Shri Swaminathan J., Executive Directors of RBI and participants of the conference.

#### **About Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**

- **Founded** - 1 April 1935
- **RBI Nationalized** - 1 January 1949
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **RBI set up** - Hilton Young Commission
- **1st Governor** - Sir Osborne Smith (Australia)
- **1st Indian Governor** - CD Deshmukh
- **26th Governor** - Sanjay Malhotra (replace Shaktikanta Das)

267. **Austrian hydrologist Günter Blöschl has been awarded the prestigious 2025 Stockholm Water Prize. What is Günter Blöschl recognized for in receiving the 2025 Stockholm Water Prize?**

ऑस्ट्रियाई जलविज्ञानी गुंटर ब्लॉस्च को प्रतिष्ठित 2025 स्टॉकहोम जल पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया है। 2025 स्टॉकहोम जल पुरस्कार प्राप्त करने के लिए गुंटर ब्लॉस्च को किस बात के लिए सम्मानित किया गया है?

- (a) Developing new irrigation systems
- (b) Groundbreaking contributions to flood risk management and water resource engineering
- (c) Discovering new water purification techniques
- (d) Analysis of groundwater depletion and soil erosion studies
- (e) Improving agricultural water usage

Ans. b

Sol. Hydrologist Günter Blöschl wins 2025 Stockholm Water Prize

Austrian hydrologist Günter Blöschl has been awarded the prestigious 2025 Stockholm Water Prize for his groundbreaking contributions to flood risk management and water resource engineering.

Blöschl, recognized as the world's leading flood hydrologist, was honoured for his innovative work linking climate change to increased flood risks, advancing global understanding of regional flood processes.

The award will be presented to Blöschl by King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden during World Water Week in Stockholm in August 2025.

His research has significantly influenced sustainable water management practices, earning praise from the Stockholm Water Prize Committee for its impact on addressing climate-related challenges.

The Stockholm Water Prize is awarded by the Stockholm Water Foundation in cooperation with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

268. **Which organization has secured the Oeko-Tex certification for Eri silk from Northeast India?**

पूर्वोत्तर भारत के एरी सिल्क के लिए किस संगठन ने ओको-टेक्स प्रमाणन प्राप्त किया है?

- (a) Khadi and Village Industries Commission
- (b) North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation
- (c) Ministry of Textiles
- (d) Central Silk Board
- (e) Handloom Export Promotion Council

Ans. b

Sol. Sustainable Eri Silk from Northeast India Secures Global Recognition with Oeko-Tex Certification from Germany

The North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC) secured the prestigious Oeko-Tex certification from Germany for Eri silk.

The certification ensures international buyers that eri silk meets international safety and quality standards, boosting consumer confidence and facilitating its acceptance in high-end markets.

Known as the world's only vegan silk, Eri silk from Northeast India, particularly Assam, is produced ethically without harming silkworms, aligning with global demands for chemical-free, environmentally responsible fabrics.

**269. Which edition of the Central Asian Youth Delegation is India hosting under the International Youth Exchange Programme in 2025?**

**भारत 2025 में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय युवा विनियम कार्यक्रम के तहत मध्य एशियाई युवा प्रतिनिधिमंडल के किस संस्करण की मेजबानी कर रहा है?**

- (a) First
- (b) Second
- (c) Third
- (d) Fourth
- (e) Fifth

Ans. c

Sol. India to host third Central Asian youth delegation under International Youth Exchange Programme

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports will host the third Central Asian Youth Delegation to India from March 22 to 28, as part of the International Youth Exchange Programme (IYEP).

This initiative aims to foster youth collaboration, promote cultural exchange, and strengthen diplomatic ties between India and the five Central Asian nations:

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

The youth exchange program is in line with the vision articulated during the India-Central Asia Summit in January 2022, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed an annual youth exchange initiative to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation among young leaders from the region.

These meetings will emphasize the importance of youth diplomacy and underscore the need for strengthened international cooperation.

**270. Where will the 11th Asian Swimming Championship be held from October 1 to 15?**

**11वीं एशियाई तैराकी चैम्पियनशिप 1 से 15 अक्टूबर तक कहाँ आयोजित की जाएगी?**

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai

- (c) Bengaluru
- (d) Ahmedabad
- (e) Chennai

Ans. d

Sol. India to host 11th Asian Swimming Championship in Ahmedabad

India will host the 11th Asian Swimming Championship at the Naranpura Sports Complex in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

The Swimming Federation of India announced that it has received in-principle approval from both the Gujarat government and Asia Aquatics to organize the championship.

The event will take place from October 1 to 15. The championship will feature swimming, diving, artistic swimming, and water polo.

Swimmers from Japan and South Korea are expected to compete at the continental meet, marking the event's first-ever edition in the country. The 10th Asian Age Group Championships in 2019 was the last international swimming event hosted by India.

**271. The CSIR - Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, signed an MoU with M/S HAPICO Industries Private Limited. What is the main purpose of the MoU signed between CSIR-IIIM and HAPICO Industries?**

**सीएसआईआर-इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंटीग्रेटिव मेडिसिन (सीएसआईआर-आईआईआईएम), जम्मू ने मेसर्स हैपिको इंडस्ट्रीज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए। सीएसआईआर-आईआईआईएम और हैपिको इंडस्ट्रीज के बीच हस्ताक्षरित समझौता ज्ञापन का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?**

- (a) To develop chemical pesticides
- (b) To jointly develop novel biopesticides
- (c) To promote the use of medicinal plants for food production
- (d) To establish a new research institute
- (e) To study the effects of aromatic plants on human health

Ans. b

Sol. CSIR-IIIM & HAPICO Industries Sign MoU for Collaborative Biopesticide Development

The CSIR - Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, signed an MoU with M/S HAPICO Industries Private Limited on 20 March 2025 to jointly develop novel biopesticides.

This strategic partnership aims to address the detrimental impact of chemical pesticides on human health and the environment.

Given the rich biodiversity of medicinal and aromatic plants, the collaboration seeks to harness their potential for developing innovative and sustainable biopesticide solutions.

The agreement signing ceremony was jointly organized by the RMBD&IST and FMB Divisions, under the overall supervision of Er Abdul Rahim, Head, RMBD&IST Division, and under the CSIR-IIIM, Jammu.

**272. When is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination observed?**

**नस्लीय भेदभाव उन्मूलन के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) March 21
- (b) March 20
- (c) March 23
- (d) March 22
- (e) March 24

Ans. a

Sol. 21 March - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination  
The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, marked annually on 21 March raises awareness about the ongoing fight against racism and promotes equality worldwide.

The date commemorates the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre in South Africa, where 69 peaceful anti-apartheid protesters were killed, galvanizing global efforts to end racial discrimination.

The 2025 theme of the International Day is "60th anniversary of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)". On December 21, 1965, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) through Resolution 2106 (XX).

**273. What is the revised GDP growth projection for India in FY27 by Fitch Ratings?**

**फिच रेटिंग्स द्वारा वित्त वर्ष 27 में भारत के लिए संशोधित जीडीपी वृद्धि अनुमान क्या है?**

- (a) 6.0%
- (b) 6.1%
- (c) 6.2%
- (d) 6.3%
- (e) 6.4%

Ans. d

Sol. Fitch retains FY26 India growth at 6.5%

Fitch Ratings has maintained its GDP growth forecast for India at 6.5% for the fiscal year 2025-26 (FY26), reflecting confidence in India's economic resilience despite

global trade uncertainties, driven by strong domestic spending and business confidence.

The agency raised its GDP growth projection for India in fiscal year 2026-27 (FY27) to 6.3%, up from the previous 6.2%, citing sustained investment growth fueled by high government capital expenditure and a lower cost of capital.

Indian economy gained momentum in the December quarter, expanding 6.2% from a seven-quarter low of 5.6% in the quarter before, led by improved consumer spending.

### Updated GDP List

- CRISIL – 6.5% (FY26)
- Moody's Analytics - 6.4% (FY25)
- RBI – 6.6% (FY25), 6.7% (FY26)
- Deloitte – 6.5-6.8 (FY25)
- FICCI – 6.4% (FY25)

274. **What is the name of the new feature introduced by IDFC FIRST Bank on its mobile banking app for mutual fund details?**

**म्यूचुअल फंड विवरण के लिए आईडीएफसी फर्स्ट बैंक द्वारा अपने मोबाइल बैंकिंग ऐप पर शुरू की गई नई सुविधा का नाम क्या है?**

- (a) InvestPro
- (b) Ace
- (c) SmartFunds
- (d) WealthTrack
- (e) FundMaster

Ans. b

Sol. IDFC FIRST Bank introduces "Ace" feature on its mobile app to provide 2500 plus MF options

IDFC FIRST Bank has incorporated an "Ace" feature on its mobile banking app that will provide details on more than 2500 mutual funds. This is aimed at promoting 'do-it-yourself' investing among its customers.

The private sector bank's customers can browse through various fund categories (like Equity, Debt, Tax-Saving, Hybrid, and Index funds) and choose the right need-based fund to build a diversified portfolio.

They can also access detailed information – like historical fund performance (1Y, 3Y & 5Y), holding patterns (by sectors, companies, and market cap), and expert ratings on each fund (Morningstar Rating).

### Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- SBI Mutual Fund launches two new PSU bank-focused investment schemes named "**SBI BSE PSU Bank Index Fund** and **SBI BSE PSU Bank ETF**"
- Canara Bank becomes the first bank to introduce **Online Digital Balance Confirmation Certificate** through the PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd portal.
- Avanse Financial Services Ltd. (Avanse) launched '**SWALAKSH**', a specialised education loan tailored for female students aspiring to study abroad.
- RBIH Launches **DesignShaala™** to Drive Financial Innovation Through Human-Centred Design (launched by Nandan Nilekani)
- SBI Life Insurance launched two new child insurance plans, "**SBI Life - Smart Future Star**" and "**SBI Life - Smart Platina Young Achiever**," aimed at helping parents secure their children's financial future.

**275. Who has been chosen for the Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024?**

**महाराष्ट्र भूषण पुरस्कार 2024 के लिए किसे चुना गया है?**

- (a) Anish Kapoor
- (b) Ram Sutar
- (c) Subodh Gupta
- (d) Satish Gujral
- (e) Jatin Das

Ans. b

Sol. Veteran Sculptor Ram Sutar Chosen for Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024

Veteran sculptor Ram Sutar the maker of the Statue of Unity, will be honoured by Maharashtra Bhushan, the state's highest civilian award.

Mr. Ram Sutar is a Padma Bhushan awardee and designed the Statue of Unity which is the world's tallest statue with a height of 182 metres.

The award comprises 25 lakh rupees and a memento. Sutar is a centenarian but is still working on the Ambedkar statue at the Indu Mill Memorial project in Mumbai. Mr Sutar, who works with his son, has also been associated with many major projects like the 251-metre-tall statue of Lord Ram at Ayodhya, a 153-feet high statue of Lord Shiva in Bengaluru and a 100-feet tall statue of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj at Moshi in Pune.

**276. Who has been elected as the President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 2024?**

**2024 में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ओलंपिक समिति (IOC) के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे चुना गया है?**

- (a) Sebastian Coe
- (b) Thomas Bach
- (c) Kirsty Coventry

(d) Anita DeFrantz

(e) John Coates

Ans. c

Sol. Kirsty Coventry becomes 1st female president of IOC

Zimbabwe's Kirsty Coventry has been elected as President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). She has become the first female President in IOC history. The 41-year-old Zimbabwean was elected at the 144th IOC Session in Costa Navarino, Greece.

Coventry will succeed the ninth IOC President, Thomas Bach, whose 12-year tenure will officially end after June 23.

Kirsty Coventry secured 49 votes out of the 97 votes cast and was declared elected.

The term of the IOC President is eight years. The President is eligible for re-election once for a period of four years.

### **About International Olympic Committee (IOC)**

- Founded- 23 June 1894
- Headquarters- Lausanne, Switzerland
- Founder- Pierre de Coubertin
- Motto- "Citius, Altius, Fortius – Communiter" (Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together)

277. **International Day of Forests is observed annually on March 21 to promote awareness about the importance of forests and trees. What is the theme for the International Day of Forests 2025?**

**वनों और पेड़ों के महत्व के बारे में जागरूकता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हर साल 21 मार्च को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वन दिवस मनाया जाता है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वन दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?**

(a) Forests and Innovation  
(b) Protecting Our Green Cover  
(c) Forests and Food  
(d) Sustainable Forest Management  
(e) Reforestation for the Future

Ans. c

Sol. 21 March - International Day of Forests

International Day of Forests is observed annually on March 21 to promote awareness about the importance of forests and trees.

The day highlights the crucial role of forests in sustaining biodiversity, providing livelihoods, and combating climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide.

Theme 2025 - Forests and Food

The International Day of Forests was established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2012.

**278. When is World Day for Glaciers observed every year?**

**विश्व ग्लेशियर दिवस हर साल कब मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) March 21
- (b) March 20
- (c) March 23
- (d) March 22
- (e) March 24

Ans. a

Sol. 21 March - World Day for Glaciers

World Day for Glaciers is observed annually on March 21 to highlight the critical role of glaciers in the global ecosystem.

The day aims to raise awareness about glacier retreat due to climate change and its impact on freshwater supply, sea level rise, and ecosystems.

Glaciers store nearly 70% of the world's freshwater, making their preservation essential for sustaining life on Earth.

The first World Day for Glaciers, declared by the UN in its resolution A/RES/77/158 along with the International Year of Glaciers 2025, encourage us all to act to preserve the vital role of glaciers in sustaining life on Earth for generations to come.

**279. World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) is observed annually on March 21 to raise awareness about Down Syndrome and advocate for the rights, inclusion, and well-being of individuals with the condition. What is the theme for World Down Syndrome Day 2025?**

**विश्व डाउन सिंड्रोम दिवस (WDSD) हर साल 21 मार्च को डाउन सिंड्रोम के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने और इस बीमारी से पीड़ित व्यक्तियों के अधिकारों, समावेशन और कल्याण की वकालत करने के लिए मनाया जाता है। विश्व डाउन सिंड्रोम दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?**

- (a) Empower and Include
- (b) Equal Opportunities for All
- (c) Improve Our Support Systems
- (d) Breaking Barriers
- (e) Stronger Together

Ans. c

Sol. 21 March - World Down Syndrome Day

World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) is observed annually on March 21 to raise awareness about Down Syndrome and advocate for the rights, inclusion, and well-being of individuals with the condition.

Theme 2025 - Improve Our Support Systems

The day promotes early intervention, education, and healthcare access to improve the quality of life for individuals with Down Syndrome.

In December 2011, the General Assembly declared 21 March as World Down Syndrome Day (A/RES/66/149). The General Assembly decided, with effect from 2012, to observe World Down Syndrome Day on 21 March each year.

280. **World Poetry Day is celebrated every year on 21 March. Which organization was established World Poetry Day?**

**विश्व कविता दिवस हर साल 21 मार्च को मनाया जाता है। विश्व कविता दिवस किस संगठन द्वारा स्थापित किया गया था?**

- (a) United Nations (UN)
- (b) World Literary Association
- (c) UNESCO
- (d) International Poets Society
- (e) World Cultural Forum

Ans. c

Sol. 21 March - World Poetry Day

World Poetry Day is celebrated every year on 21 March.

It was established by UNESCO in 1999 to promote the reading, writing, and teaching of poetry, recognizing its role in cultural and linguistic expression worldwide.

The day supports linguistic diversity by encouraging poetic expression in endangered languages, honoring poets and strengthening ties between poetry and other arts like music and dance.

281. **When is French Language Day observed annually?**

**फ्रेंच भाषा दिवस प्रतिवर्ष कब मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) March 21
- (b) March 20
- (c) March 23
- (d) March 22
- (e) March 24

Ans. b

Sol. 20 March - French Language Day

French Language Day, observed on March 20, is an annual celebration established by the United Nations to promote the French language and its cultural significance worldwide.

The day coincides with the International Day of La Francophonie, recognizing the global community of French-speaking nations.

The UN created Language Days to highlight multilingualism and cultural diversity, assigning March 20 to French in 2010.

The date marks the foundation of the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF) in 1970, which promotes cooperation among French-speaking countries.

French is an official language in 29 countries and one of the six official languages of the UN.

**282. Which region in Uttar Pradesh is renowned for its high-quality sugarcane and has GI-tagged jaggery, which is now being exported to Bangladesh?**

उत्तर प्रदेश का कौन सा क्षेत्र अपने उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले गन्ने के लिए प्रसिद्ध है और इसका जीआई-टैग वाला गुड़ अब बांग्लादेश को निर्यात किया जा रहा है?

- (a) Varanasi
- (b) Lucknow
- (c) Muzaffarnagar
- (d) Agra
- (e) Kanpur

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** In a first, Muzaffarnagar's GI-tagged jaggery exported to neighboring Bangladesh

GI-tagged jaggery from Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh, a region renowned for its high-quality sugarcane, was flagged off for export to Bangladesh.

A consignment of 30 metric tons (MT) has been exported to Bangladesh.

This initiative marks the beginning of direct exports of jaggery from western Uttar Pradesh to Bangladesh through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs).

The superior quality of jaggery produced in Muzaffarnagar and Shamli, which is in high demand in international markets.

The Brijnandan Agro Farmer Producer Company (FPC), formed in 2023, has 545 members, including two women directors. The FPO is engaged in exporting jaggery, sugarcane products, Basmati rice, and pulses. With training and technical support from BEDF, its members are well-equipped to meet international production and export standards.

**283. Which country has received Mizoram's first-ever export of Anthurium flowers?**

मिजोरम से एंथुरियम फूलों का पहला निर्यात किस देश को मिला है?

- (a) Thailand
- (b) Malaysia
- (c) Singapore

**(d) Indonesia**

**(e) Vietnam**

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Anthurium flowers from Mizoram go beyond borders, exported first time to Singapore

Mizoram exported its first consignment of Anthurium flowers to Singapore, marking a significant milestone in the state's floriculture sector.

The shipment included 1,024 Anthurium cut flowers, weighing 70 kg, sourced from the Zo Anthurium Growers Cooperative Society in Aizawl and exported by IVC Agrovet Pvt. Ltd.

Anthurium is one of the most important flowers cultivated in Mizoram, playing a vital role in driving local economic activity, particularly benefiting farmers, including women.

The flower's cultivation has been a source of livelihood and empowerment for local communities. Mizoram also organizes the annual "Anthurium Festival," which promotes tourism and highlights the flower's beauty and ornamental value.

**284. The launch of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain – 2025 by Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil on World Water Day signifies a strategic national effort. Which collaborative framework underpins this campaign to ensure its success across multiple sectors?**

**विश्व जल दिवस पर केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री सी.आर. पाटिल द्वारा जल शक्ति अभियान: कैच द रेन - 2025 का शुभारंभ एक रणनीतिक राष्ट्रीय प्रयास को दर्शाता है। इस अभियान को कई क्षेत्रों में सफल बनाने के लिए कौन सा सहयोगात्मक ढांचा इस अभियान को आधार प्रदान करता है?**

**(a) A partnership between the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and the Government of Haryana**

**(b) An alliance of the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Disaster Management Authority, and the Government of Punjab**

**(c) A joint initiative by the Ministry of Urban Development, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Government of Delhi**

**(d) A collaboration between the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Rural Development, and the Government of Rajasthan**

**(e) An agreement involving the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Education, and the Government of Maharashtra**

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Jal Shakti Minister Launches 'Catch the Rain 2025' Campaign in Haryana

On the occasion of World Water Day, Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil launched the country-wide Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain – 2025 from Panchkula, Haryana.

This campaign has been launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Government of Haryana.

The objective of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain programme is to emphasise water conservation and management through community participation and innovative strategies.

He also e-launched the 'Mukhyamantri Jal Sanchay Yojana' and the Water Resources Atlas for Haryana, which assists in scientific water resource management.

Innovative water management projects, including community sanitation complexes, liquid waste management systems, the Gobar Dhan project and a solid waste management shed, were also unveiled in Haryana.

Apart from this, he also launched the 'Jal-Jungle-Jan: Ek Prakritik Bandhan Abhiyan', which strengthens the ecological relationship between rivers, springs and forests.

**285. Which organization has partnered with IIT Delhi to develop a generative AI-powered chatbot for disaster management?**

**किस संगठन ने आपदा प्रबंधन के लिए जनरेटिव AI-संचालित चैटबॉट विकसित करने के लिए IIT दिल्ली के साथ साझेदारी की है?**

- (a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**
- (b) Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**
- (c) National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**
- (d) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**
- (e) Ministry of Information Technology (MIT)**

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** C-DOT Partners With IIT Delhi To Develop AI-Powered Chatbot For Disaster Communication

India's Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has inked an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT Delhi).

Under this partnership, IIT Delhi will collaborate with C-DOT to develop a cutting-edge chatbot that leverages generative AI for improved customer support in disaster early caution and emergency conditions.

This initiative aligns with India's vision of strengthening disaster preparation, which aims to provide real-time, multilingual assistance to disaster managers, first responders, and affected communities.

The AI-operated chatbot will use Natural Language Processing (NLP), Text-To-Speech (TTS), Speech-to-Text (STT) and imaging technologies to facilitate comfortable communication during the crisis.

**286. What is the name of the flagship CSR initiative by SECL that has become the first of its kind among coal PSUs to be listed on the DBT portal?**

एसईसीएल द्वारा शुरू की गई प्रमुख सीएसआर पहल का नाम क्या है जो डीबीटी पोर्टल पर सूचीबद्ध होने वाली कोयला पीएसयू में अपनी तरह की पहली पहल बन गई है?

- (a) SECL Ke Shiksha
- (b) SECL Ke Sushrut
- (c) SECL Ke Swasthya
- (d) SECL Ke Samvid
- (e) SECL Ke Sankalp

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** SECL's CSR Scheme 'SECL Ke Sushrut' Becomes First Coal PSU Initiative Listed on DBT Portal

South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), a subsidiary of Coal India, has achieved a significant milestone with its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, 'SECL Ke Sushrut,' becoming the first and only CSR scheme of any coal Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Coal to be listed on the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) portal of the Government of India.

Launched in 2023, 'SECL Ke Sushrut' is a flagship educational initiative designed to provide free medical coaching to 40 meritorious and underprivileged students from the coal belt regions of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, preparing them for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).

In its first batch, 39 out of 40 students successfully qualified for NEET 2024, with 11 securing admission in MBBS courses, demonstrating the program's effectiveness in supporting educational aspirations.

**287. Who has been appointed as the Joint Secretary (Director level) in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Delhi?**

संघ लोक सेवा आयोग (यूपीएससी), दिल्ली में संयुक्त सचिव (निदेशक स्तर) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Rajeev Sharma
- (b) Anuj Kumar Singh
- (c) Parul Goel
- (d) Vikram Mehta
- (e) Ramesh Choudhary

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Anuj Kumar Singh appointed as Joint Secretary in UPSC

Anuj Kumar Singh (IRSEE) has been appointed as Joint Secretary (Director level) in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Delhi.

The appointment has been made under the Central Staffing Scheme for a tenure of five years or until further orders, whichever comes earlier.

Singh is an Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE) officer from the 2009 batch. His selection for Central deputation was recommended by the Ministry of Railways.

**288. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of IFCI Ltd?**

आईएफसीआई लिमिटेड के प्रबंध निदेशक और मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (एमडी और सीईओ) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Sanjay Malhotra
- (b) Anshika Singh
- (c) Anil Kumar Gupta
- (d) Rajesh Sharma
- (e) Rahul Bhave

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Government Appoints Rahul Bhave as MD and CEO of IFCI

Rahul Bhave has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of IFCI Ltd by the Government of India, with the appointment approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet for a three-year term. Prior to this role, Bhave served as the Deputy Managing Director of IFCI Ltd and brings over 25 years of banking experience, including his tenure as Executive Director at the National Housing Bank.

IFCI Ltd, established in 1948 as India's first development financial institution, plays a key role in supporting industrial and infrastructure development, and Bhave's leadership comes ahead of a planned restructuring involving the consolidation of the IFCI Group with entities like StockHolding Corporation of India Ltd.

**Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- **Interim MD & CEO of Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company (EARC) -** Mythili Balasubramanian
- **Executive Director of RBI -** Indranil Bhattacharyya (new role: Dept. of Statistics and Information Mgmt. and the FinTech Dept.)
- **Chief Executive of Indian Banks' Association (IBA) -** Atul Kumar Goel
- **MD and CEO of IndusInd Bank Ltd -** Suman Kathpalia (reappointment for one year)
- **ED of RBI -** Ajit Ratnakar (Dept. of Statistics and Information Management and Financial Stability Dept)

- **President & Head of Branch Banking and Retail Liabilities** - Narendra Agrawal

**289. World Water Day is observed every year on March 22 to raise awareness about the need for sustainable water management and conservation. What is the theme of World Water Day 2025?**

विश्व जल दिवस हर साल 22 मार्च को स्थायी जल प्रबंधन और संरक्षण की आवश्यकता के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए मनाया जाता है। विश्व जल दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Water and Climate Change
- (b) Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible
- (c) Glacier Preservation
- (d) Accelerating Change
- (e) Clean Water for All

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 22 March - World Water Day

World Water Day is observed every year on March 22 to raise awareness about the need for sustainable water management and conservation.

Theme 2025 - Glacier Preservation

At the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the idea for World Water Day was first proposed.

To emphasize the value of freshwater and promote the sustainable management of water resources, the United Nations General Assembly declared March 22nd to be World Water Day in 1993.

**299. World Meteorological Day is observed every year on March 23 to highlight the importance of meteorology and its role in weather forecasting, climate monitoring, and disaster risk reduction. What is the theme for World Meteorological Day 2025?**

विश्व मौसम विज्ञान दिवस हर साल 23 मार्च को मौसम विज्ञान के महत्व और मौसम पूर्वानुमान, जलवायु निगरानी और आपदा जोखिम न्यूनीकरण में इसकी भूमिका को उजागर करने के लिए मनाया जाता है। विश्व मौसम विज्ञान दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Weather and Climate: Engaging Youth
- (b) The Ocean, Our Climate, and Weather
- (c) Understanding Clouds
- (d) Closing the Early Warning Gap Together
- (e) Climate Knowledge for Climate Action

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** March 23 - World Meteorological Day

World Meteorological Day is observed every year on March 23 to highlight the importance of meteorology and its role in weather forecasting, climate monitoring, and disaster risk reduction.

Theme 2025 - Closing the Early Warning Gap Together

On March 23, 1950, the United Nations (UN) created the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as a specialized agency. The WMO's mission is to advance global collaboration in climate science, hydrology, and meteorology. In 1961, the inaugural World Meteorological Day was celebrated.

**291. What is the name of the specialized foreign currency term deposit scheme introduced by HDFC Bank?**

एचडीएफसी बैंक द्वारा शुरू की गई विशेष विदेशी मुद्रा सावधि योजना का नाम क्या है?

- (a) **Diplomat Fixed Deposit**
- (b) **Embassy Fixed Deposit**
- (c) **Global Currency Deposit**
- (d) **Foreign Mission Term Deposit**
- (e) **International Reserve Deposit**

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** HDFC Bank introduces Embassy Fixed Deposit.

HDFC Bank has introduced the Embassy Fixed Deposit, a specialized foreign currency term deposit scheme exclusively available in USD, targeting diplomats, non-diplomatic staff, and diplomatic missions as eligible investors.

The minimum deposit amount for the Embassy Fixed Deposit is USD 5,000, with additional deposits required in multiples of USD 1,000, offering flexibility for incremental investments by eligible customers.

Embassy deposits are available for certain tenures only. Diplomatic staff can book Embassy deposits for period of 1 month, 3 months, 6 months and 1 year.

Interest rates for this deposit are updated monthly based on market conditions, ensuring competitive returns, while the scheme does not allow automatic renewal, requiring a new request form for reinvestment upon maturity.

Partial or premature withdrawals are permitted but incur a penalty, with the applicable interest rate adjusted to the actual deposit duration minus a 0.5% penalty, and no interest earned if the effective rate falls below zero.

**Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- IDFC FIRST Bank introduces “**Ace**” feature on its mobile app to provide 2500 plus MF options
- SBI Mutual Fund launches two new PSU bank-focused investment schemes named “**SBI BSE PSU Bank Index Fund**” and “**SBI BSE PSU Bank ETF**”

- Canara Bank becomes the first bank to introduce **Online Digital Balance Confirmation Certificate** through the PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd portal.
- Avanse Financial Services Ltd. (Avanse) launched '**SWALAKSH**', a specialized education loan tailored for female students aspiring to study abroad.
- RBIH Launches **DesignShaala™** to Drive Financial Innovation Through Human-Centered Design (launched by Nandan Nilekani)

**292. What is the amount of penalty imposed by the RBI on Citibank N.A. for non-compliance with transaction reporting under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme?**

उदारीकृत विप्रेषण योजना के तहत लेनदेन की रिपोर्टिंग के गैर-अनुपालन के लिए RBI द्वारा सिटीबैंक एन.ए. पर कितना जुर्माना लगाया गया है?

- (a) Rs 10 lakh
- (b) Rs 25.5 lakh
- (c) Rs 36.28 lakh
- (d) Rs 50 lakh
- (e) Rs 1 crore

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** RBI imposes penalty of Rs 36 lakh on IDBI Bank and Citibank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 36.28 lakh on Citibank N.A. for contravention of the directions related to reporting of transactions undertaken under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme.

RBI has also imposed a penalty of Rs 36.30 lakh on IDBI Bank Ltd for not undertaking due-diligence while processing the inward remittances from a foreign currency account opened by a constituent.

**293. The government of India has launched the BioSaarthi initiative to support Indian Biotech startups to expand their domestic and global reach and business. The Minister also released the "India Bioeconomy Report 2025" on the occasion. What is the Indian government's Bioeconomy target for 2025?**

भारत सरकार ने भारतीय बायोटेक स्टार्टअप्स को उनकी घरेलू और वैश्विक पहुंच और व्यवसाय का विस्तार करने में सहायता करने के लिए बायोसारथी पहल शुरू की है। इस अवसर पर मंत्री ने "भारत जैव अर्थव्यवस्था रिपोर्ट 2025" भी जारी की। 2025 के लिए भारत सरकार का जैव अर्थव्यवस्था लक्ष्य क्या है?

- (a) \$120 billion
- (b) \$135 billion
- (c) \$150 billion
- (d) \$175 billion

**(e) \$200 billion**

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Central government launches BioSaarthi to support Biotech Startups

The government of India has launched the BioSaarthi initiative to support Indian Biotech startups to expand their domestic and global reach and business.

The BioSaarthi initiative was unveiled by the Union Minister for State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh in a function organized in New Delhi.

The function was organized to celebrate the 13th Foundation Day of the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

The Minister also released the "India Bioeconomy Report 2025" on the occasion. The "India Bioeconomy Report 2025" has been prepared by the Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises - ABLE.

**Some of the important highlights of the report are as follows:**

- The Indian Bioeconomy has increased from \$10 billion in 2014 to \$165.7 billion in 2024.
- The central government has set a target to achieve a \$150 billion Bioeconomy by 2025.
- The contribution of the Bioeconomy to the country's GDP was 4.25%.
- The Bioeconomy sector has shown a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 17.9% over the last four years.

**294. Who has won the women's singles title at the SRFI Indian Tour PSA Challenger event held in Chennai?**

चेन्नई में आयोजित एसआरएफआई इंडियन टूर पीएसए चैलेंजर इवेंट में महिला एकल का खिताब किसने जीता है?

- (a) Anahat Singh**
- (b) Veer Chotani**
- (c) Sanya Vats**
- (d) Joshna Chinappa**
- (e) Dipika Pallikal**

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Anahat Singh and Veer Chotani Triumph at SRFI Indian Tour PSA Challenger in Chennai

Indian Squash prodigy Anahat Singh and Veer Chotani have won the women's and men's singles titles, respectively at the SRFI Indian Tour PSA Challenger event.

The SRFI Indian Tour PSA Challenger event was held at the Indian Squash and Triathlon Academy in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

The total Prize money for the men's event was \$15,000 and for the women's event was also \$15,000.

### About PSA Challenger

- The PSA Challenger Event is organised by the Professional Squash Association (PSA).
- It is a second-tier tournament for the upcoming professional Squash players to gain enough points to qualify for the premier PSA Squash Tour.
- The PSA Squash Tour is a premier top-level tournament of the PSA that features the world's best squash players.

**295. President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated the Purple Fest 2025 held at the Amrit Udyam in the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. Which government body has organized the Purple Fest in collaboration with the Rashtrapati Bhavan?**

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने नई दिल्ली में राष्ट्रपति भवन के अमृत उद्यान में आयोजित पर्फल फेस्ट 2025 का उद्घाटन किया। किस सरकारी निकाय ने राष्ट्रपति भवन के सहयोग से पर्फल फेस्ट का आयोजन किया है?



- (a) Ministry of Culture
- (b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- (d) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (e) Ministry of Women and Child Development

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** President Murmu attends Purple Fest 2025 at Rashtrapati Bhavan

President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated the Purple Fest 2025 held at the Amrit Udyam in the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

The Purple Fest celebrates the talents, achievements, and aspirations of persons with disabilities (PwDs) also known as Divyangjan in India.

The first Purple Fest in the country was organised in Panjim, Goa in January 2023.

The Purple Fest has been organised by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in association with the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

**296. Which state has become the first in India to broadcast its Legislative Assembly proceedings in sign language?**

कौन सा राज्य भारत में अपनी विधानसभा की कार्यवाही को सांकेतिक भाषा में प्रसारित करने वाला पहला राज्य बन गया है?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Punjab

**(d) Karnataka**

**(e) Gujarat**

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Punjab Assembly 1st in India to broadcast proceeding in sign language  
Punjab has become the first state in India to broadcast its state Legislative Assembly  
proceedings in Sign language.

The path-breaking initiative is likely to make the proceedings of the Punjab  
Legislative Assembly accessible to the person suffering from deafness disability and  
make them aware about government policies and legislative discussions.

The initiative to broadcast important parts of the legislative proceedings of the  
House was a brainchild of the Ministry of Social Security, Women and Child  
Development of the state government.

### **About Punjab**

- **Capital** – Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister** – Bhagwant Mann
- **Governor** – Banwarilal Purohit

**297. World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on March 24 to raise awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of tuberculosis (TB) and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic. What is the theme for World Tuberculosis Day in 2025?**

विश्व क्षय रोग दिवस हर साल 24 मार्च को मनाया जाता है, ताकि क्षय रोग (टीबी) के विनाशकारी स्वास्थ्य, सामाजिक और आर्थिक परिणामों के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाई जा सके और वैश्विक टीबी महामारी को समाप्त करने के प्रयासों को आगे बढ़ाया जा सके। 2025 में विश्व क्षय रोग दिवस का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Together We Fight TB**
- (b) Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver**
- (c) Stop TB Now**
- (d) Invest in TB Research**
- (e) TB-Free Future**

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 24 March - World Tuberculosis Day

World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on March 24 to raise awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of tuberculosis (TB) and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic.

Theme 2025 - Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the date marks the day in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease.

TB is an infectious disease caused by bacteria that most often affects the lungs. It spreads through the air when people with TB cough, sneeze or spit. Tuberculosis is preventable and curable.

**298. With reference to the Jnanpith Award, consider the following statements:  
ज्ञानपीठ पुरस्कार के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:**

1. **Vinod Kumar Shukla is the first recipient of the Jnanpith Award from Chhattisgarh for 2024.**
2. **The award was instituted in 1961 and first conferred in 1965 to G. Sankara Kurup.**
3. **The Jnanpith Award is open to authors from any country writing in any language.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3
- (e) 2 and 3 only

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Hindi Writer Vinod Kumar Shukla Honored with 59th Jnanpith Award  
Vinod Kumar Shukla, a renowned Hindi writer, has been selected for the 59th Jnanpith Award in 2024, recognized as India's highest literary honor for his exceptional contributions to Hindi literature.

At 88 years old, Shukla makes history as the first writer from Chhattisgarh to receive the Jnanpith Award, bringing pride to the state's literary heritage.

Shukla is acclaimed for his poetry and novels, notably *Deewar Mein Ek Khirki Rehti Thi*, which earned him the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1999, known for its simple yet deeply reflective storytelling.

The Jnanpith Selection Committee, led by writer Pratibha Ray, chose Shukla for his distinctive creativity and unique narrative style, cementing his legacy in contemporary Hindi literature.

#### **About Jnanpith Award**

- The Jnanpith Award, instituted in 1961, was first given to Malayalam poet G. Sankara Kurup in 1965 for this anthology of poems "Odakkuzhal". It is awarded only to Indian authors.

- The award carries with it a cash reward of Rs 11 lakh, a bronze statue of Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of learning, and a citation.

### Recent Award

- **Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024** - Veteran Sculptor Ram Sutar
- **Oeko-Tex certification from Germany for Eri silk** - North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation
- **Stockholm Water Prize 2025** - Austrian hydrologist Günter Blöschl *(for his groundbreaking contributions to flood risk management and water resource engineering)*
- **Air Service Quality (ASQ) award** - Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (for the third consecutive year)

**299. Consider the following statements regarding the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) for Central Government employees:**

**केंद्र सरकार के कर्मचारियों के लिए एकीकृत पेंशन योजना (UPS) के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:**

1. The scheme is applicable to employees who joined service on or after January 1, 2014.
2. The government's contribution under UPS is 18.5%, while the employee's contribution remains at 10%.
3. Employees have complete discretion to invest 100% of their pension corpus in equity funds.
4. Assured pension of 50% of the average basic pay over the last 12 months for employees with at least 25 years of service.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 4 only
- (e) all are correct

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Central govt employees can opt for Unified Pension Scheme till June 30. Central government employees have until June 30, 2025, to opt for the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), which becomes operational from April 1, 2025, providing a three-month window from the start date to make a decision.

The UPS is available to employees who joined service on or after January 1, 2004, including those retiring by March 31, 2025, and even the legally wedded spouse of a deceased subscriber can join if the option wasn't exercised before death.

The scheme offers five major benefits: an assured pension (50% of average basic pay over the last 12 months for 25+ years of service), assured family pension (60% of the employee's pension), assured minimum pension (₹10,000/month for 10+ years), inflation indexation, and a lump sum payment at superannuation alongside gratuity. Under UPS, the government increases its contribution to 18.5% (from 14% in the National Pension System), while the employee contribution remains at 10% of basic pay plus Dearness Allowance, with the corpus split into an individual pension fund and a pool corpus.

Employees can choose their pension fund and investment pattern (e.g., 100% in government securities or life cycle funds with equity caps at 25% or 50%), with flexibility to change funds once and investment choices twice annually, while the pool corpus is managed as per Central government guidelines.

PFRDA has confirmed that enrolment and claim forms for all eligible central government employees will be available online starting April 1, 2025. These forms can be accessed through the Protean CRA website at (<https://npscra.nsdl.co.in>). Employees will also have the option to submit these forms in person.

**300. With reference to the financial performance of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in FY24, consider the following statements:**

**वित्त वर्ष 24 में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों (PSB) के वित्तीय प्रदर्शन के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:**

1. The aggregate net profit of 12 PSBs in FY24 reached an all-time high of ₹1.41 lakh crore.
2. The SBI alone contributed over 40% of the total net profit of PSBs in FY24.
3. The net profit of all PSBs in FY24 was lower than the net profit recorded in FY23.
4. PSBs collectively earned ₹1.29 lakh crore in the first nine months of FY24.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (e) all are correct

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Public sector banks' dividend rises 33% to ₹27,830 crore in FY24

Dividend payout by public sector banks (PSBs) have risen by 33 per cent to ₹27,830 crore in FY24, indicating significant improvement in financial health of these lenders. PSBs declared a dividend of ₹27,830 crore to shareholders in 2023-24 as against ₹20,964 crore in the previous fiscal, registering an increase of 32.7 per cent, according to the government data.

Of ₹27,830 crore total dividend, nearly 65 per cent or ₹18,013 crore was paid to the government towards their shareholding in FY24. During 2022-23, the government received ₹13,804 crore as dividend from the public sector banks including State Bank of India (SBI).

It is to be noted that 12 public sector banks recorded the highest ever aggregate net profit of ₹1.41 lakh crore in 2023-24 against the net profit of ₹1.05 lakh crore in 2022-23, and earned ₹1.29 lakh crore in the nine months of the current financial year.

Out of the total profit of ₹1,41,203 crore earned during FY24, market leader SBI alone contributed over 40 per cent, as per the published numbers on exchanges. SBI earned a profit of ₹61,077 crore, 22 per cent higher than the previous financial year ( ₹50,232 crore).

In percentage terms, Delhi-based Punjab National Bank had the highest net profit growth of 228 per cent at ₹8,245 crore, followed by Union Bank of India with a 62 per cent rise to ₹13,649 crore and Central Bank of India with a 61 per cent increase to ₹2,549 crore.

Among the banks which recorded over 50 per cent jump in net profit were Bank of India with a 57 per cent growth to ₹6,318 crore while Bank of Maharashtra with a 56 per cent rise to ₹4,055 crore and Chennai-based Indian Bank which recorded a 53 per cent improvement to ₹8,063 crore.

PSB is a turnaround story from record losses of ₹85,390 crore in FY18 to the record profit in FY24.

**301. Which bank has launched the 'mDigiNext' mobile app for corporate cash management services?**

**किस बैंक ने कॉर्पोरेट कैश मैनेजमेंट सेवाओं के लिए 'mDigiNext' मोबाइल ऐप लॉन्च किया है?**

- (a) State Bank of India**
- (b) ICICI Bank**
- (c) HDFC Bank**
- (d) Bank of Baroda**
- (e) Punjab National Bank**

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Bank of Baroda Unveils 'mDigiNext' App to Enhance Corporate Cash Management

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched 'mDigiNext mobile app' to exclusively cater to the cash management needs of its corporate customers.

BoB's dedicated cash management services app offers payment functionalities that help businesses manage their working capital and cash flows, which, in turn, will bring in greater efficiencies and facilitate faster execution and ease of operations.

The new app will streamline cash management operations and workflows for corporates. It provides customers with 24x7 access to essential and advanced financial tools empowering corporates to make swift and informed financial decisions anytime, anywhere.

### Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- HDFC Bank introduced the **Embassy Fixed Deposit**, a specialized foreign currency term deposit scheme exclusively available in USD, targeting diplomats, non-diplomatic staff, and diplomatic missions as eligible investors.
- IDFC FIRST Bank introduces "**Ace**" feature on its mobile app to provide 2500 plus MF options
- SBI Mutual Fund launches two new PSU bank-focused investment schemes named "**SBI BSE PSU Bank Index Fund** and **SBI BSE PSU Bank ETF**"
- Canara Bank becomes the first bank to introduce **Online Digital Balance Confirmation Certificate** through the PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd portal.
- Avanse Financial Services Ltd. (Avanse) launched '**SWALAKSH**', a specialised education loan tailored for female students aspiring to study abroad.

**302. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has secured a ₹7,500 crore order from which organization for setting up an 800 MW thermal unit?**

**भारत हेवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स लिमिटेड (BHEL) को 800 मेगावाट की थर्मल यूनिट स्थापित करने के लिए किस संगठन से ₹7,500 करोड़ का ऑर्डर मिला है?**

- (a) NTPC Ltd
- (b) Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Ltd
- (c) Power Grid Corporation of India
- (d) Maharashtra State Electricity Board
- (e) Coal India Ltd

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** BHEL Secures ₹7,500 Crore Order for 800 MW Thermal Unit at Ukai Plant in Gujarat

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has won a ₹7,500 crore order from Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Ltd (GSECL) to establish an 800 MW supercritical thermal power unit (Unit-7) at the Ukai plant in Tapi district, Gujarat.

The project, executed on an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) basis, includes designing, supplying, and commissioning equipment like boilers, turbines, and generators, with commercial operations expected to commence within 54 months from March 21, 2025.

This order reinforces BHEL's long-standing partnership with GSECL, dating back to the first thermal unit installed at Ukai in 1976, and highlights its significant contribution to India's energy sector with over 1,70,000 MW of installed power capacity nationwide.

### 303. Who has won the 2025 Chinese Grand Prix?

**2025 चीनी ग्रैंड प्रिक्स किसने जीता है?**

- (a) Max Verstappen
- (b) Lewis Hamilton
- (c) Charles Leclerc
- (d) Oscar Piastri
- (e) Lando Norris

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Oscar Piastri Wins Chinese Grand Prix

Oscar Piastri clinched his third career victory at the Chinese Grand Prix 2025, beating teammate Lando Norris by 6.3 seconds to secure first place.

McLaren dominated the race, with Piastri and Norris finishing first and second, respectively, marking the team's first one-two result since the 2021 Italian Grand Prix.

### 304. Who has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court, in March 2025?

**मार्च 2025 में उड़ीसा उच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh
- (b) Justice Harish Tandon
- (c) Justice Arindam Sinha
- (d) Justice Joymalya Bagchi
- (e) Justice Sanjiv Khanna

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Justice Harish Tandon takes oath as Chief Justice of Orissa High Court

Justice Harish Tandon has appointed as the next Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court. He is at present a judge of the the Calcutta High Court.

The Supreme Court collegium had earlier this month recommended the elevation of Justice Tandon as the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court.

The office of the Orissa HC chief justice fell vacant in January following the retirement of Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh.

Justice Tandon was appointed as a judge of the Calcutta High Court in April 2010 and has been functioning there since then.

**305. Which teams did India defeat in both the Men's and Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025 finals?**

**पुरुष और महिला कबड्डी विश्व कप 2025 के फाइनल में भारत ने किन टीमों को हराया?**

- (a) Iran
- (b) Pakistan
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) England
- (e) Sri Lanka

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** India clinches both Men's & Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025

India has clinched both the Men's and Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025 at Wolverhampton in England.

The Men's team defeated the home side England in the final match 44-41. Earlier, the Indian Women's Team also defeated England with a dominating score of 57-34 in the final at the same venue.

For the first time outside Asia, this tournament saw top kabaddi teams compete across the West Midlands, with matches in Birmingham, Coventry, Walsall, and Wolverhampton.

At the inaugural edition, hosted by Malaysia in 2019, India won both the men's and women's crowns.

**306. India's Pranati Nayak has won a bronze medal in the Women's Vault final at the FIG World Cup in Antalya, Turkey. Pranati Nayak is associated with which sport?**

**भारत की प्रणति नायक ने तुर्की के अंताल्या में FIG विश्व कप में महिला वॉल्ट फाइनल में कांस्य पदक जीता है। प्रणति नायक किस खेल से जुड़ी हैं?**

- (a) Badminton
- (b) Gymnastics
- (c) Wrestling
- (d) Weightlifting
- (e) Athletics

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Pranati Nayak wins bronze in Women's Vault at FIG World Cup

In Gymnastics, India's Pranati Nayak has bagged the bronze medal in the Women's Vault final at the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG) World Cup in Antalya, Turkey.

The two-time Asian Championship medallist Pranati scored an average of 13.417 to secure her maiden World Cup podium finish, last evening.

Jayla Hang of the United States claimed the gold with a score of 13.667, while her compatriot Clare Pease took silver with a score of 13.567.

**307. Which legislature became the 28th to adopt the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)?**

**कौन सी विधानसभा राष्ट्रीय ई-विधान एप्लीकेशन (NeVA) को अपनाने वाली 28वीं विधानसभा बन गई है?**

- (a) **Delhi Legislative Assembly**
- (b) **Maharashtra Legislative Assembly**
- (c) **Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly**
- (d) **Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly**
- (e) **Karnataka Legislative Assembly**

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Delhi becomes 28th legislature to join National eVidhan Application Platform. The Delhi Legislative Assembly has signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA) and the Government of NCT of Delhi for the implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA), making it the 28th legislature to adopt this digital governance initiative.

NeVA aims to transition the Delhi Assembly to a paperless and transparent legislative system, aligning with the "One Nation, One Application" vision by digitizing legislative procedures, enhancing efficiency, and providing real-time access to documents.

The platform is hosted on Meghraj 2.0, India's cloud infrastructure, ensuring scalability, security, and accessibility across various devices, while also offering multilingual capabilities to accommodate diverse users.

Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta emphasized the rapid implementation of NeVA, committing to making the Assembly fully paperless within 100 days, marking a significant step towards digital transformation in legislative governance.

**308. Who has been elected as the new chairman of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)?**

**भारतीय राष्ट्रीय कला एवं सांस्कृतिक विरासत ट्रस्ट (INTACH) के नए अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे चुना गया है?**

- (a) Ramesh Sharma
- (b) Ashok Singh Thakur
- (c) Vikram Sethi
- (d) Rajiv Menon
- (e) Sanjay Gupta

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Ashok Singh Thakur elected as Chairman of INTACH

Ashok Singh Thakur has been elected as the new chairman of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) for a period of three years.

Delhi-based INTACH, a premier heritage conservation body was established in 1984. It has chapters spread across the country.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of INTACH was held on March 22 at its head office in New Delhi. The elections were held successfully for the post of chairman and governing council members.

**Recent Appointments**

- **MD & CEO of IFCI Ltd** - Rahul Bhave (*for 3 years*)
- **Joint Secretary (Director level) in UPSC** - Anuj Kumar Singh
- **President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)** - Zimbabwe's Kirsty Coventry; replace Costa Navarino from Greece (*first female President in IOC history*).
- **MD and CEO of Bajaj Auto** - Rajivnayan Rahulkumar
- **CMD of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL)** - Vikas Kaushal
- **Vice Chairman of Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited** - Lakshmi Venu

**309. The Government of India has abolished the 20% onion export duty effective April 1 to increase farmers' income. Which government has department issued the notification to remove the onion export duty?**

**भारत सरकार ने किसानों की आय बढ़ाने के लिए 1 अप्रैल से 20% प्याज निर्यात शुल्क समाप्त कर दिया है। किस सरकारी विभाग ने प्याज निर्यात शुल्क हटाने की अधिसूचना जारी की है?**

- (a) **Ministry of Agriculture**
- (b) **Department of Commerce**
- (c) **Department of Consumer Affairs**
- (d) **Department of Revenue**
- (e) **Ministry of Finance**

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Govt Scraps 20% Onion Export Duty to Boost Farmer Incomes Starting April 1

The Government of India has withdrawn 20% duty on onion export, effective from 1st April 2025. A notification to this effect was issued by the Department of Revenue today on the communication of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

To ensure domestic availability, the government had taken measures to check export by means of duty, minimum export price (MEP) and even to the extent of export prohibition for almost five months, from 8th December 2023 till 3rd May 2024. The export duty of 20% which now stands removed has been in place from 13th September, 2024.

Despite export restriction, the total onion export during FY 2023-24 was 17.17 LMT and FY 2024-25 (till 18th March) was 11.65 LMT. Monthly onion export quantity had picked up from 0.72 LMT in September, 2024 to 1.85 LMT in January, 2025. The modal prices in Lasalgaon and Pimpalgaon on 21st March, 2025 were Rs.1330/qlt and Rs.1325/qlt, respectively.

**310. Who has been appointed as the new India Head of Bank of America?**

**बैंक ऑफ अमेरिका के नए भारत प्रमुख के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Rajiv Sharma
- (b) Kaku Nakhate
- (c) Vikram Sahu
- (d) Jin Su
- (e) Amit Verma

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Vikram Sahu to take over as the new Bank of America India Head

Vikram Sahu, head of global equity research of Bank of America, will take over as the new country executive, India.

He will replace Kaku Nakhate, who will complete 15 years as the CEO of Indian operations in June.

Sahu will relocate from New York in the second quarter of the calendar year to assume overall leadership of the India franchisee, according to an internal memo issued by Jin Su, president of Asia Pacific.

**311. When is the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims observed?**

**घोर मानवाधिकार उल्लंघन के संबंध में सत्य के अधिकार और पीड़ितों की गरिमा के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 23 March
- (b) 24 March
- (c) 25 March
- (d) 26 March

**(e) 27 March**

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 24 March - International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims

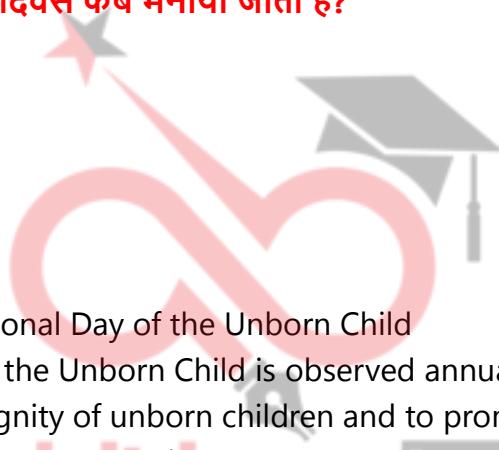
The International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed annually on March 24, honoring those who have suffered from severe human rights abuses and recognizing the importance of truth and justice.

Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2010, this day pays tribute to the legacy of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero of El Salvador, who was assassinated on March 24, 1980, while advocating for human rights and dignity amidst widespread violations.

**312. When is the International Day of the Unborn Child observed?**

**अजन्मे बच्चे का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 23 March**
- (b) 24 March**
- (c) 25 March**
- (d) 26 March**
- (e) 27 March**



**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 25 March - International Day of the Unborn Child

The International Day of the Unborn Child is observed annually on March 25 to honour the value and dignity of unborn children and to promote a culture that respects all human life from conception.

It was established in 1999 by Pope John Paul II, this day coincides with the Feast of the Annunciation, symbolising the moment of the Incarnation when, according to Christian belief, Jesus was conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

**313. Where was the 614th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India held?**

**भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के केंद्रीय निदेशक मंडल की 614वीं बैठक कहाँ आयोजित की गई?**

- (a) Thiruvananthapuram**
- (b) New Delhi**
- (c) Mumbai**
- (d) Guwahati**
- (e) Chennai**

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 614th Meeting of Central Board of the RBI organised in Thiruvananthapuram

The 614th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India was held in Thiruvananthapuram under the Chairmanship of Shri Sanjay Malhotra, Governor.

The Board assessed the emerging global and domestic economic landscape, including the evolving geopolitical and financial market developments and associated challenges. Further, the Board discussed the Reserve Bank's activities during the current accounting year 2024-25.

The Board also approved the Bank's budget for the accounting year 2025-26.

**314. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has successfully facilitated the first export of 15,000 kg of GI-tagged Dalle Chilly from Sikkim to the Solomon Islands. What is another name for Dalle Chilly?**

कृषि और प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य उत्पाद निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण (एपीडा) ने सिक्किम से सोलोमन द्वीप को 15,000 किलोग्राम जीआई-टैग वाली डले मिर्च का पहला निर्यात सफलतापूर्वक किया है। डले मिर्च का दूसरा नाम क्या है?

- (a) Ghost Pepper
- (b) Naga Morich
- (c) Fire Ball Chilly
- (d) Jalapeño
- (e) Carolina Reaper

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** APEDA Pioneers Export of Sikkim's GI-Tagged Dalle Chilly to Solomon Islands  
The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) successfully facilitated the first export of 15,000 kg of GI-tagged Dalle Chilly from Sikkim to the Solomon Islands, marking a significant step in promoting India's northeastern agricultural products globally.

Sourced from South Sikkim farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) by Mevedir, the consignment fetched premium prices of Rs 250-300 per kg—compared to the usual Rs 180-200 per kg—highlighting the economic benefits of GI tagging and international trade for local producers.

Dalle Chilly, also known as Fire Ball Chilly or Dalle Khursani, is renowned for its intense pungency, bright red color, and high nutritional value. Rich in vitamins A, C, and E, along with potassium, its Scoville Heat Units (SHU) range from 100,000 to 350,000, making it a sought-after spice for both culinary and medicinal applications.

**315. By which year does the IMF predict India will surpass Germany to become the world's third-largest economy?**

आईएमएफ ने किस वर्ष तक भारत के जर्मनी को पीछे छोड़कर दुनिया की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था बनने की भविष्यवाणी की है?

- (a) 2027
- (b) 2025
- (c) 2030
- (d) 2026
- (e) 2047

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** India to overtake Japan in 2025 and Germany in 2027: IMF

According to International Monetary Fund (IMF) data, the Indian economy is likely to overtake Japan in 2025 and Germany in 2027 to become the world's third largest economy after the United States of America and China.

The positive report of the IMF comes after a World Bank report which suggested that India needs to grow at an average annual growth rate of 7.8 percent to achieve the target of Viksit Bharat or a developed country by 2047.

The real gross domestic product (GDP) of India has doubled from \$2.1 trillion in 2015 to \$4.3 trillion in 2025.

The growth rate of India was 105 percent which is the highest growth rate amongst the major economies. The growth rate of the United States during this period was 66 percent and China was 76 percent during this period.

While Japan whose real GDP was 4.4 trillion in 2015 remained at 4.4 trillion in 2025, showing a growth rate of 0 percent.

**316. India has achieved the highest-ever growth in indigenous defence production in 2023-24 since the launch of the Make in India initiative, reaching a record one lakh 27 thousand crore rupees. By what percentage has the value of defence production increased since 2014-15?**

मेक इन इंडिया पहल की शुरुआत के बाद से भारत ने 2023-24 में स्वदेशी रक्षा उत्पादन में अब तक की सबसे अधिक वृद्धि हासिल की है, जो रिकॉर्ड एक लाख 27 हजार करोड़ रुपये तक पहुंच गई है। 2014-15 से रक्षा उत्पादन के मूल्य में कितने प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है?

- (a) 150%
- (b) 160%
- (c) 174%
- (d) 180%
- (e) 200%

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India achieves record ₹1.27 lakh crore in indigenous defence production in 2023-24

India has achieved the highest-ever growth in indigenous defence production in 2023-24 since the launch of the Make in India initiative, reaching a record one lakh 27 thousand crore rupees.

The value of defence production has surged 174 per cent increase from 46 thousand 429 crore in 2014-15.

Defence exports have also surged from 686 crore in 2013-14 to an all-time high of over 21 thousand crore rupees in 2023-24, marking a 30-fold increase over the past decade.

### 317. What is the new investment threshold for granular disclosures by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) as approved by SEBI?

सेबी द्वारा अनुमोदित विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेशकों (एफपीआई) द्वारा विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए नई निवेश सीमा क्या है?

- (a) ₹10,000 crore
- (b) ₹25,000 crore
- (c) ₹40,000 crore
- (d) ₹50,000 crore
- (e) ₹75,000 crore

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** SEBI Doubles FPI Disclosure Threshold to ₹50,000 Cr

Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved a proposal to double the investment threshold for granular disclosures by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to 50,000 crore rupees. This is aimed at addressing the changing market dynamics without altering the concentration criteria, which remain unchanged.

FPIs holding more than 50,000 crore rupees in equity AUM in the Indian markets will now be required to make additional disclosures.

SEBI has also decided to boost investor awareness amid recent market volatility. It aims to ensure investors receive proper advice and are not misled by unregistered advisors.

SEBI Chairman stated that action has been taken against over 17,000 financial influencers with the help of Google and Meta. SEBI's board has decided to constitute a High-Level Committee (HLC) to undertake a comprehensive review of the provisions relating to conflict of interest, disclosure pertaining to property, investment, liabilities, etc.

Currently, certain FPIs with equity assets under management (AUM) of more than 25,000 crore rupees are needed to give granular details of all their investors or stakeholders on a look-through basis. After this decision, FPIs holding more than

50,000 crore rupees of equity AUM in the Indian markets will now be required to make additional disclosures.

**318. The Indian team has won the bronze medal in the mixed quad category event in the ISTAF Sepak Takraw World Cup 2025. Which team shared the bronze medal with India in the mixed quad category?**

**भारतीय टीम ने ISTAF सेपक टकराव विश्व कप 2025 में मिश्रित क्वाड श्रेणी स्पर्धा में कांस्य पदक जीता है। मिश्रित क्वाड श्रेणी में किस टीम ने भारत के साथ कांस्य पदक साझा किया?**

- (a) Vietnam
- (b) Thailand
- (c) Myanmar
- (d) Malaysia
- (e) Japan

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** India Wins Bronze in Mixed Quad at ISTAF Sepak Takraw World Cup 2025

The Indian team has won the bronze medal in the mixed quad category event in the ISTAF Sepak Takraw World Cup 2025, which is underway at Patna.

The Indian team won the medal jointly with the Vietnam team.

In the second semifinals of the mixed quad category played at Patliputra Sports Complex Indoor Stadium, the Myanmar team defeated India in straight sets.

In the final of the mixed quad event, Thailand clinched the gold medal, defeating Myanmar, which got the silver medal.

**319. India and Singapore has signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) on Green and Digital Shipping Corridor (GDSC) collaboration at the ongoing Singapore Maritime Week (SMW) in March 2025. What is the primary focus of the India-Singapore Green and Digital Shipping Corridor (GDSC) collaboration?**

**भारत और सिंगापुर ने मार्च 2025 में चल रहे सिंगापुर मैरीटाइम वीक (SMW) में ग्रीन और डिजिटल शिपिंग कॉरिडोर (GDSC) सहयोग पर एक आशय पत्र (LoI) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। भारत-सिंगापुर ग्रीन और डिजिटल शिपिंग कॉरिडोर (GDSC) सहयोग का प्राथमिक फोकस क्या है?**

- (a) Military cooperation
- (b) Maritime digitalisation and decarbonisation
- (c) Tourism development
- (d) Space research
- (e) Agricultural trade

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India-Singapore to jointly develop Green and Digital Shipping corridor

India and Singapore has signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) on Green and Digital Shipping Corridor (GDSC) collaboration at the ongoing Singapore Maritime Week (SMW). India and Netherlands also discussed the possibility of utilizing Dutch global expertise to enable cargo movement in low draft rivers of Brahmaputra and Barak. Under the LOI, both sides will collaborate on maritime digitalisation and decarbonisation projects, including identifying relevant stakeholders who could contribute to the effort, and work towards formalising the partnership through a memorandum of understanding on a Singapore-India GDSC. The Singapore-India GDSC, when established, will enhance collaboration from both countries and help accelerate the development and uptake of zero or near-zero GHG emission technologies and the adoption of digital solutions.

**320. Who has been appointed as the new Executive Director of Canara Bank in March 2025?**

**मार्च 2025 में केनरा बैंक के नए कार्यकारी निदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) S K Majumdar
- (b) R K Sharma
- (c) P V Bharathi
- (d) A K Das
- (e) V K Singh

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Canara Bank Appoints S K Majumdar as Executive Director

Canara Bank has appointed S K Majumdar as its new Executive Director for a term of three years.

Prior to this role, Majumdar served as the Chief General Manager and Group Chief Financial Officer (GCFO) at Canara Bank, bringing over 25 years of banking experience as a chartered accountant and cost accountant.

The appointment is expected to strengthen Canara Bank's leadership, with Majumdar poised to contribute to the bank's goals of innovation, customer-centric services, and financial resilience.

**Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- **Head of Bank of America in India** -Vikram Sahu (replace Kaku Nakhate)
- **Independent Director of Fino Payments Bank** - Deena Mehta
- **Interim MD & CEO of Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company (EARC)** - Mythili Balasubramanians
- **Executive Director of RBI** - Indranil Bhattacharyya (new role: Dept. of Statistics and Information Mgmt. and the FinTech Dept.)
- **Chief Executive of Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** - Atul Kumar Goel

- **MD and CEO of IndusInd Bank Ltd** - Suman Kathpalia (reappointment for one year)

**321. What is the name of the new fund Ribbit Capital plans to raise \$500 million for?**

**रिबिट कैपिटल द्वारा 500 मिलियन डॉलर जुटाने की योजना वाले नए फंड का नाम क्या है?**

- (a) Ribbit Capital Y
- (b) Ribbit Capital X
- (c) Ribbit Fintech Fund
- (d) Ribbit Growth Fund
- (e) Ribbit Capital Z

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Ribbit Capital To Raise \$500 Million to Boost Fintech Investments

Ribbit Capital, a company from San Francisco that helps fintech startups grow, plans to collect \$500 million for a new fund called Ribbit Capital Y.

They've supported big fintech names like CRED, Razorpay, and PhonePe in India, and Nubank and Robinhood worldwide, showing their focus on new financial tech ideas. This comes after raising \$800 million in 2023 and \$1.15 billion in 2022, but this time the fund is smaller because fintech funding has slowed down globally, dropping to \$95.6 billion in 2024.

The new fund shows Ribbit believes in fintech's future, especially in India, where companies like PhonePe and Groww are getting ready for big stock market launches.

**322. How much is Bain Capital investing to acquire an 18% stake in Manappuram Finance?**

**मनप्पुरम फाइनेंस में 18% हिस्सेदारी हासिल करने के लिए बैन कैपिटल कितना निवेश कर रहा है?**

- (a) ₹3,500 crore
- (b) ₹4,385 crore
- (c) ₹5,200 crore
- (d) ₹6,000 crore
- (e) ₹2,750 crore

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Bain Capital Acquires Joint Control in Manappuram Finance for Rs. 4,385 Crore Bain Capital is investing ₹4,385 crore (\$508 million) to acquire an 18% stake in Manappuram Finance, with the potential to increase its ownership up to 41.7% through a mandatory open offer.

This partnership aims to enhance Manappuram Finance's operational capabilities, leadership, and market presence, leveraging Bain Capital's expertise in financial services while supporting diversification into microfinance, vehicle finance, housing finance, and SME lending.

The investment aligns with the rapid growth of India's gold loan sector, which is projected to reach ₹14.19 trillion by FY 2029, positioning Manappuram Finance for sustained innovation and expansion in financial services.

Founded in 1949, Manappuram Finance has established itself as a trusted financial institution with a customer base exceeding 6.59 million.

**323. Which of the following option is FALSE about the salary hike for Members of the Parliament (MP)s?**

**सांसदों के वेतन वृद्धि के बारे में निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा विकल्प गलत है?**

- (a) The monthly salary for MPs has increased from ₹1,00,000 to ₹1,24,000.**
- (b) The salary hike will take effect from 1st April 2025.**
- (c) The pension for former MPs has increased from ₹25,000 to ₹31,000 per month.**
- (d) MPs' salaries and allowances are governed by the Salary, Allowances, and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954.**
- (e) The daily allowance has increased from ₹2,000 to ₹2,500.**

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Centre Notifies 24% Hike in Salaries and Pensions for MPs

The government of India has notified the increase in the salaries, allowances, and pensions of the Members of the Parliament (MP) with a retrospective effect from 1st April 2023. The salaries have been increased from Rs one lakh per month to Rs 1.24 lakh per month an increase of 24 %.

The last time the salaries and other benefits of the MPs were revised was in April 2018.

The salaries and other allowances of the members of Parliaments are regulated by the Salary, Allowances, and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 enacted by the Parliament.

The act was amended by the Finance Act 2018 and provided that the salary and daily allowances of the MPs shall be increased every five years starting 1 April 2023.

The salary and other allowances of the MPs have been linked to the Cost Inflation Index as per section 48 of the Income Tax Act 1961.

Here are the revised benefits for MPs:

- Salary:** The monthly salary for MPs has been increased from ₹1,00,000 to ₹1,24,000.
- Daily Allowance:** The daily allowance has been raised from ₹2,000 to ₹2,500.

- The pension for former members of Parliament has been increased from ₹25,000 per month to ₹31,000 per month.
- The additional pension for every year of service over five years has been increased from ₹2,000 per month to ₹2,500 per month.

**324. Which department of the Ministry of Education has launched the "Baalpan ki Kavita" initiative: Restoring Bhartiya Rhymes/Poems for Young Children?**

**शिक्षा मंत्रालय के किस विभाग ने "बालपन की कविता पहल: छोटे बच्चों के लिए भारतीय कविताओं/कविताओं को पुनर्स्थापित करना" शुरू किया है?**

- University Grants Commission (UGC)**
- National Testing Agency (NTA)**
- Department of School Education & Literacy**
- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**
- National Council of Educational Research and Training**

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Ministry of Education launches "Baalpan ki Kavita initiative: Restoring Bhartiya rhymes/poems for young children"

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 highlights the importance of Early Childhood Education, multilingualism, and using children's native languages, inspiring the Ministry of Education's "Baalpan ki Kavita" initiative to create a collection of nursery rhymes and poems in Indian languages and English, rooted in the Indian context.

Launched by the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSE&L), this initiative aims to enhance foundational learning for young children by offering joyful, relatable rhymes and poems in their mother tongue, helping them connect with their surroundings.

In partnership with MyGov, DoSE&L invites contributions of existing folk rhymes (with author credits) or original compositions for three age groups: Pre-primary (ages 3-6), Grade 1 (ages 6-7), and Grade 2 (ages 7-8), accepting entries in all Bhartiya Bhasha and English from March 26, 2025, to April 22, 2025.

The competition, hosted on MyGov (<https://www.mygov.in/>) with no entry fee, encourages culturally significant regional rhymes, supporting NEP 2020's vision of making early education engaging and accessible through familiar languages.

**325. What was the record consolidated net profit of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in 2023-24?**

**2023-24 में क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों (आरआरबी) का रिकॉर्ड समेकित शुद्ध लाभ क्या था?**

- ₹5,821 crore**
- ₹6,950 crore**

- (c) ₹7,571 crore
- (d) ₹8,120 crore
- (e) ₹7,000 crore

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** RRBs achieve a record Rs. 7,571 crore profit in FY 2023-24

Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) achieved a record consolidated net profit of Rs 7,571 crore in 2023-24, marking their highest-ever earnings, as reported to the Rajya Sabha by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary.

The financial health of RRBs has strengthened, with their total balance sheet size growing from Rs 7,04,556 crore in 2021-22 to Rs 8,40,080 crore in 2023-24, alongside improvements in key metrics like CRAR, deposits, and advances.

Net Non-Performing Assets (NPA) of RRBs dropped significantly from 4.7% in 2021-22 to 2.4% in 2023-24, while the credit-to-deposit (CD) ratio rose from 64.5% to 71.4% over the same period, reflecting better financial management.

RRBs have advanced financial inclusion in rural areas, contributing to schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Suraksha Bima Yojana, Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, and Atal Pension Yojana, as reviewed by the government.

### 326. Who has been elected as a Bureau Member of United World Wrestling (UWW)-Asia?

**यूनाइटेड वर्ल्ड रेसलिंग (UWW)-एशिया के ब्यूरो सदस्य के रूप में किसे चुना गया है?**

- (a) Sanjay Singh
- (b) Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh
- (c) Anita Sheoran
- (d) Vinesh Phogat
- (e) Tammana Chaudhary

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Sanjay Singh elected UWW-Asia bureau member

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president, Sanjay Singh has been elected a Bureau Member of United World Wrestling (UWW)-Asia.

The election took place during the UWW-Asia General Assembly in Amman.

According to WFI, Singh secured 22 votes out of 38, "demonstrating strong support from the Asian wrestling community."

#### Recent Appointments

- **Chairman of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)**
  - Ashok Singh Thakur (for three years)
- **Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court** - Justice Harish Tandon
- **MD & CEO of IFCI Ltd** - Rahul Bhave (for 3 years)

- **Joint Secretary (Director level) in UPSC** - Anuj Kumar Singh
- **President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)** - Zimbabwe's Kirsty Coventry; replace Costa Navarino from Greece (*first female President in IOC history*).

**327. On which date is the International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members observed annually?**

हिरासत में लिए गए और लापता स्टाफ सदस्यों के साथ एकजुटता का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) March 25
- (b) March 10
- (c) March 15
- (d) March 20
- (e) March 30

**Ans. a**

**Sol. March 25 - International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members**

**The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members** is observed annually on March 25 to honor and advocate for the safety of United Nations (UN) personnel and associated staff who have been detained, abducted, or gone missing while carrying out their duties.

This day was established by the United Nations (UN) to draw attention to the risks faced by humanitarian workers, peacekeepers, and journalists working in conflict zones or unstable regions.

**328. Which ministry has collaborated with IIM Ahmedabad to organize a workshop on public data and technology for research and policy?**

किस मंत्रालय ने अनुसंधान और नीति के लिए सार्वजनिक डेटा और प्रौद्योगिकी पर कार्यशाला आयोजित करने के लिए IIM अहमदाबाद के साथ सहयोग किया है?

- (a) Ministry of Finance
- (b) Ministry of Education
- (c) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- (d) Ministry of Science and Technology
- (e) Ministry of Electronics and IT

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** NSO, India and IIMA Join hands to Strengthen Data-Driven Policy and Innovation The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA), has organized a

workshop on "Emerging Trends in Public Data and Technology for Research and Policy" at the IIM Ahmedabad campus.

This initiative aligns with MoSPI's ongoing efforts to enhance the national data ecosystem and advance evidence-based policymaking.

This partnership will serve as a framework for collaborative efforts in data innovation, ensuring that academic research contributes effectively to policy development.

**329. Who has been appointed as the new Finance Secretary of India?**

**भारत के नए वित्त सचिव के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Tuhin Kanta Pandey**
- (b) Ajay Bhushan Pandey**
- (c) Ajay Seth**
- (d) Subhash Chandra Garg**
- (e) Arvind Subramanian**

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Ajay Seth Appointed as the New Finance Secretary

The Government of India has appointed senior IAS officer Ajay Seth as the next Finance Secretary.

He will succeed Tuhin Kanta Pandey, who has taken over as the 11th Chairperson of the capital market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Ajay Seth is currently the Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Earlier this month, the central government announced that Ajay Seth had been given the additional charge of Secretary for the Department of Revenue.

**Other Important Secretaries**

- **Finance Secretary** - Ajay Seth
- **Principal Secretary to PM** - PK Mishra (I) & Shaktikanta Das (II)
- **Secretary in Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** - Arunish Chawla
- **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

**330. With reference to the new health insurance standards set by the IRDAI, consider the following statements:**

IRDAI द्वारा निर्धारित नए स्वास्थ्य बीमा मानकों के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. Insurers must approve cashless authorization requests within 1 hour.
2. Discharge authorizations must be finalized within 3 hours of receiving hospital requests.
3. The compliance deadline for implementing these standards is December 31, 2024.
4. Mandating insurers to achieve 100% cashless claim settlements.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 4
- (e) 2, 3 and 4

Ans. d

**Sol.** IRDAI Sets New Standards for Health Insurance in India

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set new standards for health insurance, mandating quicker and more efficient claim settlements to benefit policyholders.

IRDAI requires insurers to approve cashless authorization requests within 1 hour and complete discharge authorizations within 3 hours, ensuring swift support for policyholders in medical emergencies.

**Focus on Cashless Settlements:** Insurers are urged to achieve 100% cashless claim settlements, supported by hospital help desks and digital pre-authorization, with a compliance deadline of July 31, 2024.

**Stringent Claim Oversight:** Claims cannot be rejected without approval from the Policyholders' Management Committee (PMC) or Claims Review Committee (CRC), and rejections must be explained in writing, referencing policy terms.

**Support for Policyholders:** Policyholders with multiple policies can select their preferred claim option, document collection is shifted to insurers/TPAs, and premium refunds are offered for mid-term cancellations.

**Boosting Trust and Efficiency:** These reforms aim to enhance transparency, customer satisfaction, and timely claim settlements, strengthening India's healthcare financing system through stakeholder collaboration.

**331. In which weight category did Indian wrestler Sunil Kumar win the bronze medal at the Asian Wrestling Championship in Amman, Jordan?**

जॉर्डन के अम्मान में एशियाई कुश्ती चैम्पियनशिप में भारतीय पहलवान सुनील कुमार ने किस भार वर्ग में कांस्य पदक जीता?

- (a) 77kg
- (b) 82kg
- (c) 87kg
- (d) 97kg
- (e) 67kg

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Sunil Kumar wins bronze in Asian Wrestling Championship

Indian wrestler Sunil Kumar won the bronze medal in the 87kg Greco Roman category of the Asian Wrestling Championship in Amman, Jordan.

In the bronze medal match, Sunil beat China's Jiaxin Huang after losing in the semifinals of the 87kg bout in the continental tournament.

Sunil, a silver medallist in 2019 who is looking to regain some of his old magic, had earlier registered a 10-1 victory over Tajikistan's Sukhrob Abdulkhaev in the quarterfinal. He scored all of his points in the second period.

However, it was Iran's Yasin Yazdi who marched into the 87kg final with a 3-1 victory over Sunil in the semifinal clash.

### 332. Which company acquired a 100% equity stake in NTPL?

किस कंपनी ने एनटीपीएल में 100% इकिटी हिस्सेदारी हासिल की?

- (a) Tata Group
- (b) Adani Enterprises
- (c) Reliance Industries Ltd
- (d) Larsen & Toubro
- (e) Mahindra Group

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Reliance Industries acquires 74% stake in Nauyaan Shipyard for ₹382.73 crore  
 Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), through its wholly owned subsidiary Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited (RSBVL), acquired a 100% equity stake in NTPL from Welspun Tradings Limited, a subsidiary of Welspun Corp Limited (WCL), for ₹1 lakh, making NTPL a step-down wholly owned subsidiary of RIL effective immediately.

NTPL, now under RIL, has agreed to purchase a 74% stake in NSPL from WCL for ₹382.73 crore, with the transaction—subject to adjustments for expenses and net current assets—expected to be finalized by March 21, 2025, enhancing RIL's shipyard operations.

NSPL, established in July 2021, has an enterprise value of ₹643.78 crore, including ₹126.57 crore in debt and liabilities, with its total equity valued at ₹517.21 crore, and it will repay ₹93.66 crore to WCL as part of the deal, supporting RIL's strategic expansion in the shipyard sector.

ets.

**333. IT services major Wipro has won a £500 million, 10-year strategic deal with Phoenix Group. To which country does Phoenix Group belong?**

आईटी सेवा क्षेत्र की प्रमुख कंपनी विप्रो ने फीनिक्स ग्रुप के साथ 500 मिलियन पाउंड का 10 वर्षीय रणनीतिक सौदा हासिल किया है। फीनिक्स ग्रुप किस देश से संबंधित है?

- (a) United Kingdom
- (b) Germany
- (c) France
- (d) Australia
- (e) Canada

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** IT major Wipro bags £500 million, 10-year deal with UK's Phoenix Group  
IT services major Wipro has won a £500 million, 10-year strategic deal with Phoenix Group, the UK's largest long-term savings and retirement business.

This will be one of the largest deals for the company as well as for the industry in a long time. As part of this transformational initiative, a number of Phoenix employees will transition to Wipro.

The project is designed to deliver life and pension business administration for the ReAssure business and accelerate Phoenix Group's operational transformation.

Under the terms of the deal, Wipro's existing FCA-regulated entity, Wipro Financial Outsourcing Services Limited (WFOSL), will deliver comprehensive life and pension administration services to Phoenix Group's ReAssure customers.

**334. To which organization has Sanjay Kumar Mishra been appointed as a full-time member?**

संजय कुमार मिश्रा को किस संगठन का पूर्णकालिक सदस्य नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (b) Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) Enforcement Directorate (ED)
- (e) Ministry of Finance

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Sanjay Kumar Mishra Joins EAC-PM as Full-Time Member

Sanjay Kumar Mishra, previously the chief of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), has been appointed as a full-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

The appointment marks a shift for Mishra from his earlier role in law enforcement to an advisory position focused on economic policy under the Prime Minister's office.

During his tenure, ED got approval for the extradition of fugitives such as Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari.

Sanjay Kumar Mishra was initially appointed as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief in 2018. He was given multiple extensions by the Centre.

Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) is an independent body constituted to give advice on economic and related issues to the Government of India, specifically to the Prime Minister.

### Recent Appointments

- **Bureau Member of United World Wrestling (UWW) Asia** - Sanjay Singh
- **Chairman of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)**  
- Ashok Singh Thakur (for three years)
- **Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court** - Justice Harish Tandon
- **MD & CEO of IFCI Ltd** - Rahul Bhave (*for 3 years*)
- **Joint Secretary (Director level) in UPSC** - Anuj Kumar Singh
- **MD and CEO of Bajaj Auto** - Rajivnayan Rahulkumar

**335. What is the revised ATM interchange fee for cash withdrawals approved by NPCI and RBI, effective from May 1, 2025?**

एनपीसीआई और आरबीआई द्वारा स्वीकृत नकद निकासी के लिए संशोधित एटीएम इंटरचेंज शुल्क क्या है, जो 1 मई, 2025 से प्रभावी होगा?

- (a) Rs 17
- (b) Rs 19
- (c) Rs 2
- (d) Rs 15
- (e) Rs 7

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** RBI, NPCI approve Rs 2 hike in ATM interchange fee from May 1, 2025

RBI, NPCI approve Rs 2 hike in ATM interchange fee from May 1, 2025.

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have approved an increase in the ATM interchange fee for cash withdrawals from Rs 17 to Rs 19, with effect from May 1, 2025.

The interchange has been revised for domestic financial and non-financial transactions. Non-financial transactions are subject to an interchange fee of Rs 7, according to an NPCI circular. A separate goods and services tax (GST) is levied on the interchange fee.

The revised interchange is not applicable for micro-ATM, interoperable cash deposit (card-based and UPI-based), and international ATM transactions. Such transactions will continue as per the existing rates.

The interchange fee for balance enquiries has been set at Rs 7 excluding GST for transactions in Nepal and Bhutan.

At present, there are 1,349 NFS members, up from 1,296 in February last year, according to NPCI data.

The volume of NFS-approved transactions stood at 315 million in February 2025, down 13.7 per cent from 365 million in February 2024.

**336. How much money has Bank of India raised via a dollar syndicated loan?**

**बैंक ऑफ इंडिया ने डॉलर सिंडिकेटेड लोन के ज़रिए कितना पैसा जुटाया है?**

- (a) \$100 million
- (b) \$200 million
- (c) \$300 million
- (d) \$400 million
- (e) \$500 million

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** BOI's first dollar loan deal in over a decade raises \$400 mn, woos 22 banks

Bank of India has raised \$400 million via a dollar syndicated loan, according to people familiar with the matter, marking its first such deal since 2012 that expands a list of the country's borrowers tapping global credit markets.

The rarity factor helped attract strong interest in the deal, allowing the borrower to increase the size by \$100 million via the so-called greenshoe option. The facility drew a total of 22 lenders including arrangers CTBC Bank Co. and Standard Chartered Plc. The loan is equally split into three- and five-year tranches, and raised via Bank of India's branch located in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City.

**337. SAMEER and AIIMS have signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on the development of advanced medical devices. What does SAMEER stand for in the context of this collaboration with AIIMS?**

**समीर और एम्स ने उन्नत चिकित्सा उपकरणों के विकास पर सहयोग करने के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। एम्स के साथ इस सहयोग के संदर्भ में समीर का क्या अर्थ है?**

- (a) Society for Advanced Medical Equipment and Research
- (b) Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research
- (c) Scientific Association for Medical Engineering and Electronics Research
- (d) Society for Artificial Intelligence and Medical Engineering Research
- (e) Systems for Applied Medical and Electronics Research

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** SAMEER and AIIMS sign MoU for collaborative research on medical devices

The Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER) and AIIMS have signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on the development of advanced medical devices.

The partnership aims to drive advancements in high-field and low-field Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) systems.

Additionally, the collaboration will focus on research in Radio Frequency (RF) and microwave technologies, all with the goal of enhancing medical applications and fostering innovation in the healthcare sector.

The MoU was signed on the occasion of the 32nd Foundation Day of the Department of NMR at AIIMS, New Delhi.

**338. What has the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently allowed standalone primary dealers (SPDs) to do?**

**भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने हाल ही में स्टैंडअलोन प्राइमरी डीलर्स (SPD) को क्या करने की अनुमति दी है?**

- (a) Participate in all repo operations irrespective of tenor**
- (b) Conduct independent monetary policy operations**
- (c) Participate only in overnight repo operations**
- (d) Issue their own government securities**
- (e) Manage the Marginal Standing Facility exclusively**

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** RBI allows standalone primary dealers to participate in all repo operations. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed standalone primary dealers (SPDs) to participate in all repo operations, irrespective of the tenor, conducted by the central bank.

On a review, it has now been decided to allow SPDs to participate in all repo operations, irrespective of the tenor, conducted by the Reserve Bank.

Earlier, SPDs were permitted to participate in all overnight liquidity management operations, excluding the Marginal Standing Facility. Additionally, SPDs could participate in other operations, such as long-term Variable Rate Repo (VRR) operations and daily VRRs, on a case-by-case basis.

There is a liquidity crunch, especially because this is March-end, and the deficit could be there going into the next financial year also. So, this only says liquidity can be more easily available for PDs.

The central bank also conducted longer-tenure VRRs in order to infuse durable liquidity in the banking system.

**339. What is the total monetary penalty imposed by the RBI on HDFC Bank for non-compliance with regulatory guidelines in March 2025?**

मार्च 2025 में विनियामक दिशानिर्देशों का पालन न करने के लिए RBI द्वारा HDFC बैंक पर लगाया गया कुल मौद्रिक जुर्माना कितना है?

- (a) ₹75 lakh
- (b) ₹68.2 lakh
- (c) ₹50 lakh
- (d) ₹100 lakh
- (e) ₹25 lakh

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** RBI imposes ₹75 lakh penalty on HDFC Bank, ₹68.2 lakh on Punjab & Sind Bank. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties on HDFC Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank for non-compliance with its regulatory guidelines.

While HDFC Bank is slapped with a ₹75 lakh penalty for violations related to KYC norms, Punjab & Sind Bank was fined ₹68.2 lakh for lapses in reporting large exposures and maintaining basic savings accounts.

Explaining the reasons behind the penalty on HDFC Bank, RBI said that it had conducted a statutory inspection of the bank with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2023. Based on supervisory findings of non-compliance with the central bank's directives, the RBI issued a notice to the bank advising it to show cause as to 'why penalty should not be imposed on it for its failure to comply with the said directions.'

In another order, RBI also imposed monetary penalty of Rs. 68.2 lakh on Punjab & Sind Bank for non-compliance with guidelines issued by the central bank on 'Creation of a Central Repository of Large Common Exposures – Across Banks' and 'Financial Inclusion - Access to Banking Services – Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA)'.

**340. Who has been nominated as a whole-time director to the board of Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL)?**

मारुति सुजुकी इंडिया लिमिटेड (MSIL) के बोर्ड में पूर्णकालिक निदेशक के रूप में किसे नामित किया गया है?

- (a) Sunil Kumar
- (b) Sunil Sharma
- (c) Sunil Kakkar
- (d) Sunil Gupta
- (e) Sunil Jain

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Sunil Kakkar becomes first Indian full-time director of Maruti Suzuki India

Sunil Kakkar, who has been leading the corporate planning division at Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL), has become the first homegrown Indian employee to be nominated to the company's board as a whole-time director.

The nomination was made by MSIL's majority shareholder, Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC).

MSIL's board currently comprises 11 members—five Indians and six Japanese. Among the Indian members, four are independent directors, while chairman R C Bhargava is the fifth. With Kakkar's addition, the board will now have equal representation of six Indians and six Japanese.

Kakkar's tenure as whole-time director will be from April 1 this year to March 31, 2028.

### 341. When is World Purple Day observed annually?

- (a) March 10
- (b) March 15
- (c) March 20
- (d) March 26
- (e) March 30

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** World Purple Day is observed annually on March 26 to raise awareness about epilepsy, a neurological disorder affecting millions worldwide.

This global movement was founded in 2008 by Cassidy Megan, a Canadian girl who wanted to educate people about epilepsy and reduce the stigma surrounding it.

**What is Epilepsy?**

Epilepsy is a neurological disorder characterized by recurrent seizures, which are sudden and temporary disturbances in brain activity. During a seizure, brain cells fire abnormally, causing changes in behaviour, sensation, or consciousness. There are three main types of epilepsy: idiopathic, symptomatic, and cryptogenic.

### 342. World Theatre Day is celebrated annually on March 27 to recognize the importance of theatre arts and their impact on society. What is the theme for World Theatre Day 2025?

विश्व रंगमंच दिवस हर साल 27 मार्च को रंगमंच कला के महत्व और समाज पर उनके प्रभाव को पहचानने के लिए मनाया जाता है। विश्व रंगमंच दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Theatre for Social Change
- (b) Theatre and Cultural Diversity
- (c) Theatre and a Culture of Peace
- (d) The Future of Theatre
- (e) Theatre and Global Unity

**Ans. c****Sol.** March 27 - World Theatre Day

World Theatre Day is celebrated annually on March 27 to recognize the importance of theatre arts and their impact on society.

Theme 2025 - Theatre and a Culture of Peace

Established in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI), this day highlights the power of theatre in fostering creativity, cultural exchange, and social awareness.

**343. In March 2025, what is the main purpose of the Biometric SDK****Benchmarking challenge launched by UIDAI and IIIT-Hyderabad?**

**मार्च 2025 में, यूआईडीएआई और आईआईआईटी-हैदराबाद द्वारा शुरू की गई बायोमेट्रिक एसडीके बैचमार्किंग चुनौती का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?**

- (a) To develop new iris recognition systems**
- (b) To test age invariance in biometric algorithms**
- (c) To improve facial recognition for adults**
- (d) To create a new Aadhaar database**
- (e) To train AI models for voice authentication**

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** UIDAI & IIIT-H launch biometric challenge to test age invariance in fingerprint algorithms

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), in collaboration with IIIT-Hyderabad has launched a large-scale competition to test age invariance in biometric algorithms.

The first phase of the Biometric SDK Benchmarking challenge focuses on fingerprint authentication, testing 1:1 matching algorithms for children aged 5-10 years, with updates after 5-10 years.

UIDAI ensures that participant submissions are evaluated securely, with anonymized datasets and no sharing of data with participants.

The challenge offers prizes worth Rs. 7.7 lakhs (USD 9,000) and the opportunity to collaborate with UIDAI in advancing biometric technologies.

Following the fingerprint challenge, UIDAI will also launch SDK benchmarking competitions for iris and face authentication.

Aadhaar is serving as a key pillar of good governance and digital inclusion in India and Aadhaar number holders are carrying out nearly 90 million authentication transactions daily for availing various services and benefits.

**344. Where was the 8th State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) Meeting held by RBI?**

**RBI द्वारा 8वीं राज्य स्तरीय समन्वय समिति (SLCC) बैठक कहाँ आयोजित की गई?**

- (a) **Kolkata**
- (b) **Mumbai**
- (c) **Gangtok**
- (d) **New Delhi**
- (e) **Chennai**

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** RBI Hosts 8th SLCC Meeting in Gangtok to Tackle Financial Frauds and Boost Literacy

The 8th State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) Meeting was held in Gangtok, chaired by Ravindra Telang, Chief Secretary of Sikkim, and convened by Thotngam Jamang, Regional Director of RBI, to discuss financial regulations and fraud prevention, including the implementation of the BUDS Rules under the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act, 2019.

The meeting addressed the rise in digital and financial frauds reported on Helpline 1930, with Sikkim Police reporting recovery efforts, while RBI and SEBI shared insights on investor awareness programs, the Sachet portal for reporting unregulated entities, and initiatives to curb fraudulent activities.

Attended by key dignitaries from RBI, SEBI, and various Sikkim government departments, the committee emphasized financial literacy outreach by RBI Gangtok.

**345. What is the total amount released by the Union Government to Karnataka and Tripura for rural development in March 2025?**

**मार्च 2025 में ग्रामीण विकास के लिए केंद्र सरकार द्वारा कर्नाटक और त्रिपुरा को जारी की गई कुल राशि कितनी है?**

- (a) **Rs. 336 crores**
- (b) **Rs. 436 crores**
- (c) **Rs. 536 crores**
- (d) **Rs. 636 crores**
- (e) **Rs. 736 crores**

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Centre releases over Rs 436 crore to Karnataka and Tripura for rural development. The Union Government has released over Rs. 436 crores as the second installment of the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) Grants for rural local bodies in Karnataka and Tripura for the financial year 2024–25.

In Tripura, Rs. 31.13 crores have been allocated as Untied Grants to benefit 589 eligible Gram Panchayats, along with all Block Panchayats, District Panchayats, and Traditional Local Bodies. Meanwhile, Karnataka has received Rs. 404.97 crores in Untied Grants for 5375 eligible Gram Panchayats, supporting rural local bodies across the state.

These grants empower Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to address location-specific needs under the 29 subjects outlined in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. The funds are dedicated to development initiatives, excluding salaries and establishment costs.

The XV Finance Commission Grants are divided into two categories: Untied Grants, which support diverse local development projects and the infrastructure, and Tied Grants, which focus on critical areas like sanitation and drinking water. This release is part of the government's broader efforts to decentralize resources and empower local governments to meet the unique needs of rural communities.

**347. India's central bank is set to double to 10 per cent a cap on investment by individual foreign investors in listed companies. Why is the RBI raising the foreign individual investment cap in listed firms?**

भारत का केंद्रीय बैंक सूचीबद्ध कंपनियों में व्यक्तिगत विदेशी निवेशकों द्वारा निवेश की सीमा को दोगुना करके 10 प्रतिशत करने जा रहा है। RBI सूचीबद्ध फर्मों में विदेशी व्यक्तिगत निवेश सीमा क्यों बढ़ा रहा है?

- (a) To increase stock prices
- (b) To boost capital inflows
- (c) To restrict foreign investment
- (d) To reduce competition
- (e) To comply with US regulations

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** RBI to raise foreign individual investment cap in listed firms to 10% India's central bank is set to double to 10 per cent a cap on investment by individual foreign investors in listed companies, as it aims to boost capital inflows. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), pressured by poor earnings, high valuations and prospects of US tariffs, have pulled more than \$28 billion out of Indian stocks since September's record high in the benchmark NSE Nifty 50.

To boost foreign investment, India is widening to all foreign investors benefits it had until now restricted to overseas Indians, while also raising applicable investment limits.

The plans envisage allowing all foreign individual investors to invest a maximum of 10 per cent in a listed company, the document showed.

That is up from the 5 per cent holding in an Indian company allowed to overseas Indian citizens by special rules under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). The central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), will also raise to 24 per cent the combined holding limit for all overseas individual investors in an Indian listed company, from 10 per cent now.

The plan to hike foreign investor limits in Indian listed firms is in the final stages of discussion between the government, the RBI, and Sebi.

**348. Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract with Armoured Vehicle Nigam Limited for the procurement of Nag Missile System (NAMIS) Tracked version of anti-tank weapon platform and Force Motors Ltd & Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd for around 5,000 Light Vehicles for the Armed Forces. What is the total cost of the contracts signed with Armoured Vehicle Nigam Limited, Force Motors Ltd, and Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd?**

रक्षा मंत्रालय (MoD) ने नाग मिसाइल सिस्टम (NAMIS) ट्रैक्ड वर्जन एंटी-टैक हथियार प्लेटफॉर्म की खरीद के लिए आर्मर्ड व्हीकल निगम लिमिटेड के साथ और फोर्स मोटर्स लिमिटेड और महिंद्रा एंड महिंद्रा लिमिटेड के साथ सशस्त्र बलों के लिए लगभग 5,000 हल्के वाहनों की खरीद के लिए एक अनुबंध पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। आर्मर्ड व्हीकल निगम लिमिटेड, फोर्स मोटर्स लिमिटेड और महिंद्रा एंड महिंद्रा लिमिटेड के साथ हस्ताक्षरित अनुबंधों की कुल लागत क्या है?

- (a) Rs 1,500 crore
- (b) Rs 2,000 crore
- (c) Rs 2,500 crore
- (d) Rs 3,000 crore
- (e) Rs 3,500 crore

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** MoD inks Rs 2,500 crore contracts for NAMIS Tracked version of anti-tank weapon platform

Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract with Armoured Vehicle Nigam Limited for the procurement of Nag Missile System (NAMIS) Tracked version of anti-tank weapon platform and Force Motors Ltd & Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd for around 5,000 Light Vehicles for the Armed Forces at a total cost of around Rs 2,500 crore. The total cost of contract for the procurement of NAMIS(Tr) weapon system, developed by Defence Research & Development Laboratory of DRDO, is Rs 1,801.34 crore.

These modern vehicles are designed as per contemporary vehicle technology with enhanced engine power to cater to a payload of 800 kgs. It will provide mobility to the Armed Forces in all types of terrain and operational conditions.

**349. MobiKwik, a fintech firm, has entered the stock broking industry by launching its wholly owned subsidiary, MobiKwik Securities Broking. Which government body has approved the incorporation of MobiKwik Securities Broking?**

मोबिकिक, एक फिनटेक फर्म, ने अपनी पूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली सहायक कंपनी, मोबिकिक सिक्योरिटीज ब्रोकिंग को लॉन्च करके स्टॉक ब्रोकिंग उद्योग में प्रवेश किया है। किस सरकारी नियमाय ने मोबिकिक सिक्योरिटीज ब्रोकिंग के निगमन को मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- (b) Reserve Bank of India
- (c) Ministry of Finance
- (d) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- (e) NITI Aayog

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** MobiKwik to enter stock broking business, incorporates new subsidiary MobiKwik, a fintech firm, has entered the stock broking industry by launching its wholly owned subsidiary, MobiKwik Securities Broking, with approval from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

This will make Mobikwik a competitor to industry leaders like Zerodha, Groww, and AngelOne.

The new subsidiary aims to join various stock and commodity exchanges in India and internationally, enabling MobiKwik to engage in trading shares, securities, debt instruments, commodities, currencies, and their derivatives.

MobiKwik Securities Broking starts with an initial capital of Rs 1 lakh, and the parent company plans to invest an additional Rs 2 crore in phases to support its growth in the broking business.

**350. The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and UNICEF YuWaah have signed a three-year partnership to boost rural employment, entrepreneurship, and skill development for women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Pilot projects like "Computer Didi Centers" and "Didi ki Dukan" will be launched in five states to strengthen digital infrastructure and economic opportunities. Which of the following is NOT one of the five states selected for the pilot projects "Computer Didi Centers" and "Didi ki Dukan"?**

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय (MoRD) और यूनिसेफ युवाह ने स्वयं सहायता समूहों (SHG) की महिलाओं के लिए ग्रामीण रोजगार, उद्यमिता और कौशल विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए तीन साल की साइडेदारी पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। डिजिटल बुनियादी ढांचे और आर्थिक अवसरों को मजबूत करने के लिए पाँच राज्यों में "कंप्यूटर दीदी केंद्र" और "दीदी की दुकान" जैसी पायलट परियोजनाएँ शुरू की जाएँगी। निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा राज्य "कंप्यूटर दीदी केंद्र" और "दीदी की दुकान" पायलट परियोजनाओं के लिए चुने गए पाँच राज्यों में से एक नहीं है?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Jharkhand
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Rajasthan

**(e) Uttar Pradesh****Ans. e**

**Sol.** MoRD & UNICEF YuWaah Partner to Empower Rural Women and Youth

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and UNICEF YuWaah have signed a three-year partnership to boost rural employment, entrepreneurship, and skill development for women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

Pilot projects like "Computer Didi Centers" and "Didi ki Dukan" will be launched in five states—Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan—to strengthen digital infrastructure and economic opportunities.

If successful, the initiative could expand to benefit 35 lakh women across 7,000+ blocks in India, supporting rural prosperity and resilience as outlined in the 2025-26 Union Budget.

The partnership will introduce a "Youth Hub" for jobs, skilling, and volunteering, while promoting "Lakhpatti Didis", a model aimed at creating successful women entrepreneurs in rural India.

**351. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, 72, was sworn in as Namibia's first woman president, succeeding outgoing President Nangolo Mbumba in a formal ceremony. Which political party does Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah represent?**

नेटुम्बो नंदी-नदैतवा, 72, ने नामीबिया की पहली महिला राष्ट्रपति के रूप में शपथ ली, उन्होंने निवर्तमान राष्ट्रपति नांगोलो म्बुम्बा का स्थान लिया। नेटुम्बो नंदी-नदैतवा किस राजनीतिक दल का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं?

- (a) African National Congress
- (b) Democratic Turnhalle Alliance
- (c) SWAPO Party
- (d) People's Democratic Movement
- (e) United Democratic Front

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Sworn in as Namibia's First Woman President

Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, 72, was sworn in as Namibia's first woman president, succeeding outgoing President Nangolo Mbumba in a formal ceremony.

Representing the SWAPO party, which has governed Namibia for over three decades, she won 58% of the vote in the November presidential elections.

Her inauguration followed the election of Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila as Namibia's first female parliamentary speaker, adding to the growing list of women leaders in Africa.

**About Namibia**

- **Capital** – Windhoek

- **Currency** – Namibian dollar, South African rand
- **President** - Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah (*First woman president of nation*)
- **Official language** – English

**352. The Khelo India Para Games 2025 concluded at JLN Stadium, New Delhi. Which of the following states secured the top three positions in the medal tally of Khelo India Para Games 2025?**

खेलो इंडिया पैरा गेम्स 2025 का समापन नई दिल्ली के जेएलएन स्टेडियम में हुआ। निम्नलिखित में से किस राज्य ने खेलो इंडिया पैरा गेम्स 2025 की पदक तालिका में शीर्ष तीन स्थान हासिल किए?

- (a) Haryana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu
- (b) Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Punjab, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu
- (e) Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Khelo India Para Games 2025 Concludes with Record-Breaking Performances  
The Khelo India Para Games 2025 concluded at JLN Stadium, New Delhi, with Union Minister Raksha Nikhil Khadse highlighting its role as a vital platform for para-athletes, where 18 national records were shattered and over 550 medals were won across six sports.

Haryana led the medal tally with 34 gold, 39 silver, and 31 bronze, followed by Tamil Nadu in second place with 28 gold, 19 silver, and 27 bronze, and Uttar Pradesh in third with 23 gold, 21 silver, and 20 bronze.

The eight-day event saw over 1,300 para-athletes from across India, including strong participation from Northeastern states, competing in Para Archery, Para Athletics, Para Badminton, Para Powerlifting, Para Shooting, and Para Table Tennis.

Minister Khadse launched the Handbook on Accessibility of Sports Facilities, reaffirming the government's commitment to sports development, while praising the event's success in showcasing para-athletes' talent and fostering inclusivity.

**353. B Sumeeth Reddy, who recently announced his retirement, was associated with which sport?**

बी सुमीत रेड्डी, जिन्होंने हाल ही में अपनी सेवानिवृत्ति की घोषणा की, किस खेल से जुड़े थे?

- (a) Tennis
- (b) Table Tennis
- (c) Squash
- (d) Badminton

**(e) Archery****Ans. d****Sol.** Former CWG medallist Sumeeth Reddy retires

India's doubles specialist B Sumeeth Reddy, a member of the 2022 Commonwealth Games mixed team silver medal-winning squad, has announced his retirement as an active badminton player to focus entirely on coaching.

Sumeeth and Manu, who achieved the highest world ranking of 17, won the 2016 South Asian Games gold medal, qualified for the Rio Olympics, and were also part of the men's team at the Asia Team Championships in Hyderabad.

He represented India at the 2014 and 2018 Asian Games and won the 2015 Mexico City Grand Prix and 2016 Canada Open, along with finishing as runner-up at the US Open and Dutch Open in 2015.

**Recently Retired Players**

- Mushfiqur Rahim (Bangladesh) - One Day Internationals Cricket
- Steve Smith (Australia) - One Day Internationals Cricket
- A. Sharath Kamal - Table Tennis
- Martin Guptill (New Zealand) – International cricket
- Rishi Dhawan (India) – Cricket
- Moeen Ali (England) - International Cricket

**354. What is the name of the artificial intelligence-powered chatbot launched by Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini?**

हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री नायब सिंह सैनी द्वारा लॉन्च किए गए कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता संचालित चैटबॉट का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Mitra
- (b) Sarathi
- (c) Pragati
- (d) Suvidha
- (e) Sahayak

**Ans. b****Sol.** Haryana CM launches AI chatbot 'Sarathi' for enhanced citizen engagement

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has launched the state-of-the-art artificial intelligence-powered chatbot 'Sarathi' for the Chief Secretary's office website.

This chatbot is aimed at bringing revolutionary changes in citizen engagement by providing easy access to important government directives, notifications, and circulars published over the years.

The Chatbot was developed by HARTRON (Haryana State Electronics Development Corporation Limited), This chatbot is exclusively based on the information contained in the official documents of the website.

It can process and retrieve information from a vast database of over 17,820 official documents, covering 73,622 scanned PDF pages. Key documents in its knowledge base include directives, agendas, circulars, acts, policies, notifications, and government orders.

### **About Haryana**

- **Capital** – Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister** – Nayab Singh Saini(11th)
- **Governor** – Bandaru Dattatreya
- **Legislative Assembly Seats**- 90

**355. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested its indigenously designed and developed Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM). Where was the successful test of the VL-SRSAM conducted?**

रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (DRDO) ने स्वदेशी रूप से डिजाइन और विकसित वर्टिकल लॉन्च शॉर्ट रेंज सरफेस टू एयर मिसाइल (VL-SRSAM) का सफलतापूर्वक परीक्षण किया है। VL-SRSAM का सफल परीक्षण कहाँ किया गया?

- (a) Pokhran Range
- (b) Wheeler Island
- (c) Integrated Test Range, Chandipur
- (d) Sriharikota
- (e) Andaman & Nicobar Islands

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** DRDO successfully tests VL-SRSAM missile at Chandipur, Odisha

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested its indigenously designed and developed Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM).

The test was conducted at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur island in Bay Bengal, off the coast of Odisha.

The missile is being developed by the DRDO for the Indian Navy, and the Indian Navy personnel were involved in the testing of the missile.

The DRDO-developed missile will replace the Israeli short-range surface-to-air missile, Barak-1 missile, currently deployed by the Indian Navy.

**356. World Piano Day is observed annually on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of the year, symbolizing the 88 keys on a standard piano. It celebrates the beauty, history, and significance of the instrument in music.**

विश्व पियानो दिवस प्रतिवर्ष वर्ष के \_\_\_\_\_ दिन मनाया जाता है, जो एक मानक पियानो पर 88 कुंजियों का प्रतीक है। यह संगीत में वाद्ययंत्र की सुंदरता, इतिहास और महत्व का जश्न मनाता है।

- (a) 86th
- (b) 87th
- (c) 88th
- (d) 89th
- (e) 90th

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 29 March 2025 - World Piano Day

World Piano Day is observed annually on the 88th day of the year, symbolizing the 88 keys on a standard piano. It celebrates the beauty, history, and significance of the instrument in music.

German pianist and composer Nils Frahm founded World Piano Day in 2015 to appreciate and promote the instrument's artistic and cultural value.

The day serves as a platform to inspire young artists, support piano education, and encourage musical.

**357. Who has inaugurated Techkriti 2025, Asia's largest intercollegiate technical and entrepreneurial festival?**

एशिया के सबसे बड़े इंटरकॉलेजिएट तकनीकी और उद्यमशीलता महोत्सव टेक्रूटि 2025 का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

- (a) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit
- (b) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- (c) Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan
- (d) IIT Kanpur Director Prof. Manindra Agrawal
- (e) Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** CDS Anil Chauhan inaugurates 'Techkriti 2025'

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan, inaugurated Techkriti 2025, Asia's largest intercollegiate technical and entrepreneurial festival, at IIT Kanpur.

This year's theme, "Panta Rhei" (Everything Flows), highlights the continuous evolution of technology and innovation. Techkriti 2025 promises to be a remarkable celebration of technology, entrepreneurship and collaboration, pushing the boundaries of discovery and innovation.

A special segment, 'Rakshakriti', a dedicated Defence Expo to showcase the cutting-edge defence technology, was a key feature of Techkriti 2025. Driving further synergy between armed forces, academia and defence industry, Gen Anil Chauhan interacted with budding technologists.

**358. The Supreme Court recently made a significant ruling regarding health insurance claims related to alcohol consumption. What was the key condition under which insurers are allowed to deny such claims, according to the judgment?**

हाल ही में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने शराब के सेवन से संबंधित स्वास्थ्य बीमा दावों के बारे में एक महत्वपूर्ण फैसला सुनाया। फैसले के अनुसार, वह मुख्य शर्त क्या थी जिसके तहत बीमाकर्ता ऐसे दावों को अस्वीकार कर सकते हैं?

- (a) Insurers can deny claims if the customer failed to explicitly disclose their alcoholism at the time of purchasing the policy, as this violates the principle of utmost good faith
- (b) Insurers can deny claims only if the customer consumed alcohol after purchasing the policy, regardless of prior disclosure
- (c) Insurers can deny claims if the customer's alcoholism was disclosed but not medically verified by a doctor at the time of policy purchase
- (d) Insurers can deny claims if the customer's hospitalisation occurred more than a year after purchasing the policy, regardless of disclosure
- (e) Insurers can deny claims only if the policy explicitly states that alcohol-related conditions are covered, but the customer failed to pay a higher premium

**Ans. a**

**Sol. Insurers can deny health claims for alcohol-related hospitalisation**

The Supreme Court has ruled that insurers can deny health insurance claims if a customer had not explicitly disclosed their alcoholism at the time of purchasing a policy.

This judgment serves as a wake-up call in the insurance ecosystem. The principle of utmost good faith will bind both the insurer and the insured. Non-disclosure could give the insurer a ground to repudiate the claim, when the claim is arising out of alcohol consumption," said Alay Razvi, managing partner, Accord Juris.

The case involved a man who bought a policy called Jeevan Arogya from Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in 2013. While completing his application, he did not disclose his long-term heavy alcohol consumption.

**Less than a year after purchasing the policy, he was hospitalised in Jhajjar, Haryana, due to severe stomach pain. Following a month of treatment, he suffered a fatal heart attack.**

**After his death, his wife submitted a claim for medical expenses under the policy. However, LIC rejected it, citing the man's failure to disclose his alcoholism. The insurer maintained that the policy explicitly excludes coverage for 'self-inflicted diseases' and "complications caused by excessive alcohol consumption". Since the man had falsely stated that he did not drink, LIC declared the claim invalid.**

**359. With which organization has the Chhattisgarh government signed an MoU to boost development and employment?**

**छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार ने विकास और रोजगार को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किस संगठन के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) Confederation of Indian Industry
- (b) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry
- (c) National Association of Software and Services Companies
- (d) NITI Aayog
- (e) Reserve Bank of India

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Chhattisgarh Signs MoU with Nasscom to Boost Development and Employment  
The Chhattisgarh government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) to boost the state's development and generate employment opportunities.

Under its new industrial policy, Chhattisgarh has attracted investment proposals worth ~4.4 trillion.

#### **About Chhattisgarh**

- **Capital** – Raipur
- **Chief Minister** – Vishnu Deo Sai (replace Bhupesh Baghel)
- **Deputy CM** - Arun Sao & Vijay Sharma
- **Governor** – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**360. Recently, what is the percentage increase in Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief over the existing rate, as approved by the Union Cabinet?**

**हाल ही में, केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल द्वारा स्वीकृत महंगाई भत्ते और महंगाई राहत में मौजूदा दर से कितने प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है?**

- (a) 2%
- (b) 3%

- (c) 5%
- (d) 1%
- (e) 4%

**Ans. a**

**Sol. Cabinet approves release of an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees**

**The Union Cabinet has approved an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to the Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners from effective from January 1, 2025.**

**The Centre said 48.66 lakh Central Government employees and 66.55 lakhs pensioners will get 2% increase over the existing rate of 53% of the basic pay or pension. It will cost ₹ 6,614.04 crore per annum to the exchequer.**

**361. What is the total funding recently approved for the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme by the Union Cabinet?**

**केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल द्वारा इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स घटक विनिर्माण योजना के लिए हाल ही में स्वीकृत कुल धनराशि कितनी है?**

- (a) ₹15,000 crore
- (b) ₹22,919 crore
- (c) ₹30,509 crore
- (d) ₹10,750 crore
- (e) ₹25,200 crore

**Ans. b**

**Sol. Cabinet approves Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme for making India Atmanirbhar in electronics supply chain**  
The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi has approved the **Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme** with a funding of Rs.22,919 crore to make India Atmanirbhar in electronics supply chain.

This scheme aims to develop a robust component ecosystem by attracting large investments (global/domestic) in electronics component manufacturing ecosystem, increasing Domestic Value Addition (DVA) by developing capacity and capabilities, and integrating Indian companies with Global Value Chains (GVCs).

The scheme envisages to attract investment of Rs.59,350 crore, result in production of Rs.4,56,500 crore and generate additional direct employment of 91,600 persons and many indirect jobs as well during its tenure.

**Salient Features of the Scheme:**

- The scheme provides differentiated incentives to Indian manufacturers tailored to overcome specific disabilities for various categories of components and

sub-assemblies so that they can acquire technological capabilities and achieve economies of scale.

- The tenure of the scheme is six (6) years with one (1) year of gestation period.
- Payout of a part of the incentive is linked with employment targets achievement.

**362. The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilisers for fixing the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Kharif Season, 2025 from April 1 to September 30 on Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers. What is the total budgetary requirement approved for the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) for Kharif 2025?**

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की अध्यक्षता में केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने फॉस्फेटिक और पोटाशिक उर्वरकों पर 1 अप्रैल से 30 सितंबर तक खरीफ सीजन, 2025 के लिए पोषक तत्व आधारित सब्सिडी (एनबीएस) दरें तय करने के लिए उर्वरक विभाग के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दे दी है। खरीफ 2025 के लिए पोषक तत्व आधारित सब्सिडी (एनबीएस) के लिए स्वीकृत कुल बजटीय आवश्यकता क्या है?

- (a) ₹25,000 crore
- (b) ₹30,560 crore
- (c) ₹37,216 crore
- (d) ₹40,000 crore
- (e) ₹50,050 crore

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Cabinet Approves Nutrient Based Subsidy Rates For Kharif Season 2025

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilisers for fixing the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Kharif Season, 2025 from April 1 to September 30 on Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers.

The budgetary requirement for Kharif season 2025 would be Rs 37,216.15 crore, which is Rs 13000 crore more than the budgetary requirement for Rabi season 2024-25.

**Benefits:**

Availability of fertilizers to farmers at subsidized, affordable and reasonable prices will be ensured.

Rationalization of subsidy on P&K fertilizers in view of recent trends in the international prices of fertilizers and inputs.

Besides this, Cabinet has also given its nod to inclusion of Kosi Mechi Intra-State Link Project of Bihar under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme.

Estimated cost of the project is Rs 6,282.32 crore, including Rs 3,652.56 crore central assistance to Bihar, is to be completed by March 2029. And remodeling of existing

Eastern Kosi Main Canal up to 41.30 km and extension of EKMC up to river Mechi at 117.50 km.

**263. What is the final budget allocation for the Department of Fertilizers in 2024-25 after the Supplementary Demands for Grants?**

**2024-25 में उर्वरक विभाग के लिए अनुपूरक अनुदान मांगों के बाद अंतिम बजट आवंटन क्या है?**

- (a) ₹1,50,000 crore
- (b) ₹1,75,000 crore
- (c) ₹1,91,836 crore
- (d) ₹2,00,000 crore
- (e) ₹1,68,130 crore

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Final Budget allocation for the Department of Fertilizers has increased to Rs. 1,91,836.29 crore

The final budget for the Department of Fertilizers in 2024-25 was raised from ₹1,68,130.81 crore to ₹1,91,836.29 crore, with the NBS scheme allocation increasing from ₹45,000 crore to ₹54,310 crore through Supplementary Demands for Grants. The government assesses state-wise and month-wise demand before each cropping season and allocates adequate supplies. The Integrated Fertilizer Monitoring System (iFMS) tracks movement, with weekly video conferences ensuring smooth distribution.

In Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, extended till 2025-26, the overall outlay of Rs. 93,068.56 crores have been approved by the Government for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Urea is provided at a fixed MRP of ₹242 per 45 kg bag, unchanged since 2018. Under the NBS scheme, P&K fertilizers receive subsidies, with companies setting MRPs under government monitoring.

Due to geopolitical challenges, the government approved a ₹3,500 per MT one-time special package on DAP subsidy (April 2024–March 2025) to maintain affordability for farmers.

The government is securing long-term agreements with resource-rich countries to ensure consistent and affordable fertilizer imports, supporting Indian agriculture.

**364. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the PM Modi, has approved the construction of 4-lane access controlled greenfield and brownfield Patna – Arrah – Sasaram corridor starting from Patna to Sasaram (120.10 km) in Bihar. Which mode will be used for developing the Patna-Arrah-Sasaram corridor project?**

पीएम मोदी की अध्यक्षता में आर्थिक मामलों की कैबिनेट समिति (CCEA) ने बिहार में पटना से सासाराम (120.10 किमी) तक 4-लेन एक्सेस कंट्रोल्ड ग्रीनफील्ड और ब्राउनफील्ड पटना-आरा-सासाराम कॉरिडोर के निर्माण को मंजूरी दे दी है। पटना-आरा-सासाराम कॉरिडोर परियोजना को विकसित करने के लिए किस मोड का उपयोग किया जाएगा?

- (a) **Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT)**
- (b) **Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC)**
- (c) **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)**
- (d) **Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)**
- (e) **Direct Government Funding**

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Cabinet approves construction of 4-Lane greenfield and brownfield Patna-Arrah-Sasaram corridor (NH-119A) (120.10 km) in Bihar

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the construction of 4-lane access controlled greenfield and brownfield Patna – Arrah – Sasaram corridor starting from Patna to Sasaram (120.10 km) in Bihar. The project will be developed on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) at a total capital cost of Rs. 3,712.40 crore.

Currently, connectivity between Sasaram, Arrah and Patna relies on existing State Highways (SH-2, SH-12, SH-81 and SH-102) and takes 3-4 hours due to heavy congestion including in Arrah town. A greenfield corridor, along with 10.6 km of upgradation of existing brownfield highway, will be developed to reduce the increasing congestion, catering to the needs of densely built-up areas in places like Arrah, Grahini, Piro, Bikramganj, Mokar and Sasaram.

The project alignment integrates with major transport corridors, including NH-19, NH-319, NH-922, NH-131G, and NH-120, providing seamless connectivity to Aurangabad, Kaimur, and Patna. Additionally, the project will also provide connectivity to 02 airports (Patna's Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport and upcoming Bihita airport), 04 major railway stations (Sasaram, Arrah, Danapur, Patna), and 01 Inland Water Terminal (Patna), and enhance direct access to Patna Ring Road, facilitating faster movement of goods and passengers.

**365. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the PM Modi, has approved inclusion of Kosi Mechi Intra-State Link Project of Bihar. Under which scheme has the Kosi Mechi Intra-State Link Project of Bihar been included?**

पीएम मोदी की अध्यक्षता में आर्थिक मामलों की कैबिनेट कमेटी (सीसीईए) ने बिहार के कोसी मेची इंट्रा-स्टेट लिंक प्रोजेक्ट को शामिल करने की मंजूरी दे दी है। बिहार की कोसी मेची इंट्रा-स्टेट लिंक परियोजना को किस योजना के अंतर्गत शामिल किया गया है?

- (a) **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)**

- (b) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)**
- (c) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana - Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (PMKSY-AIBP)**
- (d) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)**
- (e) National Water Mission (NWM)**

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Cabinet approves inclusion of Kosi Mechi Intra-State Link Project of Bihar under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the PM Modi, has approved inclusion of Kosi Mechi Intra-State Link Project of Bihar under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana - Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (PMKSY-AIBP) of Ministry of Jal Shakti.

The CCEA has also approved central support of Rs.3,652.56 crore to Bihar for completion of the project by March, 2029 with an estimated cost of Rs.6,282.32 crore. The Link Project will provide 2,10,516 hectares additional annual irrigation in Kharif season in Araria, Purnea, Kishanganj and Katihar districts of Bihar. The project has potential to divert/utilize about 2,050 million cubic meter of surplus water of Kosi through the proposed link canal. Further, after remodelling of existing EKMC, shortfall supply to 1.57 lakh hectare existing command of existing Eastern Kosi Main Canal shall be restored.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) was launched during the year 2015-16, with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improved on-farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices, etc.

Government of India has approved implementation of PMKSY during 2021-26 with an overall outlay of Rs.93,068.56 crore (central assistance of Rs.37,454 crore).

**366. Where will the 14th edition of the India-Russia naval exercise Indra 2025 take place?**

**भारत-रूस नौसैनिक अभ्यास इंद्र 2025 का 14वां संस्करण कहाँ आयोजित होगा?**

- (a) Mumbai**
- (b) Chennai**
- (c) Visakhapatnam**
- (d) Kochi**
- (e) Kolkata**

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Ex Indra:14th edition of India, Russia bilateral naval exercise set to take place off Chennai

The 14th edition of the India-Russia naval exercise Indra will take place off Chennai from March 28 to April 2, 2025, reinforcing the strategic naval cooperation between the two nations.

The exercise will be conducted in two phases—the Harbour Phase (March 28-30) in Chennai, featuring subject matter expert exchanges and pre-sail briefings, and the Sea Phase (March 31-April 2) in the Bay of Bengal, including tactical maneuvers and live drills.

The exercise will see participation from Russian Naval Ships Pechanga, Rezkiy, and Aldar Tsydenzhapov, along with Indian Naval Ships Rana, Kuthar, and maritime patrol aircraft P8I.

#### Recent Exercise

- 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of bilateral naval exercise, **Varuna 2025** between India and France - Arabian Sea
- INS Ranvir participates in **Exercise Bongosagar 2025** between India and Bangladesh
- **12th edition** of Exercise **KHANJAR-XII between** India and Kyrgyzstan - Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan
- **7th edition of Security Belt-2025 between Russia, China and Iran** - Iranian port of Chabahar near Indian Ocean
- **Exercise Desert Hunt 2025** between Indian Navy, Indian Army and India Air Force - Indian Air Force at Air Force Station Jodhpur

**367. How much does the Centre plan to raise through dated securities in the first half (April-September) of 2025-26?**

**केंद्र सरकार 2025-26 की पहली छमाही (अप्रैल-सितंबर) में दिनांकित प्रतिभूतियों के माध्यम से कितनी राशि जुटाने की योजना बना रही है?**

- (a) ₹6 lakh crore
- (b) ₹8 lakh crore
- (c) ₹10 lakh crore
- (d) ₹12 lakh crore
- (e) ₹14.82 lakh crore

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Govt to mobilise Rs 8 lakh cr via bonds in first half of FY26.

The Centre plans to raise Rs 8 lakh crore through dated securities during April-September period of 2025-26 to fund the revenue gap.

Out of gross market borrowing of Rs 14.82 lakh crore estimated for 2025-26, Rs 8 lakh crore, or 54 per cent, is planned to be borrowed in the first half (H1) through

issuance of dated securities, including Rs 10,000 crore of Sovereign Green Bonds (SGRBs).

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Budget proposed to borrow Rs 14.82 lakh crore by issuing dated securities to meet revenue shortfall in the next financial year. Fiscal deficit, the gap between the government's total revenue and total expenditure, is estimated to be 4.4 per cent of GDP for FY26 as compared to 4.8 per cent of the GDP estimated for the current financial year. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit is pegged at Rs 15,68,936 crore for the financial year 2025-26.

To finance the fiscal deficit, the net market borrowings from dated securities are estimated at Rs 11.54 lakh crore. The balance financing is expected to come from small savings and other sources.

**368. Universal Acceptance Day is observed on March 28 every year to promote the idea that all domain names and email addresses should be treated equally and accepted by all internet-enabled applications and systems. What is the theme for Universal Acceptance Day 2025?**

सार्वभौमिक स्वीकृति दिवस हर साल 28 मार्च को इस विचार को बढ़ावा देने के लिए मनाया जाता है कि सभी डोमेन नाम और ईमेल पतों को समान रूप से माना जाना चाहिए और सभी इंटरनेट-सक्षम अनुप्रयोगों और प्रणालियों द्वारा स्वीकार किया जाना चाहिए। सार्वभौमिक स्वीकृति दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Digital Inclusion for All
- (b) Connecting the Unconnected - Building a Multilingual Internet for Viksit Bharat
- (c) One World, One Internet
- (d) Universal Connectivity for a Digital Future
- (e) Embracing Multilingual Technology

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 28 March - Universal Acceptance Day

Universal Acceptance Day is observed on March 28 every year to promote the idea that all domain names and email addresses should be treated equally and accepted by all internet-enabled applications and systems.

Theme 2025 - Connecting the Unconnected - Building a Multilingual Internet for Viksit Bharat.

Universal Acceptance is a concept that aims to ensure that all domain names, including those with non-ASCII characters, and email addresses are accepted and validated equally by all internet applications and systems.

The first Universal Acceptance Day was observed on 28 March 2023, and since then, it has been celebrated every year.

**369. Which wildlife sanctuary in Punjab is being developed as a leopard safari destination?**

पंजाब में किस वन्यजीव अभ्यारण्य को तेंदुए सफारी गंतव्य के रूप में विकसित किया जा रहा है?

- (a) Harike Wildlife Sanctuary
- (b) Jhajjar-Bachauli Wildlife Sanctuary
- (c) Bir Bhadson Wildlife Sanctuary
- (d) Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary
- (e) Takhni-Rehmapur Wildlife Sanctuary

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Punjab to develop Jhajjar-Bachauli Wildlife Sanctuary for Leopard safari

The Punjab government will develop the Jhajjar-Bachauli Wildlife Sanctuary as a leopard safari destination to promote eco-tourism in the state.

The Punjab Government will develop the wildlife sanctuary in the Sri Anandpur Sahib as the state's first wildlife sanctuary of the state where the tourist will view the wildlife in its natural habitat.

The state government has allocated Rs 10 crore for the Nangal project in its 2025-26 budget to develop the tourist infrastructure in the region.

The Jhajjar- Bachauli Wildlife Sanctuary was declared a protected sanctuary by the Punjab government in 1998 under the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

#### **About Punjab**

- **Capital** – Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister** – Bhagwant Mann
- **Governor** – Banwarilal Purohit

**370. Who has been confirmed as the Director of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH)?**

यू.एस. नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ हेल्थ (NIH) के निदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Vivek Murthy
- (b) Jay Bhattacharya
- (c) Sanjay Gupta
- (d) Anthony Fauci
- (e) Ashish Jha

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Dr Jay Bhattacharya confirmed as Director of NIS of the United States Indian-American scientist Jay Bhattacharya has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the country's top health research and funding institutions.

Dr. Bhattacharya, a professor of Health Policy at Stanford University, was confirmed by a 53-47 vote.

Dr Jay Bhattacharya was nominated by Donald Trump as the 18th NIH Director after being elected as the 47th President of the US in November 2024.

### Recent Appointment in Foreign

- **President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)** - Zimbabwe's Kirsty Coventry (*first female President in IOC history*).
- **CEO of Unilever** - Fernando Fernandez (replace Hein Schumacher)
- **Director of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)** - Kash Patel (9th)
- **Senior White House Policy Advisor on Artificial Intelligence by Trump** - Sriram Krishnan
- **Chairperson of United Nations Internal Justice Council (IJC)** - Madan B Lokur (for 4 year)

**371. What was India's core sector growth rate in February 2025?**

**फरवरी 2025 में भारत की कोर सेक्टर विकास दर क्या थी?**

- (a) 1.5%
- (b) 2.9%
- (c) 3.8%
- (d) 4.6%
- (e) 5.2%

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India's core sector growth slows down to 2.9% in Feb as against 4.6% in January. India's core sector growth slowed down to by 2.9 per cent in February as against 4.6 per cent in January 2025.

The production of Cement, Fertilizers, Steel, Electricity, Coal and Refinery Products recorded positive growth in February, 2025.

Coal production saw a modest increase of 1.7% in February, a slowdown compared to the 4.6% growth recorded in January.

In contrast, crude oil production witnessed a sharper decline, contracting by 5.2% in February, a significant drop from the 1.1% contraction seen in the previous month.

**372. The government has left interest rates unchanged on various small savings schemes like PPF and NSC for the fifth consecutive quarter, starting April 1, 2025. Which small savings scheme offers an interest rate of 7.7% for the April-June 2025 period?**

सरकार ने 1 अप्रैल, 2025 से शुरू होने वाली लगातार पांचवीं तिमाही के लिए पीपीएफ और एनएससी जैसी विभिन्न लघु बचत योजनाओं पर ब्याज दरों को अपरिवर्तित रखा है। कौन सी लघु बचत योजना अप्रैल-जून 2025 की अवधि के लिए 7.7% की ब्याज दर प्रदान करती है?

- (a) Public Provident Fund
- (b) Senior Citizens Savings Scheme
- (c) National Savings Certificate
- (d) Post Office Savings Deposit
- (e) Kisan Vikas Patra

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Interest rates on small savings schemes unchanged for April-June quarter

The government has left interest rates unchanged on various small savings schemes like PPF and NSC for the fifth consecutive quarter, starting April 1, 2025.

Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme will continue to offer 8.2% interest, while the three-year term deposit rate remains at 7.1%.

The Public Provident Fund (PPF) and Post Office Savings Deposit interest rates have been retained at 7.1% and 4%, respectively.

The National Savings Certificate (NSC) interest rate remains 7.7%, while the Monthly Income Scheme will continue to offer 7.4% interest.

The interest rates on small savings schemes are reviewed quarterly, but no changes have been made since the fourth quarter of 2023-24.

#### **Saving Schemes Interest rates for April 2025 – June 2025**

- Post Office Savings Deposit- 4 per cent
- Post Office Monthly Income Account- 7.4 percent
- 1-Year Post Office Time Deposits- 6.9 percent
- 2-Year Post Office Time Deposits- 7.0 percent
- 3-Year Post Office Time Deposits- 7.1 percent
- 5-Year Post Office Time Deposits- 7.5 percent
- 5-Year Recurring Deposits- 6.7 percent
- Senior Citizens Savings Scheme- 8.2 per cent
- Sukanya Samriddhi Account- 8.2 per cent
- National Saving Certificates (NSC)- 7.7 percent
- Kisan Vikas Patra- 7.5 percent (will mature in 115 months)
- Public Provident Fund- 7.1 per cent

#### **373. Who has been appointed as the new CEO and Whole-time Director of Ambuja Cements?**

अंबुजा सीमेंट्स के नए सीईओ और पूर्णकालिक निदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Ajay Kapur
- (b) Praveen Garg
- (c) Vinod Bahety
- (d) Rakesh Tiwary
- (e) Gautam Adani

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Ajay Kapur reappointed as MD of Ambuja Cements

Ajay Kapur has been reappointed as Managing Director (MD) of Ambuja Cements Limited, a subsidiary of the Adani Group, for two years.

Alongside Vinod Bahety has been appointed as the new CEO and Whole-time Director of Ambuja Cements for a three-year term.

The company also appointed Rakesh Tiwary as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Praveen Garg as a Non-Executive Independent Director for a three-year term.

#### **374. Who has been elected as the new Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA)?**

**भारतीय बैंक संघ (आईबीए) के नए अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे चुना गया है?**

- (a) Atul Kumar Goel
- (b) Swarup Kumar Saha
- (c) CS Setty
- (d) A Maninekhali
- (e) Madhav Nair

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** IBA elects CS Setty as new Chairman

The managing committee of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has elected State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman CS Setty as the new Chairman.

The committee also elected Union Bank MD A Maninekhali, Punjab & Sind Bank MD Swarup Kumar Saha, and Madhav Nair from Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC as three deputy Chairmen.

Karur Vysya Bank, MD B Ramesh Babu has been elected as honorary secretary of IBA. Earlier this month, former Punjab National Bank MD Atul Kumar Goel was elected as the CEO of IBA, succeeding Sunil Mehta.

IBA is the industry body for banks, having members from across public and private sector banks. The body holds consultations between bankers and the banking regulator on areas concerning the sector.

#### **375. Which bank has partnered with PSB Alliance for Digital Supply Chain Finance?**

**डिजिटल सप्लाई चेन फाइनेंस के लिए किस बैंक ने पीएसबी एलायंस के साथ साझेदारी की है?**

- (a) State Bank of India**
- (b) Punjab National Bank**
- (c) Bank of Baroda**
- (d) Central Bank of India**
- (e) Union Bank of India**

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Central Bank of India Partners with PSB Alliance for Digital Supply Chain Finance  
Central Bank of India said it has entered into a memorandum of understanding with PSB Alliance Pvt Ltd for Digital Supply Chain Finance.

Under this partnership, the public sector bank will leverage the digital platform offered by PSB Alliance for end-to-end, paperless financing for supply chain participants.

#### **Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector**

- SEBI Partners with DigiLocker to Tackle Unclaimed Assets in Securities Market
- DPIIT and YES BANK Partner to Strengthen India's Startup Ecosystem
- Piramal Finance partnered with Punjab & Sind Bank to make loans more accessible to middle and low-income borrowers, especially in rural and semi-urban areas.
- SIDBI signs MoU with Federal Bank to foster growth of MSME ecosystem
- Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited partnered with GIC Housing Finance Limited to provide credit life insurance solutions to home loan borrowers.

**376. Who has become the first Indian to qualify for the final eight of a WTT Star Contender event?**

**डब्ल्यूटीटी स्टार कंटेंडर इवेंट के अंतिम आठ के लिए कालीफाई करने वाले पहले भारतीय कौन बने हैं?**

- (a) Sathiyan Gnanasekaran**
- (b) Sharath Kamal**
- (c) Manav Thakkar**
- (d) Harmeet Desai**
- (e) Krittika Roy**

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Manav Thakkar Becomes First Indian to Reach Final Eight of WTT Star Contender In Table Tennis, India's Manav Thakkar created history by becoming the first Indian to qualify for the final eight of a WTT Star Contender event.

He defeated Andre Bertelsmeier of Germany, 3-2 in the men's singles prequarterfinal at the WTT Star Contender in Chennai.

Meanwhile, in women's singles, India's Krittika Roy was defeated 0-3 by three-time World Championship medalist Miyu Nagasaki of Japan in the pre-quarterfinals.

**377. Who has become the oldest man to reach the semi-final of an ATP Masters 1000 event?**

**एटीपी मास्टर्स 1000 इवेंट के सेमीफाइनल में पहुंचने वाले सबसे उम्रदराज व्यक्ति कौन बने हैं?**

- (a) Rafael Nadal
- (b) Andy Murray
- (c) Novak Djokovic
- (d) Roger Federer
- (e) Carlos Alcaraz

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Novak Djokovic becomes oldest man to reach ATP Masters 1000 semi-final

In Tennis, Novak Djokovic has become the oldest man to reach semi-final of the ATP Masters 1000.

The 37-year-old Serbian achieved this feat by defeating American Sebastian Korda with an impressive 6-3 7-6 win in the quarterfinals of the Miami Open. He surpassed Roger Federer, who made the final four at Indian Wells and Miami open at the age of 37 years and seven months in 2019.

**378. Who has been appointed as the Whole-time Member (Life) of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)?**

**भारतीय बीमा विनियामक एवं विकास प्राधिकरण (IRDAI) के पूर्णकालिक सदस्य (जीवन) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Ramesh Kumar
- (b) Swaminathan S. Iyer
- (c) Akula Krishna Rao
- (d) Koushik Sharma
- (e) Rajiv Sharma

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** TATA AIA's Swaminathan S. Iyer Joins IRDAI as Whole-Time Member (Life)

Mumbai-based fintech and insurance professional Swaminathan S. Iyer has been appointed as a Whole-time Member (Life) of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

This historic move by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) is the first time a private sector professional has been selected for this high-profile position, ending the long tradition of selection from the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). Iyer, formerly Executive Vice President – Head Legal, Company Secretary, and Regulatory Affairs & ESG of Tata AIA Life Insurance, has more than 34 years of

experience working in the life insurance sector. His term will be five years or until he turns 62, whichever is earlier.

**379. What is the total percentage stake Zaggle Prepaid Ocean Services Ltd will acquire in EffiaSoft Private Ltd?**

जैगल प्रीपेड ओशन सर्विसेज लिमिटेड, एफियासॉफ्ट प्राइवेट लिमिटेड में कुल कितने प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी का अधिग्रहण करेगी?

- (a) 45.33%
- (b) 38.34%
- (c) 51%
- (d) 5.67%
- (e) 81%

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Zaggle Acquires 51% Stake in EffiaSoft for ₹41 Crore to Boost Fintech Capabilities

Fintech SaaS company Zaggle Prepaid Ocean Services Ltd has announced the acquisition of a 51% controlling stake in Hyderabad-based billing software provider EffiaSoft Private Ltd.

This deal, valued at over Rs. 41 crore, is set to strengthen Zaggle's position in the fintech ecosystem by enhancing its merchant services and payment processing capabilities.

The acquisition will be executed in two stages. Initially, Zaggle will acquire a 45.33% stake in EffiaSoft for Rs. 36.72 crore, purchasing shares from founders Koushik Shee and Akula Krishna Rao, as well as other existing shareholders.

The board has also approved acquiring an additional 5.67% stake for Rs. 4.59 crore, with the mode of acquisition, cash or share swap, to be decided later. The deal values EffiaSoft at an enterprise valuation of approximately Rs. 81 crore.

This acquisition comes shortly after Zaggle completed its investment in Mobileware Technologies, acquiring a 38.34% stake for nearly Rs. 23 crore.

**380. Abound, a fintech platform tailored for Indians residing in the United States, has raised \$14 million in a seed funding round. Which organization led Abound's seed funding round?**

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में रहने वाले भारतीयों के लिए तैयार किए गए फिनटेक प्लेटफॉर्म एबाउंड ने सीड फंडिंग राउंड में 14 मिलियन डॉलर जुटाए हैं। एबाउंड के सीड फंडिंग राउंड का नेतृत्व किस संगठन ने किया?

- (a) Sequoia Capital
- (b) Accel Partners
- (c) NEAR Foundation

- (d) SoftBank
- (e) Tiger Global

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Fintech Startup Abound Raises \$14M to Serve Indian-Americans

Abound, a fintech platform tailored for Indians residing in the United States, has raised \$14 million in a seed funding round led by the NEAR Foundation. The round also saw participation from Circle Ventures, Times Internet, and other prominent investors.

This marks the company's first external funding since its incubation at Times Internet, the digital arm of The Times of India Group.

The capital injection aims to propel Abound's mission of creating a seamless financial bridge between non-resident Indians (NRIs) and their home country.

CEO of Abound - Nishkaam Mehta

**381. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed two contracts with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for the supply of Light Combat Helicopters (LCH), Prachand, along with training and other associated equipment, worth Rs 62,700 crore. How many Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) will be supplied to the Indian Army under the HAL contracts?**

हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड (HAL) ने रक्षा मंत्रालय (MoD) के साथ लाइट कॉम्बैट हेलीकॉप्टर (LCH), प्रचंड की आपूर्ति के लिए 62,700 करोड़ रुपये के दो अनुबंधों पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। HAL अनुबंधों के तहत भारतीय सेना को कितने लाइट कॉम्बैट हेलीकॉप्टर (LCH) की आपूर्ति की जाएगी?

- (a) 66
- (b) 90
- (c) 156
- (d) 177
- (e) 193

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** HAL signs Rs 62,700-cr deal with MoD for supply of light combat helicopters

Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) has signed two contracts with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for the supply of 156 Light Combat Helicopters (LCH), Prachand, along with training and other associated equipment, worth Rs 62,700 crore.

The first contract is for the supply of 66 LCHs to the Indian Air Force (IAF), and the second is for the supply of 90 LCHs to the Indian Army. The supply of these helicopters will commence in the third year and will be spread over the next five years. These contracts will enhance the combat capability of the Armed Forces at high altitudes.

The Defence Ministry also signed a contract with Metrea Management for the wet leasing of one Flight Refueling Aircraft (FRA) to provide air-to-air refueling training to pilots of the IAF and Indian Navy.

Metrea will provide the FRA (KC-135 Aircraft) within six months, marking the first FRA to be wet-leased by the IAF.

With the signing of these three contracts, the total number of contracts signed by the Ministry of Defence during 2024-25 has reached 193, with an overall contract value exceeding Rs 2,09,050 crore. This is the highest-ever figure, nearly double the previous highest amount. Of these, 177 contracts (92%) are with the domestic industry, totaling Rs 1,68,922 crore (81%).

**381. India and Japan have signed loan agreements for six projects under Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to India. What is the total value of the loan agreements signed between India and Japan?**

भारत और जापान ने भारत को जापान की आधिकारिक विकास सहायता (ODA) के तहत छह परियोजनाओं के लिए ऋण समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। भारत और जापान के बीच हस्ताक्षरित ऋण समझौतों का कुल मूल्य क्या है?

- (a) 100 billion Japanese yen
- (b) 150 billion Japanese yen
- (c) 191 billion Japanese yen
- (d) 200 billion Japanese yen
- (e) 250 billion Japanese yen

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India, Japan sign loan agreements worth JPY 191.73 billion for 6 projects

India and Japan have signed loan agreements worth 191.736 billion Japanese yen for six projects under Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to India.

India and Japan yesterday signed loan agreements worth 191.736 billion Japanese yen for six projects in forest management, water supply, urban transport, aquaculture, biodiversity conservation and investment promotion.

The six loan agreements include one for the Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Program (Phase 3) (TNIPP-III) (JPY 36.114 billion).

Also, one for Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (Phase 4 Additional Corridors) (I)" (JPY 79.726 billion).

Another Project is for the Construction of Chennai Seawater Desalination Plant (II)" (JPY 52.556 billion).

**382. Which organization has recently published the second edition of "Trade Watch Quarterly" for Q2 FY 2024-25?**

**किस संगठन ने हाल ही में वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 की दूसरी तिमाही के लिए "ट्रेड वॉच कार्टरली" का दूसरा संस्करण प्रकाशित किया है?**

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**
- (b) Ministry of Commerce & Industry**
- (c) NITI Aayog**
- (d) Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)**
- (e) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** NITI Aayog launches second edition of "Trade Watch Quarterly" in New Delhi. The second edition of Trade Watch Quarterly for Q2 of the financial year 2024-25 (July to September) was officially released in New Delhi by Dr Arvind Virmani, Member of NITI Aayog.

Published by NITI Aayog, the report offers a comprehensive overview of India's trade performance, analysing global demand-supply trends, sector-specific developments, and emerging opportunities in the international trade landscape.

During Q2 FY'25, India recorded a steady trade growth of 5.67 per cent in the April-September 2024 period compared to the same timeframe in 2023.

Notably, copper entered the top ten import categories, with a significant 28 per cent year-on-year surge, primarily driven by increased infrastructure demand. While export composition remained largely consistent with the previous quarter, electrical machinery and nuclear reactors showed notable year-on-year growth. In contrast, mineral fuels and iron & steel experienced declines.

North America and the European Union accounted for nearly 40 per cent of India's exports, while Northeast and West Asia continued as major import partners.

This edition places special emphasis on the textile sector, a vital contributor to India's industrial output, employment generation, and export earnings. India ranks among the top ten textile exporters globally, holding a 4 per cent share in international trade. The country maintains a competitive edge in natural fibre-based textiles, with cotton and carpets representing about 70 per cent of its textile exports.

**383. Which bank has implemented the Pradhan Mantri Vidyalaxmi (PM-Vidyalaxmi) Scheme for education loans?**

**किस बैंक ने शिक्षा ऋण के लिए प्रधानमंत्री विद्यालक्ष्मी (पीएम-विद्यालक्ष्मी) योजना लागू की है?**

- (a) State Bank of India**
- (b) Punjab National Bank**
- (c) Bank of Baroda**
- (d) HDFC Bank**
- (e) ICICI Bank**

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Bank of Baroda Goes Live with PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme to Boost Education Loans

Bank of Baroda has officially implemented the Pradhan Mantri Vidyalaxmi (PM-Vidyalaxmi) Scheme to provide financial assistance for higher education.

Students can now apply for education loans seamlessly through the PM-Vidyalaxmi portal, enhancing accessibility and ease of processing.

The bank has set up 12 Education Loan Sanctioning Cells (ELSC) and 119 Retail Assets Processing Cells (RAPC), backed by over 8,300 branches nationwide.

Students can avail of collateral-free and guarantor-free education loans up to ₹7.5 lakh, with a 75% credit guarantee from the Government of India.

Students who get admission in the top 860 identified Quality Higher Educational Institutions (QHEIs) of the nation are eligible to apply for an education loan under this scheme.

The scheme offers partial or full interest subvention to students from economically weaker sections, ensuring affordability and financial inclusion.

#### **384. Who has won the women's singles title at the Indian Open 2025 PSA**

**Copper event?**

**इंडियन ओपन 2025 पीएसए कॉपर इवेंट में महिला एकल का खिताब किसने जीता है?**

- (a) Joshna Chinappa
- (b) Dipika Pallikal
- (c) Tanvi Khanna
- (d) Anahat Singh
- (e) Sunayna Kuruvilla

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Anahat Singh & Kareem El Torkey win the Indian Open 2025 Squash Title

Indian number one-ranked women's squash player, Anahat Singh has won the women's singles title at the Indian Open 2025 PSA Copper event in Mumbai.

This was her second consecutive title after her victory in the SRFI Indian Tour PSA Challenger event in Chennai.

The men's title was won by Egypt's Kareem El Torkey.

The \$53,500 prize money Indian Open 2025 PSA Copper event was held at the iconic Bombay Gymkhana's court in Mumbai.

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