

Best 300+ MCQs

December 2025

Current Affairs PDF



1. On which date is International Jaguar Day observed every year to raise awareness about jaguar conservation?

हर साल जगुआर संरक्षण के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय जगुआर दिवस किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 25th November
- (b) 27th November
- (c) 29th November
- (d) 30th November
- (e) 28th November

Ans. c

Sol. 29th November – International Jaguar Day

International Jaguar Day is observed on 29th November each year to raise awareness about the conservation of jaguars, one of the largest and most iconic wild cats of the Americas.

The day aims to highlight the threats faced by jaguars, including habitat loss, poaching, and human-wildlife conflicts, and to promote global conservation efforts.

Wildlife organizations and enthusiasts use this day to educate the public, support research programs, and advocate for protected areas and corridors to ensure the survival of jaguars in the wild.

2. On which date is the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People observed each year?

हर साल Palestinian People के साथ अंतर्राष्ट्रीय एकजुटता दिवस किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 25th November
- (b) 27th November
- (c) 29th November
- (d) 30th November
- (e) 28th November

Ans. c

Sol. 29th November – International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is observed on 29th November every year to express support for the Palestinian people and their rights. The day marks the anniversary of the UN General Assembly Resolution 181 (1947), which called for the partition of Palestine and laid the groundwork for highlighting Palestinian issues globally.

It aims to raise awareness about the struggles of Palestinians, promote international cooperation, and encourage efforts toward a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

3. On which date is Red Planet Day observed every year to celebrate Mars?

हर साल मंगल ग्रह (Red Planet) के सम्मान में Red Planet Day किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 14th November
- (b) 21st November

- (c) 28th November
- (d) 30th November
- (e) 25th November

Ans. c

Sol. 28th November – Red Planet Day

Red Planet Day is observed on 28th November every year to celebrate and raise awareness about Mars, also known as the Red Planet, highlighting its significance in space exploration.

The day aims to educate people about Mars' unique features, including its red color caused by iron oxide, its atmosphere, and the potential for future human exploration. Space agencies and astronomy enthusiasts use this day to promote research, discoveries, and missions related to Mars, inspiring interest in science, astronomy, and interplanetary studies.

4. Which newly launched platform by NPCI Bharat BillPay allows the RBI to monitor fund transfers in real time?

NPCI भारत बिलपे द्वारा लॉन्च किया गया कौन सा नया प्लेटफॉर्म RBI को रियल टाइम में फंड ट्रांसफर की निगरानी करने की सुविधा देता है?

- (a) UPI Connect
- (b) Bharat BillPay
- (c) NEFT Connect
- (d) IMPS Connect
- (e) Banking Connect

Ans. e

Sol. NPCI's Banking Connect Launched to Enable Real-Time RBI Monitoring and Boost Bill Payments

Banking Connect, a newly launched net banking platform by NPCI Bharat BillPay (NBBL), will allow the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to monitor fund transfers in real time, improving oversight over sectors like cryptocurrency and gaming.

NBBL aims to quadruple monthly bill payments from 260 million to 1 billion in four years, expanding accessibility to over 135 million households, or about half of India's households.

The platform will minimise fraud by flagging suspicious transactions, although social engineering frauds, where customers are tricked into revealing sensitive information, remain a challenge.

Banking Connect offers features like interoperability and a mobile-first approach, with participation from six banks and multiple payment aggregators, and efforts underway to onboard the top five banks by net banking volumes within a month.

5. The Chhattisgarh Housing Board (CGHB), aiming to provide affordable housing and revive its revenue after years of slump, has launched a series of housing projects across 26 districts. These projects are worth a total of ₹2,060 crore and are expected to construct 12,000 homes, including options for premier housing. How many projects have been launched by CGHB under this initiative?

राज्य के हाउसिंग सेक्टर में स्थिरता और राजस्व में सुधार के लिए, छत्तीसगढ़ हाउसिंग बोर्ड (CGHB) ने 26 जिलों में ₹2,060 करोड़ से अधिक मूल्य के हाउसिंग प्रोजेक्ट लॉन्च किए हैं। इन परियोजनाओं के तहत कुल 12,000 घर बनाए जाने हैं, जिसमें प्रीमियर हाउसिंग विकल्प भी शामिल हैं। इस पहल के तहत CGHB ने कुल कितने प्रोजेक्ट लॉन्च किए हैं?

- (a) 45
- (b) 50
- (c) 55
- (d) 60
- (e) 65

Ans. c

Sol. Chhattisgarh Housing Board Launches ₹2,060 Crore Projects to Build 12,000 Affordable Homes

The Chhattisgarh Housing Board (CGHB) has launched 55 housing projects worth ₹2,060 crore across 26 districts, aiming to provide affordable homes for 12,000 families, inaugurated by CM Vishnu Deo Sai in Raipur.

The state has cleared loans worth ₹790 crore, and CGHB plans to fund these projects using money from home bookings, with construction starting in about three months and completion expected within 24 months.

CGHB's recent revenue recovery, from ₹278 crore (2019–2023) to ₹860 crore, has been aided by one-time settlement schemes and discounts, enabling expansion to premier homes and future projects in seven more districts.

6. Which international financial institution has approved a \$400 million results-based lending program to help the state of Maharashtra, India, develop climate-resilient, low-carbon, safe, and inclusive road networks, particularly enhancing connectivity for rural communities?

कौन सा अंतरराष्ट्रीय वित्तीय संगठन महाराष्ट्र, भारत में जलवायु-प्रतिरोधी, कम-कार्बन, सुरक्षित और समावेशी सड़क नेटवर्क विकसित करने के लिए विशेष रूप से ग्रामीण समुदायों की संपर्क सुविधा बढ़ाने हेतु \$400 मिलियन का परिणाम-आधारित ऋण कार्यक्रम मंजूर किया है?

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

Ans. b

Sol. ADB Approves \$400 Million Loan to Boost Climate-Resilient Road Connectivity in Maharashtra

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$400 million loan under a results-based lending program to upgrade Maharashtra's road network, focusing on climate-resilient, low-carbon, safe, and inclusive infrastructure.

The Maharashtra Roads Connectivity for Inclusive Growth Program aims to improve all-weather road connectivity in 34 districts, particularly in the Marathwada and Vidarbha

regions, linking rural communities to markets, healthcare, education, and other essential services.

The program will enhance road safety management using iRAP methodology and the safe systems approach, support safer road designs, improve school and village gateways, and train at least 120 engineers in road safety practices.

7. Which regulatory body has relaxed the educational qualification criteria for Investment Advisers (IAs) and Research Analysts (RAs)?

कौन सा नियामक निकाय Investment Advisers (IAs) और Research Analysts (RAs) के लिए शैक्षणिक योग्यता मानदंड को आसान किया है?

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

Ans. b

Sol. SEBI Eases Educational Criteria for Investment Advisers and Research Analysts
Markets regulator SEBI relaxes educational criteria for Investment Advisers (IAs) and Research Analysts (RAs), allowing graduates from any discipline, including law and engineering, to apply for registration.

Despite the relaxation, passing the NISM certification exam remains mandatory to ensure domain knowledge and professional preparedness.

Previously, applicants needed a graduate or postgraduate degree in finance-related fields such as Finance, Commerce, Economics, Business Management, or Capital Markets.

Eligible applicants must have a recognized graduate degree or equivalent, including a CFA Charter, and the relevant NISM or accredited certification for registration.

8. Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director of PUMA India, starting December 2025?

दिसंबर 2025 से PUMA इंडिया के नए मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर के तौर पर किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Karthik Balagopalan
- (b) Sanjay Lalbhai
- (c) Matthias Bäumer
- (d) Anand Mahindra
- (e) Ramprasad Sridharan

Ans. e

Sol. Ramprasad Sridharan Appointed Managing Director of PUMA India, Succeeds Karthik Balagopalan

Ramprasad Sridharan has been appointed as the Managing Director of PUMA India from December, succeeding Karthik Balagopalan who chose to pursue new interests.

Sridharan will report directly to Matthias Bäumer, PUMA's Chief Commercial Officer, and brings over 25 years of experience in brand building, digital growth, and commercial strategy across the Asia-Pacific region.

Prior to PUMA, he was CEO and Managing Director at United Colors of Benetton India and has held senior leadership roles at Clarks and Reebok India.

Recent Appointments

- **Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) - Justice Vikram Nath (replace Surya Kant)**
- **Deputy Chairman of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) - Ravish Kumar Singh**
- **Chairman of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) - Sunil Paliwal (replace Vijay Kumar)**
- **President of Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles (OICA) - Shailesh Chandra (replace John Bozzella)**

9. Who is set to assume the role of Chairperson of the 35-nation International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) for 2026?

2026 के लिए 35 देशों के इंटरनेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर डेमोक्रेसी एंड इलेक्टोरल असिस्टेंस (इंटरनेशनल IDEA) के चेयरपर्सन की भूमिका कौन संभालेगा?

- (a) Sushil Chandra
- (b) Gyanesh Kumar
- (c) Sunil Arora
- (d) Parul Tyagi
- (e) Achal Kumar Jyoti

Ans. b

Sol. CEC Gyanesh Kumar to Become Chairperson of International IDEA for 2026

CEC Gyanesh Kumar will assume the role of Chairperson of the 35-nation International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) for 2026, taking over on 3 December 2025 during the Council of Member States meeting in Stockholm, Sweden.

As Chairperson, he will preside over all council meetings in 2026, reflecting the Election Commission of India's global credibility and innovative election management practices. International IDEA, established in 1995, is an inter-governmental organisation with 35 member countries (with the US and Japan as observers), committed to strengthening democratic institutions and promoting inclusive, accountable, and resilient democracies worldwide.

10. Who became the youngest ever FIDE World Cup winner by defeating GM Wei Yi in the 2025 edition held in Goa, India?

गोवा, भारत में आयोजित 2025 FIDE World Cup में GM Wei Yi को हराकर सबसे युवा FIDE World Cup विजेता कौन बने?

- (a) Nodirbek Yakubboev
- (b) Andrey Esipenko
- (c) Javokhir Sindarov
- (d) Magnus Carlsen

(e) Hikaru Nakamura

Ans. c

Sol. Javokhir Sindarov Becomes Youngest Ever FIDE World Cup Champion

Javokhir Sindarov Becomes Youngest Ever FIDE World Cup Champion, Wins

\$120,000 19-year-old Uzbek GM Javokhir Sindarov became the youngest ever FIDE World Cup winner by defeating GM Wei Yi 1.5-0.5 in tiebreaks, earning the \$120,000 top prize.

The 2025 FIDE World Cup in Goa, India featured 206 players in a single-elimination knockout format from November 1–26, determining three spots for the 2026 FIDE Candidates Tournament.

GM Andrey Esipenko won the third-place match and a Candidates spot, earning \$60,000, while Wei Yi secured second place and \$85,000, with the total prize fund of the tournament being \$2 million.

11. Renowned artiste Kumari Kamala (Kamala Lakshminarayanan) passed away at the age of 91 in California. Which classical dance style did Kumari Kamala help popularise on the global stage, known for its grace, flowing lines, and dramatic expressions?

मशहूर आर्टिस्ट कुमारी कमला (कमला लक्ष्मीनारायणन) का 91 साल की उम्र में कैलिफोर्निया में निधन हो गया। कुमारी कमला ने किस क्लासिकल डांस स्टाइल को ग्लोबल स्टेज पर पॉपुलर बनाने में मदद की, जो अपनी सुंदरता, बहती लाइनों और ड्रामैटिक एक्सप्रेशन के लिए जानी जाती है?

- (a) Kathak
- (b) Odissi
- (c) Bharatanatyam
- (d) Kuchipudi
- (e) Mohiniyattam

Ans. c

Sol. Renowned Bharatanatyam Legend Kumari Kamala Passes Away at 91

Renowned Bharatanatyam artiste Kumari Kamala (Kamala Lakshminarayanan) passed away at the age of 91 in California; she was among the last living connections to the era when sadir evolved into modern Bharatanatyam.

Trained under Vazhuvoor Ramaiah Pillai, she helped shape and popularize the Vazhuvur bani, known for its grace, fluid movements, and dramatic expression, becoming one of the most influential performers of the mid-20th century.

Born in 1934, Kamala excelled in both stage and cinema, later settling in the U.S., where she continued teaching; she was honoured with several awards including the Padma Bhushan (1975) and the U.S. National Heritage Fellowship for her immense contributions to Bharatanatyam.

12. Which award did the Ministry of Mines receive at IITF 2025 for excellence in display under the Central Ministries & Government Departments Pavilion category?

IITF 2025 में सेंट्रल मिनिस्ट्रीज एंड गवर्नमेंट डिपार्टमेंट्स पैवेलियन कैटेगरी में बेहतरीन प्रदर्शन के लिए मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ माइन्स को कौन सा अवॉर्ड मिला?

- (a) Gold Award
- (b) Bronze Award
- (c) Silver Award
- (d) Platinum Award
- (e) Special Jury Award

Ans. c

Sol. Ministry of Mines Wins Silver Award for Excellence in Display at IITF 2025

The Ministry of Mines received the Silver Medal (Second Prize) for excellence in display under the Central Ministries & Government Departments category at IITF 2025, with the award presented to Joint Secretary Smt. Farida M. Naik and senior officials.

CPSEs under the Ministry showcased India's industrial and strategic strengths, with NALCO highlighting its leadership in aluminium production and its applications in clean energy, transportation, and strategic sectors.

Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) displayed its copper products and emphasized copper's significance across power, construction, railways, electronics, and its cultural contribution to the Ram Mandir, where it supplied around 70,000 pure copper strips and blocks.

13. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)'s analysis of Analysis of the Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) data for FY 2024-25 identified high-risk cases where taxpayers failed to report foreign assets, prompting the launch of the second NUDGE campaign from 28 November 2025, advising taxpayers to revise their ITRs by 31 December 2025 to avoid penalties. The second NUDGE campaign primarily aims to help taxpayers correctly report which two schedules related to foreign holdings and income in their ITRs?

सेंट्रल बोर्ड ऑफ डायरेक्ट टैक्सेज (CBDT) के FY 2024-25 के ऑटोमैटिक एक्सचेंज ऑफ इन्फोर्मेशन (AEOI) डेटा के एनालिसिस में ऐसे हाई-रिस्क केस की पहचान की गई, जहाँ टैक्सपेयर्स विदेशी एसेट्स की रिपोर्ट करने में फेल रहे। इसके बाद 28 नवंबर 2025 से दूसरा NUDGE कैंपेन शुरू किया गया, जिसमें टैक्सपेयर्स को पेनल्टी से बचने के लिए 31 दिसंबर 2025 तक अपने ITRs को रिवाइज़ करने की सलाह दी गई। दूसरे NUDGE कैंपेन का मुख्य मकसद टैक्सपेयर्स को अपने ITRs में विदेशी होल्डिंग्स और इनकम से जुड़े कौन से दो शेड्यूल सही ढंग से रिपोर्ट करने में मदद करना है?

- (a) Schedule AL and Schedule HP
- (b) Schedule FA and Schedule FSI
- (c) Schedule OS and Schedule CYLA
- (d) Schedule TDS and Schedule SI
- (e) Schedule VI-A and Schedule TR

Ans. b

Sol. CBDT Launches Second NUDGE Campaign to Ensure Accurate Reporting of Foreign Assets and Income

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)'s analysis of Analysis of the Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) data for FY 2024-25 identified high-risk cases where taxpayers failed to report foreign assets, prompting the launch of the second NUDGE campaign from 28 November 2025, advising taxpayers to revise their ITRs by 31 December 2025 to avoid penalties.

The campaign focuses on ensuring accurate disclosure in Schedule FA (Foreign Assets) and Schedule FSI (Foreign Source Income) as mandated under the Income-tax Act, 1961 and the Black Money Act, 2015.

Using the PRUDENT approach, CBDT applies advanced data analytics to promote transparent, technology-driven, taxpayer-friendly administration and support the vision of Viksit Bharat through voluntary compliance.

The first NUDGE campaign (November 2024) led to 24,678 taxpayers revising returns, disclosing ₹29,208 crore worth of foreign assets and ₹1,089.88 crore foreign income, showcasing the effectiveness of data-driven and non-intrusive compliance measures.

14. Under the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework, how much amount has the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) released to 85 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in Maharashtra?

एक्सेस एंड बेनिफिट शेयरिंग (ABS) फ्रेमवर्क के तहत, नेशनल बायोडायवर्सिटी अथॉरिटी (NBA) ने महाराष्ट्र में 85 बायोडायवर्सिटी मैनेजमेंट कमेटियों (BMCs) को कितनी रकम जारी की है?

- (a) ₹2.56 crore
- (b) ₹4.10 crore
- (c) ₹5.34 crore
- (d) ₹7.50 crore
- (e) ₹10.12 crore

Ans. c

Sol. NBA Releases ₹5.34 Crore to 85 Biodiversity Committees in Maharashtra Under Access and Benefit Sharing Framework

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has released ₹5.34 crore to around 85 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in Maharashtra under the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework, benefiting communities in Wada Tehsil, Palghar District, and BMC Mumbai.

Approximately 15% of ABS applications involve accessing microorganisms, highlighting how small biological resources can generate significant benefits for farmers, local communities, and other stakeholders.

With this release, India's total ABS disbursements have crossed ₹116 crore, adding to previous allocations including ₹2.56 crore already disbursed to 108 BMCs and 7 institutions in Maharashtra.

15. C-DOT, a premier R&D centre under the Department of Telecommunications, recently signed an MoU with which leading national institute to establish a Centre

of Excellence (CoE) aimed at boosting indigenous capabilities in advanced communication technologies?

डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ टेलीकम्युनिकेशन्स के तहत एक प्रमुख R&D सेंटर, C-DOT ने हाल ही में किस प्रमुख नेशनल इंस्टिट्यूट के साथ एक MoU साइन किया है। इसका मकसद एडवांस्ड कम्युनिकेशन टेक्नोलॉजी में स्वदेशी क्षमताओं को बढ़ावा देना है।

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

Ans. b

Sol. C-DOT and IIT Roorkee Join Hands to Establish Centre of Excellence for Advanced Communication Technologies

C-DOT signed an MoU with IIT Roorkee to collaborate on advancing research and innovation in cutting-edge communication technologies.

Under this MoU, C-DOT will establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) at IIT Roorkee to accelerate indigenous R&D and capacity building.

The CoE will focus on joint research and prototype development in areas such as 5G/6G, RF-Sub-THz ICs, sensors, millimeter-wave beamforming antennas, V2X communication, and energy-efficient wireless technologies.

Recent MoU

- *BEL & Safran Sign JV to manufacture HAMMER Precision Weapon in India*
- *CSIR Signs Pact with Industrial Corridor Corporation to Boost Innovation and High-Tech R&D Ecosystems*
- *Engineers India Signs MoU with NMDC Energy to Boost Onshore Oil, Gas, and Green Energy Projects in Saudi Arabia*
- *UIDAI Partners with Behavioural Insights Ltd to Boost Biometric Updates for Children Aged 5 to 15 Years*
- *NHA Renews MoU with DHR and ICMR to Boost Evidence-Based Healthcare and Strengthen Ayushman Bharat Schemes*

16. World AIDS Day is observed every year on 1st December to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and support people living with the disease. What is the theme of World AIDS Day 2025?

HIV/AIDS के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने और इस बीमारी से जूझ रहे लोगों की मदद करने के लिए हर साल 1 दिसंबर को वर्ल्ड एड्स डे मनाया जाता है। वर्ल्ड एड्स डे 2025 की थीम क्या है?

- (a) End Inequalities, End AIDS
- (b) Communities Make the Difference
- (c) Let Communities Lead
- (d) Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response
- (e) Equal Access for All

Ans. d

Sol. 1 December – World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is observed every year on 1st December to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and support people living with the disease.

The day highlights the global commitment to achieving the goal of "Ending AIDS as a public health threat" by 2030.

Theme 2025 - Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response

The red ribbon, a symbol of solidarity and support, is widely used to honour those affected and remember lives lost to AIDS.

17. National Pollution Control Day is observed every year on which date?

राष्ट्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण दिवस हर वर्ष किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

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

Ans. b

Sol. 2 December – National Pollution Control Day

National Pollution Control Day is observed every year on 2nd December to raise awareness about the harmful effects of pollution.

The day commemorates the victims of the 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy, one of the world's worst industrial disasters.

It highlights the need for strict pollution control measures, industrial safety, and environmental protection.

18. International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is observed every year on which date?

दासता उन्मूलन के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस को हर वर्ष किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

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

Ans. b

Sol. 2 December – International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is observed every year on 2nd December to raise awareness about modern forms of slavery.

The day focuses on ending practices such as human trafficking, forced labour, child labour, forced marriage, and sexual exploitation.

It highlights global efforts and commitments by the United Nations to eliminate all forms of contemporary slavery.

19. Which organisation created history by setting a Guinness World Record for conducting the largest career advice programme session in a single day, with thousands of students participating across India?

प्रश्न: किस संगठन ने एक ही दिन में देशभर के हजारों छात्रों की भागीदारी के साथ सबसे बड़े करियर सलाह कार्यक्रम का आयोजन कर गिनीज वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड बनाया?

- (a) RBI
- (b) SEBI
- (c) CBSE
- (d) ICAI
- (e) NITI Aayog

Ans. d

Sol. ICAI Sets Guinness World Record with Largest Career Advice Session in Mumbai
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) set a Guinness World Record by conducting the largest career advice programme session in a single day in Mumbai, with participation from over 7,400 students and others.

The event, titled 'Career in Accounting and Finance for Youth (CAFY 4.0) & Super Mega Career Counselling Programme', saw 1.3 lakh+ participants pan-India, with an eligible record count of 6,166 students, securing the title of 'Largest Career Advice Lesson'. ICAI provided career counselling across multiple streams, including humanities, science, and commerce, helping students explore opportunities in accounting and finance.

20. Consider the following statements regarding the latest UN World Urbanisation Prospects 2025 report:

UN वर्ल्ड अर्बनाइजेशन प्रॉस्पेक्ट्स 2025 की लेटेस्ट रिपोर्ट के बारे में इन बातों पर गौर करें:

1. Jakarta has overtaken New Delhi to become the world's largest city.
2. Dhaka is projected to become the world's largest city by 2050.
3. Paris is the only city in the top 10 largest cities that is outside Asia.
4. The number of megacities globally has increased from 8 in 1975 to 33 in 2025.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा/से कथन सही हैं?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3 only
- (e) 1, 2 and 4 only

Ans. c

Sol. Jakarta Becomes World's Largest City as UN Report Highlights Asia's Dominance in Megacities

A new United Nations report ranks Jakarta (Indonesia) as the world's largest city with 41.9 million people, followed by Dhaka (Bangladesh) with 36.6 million, while Tokyo (Japan) slips to third place with 33.4 million residents.

Dhaka has risen dramatically from 9th to 2nd place, and is projected to become the world's largest city by 2050, reflecting rapid population growth in South Asia.

The report notes the rise of 33 megacities (cities with more than 10 million people) in 2025—up from just 8 megacities in 1975, showcasing rapid global urbanization.

Asia is home to 19 of the world's 33 megacities, and nine out of the top 10. In addition to Jakarta, Dhaka and Tokyo, the other Asian cities in the top 10 are: New Delhi, India (30.2 million); Shanghai, China (29.6 million); Guangzhou, China (27.6 million); Manila, Philippines (24.7 million); Kolkata, India (22.5 million); and Seoul, South Korea (22.5 million).

With a population of 32 million people, Egypt's Cairo is the only city in the top 10 that is outside Asia, according to the UN.

Sao Paulo in Brazil, with 18.9 million people, is the largest city in the Americas, while Lagos in Nigeria also grew rapidly, making it the largest city in sub-Saharan Africa.

21. Which government department in India has issued a directive making it mandatory for messaging apps to remain linked to a SIM card in order to operate on devices, aiming to prevent fraud and hijacking of accounts?

भारत में कौन सा सरकारी विभाग मैसेजिंग ऐप्स को डिवाइस पर काम करने के लिए सिम कार्ड से लगातार लिंक बनाए रखना अनिवार्य करने का निर्देश जारी कर रहा है, जिसका उद्देश्य धोखाधड़ी और अकाउंट हाइजैकिंग को रोकना है?

- (a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (b) Department of Telecommunications
- (c) Ministry of Electronics and IT
- (d) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)
- (e) NITI Aayog

Ans. b

Sol. DoT Mandates SIM-Linking for Messaging Apps to Prevent Fraud

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has made it mandatory for messaging apps like WhatsApp, Telegram, and Arattai to be constantly linked to a SIM card to operate on a device.

This move aims to prevent fraud and hijacking of messaging accounts by ensuring that apps can only be used with a specific, active SIM card.

Web versions of messaging apps must be logged out periodically and re-linked within six hours using a QR code, as per DoT instructions.

Companies must comply within 90 days and submit compliance reports within 120 days, failing which action will be taken under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, and Telecom Cyber Security Rules, 2024.

22. What rank did India secure in its first-ever participation at the World Skills Asia 2025?

वर्ल्ड स्किल्स एशिया 2025 में अपनी पहली भागीदारी में भारत ने कौन सा स्थान प्राप्त किया?

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

Ans. b

Sol. India Ranks 8th in Debut at World Skills Asia 2025, Wins Multiple Medals

India achieved a major milestone by securing 8th rank in its first-ever participation at the World Skills Asia Competition 2025, competing with 29 nations.

Indian participants won 1 Silver, 2 Bronze medals, and 3 Medallions for Excellence across traditional and tech-driven skill categories, showcasing their talent and dedication.

The competition was held from November 27 to 29 in Chinese Taipei.

23. Which Indian rum won the 'Rum Brand of the Year' award at The Spirits Business Awards 2025?

कौन सा भारतीय रम 2025 में द स्पिरिट्स बिज़नेस अवार्ड में 'रम ब्रांड ऑफ द ईयर' जीतने वाला पहला भारतीय ब्रांड बना?

- (a) Old Monk
- (b) Camikara
- (c) Hercules
- (d) Ron Zacapa
- (e) Kingfisher

Ans. b

Sol. Indian Rum Camikara Clinches 'Global Rum Brand of the Year' Award 2025

Camikara became the first Indian rum to win the 'Rum Brand of the Year' award at The Spirits Business Awards 2025 in London, beating established competitors from the Caribbean and Latin America.

Produced by Piccadilly Agro Industries Ltd, Camikara is India's first pure cane-juice aged rum, distilled from fresh sugarcane juice and aged in American oak barrels without added colour, flavour, or sugar.

The rum was praised by judges as a pioneer in its category, helping to put Indian rum-making on the global map with a bartender-first approach in its home market.

Recent Awards

- **Miss Universe 2025 crown** - Miss Fatima Bosch (Mexico)
- **CII Quality Ratna Award** - TVS Motor Chairman Venu Srinivasan
- **Indira Gandhi Peace Prize** - Former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet
- **Booker Prize 2025** - Hungarian-British author David Szalay (for 'Flesh' novel)
- **SASTRA Ramanujan Prize 2025** - Dr Alexander Smith (for his exceptional contributions to mathematics, particularly in number theory)

24. On the occasion of Constitution Day 2025, at which organisation's headquarters was Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's bust unveiled by PM Narendra Modi?

संविधान दिवस 2025 के मौके पर, PM नरेंद्र मोदी ने किस संगठन के हेडकार्टर में डॉ. बी.आर. अंबेडकर की मूर्ति का अनावरण किया?

- (a) United Nations Headquarters, New York
- (b) UNESCO Headquarters, Paris
- (c) World Bank Headquarters, Washington D.C.
- (d) International Court of Justice, The Hague
- (e) IMF Headquarters, Washington D.C.

Ans. b

Sol. PM Modi Unveils Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's Bust at UNESCO on Constitution Day
Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a bust of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on Constitution Day, calling it a fitting tribute to Ambedkar's pivotal role in drafting the Indian Constitution.

Constitution Day is observed annually on 26 November to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution in 1949, with PM Modi emphasizing citizens' focus on constitutional duties and active participation in democracy.

The Constitution of India, adopted on 26 November 1949 and effective from 26 January 1950, is the longest written constitution in the world, establishing India as a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic and ensuring Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity for all.

25. India ranks 3rd in the Asia Power Index 2025, with the United States at 1st and China at 2nd, marking India's entry into the "major power" status category for the first time. What was India's overall score in the 2025 Asia Power Index?

एशिया पावर इंडेक्स 2025 में भारत तीसरे नंबर पर है, जबकि अमेरिका पहले और चीन दूसरे नंबर पर है। इससे भारत पहली बार "बड़ी ताकत" वाली केटेगरी में शामिल हुआ है। 2025 एशिया पावर इंडेक्स में भारत का कुल स्कोर क्या था?

- (a) 35/100
- (b) 38/100
- (c) 49/100
- (d) 42/100
- (e) 40/100

Ans. e

Sol. India Ranks 3rd in Asia Power Index 2025, Achieves Major Power Status

India ranks 3rd in the Asia Power Index 2025, with the United States at 1st and China at 2nd, marking India's entry into the "major power" status category for the first time.

The Asia Power Index 2025, released by Australia-based Lowy Institute, evaluates 27 Asian countries on 131 indicators across 8 thematic measures, including military capability, economic strength, diplomatic influence, resilience, and future resources.

India's overall score of 40/100 reflects robust post-Covid economic recovery, increasing geopolitical influence, and steady improvement in military and economic capabilities, with a 2% year-on-year gain.

Russia's power in Asia is rebounding, supported by defence and economic partnerships with nations like North Korea and China, marking an improvement since 2019.

China scored 73.7/100, showing slight improvement and gradually closing the gap with the US (81.7), while Japan remains steady, Southeast Asian nations show modest gains, and Australia faces long-term challenges in maintaining relative power.

26. The "Vision for Sujalam Bharat" Summit 2025 focuses on multiple thematic areas to strengthen India's water and sanitation security, integrate scientific

approaches, promote community participation, and ensure sustainable water management. How many core themes are being addressed during the Summit?

“विजन फॉर सुजलाम भारत” समिट 2025 का उद्देश्य भारत की जल और स्वच्छता सुरक्षा को मजबूत करना, वैज्ञानिक दृष्टिकोण को लागू करना, समुदाय की भागीदारी को बढ़ावा देना और सतत जल प्रबंधन सुनिश्चित करना है। इस समिट में कुल कितने मुख्य विषयों को कवर किया जा रहा है?

- (a) 4
- (b) 5
- (c) 6
- (d) 7
- (e) 8

Ans. c

Sol. “Vision for Sujalam Bharat” Summit 2025 Launched to Strengthen Water Security, Conservation, and Community Participation in India

The “Vision for Sujalam Bharat” Summit 2025 began at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, bringing together Central Ministries, States/UTs, experts, community groups, SHGs, Panchayats, and award recipients to strengthen India's long-term water and sanitation security through grassroots participation and scientific approaches.

Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Paatil highlighted India's water challenges and launched key initiatives—including the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari 1.0 Book, Barak River Basin Ecological Assessment Report, and the Ganga Pulse Public Portal—to advance national water conservation, river health, and community-led groundwater recharge.

The Summit focuses on six core themes such as river rejuvenation, drinking water sustainability, technology-driven water management, groundwater recharge, greywater reuse, and community engagement, with outcomes to be consolidated into actionable recommendations for a water-secure, climate-resilient India.

27. Paradip Port Authority (PPA) achieved its fastest-ever 100 MMT cargo throughput, reaching 100.15 MMT on 27th November — 12 days earlier than the previous fiscal. In which fiscal milestone did PPA achieve this record?

पारादीप पोर्ट अथॉरिटी (PPA) ने 27 नवंबर को 100.15 MMT कार्गो थ्रूपुट हासिल किया, जो पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में 12 दिन पहले है। PPA ने यह रिकॉर्ड किस फाइनेशियल माइलस्टोन में हासिल किया?

- (a) Within 300 days of the fiscal
- (b) Within 260 days of the fiscal
- (c) Within 241 days of the fiscal
- (d) Within 220 days of the fiscal
- (e) Within 200 days of the fiscal

Ans. c

Sol. Paradip Port Sets Record with Fastest-Ever 100 MMT Cargo Throughput in a Fiscal Paradip Port Authority (PPA) achieved its fastest-ever 100 MMT cargo throughput, reaching 100.15 MMT on 27th November — 12 days earlier than the previous fiscal, marking its 9th consecutive year crossing the 100 MMT milestone.

The record was achieved in 241 days in FY 2025–26, compared to 253 days in FY 2024–25, reflecting a 4.78% year-on-year growth despite market challenges.

Strong growth in coastal thermal coal, container cargo, gypsum & flux, POL, and steel cargo has propelled PPA's performance, reinforcing its position as a leading coastal shipping hub.

Key cargo categories showed robust Y-o-Y expansion: container cargo up 32%, gypsum & flux up 24%, steel cargo up 35%, and POL up 31%, while coal continued to dominate with 45% of total cargo and 3.76% growth.

28. Under the recently implemented MoU, VOC Port received its first coastal clinker shipment. This agreement ensures coastal movement of clinker from which major cement manufacturer?

हाल ही में लागू हुए MoU के तहत, VOC पोर्ट को अपना पहला कोस्टल क्लिंकर शिपमेंट मिला। यह एग्रीमेंट किस बड़े सीमेंट मैन्युफैक्चरर से क्लिंकर की कोस्टल मूवमेंट सुनिश्चित करता है?

- (a) UltraTech Cement
- (b) Dalmia Cement
- (c) Ambuja Cement Limited
- (d) Shree Cement
- (e) JK Cement

Ans. c

Sol. VOC Port Receives First Clinker Shipment Under MoU with Ambuja Cement
VOC Port received its first coastal clinker consignment under the MoU with Ambuja Cement Ltd., ensuring the annual movement of 2,50,000 metric tonnes of clinker under the Minimum Guaranteed Tonnage-based Incentive Scheme.

The vessel MV Lima Trader, carrying 56,440 metric tonnes of clinker from Sanghi Port, Gujarat, was berthed at NCB-II and handled by Seaport Shipping (agent) and Seaport Logistics (stevedore).

The port chairperson highlighted this shipment as a significant step toward sustainable, cost-effective coastal transportation, supporting the Government of India's push for expanding coastal shipping.

29. India was re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for which term?

भारत को इंटरनेशनल मैरीटाइम ऑर्गनाइज़ेशन (IMO) की काउंसिल में किस टर्म के लिए दोबारा चुना गया?

- (a) 2024–25
- (b) 2025–26
- (c) 2026–27
- (d) 2027–28
- (e) 2028–29

Ans. c

Sol. India Re-Elected to IMO Council for 2026–27 with Highest Vote Count in Category B
India has been re-elected to the IMO Council (Category B) for 2026–27, securing 154 out of 169 valid votes, the highest in its category at the 34th IMO Assembly in London.

The strong vote tally highlights the global community's confidence in India's leadership in international maritime affairs and reflects the success of India's maritime growth agenda.

The IMO Council acts as the executive body with 40 elected members, and India's delegation also held meetings with various countries and organisations on maritime cooperation during the Assembly.

30. Which organisation signed three MoUs with Nagaland's health authorities to strengthen pharmacovigilance and materiovigilance?

किस ऑर्गनाइजेशन ने फार्माकोविजिलेंस और मैटेरियोविजिलेंस को मज़बूत करने के लिए नागालैंड की हेल्प अथॉरिटीज के साथ तीन MoU साइन किए?

- (a) Indian Council of Medical Research
- (b) National Health Authority
- (c) Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission
- (d) AIIMS Delhi
- (e) National Institute of Biologicals

Ans. c

Sol. IPC Signs Three Key MoUs in Nagaland to Strengthen Pharmacovigilance, Materiovigilance & Patient Safety Initiatives

Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) signed three MoUs with the Nagaland Medical Council, Nagaland State Drugs Control Administration (NSDCA), and Nagaland State Pharmacy Council during a one-day training programme on Pharmacovigilance and Materiovigilance in Nagaland.

The MoUs aim to strengthen drug testing, promote safe and rational use of medicines, and enhance pharmacovigilance/materiovigilance activities, ensuring better patient safety across Nagaland.

This includes the first-ever MoU with any State Medical Council in India for promoting PvPI & MvPI, and the first MoU in the North-East region for advancing drug safety initiatives.

The collaboration will support capacity building, ADR/medical device reporting, use of National Formulary of India, technical guidance by IPC, and coordinated implementation through state health institutions.

31. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 77-feet-tall bronze statue of Lord Ram at the historic Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math in Goa during the Math's 550th anniversary celebrations. Who crafted the 77-feet tall bronze statue of Lord Ram?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने गोवा के ऐतिहासिक श्री संस्थान गोकर्ण परतगली जीवोत्तम मठ में मठ की 550वीं सालगिरह के जश्न के दौरान भगवान राम की 77 फीट ऊंची कांस्य मूर्ति का अनावरण किया। भगवान राम की 77 फीट ऊंची कांस्य मूर्ति किसने बनाई है?

- (a) Subodh Gupta
- (b) Anish Kapoor
- (c) Ram V. Sutar

(d) Amar Nath Sehgal

(e) Jatin Das

Ans. c

Sol. PM Modi Unveils World's Tallest 77-Foot Bronze Statue of Lord Ram in Goa

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 77-feet-tall bronze statue of Lord Ram at the historic Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math in Goa during the Math's 550th anniversary celebrations.

The Math, one of India's oldest Dvaita Vaishnava institutions, marked a major milestone as PM Modi also inaugurated the Ramayana Theme Park, and released a special postal stamp and commemorative coin.

The statue, crafted by renowned sculptor Ram V. Sutar (designer of the Statue of Unity), has been presented as the world's tallest statue of Lord Ram, symbolizing unity, devotion, and India's cultural continuity.

32. Amazon and Google have jointly launched a new multicloud networking service that allows customers to create private, high-speed connections between AWS and Google Cloud. The new multicloud service enables customers to create private, high-speed links in how much time?

Amazon और Google ने मिलकर एक नई मल्टीक्लाउड नेटवर्किंग सर्विस शुरू की है, जिससे कस्टमर AWS और Google Cloud के बीच प्राइवेट, हाई-स्पीड कनेक्शन बना सकते हैं। नई मल्टीक्लाउड सर्विस कस्टमर को कितने समय में प्राइवेट, हाई-स्पीड लिंक बनाने में मदद करती है?

(a) Several days

(b) One week

(c) Minutes

(d) One month

(e) Several hours

Ans. c

Sol. Amazon and Google Launch New Multicloud Service for Faster, High-Speed Connectivity

Amazon and Google have jointly launched a new multicloud networking service that allows customers to create private, high-speed connections between AWS and Google Cloud within minutes instead of weeks.

The service merges AWS Interconnect–multicloud with Google Cloud's Cross-Cloud Interconnect, significantly improving network interoperability and multicloud performance.

AWS and Google Cloud leaders described the collaboration as a major shift in multicloud connectivity, offering faster, more reliable infrastructure for businesses using multiple cloud platforms.

33. The RBI recently imposed a monetary penalty on Mannakrishna Investments Pvt Ltd for governance-related violations under its NBFC regulations. What was the exact amount of the penalty levied by the central bank?

RBI ने हाल ही में अपनी NBFC विनियमों के तहत गवर्नेंस से जुड़े उल्लंघनों के लिए Mannakrishna Investments Pvt Ltd पर मौद्रिक दंड लगाया। RBI द्वारा लगाया गया सटीक दंड कितना था?

- (a) ₹1.50 lakh
- (b) ₹2.00 lakh
- (c) ₹3.10 lakh
- (d) ₹5.00 lakh
- (e) ₹10.00 lakh

Ans. c

Sol. RBI Imposes ₹3.10 Lakh Penalty on Mannakrishna Investments for Governance Violations

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a ₹3.10 lakh penalty on Kolkata-based Mannakrishna Investments Pvt Ltd, an NBFC, for failing to comply with the RBI's NBFC Scale-Based Regulation, 2023, particularly regarding governance norms.

RBI's inspection found that the company had appointed a director without obtaining prior written approval, resulting in a management change where over 30% of directors (excluding independent directors) were replaced, violating regulatory provisions.

34. Who won the Qatar Grand Prix 2025, keeping the Formula 1 championship battle alive until the final race in Abu Dhabi?

2025 कतर ग्रां प्री किसने जीती, जिसकी वजह से फॉर्मूला-1 चैंपियनशिप अबू धाबी की अंतिम रेस तक पहुँच गई?

- (a) Lando Norris
- (b) Oscar Piastri
- (c) Charles Leclerc
- (d) Max Verstappen
- (e) George Russell

Ans. d

Sol. Max Verstappen Wins Qatar GP, Setting Up Dramatic F1 Title Decider in Abu Dhabi
Max Verstappen won the Qatar Grand Prix 2025, keeping the Formula 1 championship battle alive and pushing the title fight to the final race in Abu Dhabi next weekend.

Championship leader Lando Norris, who could have secured his first F1 title with a win, finished fourth, while his McLaren teammate and title rival Oscar Piastri secured second place.

All three contenders — Verstappen, Norris, and Piastri — now have seven wins each this season, with Norris' championship lead reduced to 12 points over Verstappen and 16 over Piastri heading into the title-deciding finale

Recent 2025 F1 Grand Prix Winner

- *Australian Grand Prix - McLaren's Lando Norris (Britain)*
- *Chinese Grand Prix - McLaren's Oscar Piastri (Australia)*
- *Japanese Grand Prix - Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)*
- *Bahrain Grand Prix - McLaren's Oscar Piastri (Australia)*
- *Saudi Arabian Grand Prix - McLaren's Oscar Piastri (Australia)*

- *Miami Grand Prix - McLaren's Oscar Piastri (Australia)*
- *Emilia Romagna Grand Prix - Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)*
- *Monaco Grand Prix - McLaren's Lando Norris (Britain)*
- *Spanish Grand Prix - McLaren's Oscar Piastri (Australia)*
- *Canada Grand Prix - Mercedes's George Russell (Britain)*
- *Austria Grand Prix - McLaren's Lando Norris (Britain)*
- *Great Britain Grand Prix - McLaren's Lando Norris (Britain)*
- *Belgian Grand Prix - McLaren's Oscar Piastri (Australia)*
- *Hungarian Grand Prix - McLaren's Lando Norris (Britain)*
- *Netherlands Grand Prix - McLaren's Oscar Piastri (Australia)*
- *Italian Grand Prix - Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)*
- *Azerbaijan Grand Prix - Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)*
- *Singapore Grand Prix - Mercedes's George Russell (Britain)*
- *US Grand Prix - Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)*
- *Mexico Grand Prix - McLaren's Lando Norris (Britain)*
- *Brazil Grand Prix - McLaren's Lando Norris (Britain)*
- *Las Vegas Grand Prix - Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)*
- *Qatar Grand Prix - Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands)*

35. The Government of India and ADB signed loans worth over \$800 million for projects in which states?

भारत सरकार और एडीबी ने 800 मिलियन डॉलर से अधिक के क्रूण किस राज्यों में परियोजनाओं के लिए हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat
- (b) Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat
- (c) Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat
- (d) Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Kerala
- (e) Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra

Ans. b

Sol. India, ADB Sign \$800 Million+ Loans for Power, Metro, and Skills Development Projects

The Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed three loan agreements worth over \$800 million for projects in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat, led by the Department of Economic Affairs.

The Maharashtra Power Distribution Enhancement Programme (\$500 million) will modernize rural power infrastructure, integrate renewable energy, and provide daytime solar electricity to 900,000 agricultural consumers by 2028, including upgrading substations, lines, transformers, and 500 MWh of battery storage.

The Indore Metro Rail Project (₹27,147,200,000 / \$190.6 million) will construct an 8.62 km underground metro line with seven stations, improving connectivity between congested areas and the airport, with multimodal integration and operations expected by January 2030.

The Gujarat Skills Development Programme (\$109.97 million) will equip the workforce with industry-aligned advanced skills across sectors like logistics, IT, manufacturing, healthcare, renewable energy, and agri-tech, upgrading 11 mega ITIs, establishing centres of excellence, and collaborating closely with private training providers and industry.

Recent Loan approved by Foreign Financial Institution

- *ADB Approves \$400 Million Loan to Boost Climate-Resilient Road Connectivity in Maharashtra*
- *ReNew Energy Secures \$477 Million ADB Funding for India's First Round-the-Clock Peak Renewable Energy Project in Andhra Pradesh*
- *India and ADB Approves USD 460 Million Loan to Boost Solar-Powered Irrigation and Rural Energy Infrastructure in Maharashtra*
- *India and ADB Sign \$125 Million Loan to Boost Urban Livability and Climate Resilience in Assam*
- *India and ADB signed a \$126 million loan agreement to promote sustainable tourism in Uttarakhand.*

36. Who has been signed as the new brand ambassador for DP World?

DP World के लिए नया ब्रांड एंबेसडर कौन बने हैं?

- (a) Virat Kohli
- (b) Rohit Sharma
- (c) Abhishek Sharma
- (d) Rishabh Pant
- (e) Jasprit Bumrah

Ans. c

Sol. DP World Signs Abhishek Sharma as Brand Ambassador

United Arab Emirates (NewsVoir) DP World, a leading provider of global smart logistics solutions, signs Indian cricket star Abhishek Sharma as its new brand ambassador, joining Sachin Tendulkar and Tommy Fleetwood in the company's growing sports portfolio.

Sharma had a record-breaking 2025 DP World Asia Cup, scoring 314 runs in seven innings, earning Player of the Tournament, and reaching No.1 in the ICC Men's T20I Batter Rankings with the highest rating ever.

Under this long-term partnership, Sharma will represent DP World in brand initiatives, media appearances, and digital storytelling, showcasing the company's values of performance and innovation.

Recent Brand Ambassador

- *Rohit Sharma - ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026*
- *Shafali Verma - Haryana Women's Commission*
- *Rahul Dravid - Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL)*
- *Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma - Fintech firm Pay10*
- *Sanju Samson - English Premier League (EPL) in India*
- *Shubhanshu Shukla - Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025*

37. How much has the Centre approved to modernise the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) in Mohali?

केंद्र ने मोहाली में सेमीकंडक्टर लैबोरेटरी (SCL) के आधुनिकीकरण के लिए कितनी राशि मंजूर की है?

- (a) Rs 1,500 crore
- (b) Rs 2,500 crore
- (c) Rs 3,500 crore
- (d) Rs 4,500 crore
- (e) Rs 5,500 crore

Ans. d

Sol. Centre to Invest Rs 4,500 Crore to Modernise Mohali Semiconductor Laboratory, Boost India's Chip Manufacturing

Centre to invest Rs 4,500 crore in Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Mohali, to modernise it into one of the world's most advanced small-node semiconductor centres, boosting wafer production nearly 100 times and supporting students, researchers, and startups.

India's unified national chip roadmap will involve C-DAC, DRDO, top research institutes, and industry experts to develop cutting-edge fabrication technologies, defence-grade semiconductors, advanced EDA tools, and high-reliability packaging solutions, moving beyond the 90 nm technology node.

Chips to Start-up (C2S) initiative has seen 28 student-developed chips fabricated at SCL, with 113 institutions provided Process Design Kits and 231 silicon numbers allocated; the expanded SCL facility will support AI, defence electronics, medical tech, automation, and next-gen smart devices, making it a core driver of India's deep-tech and startup ecosystem.

38. The Arunachal Dao, a hand-forged tribal blade, has received the GI tag, recognising it as a unique craft rooted in Arunachal Pradesh's cultural heritage.

What is a Dao in the context of the Arunachal Dao's GI recognition?

अरुणाचल दाओ, हाथ से बना एक आदिवासी ब्लेड है, जिसे GI टैग मिला है, जो इसे अरुणाचल प्रदेश की सांस्कृतिक विरासत से जुड़ा एक अनोखा क्राफ्ट मानता है। अरुणाचल दाओ की GI पहचान के हिसाब से दाओ क्या है?

- (a) A traditional musical instrument
- (b) A ritual wooden carving
- (c) A handwoven tribal garment
- (d) A hand-forged tribal blade
- (e) A traditional agricultural tool

Ans. d

Sol. Arunachal Dao Receives GI Tag, Preserving Centuries-Old Tribal Metalcraft Tradition
The Arunachal Dao, a hand-forged tribal blade, has received the GI tag, recognising it as a unique craft rooted in Arunachal Pradesh's cultural heritage.

The recognition protects centuries-old metalworking traditions and supports blacksmithing clans who create daos in distinct designs associated with various tribes.

Several unique items from Arunachal Pradesh with GI status include:

- Wakro Orange
- Idu Mishmi textiles
- Khamti Rice
- Yak Churpi
- Wancho wooden craft

39. UPI recorded how much year-on-year growth in transaction count in November?

नवंबर में UPI ने लेनदेन संख्या में वर्ष-दर-वर्ष कितना वृद्धि दर्ज की?

- (a) 20%
- (b) 25%
- (c) 28%
- (d) 32%
- (e) 35%

Ans. d

Sol. UPI Transactions Surge 32% YoY in November, Reinforcing Digital Payments

Dominance

UPI transactions grew 32% year-on-year in November, crossing 19 billion transactions, with a 22% annual rise in transaction value; average daily transaction amount reached ₹87,721 crore.

November recorded 682 million average daily transactions, higher than 668 million in October, showing consistent month-on-month growth.

In the first half of 2025, UPI continued to lead India's digital payments ecosystem with transactions rising 35% YoY to 106.36 billion.

40. Which airport became India's first water-positive airport, handling over 40 million passengers?

कौन सा एयरपोर्ट 40 मिलियन से अधिक यात्रियों को संभालने वाला भारत का पहला 'वॉटर-पॉजिटिव' एयरपोर्ट बना?

- (a) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport
- (b) Kempegowda International Airport
- (c) Indira Gandhi International Airport
- (d) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
- (e) Cochin International Airport

Ans. c

Sol. IGI Airport Becomes India's First Water-Positive Mega Airport

Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) became India's first airport with over 40 million passengers to be certified as 'water-positive', meaning it replenishes more water than it consumes.

The airport has 625 rainwater harvesting structures, two underground reservoirs (9 million litres), and a 16.6 MLD zero-liquid-discharge STP, enabling extensive water recycling for HVAC, irrigation, and toilet flushing.

IGI's achievement was recognized at the Water Innovation Summit 2025, with DIAL receiving accolades for achieving Scope I water neutrality under the NITI Aayog-CII framework, highlighting efficient water reuse and replenishment systems.

41. Which brand has partnered with the Tata Women's Premier League (WPL) as the Official Beverage Partner for the next two seasons?

अगले दो सीज़न के लिए टाटा विमेंस प्रीमियर लीग (WPL) का ऑफिशियल बेवरेज पार्टनर कौन बना है?

- (a) Kinley
- (b) Aquafina
- (c) Himalayan
- (d) Bisleri International
- (e) Rail Neer

Ans. d

Sol. Bisleri Becomes Official Beverage Partner of Tata Women's Premier League for 2026 & 2027 Seasons

Bisleri International has been announced as the Official Beverage Partner for the Tata Women's Premier League (WPL) for the next two seasons, starting in 2026, supporting and promoting the rapid rise of women's cricket in India.

The partnership will include limited-edition packs, strong on-ground branding through visicoolers and iceboxes in team dugouts, plus in-stadium hydration support and digital fan-engagement initiatives to enhance the overall WPL experience.

Bisleri, already holding 60+ sports associations across India and the UAE, aims to further strengthen its presence in the sports ecosystem through this collaboration, reinforcing its commitment to fitness, hydration excellence, and athlete support.

42. India signed a ₹7,995-crore deal with which country for follow-on support of the MH-60R Seahawk helicopters?

MH-60R Seahawk हेलीकॉर्टरों के फॉलो-ऑन सपोर्ट के लिए भारत ने ₹7,995 करोड़ का समझौता किस देश के साथ किया?

- (a) Russia
- (b) France
- (c) Israel
- (d) USA
- (e) Japan

Ans. d

Sol. India Signs ₹7,995-Crore U.S. Support Deal to Sustain Navy's MH-60R Seahawk Helicopter Fleet

India signed a ₹7,995-crore follow-on support deal with the U.S. to sustain the Indian Navy's fleet of 24 MH-60R Seahawk helicopters for five years, covering spares, training, repairs, and component replenishment.

The agreement, signed under the U.S. Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme, will establish in-country repair and maintenance facilities, boosting long-term self-reliance and supporting the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision through MSME participation.

The sustainment package will enhance the operational availability of MH-60R helicopters—advanced, all-weather, multi-mission choppers with anti-submarine warfare capability—allowing effective deployment from ships and dispersed bases.

43. Which major European defense and aerospace company unveiled the AI-powered, multi-layered air defense system known as the “Michelangelo Dome,” aimed at protecting cities and critical infrastructure?

यूरोप की किस बड़ी डिफेंस और एयरोस्पेस कंपनी ने AI-पार्वर्ड, मल्टी-लेयर्ड एयर डिफेंस सिस्टम पेश किया, जिसे “माइकल एंजेलो डोम” के नाम से जाना जाता है, जिसका मकसद शहरों और ज़रूरी इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर की सुरक्षा करना है?

- (a) Airbus Defence
- (b) Thales Group
- (c) BAE Systems
- (d) Leonardo
- (e) Lockheed Martin

Ans. d

Sol. Leonardo Unveils AI-Powered “Michelangelo Dome” Multi-Layered Air Defense System for Europe

Italian aerospace and defence giant Leonardo has unveiled the “Michelangelo Dome,” an AI-powered multi-layered air defence system designed to protect cities and critical infrastructure from threats like missile attacks and drone swarms.

The system integrates space, air, land, and sea defence platforms, enabling real-time detection, tracking, interception, and neutralisation of diverse aerial threats, strengthening Europe’s overall defence readiness.

Leonardo’s CEO announced that the system uses an “open architecture” model, allowing seamless integration with NATO allies’ existing defense systems, promoting collaborative and interoperable security operations.

44. Which metro network has been recognized by Guinness World Records as the world’s longest fully driverless metro?

कौन सा मेट्रो नेटवर्क Guinness World Records द्वारा विश्व की सबसे लंबी पूरी तरह ड्राइवरलेस मेट्रो के रूप में मान्यता प्राप्त हुआ है?

- (a) Dubai Metro
- (b) Tokyo Metro
- (c) Riyadh Metro
- (d) London Underground
- (e) Delhi Metro

Ans. c

Sol. Riyadh Metro Becomes World’s Longest Driverless Network

Riyadh Metro has been officially recognized by Guinness World Records as the world’s longest fully driverless metro network, covering 176 km, operating across 6 lines and 85 stations, showcasing Saudi Arabia’s growing leadership in advanced urban mobility.

The metro forms a key part of the King Abdulaziz Project for Riyadh Public Transport, a major initiative of the Royal Commission for Riyadh City (RCRC), aimed at transforming

urban transportation with cutting-edge automation and centralized real-time control (GoA4 driverless model).

Riyadh Metro's fleet includes 190 fully automated trains from world-renowned manufacturers like Siemens, Bombardier (Innovia Series), and Alstom (Metropolis Series), offering high comfort, energy efficiency, and advanced safety features. Construction of the metro began after contracts were awarded in 2013, with inauguration completed in November 2024; the project, costing \$22.5–25 billion, has become the backbone of Riyadh's transport network and the largest driverless metro system globally.

45. On which date is World Computer Literacy Day observed every year?

वर्ल्ड कंप्यूटर साक्षरता दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 1 December
- (b) 2 December
- (c) 3 December
- (d) 6 December
- (e) 7 December

Ans. b

Sol. 2 December - World Computer Literacy Day

World Computer Literacy Day is observed on 2nd December every year to raise awareness about the importance of computer education and digital skills worldwide. The day aims to bridge the digital divide, encouraging people, especially those in underserved communities, to learn basic computing and digital literacy.

46. On which date is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities observed each year?

अंतरराष्ट्रीय दिव्यांगजन दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. 3 December – World Day of the Handicapped / International Day of Persons with Disabilities

World Day of the Handicapped, also known as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, is observed on 3rd December each year to promote awareness, rights, and inclusion of people with disabilities globally.

The day emphasizes accessibility, equal opportunities, and empowerment, encouraging governments, organizations, and communities to remove barriers and support the participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life.

47. Indian Navy Day commemorates which major operation during the 1971 Indo-Pak war?

भारतीय नौसेना दिवस 1971 के भारत-पाक युद्ध में किस प्रमुख ऑपरेशन की स्मृति में मनाया जाता है?

- (a) Operation Vijay
- (b) Operation Trident
- (c) Operation Flood
- (d) Operation Cactus
- (e) Operation Blue Star

Ans. b

Sol. 4 December – Indian Navy Day

Indian Navy Day is observed on 4th December every year to commemorate the valor and achievements of the Indian Navy in safeguarding the nation's maritime borders. The day marks the success of Operation Trident during the 1971 Indo-Pak war, when the Indian Navy carried out a surprise attack on Karachi harbor.

Indian Navy Day highlights the role of the Navy in national security, disaster relief, and humanitarian missions, showcasing its operational readiness and strategic importance.

48. Who were named the 2025 World Athletes of the Year at the World Athletics Awards?

वर्ल्ड एथलेटिक्स अवार्ड्स में 2025 वर्ल्ड एथलीट्स ऑफ द ईयर किसे चुना गया?

- (a) Armand Duplantis and Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone
- (b) Maria Perez and Sebastian Sawe
- (c) Emmanuel Wanyonyi and Nicola Olyslagers
- (d) Edmund Serem and Zhang Jiale
- (e) Usain Bolt and Allyson Felix

Ans. a

Sol. Armand Duplantis and Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone Crowned 2025 World Athletes of the Year

Armand Duplantis (Sweden) and Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (USA) were named 2025 World Athletes of the Year at the World Athletics Awards, recognizing their record-breaking performances in pole vault and 400 metres respectively.

Duplantis broke the men's pole vault world record four times and remained unbeaten in all 16 competitions, becoming the first male pole vaulter in modern history to stay undefeated in a single event for two consecutive years.

McLaughlin-Levrone set a 42-year-old World Championship record in the 400 metres and became the first athlete to win world titles in both the 400m flat and 400m hurdles, also earning the women's track athlete of the year award.

49. What is InDApp, recently launched by the National Industries Research and Development Council (NIRDC)?

नेशनल इंडस्ट्रीज रिसर्च एंड डेवलपमेंट काउंसिल (NIRDC) ने हाल ही में InDApp लॉन्च किया है, यह क्या है?

- (a) A financial loan scheme

- (b) A digital single-window platform for MSMEs
- (c) A new export policy
- (d) An industrial training program
- (e) A government subsidy scheme

Ans. b

Sol. India's Indigenous Single-Window Digital Platform to Boost MSME Ease of Doing Business

National Industries Research and Development Council (NIRDC) launched InDApp, an indigenously developed single-window digital platform unveiled by MoS B. L. Verma to enhance ease of doing business for MSMEs by improving access to approvals, market information, and nationwide business opportunities.

InDApp integrates physical outreach with digital services, enabling MSMEs across all sectors and regions to access critical information on industrial opportunities, export schemes, subsidies, technology upgrades, and market trends through one unified channel.

Developed in collaboration with seven Union Ministries, the platform strengthens inter-ministerial coordination and supports entrepreneurs in driving innovation, improving transparency, accelerating growth, and boosting the competitiveness of India's MSME ecosystem.

50. **Who inaugurated the Saras Ajeevika Food Festival 2025 in New Delhi?**

नई दिल्ली में सारस आजीविका फूड फेस्टिवल 2025 का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

- (a) Nitin Gadkari
- (b) Smriti Irani
- (c) Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- (d) Narendra Singh Tomar
- (e) Piyush Goyal

Ans. c

Sol. Shivraj Singh Chouhan Inaugurates Saras Ajeevika Food Festival 2025 Showcasing Culinary Culture of 25 States

Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the Saras Ajeevika Food Festival 2025 in New Delhi, showcasing food that reflects the cultural vibrancy of 25 states, with the event's motto highlighting taste, self-reliance, and indigenous products. Around 300 Lakhpatti Didis and women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across the country are participating in the festival, which will continue till 9th of this month. Chouhan praised the Lakhpatti Didis for their dedication and empowerment, stating that their hard work has written a new chapter of progress, development, and prosperity.

51. **Which two public sector banks signed an MoU to collaborate on a Centre of Excellence in Strategic Partnership?**

किस दो सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों ने स्ट्रॉटेजिक पार्टनरशिप के लिए सेंटर ऑफ एक्सीलेंस पर सहयोग के लिए MoU साइन किया?

- (a) SBI and PNB
- (b) BoI and Bank of Baroda

- (c) SBI and Bank of India
- (d) PNB and Canara Bank
- (e) SBI and IDBI Bank

Ans. c

Sol. SBI and Bank of India Sign MoU to Establish Centre of Excellence for Strategic Partnership and Project Financing

SBI and Bank of India signed an MoU to jointly establish a Centre of Excellence in Strategic Partnership, aiming to boost leadership, expertise, and innovation in project financing across India.

The collaboration will focus on co-financing major infrastructure and industrial projects, strengthening the banks' role and brand presence in corporate and project financing.

The partnership includes capacity-building initiatives such as employee training and leadership development, ensuring availability of skilled professionals in project financing amid rising national demand.

52. RBI has retained SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) for 2025, keeping them in the same bucketing structure as the previous year. As per RBI's D-SIB norms, what is the additional CET1 capital buffer SBI must maintain over its Risk-Weighted Assets (RWAs) due to its highest systemic importance?

RBI ने 2025 के लिए SBI, HDFC बैंक और ICICI बैंक को डोमेस्टिक सिस्टेमिकली इंपॉर्टेट बैंक (D-SIB) के तौर पर बनाए रखा है, और उन्हें पिछले साल के बैकेटिंग स्ट्रक्चर में ही रखा है। RBI के D-SIB नॉर्म्स के मुताबिक, SBI को अपने रिस्क-वेटेड एसेट्स (RWAs) पर कितना एक्स्ट्रा CET1 कैपिटल बफर रखना होगा, क्योंकि वे सबसे ज्यादा सिस्टेमिक इंपॉर्टेस वाले हैं?

- (a) 0.20%
- (b) 0.40%
- (c) 0.60%
- (d) 0.80%
- (e) 1.00%

Ans. d

Sol. RBI Retains SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank as D-SIBs in 2025 List with Unchanged Bucketing Structure

RBI has retained SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) for 2025, keeping them in the same bucketing structure as the previous year.

The additional CET1 requirement is set at 0.80% for SBI, 0.40% for HDFC Bank, and 0.20% for ICICI Bank, which will be over and above the Capital Conservation Buffer. Under the D-SIB framework, RBI publicly discloses the names of systemically important banks (since 2015) and places them in buckets based on their Systemic Importance Scores (SIS).

Foreign banks operating in India that are classified as G-SIBs must maintain an additional CET1 surcharge proportionate to their India Risk-Weighted Assets (RWAs), as prescribed by their home regulator.

53. Who has taken additional charge as the Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF)?

बॉर्डर सिक्योरिटी फोर्स (BSF) के डायरेक्टर जनरल का एडिशनल चार्ज किसने लिया है?

- (a) Daljit Singh Chawdhary
- (b) Praveen Kumar
- (c) Rakesh Asthana
- (d) Sanjay Arora
- (e) Vivek Johri

Ans. b

Sol. Praveen Kumar Takes Additional Charge as BSF Director General

Praveen Kumar, ITBP Director General, has taken additional charge as BSF DG, following the retirement of Daljit Singh Chawdhary; the handover unusually took place in Raipur during the DGs-IGs national police conference.

Kumar is a 1993-batch IPS officer of the West Bengal cadre, previously serving in the Intelligence Bureau and as DIG in the Naxal-affected Midnapore Range before becoming the 35th ITBP DG in October 2025.

As ITBP DG, he announced 10 all-woman forward posts along the India-China border, covering the stretch between Karakoram Pass (Ladakh) and Diphu La (Arunachal Pradesh).

54. In December 2025, who has been appointed as Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

दिसंबर 2025 में, किसे भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) का एग्जीक्यूटिव डायरेक्टर नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Shaktikanta Das
- (b) Usha Janakiraman
- (c) Sonali Sen Gupta
- (d) Sanjay Kumar Hansda
- (e) Urjit Patel

Ans. b

Sol. RBI Appoints CA Usha Janakiraman as New Executive Director

Usha Janakiraman appointed as Executive Director of RBI, bringing over three decades of experience in central banking.

Prior to this promotion, she served as Chief General Manager-in-Charge, Department of Regulation, Central Office, Mumbai, handling regulation, banking supervision, public debt, currency management, and other key areas.

As Executive Director, Janakiraman will oversee the Department of Supervision (Risk, Analytics, and Vulnerability Assessment); she is a qualified Chartered Accountant.

55. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Knowledge Officer of the World Bank Group?

विश्व बैंक समूह के मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर और चीफ नॉलेज ऑफिसर के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Kristalina Georgieva
- (b) Paschal Donohoe
- (c) David Malpass
- (d) Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
- (e) Raghuram Rajan

Ans. b

Sol. Paschal Donohoe Appointed as World Bank Group's MD and CKO

Paschal Donohoe has been appointed as Managing Director and Chief Knowledge Officer of the World Bank Group.

Donohoe previously served as Ireland's Minister for Finance since January 2025 and as President of the Eurogroup of finance ministers from July 2020, bringing extensive experience in both public and private sectors.

His achievements include nearly a decade at Procter & Gamble and recognitions such as European of the Year by the European Movement of Ireland and Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur from the French Government.

Recent Appointments in Foreign

- **12th Director-General of UNESCO** - Khaled El-Enany of Egypt (replaced Audrey Azoulay); *first Arab*
- **Virginia's Lieutenant Governor** - Indian-Origin Ghazala Hashmi (*First Muslim and South Asian American*)
- **First-ever female Archbishop of Canterbury** - Dame Sarah Mullally (*replaced Justin Welby*)
- **Vinay Kumar appointed as India's Ambassador to Russia**
- **India's High Commissioner to Ghana** - Manish Gupta
- **President of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC)** - Andrew Parsons; *3rd times*

56. Which foundation has been officially recognised by the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) as an Awarding Body (Standard) with the authority to certify learners across India?

राष्ट्रीय व्यावसायिक शिक्षा और प्रशिक्षण परिषद (NCVET) द्वारा किस फाउंडेशन को Awarding Body (Standard) के रूप में आधिकारिक मान्यता दी गई है, जो पूरे भारत में शिक्षार्थियों को प्रमाणित करने का अधिकार रखता है?

- (a) Reliance Skills Foundation
- (b) Adani Skills and Education Foundation
- (c) Tata Skills Development Foundation
- (d) Infosys Foundation
- (e) Mahindra Pride Schools

Ans. b

Sol. NCVET Recognises Adani Skills and Education Foundation as Awarding Body for Port Logistics Training

NCVET has recognised Adani Skills and Education Foundation as an Awarding Body (Standard) with PAN-India jurisdiction, enabling it to certify learners across the country. The foundation is now authorised to award and certify qualifications in the port logistics sector, ensuring structured, accountable, and quality-assured vocational training. NCVET has approved its first qualification in Port Management, addressing the growing demand for a skilled workforce in one of India's rapidly expanding sectors.

57. Which three women cricketers were promoted to Officer on Special Duty (Sports) by Indian Railways?

कौन-सी तीन महिला क्रिकेट खिलाड़ियों को भारतीय रेलवे द्वारा ऑफिसर ऑन स्पेशल ड्यूटी (स्पोर्ट्स) के पद पर पदोन्नत किया गया?

- (a) Mithali Raj, Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana
- (b) Pratika Rawal, Sneh Rana, Renuka Singh Thakur
- (c) Deepti Sharma, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues
- (d) Pooja Vastrakar, Taniya Bhatia, Harleen Deol
- (e) Smriti Mandhana, Jhulan Goswami, Shikha Pandey

Ans. b

Sol. Indian Railways Promotes Women's World Cup Cricket Champions Pratika Rawal, Sneh Rana, and Renuka Singh Thakur to OSD (Sports)

Indian Railways has promoted Pratika Rawal, Sneh Rana, and Renuka Singh Thakur to the Group 'B' Officer post of OSD (Sports) through Out-of-Turn Promotion, recognising their key contributions to India's 2025 ICC Women's World Cup victory.

The promotion grants them Group 'B' Gazetted Officer status under Level-8 of the 7th CPC, providing financial security along with additional administrative responsibilities within the Railway Sports Promotion Board.

All three players — serving earlier as clerks in Northern Railway — were felicitated at Rail Bhawan, and their promotions highlight Indian Railways' commitment to supporting and honouring exceptional sporting talent.

58. Who has taken over as Director General (Inspection & Safety) at Air HQ on 1 December 2025?

1 दिसंबर 2025 को वायु मुख्यालय में महानिदेशक (निरीक्षण और सुरक्षा) के रूप में किसने कार्यभार संभाला है?

- (a) Air Marshal Makarand Bhaskar Ranade
- (b) Air Marshal Raghunath Nambiar
- (c) Air Marshal Tejbir Singh
- (d) Air Marshal Sandeep Singh
- (e) Air Marshal Pankaj Mohan Sinha

Ans. c

Sol. Air Marshal Tejbir Singh Assumes Charge as Director General (Inspection & Safety) at Air Headquarters

Air Marshal Tejbir Singh assumed charge as Director General (Inspection & Safety) at Air Headquarters on 01 December 2025, succeeding Air Marshal Makarand Bhaskar Ranade, who retired on 30 November 2025.

With a 37-year distinguished career, he has served in key roles including Air Attaché to Bangladesh, Senior Directing Staff (Air) at NDC, and Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Operations–Transport & Helicopters); he is also an alumnus of the Royal College of Defence Studies, UK.

He has been honoured with prestigious awards such as the Vayu Sena Medal (2010) and the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (2018) in recognition of his exceptional service to the Indian Air Force.

Recent Appointments in Defence Sector

- **Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)** - Vishvajit Sahay
- **40th Chief of Materiel, Indian Navy** - Vice Admiral B. Sivakumar
- **DG of the National Cadet Corps (NCC)** - Lieutenant General Virendra Vats (replace Gurbirpal Singh)
- **Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** - Praveen Kumar (replace Rahul Rasgotra)
- **Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** - Praveer Ranjan (replace Rajwinder Singh Bhatti)

59. **The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has mandated pre-installation of the Sanchar Saathi mobile app on all mobile handsets manufactured or imported for India, ensuring the app is clearly visible and accessible during first use, with no key functions hidden or restricted. Under which rules is the government authorized to issue directions to manufacturers regarding IMEI-related compliance?**

डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ टेलीकम्युनिकेशन्स (DoT) ने भारत के लिए बनाए गए या इंपोर्ट किए गए सभी मोबाइल हैंडसेट पर संचार साथी मोबाइल ऐप का प्री-इंस्टॉलेशन ज़रूरी कर दिया है, ताकि यह पक्का हो सके कि ऐप पहली बार इस्तेमाल करने पर साफ़ दिखे और एक्सेस किया जा सके, और कोई भी ज़रूरी फ़ंक्शन छिपा या रोका न जाए। किन नियमों के तहत सरकार को IMEI से जुड़े कम्प्लायांस के बारे में मैन्युफैक्चरर्स को निर्देश जारी करने का अधिकार है?

- (a) Digital India Rules
- (b) Telecom Cyber Security Rules
- (c) Information Technology Act Rules
- (d) Mobile Safety Guidelines
- (e) Cyber Finance Rules

Ans. c

Sol. DoT Mandates Pre-Installation of Sanchar Saathi App on All Mobile Devices to Strengthen Telecom Cyber Security

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has mandated pre-installation of the Sanchar Saathi mobile app on all mobile handsets manufactured or imported for India, ensuring the app is clearly visible and accessible during first use, with no key functions hidden or restricted.

Manufacturers and importers must comply within 90 days, and submit compliance reports within 120 days; devices already produced must receive the app through software updates.

Sanchar Saathi, a DoT initiative, helps users verify handset authenticity (IMEI check), block stolen phones, report fraud, check active mobile connections, and access trusted contact details of banks and financial institutions.

The move follows cyber-security concerns under the Telecom Cyber Security (TCS) Rules, addressing issues like duplicate/spoofed IMEI numbers, second-hand market fraud, and misuse of stolen/blacklisted devices, supporting stronger enforcement and user protection.

60. What is the primary objective of the Ministry of Coal's newly simplified approval mechanism for exploration programs and Geological Reports (GRs)?

कोयला मंत्रालय के एक्सप्लोरेशन प्रोग्राम और जियोलॉजिकल रिपोर्ट (GRs) के लिए नए आसान अप्रूवल सिस्टम का मुख्य मकसद क्या है?

- (a) To increase coal prices
- (b) To fast-track approvals, enhance transparency, and improve ease of doing business
- (c) To reduce the number of private agencies
- (d) To stop coal exploration activities
- (e) To merge all exploration agencies

Ans. b

Sol. Coal Ministry Unveils Simplified Approval System to Fast-Track Exploration and Geological Reports

Ministry of Coal has introduced a simplified approval mechanism for exploration programs and Geological Reports (GRs) for coal and lignite blocks, replacing the earlier methodology and removing the need for the 2022 approval committee, ensuring faster and more transparent processing.

The new system allows Notified Accredited Prospecting Agencies (APAs) accredited by QCI-NABET, along with mandatory peer review by another APA, to prepare and validate reports, strengthening the technical robustness of exploration activities.

The reform shows the Government's strong confidence in private-sector capabilities, leveraging their efficiency, technology, and innovation to modernise India's coal exploration ecosystem while maintaining strict transparency and high technical standards.

The simplified process will reduce approval timelines by at least 3 months, enabling quicker operationalisation of coal blocks, improving ease of doing business, accelerating exploration, and contributing to the long-term sustainability and security of India's coal resources.

61. Which scheme recently crossed 8.34 crore enrolments according to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman?

कौन सी योजना ने हाल ही में 8.34 करोड़ नामांकन पार किए हैं, जैसा कि वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने बताया?

- (a) Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana
- (b) Atal Pension Yojana
- (c) Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan
- (d) National Pension System
- (e) PM-KISAN

Ans. b

Sol. APY Enrolments Cross 8.34 Crore with Strong 48% Participation from Women
Atal Pension Yojana (APY) enrolments have crossed 8.34 crore, as informed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha; 48% of total subscribers are women, highlighting strong female participation.

Launched in May 2015, APY aims to provide a universal social security system, especially for unorganised-sector workers; it is open to individuals aged 18–40 years with a savings or post-office account.

Pension benefits begin after 60 years of age, with large-scale disbursals expected from 2035; awareness has been boosted through advertisements, brochures in 13 vernacular languages, and virtual training for field workers.

Awareness initiatives by NABARD, NCFE, NRLM, SRLMs, and digital onboarding via internet banking, mobile apps, and bank portals have accelerated adoption; the scheme is implemented through Department of Posts and a wide network of banks under PFRDA.

62. **What new name has been given to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)?**

प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय (PMO) का नया नाम क्या रखा गया है?

- (a) Seva Dham
- (b) Kartavya Kendra
- (c) Rashtriya Seva Sadan
- (d) Seva Tirth
- (e) Lok Seva Bhavan

Ans. d

Sol. PMO Renamed 'Seva Tirth' as Raj Bhavan and Raj Niwas Become Lok Bhavan and Lok Niwas in Major Governance Shift

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has been renamed 'Seva Tirth', while Raj Bhavan and Raj Niwas across the country will now be known as Lok Bhavan and Lok Niwas, marking a symbolic shift from authority to service in governance.

Home Minister Amit Shah stated that this change reflects the Modi government's 11-year philosophy of 'seva over satta', where the Prime Minister considers himself the Pradhan Sevak and works round the clock for the people.

The new Seva Tirth complex, earlier called the Executive Enclave under the Central Vista project, will house the PMO, Cabinet Secretariat, National Security Council Secretariat, and India House, strengthening India's administrative and diplomatic infrastructure.

The renaming is seen as part of a broader cultural and ideological transition, with governance moving from "power to responsibility" and "authority to service", supported by reforms like naming the Central Secretariat as Kartavya Bhavan.

63. Who has taken charge as the new Managing Director of LIC?**LIC के नए प्रबंध निदेशक के रूप में किसने कार्यभार संभाला है?**

- (a) Siddhartha Mohanty
- (b) V. Ramesh
- (c) Ramakrishnan Chander
- (d) T. S. Ramakrishnan
- (e) Pankaj Jain

Ans. c

Sol. Ramakrishnan Chander Takes Charge as New Managing Director of LIC

Ramakrishnan Chander has assumed charge as the Managing Director of LIC, succeeding his previous role as Chief Investment Officer (CIO) and Executive Director of the Investment (Front Office) Department.

He brings over 35 years of experience, having joined LIC in 1990 and served in multiple key roles including Senior Divisional Manager, Regional Manager (Marketing & P&GS), and Executive Director of International Operations.

As CIO, he managed one of India's largest investment portfolios, strengthening LIC's investment returns and contributing significantly to financial performance and innovation in the insurance sector.

About Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)

- Founded – 1 September 1956
- Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairperson – R. Doraiswamy

64. Who has created history by becoming the first full-time woman Vice-Chancellor of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University in its 100-year journey since 1923?

1923 से विश्वविद्यालय की 100 साल की यात्रा में पहली पूर्णकालिक महिला कुलपति बनकर इतिहास किसने रचा है?

- (a) Dr. Madhavi Chavare
- (b) Dr. Neeta Kulkarni
- (c) Dr. Shalini Deshpande
- (d) Dr. Manali Kshirsagar
- (e) Dr. Priya Wankhede

Ans. d

Sol. Dr. Manali Kshirsagar Becomes First Full-Time Woman Vice-Chancellor of Nagpur University

Dr. Manali Kshirsagar has become the first full-time woman Vice-Chancellor of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, taking over from acting VC Dr. Madhavi Chavare and marking a historic milestone in the university's 100-year history since 1923.

She plans to introduce technology-driven and innovative academic courses aimed at improving student employability and aligning university education with modern industry requirements.

Announced by Maharashtra Governor and Chancellor Acharya Devvrat, Dr. Kshirsagar begins her five-year term with a focus on academic modernization and preparing students with future-ready skills.

65. The 10th edition of the Vedanta Pink City Half Marathon was held in which city?

वेदांता पिंक सिटी हाफ मैराथन का 10वां संस्करण किस शहर में आयोजित किया गया?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Delhi
- (c) Udaipur
- (d) Jaipur
- (e) Bengaluru

Ans. d

Sol. Harmanpreet Kaur joins hands as brand ambassador of Vedanta Pink City Half Marathon 2025

The 10th Vedanta Pink City Half Marathon (VPCHM) concluded with massive participation, bringing together nearly 15,000 runners to support Vedanta's #RunForZeroHunger movement.

The event successfully raised 1 lakh Poshan Packs for children at Nand Ghars, Vedanta's flagship social impact initiative focused on nutrition, health, and transformation of anganwadis across India.

The marathon was flagged off in Jaipur by Priya Agarwal Hebbar and Harmanpreet Kaur, with support from Vedanta and organization by AnyBody Can Run (ABCR), emphasizing community spirit and social responsibility.

66. Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi will launch a 100-day awareness campaign for a Child Marriage-Free Bharat in New Delhi, marking the one-year anniversary of the 'Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat' campaign. Which ministries are coordinating with the Women and Child Development Ministry for this campaign?

महिला और बाल विकास मंत्री अन्नपूर्णा देवी नई दिल्ली में बाल विवाह-मुक्त भारत के लिए 100 दिन का जागरूकता अभियान शुरू करेंगी, जो 'बाल विवाह मुक्त भारत' अभियान की पहली सालगिरह पर होगा। इस अभियान के लिए महिला और बाल विकास मंत्रालय के साथ कौन से मंत्रालय कोऑर्डिनेट कर रहे हैं?

- (a) Finance and Defence, Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, and Education
- (b) Home and Labour, Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, and Education
- (c) Health and Family Welfare, Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, and Education
- (d) Agriculture and Commerce, Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, and Education
- (e) Culture and Tourism, Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, and Education

Ans. c

Sol. Annapurna Devi to Launch 100-Day National Campaign for a Child Marriage-Free Bharat

Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi will launch a 100-day awareness campaign for a Child Marriage-Free Bharat in New Delhi, marking the one-year anniversary of the 'Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat' campaign.

The campaign will feature the National Pledge to End Child Marriage, a film showcasing inspiring stories, and testimonies from frontline champions, highlighting collective progress and reinforcing momentum for the next phase.

The initiative will engage citizens, institutions, and community leaders nationwide, implemented in coordination with the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare, Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, and Education to ensure extensive grassroots reach.

67. How many new Atal Tinkering Labs does the government plan to establish in schools across India?

भारत भर के स्कूलों में सरकार कितने नए अटल टिकिरिंग लैब स्थापित करने की योजना बना रही है?

- (a) 10,000
- (b) 25,000
- (c) 35,000
- (d) 45,000
- (e) 50,000

Ans. e

Sol. Government to Set Up 50,000 New Atal Tinkering Labs Across Schools to Boost Innovation

The Government plans to establish 50,000 new Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) in schools across India, aiming to foster innovation, creativity, and problem-solving skills among students.

Over 10,000 ATLs have already been set up under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog, initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promote research and innovation at the school level.

The initiative was highlighted in the Union Budget 2025-26 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, emphasizing the government's commitment to nurturing curiosity, scientific temper, and innovative thinking among young students over the next five years.

68. Who is being honoured with a customised 'My Stamp' by India Post on his birth centenary?

भारत पोस्ट द्वारा जन्म शताब्दी पर किसे कस्टमाइज्ड 'मार्ई स्टैम्प' के साथ सम्मानित किया गया?

- (a) Prathap C Reddy
- (b) Pottipatti Obul Reddy
- (c) Manoj M.
- (d) Ratan Tata
- (e) Narayana Murthy

Ans. c

Sol. India Post Releases Commemorative 'My Stamp' to Honour P. Obul Reddy on His Birth Centenary

India Post released a customised commemorative 'My Stamp' to honour the birth centenary of industrialist and Nippo Batteries founder Pottipatti Obul Reddy, unveiled in Chennai by Manoj M., Director of Postal Services.

P. Obul Reddy was instrumental in the Indo-Japanese collaboration with Matsushita (Panasonic) in 1972, leading to the founding of Indo National Ltd (Nippo Batteries), which became India's second-largest dry-cell manufacturer.

The centenary celebrations highlight Reddy's contributions to industry, philanthropy, and Carnatic music, inspiring citizens to uphold the values of integrity, purpose, and giving back to society.

69. Which organization has signed an MoU with Reliance Jio to introduce a safety alert system on National Highways?

कौन सा संगठन राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों पर सुरक्षा अलर्ट सिस्टम शुरू करने के लिए रिलायंस जियो के साथ MoU पर हस्ताक्षरित किया?

- (a) Ministry of Road Transport
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) NHAI
- (d) IRDAI
- (e) Ministry of Telecom

Ans. c

Sol. NHAI Partners with Reliance Jio to Launch Telecom-Based Safety Alert System on National Highways

NHAI signs MoU with Reliance Jio to introduce a telecom-based safety alert system across National Highways, aiming to enhance road safety for commuters.

Travellers will receive real-time alerts via SMS, WhatsApp, and high-priority calls about accident-prone stretches, stray-cattle zones, fog-affected areas, and emergency diversions, using Jio's 4G and 5G network.

The system will be integrated with NHAI's digital platforms like the 'Rajmargyatra' app and emergency helpline 1033, providing early warnings without additional roadside hardware, and similar collaborations are planned with other telecom providers.

Recent MoU

- Bisleri Becomes Official Beverage Partner of Tata Women's Premier League for 2026 & 2027 Seasons
- C-DOT and IIT Roorkee Join Hands to Establish Centre of Excellence for Advanced Communication Technologies
- *BEL & Safran Sign JV to manufacture HAMMER Precision Weapon in India*
- *CSIR Signs Pact with Industrial Corridor Corporation to Boost Innovation and High-Tech R&D Ecosystems*
- *Engineers India Signs MoU with NMDC Energy to Boost Onshore Oil, Gas, and Green Energy Projects in Saudi Arabia*

70. **Recently, five traditional products from Tamil Nadu were granted the Geographical Indications (GI) tag. Which of the following is NOT among the newly GI-tagged products from Tamil Nadu?**

हाल ही में, तमिलनाडु के पांच पारंपरिक प्रोडक्ट्स को जियोग्राफिकल इंडिकेशन्स (GI) टैग दिया गया। इनमें से कौन सा तमिलनाडु के नए GI-टैग वाले प्रोडक्ट्स में शामिल नहीं है?

- (a) Woraiyur cotton sari
- (b) Thooymalli rice
- (c) Kavindapadi naatu sakkrai
- (d) Kanchipuram silk saree
- (e) Ambasamudram choppu saman

Ans. d

Sol. Tamil Nadu's Five Traditional Products Earn GI Tag, Taking State's Total to 74
Five traditional products from Tamil Nadu — Woraiyur cotton sari, Kavindapadi naatu sakkrai (jaggery powder), Namakkal makkal pathirangal (soapstone cookware), Thooymalli rice, and Ambasamudram choppu saman (wooden toys) — have been awarded the GI tag, showcasing the State's cultural and agricultural richness.

With these additions, Tamil Nadu now holds 74 GI-tagged products, as confirmed by IPR attorney P. Sanjai Gandhi, who filed the applications for the respective groups.

The newly recognised products include items rooted in centuries-old traditions, such as Woraiyur saris woven along the Cauvery, Kavindapadi jaggery powder made from sugarcane grown in Erode, and Thooymalli rice cultivated during the sambha season. Namakkal's ancient soapstone cookware and Ambasamudram's 200-year-old wooden toy craft also received GI recognition, highlighting the State's artisanal legacy and long-preserved techniques passed down through generations.

71. **Cashfree has partnered with which global institution to enhance cross-border payment processing in India?**

भारत में क्रॉस-बॉर्डर पेमेंट प्रोसेसिंग को मजबूत करने के लिए Cashfree ने किस वैश्विक संस्था के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Citi Bank
- (b) HSBC
- (c) J.P. Morgan Payments
- (d) Standard Chartered
- (e) World Bank

Ans. c

Sol. Cashfree partners with J.P. Morgan Payments to strengthen compliant cross-border payment processing in India

Cashfree has partnered with J.P. Morgan Payments, making J.P. Morgan an Authorised Dealer Category-I (AD-I) bank for the company, enabling compliant processing of import transactions under RBI's Payment Aggregator regulations.

The collaboration aims to remove payment-related barriers for global businesses by combining J.P. Morgan's global credibility with Cashfree's homegrown innovation, offering secure, transparent, and reliable cross-border settlements.

With India's cross-border e-commerce market projected to reach USD 1 trillion by 2030, the partnership seeks to simplify regulatory complexities and help international brands enter the Indian market faster and more compliantly.

72. CRISIL revised India's GDP growth forecast for the current financial year to what level?

वर्तमान वित्त वर्ष के लिए CRISIL ने भारत की GDP वृद्धि अनुमान को किस स्तर तक बढ़ाया है?

- (a) 6%
- (b) 6.2%
- (c) 6.5%
- (d) 7%
- (e) 7.5%

Ans. d

Sol. CRISIL raises India's GDP growth forecast to 7% for FY25 after stronger-than-expected first-half performance

CRISIL revised India's GDP growth forecast to 7% for the current financial year, citing stronger-than-expected 8% growth in the first half, driven mainly by robust private consumption, manufacturing, and services.

Despite real GDP growth of 8.2% in Q2, nominal GDP growth remained moderate at 8.7% due to easing inflation; growth is expected to slow to 6.1% in the second half due to factors like higher U.S. tariffs.

GDP Projection List 2025

- IMF -6.4% (FY26); 6.2% (FY27)
- World Bank – 6.5% (FY26)
- EY – 6.7% (FY26)
- S&P Global Ratings – 6.5% (FY26)
- Fitch Rating – 6.9% (FY25)
- SBI – 6.35 (FY26)
- Nomura – 6.2 % (FY26)
- India Ratings & Research – 6.3% (FY26)

73. What was the total GST collection in November after the first full month of rate cuts?

GST दर कटौती के पहले पूरे महीने के बाद नवंबर में कुल GST संग्रह कितना था?

- (a) ₹1.5 lakh crore
- (b) ₹1.6 lakh crore
- (c) ₹1.7 lakh crore
- (d) ₹1.8 lakh crore
- (e) ₹1.9 lakh crore

Ans. c

Sol. GST collection moderates after rate cuts to ₹1.7 lakh crore in November

The first full month after the GST rate cut showed a moderate 0.7% rise in total GST collections, reaching ₹1.7 lakh crore in November, though officials stated that overall consumption momentum remains positive.

Domestic GST revenues fell by 2.3% to ₹1.24 lakh crore, while GST from imports grew over 10% to around ₹46,000 crore, reflecting differing trends in domestic and international demand.

Tax experts noted that GST collections reflect consumption patterns, whereas GDP growth is influenced by broader factors like government spending and investment; the recent GST 2.0 rate reduction also contributed to the muted collection figures.

GST Collection of Previous Months

- *July 2025 – 1.96 lakh crore*
- *August 2025 – 1.86 lakh crore*
- *September 2025 – 1.89 lakh crore*
- *October 2025 – 1.96 lakh crore*

74. Which phrase has Oxford University Press selected as the Word of the Year 2025?

ऑक्सफोर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी प्रेस ने 2025 के लिए वर्ष का शब्द कौन सा चुना है?

- (a) Clickbait
- (b) Rage bait
- (c) Misinformation
- (d) Viral trend
- (e) Social trolling

Ans. b

Sol. Oxford University Press Names “Rage Bait” as Word of the Year 2025

Oxford University Press has named “rage bait” as the Word of the Year 2025 — a phrase that refers to online content deliberately designed to provoke anger, outrage or shock to drive engagement.

The usage of “rage bait” has reportedly tripled over the past year, reflecting how digital content and social media algorithms are increasingly rewarding emotionally provocative material.

The selection points to a larger cultural shift in 2025: from curiosity-driven “clickbait” to emotion-driven online behaviour — highlighting concerns about misinformation, digital wellbeing, and the ethics of engagement in the internet age.

75. DRDO successfully conducted a high-speed rocket-sled test of a fighter aircraft escape system at the Rail Track Rocket Sled facility in Chandigarh, validating canopy severance, ejection sequencing, and complete aircrew recovery. Which organisations collaborated with DRDO for this test?

DRDO ने चंडीगढ़ में रेल ट्रैक रॉकेट स्लेज फैसिलिटी में एक फाइटर एयरक्राफ्ट एस्केप सिस्टम का हाई-स्पीड रॉकेट-स्लेज टेस्ट सफलतापूर्वक किया, जिसमें कैनोपी सेवरेंस, इजेक्शन सीक्रेंसिंग और पूरी एयरक्रू रिकवरी को वैलिडेट किया गया। इस टेस्ट के लिए किन ऑर्गनाइजेशन ने DRDO के साथ कोलेबोरेट किया?

- (a) ISRO and ADA

- (b) ADA and HAL
- (c) IAF and BEL
- (d) HAL and ISRO
- (e) BEL and ADA

Ans. b

Sol. DRDO Successfully Tests Fighter Aircraft Escape System, Marks Major Milestone in Indigenous Defence Capability

DRDO successfully conducted a high-speed rocket-sled test of a fighter aircraft escape system at the Rail Track Rocket Sled facility in Chandigarh, validating canopy severance, ejection sequencing, and complete aircrew recovery.

The test, conducted in collaboration with ADA and HAL, involved dynamic ejection using a dual-sled system and an instrumented Anthropomorphic Test Dummy to record critical loads, moments, and accelerations, placing India among a select group of nations with advanced in-house escape system testing capability.

The successful test was lauded by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and DRDO Chairman Dr. Samir V. Kamat as a significant milestone for India's indigenous defence self-reliance and technological advancement.

76. When is International Volunteer Day observed each year?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक दिवस हर साल कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 1 December
- (b) 5 December
- (c) 6 December
- (d) 7 December
- (e) 8 December

Ans. b

Sol. 5 December – International Volunteer Day

International Volunteer Day (IVD) is observed annually on 5 December to recognise and promote the tireless efforts of volunteers worldwide who contribute to social, economic, and environmental development.

The day highlights the role of volunteering in addressing global challenges, fostering community engagement, and promoting peace, solidarity, and sustainable development. Governments, organizations, and communities use IVD to honour volunteers, encourage participation in volunteer initiatives, and raise awareness about the impact of volunteer work across various sectors.

77. When is World Soil Day observed each year?

विश्व मृदा दिवस हर साल कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 1 December
- (b) 5 December
- (c) 6 December
- (d) 7 December
- (e) 8 December

Ans. b

Sol. 5 December – World Soil Day

World Soil Day is observed annually on 5 December to raise awareness about the importance of healthy soil and its role in sustaining ecosystems, agriculture, and food security.

The day emphasizes sustainable soil management to combat soil degradation, erosion, and nutrient depletion, ensuring long-term productivity and environmental health.

78. The RBI reduced the Policy Repo Rate by 25 basis points to 5.25%, setting the SDF rate at 5% and the MSF/Bank Rate at 5.5%; all six MPC members voted unanimously for the rate cut. What stance did the MPC decide to continue with?

RBI ने पॉलिसी रेपो रेट को 25 बेसिस पॉइंट्स घटाकर 5.25% करदिया, SDF रेट 5% और MSF/बैंक रेट 5.5% तय किया; सभी छह MPC सदस्यों ने रेट कट के लिए सर्वसम्मति से वोट किया। MPC ने किस रुख को जारी रखने का फैसला किया?

- (a) Accommodative
- (b) Tightening
- (c) Hawkish
- (d) Neutral
- (e) Dovish

Ans. d

Sol. Policy repo rate cut by 25 basis points to 5.25%

The RBI reduced the Policy Repo Rate by 25 basis points to 5.25%, setting the SDF rate at 5% and the MSF/Bank Rate at 5.5%; all six MPC members voted unanimously for the rate cut.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra stated in Mumbai that the MPC has decided to maintain a neutral stance.

The RBI revised the GDP growth estimate for FY 2025-26 upward to 7.3%, from the earlier projection of 6.8%.

The RBI lowered the CPI inflation forecast for FY 2025-26 to 2%, down from the previous estimate of 2.6%, noting that headline inflation has eased significantly and is expected to soften further.

RBI Current Policy Rate are as under

- *Policy Repo Rate – 5.25%*
- *Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) – 5.00%*
- *Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) – 5.50%*
- *Bank Rate – 5.50%*
- *Reverse Repo Rate – 3.35%*
- *Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) – 3.00%*
- *Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) – 18%*

79. Which Union Minister recently flagged off the construction of India's first all-electric green tug, marking a major step under the country's Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP)?

भारत के ग्रीन टग ट्रांज़िशन प्रोग्राम (GTTP) के तहत देश के पहले ऑल-इलेक्ट्रिक ग्रीन टग के निर्माण की शुरुआत किस केंद्रीय मंत्री ने की, जो भारत की हरित समुद्री तकनीक में एक बड़ा कदम माना जा रहा है?

- (a) Nitin Gadkari
- (b) Hardeep Singh Puri
- (c) Sarbananda Sonowal
- (d) Rajnath Singh
- (e) Piyush Goyal

Ans. c

Sol. India Launches Its First All-Electric Green Tug Project

Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off the steel-cutting ceremony for India's first all-electric green tug — marking the beginning of the country's move toward green maritime operations.

The tug — being built for Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), Kandla under the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP) — will feature a 60-ton bollard pull, electric propulsion, zero carbon emissions, and silent operations.

The GTTP plans to induct a total of 50 green tugs by 2030, with 16 to be deployed in the first phase (2024–2027), making this tug the first concrete step in that roadmap.

Officials say the new electric tug will set a benchmark for next-generation fleet modernisation at India's major ports — cutting operational costs, improving energy efficiency, and supporting the country's broader push for sustainable port infrastructure.

80. **AIM-NITI Aayog has partnered with which company to develop the "MStar™ Global AI Connect" innovation platform?**

AIM-NITI आयोग ने "MStar™ ग्लोबल AI कनेक्ट" इनोवेशन प्लेटफॉर्म विकसित करने के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Tata Digital
- (b) Infosys Innovation Labs
- (c) Hitachi MGRM Net Ltd.
- (d) IBM India
- (e) Wipro Technologies

Ans. c

Sol. AIM-NITI Aayog and Hitachi MGRM Net Launch AI-Powered "MStar Global AI Connect" to Build India's Nationwide Innovation Backbone

AIM-NITI Aayog and Hitachi MGRM Net Ltd. signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to develop "MStar™ Global AI Connect", an AI-driven single innovation platform to boost innovation and entrepreneurship across India.

The partnership aims to build a federated national digital innovation backbone, connecting rural, urban, and suburban schools with mentors, incubators, accelerators, research institutions, and industry under the vision of "Viksit Bharat".

The initiative will strengthen the school-to-startup pipeline, enable virtual ATLS/AICs, support ideation-to-pilot workflows, enhance IP creation, and accelerate lab-to-market translation of Indian innovations.

Leaders from both sides emphasized that the collaboration will democratize access to innovation, nurture young talent, improve frontier-technology skills, and create an inclusive, multilingual, scalable innovation ecosystem for India's future.

81. S&P Global Ratings recently upgraded India's insolvency regime ranking from which category to which category?

S&P ग्लोबल रेटिंग्स ने हाल ही में भारत की दिवाला व्यवस्था की रैंकिंग किस श्रेणी से किस श्रेणी में अपग्रेड की है?

- (a) A to B
- (b) B to A
- (c) C to B
- (d) C to A
- (e) D to B

Ans. c

Sol. S&P Upgrades India's Insolvency Regime to 'B' as IBC Boosts Recovery Rates and Cuts Resolution Time

S&P Global Ratings upgraded India's insolvency regime ranking from 'C' to 'B', citing stronger creditor-led resolutions and improvements under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

Average recovery rates under IBC have risen to over 30%, compared to just 15–20% under the previous insolvency framework, showing better outcomes for creditors.

The upgrade reflects a shift in India's bankruptcy framework assessment from "weak" to "medium" creditor-friendly, indicating higher predictability and stronger protection of creditor interests.

IBC has significantly reduced the average resolution time for stressed assets to around two years, down from 6–8 years earlier, helping secured creditors recover far more than unsecured creditors.

82. Which government department withdrew its directive requiring smartphone manufacturers to preload the Sanchar Saathi app?

किस सरकारी विभाग ने स्मार्टफोन निर्माताओं को संचार साथी ऐप प्री-लोड करने के निर्देश वापस ले लिए?

- (a) Ministry of IT
- (b) TRAI
- (c) DoT
- (d) NIC
- (e) Ministry of Home Affairs

Ans. c

Sol. DoT Withdraws Mandatory Sanchar Saathi App Order Amid Public Backlash and Rising Security Concerns

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) withdrew its order requiring smartphone manufacturers to preload the Sanchar Saathi app from next year, after public backlash and a surge in voluntary downloads.

The initial mandate—issued under newly expanded powers regulating Telecommunication Identifier User Entities (TIUE)—triggered strong criticism from civil society, internet users, and the Opposition for attempting to install a government app without user consent.

Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia defended Sanchar Saathi in Parliament, noting that it helped disconnect 1.5 crore fraudulent mobile connections and trace 26 lakh lost phones, but added that the government was open to revising orders based on public feedback.

The withdrawn directive was one of multiple new DoT orders issued after changes to the Telecom Cyber Security Rules, including instructions to platforms like WhatsApp to restrict usage without the registered SIM and to integrate DoT's Financial Fraud Risk Indicator and blacklist database for immediate deactivation of suspicious accounts.

83. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the 18th Plenary Meeting of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, hosted in New Delhi from 2–5 December 2025. What is the theme of the 18th Plenary Meeting of the Global Forum hosted by India?

वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने 2-5 दिसंबर 2025 तक नई दिल्ली में आयोजित टैक्स उद्देश्यों के लिए पारदर्शिता और सूचना के आदान-प्रदान पर ग्लोबल फोरम की 18वीं प्लेनरी बैठक का उद्घाटन किया। भारत द्वारा आयोजित ग्लोबल फोरम की 18वीं प्लेनरी बैठक का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Global Tax Compliance and Innovation
- (b) Tax Transparency: Delivering a Shared Vision Through International Cooperation
- (c) Combating Tax Evasion through Technology
- (d) Financial Inclusion and Tax Governance
- (e) Digital Economy and Taxation

Ans. b

Sol. India Hosts 18th Global Forum Plenary

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the 18th Plenary Meeting of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, hosted in New Delhi from 2–5 December 2025, under the theme “Tax Transparency: Delivering a Shared Vision Through International Cooperation.”

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman emphasised that tax transparency is vital for fairness, responsible governance, and sustainable development, highlighting India's progress in voluntary compliance through clarity, simplification, and trust-building. The Global Forum, with 172 member jurisdictions, plays a key role in combating tax evasion and illicit financial flows, while India has strengthened its enforcement through AEOI, EOIR, Black Money Act, Benami Act, and advanced data analytics.

84. What is Fitch Ratings' revised GDP growth forecast for India in FY26?

FY26 में भारत के लिए फिच रेटिंग्स का संशोधित सकल घरेलू उत्पाद विकास पूर्वानुमान क्या है?

- (a) 6.5%
- (b) 6.9%
- (c) 7.4%
- (d) 7.8%
- (e) 8.2%

Ans. c

Sol. Fitch Raises India's FY26 GDP Forecast to 7.4% Boosted by GST Reforms and Strong Consumer Spending

Fitch Ratings raised India's FY26 GDP growth forecast to 7.4% from 6.9%, citing higher consumer spending and improved sentiment following GST reforms.

The agency noted falling inflation provides RBI room for another policy rate cut in December to 5.25%, after 100 basis points of reductions in 2025 so far.

GDP growth accelerated to 8.2% in Q2 (July–September) from 7.8% in Q1, supported by GST rate cuts on 375 items, making over 99% of consumption goods cheaper; Fitch projects growth to slow to 6.4% in FY27.

GDP Projection List 2025

- *Fitch Rating – 7.4% (FY25)*
- *Ind-Ra – 7% (FY26)*
- *CRISIL – 7% (FY26)*
- *IMF – 6.4% (FY26); 6.2% (FY27)*
- *World Bank – 6.5% (FY26)*
- *EY – 6.7% (FY26)*
- *S&P Global Ratings – 6.5% (FY26)*
- *SBI – 6.35 (FY26)*

85. The 46th Annual Conference of the Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP) was inaugurated at the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI), Kolkata, focusing on demographic drivers of India's inclusive growth. What is the theme of the 46th Annual IASP Conference?

इंडियन एसोसिएशन फॉर द स्टडी ऑफ पापुलेशन (IASP) का 46वां सालाना कॉन्फ्रेंस कोलकाता में एथ्नोपोलॉजिकल सर्वे ऑफ इंडिया (AnSI) में शुरू हुआ, जिसका फोकस भारत की समावेशी ग्रोथ के डेमोग्राफिक ड्राइवरों पर था। 46वें सालाना IASP कॉन्फ्रेंस का थीम क्या है?

- (a) Population and Technology
- (b) Urbanization and Growth
- (c) Migration and Employment
- (d) Health and Demography
- (e) People, Planet, Prosperity: Demographic Drivers of India's Inclusive Growth

Ans. e

Sol. 46th IASP Annual Conference Inaugurated at Kolkata's Anthropological Survey of India

The 46th Annual Conference of the Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP) was inaugurated at the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI), Kolkata, focusing on demographic drivers of India's inclusive growth.

The three-day conference (27–29 November 2025) is organised jointly by IASP, National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO), and in collaboration with AnSI. The conference is held under the theme “People, Planet, Prosperity: Demographic Drivers of India’s Inclusive Growth,” bringing together experts and policymakers to deliberate on population and development issues.

86. Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director & CEO of TeamLease Services, effective February 2, 2026?

2 फरवरी 2026 से टीमलीज़ सर्विसेज़ के नए प्रबंध निदेशक और सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Ashok Reddy
- (b) Manish Sabharwal
- (c) Parul Tyagi
- (d) Suparna Mitra
- (e) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

Ans. d

Sol. Suparna Mitra Appointed MD & CEO of TeamLease Services

Suparna Mitra to join TeamLease Services as Managing Director & CEO effective 2 February 2026, marking a planned leadership transition.

She will succeed Ashok Reddy, the current MD & CEO, as part of the company's long-term succession and governance strategy.

Vice-Chairman Manish Sabharwal will step down from executive duties but continue on the board as a non-executive, non-independent director.

87. The PM-WANI scheme was approved on 9th December 2020 to accelerate broadband proliferation across India via Public Wi-Fi networks, in line with the National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018. It enables Public Data Offices (PDOs) to set up Wi-Fi hotspots under PDO Aggregators (PDOAs). As of 26th November 2025, India has 3,91,599 active PM-WANI Wi-Fi hotspots, delivered by PDOs, facilitating affordable and widespread internet access across urban and rural areas. Who certifies that the hardware and software used by PM-WANI stakeholders are compliant with PM-WANI guidelines?

नेशनल डिजिटल कम्युनिकेशंस पॉलिसी (NDCP) 2018 के मुताबिक, पब्लिक वाई-फाई नेटवर्क के ज़रिए पूरे भारत में ब्रॉडबैंड के फैलाव को तेज़ करने के लिए 9 दिसंबर 2020 को PM-WANI स्कीम को मंजूरी दी गई थी। यह पब्लिक डेटा ऑफिस (PDOs) को PDO एग्रीगेटर्स (PDOAs) के तहत वाई-फाई हॉटस्पॉट सेट अप करने में मदद करता है। 26 नवंबर 2025 तक, भारत में PDOs द्वारा दिए गए 3,91,599 एक्टिव PM-WANI वाई-फाई हॉटस्पॉट हैं, जो शहरी और ग्रामीण इलाकों में सस्ता और बड़े पैमाने पर इंटरनेट एक्सेस की सुविधा देते हैं। कौन सर्टिफाई करता है कि PM-WANI स्टेकहोल्डर्स द्वारा इस्तेमाल किए जाने वाले हार्डवेयर और सॉफ्टवेयर PM-WANI गाइडलाइंस के मुताबिक हैं?

- (a) TRAI
- (b) Ministry of Electronics & IT
- (c) Department of Telecommunications

- (d) CDOT
- (e) NITI Aayog

Ans. d

Sol. PM-WANI Scheme Empowers Public Wi-Fi Expansion with 3.9 Lakh Hotspots, Key Reforms Boost Accessibility and Affordability

The Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme was approved on 9th December 2020 to accelerate broadband proliferation across India via Public Wi-Fi networks, aligning with the National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018 and enabling Public Data Offices (PDOs) to set up Wi-Fi hotspots under PDO Aggregators (PDOAs).

As of 26th November 2025, India has 3,91,599 active PM-WANI Wi-Fi hotspots, delivered by PDOs, facilitating affordable and widespread internet access across urban and rural areas.

Key reforms introduced on 16th September 2024 allow PDOs to offer PM-WANI via regular FTTH connections, aggregate multiple access points to a single backhaul, enable existing home/business Wi-Fi to join PM-WANI, allow roaming between PDOAs, and support mobile data offloading with telecom operators.

TRAI's 71st Amendment Order, 2025 mandates that retail FTTH broadband plans up to 200 Mbps must be offered to PDOs at tariffs not exceeding twice the corresponding consumer broadband price, ensuring cost-effective access for public Wi-Fi expansion. Hardware and software under PM-WANI are procured by stakeholders (PDOs, PDOAs, and App providers) and must be PM-WANI compliant and certified by CDOT, ensuring interoperability, security, and adherence to regulatory guidelines.

88. When will the amended Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2025 for pan masala, which mandate the display of Retail Sale Price (RSP) on all packs including small packs of 10 grams or less, come into force?

पान मसाला के लिए संशोधित लीगल मेट्रोलॉजी (पैकेज्ड कमोडिटीज) (द्वितीय संशोधन) नियम, 2025, जो सभी पैक, जिनमें 10 ग्राम या उससे छोटे पैक शामिल हैं, पर रिटेल सेल प्राइस (RSP) दिखाना अनिवार्य करते हैं, कब लागू होंगे?

- (a) 1st January 2026
- (b) 1st February 2026
- (c) 1st March 2026
- (d) 5th December 2025
- (e) 1st April 2026

Ans. b

Sol. Retail Sale Price Now Mandatory on All Pan Masala Packs from February 2026

From 1st February 2026, all pan masala packages, including small packs of 10 grams or less, must display the Retail Sale Price (RSP) along with all declarations required under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011.

The earlier proviso under Rule 26(a), which allowed small packs to avoid certain declarations, has been withdrawn, ensuring full compliance for all pack sizes.

The amendment ensures transparent pricing, prevents misleading or deceptive labeling on smaller packs, and enables consumers to make better informed purchasing decisions.

By mandating RSP on all packs, the amendment supports effective implementation of RSP-based GST, allowing accurate tax assessment and revenue collection across all pack sizes.

89. Which bank has appointed Harmanpreet Kaur as its first female brand ambassador?

किस बैंक ने हरमनप्रीत कौर को अपनी पहली महिला ब्रांड एंबेसडर नियुक्त किया है?

- (a) SBI
- (b) Bank of Baroda
- (c) Punjab National Bank
- (d) Canara Bank
- (e) HDFC Bank

Ans. c

Sol. PNB Appoints Harmanpreet Kaur as Its First Female Brand Ambassador

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has appointed Harmanpreet Kaur, captain of the Indian women's cricket team, as its first-ever female brand ambassador.

The partnership highlights PNB's commitment to promoting women empowerment, leadership, and excellence in sports.

As brand ambassador, Harmanpreet Kaur will feature in the bank's marketing and customer outreach campaigns to strengthen its brand visibility and youth connect.

Recent Brand Ambassador

- *Indian cricket Abhishek Sharma - United Arab Emirates (NewsVoir) DP World*
- *Rohit Sharma - ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026*
- *Shafali Verma - Haryana Women's Commission*
- *Rahul Dravid - Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL)*
- *Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma - Fintech firm Pay10*

90. Arun Kumar Singh has received an extension as chairman of which organisation?

अरुण कुमार सिंह को किस संगठन के चेयरमैन के रूप में विस्तार मिला है?

- (a) IOC
- (b) BPCL
- (c) ONGC
- (d) GAIL
- (e) NTPC

Ans. c

Sol. Arun Kumar Singh Gets Rare One-Year Extension as ONGC Chairman

Arun Kumar Singh has received a rare one-year extension as ONGC Chairman, reflecting the government's intent to maintain leadership continuity during the company's turnaround in crude oil and gas production.

With this extension, Singh will continue in office until December 6, 2026, marking an unusually long tenure for a PSU head.

Appointed in 2022 just before turning 60, Singh's new term—approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet—allows him to serve until age 64, making him one of the oldest executives to lead a major public sector enterprise.

About Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited

- *Founded- 14 August 1956*
- *Headquarters- Delhi*
- *Ministry- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas*
- *Minister- Hardeep Singh Puri*

91. Who has been approved by the RBI as the CEO of Bank of America NA (BoFA) in India?

RBI ने भारत में बैंक ऑफ अमेरिका NA (BoFA) के CEO के रूप में किसे मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) Ajay Banga
- (b) Vikram Sahu
- (c) Shantanu Narayen
- (d) Arvind Krishna
- (e) Nitin Chugh

Ans. b

Sol. RBI Approves Vikram Sahu as CEO of Bank of America India

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Vikram Sahu as the new CEO of Bank of America NA (BoFA) in India.

Sahu will take on this role in addition to his current position as India Country Executive. Sahu replaced Kaku Nakhate, who served as the bank CEO for about 15 years.

The appointment was confirmed through an internal memo circulated by the US-headquartered bank to its employees.

Recent Appointments in Banking & Insurance Sector

- ***Managing Director of LIC - Ramakrishnan Chander (till 30 Sep 2027)***
- ***ED of Union Bank of India - Amresh Prasad***
- ***ED of Central Bank of India - E. Ratan Kumar***
- ***ED of Bank of India - Pramod Kumar Dwibedi***
- ***Part-Time Chairperson of Jana Small Finance Bank - Chitra Talwar (replace R. Ramaseshan); effect from 8 Feb 2026***
-

92. International Day against Unilateral Coercive Measures is observed on which date?

एकतरफा बाध्यकारी उपायों के खिलाफ अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 1 December
- (b) 2 December
- (c) 3 December
- (d) 4 December
- (e) 7 December

Ans. d

Sol. 4 December - International Day against Unilateral Coercive Measures

Observed every year on 4 December, the day raises awareness about the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures (UCMs) imposed by one country on another.

It highlights how such measures can affect human rights, development, and economic stability, particularly in vulnerable nations.

The United Nations emphasizes that unilateral sanctions should not hinder access to essential services like healthcare, food, and education.

93. International Day of Banks is observed on which date?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बैंक दिवस किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 1 December
- (b) 2 December
- (c) 4 December
- (d) 5 December
- (e) 7 December

Ans. c

Sol. 4 December - International Day of Banks

The International Day of Banks is observed on 4 December every year to recognize the critical role of banks in financing sustainable development.

The day highlights the contribution of the banking sector in supporting economic growth, poverty reduction, and global financial stability.

It emphasizes the importance of strong, transparent, and resilient banking systems for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

94. Markets regulator SEBI introduces single-window access for low-risk foreign investors, simplifying participation in the Indian securities market and enhancing India's appeal as an investment destination. The framework named SWAGAT-FI provides unified registration across multiple investment routes and reduces repeated compliance and documentation. What is the full form of SWAGAT-FI?

मार्केट रेगुलेटर SEBI ने कम रिस्क वाले विदेशी इन्वेस्टर्स के लिए सिंगल-विंडो एक्सेस शुरू किया है, जिससे इंडियन सिक्योरिटीज मार्केट में हिस्सा लेना आसान हो जाएगा और इन्वेस्टमेंट डेस्टिनेशन के तौर पर भारत की अपील बढ़ेगी। SWAGAT-FI नाम का यह फ्रेमवर्क कई इन्वेस्टमेंट रास्तों पर यूनिफाइड रजिस्ट्रेशन देता है और बार-बार होने वाली कंप्लायांस और डॉक्यूमेंटेशन को कम करता है। SWAGAT-FI का फुल फॉर्म क्या है?

- (a) Single Window Automatic & Generalised Access for Trusted Foreign Investors
- (b) Simplified Workflow Access for Global and Trusted Foreign Investors
- (c) Single Way Agreement for Foreign Institutional Investors
- (d) Secure Window Access for Global Accredited Traders
- (e) Systematic Workflow for Advanced Foreign Investment

Ans. a

Sol. SEBI Launches SWAGAT-FI to Simplify Investment for Low-Risk Foreign Investors in India

SEBI introduces single-window access for low-risk foreign investors, simplifying participation in the Indian securities market and enhancing India's appeal as an investment destination.

The framework, named SWAGAT-FI (Single Window Automatic & Generalised Access for Trusted Foreign Investors), provides unified registration across multiple investment routes and reduces repeated compliance and documentation.

Eligible low-risk foreign investors include government-owned funds, central banks, sovereign wealth funds, multilateral entities, highly regulated public retail funds, appropriately regulated insurance companies, and pension funds.

The move is aimed at streamlining investment procedures, lowering administrative hurdles, and making India more attractive for long-term foreign institutional investments.

95. Who has been appointed as the new United Nations Resident Coordinator in India?

भारत में नए संयुक्त राष्ट्र रेजिडेंट कोऑर्डिनेटर के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Shombi Sharp
- (b) Achim Steiner
- (c) Stefan Priesner
- (d) Filippo Grandi
- (e) Antonio Vitorino

Ans. c

Sol. Stefan Priesner Appointed as New UN Resident Coordinator in India

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Stefan Priesner of Austria as the new UN Resident Coordinator in India.

Priesner brings extensive experience in international development, having served as UN Resident Coordinator in Iran (2021–2025), Malaysia–Brunei–Singapore (2017–2021), and Uzbekistan (2013–2017), along with various senior UNDP roles across Asia and Europe.

He holds master's degrees in international relations (Johns Hopkins University) and law (University of Vienna), started his UN career in 1997 in Bhutan, and succeeds Shombi Sharp as the UN Resident Coordinator for India.

Recent Appointments in Foreign

- **MD and Chief Knowledge Officer of World Bank Group** - Paschal Donohoe
- **12th Director-General of UNESCO** - Khaled El-Enany of Egypt (replaced Audrey Azoulay); first Arab
- **Virginia's Lieutenant Governor** - Indian-Origin Ghazala Hashmi (First Muslim and South Asian American)
- **First-ever female Archbishop of Canterbury** - Dame Sarah Mullally (replaced Justin Welby)
- **India's High Commissioner to Ghana** - Manish Gupta

96. Which organisation, operating under the Catalyst Platform, has recently launched the “FPO Shakti” blended stage-based financing facility aimed at enabling Farmer-Producer Organisations (FPOs) to access timely and appropriate capital for sustainable growth?

किस संगठन ने Catalyst Platform के तहत "FPO Shakti" नामक blended stage-based financing सुविधा शुरू की है, जिसका उद्देश्य किसान उत्पादक संगठनों (FPOs) को समय पर और उपयुक्त पूंजी उपलब्ध कराना है?

- (a) NABARD
- (b) Vrutti
- (c) NAFED
- (d) FCI
- (e) SIDBI

Ans. b

Sol. Vrutti partners with HSBC India to launch 'FPO Shakti' financing facility

Vrutti (Catalyst Platform) has launched the FPO Shakti financing facility to provide stage-based, blended capital support to Farmer-Producer Organisations (FPOs) for timely and suitable credit access.

The initiative is supported by HSBC India and managed by Friends of Women's World Banking (FWWB) India, aiming to bridge the persistent credit gap faced by FPOs.

Although India has 44,000+ registered FPOs, less than one-third can access formal credit due to collateral-heavy lending norms, creating a "missing middle" that hinders rural value chains and limits smallholder farmers' income growth.

97. Which General Insurance company has partnered with Vastu Housing Finance to provide insurance solutions to Vastu's housing loan customers across 17 States and 340 districts in India?

किस जनरल इंश्योरेंस कंपनी ने Vastu Housing Finance के साथ भागीदारी की है ताकि उसके हाउसिंग लोन ग्राहकों को 17 राज्यों और 340 जिलों में बीमा समाधान प्रदान किए जा सकें?

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

Ans. c

Sol. ICICI Lombard & Vastu Housing Finance Partner to Offer Protection Plans for Housing Loan Customers Across 17 States

ICICI Lombard General Insurance and Vastu Housing Finance have partnered to provide insurance solutions to Vastu's housing loan customers across 17 States and 340 districts in India

The collaboration will offer two major products — Income Protect (covering 33 critical illnesses, accidental death, and permanent total disability) and Home Insurance (covering fire, natural disasters, theft, and accidental damage).

The partnership aims to support peri-urban and rural customers, especially first-generation homeowners and self-employed individuals, with distribution through Vastu's branches and digital platforms.

98. **Which organisation has partnered with Gujarat Fluorochemicals' subsidiary GFCL EV Products by investing around USD 50 million to help build India's first integrated battery materials facility?**

किस ऑर्गनाइजेशन ने गुजरात फ्लोरोकेमिकल्स की सब्सिडियरी GFCL EV प्रोडक्ट्स के साथ मिलकर भारत की पहली इंटीग्रेटेड बैटरी मटीरियल्स फैसिलिटी बनाने में मदद करने के लिए लगभग 50 मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर का निवेश किया है?

- (a) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- (b) New Development Bank (NDB)
- (c) International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- (d) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- (e) UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Ans. c

Sol. Gujarat Fluorochemicals & IFC Partner to Build India's First Integrated Battery Materials Facility

Gujarat Fluorochemicals (GFL) has partnered with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), which is investing \$50 million in its subsidiary GFCL EV Products to establish India's first integrated battery materials facility.

The investment aims to boost high-value manufacturing, generate employment, and strengthen India's role in global supply chains, supporting national goals like energy security and transport electrification.

With a diversified portfolio and strong technological expertise, GFCL EV will accelerate clean-tech adoption, reduce emissions, and help position India as a global hub for advanced battery materials.

99. **Which payments bank has been granted 'in-principle' approval by the RBI to convert into a Small Finance Bank (SFB)?**

किस पेमेंट्स बैंक को RBI ने स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक (SFB) में बदलने के लिए 'सैद्धांतिक' मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) AU Payments Bank
- (b) Fino Payments Bank
- (c) Jana Payments Bank
- (d) Ujjivan Payments Bank
- (e) Paytm Payments Bank

Ans. b

Sol. RBI Grants 'In-Principle' Approval to Fino Payments Bank for Conversion into Small Finance Bank

RBI has granted 'in-principle' approval to Fino Payments Bank for its conversion into a Small Finance Bank (SFB), after assessing its application under the established regulatory guidelines.

Under RBI's 'on tap' licensing framework, payments banks controlled by residents and having completed five years of operations are eligible to apply for conversion into an SFB.

The approval follows earlier regulatory decisions where AU SFB received approval to convert into a universal bank, while applications of Jana SFB were returned and Ujjivan SFB's application remains pending.

The small finance bank is registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act, (2013). It is licensed under Section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

100. In its December 2025 monetary policy announcement, the RBI revealed a major liquidity-boosting step. As part of this measure, how much worth of government securities did the RBI decide to purchase through Open Market Operations (OMO) to inject long-term durable liquidity into the banking system?

दिसंबर 2025 की मौद्रिक नीति घोषणा में, आरबीआई ने तरलता बढ़ाने के एक बड़े कदम की जानकारी दी। इस उपाय के तहत, बैंकिंग प्रणाली में दीर्घकालिक टिकाऊ तरलता डालने के लिए आरबीआई ने ओपन मार्केट ऑपरेशन्स (OMO) के माध्यम से कितनी राशि के सरकारी बॉन्ड खरीदने का निर्णय लिया?

- (a) ₹50,000 crore
- (b) ₹75,000 crore
- (c) ₹1,00,000 crore
- (d) ₹1,25,000 crore
- (e) ₹1,50,000 crore

Ans. c

Sol. RBI Announces ₹1 Lakh Crore OMO and \$5 Billion Forex Swap to Boost Durable Liquidity

RBI announced major liquidity infusion through ₹1,00,000 crore OMO purchases and a \$5 billion 3-year USD/INR Buy-Sell swap to ensure sufficient durable liquidity in the system.

RBI also notified a ₹50,000 crore G-Sec purchase on December 11, 2025, with the remaining ₹50,000 crore to be conducted later in the month.

Governor Sanjay Malhotra clarified that the Dollar-Rupee swap is a liquidity measure, not meant to support the rupee, and stated that the RBI is comfortable with the current exchange rate despite volatility.

RBI highlighted strong external sector fundamentals, manageable CAD (~1%), robust services exports, strong remittances, and emphasized that India's economy remains resilient and poised for high growth despite global challenges.

101. Which edition of the International Sand Art Festival was inaugurated alongside the Konark Festival in Odisha?

ओडिशा में कोणार्क महोत्सव के साथ किस संस्करण का अंतरराष्ट्रीय सैंड आर्ट फेस्टिवल उद्घाटित किया गया?

- (a) 10th Edition
- (b) 12th Edition
- (c) 14th Edition
- (d) 15th Edition
- (e) 18th Edition

Ans. d

Sol. Odisha CM Inaugurates 36th Konark Festival and 15th International Sand Art Festival

Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated the 36th Konark Festival and 15th International Sand Art Festival, beginning five days of cultural celebrations featuring dance, music and creative sand art.

The festivals, organised by the Tourism Department, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi, and OTDC, aim to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and artistic excellence.

The inaugural evening featured Odissi performances by Sonali Mohapatra and Nrutya Upasana Pitha, including presentations on Hanuman Chalisa, Saranga Pallavi, and Chari Yuga Devi depicting the power of Maa Durga.

About Odisha

- ***Capital*** - Bhubaneswar
- ***Chief Minister*** - Mohan Charan Majhi (replace Naveen Patnaik)
- ***Deputy CM*** - KV Singhdeo and Pravati Parida
- ***Governor*** - Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati

102. **Where was the Indian Army's annual Idea and Innovation Competition, Inno-Yoddha 2025, conducted?**

भारतीय सेना की वार्षिक आइडिया और इनोवेशन प्रतियोगिता इनो-योद्धा 2025 कहाँ आयोजित की गई?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Pune
- (c) Jaipur
- (d) New Delhi
- (e) Chandigarh

Ans. d

Sol. Indian Army Hosts Inno-Yoddha 2025, Shortlists 32 Innovations to Boost Operational Readiness

The Indian Army organised its annual Idea and Innovation Competition & Seminar, Inno-Yoddha 2025, in New Delhi, with Lt. Gen. Pushpendra Pal Singh felicitating the selected innovators.

The Ministry of Defence reported a record 89 submissions, of which 32 innovative solutions were selected for further development to enhance operational readiness, logistics, and training.

Over the past five years, the Army's innovation ecosystem has achieved significant progress, showcasing a strong culture of soldier-driven technological and strategic advancements.

103. **Which licence has Razorpay recently been granted by the Reserve Bank of India, enabling it to facilitate regulated inward and outward cross-border payments for exporters, SaaS firms, freelancers, D2C brands, and global companies operating in India?**

रिजर्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया ने Razorpay को हाल ही में कौन सा लाइसेंस प्रदान किया है, जो भारत में काम कर रहे नियंत्रितकों, SaaS फर्मों, फ्रीलांसरों, D2C ब्रांडों और वैश्विक कंपनियों के लिए नियंत्रित इनवर्ड और आउटवर्ड क्रॉस-बॉर्डर पेमेंट की सुविधा देता है?

- (a) Payment Aggregator – Domestic (PA-D)
- (b) Payment Aggregator – Cross Border (PA-CB)
- (c) Foreign Exchange Dealer Licence
- (d) Unified Payments Licence
- (e) Digital Wallet Licence

Ans. b

Sol. Razorpay Gets RBI Cross-Border Payment Licence, Expands Global Payment Capabilities

Razorpay receives Payment Aggregator – Cross Border (PA-CB) licence from the RBI, allowing it to facilitate regulated inward and outward cross-border payments for businesses operating in India.

The licence enables Razorpay to support exporters, SaaS firms, freelancers, D2C brands, and global companies, offering payments in over 130 currencies with a 95% international transaction success rate.

Razorpay's platform provides single integration for multiple payment methods (UPI, RuPay, EMIs, netbanking, and 100+ local options), supports India-based pricing and customer service, and positions it among the few Indian fintechs with full-spectrum payment capabilities.

104. The 8th Economic Census in India is scheduled for 2027, to be conducted after the two-phase Population Census (April–September 2026 and February 2027). Which Union Ministry is responsible for organising and administering this massive statistical exercise?

भारत में 8वीं आर्थिक जनगणना 2027 के लिए निर्धारित है, जो दो चरण की जनसंख्या जनगणना (अप्रैल-सितंबर 2026 और फरवरी 2027) के बाद आयोजित की जाएगी। इस व्यापक सांख्यिकीय अभ्यास के आयोजन और प्रशासन के लिए कौन सा केंद्रीय मंत्रालय जिम्मेदार है?

- (a) Ministry of Finance
- (b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Commerce
- (d) Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation
- (e) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Ans. d

Sol. India to Conduct 8th Economic Census in 2027 Following Two-Phase Population Census

The 8th Economic Census in India is scheduled for 2027, to be conducted after the two-phase Population Census (April–September 2026 and February 2027), as stated by Statistics Secretary Saurabh Garg.

Data from the Economic Census will be used to create the Statistical Business Register (SBR), which will map enterprises across states and track their operational status (active or closed).

Conducted nationwide by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI) and the National Statistics Office in collaboration with state Directorates of Economics and Statistics, the Economic Census provides a complete count of all establishments, offering detailed operational and structural data crucial for policymaking.

The first Economic Census was held in 1977, and the upcoming 2027 Census will coincide with India's 16th decennial Population Census since the first nationwide census in 1872.

105. Which Assam-based public-sector refinery, known for spearheading major energy and petrochemical projects in the Northeast and recently commissioning a bamboo-based 2G bioethanol plant, was granted Navratna status by the Government of India?

एनई-भारत में प्रमुख ऊर्जा और पेट्रोकेमिकल परियोजनाओं का नेतृत्व करने और हाल ही में बांस आधारित 2G बायोएथेनॉल प्लांट का उद्घाटन करने वाली असम स्थित किस सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की रिफाइनरी को भारत सरकार द्वारा Navratna दर्जा दिया गया है?

- (a) Digboi Refinery
- (b) Numaligarh Refinery Ltd
- (c) Guwahati Refinery
- (d) Barauni Refinery
- (e) Haldia Refinery

Ans. b

Sol. Numaligarh Refinery Granted Navratna Status, Boosting Assam's Energy and Green Growth Initiatives

Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) has been granted Navratna status, a major milestone for Assam's oil and gas sector, with Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma thanking PM Narendra Modi and Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri for their support.

The upgrade highlights the Centre's strong confidence in NRL's strategic role as it leads major energy and petrochemical projects in the Northeast, including the large-scale NREP refinery expansion and the newly inaugurated bamboo-based 2G bioethanol plant.

With Navratna status, NRL gains greater financial autonomy and investment flexibility, expected to speed up industrial growth, strengthen Assam's position as an energy hub, and boost employment and downstream economic activity in the region.

106. The Government of India recently signed a comprehensive two-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which global payment technology company to promote India as a premium tourism destination and strengthen the digital tourism ecosystem through marketing campaigns, stakeholder engagement, and secure digital payment solutions?

भारत सरकार ने हाल ही में भारत को एक प्रीमियम पर्यटन गंतव्य के रूप में बढ़ावा देने, मार्केटिंग अभियानों, हितधारकों की भागीदारी और सुरक्षित डिजिटल भुगतान समाधान के माध्यम से

डिजिटल पर्यटन परिस्थितिकी तंत्र को मजबूत करने के उद्देश्य से किस वैश्विक पेमेंट टेक्नोलॉजी कंपनी के साथ एक व्यापक दो वर्षीय समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Visa Inc.
- (b) American Express
- (c) PayPal Holdings
- (d) RuPay (NPCI)
- (e) Mastercard

Ans. e

Sol. India Signs Two-Year MoU with Mastercard to Boost Premium Tourism and Showcase Unique Cultural Experiences

The Government of India and Mastercard have signed a two-year MoU to enhance India's image as a premium travel destination for both domestic and international tourists, using Mastercard's global platforms like the Priceless™ program.

The collaboration aims to strengthen the tourism ecosystem by involving public and private stakeholders, promoting secure and responsible digital payments, and running joint marketing campaigns targeting diverse traveler groups.

Starting with Goa, the Priceless™ platform will showcase exclusive experiences from Varanasi and interior regions of Andhra Pradesh, with more destinations to be added to highlight India's cultural, spiritual, natural, and culinary heritage.

107. Which fruit from Darjeeling has recently been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag?

दार्जिलिंग के किस फल को हाल ही में जियोग्राफिकल इंडिकेशन (GI) टैग मिला है?

- (a) Darjeeling Apple
- (b) Darjeeling Pineapple
- (c) Darjeeling Lemon
- (d) Darjeeling Mandarin Orange
- (e) Darjeeling Peach

Ans. d

Sol. Darjeeling Mandarin Orange Secures GI Tag

Darjeeling Mandarin Orange has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, recognising its historic sweetness, superior quality, and deep cultural association with the hills of Darjeeling and Kalimpong.

The GI application was community-driven, initiated by former UBKV professor Tulsi Saran Ghimiray and later transferred to the Darjeeling Organic Farmers Producer Organisation, ensuring that the benefits directly reach local growers.

Historically producing around 15,000 metric tonnes, the fruit's cultivation suffered due to pests and viruses in recent years; the new GI status is expected to boost revival, improve market value, and strengthen the livelihoods of local farmers.

108. Which state government has recently launched the 'Mukhyamantri Bharat Darshan Yojana' aimed at sending secondary school students on educational tours across important historical and research sites across India?

किस राज्य सरकार ने हाल ही में 'मुख्यमंत्री भारत दर्शन योजना' शुरू की है, जिसका उद्देश्य माध्यमिक विद्यालय के छात्रों को देशभर के महत्वपूर्ण ऐतिहासिक व शोध स्थलों की शैक्षणिक यात्रा पर भेजना है?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh Government
- (b) Maharashtra Government
- (c) Bihar Government
- (d) Gujarat Government
- (e) Karnataka Government

Ans. c

Sol. Bihar Launches 'Mukhyamantri Bharat Darshan Yojana' to Take Secondary Students on Nationwide Educational Tours

The Bihar government will launch the 'Mukhyamantri Bharat Darshan Yojana' to take secondary school students on educational tours across India.

The scheme expands on the existing 'Mukhyamantri Bihar Darshan Yojana', which currently sends primary and middle school students on tours within Bihar.

Under the new initiative, students will visit major historical sites and research institutions, with possible destinations including the Taj Mahal, Red Fort, Qutub Minar, Charminar, and Agra Fort.

About Bihar

- **Capital** – Patna
- **Chief Minister** – Nitish Kumar (10th time)
- **Governor** – Arif Mohammed Khan

109. **When is International Volunteer Day (IVD) observed every year?**

इंटरनेशनल वॉलंटियर डे (IVD) हर साल कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 1 December
- (b) 3 December
- (c) 5 December
- (d) 7 December
- (e) 10 December

Ans. c

Sol. 5 December – International Volunteer Day

International Volunteer Day (IVD) is observed every year on 5 December to recognize and celebrate the efforts of volunteers worldwide.

Theme 2025 - Every contribution matters

The day was established by the United Nations (UN) in 1985 to promote volunteerism and encourage people to contribute to community development.

It highlights the crucial role volunteers play in humanitarian aid, social development, disaster response, environmental protection, and peace-building.

110. **World Soil Day is observed every year on 5 December to raise awareness about the importance of healthy soil and sustainable soil management. What is the theme for World Soil Day 2025?**

हर साल 5 दिसंबर को स्वस्थ मिट्टी के महत्व और टिकाऊ मिट्टी प्रबंधन के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए विश्व मृदा दिवस मनाया जाता है। विश्व मृदा दिवस 2025 की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Soil and Water: Sources of Life
- (b) Keep Soil Alive, Protect Soil Biodiversity
- (c) Healthy Soil, Healthy Food
- (d) Save Soil, Save Future
- (e) Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities

Ans. e

Sol. 5 December – World Soil Day

World Soil Day is observed every year on 5 December to raise awareness about the importance of healthy soil and sustainable soil management.

Theme 2025 - Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities

The day was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and officially recognized in 2014.

It highlights major issues like soil degradation, erosion, pollution, declining fertility, and promotes actions to protect soil as a vital natural resource.

111. **Cristiano Ronaldo recently became the global brand ambassador of which AI company?**

क्रिस्टियानो रोनाल्डो हाल ही में किस AI कंपनी के ग्लोबल ब्रांड एंबेसडर बने हैं?

- (a) OpenAI
- (b) Google DeepMind
- (c) Anthropic
- (d) Perplexity
- (e) Cohere

Ans. d

Sol. Cristiano Ronaldo Becomes Investor and Global Brand Ambassador for AI Firm Perplexity

Cristiano Ronaldo has invested in AI company Perplexity and become its brand ambassador.

As part of the collaboration, Ronaldo launched a custom AI assistant, "Ronaldo Hub", offering fans unseen personal images, curated life-stage questions, and interactive access to his iconic goals.

CEO of Perplexity - Aravind Srinivas

112. **The 11th India International Science Festival (IISF 2025), being held in Panchkula, Haryana, will showcase India's science-led progress while bridging traditional knowledge with modern scientific research. What is the theme of IISF 2025?**

हरियाणा के पंचकूला में हो रहा 11वां भारत अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान महोत्सव (IISF 2025) भारत की विज्ञान-आधारित प्रगति को दिखाएगा, साथ ही पारंपरिक ज्ञान को आधुनिक वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान से जोड़ेगा। IISF 2025 की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Science for Future
- (b) Technology for All
- (c) Vigyan Se Samruddhi: for Aatmanirbhar Bharat
- (d) Innovation for India
- (e) Digital India Mission

Ans. c

Sol. 11th India International Science Festival Begins in Panchkula

The 11th India International Science Festival (IISF 2025), being held in Panchkula, Haryana, will showcase India's science-led progress while bridging traditional knowledge with modern scientific research.

The festival's theme, "Vigyan Se Samruddhi: for Aatmanirbhar Bharat," highlights the role of science, technology, and innovation in strengthening self-reliance, national development, and economic growth.

IISF 2025 will feature 150+ technical and thematic sessions, focusing on five key areas, including biotechnology, space, artificial intelligence, Himalayan ecology, and the integration of traditional knowledge with modern science.

113. The Government of India recently announced a major statistical reform by updating the base year used for national accounts. Which of the following years has been selected as the new base year to ensure that GDP and related indicators better reflect the current structure of the economy?

भारत सरकार ने हाल ही में राष्ट्रीय खातों के लिए उपयोग किए जाने वाले आधार वर्ष को अद्यतन करके एक प्रमुख सांख्यिकीय सुधार की घोषणा की। यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कि जीडीपी और संबंधित संकेतक अर्थव्यवस्था की वर्तमान संरचना को बेहतर ढंग से दर्शाते हैं, निम्नलिखित में से किस वर्ष को नए आधार वर्ष के रूप में चुना गया है?

- (a) 2011-12
- (b) 2015-16
- (c) 2017-18
- (d) 2020-21
- (e) 2022-23

Ans. e

Sol. India to Update National Accounts Base Year to 2022-23 from February 2026

The Government of India will revise the national accounts base year to 2022-23, replacing the outdated 2011-12 base year, with the new system coming into effect from February 26-27 next year.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman clarified that the IMF's recent C grade for India's national accounts was due to the old base year, not the quality or credibility of the data. The update follows debate over data accuracy after the NSO released July-September GDP figures showing 8.2% growth, which some opposition leaders questioned in light of the IMF's grading.

114. Which Indian company was named among the Top 100 Corporate Startup Stars (CSS) 2025?

किस भारतीय कंपनी को शीर्ष 100 कॉर्पोरेट स्टार्टअप स्टार्स (सीएसएस) 2025 में नामित किया गया था?

- (a) ONGC
- (b) Indian Oil
- (c) NTPC
- (d) GAIL
- (e) BPCL

Ans. e

Sol. BPCL Becomes the Only Indian Company Named Among Top 100 Corporate Startup Stars 2025

BPCL Becomes the Only Indian Company Named Among Top 100 Corporate Startup Stars 2025

BPCL has been named among the Top 100 Corporate Startup Stars (CSS) 2025 by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and Mind the Bridge, becoming the only Indian organisation on the global list for excellence in startup collaboration.

BPCL's startup initiative 'Ankur', launched in 2016, has supported 30+ startups in domains like robotics, AI, industrial IoT, safety technologies, and predictive maintenance, and also includes the BPCL Ankur Fund for early-stage investments.

BPCL Chairman Sanjay Khanna stated that the recognition reflects the company's commitment to open innovation and sustainable energy, aligning with its goal to drive India's energy transition and strengthen BPCL as a future-ready integrated energy company.

The recognition ceremony took place at the ICC headquarters in Paris, with ICC and Mind the Bridge leaders praising BPCL's model of strategically partnering with startups to accelerate new technology adoption in India's evolving energy and innovation ecosystem.

115. Who became the first-ever recipient of the newly established "FIFA Peace Prize – Football Unites the World," an award created to honour individuals for their exceptional contributions to promoting global peace and unity through football, and was presented during the 2026 FIFA World Cup Draw held in Washington, DC?

नव स्थापित "फीफा शांति पुरस्कार - फुटबॉल यूनाइट्स द वर्ल्ड" के पहले प्राप्तकर्ता कौन बने, यह पुरस्कार फुटबॉल के माध्यम से वैश्विक शांति और एकता को बढ़ावा देने में उनके असाधारण योगदान के लिए व्यक्तियों को सम्मानित करने के लिए बनाया गया था, और वाशिंगटन, डीसी में आयोजित 2026 फीफा विश्व कप ड्रा के दौरान प्रस्तुत किया गया था?

- (a) Joe Biden
- (b) Vladimir Putin
- (c) Emmanuel Macron
- (d) Donald Trump
- (e) Narendra Modi

Ans. d

Sol. Donald Trump Becomes First Recipient of FIFA's Newly Launched Peace Prize

US President Donald Trump became the first-ever recipient of FIFA's newly launched "FIFA Peace Prize – Football Unites the World" during the 2026 World Cup draw in Washington, DC.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino, known for his close association with Trump, has previously stated that Trump deserved a Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts toward negotiating a Gaza ceasefire.

The award, introduced in November, aims to honour individuals whose exceptional actions have contributed to global peace and unity through football, and will be presented annually.

Recent Awards

- **Rum Brand of the Year Award 2025** – Camikara Rum (India)
- **Miss Universe 2025 crown** - Miss Fatima Bosch (Mexico)
- **CII Quality Ratna Award** - TVS Motor Chairman Venu Srinivasan
- **Indira Gandhi Peace Prize** - Former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet
- **Booker Prize 2025** - Hungarian-British author David Szalay (for 'Flesh' novel)

116. **Veteran Indian pacer Mohit Sharma announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, ending a career that included 34 international matches and over a decade-long stint in the IPL with teams like CSK, KXIP/PBKS, DC, and Gujarat Titans. In which year did Mohit Sharma make his international debut for India?**

अनुभवी भारतीय तेज़ गेंदबाज़ मोहित शर्मा ने क्रिकेट के सभी फॉर्मेट से संन्यास की घोषणा कर दी है, जिससे उनके करियर का अंत हो गया जिसमें 34 अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मैच और CSK, KXIP/PBKS, DC और गुजरात टाइटन्स जैसी टीमों के साथ IPL में एक दशक से ज्यादा का समय शामिल है। मोहित शर्मा ने भारत के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय डेब्यू किस वर्ष किया था?

(a) 2011
 (b) 2012
 (c) 2013
 (d) 2014
 (e) 2015

Ans. c

Sol. Veteran Pacer Mohit Sharma Announces Retirement from All Forms of Cricket

Veteran Indian pacer Mohit Sharma announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, ending a career that included 34 international matches and over a decade-long stint in the IPL with teams like CSK, KXIP/PBKS, DC, and Gujarat Titans.

Mohit, who debuted for India in 2013, took 35 ODI wickets and 6 T20I wickets, and became a reliable death-overs bowler for CSK under MS Dhoni; he also finished as the second-highest wicket-taker in IPL 2023 for Gujarat Titans.

Recently Retired Players

- Mohit Sharma (India) - All Forms of Cricket
- Kane Williamson (New Zealand) - T20 Internationals
- Rohan Bopanna (India) - Professional Tennis
- Chris Woakes (England) - International Cricket
- Sergio Busquets (Spain) - Professional Scooter

- Jerome Boateng (German) - Professional Scooter
- Samuel Umtiti (France) – Professional Scooter
- Amit Mishra (India)- Professional Cricket

117. LIC recently signed a comprehensive and strategic bancassurance partnership with which bank, allowing the bank's customers to access a wide range of LIC insurance products through its extensive branch network as well as digital platforms?

एलआईसी ने हाल ही में किस बैंक के साथ एक व्यापक और रणनीतिक बैंकएश्योरेंस साझेदारी पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं, जिससे बैंक के ग्राहकों को अपने व्यापक शाखा नेटवर्क के साथ-साथ डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म के माध्यम से एलआईसी बीमा उत्पादों की एक विस्तृत श्रृंखला तक पहुंच प्राप्त हो सके?

- HDFC Bank
- ICICI Bank
- Axis Bank
- Yes Bank
- IndusInd Bank

Ans. d

Sol. LIC Signs Strategic Bancassurance Partnership with Yes Bank to Expand Insurance Access and Strengthen Customer Outreach

LIC has signed a strategic bancassurance partnership with Yes Bank, enabling the bank's customers to access LIC's insurance products through Yes Bank's branch network and digital channels.

The collaboration expands access to LIC's major offerings, including Protection Plus (a linked savings-cum-life cover plan) and Bima Kavach (a pure-risk protection plan) with flexible premium options, long-term coverage up to 100 years, and multiple benefit choices.

The plans offer features such as partial withdrawals, top-up premiums, life-stage-based enhancement of cover, and instalment-based benefit payouts, increasing flexibility and financial convenience for policyholders.

118. The Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Sangeet Natak Academy, and Andhra Pradesh agencies, is hosting the 3rd Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam 2025 in Vijayawada on 6-7 December 2025, celebrating Telugu music heritage. What is the theme of Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam 2025?

पर्यटन मंत्रालय, संस्कृति मंत्रालय, संगीत नाटक अकादमी और आंध्र प्रदेश एजेंसियों के सहयोग से, 6-7 दिसंबर 2025 को विजयवाड़ा में तीसरे कृष्णवेणी संगीता नीरजम 2025 का आयोजन कर रहा है, जो तेलुगु संगीत विरासत का जश्न मनाएगा। कृष्णवेणी संगीता नीरजम 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- Reviving Lost Indian Classical Instruments
- Celebrating the Richness of Telugu Music Traditions
- India's Folk Music and Tribal Rhythms

(d) Global Carnatic Fusion Sounds
(e) Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat – Cultural Melodies

Ans. b

Sol. Vijayawada to Host 3rd Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam 2025 Celebrating Telugu Music and Andhra Pradesh's Cultural Heritage

The Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Sangeet Natak Academy, and Andhra Pradesh agencies, is hosting the 3rd Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam 2025 in Vijayawada on 6–7 December 2025, celebrating Telugu music heritage.

Theme - Celebrating the Richness of Telugu Music Traditions

The festival focuses on strengthening Andhra Pradesh's cultural identity and promoting music tourism, featuring 18 Carnatic concerts by 98 artists over two days.

A special exhibition will display Andhra Pradesh's GI-tagged and traditional crafts, including Kondapalli Toys, Etikoppaka Lacquerware, Udayagiri Cutlery, Leather Puppetry, Narsapur Lace, and iconic handloom clusters like Mangalagiri, Venkatagiri, Chirala, Uppada, and Moragudi.

119. The fifth edition of the Joint Military Exercise "Harimau Shakti – 2025" between India and Malaysia is being conducted at which location?

भारत और मलेशिया के बीच संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास "हरिमाऊ शक्ति - 2025" का पाँचवाँ संस्करण किस स्थान पर आयोजित किया जा रहा है?

(a) Jaisalmer Military Station, Rajasthan
(b) Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan
(c) Wellington Cantonment, Tamil Nadu
(d) Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar
(e) Dehradun Military College

Ans. b

Sol. India and Malaysia Launch 5th Edition of Joint Military Exercise Harimau Shakti 2025 in Rajasthan

The 5th edition of Exercise Harimau Shakti 2025 is being conducted at Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan, from 05–18 December 2025, with India represented mainly by the DOGRA Regiment and Malaysia by the 25th Battalion Royal Malaysian Army.

The exercise aims to jointly rehearse Sub-Conventional Operations under Chapter VII of the UN Mandate, focusing on enhancing interoperability and coordination between the two armies.

The training includes counter-terrorist tactical drills such as cordon and search operations, search-and-destroy missions, heliborne operations, and developing coordinated joint responses during complex security situations.

120. Which company has partnered with Sabre Direct Pay to modernise payment solutions for global travel merchants?

किस कंपनी ने वैश्विक ट्रैवल मर्चेंट्स के लिए पेमेंट समाधान को आधुनिक बनाने के लिए Sabre Direct Pay के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Razorpay
- (b) PayU
- (c) Juspay
- (d) Cashfree
- (e) Stripe

Ans. c

Sol. Juspay Partners with Sabre Direct Pay to Enhance Global Payment Solutions for Travel Merchants

Juspay has partnered with Sabre Direct Pay to modernise payment solutions for travel merchants globally, aiming to improve conversion rates and streamline transactions. The partnership will enable sector-specific capabilities, including access to local payment methods, faster go-to-market, cross-border payments, efficient checkout, and reconciliation processes.

Juspay, headquartered in Bengaluru, has expanded its global presence with offices in the US, Europe, Asia Pacific, and Latin America, reporting its highest-ever revenue of ~₹514 crore in FY2025.

121. Which Cambodia-based bank has partnered with NPCI International Payments to enable UPI acceptance in Cambodia?

कंबोडिया के किस बैंक ने कंबोडिया में UPI स्वीकार्यता सक्षम करने के लिए NPCI International Payments के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Phnom Penh Commercial Bank
- (b) ACLEDA Bank
- (c) Canadia Bank
- (d) Cambodian Public Bank
- (e) ANZ Royal Bank

Ans. b

Sol. India's UPI to Become Acceptable in Cambodia Through NPCI-ACLEDA Bank Partnership

NPCI International Payments (NIPL) has partnered with ACLEDA Bank of Cambodia, enabling acceptance of India's UPI in Cambodia and allowing Cambodia's Bakong (KHQR) QR network to be accepted in India.

Indian tourists visiting Cambodia will now be able to make payments using UPI apps at over 4.5 million KHQR-enabled merchant outlets across the country.

NIPL is also helping countries like Namibia, Trinidad & Tobago, and Peru develop UPI-like digital payment systems; UPI in India processed 20.47 billion transactions worth ₹26.32 trillion in November.

122. RBI has widened access to Gold Metal Loans (GML), allowing banks to lend not only to jewellery manufacturers but also to jewellers who outsource production. From which date will the new RBI guidelines on expanded Gold Metal Loan (GML) access come into effect?

आरबीआई ने गोल्ड मेटल लोन (जीएमएल) तक पहुंच बढ़ा दी है, जिससे बैंक न केवल आभूषण निर्माताओं को बल्कि उत्पादन को आउटसोर्स करने वाले ज्वैलर्स को भी ऋण दे सकते हैं।

विस्तारित गोल्ड मेटल लोन (जीएमएल) पहुंच पर आरबीआई के नए दिशानिर्देश किस तारीख से लागू होंगे?

- (a) January 1, 2025
- (b) July 1, 2025
- (c) April 1, 2026
- (d) December 31, 2025
- (e) March 31, 2026

Ans. c

Sol. RBI Expands Gold Metal Loan Access to More Jewellers Under New 2026 Guidelines
RBI has widened access to Gold Metal Loans (GML), allowing banks to lend not only to jewellery manufacturers but also to jewellers who outsource production, under new guidelines effective April 1, 2026.

Updated rules under the Master Direction on Imports and the Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) permit nominated banks to extend import-linked GML to entities engaged in manufacturing or selling jewellery for domestic or export markets.

GMS-linked GML can now be provided to both jewellers and MMTC for minting India Gold Coins (IGCs), expanding the operational scope of the scheme.

Banks must ensure strict end-use monitoring, preventing any sale or export of GML-sourced gold in primary form, and must value the gold daily using the LBMA Gold AM price and rupee-dollar reference rate.

Loan tenors will follow FTP norms for exporters, while others will have a maximum tenure of 270 days, with repayments made in INR, except GMS-linked borrowers who may repay principal partially or fully in physical gold under regulated conditions.

123. Where were the India–Russia bilateral talks on fisheries, meat, and dairy trade expansion held?

भारत-रूस मछली, मांस और डेयरी व्यापार विस्तार पर द्विपक्षीय वार्ता कहाँ आयोजित हुई?

- (a) Moscow
- (b) St. Petersburg
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) New Delhi
- (e) Vladivostok

Ans. d

Sol. India–Russia Discuss Expansion of Fisheries, Meat & Dairy Trade Ahead of High-Level Talks

India and Russia held bilateral talks in New Delhi to expand trade in fisheries, meat, and dairy products, address market access issues, and speed up export establishment listings under Russia's FSVPS system.

Russia expressed strong interest in importing Indian fishery and meat products, collaborating on veterinary vaccines, and developing the trout market through joint technical projects and potential joint ventures.

India highlighted its fishery exports worth USD 7.45 billion in 2024–25, discussed diversification of exports (shrimp, prawns, tuna, squid, etc.), and requested early approvals for Indian dairy and meat establishments, including AMUL/GCMMF. Both countries agreed to enhance cooperation in aquaculture technologies, deep-sea fishing vessels, capacity building, cold-water fisheries, and proposed signing an MoU to establish a structured mechanism for long-term collaboration.

124. In which location did the 10th edition of the India–Indonesia joint special forces exercise 'Garuda Shakti' begin?

भारत-इंडोनेशिया संयुक्त विशेष बल अभ्यास 'गरुड़ शक्ति' का 10वां संस्करण कहाँ शुरू हुआ?

- (a) Tezpur, Assam
- (b) Jaipur, Rajasthan
- (c) Agra, Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
- (e) Shillong, Meghalay

Ans. d

Sol. India-Indonesia joint special forces exercise 'Garuda Shakti' begins in Himachal Pradesh

The 10th India-Indonesia joint special forces exercise 'Garuda Shakti' began in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh, focusing on strengthening interoperability through counter-terrorism drills, combat shooting, heliborne ops, sniping, and drone/counter-UAS tactics.

The exercise includes exchange of expertise on weapons, equipment and operational practices, culminating in a high-intensity validation exercise simulating real-world scenarios to assess combat readiness.

Recent Exercise

- 8th edition of bilateral air exercise 'Garuda' between India and France - France
- 19th edition of Exercise Suryakiran 2025 between India and Nepal - Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand
- 11th Edition of Joint Military Exercise 'MITRA SHAKTI-2025' between India and Sri Lanka - Belagavi, Karnataka
- 5th Edition of Maritime Exercise 'Samudra Shakti 2025' between India and Indonesia - Visakhapatnam
- 4th Edition of Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2025 between India & Australia - Perth, Australia

125. India is hosting the 20th session of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage at which location?

भारत यूनेस्को की अमूर्त सांस्कृतिक विरासत संरक्षण अंतर-सरकारी समिति के 20वें सत्र की मेजबानी किस स्थान पर कर रहा है?

- (a) India Gate
- (b) Red Fort
- (c) Vigyan Bhawan

(d) Rashtrapati Bhawan

(e) Purana Qila

Ans. b

Sol. India Hosts 20th UNESCO Committee Session on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage at Red Fort

India is hosting the 20th session of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage at the Red Fort, New Delhi, with participation from over 800 delegates representing 180+ countries.

The committee will examine nominations for UNESCO ICH lists, review the status of existing elements, and consider international assistance for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage; India currently has 15 elements on the Representative List.

Key discussions will include safeguarding reports, requests for international assistance, and global dialogue on living heritage, best practices, and future safeguarding strategies.

126. Which bank launched the premium 'Luxura' RuPay metal credit card?

किस बैंक ने प्रीमियम 'Luxura' RuPay मेटल क्रेडिट कार्ड लॉन्च किया?

- (a) SBI
- (b) HDFC Bank
- (c) Punjab National Bank
- (d) ICICI Bank
- (e) Bank of Baroda

Ans. c

Sol. PNB Launches Premium 'Luxura' RuPay Metal Card

Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched a new premium RuPay metal credit card 'Luxura', in New Delhi, targeting high-end customers.

The bank also appointed Indian women's cricket captain Harmanpreet Kaur as its first female brand ambassador during the launch event.

The Luxura card offers reward points, milestone benefits, and hotel/dining privileges, helping PNB strengthen its presence in the high-value credit card market.

About Punjab National Bank (PNB)

- **Founded** - 12 April 1894
- **Founder** - Dyal Singh Majithia and Lala Lajpat Rai
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi
- **MD & CEO** - Ashok Chandra
- **Tagline** - The Name You can Bank Upon

127. NMDC signed an MoU with which institution to enhance cybersecurity and digital technology integration?

NMDC ने साइबर सुरक्षा और डिजिटल टेक्नोलॉजी इंटीग्रेशन को बढ़ाने के लिए किस संस्था के साथ MoU साइन किया?

- (a) IIT Delhi
- (b) IIT Bombay
- (c) IIT Kanpur

(d) IISc Bengaluru

(e) NIT Trichy

Ans. c

Sol. NMDC Signs MoU with IIT Kanpur to Boost Cyber Security and Digital Technology Integration

State-owned miner National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) signed an MoU with IIT Kanpur to enhance cyber security and advance digital technologies like AI and ML across its operations, strengthening industry-academia collaboration.

The partnership includes work on cyber security risk assessment, policy and compliance support, AI/ML integration, security operations, incident response, capacity building, and joint research and innovation.

The collaboration will also involve training programmes, pilot projects, research activities, and co-development of solutions, helping NMDC build a secure and future-ready digital foundation.

128. International Anti-Corruption Day is observed annually on 9 December to raise awareness about the dangers of corruption and promote measures to combat it globally. What is the theme for International Anti-Corruption Day 2025?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी दिवस हर साल 9 दिसंबर को भ्रष्टाचार के खतरों के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने और विश्व स्तर पर इससे लड़ने के उपायों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए मनाया जाता है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?

(a) Fighting Corruption Together

(b) Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity

(c) Transparency and Accountability

(d) Governance for All

(e) Ending Corruption Worldwide

Ans. b

Sol. 9 December - International Anti-Corruption Day

International Anti-Corruption Day is observed annually on 9 December to raise awareness about the dangers of corruption and promote measures to combat it globally.

Theme 2025 - Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity

The day was established by the United Nations in 2003 under the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) to encourage governments, organizations, and individuals to take action against corruption.

129. The Indian Army's Eastern Command mountaineering team achieved a landmark feat by completing the first-ever recorded ascent of which previously unconquered Himalayan peak?

इंडियन आर्मी की ईस्टर्न कमांड माउंटेनियरिंग टीम ने हिमालय की किस ऐसी चोटी पर पहली बार चढ़ाई पूरी करके एक बड़ी कामयाबी हासिल की, जिस पर पहले कभी चढ़ाई नहीं हुई थी?

(a) Mount Kangto

(b) Mount Kamet

(c) Mount Jongsong

(d) Mount Pauhunri

(e) Mount Kabru

Ans. a

Sol. Indian Army Achieves Historic First Ascent of Mount Kangto, Arunachal Pradesh's Highest Peak

Indian Army's Eastern Command mountaineering team achieved a historic milestone by successfully summing Mount Kangto (7,042 m), the highest and previously unconquered peak of Arunachal Pradesh, marking its first-ever recorded ascent.

The 18-member team, flagged off on November 3, braved extreme weather, rarefied air, icy ridgelines, deep crevasses, and near-vertical ice walls, showcasing exceptional courage, discipline, teamwork, and resilience.

The expedition was formally 'Flagged In' by Lt Gen RC Tiwari, who praised the mountaineers for their professionalism and perseverance, calling the feat a tribute to the Eastern Himalayas and the Indian Army's spirit of endurance and excellence.

130. Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL) and which global defence company have announced a partnership to establish a state-of-the-art Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility in Bengaluru to support the Indian Air Force's C-130J Super Hercules fleet, enhancing in-country sustainment capabilities and regional/global support?

टाटा एडवांस्ड सिस्टम्स लिमिटेड (TASL) और किस वैश्विक रक्षा कंपनी ने भारतीय वायु सेना के C-130J सुपर हरक्यूलिस बेड़े का समर्थन करने, देश में स्थिरता क्षमताओं और क्षेत्रीय/वैश्विक समर्थन को बढ़ाने के लिए बैंगलुरु में अत्याधुनिक रखरखाव, मरम्मत और ओवरहाल (MRO) सुविधा स्थापित करने के लिए साझेदारी की घोषणा की है?

- (a) Boeing
- (b) Lockheed Martin
- (c) Airbus
- (d) Larsen & Toubro
- (e) Bharat Electronics Limited

Ans. b

Sol. TASL and Lockheed Martin to Build Advanced C-130J MRO Facility for Indian Air Force

Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL) and Lockheed Martin announced a new Defence Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility in Bengaluru to support the Indian Air Force's C-130J Super Hercules fleet, enhancing in-country sustainment capabilities and regional/global support.

Construction is expected to complete by the end of 2026, with the first aircraft entering MRO operations in early 2027. The state-of-the-art facility will provide depot-level maintenance, component repair, structural restoration, avionics upgrades, and training programs for Indian engineers and technicians.

The project strengthens India's aerospace ecosystem, reflects growing defence manufacturing confidence, and expands the long-standing industrial partnership between TASL and Lockheed Martin, supporting global C-130 operators and boosting India's operational readiness.

131. Where will the 2025 Squash World Cup be held in India?**2025 का स्कैश वर्ल्ड कप भारत में कहाँ आयोजित होगा?**

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

Ans. c

Sol. India to host Squash World Cup for third consecutive time in Chennai

India will host the Squash World Cup for the third consecutive time at SDAT Stadium in Chennai, with the tournament running from 9 December to 14th December.

Twelve nations will compete, including defending champions Egypt, 2023 runners-up Malaysia, and hosts India, with teams consisting of two men and two women following a seven-point format with sudden-death tiebreaks.

India's squad combines experience and young talent, featuring top players like Abhay Singh, Velavan Senthilkumar, Joshna Chinappa, and debutant Anahat Singh, aiming to improve on their best-ever third-place finish in 2023.

132. On which date is Armed Forces Flag Day observed annually?**आर्म्ड फोर्सेज़ फ्लैग डे हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 5 December
- (b) 6 December
- (c) 7 December
- (d) 8 December
- (e) 10 December

Ans. c

Sol. 7 December - Armed Forces Flag Day

Armed Forces Flag Day is observed annually on 7 December to honour the personnel of the Indian Armed Forces and their families for their dedication, courage, and sacrifices. The day raises funds through voluntary donations from the public, which are used to provide welfare measures and support for serving personnel, ex-servicemen, and their dependents.

Various activities, including flag distribution, parades, and awareness campaigns, are conducted across the country to recognize and promote the contributions of the armed forces.

133. On which date is National Microwave Oven Day observed every year?**नेशनल माइक्रोवेव ऑवन डे प्रत्येक वर्ष किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 4 December
- (b) 5 December
- (c) 6 December
- (d) 7 December
- (e) 8 December

Ans. c

Sol. 6 December - National Microwave Oven Day

National Microwave Oven Day is observed annually on 6 December to celebrate the invention and impact of the microwave oven on modern cooking and kitchen convenience.

The day highlights the microwave oven's role in saving time, energy, and effort by enabling quick and efficient cooking, reheating, and defrosting of food.

It encourages awareness of innovative cooking technologies and inspires people to explore creative ways to use microwave ovens in daily meal preparation.

134. International Civil Aviation Day is observed annually on 7 December to recognise the importance of international civil aviation and its role in social and economic development. What is the theme for International Civil Aviation Day 2025?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय नागरिक उड़ायन दिवस हर साल 7 दिसंबर को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय नागरिक उड़ायन के महत्व और सामाजिक और आर्थिक विकास में इसकी भूमिका को पहचानने के लिए मनाया जाता है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय नागरिक उड़ायन दिवस 2025 का थीम क्या है?

- (a) Aviation Innovation for All
- (b) Global Air Connectivity
- (c) Safe Skies & Sustainable Future for All
- (d) Green Skies Initiative
- (e) Secure Flights, Secure Future

Ans. c

Sol. 7 December - International Civil Aviation Day

International Civil Aviation Day is observed annually on 7 December to recognise the importance of international civil aviation and its role in social and economic development.

Theme 2025 - Safe Skies & Sustainable Future for All

The day highlights the contributions of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in ensuring safe, secure, and sustainable air transport worldwide.

It promotes awareness about the benefits of civil aviation, including connecting people, fostering trade, tourism, and cultural exchange globally.

135. RBI urges banks and other regulated entities to improve customer service and reduce grievances, emphasising customer-centric policies and operations. A special two-month campaign will be held from 1st January next year to resolve all complaints pending for more than a month with the RBI Ombudsman. Which initiative by the RBI focuses on customer financial awareness and rights?

RBI ने बैंकों और दूसरी रेगुलेटेड संस्थाओं से कस्टमर सर्विस बेहतर बनाने और शिकायतों को कम करने का आग्रह किया है, जिसमें कस्टमर-केंद्रित नीतियों और ऑपरेशन्स पर ज़ोर दिया गया है। अगले साल 1 जनवरी से एक खास दो महीने का कैंपेन चलाया जाएगा ताकि RBI ओम्बडसमैन के पास एक महीने से ज्यादा समय से पेंडिंग सभी शिकायतों को सुलझाया जा

सके। RBI की कौन सी पहल कस्टमर की फाइनेंशियल जागरूकता और अधिकारों पर फोकस करती है?

- (a) Re-KYC
- (b) Aapki Poonji, Aapka Adhikar
- (c) Financial Literacy Week
- (d) RBI Kehta Hai
- (e) Digital RBI

Ans. b

Sol. RBI Launches Two-Month Drive to Resolve All Pending Customer Complaints

RBI urges banks and other regulated entities to improve customer service and reduce grievances, emphasizing customer-centric policies and operations.

A special two-month campaign will be held from 1st January next year to resolve all complaints pending for more than a month with the RBI Ombudsman.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra highlighted previous initiatives such as Re-KYC, financial inclusion measures, and the “Aapki Poonji, Aapka Adhikar” campaign to enhance customer experience.

The RBI has also implemented transparency measures, including online applications for services, reviewing the Citizens’ Charter, and publishing monthly summaries of application disposal and pending cases.

Despite disposing of more than 99.8% of applications within stipulated timelines, a recent surge in grievances has increased pendency, prompting the upcoming focused resolution drive.

136. Who has become the youngest ever chess player to earn an official FIDE rating?

सबसे कम उम्र के शतरंज खिलाड़ी के रूप में आधिकारिक FIDE रेटिंग पाने वाले खिलाड़ी कौन बने हैं?

- (a) Lavina Vithal
- (b) Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha
- (c) Praggnanandhaa R
- (d) Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa
- (e) Nihal Sarin

Ans. b

Sol. Three-Year-Old Indian Prodigy Sarwagya Becomes Youngest Ever to Earn Official FIDE Chess Rating

Three-year-old Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha becomes the youngest ever chess player to earn an official FIDE rating, achieving the milestone at just three years, seven months, and 20 days.

Sarwagya, from Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, debuted with a rating of 1,572, surpassing the FIDE minimum threshold of 1,400 and defeating older, higher-rated opponents in recognised tournaments.

He broke the previous record held by Anish Sarkar (3 years, 8 months, 19 days), marking a historic achievement for Indian chess prodigies on the global stage.

137. **Which company has Netflix announced it will acquire, including its studios and HBO assets?**

नेटफिलिक्स ने किस कंपनी को अपने स्टूडियोज़ और HBO संपत्तियों सहित अधिग्रहित करने की घोषणा की है?

- (a) Paramount Pictures
- (b) Universal Studios
- (c) Sony Pictures
- (d) Warner Bros.
- (e) Lionsgate

Ans. d

Sol. Netflix Set to Acquire Warner Bros. in \$82.7 Billion Mega Deal Post Discovery Global Separation

Netflix has announced a definitive agreement to acquire Warner Bros., including its film and television studios, HBO Max, and HBO, following the separation of Warner Bros. Discovery's Global Networks division, Discovery Global.

The acquisition is valued at \$27.75 per WBD share, with a total enterprise value of approximately \$82.7 billion (equity value of \$72.0 billion), making it one of the largest media deals in recent history.

The deal combines Netflix's global streaming reach and innovation with Warner Bros.' century-long legacy of storytelling, creating a powerhouse in the entertainment and streaming industry, expected to close after Discovery Global's spin-off in Q3 2026.

138. **Lando Norris won his maiden Formula One World Drivers' Championship in Abu Dhabi. Which driver's four-year reign did Lando Norris end to win the championship?**

लैंडो नॉरिस ने अबू धाबी में अपनी पहली फॉर्मूला वन वर्ल्ड ड्राइवर्स चैंपियनशिप जीती। लैंडो नॉरिस ने चैंपियनशिप जीतने के लिए किस ड्राइवर का चार साल का शासन समाप्त किया?

- (a) Lewis Hamilton
- (b) Fernando Alonso
- (c) Max Verstappen
- (d) Charles Leclerc
- (e) Valtteri Bottas

Ans. c

Sol. Lando Norris Clinches Maiden Formula One World Championship, Ending Verstappen's Reign

Lando Norris won his maiden Formula One World Drivers' Championship in Abu Dhabi, ending Max Verstappen's four-year dominance and claiming the title by just two points. Norris becomes Britain's first F1 world champion since Lewis Hamilton in 2020 and secures McLaren's 13th drivers' crown, marking a historic achievement for the team over half a century after Emerson Fittipaldi's first title in 1974.

139. **Rohit Sharma became the _____ Indian cricketer to score 20,000 runs across formats.**

रोहित शर्मा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट के सभी कच्चे खिलाड़ी में 20,000 रन बनाने वाले _____ वें भारतीय खिलाड़ी बने।

- (a) Second
- (b) Third
- (c) Fourth
- (d) Fifth
- (e) Six

Ans. c

Sol. Rohit Sharma Becomes Fourth Indian to Cross 20,000 International Runs Across Formats

Rohit Sharma became the fourth Indian cricketer to score 20,000 international runs across Tests, ODIs, and T20Is, achieving the milestone during India's 3rd ODI against South Africa in Vishakhapatnam.

Earlier in the series, Rohit also broke Shahid Afridi's record for the most sixes in ODI cricket, highlighting his continued dominance in international cricket even after years of playing at the highest level.

With this achievement, Rohit joins an elite group of Indian cricket legends—Sachin Tendulkar (34,357 runs), Virat Kohli (27,808 runs), and Rahul Dravid (24,064 runs)—solidifying his status as one of the modern greats of the game.

140. What is the name of the ancient Milky Way-like galaxy recently discovered by Indian scientists?

भारतीय वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा हाल ही में खोजी गई प्राचीन मिल्की वे जैसी आकाशगंगा का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Mandakini
- (b) Ganga
- (c) Saraswati
- (d) Yamuna
- (e) Alaknanda

Ans. e

Sol. Indian Scientists Discover Ancient Milky Way-Like Galaxy 'Alaknanda' With Fully Formed Spiral Arms

Indian scientists have discovered an ancient Milky Way-like galaxy named Alaknanda, notable for having clear and well-defined spiral arms despite forming when the universe was only 1.5 billion years old, compared to today's 13.8 billion years.

Professor Yogesh Wadadekar of NCRA-TIFR announced that the galaxy appears as a regular, well-structured system, unlike most early-universe galaxies which were typically small, unstable, and lacking any clear shape.

The discovery challenges current scientific understanding because stable spiral arms normally take around 3 billion years to develop, yet Alaknanda shows a fully formed grand-design spiral much earlier than expected.

Researchers named the galaxy Alknanda because, just like the Alknanda river is a sister to the Mandakini river, Mandakini is also the Hindi name for our Milky Way, making the name symbolically connected and culturally meaningful.

141. According to the recently concluded Fifth Khelo India University Games 2025 held in Jaipur, which university emerged as the overall champion by securing the highest number of medals, including an impressive tally of 42 gold medals?

हाल ही में जयपुर में सम्पन्न पाँचवें खेलो इंडिया यूनिवर्सिटी गेम्स 2025 के अनुसार, किस विश्वविद्यालय ने 42 स्वर्ण पदकों सहित सर्वाधिक पदक जीतकर कुल चैपियन का खिताब हासिल किया?

- (a) Lovely Professional University
- (b) Guru Nanak Dev University
- (c) Chandigarh University
- (d) Jain University
- (e) Panjab University

Ans. c

Sol. Fifth Khelo India University Games Conclude in Jaipur; Chandigarh University Emerges Overall Champion

The fifth edition of the Khelo India University Games concluded with a grand ceremony held in Jaipur. Chandigarh University from Punjab topped the medal tally.

Lovely Professional University, also from Punjab, secured second place, while Guru Nanak Dev University stood third. During the closing ceremony, the champion university, along with the first and second runner-up universities, were felicitated with trophies.

Khelo India University Games 2025 medal tally

Rank	University	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Chandigarh University	42	14	11	67
2	Lovely Professional University (PB)	32	24	22	78
3	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	32	22	18	72
4	Jain University, Karnataka	30	9	11	50
5	Guru Kashi University	15	15	18	48
6	Panjab University, Chandigarh	14	33	19	66
7	Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (Deemed to be University)	10	3	8	21
8	Savitribai Phule Pune University, MS	9	17	12	38
9	Shivaji University	4	3	13	20
10	Maharshi Dayanand University	4	2	5	11

142. Kalyan Chattopadhyay, who recently passed away, belonged to which Indian state?

कैलाश चट्टोपाध्याय, जिनका हाल ही में निधन हुआ, भारत के किस राज्य से थे?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Assam
- (e) Bihar

Ans. c

Sol. Veteran Actor Kalyan Chattopadhyay Passes Away at 82

Veteran Bengali actor Kalyan Chattopadhyay, aged 82, passed away due to age-related illness; his last rites were performed at Keoratala Mahashmashan.

Born in Berhampore (Murshidabad), West Bengal in 1942 and an FTII Pune graduate, he began his film journey in 1968 with Tapan Sinha's Apanjan.

Appearing in over 400 films, major works included Satyajit Ray's Pratidwandi, Tapan Sinha's Sagina Mahato, Tarun Majumdar's Dhannyi Meye, Safed Haathi, Paar, and the Hindi film Kahani; the film industry mourns his demise.

143. **When is the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of Genocide observed?**

जनसंहार पीड़ितों की गरिमा और स्मरण का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 7 December
- (b) 8 December
- (c) 9 December
- (d) 10 December
- (e) 11 December

Ans. c

Sol. 9 December - International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of Genocide

The International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of Genocide is observed every year on 9 December, as designated by the United Nations.

The day aims to honour and remember the victims of all genocides worldwide, acknowledging their suffering and preserving their dignity.

It also serves to promote awareness about the Genocide Convention of 1948, which defines and criminalises genocide under international law.

144. **Who has begun his first full four-year term as President of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)?**

राष्ट्रीय रायफल संघ (NRAI) के अध्यक्ष के रूप में अपना पहला पूर्ण चार-वर्षीय कार्यकाल किसने शुरू किया?

- (a) Raninder Singh
- (b) Amit Sanghi
- (c) Gagan Narang
- (d) Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo
- (e) Zorawar Singh Sandhu

Ans. d

Sol. Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo Re-elected Unopposed as NRAI President

Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo was elected unopposed as President of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), beginning his first full four-year term, while Pawan Singh became the new Secretary General during the elections conducted by Justice (Retd.) Nirmaljit Kaur.

The elections formed a new executive committee and governing body, including senior vice president Amit Sanghi, vice presidents Kanwar Sultan Singh and Sushma Singh, and four sportsperson members such as Gagan Narang and Elavenil Valarivan.

Recent Appointments

- **Chairman of ONGC** - Arun Kumar Singh; 1 year extension
- **MD & CEO of TeamLease Services** - Suparna Mitra (replace Ashok Reddy); effect from 2 Feb 2026
- **First full-time woman Vice-Chancellor of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University** - Dr Manali Kshirsagar
- **MD of PUMA India** - Ramprasad Sridharan (replace Karthik Balagopalan)
- **Chairperson of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) for 2026** - CEC Gyanesh Kumar

145. What is 'Tax Pragya' launched by Deloitte?

Deloitte द्वारा लॉन्च किया गया 'Tax Pragya' क्या है?

(a) A financial audit software
 (b) A tax filing portal
 (c) An AI-powered tax research and insights platform
 (d) A payroll management system
 (e) An investment advisory tool

Ans. c

Sol. Deloitte Launches AI-Powered Tax Platform 'Tax Pragya' to Revolutionize Tax Research and Insights

Deloitte launches 'Tax Pragya', an AI-powered tax research and insights platform, leveraging data from over one million court cases and Deloitte's internal knowledge papers to accelerate tax analysis.

The platform reduces research time from hours to minutes, providing solutions from Deloitte's privately curated database rather than open-source data.

Tax Pragya is a B2B subscription-based tool that supports, but does not replace, tax consultants; future upgrades aim to enable legal/tax opinion drafting and predictive analysis of tax notices.

The rollout is phased: first to 500 clients on December 9, then 5,000 clients in January, and by June next year, it will expand pan-India to MSMEs and SMEs.

146. Baba Adhav, a renowned socialist leader, passed away at 95 in Pune. Which of the following was one of the initiatives led by Baba Adhav?

जाने-माने समाजवादी नेता बाबा अधव का 95 साल की उम्र में पुणे में निधन हो गया।

निप्रलिखित में से कौन सी पहल बाबा अधव द्वारा शुरू की गई थी?

(a) Clean India Mission

- (b) Digital India Campaign
- (c) Make in India initiative
- (d) One village one water source project
- (e) Atamnirbhar Bharat

Ans. d

Sol. Renowned Socialist Leader Baba Adhav Passes Away

Baba Adhav, a renowned socialist leader, passed away at 95 in Pune.

He was a prominent progressive leader in Maharashtra, fighting against the caste system and advocating for the rights of labourers, head-loaders, waste-pickers, and street vendors.

Baba Adhav actively participated in the freedom movement, Samyukta Maharashtra movement, anti-Emergency protests, and led initiatives like one village one water source, protests for the removal of Manu's statue, and a Pune-Delhi cycle rally for social security for unorganised labourers.

147. What percentage of total global real-time retail payment volumes is contributed by India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI), making it the largest real-time payment system in the world as per IMF and ACI Worldwide data for 2024-25?

वैश्विक रियल-टाइम रिटेल पेमेंट वॉल्यूम में भारत के यूनिफाइड पेमेंट्स इंटरफेस (UPI) का योगदान कितना है, जिससे यह IMF और ACI Worldwide के 2024-25 के डेटा के अनुसार दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा रियल-टाइम पेमेंट सिस्टम बन गया?

- (a) 25%
- (b) 35%
- (c) 49%
- (d) 55%
- (e) 60%

Ans. c

Sol. India's UPI Becomes World's Largest Real-Time Payment System, Handling 49% of Global Transactions

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has been recognised by the IMF as the largest real-time payment system globally, accounting for 49% of total global real-time retail payment volumes with 129.3 billion transactions.

India's rapid digital payment adoption is supported by government initiatives, RBI, and NPCI, including the ₹ incentive scheme for low-value BHIM-UPI transactions and the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF).

Widespread merchant integration and QR code deployment—56.86 crore QR codes across ~6.5 crore merchants—have strengthened UPI's reach in urban and rural sectors, including transport, e-commerce, and public services.

Global comparisons show Brazil (14%), Thailand (8%), China (6%), and South Korea (3%) lagging behind India, highlighting the success of coordinated digital payment initiatives and broad merchant adoption in driving UPI's dominance.

148. Where has India Post unveiled Kerala's first Gen-Z Post Office extension counter?

भारत पोस्ट ने केरल का पहला Gen-Z पोस्ट ऑफिस एक्सटेंशन काउंटर कहाँ लॉन्च किया?

- (a) University of Kerala, Kottayam
- (b) Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam
- (c) CMS College, Kottayam
- (d) Cochin University of Science & Technology
- (e) Kerala Central College, Kottayam

Ans. c

Sol. India Post Launches Kerala's First Gen-Z Post Office at CMS College, Kottayam

India Post unveiled Kerala's first Gen-Z Post Office extension counter at CMS College, Kottayam, introducing a youth-centric approach to postal services.

The facility was inaugurated by N.R. Giri, Director Postal Services (Kerala Central Region), and is designed around the theme: "of the students, by the students, for the students."

The new centre was conceptualised and co-created by CMS College students in collaboration with India Post, resulting in a modern and vibrant postal space tailored to young users.

149. International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) is observed every year on 9 December to raise global awareness about the harmful effects of corruption and promote efforts to combat it. What is the theme of International Anti-Corruption Day 2025?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी दिवस (IACD) हर साल 9 दिसंबर को भ्रष्टाचार के हानिकारक प्रभावों के बारे में वैश्विक जागरूकता बढ़ाने और इससे लड़ने के प्रयासों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए मनाया जाता है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Say No to Corruption
- (b) Fighting Corruption for Progress
- (c) Uniting with Youth Against Corruption
- (d) End Corruption Now
- (e) Youth for Transparency

Ans. c

Sol. 9 December - International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD)

International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) is observed every year on 9 December to raise global awareness about the harmful effects of corruption and promote efforts to combat it.

Theme 2025- Uniting with Youth Against Corruption

The day marks the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2003, the world's first legally binding anti-corruption treaty.

It highlights the role of governments, civil society, private sector, and citizens in promoting integrity, transparency, accountability, and good governance.

150. Union MoS for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh will represent India at the 7th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), the UN's

highest-level decision-making body on environmental matters. Where is UNEA-7 being held?

विदेश मामलों के केंद्रीय राज्य मंत्री कीर्ति वर्धन सिंह संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण सभा (UNEA-7) के 7वें सत्र में भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व करेंगे, जो पर्यावरण मामलों पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र की सर्वोच्च निर्णय लेने वाली संस्था है। UNEA-7 कहाँ आयोजित किया जा रहा है?

- (a) New York
- (b) Geneva
- (c) Nairobi
- (d) Paris
- (e) Tokyo

Ans. c

Sol. India's Kirti Vardhan Singh to Represent Nation at UNEA-7 in Nairobi

Union MoS for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh will represent India at the 7th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) in Nairobi, Kenya, the UN's highest-level decision-making body on environmental matters.

Theme: Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet

He highlighted that UNEA includes all 193 UN member countries, which meet every two years to deliberate on major global environmental challenges such as climate change and biodiversity loss.

Singh emphasized global cooperation and India's leadership through initiatives like Mission LiFE, Ganga Rejuvenation, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, and Swachh Bharat Mission, showcasing India's commitment to sustainability.

UNEA-7, held from December 8 to 12 at the UNEP headquarters, sets the global environmental agenda, provides policy direction, reviews emerging challenges, and promotes partnerships for environmental goals.

151. The Government of India has announced a nationwide governance outreach initiative called 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore', aimed at improving administrative access in rural regions. As per the official schedule, during which dates will this campaign be organized across all districts, states, and Union Territories of India? भारत सरकार ने ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में प्रशासनिक पहुँच को मजबूत करने के उद्देश्य से 'प्रशासन गाँव की ओर' नामक राष्ट्रव्यापी अभियान की घोषणा की है। आधिकारिक कार्यक्रम के अनुसार, यह अभियान देश के सभी जिलों, राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में किन तिथियों के दौरान आयोजित किया जाएगा?

- (a) 10–16 December
- (b) 15–20 December
- (c) 21–27 December
- (d) 19–25 December
- (e) 1–7 January

Ans. d

Sol. Nationwide 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' Campaign to Run from 19–25 December

Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore campaign will be conducted nationwide from 19 to 25 December, covering all districts, states, and Union Territories, with participation from over 700 District Collectors who will visit Tehsils and Panchayat Samiti Headquarters.

The campaign aims to strengthen grassroots governance, improve administrative outreach, and ensure efficient delivery of government services in rural areas.

On the final day, Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh will inaugurate a one-day workshop focusing on digital transformation innovations and digital empowerment of citizens, as informed by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

152. Which wildlife reserve has been approved by the Mohan Yadav cabinet to be developed as Madhya Pradesh's third cheetah habitat?

मोहन यादव कैबिनेट ने मध्य प्रदेश में तीसरे चीता आवास के रूप में किस वन्यजीव अभ्यारण्य को विकसित करने की मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) Satpura Tiger Reserve
- (b) Bandhavgarh National Park
- (c) Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve
- (d) Pench Tiger Reserve
- (e) Kanha Tiger Reserve

Ans. c

Sol. Madhya Pradesh Approves Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve as State's Third Cheetah Habitat

The Mohan Yadav cabinet has approved the development of Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve (Nauradehi) in Sagar district as Madhya Pradesh's third cheetah habitat, after Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary.

Madhya Pradesh currently has 31 cheetahs, with 28 in Kuno and 3 in Gandhi Sagar, all originally translocated from Kuno; the third habitat is needed due to the upcoming translocation of 8 cheetahs from Botswana by January 2026.

The 8 Botswana cheetahs have already been identified and are kept in quarantine enclosures in a reserve forest in Botswana, awaiting their transfer to India.

The cabinet also approved several infrastructure projects, including the long-awaited Bhopal Metro, which is expected to be inaugurated on December 21, despite some stations still nearing completion.

153. Gujarat Police's Cyber Centre of Excellence has launched a major crackdown on mule bank accounts used by cybercriminals. What is the name of this coordinated action plan?

ગुજરાત પુલિસ કે સાઇબર સેન્ટર ઓફ એક્સીલેન્સ ને સાઇબર અપરાધિયોં દ્વારા ઉપયોગ કિએ જાને વાલે મ્યૂલ બૈંક ખાતોં પર બડી કાર્યવાઈ શરૂ કી હૈ। ઇસ સમન્વિત કાર્યયોજના કા નામ ક્યા હૈ?

- (a) Operation Cyber Shield
- (b) Operation Digital Strike
- (c) Operation Anti-Fraud Mission
- (d) Operation Secure Net
- (e) Operation Mule Hunt

Ans. e

Sol. Gujarat Launches 'Operation Mule Hunt' to Dismantle Cyber Fraud Networks Using Advanced Tech and Statewide Coordination

Gujarat Police's Cyber Centre of Excellence has launched 'Operation Mule Hunt', a coordinated statewide crackdown targeting mule bank accounts used by cybercriminals, with Deputy CM Harsh Sanghavi directing police units to intensify verification and trace networks up to the masterminds.

The state is strengthening its cybercrime response through advanced data analytics, AI-based monitoring, digital forensics labs, dedicated cyber police stations, and enhanced inter-department coordination to accelerate both prevention and detection of cyber fraud.

Gujarat is also boosting public awareness through statewide cyber safety campaigns, workshops in schools and colleges, and promoting the national 1930 cyber-fraud helpline, while improving interstate coordination via integration with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).

About Gujarat

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

154. **Which Indian state has become the first to achieve 100% digitisation of its electoral roll under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)?**

विशेष गहन संशोधन (SIR) के तहत 100% मतदान सूची डिजिटलीकरण करने वाला पहला भारतीय राज्य कौन सा है?

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

Ans. e

Sol. Rajasthan Becomes First State in India to Achieve 100% Digitisation of Electoral Roll Under Special Intensive Revision

Rajasthan has become the first state in India to achieve 100% digitisation of its electoral roll under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), thanks to coordinated efforts by BLOs, supervisors, district election officers, and other staff.

The state now leads the country in voter mapping, with over 97% of mapping completed, meaning only 3% of voters will need to submit documents during the claims-objections phase, averaging about 30 voters per booth.

High-quality voter mapping has made the SIR process simpler, more transparent, and greatly reduced repeated verification, highlighting the dedication of field staff, especially BLOs and panchayat-level employees.

The draft electoral roll will be published on 16 December 2025, with claims and objections from 16 December to 15 January 2026, hearings and verification until 7 February 2026, and the final roll on 14 February 2026.

About Rajasthan

- **Capital** - Jaipur
- **Chief Minister** - Bhajan Lal Sharma (replace Ashok Gehlot)
- **Governor** - Haribhau Bagade

155. **The Maharashtra Government launched the Mahadeva Football Initiative (Project Mahadeva) to provide world-class training facilities for 60 young football players from rural and remote areas. Which age group is specifically targeted under the Mahadeva Football Initiative?**

महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने ग्रामीण और दूरदराज के इलाकों के 60 युवा फुटबॉल खिलाड़ियों को विश्व स्तरीय ट्रेनिंग सुविधाएं देने के लिए महादेव फुटबॉल पहल (प्रोजेक्ट महादेव) शुरू की है। महादेव फुटबॉल पहल के तहत विशेष रूप से किस आयु वर्ग को लक्षित किया गया है?

- (a) Under-10
- (b) Under-12
- (c) Under-13
- (d) Under-15
- (e) Under-17

Ans. c

Sol. Maharashtra Launches Mahadeva Football Initiative to Train 60 Rural U-13 Players with World-Class Facilities

The Maharashtra Government launched the Mahadeva Football Initiative (Project Mahadeva) to provide world-class training facilities for 60 young football players from rural and remote areas.

The programme specifically targets Under-13 (U-13) boys and girls, aiming to create a long-term pathway for football development in the state.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the School Education, Sports and Youth Welfare Department, MITRA, WIFA, and VSTF, with support from CM Devendra Fadnavis and announced by Sports Minister Manikrao Kokate.

About Maharashtra

- **Capital** - Mumbai
- **Chief Minister** - Devendra Fadnavis (3rd time)
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Eknath Sindhe & Ajit Pawar
- **Governor** - C P Radhakrishnan

156. **The new brand identity of Ageas Federal Life Insurance was launched in Mumbai by MD & CEO Jude Gomes, along with which iconic sportsperson who serves as the company's brand ambassador?**

मुंबई में एजियस फेडरल की नई ब्रांड पहचान एमडी और सीईओ जूड गोम्स ने किस प्रतिष्ठित खिलाड़ी (ब्रांड एंबेसडर) के साथ लॉन्च की?

- (a) Virat Kohli
- (b) P. V. Sindhu
- (c) Sachin Tendulkar
- (d) Neeraj Chopra

(e) M. S. Dhoni

Ans. c

Sol. Ageas Federal Life Insurance Unveils New Brand Identity with "Har Wada Mumkin" Promise

Ageas Federal Life Insurance unveiled its refreshed brand identity with a new logo and the promise "Har Wada Mumkin – Promises Made Possible," launched by MD & CEO Jude Gomes along with brand ambassador Sachin Tendulkar in Mumbai.

The new logo features two unifying arcs symbolising protection and guidance, with orange representing optimism and violet signifying trust, reflecting the company's aim to simplify insurance and expand financial protection across India.

The rebranding highlights the company's strong performance—270% solvency ratio (4th among private life insurers), 13% YoY growth in Individual APE, 100% claim settlement ratio, and a growing presence with 19.71 lakh policies, ₹27,558 crore sum assured, and ₹18,956 crore AUM as of March 2025.

157. Bank of Baroda launched its new 'Masterstroke' advertising campaign featuring which global brand ambassador, aiming to inspire customers to make informed financial decisions through relatable real-life scenarios?

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा ने अपना नया 'मास्टरस्ट्रोक' विज्ञापन अभियान किस ग्लोबल ब्रांड एंबेसडर के साथ लॉन्च किया, जिसका उद्देश्य वास्तविक जीवन की स्थितियों के माध्यम से ग्राहकों को समझदारी से वित्तीय निर्णय लेने के लिए प्रेरित करना है?

(a) Rohit Sharma

(b) Virat Kohli

(c) Sachin Tendulkar

(d) Harleen Deol

(e) M. S. Dhoni

Ans. c

Sol. Bank of Baroda Launches 'Masterstroke' Campaign Featuring Sachin Tendulkar to Promote Key Retail Banking Products

Bank of Baroda launched a new advertising campaign featuring Sachin Tendulkar as its global brand ambassador, promoting four key retail products—home loans, car loans, MSME loans via bob Digi Udyam, and the bob Masterstroke Lite Savings Account.

The campaign continues the "Play The Masterstroke" theme and uses four short films to show how choosing the right financial partner helps customers achieve goals like buying homes, cars, or expanding businesses.

According to Shailendra Singh (Chief General Manager, HRM & Marketing), the initiative positions Bank of Baroda as a trusted financial partner and supports its retailization strategy to boost customer acquisition and market reach.

158. At The Banker magazine's prestigious "Bank of the Year Awards 2025 – Asia-Pacific," Bank of Baroda received recognition for its overall performance in the Indian banking sector. Which title was awarded to the bank for its excellence?

द बैंकर मैगजीन के प्रतिष्ठित “बैंक ऑफ द ईयर अवार्ड्स 2025 – एशिया-पैसिफिक” में भारतीय बैंकिंग क्षेत्र में उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन के लिए बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा को कौन-सा खिताब प्रदान किया गया?

- (a) Best Digital Bank in Asia
- (b) Best Public Sector Bank in India
- (c) Best Customer Service Bank
- (d) Best Retail Transformation Bank
- (e) Best Bank in India

Ans. e

Sol. Bank of Baroda Named ‘Best Bank in India’ at Bank of the Year Awards 2025 by The Banker Magazine

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has been awarded the title of ‘Best Bank in India’ at The Banker magazine’s “Bank of the Year Awards 2025 – Asia-Pacific,” a prestigious Financial Times publication.

The recognition highlights BoB’s enhanced customer experience through the expansion of its phygital branches, which seamlessly integrate physical and digital banking services.

According to The Banker, these phygital branches allow customers to quickly access key services such as obtaining statements, generating income tax payment certificates, and updating nominees for bank accounts.

159. What is the full name of the new company that has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to be set up jointly by the State Bank of India (SBI) and the Bank of Baroda (BoB) to develop a Digital Payments Intelligence Platform aimed at detecting and preventing fraudulent transactions in public sector banks across India?

उस नई कंपनी का पूरा नाम क्या है जिसे पूरे भारत में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों में धोखाधड़ी वाले लेनदेन का पता लगाने और रोकने के उद्देश्य से एक डिजिटल भुगतान इंटेलिजेंस प्लेटफॉर्म विकसित करने के लिए भारतीय स्टेट बैंक (एसबीआई) और बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा (बीओबी) द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से स्थापित करने के लिए भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (आरबीआई) से मंजूरी मिल गई है?

- (a) India Digital Fraud Monitoring Authority
- (b) Digital Transaction Security Council
- (c) Indian Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation
- (d) National Payment Monitoring Corporation
- (e) India SecurePay Intelligence Network

Ans. c

Sol. SBI, BoB get RBI nod to set up fraud detection platform

SBI and Bank of Baroda have received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to establish a new company called Indian Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation (IDPIC) aimed at enhancing fraud detection in digital transactions across public sector banks.

The new entity will be set up as a Section 8 (non-profit) company under the Companies Act, 2013, and will focus on identifying and preventing fraudulent digital payments to strengthen the security framework of India’s banking system.

The RBI's approval is subject to an exemption by the Department of Financial Services (Ministry of Finance), allowing the banks to hold over 30% stake in the company—exceeding limits under Section 19(2) of the Banking Regulation Act—valid till October 16, 2026.

160. What is the new maximum foreign investment limit that has been approved by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, for AU Small Finance Bank (SFB), increasing from the earlier 49% to provide greater flexibility for foreign investors and support the bank's growth as it transitions to a universal bank?

AU स्माल फाइनेंस बैंक (SFB) के लिए वित्त मंत्रालय के वित्तीय सेवा विभाग (DFS) द्वारा मंजूरी प्राप्त नया अधिकतम विदेशी निवेश सीमा क्या है, जो पहले की 49% सीमा से बढ़ाकर विदेशी निवेशकों के लिए अधिक लचीलापन और बैंक के यूनिवर्सल बैंक में संक्रमण के दौरान विकास को समर्थन प्रदान करता है?

- (a) 49%
- (b) 60%
- (c) 72%
- (d) 76%
- (e) 92%

Ans. d

Sol. AU Small Finance Bank Gets DFS Approval to Raise Foreign Investment Limit from 49% to 74%

AU Small Finance Bank (SFB) received approval from the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, to raise its foreign investment limit from 49% to 74% of the paid-up capital of the bank.

The DFS approval follows the bank's in-principle approval from RBI four months earlier for its transition to a universal bank, and the approval has no time limit on its validity, according to the bank's regulatory filing.

The increased foreign investment limit will help AU SFB maintain sufficient headroom for foreign investment through permissible channels, in accordance with the consolidated FDI Policy.

About AU Small Finance Bank Limited

- *Founded - 1996*
- *Founder - Sanjay Agarwal*
- *Headquarters - Jaipur, Rajasthan*
- *MD & CEO - Sanjay Agarwal*
- *Tagline - Chalo Aage Badhein*

161. RBI has imposed a monetary penalty on Jammu & Kashmir Bank for violating Section 26A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and for non-compliance with RBI directions related to the Internal Ombudsman Scheme 2018, Customer Service in Banks, and KYC Directions. What is the total penalty imposed on J&K Bank by RBI?

RBI ने जम्मू और कश्मीर बैंक पर बैंकिंग रेगुलेशन एक्ट, 1949 की धारा 26A का उल्लंघन करने तथा इंटरनल ओम्बड्समैन स्कीम 2018, बैंकों में कस्टमर सर्विस, और KYC निर्देशों का पालन न करने के लिए मौद्रिक दंड लगाया है। RBI ने J&K बैंक पर कुल कितना जुर्माना लगाया है?

- (a) ₹50 lakh
- (b) ₹7.5 lakh
- (c) ₹99.30 lakh
- (d) ₹1.5 crore
- (e) ₹2 crore

Ans. c

Sol. RBI Slaps ₹99.30 Lakh Penalty on J&K Bank for Violating KYC and Customer Service Norms

RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹99.30 lakh on Jammu & Kashmir Bank for violating Section 26A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and for non-compliance with RBI directions related to the Internal Ombudsman Scheme 2018, Customer Service in Banks, and KYC Directions.

The penalty was imposed by the RBI under the powers vested in Section 47A(1)(c) read with Section 46(4)(i) of the Banking Regulation Act.

Based on supervisory findings of non-compliance and subsequent correspondence, RBI issued a show-cause notice to the bank, and after finding the reply unsatisfactory, imposed the monetary penalty.

Recent Penalties imposed on Financial Institution

- **Kolkata-based Mannakrishna Investments Pvt Ltd (₹3.10 Lakh) by RBI** - for Governance Violations
- **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (₹39.60 Lakh)** - for Violations in BSBD Account Charges and Unclaimed Deposit Compliance
- **Muthoot FinCorp Limited (₹2.7 lakh)** by RBI - for non-compliance with norms related to the Internal Ombudsman.
- **Bandhan Bank (₹44.70 Lakh)** by RBI - for deficiencies in statutory and regulatory compliance.

162. What is ADB's revised growth forecast for India for FY 2025-26?

ADB ने FY 2025-26 के लिए भारत की नई ग्रोथ फोरकास्ट कितनी तय की है?

- (a) 6.0%
- (b) 6.5%
- (c) 7.0%
- (d) 7.2%
- (e) 7.5%

Ans. d

Sol. ADB Raises India's FY26 Growth Forecast to 7.2% on Strong Economic Momentum
ADB has raised India's growth forecast for FY 2025-26 to 7.2%, up from 6.5%, citing strong economic performance in the July-September quarter and improved prospects for the fiscal year

ADB has kept its FY 2026-27 growth projection for India unchanged at 6.5%, indicating expectations of stable growth in the following year.

For the Asia-Pacific region, ADB now projects 5.1% growth, higher than the 4.8% forecast in September, supported largely by stronger-than-expected growth in India.

GDP Projection List 2025

- *Fitch Rating - 7.4% (FY25)*
- *Ind-Ra - 7% (FY26)*
- *CRISIL - 7% (FY26)*
- *IMF -6.4% (FY26); 6.2% (FY27)*
- *World Bank - 6.5% (FY26)*
- *EY - 6.7% (FY26)*

163. **SEBI recently launched a new mechanism called PaRRVA to authenticate past performance claims made by market intermediaries, tackle misleading claims by finfluencers, and ensure transparency for investors. What is the full form of PaRRVA?**

SEBI ने हाल ही में PaRRVA नामक एक नया तंत्र लॉन्च किया है ताकि बाजार के मध्यस्थों द्वारा किए गए पिछले प्रदर्शन दावों को सत्यापित किया जा सके, फिनफ्लुएंसर्स द्वारा भ्रामक दावों को रोका जा सके और निवेशकों के लिए पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित की जा सके। PaRRVA का पूरा नाम क्या है?

- (a) Past Regulatory Review and Verification Authority
- (b) Past Risk and Return Verification Agency
- (c) Performance and Return Review Verification Agency
- (d) Past Returns Regulation and Validation Agency
- (e) Portfolio Risk and Returns Validation Authority

Ans. b

Sol. SEBI Launches PaRRVA to Verify Past Returns and Curb Misleading Financial Claims
SEBI launches PaRRVA (Past Risk and Return Verification Agency) to verify past performance claims of market intermediaries and curb misleading financial claims. Pilot launched by CARE Ratings in collaboration with NSE, aiming to provide investors with independently validated past returns from SEBI-registered advisers, analysts, and algorithmic brokers.

Two-tier verification structure: a SEBI-registered credit rating agency as PaRRVA and a recognised stock exchange as the PaRRVA Data Centre, both independently verifying returns using a transparent methodology.

Focus on transparency and investor protection, preventing selective disclosure of favourable returns and monitored by an oversight committee to ensure compliance.

About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- **Founded** - 12 April 1988
- **Act** - 1992
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai
- **Chairman** - Tuhin Kanta Pandey (replace Madhabi Puri Buch)
- **SEBI Set up** - Uday Kotak committee

164. **Which award-winning Bollywood actor, known for her dedication to animal welfare, commitment to a meat-free lifestyle, and advocacy for community animals, has been named PETA India's 2025 Person of the Year?**

कौन सी पुरस्कार विजेता बॉलीवुड अभिनेत्री, जो पशु कल्याण के प्रति समर्पित हैं, मांस-मुक्त जीवन शैली अपनाती हैं और सामुदायिक जानवरों के लिए सक्रियता दिखाती हैं, उन्हें PETA इंडिया का 2025 का पर्सन ऑफ़ द ईयर चुना गया है?

- (a) Sunny Leone
- (b) Raveena Tandon
- (c) Dia Mirza
- (d) Sunny Leone
- (e) John Abraham

Ans. b

Sol. Raveena Tandon Honoured as PETA India's 2025 Person of the Year for Wildlife and Animal Advocacy

Raveena Tandon was named PETA India's 2025 Person of the Year for her commitment to a meat-free lifestyle, wildlife protection, and advocacy for community animals.

Promoted empathy for all living beings, highlighting her compassionate efforts to protect animals and raise awareness about humane treatment.

Collaborated with PETA India earlier this year to donate a life-sized mechanical elephant to Karnataka's Thousand Pillars Jain Temple, supporting its decision not to use live elephants.

Joins a prestigious list of past PETA India awardees, including Virat Kohli, Dia Mirza, Alia Bhatt, John Abraham, Anushka Sharma, and many other Bollywood stars and notable personalities.

165. **Who has been elected as the new President of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA)?**

कर्नाटक राज्य क्रिकेट एसोसिएशन (KSCA) के नए अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे चुना गया है?

- (a) K.N. Shanth Kumar
- (b) Venkatesh Prasad
- (c) Sujith Somasundar
- (d) B.K. Ravi
- (e) B.N. Madhukar

Ans. b

Sol. Venkatesh Prasad elected new KSCA president

Venkatesh Prasad was elected President of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), defeating K.N. Shanth Kumar with 749 votes to 558, marking a major leadership change within the Karnataka State Cricket Association.

'Team Game Changers' dominates the elections, winning four of the five key office-bearer positions, including vice-president Sujith Somasundar, secretary Santosh Menon, and treasurer B.N. Madhukar.

B.K. Ravi wins joint secretary post, becoming the only office-bearer from Shanth's 'Team Brijesh' camp with 669-638 votes.

166. Who was recently honoured with the Global Humanitarian Award for Animal Welfare by the Global Humane Society, becoming the youngest and first Asian recipient for his contributions to wildlife conservation through initiatives like Vantara?

हाल ही में किसे ग्लोबल ह्यूमैनिटेरियन अवॉर्ड फॉर एनिमल वेलफेयर से सम्मानित किया गया, जो वंतारा जैसी पहलों के माध्यम से वन्यजीव संरक्षण में योगदान के लिए सबसे युवा और पहले एशियाई प्राप्तकर्ता बने?

- (a) Sonu Sood
- (b) Anant Ambani
- (c) Parul Tyagi
- (d) Sundar Pichai
- (e) Aditya Birla

Ans. b

Sol. Anant Ambani Becomes Youngest Asian to Win Global Humanitarian Award for Animal Welfare

Anant Ambani received the Global Humanitarian Award for Animal Welfare, becoming the youngest and first Asian to win this prestigious global honour presented by the Global Humane Society.

The award recognises his leadership in creating Vantara, a large-scale conservation initiative using modern veterinary science, species recovery programmes, and structured wildlife rehabilitation.

Recent Awards

- **PETA India's 2025 Person of the Year for Wildlife and Animal Advocacy -** Raveena Tandon
- **Global Humanitarian Award for Animal Welfare -** Anant Ambani
- **TIME's 2025 CEO of the Year for Shaping Global Digital Culture -** Neal Mohan
- **1st FIFA Peace Prize -** Donald Trump
- **Rum Brand of the Year Award 2025 -** Camikara Rum (India)

167. According to TIME magazine's special feature for 2025, which Indian-origin CEO—described as a global cultural shaper whose decisions influence the daily content consumption of billions—has been honoured as TIME's CEO of the Year 2025?

TIME मैगज़ीन की 2025 की स्पेशल फीचर रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, किस भारतीय-मूल के CEO को—जो अरबों लोगों की दैनिक कंटेंट खपत को प्रभावित करने वाले “Global Cultural Shaper” कहे गए—TIME का CEO ऑफ द ईयर 2025 चुना गया है?

- (a) Sundar Pichai
- (b) Satya Nadella
- (c) Neal Mohan
- (d) Arvind Krishna
- (e) Shantanu Narayen

Ans. c

Sol. Neal Mohan Named TIME's 2025 CEO of the Year for Shaping Global Digital Culture

Neal Mohan, the Indian-American CEO of YouTube, has been named TIME's 2025 CEO of the Year, with the magazine calling him a global culture shaper whose work influences the daily content diet of billions.

TIME describes the "surprisingly mellow" Mohan as a "farmer" cultivating the cultural soil of the world, noting that what YouTube produces becomes what people consume worldwide.

168. Who was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of the Czech Republic?

चेक गणराज्य के नए प्रधान मंत्री के रूप में किसने शपथ ली?

- (a) Petr Fiala
- (b) Milos Zeman
- (c) Andrej Babis
- (d) Petr Pavel
- (e) Jan Lipavský

Ans. c

Sol. Andrej Babis Returns to Power as Czech Republic's New Prime Minister

Andrej Babis, a populist billionaire and former Prime Minister (2017–2021), was sworn in again as the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic on December 9, 2025, after his party's victory in the October parliamentary elections.

His new coalition commands 108 out of 200 seats in the Lower House, pushing the four centre-right, pro-Western parties of former PM Petr Fiala to the Opposition.

Newly Appointed Prime Ministers & Presidents

- President of Ireland - Catherine Connolly
- First Female PM of Japan - Sanae Takaichi (from Liberal Democratic Party)
- Interim PM of Nepal - Sushila Karki (first woman Chief Justice of nation from 2016–2017)
- President of Guyana - Irfaan Ali
- PM of France - Sébastien Lecornu

169. Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. What is the theme of Human Rights Day 2025?

हर साल 10 दिसंबर को मानवाधिकार दिवस मनाया जाता है ताकि 1948 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा द्वारा यूनिवर्सल डिक्लरेशन ऑफ ह्यूमन राइट्स (UDHR) को अपनाने की याद दिलाई जा सके। मानवाधिकार दिवस 2025 की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Dignity for All
- (b) Equality and Freedom
- (c) Human Rights in Action
- (d) Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials
- (e) Justice for Everyone

Ans. d

Sol. 10 December – Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.

Theme 2025 - Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials

The day highlights the universal rights and freedoms that every individual is entitled to, regardless of nationality, gender, race, religion, or status.

It aims to spread awareness about protecting human dignity, ensuring equality, and promoting justice across the world.

170. Deepavali has been officially added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List, marking a historic moment for India during the 20th ICH Committee Session held at the Red Fort, New Delhi. With the addition of Deepavali, how many elements from India are now part of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List?

नई दिल्ली के लाल किले में हुए 20वें ICH कमेटी सेशन के दौरान, भारत के लिए एक ऐतिहासिक पल को दिखाते हुए, दीपावली को UNESCO की इनटैंजिबल कल्चरल हेरिटेज लिस्ट में ऑफिशियली जोड़ दिया गया है। दीपावली के जुड़ने के साथ, भारत की कितनी चीज़ें अब UNESCO की इनटैंजिबल कल्चरल हेरिटेज लिस्ट का हिस्सा बन गई हैं?

- (a) 12
- (b) 14
- (c) 15
- (d) 16
- (e) 18

Ans. d

Sol. Deepavali Secures UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Status, Marking a Historic Milestone for India

Deepavali has been officially added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List, marking a historic moment for India during the 20th ICH Committee Session held at the Red Fort, New Delhi.

Leaders, including the PM, Vice President, Union Ministers, and UNESCO, highlighted Deepavali's universal message of light over darkness, unity, cultural diversity, and community-driven traditions, supported by artisans, farmers, diaspora, and various social groups.

The recognition strengthens India's global cultural presence, bringing the nation's total entries to 16, and places responsibility on India to preserve, promote, and safeguard the festival's rich traditions for future generations.

171. UAE has been ranked the world's strongest passport for 2025 with a mobility score of 179, offering its citizens the highest access to countries visa-free or with a visa-on-arrival. Which two countries share the second rank with a mobility score of 175 in the 2025 strongest passports list?

UAE को 2025 के लिए दुनिया का सबसे मज़बूत पासपोर्ट का दर्जा दिया गया है, जिसका मोबिलिटी स्कोर 179 है, जिससे इसके नागरिकों को बिना वीज़ा या वीज़ा-ऑन-अराइवल वाले

देशों में सबसे ज्यादा एक्सेस मिलता है। 2025 की सबसे मज़बूत पासपोर्ट लिस्ट में 175 के मोबिलिटी स्कोर के साथ कौन से दो देश दूसरे रैंक पर हैं?

- (a) Germany and Sweden
- (b) Japan and South Korea
- (c) Singapore and Spain
- (d) Norway and Finland
- (e) Belgium and France

Ans. c

Sol. UAE Tops Global Rankings as World's Strongest Passport for 2025

UAE has been ranked the world's strongest passport for 2025 with a mobility score of 179, offering its citizens the highest access to countries visa-free or with visa-on-arrival. Singapore and Spain hold the second position with scores of 175, followed by a large group of European and Asian nations such as Belgium, France, Sweden, Germany, Japan, and South Korea with scores of 174.

The Top 10 strongest passports list is dominated by European countries, with the U.S. ranked 9th and U.K. and Canada at 8th place, reflecting global mobility trends. India ranks 67th globally, indicating comparatively limited travel freedom when measured against top-tier passports.

Top 10 Strongest Passports (2025)

Rank	Countries
1	United Arab Emirates
2	Singapore, Spain
3	Belgium, France, Sweden, Germany, Netherlands, Finland, Luxembourg, Italy, Denmark, Portugal, Switzerland, Greece, Austria, Malaysia, Norway, Ireland, South Korea, Japan
4	Poland, Slovenia, Croatia, Slovakia, Hungary, Estonia
5	Malta, Romania, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Latvia, New Zealand
6	Lithuania, Liechtenstein, Australia
7	Cyprus, Iceland
8	United Kingdom, Canada
9	United States of America
10	Monaco

172. **Tata Electronics and Intel have signed an MoU to explore manufacturing and advanced packaging of Intel's chips in India, including production at Tata's upcoming semiconductor fab in Dholera (Gujarat) and packaging at the _____.**

टाटा इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और इंटेल ने भारत में इंटेल के चिप्स की मैन्युफैक्चरिंग और एडवांस्ड पैकेजिंग के लिए एक MoU साइन किया है। इसमें धोलेरा (गुजरात) में टाटा के आने वाले सेमीकंडक्टर फैब में प्रोडक्शन और _____ में पैकेजिंग शामिल है।

- (a) Noida OSAT facility
- (b) Kochi semiconductor hub
- (c) Guwahati OSAT facility
- (d) Mumbai Electronics Park
- (e) Visakhapatnam Tech Valley

Ans. c

Sol. Tata Electronics and Intel Sign MoU to Boost Chip Manufacturing and AI Technology Ecosystem in India

Tata Electronics and Intel have signed an MoU to explore manufacturing and advanced packaging of Intel's chips in India, including production at Tata's upcoming semiconductor fab in Dholera (Gujarat) and packaging at the Guwahati OSAT facility. The collaboration aims to strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem and expand capabilities in AI-driven technologies, with both companies targeting the fast-growing AI PC market in India.

Tata's Dholera fab, India's first approved semiconductor fabrication facility, is being built under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), with operations expected to begin by 2027, employing around 2,000 people and costing over ₹91,000 crore.

173. IIT Bombay recently launched India's first incubator-linked deep tech venture capital fund. What is the name of this fund?

IIT बॉम्बे ने हाल ही में भारत का पहला इनक्यूबेटर-लिंक्ड डीप टेक वेंचर कैपिटल फंड लॉन्च किया है। इस फंड का नाम क्या है?

- (a) A-Point Venture Fund
- (b) B-Point Innovation Fund
- (c) C-Point Technology Fund
- (d) Y-Point Venture Capital Fund
- (e) Z-Point Research Fund

Ans. d

Sol. IIT Bombay Unveils India's First Incubator-Linked Deep Tech VC Fund and Releases Strategy Plan 2026–2030

IIT Bombay's SINE launched India's first incubator-linked deep tech VC fund, the ₹250-crore Y-Point Venture Fund, aimed at supporting early-stage deep tech startups and helping them transition from lab research to market-ready innovations.

The institute also unveiled its Strategy Plan 2026–2030, approved by the Board of Governors chaired by Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, focusing on innovation-led growth and strengthening India's deep tech ecosystem.

The fund will primarily invest in AI, advanced computing, advanced manufacturing, materials, nuclear tech, space & defence, climate & cleantech, life sciences, and

healthcare, while the strategy plan promotes learning-centric, experiential, and globally connected education pathways.

174. Col Prateek Roy of the Indian Army was recently awarded which prestigious recognition at the Australian Defence College?

इंडियन आर्मी के कर्नल प्रतीक रॉय को हाल ही में ऑस्ट्रेलियन डिफेंस कॉलेज में कौन सा प्रतिष्ठित सम्मान दिया गया?

- (a) President's Medal
- (b) Victoria Cross
- (c) Param Vishisht Seva Medal
- (d) Geddes Gavel Award
- (e) Defence Leadership Medal

Ans. d

Sol. Col Prateek Roy of Indian Army Receives Prestigious Geddes Gavel Award at Australian Defence College

Col Prateek Roy of the Indian Army was awarded the Geddes Gavel Award upon completing the Defence Strategic and Studies Course at the Australian Defence College, recognizing his outstanding performance.

The award honors the student who demonstrates exceptional understanding of regional relationships, decision-making, and superior knowledge across political, diplomatic, military, cultural, and economic domains.

The Indian High Commission in Canberra shared the achievement, highlighting it as a prestigious recognition of India's military leadership and strategic expertise.

175. TIME magazine has named a professional basketball player as its 2025 Athlete of the Year in recognition of her historic season, remarkable on-court performance, leadership in women's sports, and significant cultural impact. Who is this athlete?

टाइम मैगज़ीन ने एक प्रोफेशनल बास्केटबॉल प्लेयर को उनके ऐतिहासिक सीज़न, कोर्ट पर शानदार परफॉर्मेंस, महिलाओं के स्पोर्ट्स में लीडरशिप और अहम कल्चरल असर के लिए 2025 का एथलीट ऑफ द ईयर चुना है। यह एथलीट कौन है?

- (a) LeBron James
- (b) Stephen Curry
- (c) Serena William
- (d) A'ja Wilson
- (e) Candace Parker

Ans. d

Sol. A'ja Wilson Named TIME's 2025 Athlete of the Year After Historic WNBA Season

A'ja Wilson was named TIME's 2025 Athlete of the Year, recognized for her outstanding performance on the court, leadership in women's sports, and cultural impact, marking 2025 as a landmark year in her career.

Led the Las Vegas Aces to their third WNBA championship in four years, earning multiple individual honors including WNBA MVP (4th time), Defensive Player of the Year (3rd time), Finals MVP (2nd time), scoring title, and fastest to 5,000 career points.

Recent Awards

- **PETA India's 2025 Person of the Year for Wildlife and Animal Advocacy** - Raveena Tandon
- **Global Humanitarian Award for Animal Welfare** - Anant Ambani
- **TIME's 2025 CEO of the Year for Shaping Global Digital Culture** - Neal Mohan
- **1st FIFA Peace Prize** - Donald Trump
- **Rum Brand of the Year Award 2025** - Camikara Rum (India)
- **Miss Universe 2025 crown** - Miss Fatima Bosch (Mexico)

176. **India will host the first-ever Commonwealth Kho Kho Championship from March 9 to 14, 2026, with participation expected from over 24 countries across Asia, Europe, Africa, Oceania, and the Americas. Which organization is responsible for organizing the Commonwealth Kho Kho Championship in India?**

भारत 9 से 14 मार्च, 2026 तक पहली बार कॉमनवेल्थ खो खो चैंपियनशिप होस्ट करेगा, जिसमें एशिया, यूरोप, अफ्रीका, ओशिनिया और अमेरिका के 24 से ज्यादा देशों के हिस्सा लेने की उम्मीद है। भारत में कॉमनवेल्थ खो खो चैंपियनशिप को ऑर्गनाइज़ करने के लिए कौन सी ऑर्गनाइज़ेशन जिम्मेदार है?



- (a) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- (b) Kho Kho Federation of India
- (c) Sports Authority of India
- (d) Indian Olympic Association
- (e) Commonwealth Games Federation

Ans. b

Sol. India to Host First-Ever Commonwealth Kho Kho Championship in March 2026 with Over 24 Countries Participating

India will host the first-ever Commonwealth Kho Kho Championship from March 9 to 14, 2026, with participation expected from over 24 countries across Asia, Europe, Africa, Oceania, and the Americas.

The event will feature 16 men's teams and 16 women's teams, following the format of the first Kho Kho World Cup held in New Delhi earlier this year, which included 23 nations.

The Kho Kho Federation of India aims to use this championship as a stepping stone for inclusion in major international competitions such as the Doha Asian Games 2030, Commonwealth Games 2030 in Ahmedabad, and Brisbane Olympics 2032.

177. **The ISSF World Cup Final 2025 concluded India's shooting season. In which country was this edition of the tournament hosted?**

ISSF World Cup Final 2025 ने भारत के शूटिंग सीजन का समापन किया। यह टूर्नामेंट किस देश में आयोजित हुआ था?

- (a) India - New Delhi
- (b) Qatar - Doha
- (c) UAE - Dubai
- (d) South Korea - Seoul

(e) Germany – Munich

Ans. b

Sol. India Shines with Six Medals at ISSF World Cup Final 2025 in Doha

India concluded the ISSF World Cup Final 2025 in Doha with six medals (2 gold, 3 silver, 1 bronze), all coming from rifle and pistol events as the country drew blank in shotgun. Simranpreet Kaur and Suruchi Singh clinched gold with junior world record-equalling and record-breaking performances in the 25m pistol and 10m air pistol events, respectively.

India secured three silver medals through Sainyam (women's 10m air pistol), Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (men's 50m rifle 3 positions), and Anish Bhanwala (men's 25m rapid fire pistol).

Samrat Rana added a bronze in men's 10m air pistol, while shotgun shooter Zoravar Singh Sandhu reached the men's trap final but finished seventh.

178. International Mountain Day is observed every year on 11 December to highlight the importance of mountains for ecosystems, biodiversity, and human livelihood. What is the theme for International Mountain Day 2025?

इंटरनेशनल माउंटेन डे हर साल 11 दिसंबर को इकोसिस्टम, बायोडायवर्सिटी और इंसानी रोज़ी-रोटी के लिए पहाड़ों की अहमियत को दिखाने के लिए मनाया जाता है। इंटरनेशनल माउंटेन डे 2025 की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Protecting Mountain Ecosystems
- (b) Mountains Matter for Youth
- (c) Glaciers and Climate Action
- (d) Glaciers matter for water, food and livelihoods in mountains and beyond
- (e) Sustainable Tourism in Mountain

Ans. d

Sol. 11 December - International Mountain Day

International Mountain Day is observed every year on 11 December to highlight the importance of mountains for ecosystems, biodiversity, and human livelihood.

Theme 2025 - Glaciers matter for water, food and livelihoods in mountains and beyond

The day raises awareness about the sustainable development of mountain regions, which are home to nearly 15% of the global population.

It draws attention to challenges faced by mountain communities, including climate change, soil erosion, poverty, and limited access to resources.

179. Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has reconstituted the Supreme Court's Artificial Intelligence Committee to guide the adoption, development, and deployment of AI tools across the higher judiciary and subordinate courts. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the newly reconstituted Supreme Court AI Committee?

भारत के चीफ जस्टिस सूर्यकांत ने हायर ज्यूडिशियरी और सबऑर्डिनेट कोर्ट में AI टूल्स को अपनाने, डेवलप करने और डिप्लॉयमेंट में गाइड करने के लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट की आर्टिफिशियल

इंटेलिजेंस कमेटी को फिर से बनाया है। नई बनी सुप्रीम कोर्ट AI कमेटी का चेयरपर्सन किसे बनाया गया है?

- (a) Justice Anoop Chitkara
- (b) Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan V
- (c) Justice PS Narasimha
- (d) Justice Suraj Govindaraj
- (e) Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva

Ans. c

Sol. CJI Surya Kant Reconstitutes Supreme Court's AI Committee to Drive Judicial Tech Reforms

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has reconstituted the Supreme Court's Artificial Intelligence Committee to guide the adoption, development, and deployment of AI tools across the higher judiciary and subordinate courts.

The revamped panel will be chaired by Justice PS Narasimha, with Justices Sanjeev Sachdeva, Raja Vijayaraghavan V, Anoop Chitkara, and Suraj Govindaraj as members, while Anupam Patra will serve as Member-Secretary and Convenor.

The Committee has been tasked with ensuring that AI initiatives enhance efficiency, accessibility, and transparency in judicial processes, even as India proceeds cautiously due to concerns like algorithmic bias, language limitations, and data privacy.

The government informed Parliament that AI tools like LegRAA, ASR-SHRUTI, and PANINI are currently in a controlled pilot phase, with no systemic issues reported, while courts also face rising challenges from fabricated or morphed digital content submitted in proceedings.

180. **Which ministry launched the Sujalam Bharat App to improve rural drinking water governance?**

किस मंत्रालय ने ग्रामीण पेयजल प्रणाली में पारदर्शिता और सामुदायिक भागीदारी बढ़ाने के लिए सुजलाम भारत ऐप लॉन्च किया?

- (a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (b) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- (c) Ministry of Rural Development
- (d) Ministry of Water Resources
- (e) Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Ans. b

Sol. Jal Shakti Ministry Launches 'Sujalam Bharat App' to Transform Rural Drinking Water Governance

The Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the Sujalam Bharat App, a digital platform aimed at increasing transparency and strengthening community ownership in rural drinking water supply systems under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

The app, supported by BISAG-N, provides real-time, geo-referenced data on rural water assets, unifying all village-level schemes and enabling improved monitoring, maintenance, and decision-making.

The platform integrates comprehensive information—such as water sources, infrastructure condition, water quality, supply reliability, and community feedback—and generates a unique Sujal Gaon ID for every habitation.

The initiative comes amid growing concerns over India's water scarcity; according to CGWB, 102 districts are over-exploited, 22 are critical, and 69 are semi-critical in groundwater levels.

Integrated with PM Gati Shakti GIS, the Sujalam Bharat App will help states adopt a structured digital approach, supporting future planning, repairs, expansions, and ensuring sustainable, safe water supply to rural households.

181. India's first indigenous hydrogen fuel-cell passenger vessel was launched at which location?

भारत का पहला स्वदेशी हाइड्रोजन फ्यूल-सेल यात्री पोत कहाँ लॉन्च किया गया?

- (a) Kolkata
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Varanasi
- (d) Kochi
- (e) Chennai

Ans. c

Sol. India Launches First Indigenous Hydrogen Fuel-Cell Passenger Vessel in Varanasi Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off India's first indigenous hydrogen fuel-cell passenger vessel in Varanasi, marking a major step toward clean and sustainable inland water transport.

Launched at Namo Ghat, the hydrogen-powered vessel showcases India's advancing technological capabilities and places the country among global leaders like China, Norway, the Netherlands, and Japan operating hydrogen-driven vessels.

The initiative aligns with the government's broader push under Prime Minister Narendra Modi to modernise inland waterways, promote green energy, and enhance eco-friendly connectivity and public convenience.

182. UNICEF Day is observed annually on 11 December to commemorate the establishment of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). In which year was UNICEF established?

UNICEF डे हर साल 11 दिसंबर को यूनाइटेड नेशंस इंटरनेशनल चिल्ड्रन्स इमरजेंसी फंड (UNICEF) की स्थापना की याद में मनाया जाता है। UNICEF की स्थापना किस साल हुई थी?

- (a) 1945
- (b) 1946
- (c) 1950
- (d) 1965
- (e) 1952

Ans. b

Sol. 11 December - UNICEF Day

UNICEF Day is observed annually on 11 December to commemorate the establishment of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in 1946.

The day highlights UNICEF's work in promoting child rights, health, education, and overall well-being worldwide.

Each year, a specific theme is chosen to focus on pressing issues affecting children, such as child nutrition, education, vaccination, or protection from violence.

183. On which date is Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day observed every year?

यूनिवर्सल हेल्थ कवरेज (UHC) दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 10 December
- (b) 11 December
- (c) 12 December
- (d) 15 December
- (e) 20 December

Ans. c

Sol. 12 December - Universal Health Coverage Day

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day is observed every year on 12 December to raise awareness about the importance of accessible, affordable, and quality health care for all.

Theme 2025 - Unaffordable health costs? We're sick of it!

The day emphasises that everyone, everywhere should have access to essential health services without facing financial hardship.

The observance aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 3), aiming to ensure healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages

184. The Bihar government recently launched an initiative to accelerate the settlement of land disputes and improve transparency in land administration. What is the name of this programme, which provides a public interface for citizens to resolve ownership and documentation issues on the spot?

बिहार सरकार ने हाल ही में भू-मामलों के निपटान को तेज करने और भूमि प्रशासन में पारदर्शिता बढ़ाने के लिए एक पहल शुरू की है। इस कार्यक्रम का नाम क्या है, जो नागरिकों को अपने स्वामित्व और दस्तावेज संबंधी मुद्दों को तुरंत हल करने के लिए एक सार्वजनिक इंटरफेस प्रदान करता है?

- (a) Bhumi Shakti Abhiyan
- (b) Bhumi Sudhar Samvad
- (c) Zameen Sudhar Yojana
- (d) Land Rights Mission
- (e) Bihar Land Connect

Ans. b

Sol. Bihar Launches 'Bhumi Sudhar Samvad' to Fast-Track Land Dispute Resolution and Curb Encroachments

The Bihar government has launched a new initiative, 'Bhumi Sudhar Samvad', starting 12 December, to accelerate the settlement of land disputes and improve transparency in land administration.

The programme provides a public interface for citizens to present land documents for on-the-spot resolution of mutation, ownership, and documentation issues, initially in Patna, later in Lakhisarai.

A specialised monitoring team, 'Udan Dasta', will be formed to detect and prevent land-related frauds, with officials instructed to process mutation applications promptly and avoid unjustified rejections.

The government plans a targeted drive in March to remove encroachments from state-owned land, taking strict action against illegal occupants and corrupt staff, while offering rewards to credible informants.

About Bihar

- ***Capital - Patna***
- ***Chief Minister - Nitish Kumar***
- ***Governor - Arif Mohammed Khan***

185. To improve inclusivity and ease of participation for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD), the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has announced a significant reform. What is the main objective of this new decision?

बैंचमार्क विकलांग व्यक्तियों (PwBD) के लिए समावेशिता और भागीदारी में आसानी को बेहतर बनाने के लिए, संघ लोक सेवा आयोग (UPSC) ने एक महत्वपूर्ण सुधार की घोषणा की है। इस नए फैसले का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?

- (a) To conduct separate examinations for PwBD candidates
- (b) To provide additional compensatory time in all papers
- (c) To ensure allotment of the preferred examination centre chosen by PwBD candidates
- (d) To exempt PwBD candidates from preliminary examinations
- (e) To introduce online examinations exclusively for PwBD candidates

Ans. c

Sol. UPSC Ensures Preferred Examination Centres for PwBD Candidates to Boost Accessibility

UPSC will ensure that every Person with Benchmark Disability (PwBD) candidate is allotted the examination centre of their choice as mentioned in the application form, improving accessibility in its exams.

The Commission will first use the existing capacity of exam centres for both PwBD and non-PwBD candidates; once a centre reaches full capacity, it will be closed for non-PwBD applicants but remain available for PwBD candidates.

UPSC will also make additional capacity arrangements so that no PwBD applicant is denied their preferred examination centre under any circumstances.

UPSC Chairman Dr Ajay Kumar said the move is based on an analysis of examination centre data from the last five years, which showed early saturation at centres like Delhi, Cuttack, Patna and Lucknow, ensuring greater convenience for PwBD candidates.

About UPSC

- ***Establishment - 1 October 1926***
- ***Headquarters - New Delhi***
- ***Chairman - Ajay Kumar***
- ***UPSC is the central recruitment agency in India for Group 'A' officer posts under the Government of India.***

- *It is established as a constitutional body under Article 315 of the Indian Constitution.*

186. **The India-Italy Business Forum 2025 was held in which city during the visit of the Italian Deputy Prime Minister?**

इतालवी उप प्रधान मंत्री की यात्रा के दौरान इंडिया-इटली बिजनेस फोरम 2025 किस शहर में आयोजित किया गया था?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Italy-India Business Forum 2025 Deepens Strategic Economic Partnership and Bilateral Trade Ties

The India-Italy Business Forum was held in Mumbai during the visit of Italian Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani, bringing together senior officials, industry leaders, unicorn founders, and over 150 Indian and Italian companies to deepen bilateral economic cooperation.

The Forum underscored joint commitment to industrial and technology-driven collaboration in priority sectors such as automotive, renewables and waste-to-energy, sport technologies, agri-food, connectivity, manufacturing, and transportation, along with over 100 B2B business interactions.

A key outcome was the signing of the Agreed Minutes of the 22nd India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC), establishing a concrete roadmap to translate the Strategic Partnership into tangible trade, investment, and industrial outcomes.

Several major MoUs were signed, including SIMEST-ICC cooperation, SAIL awarding €500 million green steel projects to Italy's Danieli Group, Prada's Kolhapuri-inspired collaboration, expansion of Carpisa retail in India, and a €5 million Italian investment by Cavagna Group, reinforcing long-term bilateral trade and investment ties.

187. **DSC A20, the first indigenous Diving Support Craft of the Indian Navy, will be commissioned at which location?**

भारतीय नौसेना का पहला स्वदेशी डाइविंग सपोर्ट क्राफ्ट DSC A20 किस स्थान पर कमीशन किया जाएगा?

- (a) Visakhapatnam
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Kochi
- (d) Chennai
- (e) Port Blair

Ans. c

Sol. Indian Navy to Commission First Indigenous Diving Support Craft 'DSC A20' at Kochi

The Indian Navy will commission DSC A20, the first indigenously designed and built Diving Support Craft, at Kochi under the Southern Naval Command, enhancing the Navy's diving and underwater operational capabilities.

Built by Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL), Kolkata, DSC A20 is the lead ship of a five-vessel series and features a catamaran hull, advanced diving systems, and a displacement of about 390 tonnes, ensuring superior stability, safety, and operational efficiency.

The commissioning marks a major milestone for Aatmanirbhar Bharat and the Make in India initiative, showcasing successful collaboration between the Indian Navy, indigenous shipbuilding industry, and national research institutions.

188. The 17th edition of the FICCI Annapoorna Interfood Exhibition 2025 was held in which city?

FICCI अन्नपूर्णा इंटरफूड प्रदर्शनी 2025 का 17वां संस्करण किस शहर में आयोजित किया गया था?

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

Ans. e

Sol. FICCI Annapoorna Interfood Exhibition 2025 Showcases India's Growing Food Processing Ecosystem

The 17th edition of the FICCI Annapoorna Interfood Exhibition 2025, held in Mumbai, highlighted India's rapidly expanding food processing ecosystem, with MoFPI Secretary Avinash Joshi calling it a key platform to transform agriculture, livelihoods, and consumer experience.

The event witnessed wide international participation from 17–18 countries, including stakeholders from India, Africa, the US, Europe, UAE, and Australia, bringing together leading food-processing companies, buyers, and trade professionals.

Under flagship schemes like PM Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) and PMFME, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries offers capital subsidies, 35%–50% financial support for cold-chain infrastructure, food-testing labs, incubation centres, and special incentives for women-led self-help groups to promote food-processing enterprises.

189. NIFTEM-Thanjavur has signed MoUs with which of the following institutions in Karnataka to strengthen food processing education and research?

NIFTEM-तंजावुर ने खाद्य प्रसंस्करण शिक्षा और अनुसंधान को मजबूत करने के लिए कर्नाटक के निम्नलिखित में से किस संस्थान के साथ MoU पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
- (b) University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru and University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Shimoga
- (c) National Institute of Technology, Surathkal and IISc Bengaluru

(d) Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University

(e) Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore and IIT Delhi

Ans. c

Sol. NIFTEM Collaborates with Karnataka Institutions to Strengthen Food Processing and Cold Chain Infrastructure

National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) – Kundli (Haryana) and NIFTEM-Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu), under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, have partnered with institutions in Karnataka such as UAS Bengaluru, UAHS Shimoga, CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysuru, and others to strengthen academics, research, capacity building, and skill development, including short-term courses on Cold Chain Management.

Under demand-driven components like Agro Processing Clusters (APC) and Integrated Cold Chain & Value Addition of PMKSY, proposals are invited from across the country, including Bengaluru and Dakshina Kannada, to enhance post-harvest infrastructure, increase shelf life, generate employment, and improve farmers' incomes.

Third-party evaluation has endorsed the effectiveness of Cold Chain and APC schemes and recommended their continuation; all entities including farmers and FPOs are eligible, with one approved project in the Bengaluru region already benefiting around 600 farmers.

190. Which Indian player from Punjab was awarded Rs 11 lakhs by the Punjab government for winning the 2025 Women's World Cup?

2025 महिला विश्व कप जीतने के लिए पंजाब सरकार द्वारा पंजाब की किस भारतीय खिलाड़ी को 11 लाख रुपये का पुरस्कार दिया गया?

- (a) Smriti Mandhana
- (b) Harmanpreet Kaur
- (c) Jemimah Rodrigues
- (d) Deepti Sharma
- (e) None of above

Ans. b

Sol. Punjab CM Felicitates 2025 Women's World Cup-Winning Players and Inaugurates Stadium Stands

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann felicitated the members of the 2025 ICC Women's World Cup-winning Team India from Punjab, including skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, Harleen Deol, and Amanjot Kaur, ahead of the second T20I against South Africa.

Monetary rewards were given to the players and coaching staff: Rs 11 lakhs each to Harmanpreet Kaur, Harleen Deol, and Amanjot Kaur, and Rs 5 lakhs to Indian fielding coach Munish Bali.

Stadium stands were inaugurated in honour of cricket legends, naming one after World Cup-winning skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and another after 2011 World Cup-winning all-rounder Yuvraj Singh at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium.

191. **Which bank, recognised for its strong financial performance, technology-driven initiatives, and strategic investment focus, was named Global Bank of the Year 2025 by The Banker, part of the Financial Times Group?**

मज़बूत फाइनेंशियल परफॉर्मेंस, टेक्नोलॉजी-ड्रिवन पहलों और स्ट्रॉटेजिक इन्वेस्टमेंट फोकस के लिए पहचाने जाने वाले किस बैंक को फाइनेंशियल टाइम्स ग्रुप के हिस्से द बैंकर ने ग्लोबल बैंक ऑफ द ईयर 2025 का नाम दिया?

- (a) HSBC
- (b) DBS
- (c) Standard Chartered
- (d) Citibank
- (e) Bank of Singapore

Ans. b

Sol. DBS Named Global Bank of the Year 2025 by The Banker

DBS, the Singapore-based lender, was recognised by The Banker, part of the Financial Times Group, as Global Bank of the Year 2025, marking its third win in this category after 2018 and 2021.

The bank also secured multiple awards, including Asia Bank of the Year, Singapore Bank of the Year, Investment Bank of the Year – Asia, and Investment Bank of the Year for Financial Institutions Group, chosen from 294 global banks.

DBS crossed \$100 billion in market capitalisation in 2024, becoming the first Singapore-listed company to achieve this milestone, and reported 11% growth in net profit and Tier-1 capital for FY24, with a return on equity of 18% and a cost-to-income ratio of 39.9%.

About Development Bank of Singapore (DBS) Bank

- **Founded** - 1968
- **Headquarters** - Singapore
- **DBS Bank India's CEO** - Rajat Verma (replace Surojit Shome)

192. **Which company has launched a multi-currency travel card in India to reduce hidden forex fees?**

किस कंपनी ने भारत में छिपे हुए विदेशी मुद्रा शुल्क कम करने के लिए मल्टी-करेंसी ट्रैवल कार्ड लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Paytm
- (b) Wise
- (c) HDFC Bank
- (d) ICICI Bank
- (e) SBI

Ans. b

Sol. Wise Enters Indian Market with Multi-Currency Travel Card to Cut Hidden Forex Fees

Global money movement company Wise introduced its multi-currency travel card in India, targeting the growing outbound travel market, which saw 3.89 crore departures in 2024 and an increase in overseas spending to an average of \$17 billion annually.

Unlike traditional forex cards that charge 2–4% conversion margins, Wise uses the mid-market exchange rate with a transparent conversion fee, potentially saving thousands on transactions.

The card supports 40+ currencies, offers instant digital onboarding via DigiLocker and video KYC, allows online and ATM use globally (Visa network in 160+ countries), and comes with free ATM withdrawals up to \$200/month and no annual or inactivity fees.

193. Researchers at NIT Rourkela have developed a low-cost social robot capable of holding real-time, human-like conversations by understanding natural language, emotions and verbal commands. Which advanced technology mainly enables this conversational ability?

NIT राउरकेला के शोधकर्ताओं द्वारा विकसित कम लागत वाला सोशल रोबोट प्राकृतिक भाषा, भावनाओं और मौखिक निर्देशों को समझकर रियल-टाइम में मानव-जैसी बातचीत करने में सक्षम है। यह क्षमता मुख्य रूप से किस उन्नत तकनीक से संभव होती है?

- (a) Rule-based automation
- (b) Internet of Things (IoT)
- (c) Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models
- (d) Robotics Process Automation
- (e) Augmented Reality

Ans. c

Sol. NIT Rourkela Develops Low-Cost AI-Powered Social Robot for Homes, Schools and Hospitals

Researchers at NIT Rourkela have developed a low-cost social robot (₹80,000–90,000) that uses AI and Large Language Models (LLMs) to enable human-like interaction through speech, gestures, facial-expression recognition and real-time conversation.

Unlike pre-programmed machines, the robot can understand everyday language, follow verbal instructions, recognise emotions and gestures, and respond empathetically, making it suitable for homes, classrooms, hospitals and community spaces.

The system uses Raspberry Pi for voice/text processing, Google Text-to-Speech for natural speech output, and a wheel-based mobility platform with obstacle detection, allowing safe operation in crowded indoor environments.

The research, published in an Elsevier journal, aligns with Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat, with future plans including pilot testing, user feedback collection and industry collaboration to support large-scale adoption in India.

194. Which company has announced an investment of \$35 billion in India by 2030 to expand its retail operations, cloud services and AI infrastructure?

किस कंपनी ने रिटेल, क्लाउड सेवाओं और AI इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर के विस्तार के लिए 2030 तक भारत में \$35 बिलियन के निवेश की घोषणा की है?

- (a) Microsoft
- (b) Google
- (c) Apple
- (d) Meta Platforms

(e) Amazon Inc.

Ans. e

Sol. Amazon Announces \$35 Billion Investment in India by 2030

Amazon announced a \$35 billion investment in India by 2030 at the Smbhav Summit 2025, with funds spread across its retail operations, cloud services and AI arm (AWS), reinforcing its long-term commitment to the Indian market.

The investment comes amid a broader push by global tech firms to scale AI and data centre infrastructure, following Microsoft's \$17.5 billion commitment, and as Amazon explores growth in quick-commerce, competing with BlinkIt, Zepto and Swiggy.

The investment will support AI expansion, logistics infrastructure, small businesses and exports, and is expected to create 3.8 million direct and indirect jobs in India by 2030, aligning with national development priorities.

195. Which country has become the first in the world to ban social media for children under the age of 16?

कौन-सा देश 16 वर्ष से कम उम्र के बच्चों के लिए सोशल मीडिया पर प्रतिबंध लगाने वाला दुनिया का पहला देश बन गया है?

- (a) Canada
- (b) United Kingdom
- (c) Australia
- (d) New Zealand
- (e) Denmark

Ans. c

Sol. Australia Becomes First Country to Ban Social Media for Children Under 16

Australia has become the first country to ban social media access for children under 16, effective December 10, 2025, blocking platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, Instagram and Facebook, with companies facing heavy fines for non-compliance.

Under the new law, major platforms must enforce age restrictions or face penalties of up to A\$49.5 million, a move welcomed by parents and child advocates but criticised by tech companies and free-speech groups.

The ban is a step to protect children from online harms and reclaim control from big tech, positioning Australia as a global test case that other countries may study or follow.

About Australia

- ***Capital - Canberra***
- ***Currency - Dollar***
- ***President - Anthony Albanese***

196. Which country has launched the “Gold Card” visa scheme, offering fast-tracked residency to wealthy foreigners in return for a minimum payment of \$1 million?

किस देश ने अमीर विदेशियों को न्यूनतम \$1 मिलियन के भुगतान पर फास्ट-ट्रैक निवास देने के लिए “गोल्ड कार्ड” वीज़ा योजना शुरू की है?

- (a) Canada
- (b) USA
- (c) China
- (d) Australia
- (e) Russia

Ans. b

Sol. Trump Launches 'Gold Card' Visa Offering Fast-Track US Residency for \$1 Million Investors

US President Donald Trump has launched the "Trump Gold Card" scheme, offering fast-tracked US visas to wealthy foreigners who can pay at least \$1 million, promising a direct and expedited path to residency and eventual citizenship for vetted applicants. The scheme requires applicants to demonstrate a "substantial benefit" to the United States, with higher tiers including a \$2 million employer-sponsored option and a forthcoming \$5 million "platinum" card offering special tax benefits, alongside additional processing fees.

The move comes amid a broader immigration crackdown, including higher visa fees, deportations and pauses on asylum and certain country-based applications, and has drawn criticism for favouring wealthy individuals over broader immigration pathways.

197. Who has been awarded the UN Environment Programme's 2025 Champions of the Earth Award for outstanding climate action?

ਤਕਣੀ ਜਲਵਾਯੂ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਕੇ ਲਿਏ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਰਾਣ੍ਹ ਪਰਿਵਰਣ ਕਾਰਘਕਮ ਕੇ 2025 ਚੈਪਿਯੰਸ ਑ਫ ਦ ਅਥ ਅਵਾਰਡ ਸੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਸਮਾਨਿਤ ਕਿਯਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ?

- (a) Sunita Narain
- (b) Supriya Sahu
- (c) Vandana Shiva
- (d) Parul Tyagi
- (e) Ramesh Pokhriyal

Ans. b

Sol. Supriya Sahu Wins UNEP 2025 Champions of the Earth Award for Climate Leadership in Tamil Nadu

Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Tamil Nadu, has been awarded the UN Environment Programme's 2025 Champions of the Earth for her outstanding contributions to climate action.

She has positioned Tamil Nadu as a global leader in climate mitigation, adaptation, and heat resilience through integrated governance and innovative initiatives over the past four years.

Her work demonstrates how nature-based solutions combined with low- and high-tech interventions can protect vulnerable communities while effectively reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Recent Awards

- **PETA India's 2025 Person of the Year for Wildlife and Animal Advocacy -**
Raveena Tandon

- **Global Humanitarian Award for Animal Welfare - Anant Ambani**
- **TIME's 2025 CEO of the Year for Shaping Global Digital Culture - Neal Mohan**
- **1st FIFA Peace Prize - Donald Trump**
- **Rum Brand of the Year Award 2025 - Camikara Rum (India)**
- **Miss Universe 2025 crown - Miss Fatima Bosch (Mexico)**

198. On which date is National Horse Day observed every year?

राष्ट्रीय अश्व दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 12 December
- (b) 13 December
- (c) 14 December
- (d) 15 December
- (e) 16 December

Ans. b

Sol. 13 December - National Horse Day

National Horse Day is observed on 13 December every year to celebrate the contributions of horses in human history, culture, and transportation.

The day highlights the importance of horses in agriculture, sports, policing, and recreational activities across the world.

199. National Energy Conservation Day is observed on 14 December every year to raise awareness about the importance of saving energy and promoting sustainable energy use. What is the theme of National Energy Conservation Day 2025?

हर साल 14 दिसंबर को ऊर्जा बचाने के महत्व के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने और सस्तेनेबल ऊर्जा के इस्तेमाल को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा संरक्षण दिवस मनाया जाता है। राष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा संरक्षण दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Renewable Energy for All
- (b) Saving Energy, Securing Future
- (c) Energy Efficiency Matters
- (d) Powering India
- (e) Sustainable Energy Solutions

Ans. b

Sol. 14 December - National Energy Conservation Day

National Energy Conservation Day is observed on 14 December every year to raise awareness about the importance of saving energy and promoting sustainable energy use.

Theme 2025 - Saving Energy, Securing Future

The day emphasizes efficient use of electricity, fuel, and other energy resources to reduce wastage and environmental impact.

200. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025, proposing to allow 100% foreign direct investment

(FDI) in the insurance sector, subject to the condition that the entire premium is invested within India. The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025 proposes to replace which of the following Acts?

आर्थिक मामलों की कैबिनेट समिति (सीसीईए) ने बीमा कानून (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025 को मंजूरी दे दी, जिसमें बीमा क्षेत्र में 100% प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (एफडीआई) की अनुमति देने का प्रस्ताव है, बशर्ते कि पूरा प्रीमियम भारत के भीतर निवेश किया जाए। बीमा कानून (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025 निम्नलिखित में से किस अधिनियम को प्रतिस्थापित करने का प्रस्ताव करता है?

- (a) Insurance Act, 1938
- (b) LIC Act, 1956
- (c) IRDAI Act, 1999
- (d) All of the above
- (e) Both a and c

Ans. d

Sol. CCEA Clears Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill 2025 to Allow 100% FDI in Insurance Sector

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025, proposing to allow 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in the insurance sector, subject to the condition that the entire premium is invested within India.

The Bill, to be introduced as "Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha", will replace the Insurance Act, 1938, LIC Act, 1956, and IRDAI Act, 1999, and will also permit insurers to operate under a composite licence covering life, general, and health insurance.

The legislation is expected to be tabled in the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament (ending December 19) and is among the 13 bills aimed at improving insurance penetration, sectoral growth, and ease of doing business.

India's insurance penetration declined to 3.7% of GDP in 2023–24 from 4% a year earlier, with life insurance at 2.8% and non-life insurance steady at 1%, highlighting the need for sectoral reforms.

The government has stressed strong guardrails to protect policyholders' interests, ensuring that investments and profits remain in India, while projecting the insurance sector to grow at 7.1% annually over the next five years, faster than global averages.

201. The government is likely to introduce an amendment Bill in the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament to rename MGNREGA as "Pujya Bapu Gramin Rozgar Yojana", with the proposal reportedly cleared by the Union Cabinet. According to the government's proposal, the guaranteed employment under the scheme may be increased to:

सरकार संसद के चल रहे शीतकालीन सत्र में MGNREGA का नाम बदलकर "पूज्य बापू ग्रामीण रोज़गार योजना" करने के लिए एक संशोधन बिल पेश कर सकती है, इस प्रस्ताव को कथित तौर पर केंद्रीय कैबिनेट ने मंजूरी दे दी है। सरकार के प्रस्ताव के अनुसार, इस योजना के तहत गारंटीड रोज़गार को बढ़ाकर किया जा सकता है:

- (a) 110 days
- (b) 115 days

- (c) 120 days
- (d) 125 days
- (e) 150 days

Ans. d

Sol. Government Likely to Rename MGNREGA as 'Pujya Bapu Gramin Rozgar Yojana', Proposes Key Reforms

The government is likely to introduce an amendment Bill in the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament to rename MGNREGA as "Pujya Bapu Gramin Rozgar Yojana", with the proposal reportedly cleared by the Union Cabinet.

The amended Bill may also propose increasing the guaranteed employment days from 100 to 125 days per household, even as the average employment provided over the last five years has been about 50.35 days per household.

The amendments are expected to factor in the recommendations of the Amarjeet Sinha-led review panel, including possible exclusionary clauses based on State-level economic indicators and addressing inter-State disparities in scheme expenditure.

The government may further revise the funding pattern and introduce stronger compliance checks, particularly to prevent Centre-State fund-related disputes, such as the prolonged standoff with West Bengal over scheme implementation.

202. The central government has recently approved a comprehensive development scheme for Makhana, aimed at improving research and innovation, quality seed production, farmer training, harvesting, post-harvest practices, value addition, branding, marketing, and export promotion. What is the total financial outlay approved for this scheme for the period 2025-26 to 2030-31?

केंद्र सरकार ने हाल ही में मखाना के समग्र विकास के लिए एक योजना को मंजूरी दी है, जिसका उद्देश्य अनुसंधान और नवाचार, गुणवत्ता बीज उत्पादन, किसान प्रशिक्षण, कटाई और पश्चात-फसल प्रक्रियाएँ, मूल्य संवर्धन, ब्रांडिंग, विपणन और निर्यात संबद्धन को बढ़ावा देना है। 2025-26 से 2030-31 तक इस योजना के लिए कुल स्वीकृत वित्तीय आवंटन कितना है?

- (a) ₹350 crore
- (b) ₹425 crore
- (c) ₹456 crore
- (d) ₹476 crore
- (e) ₹500 crore

Ans. d

Sol. Centre Approves ₹476.03 Crore Scheme for Makhana Development

The Centre has approved a ₹476.03 crore scheme for the development of Makhana for the period 2025-26 to 2030-31, focusing on research and innovation, quality seed production, farmer training, improved harvesting, value addition, branding, marketing, exports, and quality control.

The first meeting of the National Makhana Board, chaired by Devesh Chaturvedi, Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, was held at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi, marking the start of implementation of the Board and the Central Sector Scheme.

The Board reviewed Annual Action Plans of States and research institutions, allocated budgets for holistic sector development, and stressed consolidating seed requirements to be supplied by SAU Sabour and CAU Samastipur, Bihar, for the current and next year.

203. What is the Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) milling copra for the 2026 season?

2026 सत्र के लिए Fair Average Quality (FAQ) मिलिंग कॉपरा का न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (MSP) कितनी राशि तय की गई है?

- (a) ₹11,500 per quintal
- (b) ₹12,027 per quintal
- (c) ₹12,505 per quintal
- (d) ₹12,750 per quintal
- (e) ₹13,000 per quintal

Ans. b

Sol. Union Cabinet Approves MSP for Copra 2026

The Union Cabinet has approved the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for copra for the 2026 season, with ₹12,027 per quintal for milling copra and ₹12,500 per quintal for ball copra, marking an increase of ₹445 and ₹400 per quintal respectively compared to the previous season.

Since 2014, the MSP for milling copra has increased by 129% and for ball copra by 127%, reflecting the government's effort to provide better income support and financial stability to coconut farmers.

The revised MSP aims to encourage higher copra production, protect farmers from market volatility, and allow them to benefit from growing domestic and international demand for coconut-based products.

204. Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav 2025 was organised in New Delhi to mark the birth anniversary of Mahakavi Subramania Bharati. What was the theme of Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav 2025?

महाकवि सुब्रमण्यम भारती की जयंती मनाने के लिए नई दिल्ली में भारतीय भाषा उत्सव 2025 का आयोजन किया गया। भारतीय भाषा उत्सव 2025 का विषय क्या था?

- (a) One Language, Many Cultures
- (b) Many Languages, One Emotion
- (c) Language and Unity
- (d) Tribal Voices of India
- (e) Celebrating Hindi

Ans. b

Sol. Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav 2025 Celebrates India's Linguistic Diversity with Tribal Language Showcase and Cultural Performances

Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav 2025 was organised in New Delhi to mark the birth anniversary of Mahakavi Subramania Bharati, celebrating India's rich linguistic diversity under the theme "Many Languages, One Emotion."

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs showcased the cultural significance of tribal languages through a stall featuring publications from Tribal Research Institutes of Jharkhand,

Odisha, and Gujarat, along with a live demonstration of the Adi Vaani app for real-time translation between Hindi/English and tribal languages.

The event featured vibrant cultural performances from schools across India, highlighting the nation's linguistic and cultural diversity.

205. Who introduced the MahaCrimeOS AI platform to accelerate cybercrime investigations in Maharashtra?

महाराष्ट्र में साइबर अपराध जांच में तेजी लाने के लिए महाक्राइमओएस एआई प्लेटफॉर्म किसने पेश किया?

- (a) Sundar Pichai
- (b) Satya Nadella
- (c) Mark Zuckerberg
- (d) Arvind Krishna
- (e) Elon Musk

Ans. b

Sol. Microsoft Unveils MahaCrimeOS AI to Accelerate Cybercrime Investigations in Maharashtra

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella unveiled MahaCrimeOS, an AI-powered platform designed to accelerate cybercrime investigations, during the AI Tour in Mumbai, which was developed in collaboration with the Maharashtra Government's MARVEL.

The platform aims to augment police efficiency, reducing investigation turnaround time by up to 80%, enabling features such as instant case creation, multilingual data extraction, contextual legal assistance, and integration with India's criminal laws and open-source intelligence.

Initially deployed in 23 police stations in Nagpur, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis proposed expanding MahaCrimeOS to 1,100 stations, highlighting its potential to address complex cybercrime challenges across the State.

206. NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has partnered with which company to launch a nationwide start-up acceleration programme for the circular economy?

परिपत्र अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए राष्ट्रव्यापी स्टार्ट-अप एक्सेलेरेशन कार्यक्रम शुरू करने हेतु NITI Aayog के Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) ने किस कंपनी के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Tata Group
- (b) Reliance Industries
- (c) Hindustan Unilever Limited
- (d) ITC Limited
- (e) Adani Group

Ans. c

Sol. NITI Aayog's AIM Partners with HUL to Launch Nationwide Start-up Accelerator for Circular Economy Solutions

NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has partnered with Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) under Project Circular Bharat to launch a start-up acceleration programme that will support 50 high-potential start-ups over three years, focusing on

plastic recycling, reuse and refill models, next-generation packaging, and material recovery from textiles and e-waste.

Selected start-ups will receive mentorship from industry leaders, policy experts, and investors, along with access to grant funding and pilot projects to test and scale their solutions in real market conditions, strengthening innovation in post-consumer waste management.

The partnership combines AIM–NITI Aayog's policy and innovation expertise, HUL's industry network, and Xynteo's strategic guidance, aligning with the Prime Minister's vision of sustainable development and aiming to reduce waste, boost recycling, and build green industries for a resource-efficient India.

207. The Ministry of MSME signed an MoU with which company to support Vishwakarma artisans through digital marketplaces?

विष्वकर्मा कारीगरों को डिजिटल मार्केटप्लेस के माध्यम से समर्थन देने हेतु MSME मंत्रालय ने किस कंपनी के साथ MoU पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Amazon
- (b) Meesho
- (c) Flipkart
- (d) Snapdeal
- (e) JioMart

Ans. c

Sol. MSME Ministry Signs MoU with Amazon to Digitally Empower Vishwakarma Artisans through E-Commerce

The Ministry of MSME has signed an MoU with Amazon to support Vishwakarma artisans, enabling them to access digital marketplaces and modern e-commerce tools to expand their reach.

Under Amazon's Karigar initiative, Vishwakarma community artisans will be onboarded onto Amazon's platform to showcase and sell their products to national and global markets, improving product visibility and income opportunities.

The programme will provide training in online selling, product listing, branding, logistics, and digital payments, aligning with the government's vision of empowering traditional artisans, strengthening the MSME ecosystem, and digitising the artisan economy.

208. IndusInd Bank launched its first fuel-linked co-branded credit card in partnership with which company?

IndusInd Bank ने अपना पहला प्यूल-लिंक्ड को-ब्रांडेड क्रेडिट कार्ड किस कंपनी के साथ साझेदारी में लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Indian Oil
- (b) Bharat Petroleum
- (c) Reliance Retail
- (d) Jio-bp
- (e) HPCL

Ans. d

Sol. IndusInd Bank Launches RuPay-Powered Co-Branded 'Jio-bp Mobility+' Fuel Credit Card

IndusInd Bank has launched its first fuel-linked co-branded credit card in partnership with Jio-bp, marking Jio-bp's first such collaboration; the card is called 'IndusInd Bank Jio-bp Mobility+' and is powered by RuPay.

The card offers 12 reward points per ₹100 spent at Jio-bp Mobility Stations and convenience stores, 400 bonus points on the first fuel transaction within 30 days, and 200 bonus points per month on fuel spends of ₹4,000, along with rewards on supermarket, dining, and grocery spends.

Cardholders can earn up to 60 litres of free fuel annually, enjoy milestone benefits and a joining fee waiver on ₹10,000 spend in the first month, with applications available at select Jio-bp outlets and digital channels.

209. Dinesh Khatak, Haryana, has been awarded the Union Home Minister's Efficiency Medal for exemplary service, recognising his leadership, operational excellence, and sustained contribution to national security. Dinesh Khatak, who was awarded the Union Home Minister's Efficiency Medal, is an officer of which force?

हरियाणा के दिनेश खटक को उनकी लीडरशिप, ऑपरेशनल एक्सीलेंस और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा में लगातार योगदान के लिए बेहतरीन सेवा के लिए केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री का दक्षता पदक दिया गया है। दिनेश खटक, जिन्हें केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री का दक्षता पदक मिला है, वे किस फोर्स के अधिकारी हैं?

- (a) Border Security Force (BSF)
- (b) Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- (c) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- (d) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- (e) Assam Rifles

Ans. d

Sol. CRPF Officer Dinesh Khatak Awarded Union Home Minister's Efficiency Medal for Exemplary Service

Dinesh Khatak, a senior CRPF officer from Jind, Haryana, has been awarded the Union Home Minister's Efficiency Medal for exemplary service, recognising his leadership, operational excellence, and sustained contribution to national security.

An officer since 2005 after clearing UPSC, Khatak served multiple tenures in Jammu and Kashmir (2008–2013 and 2017–2021), handling critical responsibilities including Amarnath Yatra security, law and order duties, operations during Article 370 abrogation, and the COVID-19 period.

210. The SHANTI Bill, which was recently in the news and approved by the Union Cabinet, is related to which of the following sectors?

SHANTI बिल, जो हाल ही में खबरों में था और जिसे केंद्रीय कैबिनेट ने मंजूरी दी है, निम्नलिखित में से किस सेक्टर से संबंधित है?

- (a) Coal mining sector
- (b) Renewable energy sector

- (c) Oil and gas sector
- (d) Nuclear power sector
- (e) Power transmission sector

Ans. d

Sol. Cabinet Clears SHANTI Bill To Allow Private Players In Nuclear Energy Field

The Union Cabinet has approved the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, marking a major policy shift by opening India's nuclear power sector to private participation to help achieve 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047 and strengthen energy security.

The Bill allows private companies to participate in civil nuclear power generation under strict government oversight, while strategic functions such as nuclear material production, heavy water management, and radioactive waste handling will remain under the Department of Atomic Energy.

It proposes amendments to the civil nuclear liability framework, caps supplier liability, redesigns operator insurance cover at ₹1,500 crore per incident, permits up to 49% FDI, and introduces a unified atomic energy law with a specialised nuclear tribunal to boost investor confidence.

The reforms align with India's net-zero target by 2070, positioning nuclear energy as a stable, low-carbon base-load source alongside renewables; the government has also announced a ₹20,000 crore Nuclear Energy Mission and plans to operationalise five indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) by 2033.

211. India's retail inflation in November 2025 rose to what level on a year-on-year basis?

भारत में नवंबर 2025 में खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति (Retail Inflation) सालाना आधार पर कितनी रही?

- (a) 0.25%
- (b) 0.50%
- (c) 0.71%
- (d) 1.00%
- (e) 1.40%

Ans. c

Sol. India's Retail Inflation Rises to 0.71% in November; Food Prices Remain in Deflation India's retail inflation rose to 0.71% in November on a year-on-year basis, up from a record low of 0.25% in October, with rural inflation at 0.1% and urban inflation higher at 1.4%.

Food inflation remained in deflation for the sixth consecutive month, easing to -3.91% in November compared to -5% in October; rural food deflation stood at 4.05% and urban food deflation moderated to 3.6%.

According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, movements in headline and food inflation were mainly driven by price changes in vegetables, eggs, meat and fish, spices, and fuel and light.

Previous Months CPI-based Retail inflation

- **May 2025 - 2.84%**
- **June 2025 - 2.10%**
- **July 2025 - 1.61%**
- **August 2025 - 2.07%**
- **September 2025 - 1.44%**
- **October 2025 - 0.25%**

212. Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director and CEO of PNB Housing Finance?

पीएनबी हाउसिंग फाइनेंस के नए प्रबंध निदेशक और सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Girish Kousgi
- (b) Ajai Kumar Shukla
- (c) Parul Tyagi
- (d) Atul Kumar Goel
- (e) Rajiv Sabharwal

Ans. b

Sol. PNB Housing Finance Appoints Ajai Kumar Shukla as MD & CEO

PNB Housing Finance appointed Ajai Kumar Shukla as Managing Director and CEO for a five-year term starting December 18.

Shukla brings over three decades of experience in housing and mortgage lending and will succeed Girish Kousgi, who played a key role in expanding the lender's affordable housing portfolio.

The leadership change comes amid rising competition from banks in premium home loans, while affordable housing remains an attractive, higher-yield segment with relatively limited competition.

Recent Appointments in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **CEO of Bank of America India** - Vikram Sahu (replace Kaku Nakhatre)
- **Managing Director of LIC** - Ramakrishnan Chander (till 30 Sep 2027)
- **ED of Union Bank of India** - Amresh Prasad
- **ED of Central Bank of India** - E. Ratan Kumar
- **ED of Bank of India** - Pramod Kumar Dwibedi

213. Who has been appointed as the National Working President of the BJP recently?

हाल ही में बीजेपी के राष्ट्रीय कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) J.P. Nadda
- (b) Rajnath Singh
- (c) Nitin Nabin
- (d) Amit Shah
- (e) Sushil Kumar Modi

Ans. c

Sol. BJP appoints Bihar minister Nitin Nabin as National Working President

The BJP Parliamentary Board has named Bihar minister and five-time MLA Nitin Nabin as the National Working President of the party with immediate effect, recognising his organisational leadership and political experience.

At 45 years old, Nitin Nabin becomes the youngest Working President in BJP history and the first leader from Bihar to hold this prestigious post. He currently represents the Bankipur Assembly constituency and holds the Road Construction portfolio in the Nitish Kumar-led Bihar government.

With nearly two decades of political and organisational experience, Nitin Nabin has served as Bihar President of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) and as the BJP's election in-charge for Chhattisgarh, demonstrating strong leadership and strategic capabilities within the party.

214. The “Craftkatha – 2025” exhibition, showcasing artisans and diverse craft traditions from across India, was organised as part of the National Handicrafts and Heritage Week 2025 in New Delhi. Who inaugurated this important national-level exhibition in New Delhi?

भारत भर के कारीगरों और विविध शिल्प परंपराओं को प्रदर्शित करने वाली "शिल्पकथा - 2025" प्रदर्शनी, नई दिल्ली में राष्ट्रीय हस्तशिल्प और विरासत सप्ताह 2025 के हिस्से के रूप में आयोजित की गई थी। नई दिल्ली में इस महत्वपूर्ण राष्ट्रीय स्तर की प्रदर्शनी का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

- (a) Giriraj Singh
- (b) Smriti Irani
- (c) Sudha Murty
- (d) Nitin Gadkari
- (e) Amit Shah

Ans. c

Sol. Sudha Murty Inaugurates 'Craftkatha 2025' to Celebrate India's Handicraft Heritage
Rajya Sabha MP Sudha Murty inaugurated the "Craftkatha – 2025" exhibition in New Delhi, showcasing artisans from across India as part of National Handicrafts and Heritage Week 2025.

The exhibition aims to celebrate India's artistic heritage, support sustainable livelihoods, encourage young artisans, and strengthen grassroots craft ecosystems. Organised in collaboration with the National Handloom Development Corporation and All India Artisans and Craft Workers Welfare Association, the event brings together master artisans, diverse craft traditions, and handmade products.

215. To strengthen financial inclusion and expand access to mutual fund products in rural, semi-urban, and underserved areas of India, BSE, Asia's oldest stock exchange, partnered with a government organisation under the Ministry of Communications to leverage its extensive network of over 1.64 lakh post offices. Which two organisations signed this MoU?

भारत के ग्रामीण, अर्ध-शहरी और कम सुविधा वाले इलाकों में फाइनेंशियल इंक्लूजन को मजबूत करने और म्यूचुअल फंड प्रोडक्ट्स तक पहुंच बढ़ाने के लिए, एशिया के सबसे पुराने स्टॉक एक्सचेंज BSE ने संचार मंत्रालय के तहत एक सरकारी संगठन के साथ साझेदारी की ताकि उसके 1.64 लाख से ज्यादा पोस्ट ऑफिस के बड़े नेटवर्क का इस्तेमाल किया जा सके। किन दो संगठनों ने इस MoU पर साइन किए?

- (a) National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
- (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and State Bank of India (SBI)
- (c) BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) and Department of Posts (India Post)
- (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and India Post
- (e) ICICI Bank and BSE

Ans. c

Sol. BSE Partners with India Post to Expand Mutual Fund Access Across Rural and Underserved India

BSE, Asia's oldest stock exchange, has signed an MoU with the Department of Posts to expand mutual fund access across India through India Post's network of over 1.64 lakh post offices, targeting rural, semi-urban, and underserved areas.

BSE's StAR MF platform, which handles over 85% of exchange-based mutual fund transactions, will be integrated with India Post's network. Selected postal employees and agents will be trained as certified mutual fund distributors to offer products and services via the platform.

The MoU is valid for three years from December 12, 2025, with renewal options. The initiative aims to boost mutual fund penetration, increase investor confidence in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, and promote financial inclusion and literacy across the country.

216. **Where in Meghalaya was the Soil Lake recently inaugurated under the Nengsang River Valley Project?**

मेघालय में नेनसेंग नदी घाटी परियोजना के तहत हाल ही में सॉइल लेक का उद्घाटन कहाँ किया गया था?

- (a) Tura
- (b) Shillong
- (c) Williamnagar
- (d) Jowai
- (e) Nongpoh

Ans. c

Sol. Meghalaya Inaugurates Soil Lake at Williamnagar to Boost Water Conservation and Eco-Tourism

Meghalaya inaugurated Soil Lake at Williamnagar under the Nengsang River Valley Project, aiming to rejuvenate a critical waterbody, promote eco-tourism, and enhance the region's ecological resilience amid climate challenges.

The project focuses on soil and water conservation, restoring natural water systems that support both human livelihoods and biodiversity, while improving the town's landscape and tourism potential.

The state faces climate change challenges, including erratic rainfall, soil erosion, and declining spring discharge, with over 40% of villages reporting reduced water availability, prompting the formation of the Meghalaya Climate Change Council for long-term climate action.

217. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has recently approved a proposal to establish India's first dedicated autonomous maritime shipyard and systems development centre at Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour in Nellore district, aimed at positioning the state as a hub for next-generation maritime and autonomous systems. Which company has received approval to establish India's first dedicated autonomous maritime shipyard in Andhra Pradesh?

आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार ने हाल ही में नेल्लोर जिले के जुव्वालादिन्ने फिशिंग हार्बर में भारत का पहला डेडिकेटेड ऑटोनॉमस मैरीटाइम शिप्यार्ड और सिस्टम डेवलपमेंट सेंटर स्थापित करने के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दी है, जिसका मक्कसद राज्य को अगली पीढ़ी के समुद्री और ऑटोनॉमस सिस्टम के हब के रूप में स्थापित करना है। किस कंपनी को आंध्र प्रदेश में भारत का पहला डेडिकेटेड ऑटोनॉमस मैरीटाइम शिप्यार्ड बनाने की मंजूरी मिली है?

- (a) Larsen & Toubro
- (b) Reliance Defence
- (c) Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt Ltd
- (d) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- (e) Garden Reach Shipbuilders

Ans. c

Sol. Andhra Pradesh to Host India's First Dedicated Autonomous Maritime Shipyard in Nellore

The Andhra Pradesh government has approved Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt Ltd's proposal to establish India's first dedicated autonomous maritime shipyard and systems development centre at Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour, Nellore district, focusing on next-generation maritime and autonomous systems.

The facility will specialise in autonomous and unmanned maritime platforms, including surface and underwater vessels, along with intelligent maritime systems and command-and-control technologies, generating around 750 jobs (300 direct, 450 indirect).

Over 29 acres of land have been allotted on a lease basis, including 7 acres of waterfront and 22 acres of harbour land, with construction beginning in December 2025, machinery installation by June 2026, trial production in October 2026, and commercial operations starting November 2026.

218. Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI)?

स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया (SBI) के नए मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Vinay M Tonse
- (b) Rajnish Kumar
- (c) Ravi Ranjan
- (d) Arundhati Bhattacharya
- (e) Dinesh Kumar Khara

Ans. c

Sol. Ravi Ranjan Assumes Charge as New Managing Director of State Bank of India

Ravi Ranjan has been appointed as the new Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI), succeeding Vinay M Tonse, who completed his term on 30 November 2025.

Prior to this appointment, Ranjan served as the Deputy Managing Director at SBI and assumed charge following the government's notification.

His tenure as MD is approved until his superannuation on 30 September 2028, or until further orders, with the SBI board headed by the Chairman and supported by four managing directors.

About State Bank of India (SBI)

- **Founded** - 1 July 1955
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman** - Challa Sreenivasulu Setty; 27th (replace Dinesh Kumar Khara)
- **Tagline** - (1) Pure Banking Nothing Else
 - (2) With you all the way
 - (3) A bank of the common man
 - (4) The banker to every Indian
 - (5) The Nation banks on us

219. How much money was released to Rural Local Bodies in Kerala as the first instalment of XV Finance Commission grants for FY 2025-26?

वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 के लिए XV वित्त आयोग अनुदान की पहली किस्त के तौर पर केरल में ग्रामीण स्थानीय निकायों को कितना पैसा जारी किया गया?

- (a) ₹260.20 crore
- (b) ₹220.75 crore
- (c) ₹200.50 crore
- (d) ₹275.30 crore
- (e) ₹300 crore

Ans. a

Sol. Kerala's Rural Local Bodies Receive Over ₹260 Crore First Instalment of XV Finance Commission Grants

The Union Government released ₹260.20 crore to Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) in Kerala as the first instalment of XV Finance Commission grants for FY 2025-26, covering 14 District Panchayats, 152 Block Panchayats, and 941 Gram Panchayats.

The grants, recommended by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Ministry of Jal Shakti, are released in two installments by the Ministry of Finance during the financial year.

Untied Grants are intended for location-specific development needs under the 29 subjects of the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, excluding salaries and establishment expenses.

220. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) handed over a dividend cheque of over how much to the Government of India for FY 2024-25?

भारत हेवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स लिमिटेड (BHEL) ने वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए भारत सरकार को कितने से ज्यादा का डिविडेंड चेक सौंपा?

- (a) Rs 95 crore
- (b) Rs 100 crore
- (c) Rs 109 crore
- (d) Rs 115 crore
- (e) Rs 120 crore

Ans. c

Sol. BHEL Hands Over Rs 109 Crore Dividend to Government for FY25

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) handed over a dividend cheque of over Rs 109 crore to the Government of India for FY 2024-25, marking a 100% increase compared to FY 2023-24.

BHEL reported a net profit of Rs 375 crore in Q2 FY26, recovering from a net loss of Rs 455.5 crore in Q1 FY26, reflecting a year-on-year increase of over 250% from Rs 106.15 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year.

Other Mini-Ratna companies, including NSIC (Rs 43.89 crore) and HLL Lifecare Ltd. (Rs 69.53 crore), also handed over dividends to the Government for FY25, supporting initiatives like 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India'.

221. The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently signed agreements for a total of five loans amounting to over \$2.2 billion.

These loans aim to support multiple development projects across sectors such as skill development, rooftop solar deployment, healthcare infrastructure, metro rail expansion, and ecotourism promotion in different states. What is the total value of the loans signed?

भारत सरकार और एशियन डेवलपमेंट बैंक (ADB) ने हाल ही में कुल पाँच लोन के लिए एग्रीमेंट साइन किए हैं, जिनकी कुल रकम \$2.2 बिलियन से ज्यादा है। इन लोन का मकसद अलग-अलग राज्यों में स्किल डेवलपमेंट, रूफटॉप सोलर लगाने, हेल्थकेयर इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर, मेट्रो रेल के विस्तार और इकोटूरिज्म को बढ़ावा देने जैसे सेक्टर में कई डेवलपमेंट प्रोजेक्ट को सपोर्ट करना है। साइन किए गए लोन की कुल वैल्यू कितनी है?

- (a) \$1.5 billion
- (b) \$2.0 billion
- (c) \$2.2 billion
- (d) \$2.5 billion
- (e) \$3.0 billion

Ans. c

Sol. India and ADB Sign \$2.2 Billion Loans to Boost Skilling, Solar, Healthcare, Metro, and Ecotourism Projects

India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed agreements for five loans totaling over \$2.2 billion to support key development projects across the country. The financing will fund initiatives under national flagship programmes, including Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation, rooftop solar deployment, healthcare, metro development, and ecotourism promotion across three states. Key projects include: \$846 million for ITI modernisation and skill development, \$650 million for rooftop solar systems, \$398.8 million for Assam's tertiary healthcare, \$240 million for Chennai Metro Rail, and \$77 million for ecotourism and sustainable livelihoods in Meghalaya.

The skill development programme aims to modernize 650 ITIs across 12 states, upgrade 5 National Skill Training Institutes into centres of excellence, and provide demand-driven courses in high-growth sectors such as renewable energy, electric mobility, and advanced manufacturing, benefiting at least 1.3 million youth.

222. Who chaired the second meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on AYUSH in New Delhi?

नई दिल्ली में आयुष पर संसदीय सलाहकार समिति की दूसरी बैठक की अध्यक्षता किसने की?

- (a) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- (b) Ayush Minister Prataprao Jadhav
- (c) Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya
- (d) NITI Aayog CEO
- (e) Lok Sabha Speaker

Ans. b

Sol. Ayush Minister Prataprao Jadhav Chairs Parliamentary Committee Meeting

Ayush Minister Prataprao Jadhav chaired the second meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on AYUSH in New Delhi, emphasising the role of medicinal plant cultivation for farmer empowerment and biodiversity conservation.

The Minister highlighted the government's efforts to integrate AYUSH systems into the national healthcare framework, focusing on promoting healthy lifestyles and creating a sustainable health system.

223. The International Day Against Colonialism in All Its Forms and Manifestations is observed every year on:

सभी रूपों और अभिव्यक्तियों में उपनिवेशवाद के खिलाफ अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस हर साल कब मनाया जाता है:

- (a) 12 December
- (b) 13 December
- (c) 14 December
- (d) 15 December
- (e) 16 December

Ans. c

Sol. 14 December - International Day Against Colonialism in All Its Forms and Manifestations

International Day Against Colonialism in All Its Forms and Manifestations is observed annually on 14 December to raise awareness about the ongoing impacts of colonialism and promote decolonisation efforts worldwide.

The day highlights the importance of eradicating all forms of colonial domination, including political, economic, social, and cultural control, that continue to affect countries and communities.

It encourages global solidarity, education, and action to address historical injustices and support the rights, sovereignty, and self-determination of formerly colonized nations.

224. President Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2025 and National Painting Competition on Energy Conservation prizes in New Delhi. The National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2025 are organised by which government body to promote energy efficiency?

राष्ट्रपति श्रीमती द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने नई दिल्ली में नेशनल एनर्जी कंजर्वेशन अवार्ड्स (NECA) 2025 और एनर्जी कंजर्वेशन पर नेशनल पेंटिंग कॉम्पिटिशन के पुरस्कार प्रदान किए। नेशनल एनर्जी कंजर्वेशन अवार्ड्स (NECA) 2025 किस सरकारी संस्था द्वारा एनर्जी एफिशिएंसी को बढ़ावा देने के लिए आयोजित किए जाते हैं?

- (a) Central Electricity Authority

- (b) Bureau of Energy Efficiency
- (c) Renewable Energy Development Agency
- (d) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- (e) Power Grid Corporation of India

Ans. b

Sol. President Droupadi Murmu Presents National Energy Conservation Awards 2025 on Energy Conservation Day

President Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2025 and National Painting Competition on Energy Conservation prizes in New Delhi on 14 December 2025.

National Energy Conservation Awards 2025:

Organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power to recognize outstanding energy conservation efforts across sectors like Industry, Buildings, Transport, Institutions, Appliances, Innovation, and Professionals/Influencers.

558 applications were received; awards included 25 First Prizes, 5 Second Prizes, 26 Certificates of Merit, and 3 Certificates of Recognition for Innovation.

Key winners in Industry included Munitions India Ltd., JSW Steel, Tata Steel, Raymond Luxury Cottons, Manali Petrochemicals, Balrampur Chini Mills.

In Transport, Miyana Railway Station (MP) and DMRC East Vinod Nagar Metro Station (Delhi) won first prizes; other stations received Certificates of Merit.

Buildings & Institutions awards recognized energy-efficient government buildings, colleges, and state performance, with Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Assam, and Chandigarh topping their groups.

Appliance of the Year awards included energy-efficient products from Atomberg, LG, Haier, Crompton, Daikin, Kirloskar.

Innovation Awards went to ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India, Vedanta, Electric Loco Shed Kanpur, MOTORAMA EV Pvt. Ltd., EPVI New Technological Epoch Pvt. Ltd.

Energy Conservation Professionals, Audit Firms, and Social Media Influencers were recognized for spreading awareness and driving energy-saving initiatives.

National Painting Competition on Energy Conservation 2025:

Targeted students of 5th–10th standards, organized in School, State, and National levels; over 80 lakh students participated.

Divided into Group A (5th–7th) and Group B (8th–10th); National Level competition held on 11 December 2025 in New Delhi.

Winners received cash prizes, laptops/tablets, and opportunities for study tours within India.

Energy Conservation Initiatives:

India emphasizes emission reduction and the Renewable Consumption Obligation (RCO) requiring Designated Consumers (DISCOMs, Captive Power Plants, Open Access users) to consume a minimum portion of electricity from non-fossil sources. BEE, established in 2002 under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, drives policy, strategy, and regulation to reduce energy intensity and promote sustainable energy practices across sectors.

225. At which edition of the National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC) did Raiza Dhillon win a double gold?

नेशनल शूटिंग चैम्पियनशिप कॉम्पिटिशन (NSCC) के किस एडिशन में रायज़ा ढिल्लों ने डबल गोल्ड जीता?

- (a) 66th
- (b) 67th
- (c) 68th
- (d) 69th
- (e) 70th

Ans. c

Sol. Raiza Dhillon Clinches Double Gold at 68th National Shooting Championships Olympian Raiza Dhillon won a golden double at the 68th National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC), clinching gold medals in both Women's and Junior Women's Skeet at the Karni Singh Shooting Range, Tughlaqabad.

In the Women's Skeet final, Raiza scored 56 to take gold, finishing ahead of Yashasvi Rathore (55 – silver), while Ganemat Shekhon secured the bronze medal.

In the Junior Women's Skeet final, Raiza shot 55 to edge past Vanshika Tiwari (54 – silver), continuing her dominant performance at the championships.

226. Chhattisgarh recently designated a wetland as its first Ramsar site, located in Bilaspur district, under the Ramsar Convention. Which reservoir received this recognition, aligning with Chhattisgarh Anjor Vision 2047?

छत्तीसगढ़ ने हाल ही में रामसर कन्वेंशन के तहत बिलासपुर जिले में स्थित एक वेटलैंड को अपनी पहली रामसर साइट घोषित किया है। छत्तीसगढ़ अंजोर विजन 2047 के अनुरूप किस जलाशय को यह मान्यता मिली है?

- (a) Hasdeo Reservoir
- (b) Kopra Reservoir
- (c) Gangrel Reservoir
- (d) Mand Reservoir
- (e) Sondur Reservoir

Ans. b

Sol. Kopra Reservoir Becomes Chhattisgarh's First Ramsar Site

Kopra Reservoir in Bilaspur district has been designated as Chhattisgarh's first Ramsar site, marking a major milestone in the state's environmental conservation efforts.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai termed the recognition a moment of immense pride, highlighting the state's rich biodiversity, bird habitats, and sustained water conservation initiatives.

Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance recognised under the Ramsar Convention, headquartered in Gland, Switzerland; the proposal for Kopra Reservoir was submitted to the Centre last month.

The recognition aligns with "Chhattisgarh Anjor Vision 2047", which aims to secure Ramsar status for 20 wetlands by 2030, strengthening water resources, irrigation, and biodiversity protection.

227. In squash, India created history by winning the Squash World Cup for the first time after a dominant 3-0 victory in the final match held in Chennai. Which of the following teams did India defeat to clinch this historic title?

स्कैश में, भारत ने चेन्नई में हुए फाइनल मैच में 3-0 से शानदार जीत हासिल करके पहली बार स्कैश वर्ल्ड कप जीतकर इतिहास रच दिया। भारत ने इस ऐतिहासिक खिताब को जीतने के लिए निम्नलिखित में से किस टीम को हराया?

- (a) England
- (b) Malaysia
- (c) Egypt
- (d) Hong Kong
- (e) Australia

Ans. d



Sol. India Clinches First-Ever Squash World Cup Title, Defeats Hong Kong 3-0 in Chennai

India won the Squash World Cup for the first time, defeating top-seeded Hong Kong 3-0 in the final held at Express Avenue Mall in Chennai.Chennai.

Joshna Chinappa set the tone by beating Lee Ka Yi (3-1), followed by Abhay Singh, who dominated Alex Lau 3-0.

17-year-old Anahat Singh sealed India's historic victory with a 3-0 win over Tomato Ho, completing a clean sweep.

228. Who was elected as the first woman President of the Press Club of India?

प्रेस क्लब ऑफ इंडिया की पहली महिला अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे चुना गया?

- (a) Aditi Rajput
- (b) Sneha Bhura
- (c) Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty

(d) Parul Tyagi

(e) Jahanvi Sen

Ans. c

Sol. Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty Becomes First Woman President of Press Club of India

Senior journalist Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty was elected as the first woman President of the Press Club of India, creating a historic milestone.

Her panel achieved a clean sweep in the elections, winning all office-bearer and managing committee positions with an emphatic 21–0 victory in the polls held on December 13.

Afzal Imam was elected Secretary General and Jatin Gandhi as Vice-President, while Aditi Rajput (Treasurer) and P. R. Sunil (Joint Secretary) were elected unopposed.

229. India's resolution on "Strengthening the Global Management of Wildfires" was adopted at which session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)?

संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण सभा (UNEA) के किस सत्र में "जंगल की आग के वैश्विक प्रबंधन को मजबूत करना" पर भारत का प्रस्ताव अपनाया गया था?

(a) UNEA-5

(b) UNEA-6

(c) UNEA-7

(d) UNEA-8

(e) UNEA-9

Ans. c

Sol. India's Resolution on Strengthening Global Wildfire Management Adopted at UNEA-7

India's resolution titled "Strengthening the Global Management of Wildfires" was adopted at the 7th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) held in Nairobi, Kenya, receiving broad support from UN Member States.

India highlighted that wildfires have become a major global environmental challenge, with increasing frequency, scale, and intensity across regions, and stressed the need for stronger international cooperation and coordinated action.

Referring to UNEP's report "Spreading Like Wildfire", India warned that wildfires could rise by 14% by 2030, 30% by 2050, and 50% by 2100, and called for a shift from reactive firefighting to proactive prevention and preparedness strategies.

230. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India?

कोल इंडिया के नए चेयरमैन और मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर (CMD) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) P.M. Prasad
- (b) Sanoj Kumar Jha
- (c) B. Sairam
- (d) Alok Kumar
- (e) Anil Kumar

Ans. c

Sol. B. Sairam Appointed as New Chairman and Managing Director of Coal India State-owned miner Coal India appointed B. Sairam as its new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), succeeding Sanoj Kumar Jha, who was holding interim charge after P.M. Prasad's superannuation.

Prior to this role, B. Sairam served as CMD of Northern Coalfields Limited and earlier as Director (Technical) at Coal India's subsidiary Central Coalfields Limited.

231. **Kavita Chand recently etched her name in India's mountaineering history by successfully summing which mountain, known as the highest peak in Antarctica and considered one of the most challenging due to extreme cold and isolation?**

कविता चंद ने हाल ही में किस पहाड़ पर सफलतापूर्वक चढ़ाई करके भारत के पर्वतारोहण इतिहास में अपना नाम दर्ज कराया, जो अंटार्कटिका की सबसे ऊँची चोटी के रूप में जाना जाता है और अत्यधिक ठंड और अकेलेपन के कारण सबसे चुनौतीपूर्ण पहाड़ों में से एक माना जाता है?

- (a) Mount Erebus
- (b) Mount McKinley (Denali)
- (c) Mount Aconcagua
- (d) Mount Vinson
- (e) Mount Kosciuszko

Ans. d

Sol. Kavita Chand Scales Mount Vinson, Becomes First Woman from Uttarakhand to Summit Antarctica's Highest Peak'

Kavita Chand, a native of Almora, Uttarakhand, successfully summited Mount Vinson (4,892 m) in Antarctica, marking a major milestone in her Seven Summits quest. Considered one of the world's most unforgiving peaks, Mount Vinson tested the climbers with extreme cold, isolation and unpredictable Antarctic weather, requiring meticulous planning and acclimatisation.

The expedition was led by renowned guide Mingma David Sherpa, with support from Bharath Thammineni and Boots and Crampon, as a nine-member Indian team successfully reached the summit.

232. **As part of the government's plan to develop Maitri II, India's next-generation research station in East Antarctica, funds were approved for pre-investment activities such as architectural design and preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR). Considering that the total estimated cost of the project is ₹2,000 crore over seven years, which ministry approved the initial pre-investment expenditure of ₹29.2 crore?**

पूर्वी अंटार्कटिका में भारत के अगली पीढ़ी के रिसर्च स्टेशन मैत्री II को डेवलप करने की सरकार की योजना के तहत, आर्किटेक्चरल डिज़ाइन और डिटेल्ड प्रोजेक्ट रिपोर्ट (DPR) तैयार करने जैसी प्री-इन्वेस्टमेंट एक्टिविटीज़ के लिए फंड मंजूर किए गए। यह देखते हुए कि इस प्रोजेक्ट की कुल अनुमानित लागत सात सालों में ₹2,000 करोड़ है, किस मंत्रालय ने ₹29.2 करोड़ के शुरुआती प्री-इन्वेस्टमेंट खर्च को मंजूर किया?

- (a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (b) Ministry of Science and Technology
- (c) Ministry of Earth Sciences
- (d) Ministry of External Affairs
- (e) Ministry of Defence

Ans. c

Sol. Completion of India's Maitri II Antarctic Research Station Pushed to 2032

The completion of Maitri II, India's next-generation research station in East Antarctica, has been delayed to 2032, with scientific operations expected to start later than initially planned, instead of the earlier target of January 2029.

The project is estimated to cost ₹2,000 crore over seven years, and the Ministry of Earth Sciences has approved ₹29.2 crore for pre-investment work, including architectural design and preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR).

Maitri II will strengthen India's multidisciplinary scientific research in Antarctica, supporting studies in biology, earth sciences, glaciology, atmospheric sciences, climate research, and long-term environmental monitoring.

Replacing Maitri I (operational since 1989), the upgraded station will feature modern laboratories, advanced ice-core storage and processing systems, expanded atmospheric observation facilities, and improved logistics to ensure year-round scientific operations.

233. **Which institution has been officially designated as India's first Yoga and Ayurveda-based Cluster Centre under the Gyan Bharatam Mission of the Ministry of Culture, a recognition aimed at preserving, documenting, and promoting India's ancient knowledge systems through institutional collaboration and academic leadership?**

संस्कृति मंत्रालय के ज्ञान भारतम भिशन के तहत किस संस्थान को आधिकारिक तौर पर भारत का पहला योग और आयुर्वेद-आधारित क्लस्टर सेंटर नामित किया गया है, यह मान्यता संस्थागत सहयोग और शैक्षणिक नेतृत्व के माध्यम से भारत की प्राचीन ज्ञान प्रणालियों को संरक्षित करने, दस्तावेजीकरण करने और बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से दी गई है?

- (a) Banaras Hindu University
- (b) Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan
- (c) Gujarat Ayurved University
- (d) University of Patanjali
- (e) Central University of Yoga

Ans. d

Sol. University of Patanjali Declared India's First Yoga and Ayurveda-Based Cluster Centre under Gyan Bharatam Mission

The University of Patanjali has been designated as India's first Yoga and Ayurveda-based Cluster Centre under the Gyan Bharatam Mission of the Ministry of Culture, aimed at preserving and promoting ancient Indian knowledge systems.

As a Cluster Centre, the university will mentor 20 institutions nationwide and lead efforts in research, education, digitisation, and dissemination of manuscripts related to Yoga, Ayurveda, and allied traditions.

The recognition highlights the government's push to safeguard India's intellectual and cultural heritage, with the University of Patanjali becoming the first institution exclusively focused on Yoga and Ayurveda to receive this status under the mission.

234. NLC India Ltd. (NLCIL) has received a Letter of Acceptance (LoA) to set up a 110 MW grid-connected solar PV project in which state?

NLC इंडिया लिमिटेड (NLCIL) को किस राज्य में 110 MW का ग्रिड-कनेक्टेड सोलर PV प्रोजेक्ट लगाने के लिए लेटर ऑफ एक्सेटेंस (LoA) मिला है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. NLC India Awarded 110 MW Solar PV Project by NCRTC in Uttar Pradesh

NLC India Ltd. (NLCIL) has received a Letter of Acceptance (LoA) from NCRTC to develop a 110 MW grid-connected solar PV power project in Uttar Pradesh under captive mode.

The project aims to power NCRTC's entire Regional Rapid Transit System corridor, involving setting up, commissioning, operation, and maintenance of the solar plant, with completion expected within 24 months.

The initiative will fulfill captive power requirements for NCRTC and promote the use of clean and sustainable energy in large-scale infrastructure projects.

235. India and Liberia recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in which field?

भारत और लाइबेरिया ने हाल ही में किस क्षेत्र में सहयोग को मज़बूत करने के लिए एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Renewable energy
- (b) Pharmacopoeia
- (c) Education
- (d) Information technology
- (e) Defence

Ans. b

Sol. India and Liberia Sign MoU on Pharmacopoeia to Enhance Access to Safe and Affordable Medicines

India and Liberia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on pharmacopoeia, aimed at promoting shared quality standards, regulatory alignment, and improving access to safe and affordable medicines.

The MoU was signed by India's Ambassador to Liberia, Manoj Bihari Verma, and Liberia's Health Minister, Louise M. Kpoto, allowing Liberia to adopt the Indian Pharmacopoeia as a reference for medicine quality standards.

The agreement is expected to strengthen regulatory collaboration, enhance global health cooperation, and ensure the availability of safe, effective, and affordable medicines in Liberia through standardized pharmacopoeial practices and advanced analytical techniques.

236. India has recently achieved a major milestone in its semiconductor journey by launching its first fully indigenous microprocessor under the Microprocessor Development Programme (MDP). What is the name of this processor?

भारत ने हाल ही में माइक्रोप्रोसेसर डेवलपमेंट प्रोग्राम (MDP) के तहत अपना पहला पूरी तरह से स्वदेशी माइक्रोप्रोसेसर लॉन्च करके अपने सेमीकंडक्टर सफर में एक बड़ा मील का पत्थर हासिल किया है। इस प्रोसेसर का नाम क्या है?

- (a) SHAKTI64
- (b) DHRUV64
- (c) PARAM64
- (d) VIKRAM64
- (e) PAROO64

Ans. b

Sol. India Unveils DHRUV64, Its First Fully Indigenous 64-Bit Microprocessor

India launched DHRUV64, the country's first fully indigenous microprocessor, developed by C-DAC under the Microprocessor Development Programme (MDP), marking a major milestone in India's semiconductor journey.

The DHRUV64 is a 1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core processor capable of supporting strategic and commercial applications, with higher efficiency, enhanced multitasking, and improved reliability.

The processor's advanced design allows seamless integration with a wide range of external hardware systems, and its modern fabrication uses technologies similar to high-performance chips.

DHRUV64 is suitable for multiple sectors, including 5G infrastructure, automotive systems, consumer electronics, industrial automation, and the Internet of Things (IoT), strengthening India's indigenous processor pipeline.

Before DHRUV64, India had already begun expanding its indigenous microprocessor development ecosystem in recent years, including SHAKTI (2018, IIT Madras), AJIT (2018, IIT Bombay), VIKRAM (2025, ISRO-SCL), and THEJAS64 (2025, C-DAC).

237. The World Bank has recently approved a funding of nearly USD 600 million to support large-scale clean-air programmes aimed at improving air quality, reducing pollution, and promoting greener jobs for millions of people. These programmes are being implemented in which two Indian states in the Indo-Gangetic Plains region?

वर्ल्ड बैंक ने हाल ही में हवा की क्वालिटी को बेहतर बनाने, प्रदूषण कम करने और लाखों लोगों के लिए ज्यादा ग्रीन जॉब्स को बढ़ावा देने के मकसद से बड़े पैमाने पर स्वच्छ हवा कार्यक्रमों के लिए लगभग 600 मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर की फंडिंग को मंजूरी दी है। ये कार्यक्रम इंडो-गैंगेटिक मैदान क्षेत्र के किन दो भारतीय राज्यों में लागू किए जा रहे हैं?

- (a) Punjab and Haryana
- (b) Uttar Pradesh and Haryana
- (c) Bihar and Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan
- (e) Gujarat and Maharashtra

Ans. b

Sol. World Bank Sanctions USD 600 Million to Combat Air Pollution in UP and Haryana

The World Bank has approved nearly USD 600 million for two large clean-air programmes in Uttar Pradesh (USD 299.66 million) and Haryana (USD 300 million), aiming to improve air quality for around 270 million people in the Indo-Gangetic Plains.

The Uttar Pradesh Clean Air Management Program (UPCAMP) focuses on reducing pollution from transport, agriculture, and industry, promoting clean energy

transitions, e-mobility, and greener jobs, and helping 3.9 million households access clean cooking.

Haryana's Clean Air Project for Sustainable Development Operation targets emissions in transport, agriculture, industry, and urban development, including expansion of electric buses and e-three-wheelers, while also setting up ARJUN, a special purpose vehicle for coordination and monitoring.

238. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a USD 240 million loan for which Indian city's metro expansion project?

एशियन डेवलपमेंट बैंक (ADB) ने किस भारतीय शहर के मेट्रो विस्तार प्रोजेक्ट के लिए 240 मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर के लोन को मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) Delhi
- (b) Bengaluru
- (c) Chennai
- (d) Hyderabad
- (e) Kolkata

Ans. c

Sol. ADB Approves USD 240 Million Second Tranche for Chennai Metro Rail Expansion

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a USD 240 million loan as the second tranche of the Chennai Metro Rail Investment Project to expand metro connectivity and promote cleaner, safer, and more reliable urban transport in the Chennai Metropolitan Area.

This funding is part of ADB's USD 780 million multitranche financing facility (approved in 2022) and will support the development of Metro Lines 3, 4, and 5, covering 20 km of elevated and underground corridors along with 18 new stations. The project includes universal access features and disaster-resilient infrastructure, aligning with Chennai's low-carbon development goals and improving mobility amid growing urban transport demand.

239. The Mizoram government has decided to sign a USD 108 million loan agreement to strengthen its public healthcare system. This loan is being provided by which international financial institution?

मिजोरम सरकार ने अपने पब्लिक हेल्थकेयर सिस्टम को मजबूत करने के लिए 108 मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर के लोन एग्रीमेंट पर साइन करने का फैसला किया है। यह लोन किस अंतरराष्ट्रीय वित्तीय संस्थान द्वारा दिया जा रहा है?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) International Monetary Fund
- (c) Asian Development Bank

(d) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

(e) New Development Bank

Ans. c

Sol. Mizoram to Sign USD 108 Million ADB Loan to Strengthen Public Healthcare System

The Mizoram government will sign a USD 108 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to strengthen the state's public healthcare system under the project "Supporting Public Healthcare System Strengthening to Achieve Universal Healthcare for Mizoram."

Of the total loan amount, 90% will be repaid by the Central Government and 10% by the Mizoram government within 15 years, significantly reducing the financial burden on the state.

The loan will support the Mizoram Universal Health Care Scheme (MUHCS), launched in March, which provides ₹5 lakh cashless treatment cover per family at government and empanelled private/church-run hospitals.

Mizoram has already spent over ₹100 crore under MUHCS, benefiting nearly 60,000 beneficiaries, while major healthcare infrastructure upgrades are underway, including expansion of Zoram Medical College & Hospital and strengthening of Aizawl Civil Hospital.

About Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- **Founded** - 19 December 1966
- **Headquarters** - Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- **President** - Masato Kanda (replace Masatsugu Asakawa)
- **Member Countries** - 69 (Israel)

240. **What was India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation rate in November 2025?**

नवंबर 2025 में भारत की थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (WPI) मुद्रास्फीति दर क्या थी?

(a) 0.32%
(b) -0.32%
(c) -1.21%
(d) 1.40%
(e) 0.71%

Ans. b

Sol. India's WPI Inflation Remains Negative at -0.32% in November 2025

India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation remained in negative territory at -0.32% in November 2025, indicating continued deflation in wholesale prices compared to the same month last year.

The negative WPI inflation in November was an improvement from October's -1.21%, showing a slower pace of decline as some prices, especially food items, began rising month-on-month.

Deflation in wholesale prices was driven by declines in key components such as food articles, mineral oils, and crude petroleum & natural gas, despite some moderation in the rate of fall.

241. Who won the recent presidential election in Chile?

चिली में हाल ही में हुए राष्ट्रपति चुनाव में किसने जीत हासिल की?

- (a) Gabriel Boric
- (b) Sebastián Piñera
- (c) José Antonio Kast
- (d) Michelle Bachelet
- (e) Jeannette Jara

Ans. c

Sol. Jose Antonio Kast Wins Chile Presidential Election

Far-right candidate José Antonio Kast of Chile's Republican Party won the 2025 presidential election, securing about 58% of the vote in the runoff and defeating leftist Jeannette Jara.

Kast's victory represents Chile's most significant turn to the right since the end of the Pinochet dictatorship in 1990, driven by voter concerns over rising crime, migration and economic issues.

About Chile

- Capital- Santiago
- Official language- Spanish
- President- José Antonio Kast
- Continent- South America

242. Who was sworn in as the Chief Information Commissioner of the Central Information Commission in December 2025?

दिसंबर 2025 में केंद्रीय सूचना आयोग के मुख्य सूचना आयुक्त के रूप में किसने शपथ ली?

- (a) Heeralal Samariya
- (b) Raj Kumar Goyal
- (c) C.P. Radhakrishnan
- (d) Ajay Bhalla
- (e) Nityanand Rai

Ans. b

Sol. Retired IAS Officer Raj Kumar Goyal Sworn In as Chief Information Commissioner

Retired IAS officer Raj Kumar Goyal (1990 batch) was sworn in as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of the Central Information Commission, with President Droupadi Murmu administering the oath at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Raj Kumar Goyal has earlier served as Secretary, Department of Justice (Ministry of Law and Justice) and as Secretary (Border Management) in the Ministry of Home Affairs, before his superannuation. He succeeded Heeralal Samariya as the Chief Information Commissioner and was appointed with effect from December 15, under the provisions of Section 12 of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

243. Lionel Messi virtually unveiled a 70-foot statue of himself in which Indian city during the GOAT India Tour 2025?

GOAT India Tour 2025 के दौरान लियोनेल मेसी ने वर्द्धुअली 70 फीट ऊँची प्रतिमा किस भारतीय शहर में अनावरण की?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Kolkata
- (d) Chennai
- (e) Bengaluru

Ans. c

Sol. Lionel Messi Virtually Unveiled 70-Foot Statue in Kolkata during GOAT India Tour 2025

Argentine football legend Lionel Messi virtually unveiled a towering 70-foot statue of himself in Lake Town, Kolkata, as part of the kickoff to his GOAT India Tour 2025, marking a grand tribute to his iconic career.

The statue, depicting Messi and celebrating his achievements, including the FIFA World Cup, was commissioned at the Sree Bhumi Sporting Club and revealed remotely by the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner ahead of his arrival in the city.

The unveiling event in Kolkata, which also featured appearances from celebrities like Shah Rukh Khan and fellow football stars, served as the opening highlight of Messi's three-day tour across major Indian cities.

244. Minorities Rights Day is observed in India on 18 December every year to recognise and uphold the rights of religious and linguistic minorities in the country. What is the theme of Minorities Rights Day in 2025?

भारत में हर साल 18 दिसंबर को देश में धार्मिक और भाषाई अल्पसंख्यकों के अधिकारों को पहचानने और बनाए रखने के लिए अल्पसंख्यक अधिकार दिवस मनाया जाता है। 2025 में अल्पसंख्यक अधिकार दिवस की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Equality and Justice for All

- (b) Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials
- (c) Minority Welfare for Development
- (d) Protecting Cultural Heritage
- (e) Unity in Diversity

Ans. b

Sol. 18 December - Minorities Rights Day

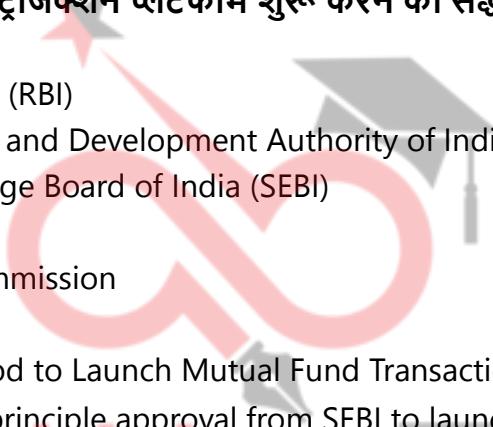
Minorities Rights Day is observed in India on 18 December every year to recognise and uphold the rights of religious and linguistic minorities in the country.

Theme 2025 - Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials

The day emphasises protection, promotion, and awareness of the rights of minority communities as guaranteed under the Indian Constitution.

245. Which regulatory body has given in-principle approval to NCDEX to launch a Mutual Fund transaction platform?

NCDEX को म्यूचुअल फंड ट्रांजैक्शन प्लेटफॉर्म शुरू करने की सैद्धांतिक मंजूरी किस नियामक संस्था ने दी है?



- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- (c) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (d) Ministry of Finance
- (e) Forward Markets Commission

Ans. c

Sol. NCDEX Gets SEBI Nod to Launch Mutual Fund Transaction Platform

NCDEX has received in-principle approval from SEBI to launch a Mutual Fund (MF) transaction platform, marking a significant step in its strategy to become a diversified, multi-asset market infrastructure institution.

The exchange will facilitate mutual fund subscription and redemption through an exchange-led framework, with a focus on low-denomination Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) to improve access for a broader investor base.

National Commodity Clearing Limited (NCCL) will manage clearing and settlement of MF transactions, while the platform also serves as a strategic precursor to NCDEX's planned entry into equity and equity derivatives markets.

About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- **Founded** - 12 April 1988
- **Act** - 1992
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai
- **Chairman** - Tuhin Kanta Pandey (replace Madhabi Puri Buch)
- **SEBI Set up** - Uday Kotak committee

246. Which regulatory authority has granted approval to HDFC Bank and its group entities to acquire an aggregate holding of up to 9.5% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights in IndusInd Bank?

HDFC बैंक एवं उसकी समूह कंपनियों को इंडसइंड बैंक की चुकता शेयर पूँजी या मतदान अधिकारों में कुल 9.5% तक हिस्सेदारी प्राप्त करने की मंजूरी किस नियामक प्राधिकरण ने दी है?

- (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (b) Ministry of Finance
- (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (d) Competition Commission of India (CCI)
- (e) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

Ans. c

Sol. RBI Approves HDFC Bank to Acquire Up to 9.5% Stake in IndusInd Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has approved HDFC Bank, along with its group entities, to acquire an aggregate holding of up to 9.5% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights in IndusInd Bank.

The approval is valid for one year till December 14, 2026, with the condition that HDFC Bank's aggregate holding must not exceed 9.5% at any time; any increase from below 5% will require prior RBI approval.

RBI has clarified that HDFC Bank will not have any representation on the Board of IndusInd Bank, ensuring regulatory compliance and governance safeguards.

247. Who was named ICC Women's Player of the Month for November

following a match-winning performance in the Women's World Cup final?

महिला विश्व कप फाइनल में मैच जिताऊ प्रदर्शन के बाद नवंबर माह के लिए ICC महिला प्लेयर ऑफ़ द मंथ किसे चुना गया?

- (a) Smriti Mandhana
- (b) Harmanpreet Kaur
- (c) Shafali Verma
- (d) Pratika Rawal
- (e) Deepti Sharma

Ans. c

Sol. Shafali Verma Named ICC Women's Player of the Month After World Cup Final Heroics

India opener Shafali Verma was named ICC Women's Player of the Month for November, while South Africa spinner Simon Harmer won the award in the men's category for his standout bowling performance against India.

Shafali played a decisive innings of 87 runs off 78 balls in the Women's World Cup final against South Africa in Navi Mumbai, the highest score by an Indian opener in a World Cup final, helping India post 298/7.

ICC Men's Player of the Month

- *August 2025 – Mohammed Siraj (India)*
- *September 2025 – Abhishek Sharma (India)*
- *October 2025 – Senuran Muthusam (South Africa)*

ICC Women's Player of the Month

- *August 2025 – Orla Prendergast (Ireland)*
- *September 2025 – Smriti Mandhana (India)*
- *October 2025 – Laura Wolvaardt (South Africa)*

248. **Veteran leader Shamanur Shivashankarappa, who passed away recently, was the MLA from which constituency?**

हाल ही में निधन हुए वरिष्ठ नेता शमनूर शिवशंकरप्पा किस विधानसभा क्षेत्र से विधायक थे?

- (a) Davanagere North
- (b) Chitradurga
- (c) Harihar
- (d) Davanagere South
- (e) Shimoga Rural

Ans. d

Sol. Veteran Karnataka MLA Shamanur Shivashankarappa Passes Away at 94

Davanagere South MLA and former Karnataka minister Shamanur Shivashankarappa passed away at 94 on Sunday evening at Sparsh Hospital, Bengaluru, after battling prolonged illness.

India's oldest sitting legislator, Shivashankarappa served as a six-time MLA, former MP and minister, and long-time Congress treasurer, while also transforming Davanagere into an education hub through the Bapuji Educational Association; his last rites will be held in Davanagere.

249. **The Government has extended the tenure of which SBI Managing Director for another two years?**

सरकार ने किस एसबीआई प्रबंध निदेशक का कार्यकाल अगले दो वर्षों के लिए बढ़ा दिया है?

- (a) C.S. Setty
- (b) Alok Kumar Choudhary
- (c) Ashwini Kumar Tewari
- (d) Dinesh Khara
- (e) Rajnish Kumar

Ans. c

Sol. Government Extends SBI MD Ashwini Kumar Tewari's Tenure by Two Years
The Government has extended the tenure of State Bank of India (SBI) Managing Director Ashwini Kumar Tewari for another two years, marking his second such extension after the first in 2024.

As per the regulatory filing, Tewari's term has been extended beyond January 27, 2026, and will now continue till his superannuation on December 31, 2027; he was initially appointed MD in January 2021.

The SBI Board is led by a Chairman and supported by four Managing Directors, with Ashwini Kumar Tewari continuing as one of the key members of the top management.

250. Who inaugurated the Param Vir Dirgha at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Vijay Diwas?

विजय दिवस पर राष्ट्रपति भवन में परम वीर दीर्घा का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

- (a) Ram Nath Kovind
- (b) Droupadi Murmu
- (c) Narendra Modi
- (d) Rajnath Singh
- (e) Venkaiah Naidu

Ans. b

Sol. President Droupadi Murmu Inaugurates Param Vir Dirgha at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Vijay Diwas

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Param Vir Dirgha at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Vijay Diwas, featuring portraits of all 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees to honour India's bravest soldiers.

The gallery aims to educate visitors about the courage, valour, and self-sacrifice of Indian heroes, replacing colonial-era portraits of British ADCs with India's own military legends, reflecting pride in the nation's culture and heritage.

Observed on December 16, Vijay Diwas commemorates India's victory in the 1971 war, which led to the liberation of Bangladesh, highlighting the joint efforts of the Indian Armed Forces and Mukti Bahini in reshaping South Asia's history.

251. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was recently honoured by Ethiopia with its highest civilian award for his exceptional efforts in strengthening bilateral relations and global leadership. What is the name of this prestigious award?

प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को हाल ही में इथियोपिया द्वारा उसके सर्वोच्च नागरिक सम्मान से नवाजा गया, जो द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को मजबूत करने और वैश्विक नेतृत्व में उनके असाधारण योगदान को मान्यता देता है। इस प्रतिष्ठित पुरस्कार का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Order of the Star of Ethiopia

- (b) The Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia
- (c) Ethiopian Medal of Excellence
- (d) Friendship of Nations Award
- (e) Global Leadership Medal

Ans. b

Sol. PM Modi Receives Ethiopia's Highest Civilian Honour, "The Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia"

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Ethiopia's highest civilian honour, "The Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia," from Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed Ali at the Addis International Convention Centre.

The award acknowledges Modi's exceptional contribution to strengthening India–Ethiopia relations and his influence in global leadership.

Modi became the first head of state or government worldwide to receive this honour and dedicated it to India's 1.4 billion people.

It is also the 28th top foreign state honour conferred on him by a foreign nation.

252. Ponduru Khadi, recently awarded the GI tag, is a traditional fabric from which Indian state?

पौंडुरु खादी, जिसे हाल ही में जीआई टैग से सम्मानित किया गया है, किस भारतीय राज्य का पारंपरिक कपड़ा है?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Telangana
- (e) Odisha

Ans. b

Sol. Ponduru Khadi from Andhra Pradesh Receives Geographical Indication (GI) Tag
Ponduru Khadi, the traditional handspun and handwoven cotton fabric from Andhra Pradesh, has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry.

Locally known as Patnulu, Ponduru Khadi is produced exclusively in Ponduru village, Srikakulam district, showcasing the area's rich textile heritage.

The fabric has been nominated under the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme, highlighting its importance for Srikakulam's economy and cultural identity.

About Andhra Pradesh

- **Capital – Amaravati**
- **Chief Minister – N Chandrababu Naidu**
- **Deputy CM – Pawan Kalyan**
- **Governor – S. Abdul Nazeer**

- **Legislative Assembly Seat - 175**

253. **Which country has become the first in the world to receive UNESCO recognition for its entire national cuisine?**

कौन सा देश पूरी राष्ट्रीय रसोई के लिए UNESCO की मान्यता प्राप्त करने वाला दुनिया का पहला देश बन गया है?

- (a) France
- (b) Italy
- (c) Spain
- (d) Japan
- (e) Mexico

Ans. b

Sol. Italy Becomes First Country to Have Entire National Cuisine Recognized by UNESCO

Italy became the first country in the world to have its entire national cuisine recognised by UNESCO as part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in December 2025. The recognition highlights Italian cuisine as a living tradition encompassing diverse practices like pasta, cheese, wine, desserts, and regional foods, emphasising community bonding and intergenerational knowledge transfer.

While Italy already has 21 elements on UNESCO's intangible heritage list, this is the first time a whole country's cuisine has been recognized, reflecting the importance of food in culture, identity, and social life.

About Italy

- Capital- Rome
- Currency- Euro
- President- Sergio Mattarella
- Prime Minister- Georgia Meloni

254. **Who has been appointed as Managing Director & CEO of Airtel India, effective January 1, 2026?**

एयरटेल इंडिया के मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर और CEO के रूप में 1 जनवरी 2026 से किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Gopal Vittal
- (b) Soumen Ray
- (c) Akhil Garg
- (d) Shashwat Sharma
- (e) Rohit Krishan Puri

Ans. d

Sol. Shashwat Sharma to Become MD & CEO of Airtel from January 2026

Shashwat Sharma has been appointed as Managing Director & CEO of Airtel India, effective 1 January 2026, for a five-year term.

Gopal Vittal will take over as Executive Vice Chairman and whole-time director from 1 January 2026 for five years, while the appointments were approved by Airtel's board following HR and Nomination Committee recommendations.

The board also approved key finance and compliance changes, with Soumen Ray becoming Group CFO, Akhil Garg appointed CFO of Airtel India, and Rohit Krishan Puri named Company Secretary & Compliance Officer from January 2026.

255. Which highest civilian honour of Oman was conferred on Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को ओमान का कौन-सा सर्वोच्च नागरिक सम्मान प्रदान किया गया?

- (a) Order of Renaissance
- (b) Order of Al Said
- (c) Order of Merit
- (d) The First Class of the Order of Oman
- (e) Order of Friendship

Ans. d

Sol. PM Modi Conferred Oman's Highest Civilian Honour 'The First Class of the Order Award'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred Oman's highest civilian honour — The First Class of the Order of Oman by Sultan Haitham bin Tariq during his official visit to Muscat, recognising his contributions to strengthening bilateral ties between India and Oman.

The award, traditionally given to eminent global leaders, marks a significant diplomatic recognition and places PM Modi among an elite group of world figures who have received this prestigious honour.

This accolade is Modi's 29th global honour, further underscoring his stature as a globally respected statesman.

256. Which police initiative was launched in Bihar's Motihari to ensure the safety of women and girl students?

बिहार के मोतिहारी में महिलाओं और छात्राओं की सुरक्षा के लिए कौन-सी पुलिस पहल शुरू की गई?

- (a) Shakti Squad
- (b) Nirbhaya Force
- (c) Durga Vahini
- (d) Abhaya Brigade
- (e) Suraksha Team

Ans. d

Sol. Bihar: Motihari Police Roll Out 'Abhaya Brigade' to Curb Harassment Near Schools and Colleges

Bihar, Motihari Police launched the 'Abhaya Brigade' to ensure the safety of women and girl students, with strict action including arrest and jail for miscreants harassing female students around schools, colleges and coaching centres.

Special Abhaya Brigade teams have been formed in nearly all 50 police stations of East Champaran, each comprising women officers and constables, and have begun regular patrolling in uniform and plain clothes.

The initiative, flagged off by SP Swarn Prabhat and formed under the directions of Deputy CM & Home Minister Samrat Choudhary, follows a zero-tolerance policy against crimes against women, focusing on preventing harassment, molestation, kidnapping and trafficking.

About Bihar

- **Formation** – 22 March 1912
- **Capital** – Patna
- **Chief Minister** – Nitish Kumar
- **Governor** – Arif Mohammed Khan
- **Rajya Sabha** - 16 seats
- **Lok Sabha** - 40 seats

257. **Gujarat's first Gram Panchayat to function at night has been started in Mitiyaj village. This village is located in which district of Gujarat?**

गुजरात में पहली बार रात्रिकालीन ग्राम पंचायत संचालन की शुरुआत मितियाज गांव में की गई है। यह गांव गुजरात के किस जिले में स्थित है?

- (a) Junagadh
- (b) Amreli
- (c) Bhavnagar
- (d) Gir Somnath
- (e) Porbandar

Ans. d

Sol. Gujarat's Mitiyaj Becomes First Village to Run Gram Panchayat Office at Night Mitiyaj Gram Panchayat in Gir Somnath district has become the first in Gujarat to operate at night, keeping the panchayat office open from 8:30 pm to 10:00 pm to make governance accessible for working villagers.

The initiative, taken by Sarpanch Surpal Singh Barad, addresses the needs of farmers and daily wage labourers, enabling them to access essential services without losing daytime wages.

Sarpanch Barad personally attends the night office hours, ensuring quick grievance redressal and smooth delivery of welfare services such as ration cards, Aadhaar work, pensions, and government schemes.

About Gujarat

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

258. **Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced that Hansi will be elevated to district status, increasing the total number of districts in the state. Hansi will become which numbered district of the state?**

हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री नायब सिंह सैनी ने घोषणा की कि हांसी को जिला का दर्जा दिया जाएगा, जिससे राज्य में जिलों की कुल संख्या बढ़ जाएगी। हांसी राज्य का कौन सा नंबर वाला जिला बन जाएगा?

- (a) 21st
- (b) 23rd
- (c) 22nd
- (d) 20th
- (e) 24th

Ans. b

Sol. Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini Announces Hansi as 23rd District of the State
Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini announced Hansi as the 23rd district of the state, increasing Haryana's total districts from 22 to 23, during a Vikas Rally in Hansi.

It was in 2016 that the Haryana government put forward a proposal to carve the new Hansi district out of the Hisar district.

The move is expected to improve governance, streamline public services, and accelerate overall development, addressing the demands of residents and local leaders.

Since Haryana's formation in 1966 with seven districts, new districts have been added over time; with Hansi's inclusion, the state will now have 23 districts, enhancing administrative reach and focus on local needs.

About Haryana

- **Capital – Chandigarh**
- **Chief Minister – Nayab Singh Saini(11th)**
- **Governor – Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh (replace Bandaru Dattatreya)**
- **Legislative Assembly Seats- 90**

259. **What was India's overall unemployment rate (UR) in November 2025?**

नवंबर 2025 में भारत की कुल बेरोजगारी दर (UR) क्या थी?

- (a) 5.5%
- (b) 6.2%
- (c) 5.0%
- (d) 4.7%
- (e) 4.0%

Ans. d

Sol. India's Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.7% in November

India's overall unemployment rate (UR) fell to 4.7% in November 2025, the lowest level since April, for individuals aged 15 years and above, reflecting an improvement in the job market.

Rural unemployment dropped to 3.9%, while urban unemployment fell to 6.5%, matching the lowest urban unemployment recorded earlier this year, according to MoSPI data.

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) increased to 55.8% overall, with rural LFPR rising to 58.6% and urban LFPR slightly dipping to 50.4%, indicating more people actively engaging in the workforce.

260. Amazon Pay introduces UPI Biometric Authentication, allowing users to approve UPI transactions using fingerprint or face recognition without entering a PIN. For UPI transactions using biometric authentication, what is the maximum transaction limit on Amazon Pay?

Amazon Pay ने UPI बायोमेट्रिक ऑर्थेटिकेशन पेश किया है, जिससे यूज़र्स बिना PIN डाले फिंगरप्रिंट या चेहरे की पहचान का इस्तेमाल करके UPI ट्रांजैक्शन अप्रूव कर सकते हैं। बायोमेट्रिक ऑर्थेटिकेशन का इस्तेमाल करके UPI ट्रांजैक्शन के लिए, Amazon Pay पर अधिकतम ट्रांजैक्शन लिमिट कितनी है?

- (a) ₹1,000
- (b) ₹2,500
- (c) ₹5,000
- (d) ₹10,000
- (e) ₹2,000

Ans. c

Sol. Amazon Pay Launches UPI Biometric Authentication for Faster, PIN-Free Transactions

Amazon Pay introduces UPI Biometric Authentication, allowing users to approve UPI transactions using fingerprint or face recognition without entering a PIN.

The feature covers transactions up to ₹5,000 across Amazon Pay UPI services, including peer-to-peer transfers, merchant payments, in-store QR payments, and balance checks.

Biometric authentication is linked to the user's device, ensuring added security as biometric data cannot be shared, while simplifying and speeding up payments. Early adoption shows strong acceptance, with over 90% of users opting for biometric verification, currently available for Android devices, aiming to make digital payments faster and more convenient.

261. State Bank of India (SBI) will sign a €150 million credit line with KfW to finance climate-friendly energy generation projects. KfW is a development bank based in which country?

स्टेट बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया (SBI) क्लाइमेट-फ्रेंडली एनर्जी जेनरेशन प्रोजेक्ट्स को फाइनेंस करने के लिए KfW के साथ €150 मिलियन की क्रेडिट लाइन पर साइन करेगा। KfW किस देश का डेवलपमेंट बैंक है?

- (a) France
- (b) Germany
- (c) Netherlands
- (d) Switzerland
- (e) Austria

Ans. b

Sol. SBI to Sign €150 Million Credit Line with KfW for Climate-Friendly Energy Projects
SBI will sign a €150 million credit line with KfW, Germany's development bank, in Frankfurt to finance climate-friendly energy generation projects.

The facility, structured as Phase-2 of the SBI-KfW arrangement, will see SBI act as the lending intermediary for eligible projects aligned with climate and sustainability goals.

The funds are intended for renewable and low-emission energy projects, supporting India's climate objectives through long-term development financing.

About State Bank of India (SBI)

- **Founded** - 1 July 1955
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman** - Challa Sreenivasulu Setty; 27th (replace Dinesh Kumar Khara)
- **Managing Director** - (4) Ashwini Kumar Tewari Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh, Rama Mohan Rao Amara, Ravi Ranjan.

262. Who was Peter Arnett, who recently passed away at the age of 91?

पीटर अर्नेट कौन थे, जिनका हाल ही में 91 साल की उम्र में निधन हो गया?

- (a) A renowned photojournalist
- (b) A Pulitzer Prize Winner
- (c) A military historian
- (d) A documentary filmmaker

(e) A political analyst

Ans. b

Sol. Pulitzer Prize–Winning War Correspondent Peter Arnett Dies at 91

Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist Peter Arnett passed away at the age of 91, renowned for his frontline war reporting from Vietnam to the Gulf War that brought eyewitness accounts to the world.

He won the 1966 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting for his Vietnam War coverage with The Associated Press, where he worked as a correspondent from 1962 to 1975.

Arnett died on December 17, 2025, in Newport Beach, after battling prostate cancer, surrounded by his family and friends.

263. **What is the maximum amount that customers are allowed to withdraw from The Gauhati Cooperative Urban Bank under the RBI restrictions?**

RBI की पांबंदियों के तहत ग्राहक गुवाहाटी कोऑपरेटिव अर्बन बैंक से ज्यादा से ज्यादा कितनी रकम निकाल सकते हैं?

- (a) ₹25,000
- (b) ₹30,000
- (c) ₹35,000
- (d) ₹40,000
- (e) ₹50,000

Ans. c

Sol. RBI Imposes Six-Month Restrictions on Gauhati Cooperative Urban Bank, Caps Withdrawals at ₹35,000

RBI imposed operational restrictions on The Gauhati Cooperative Urban Bank due to its deteriorating financial position, including a cap of ₹35,000 on customer withdrawals.

The restrictions, issued as 'Directions', took effect from the close of business and will remain in force for a period of six months.

Without prior RBI approval, the bank cannot grant or renew loans, make investments, incur liabilities, or disburse payments during the restriction period.

264. **Which authority imposed a ₹1 crore penalty on Care Health Insurance Ltd for serious lapses in claims settlement, violating policyholder protection norms and corporate governance standards?**

किस अथॉरिटी ने क्लेम सेटलमेंट में गंभीर कमियों, पॉलिसीहोल्डर प्रोटेक्शन नियमों और कॉर्पोरेट गवर्नेंस स्टैंडर्ड्स का उल्लंघन करने के लिए केयर हेल्थ इंश्योरेंस लिमिटेड पर ₹1 करोड़ का जुर्माना लगाया?

- (a) SEBI

- (b) RBI
- (c) IRDAI
- (d) CCI
- (e) NABARD

Ans. c

Sol. IRDAI Fines Care Health Insurance ₹1 Crore for Claims Settlement and Governance Lapses

IRDAI imposed a ₹1 crore penalty on Care Health Insurance Ltd for serious lapses in claims settlement, violating policyholder protection norms and corporate governance standards.

The action followed a remote inspection, which uncovered failures in grievance redressal mechanisms, handling of unclaimed amounts, and deficiencies in reinsurance accounting practices.

IRDAI also issued multiple warnings and advisories to the insurer for lapses in cybersecurity and overall compliance, reinforcing the need for stronger internal controls.

About Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

- *Established- In the year 1999 under the IRDA Act, 1999*
- *Headquarters- Hyderabad, Telangana*
- *Type- Statutory body under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India*
- *Chairman - Ajay Seth*

265. **The Finance Ministry unveiled a new common logo for all 28 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to create a single and unified brand identity, strengthening their visibility and recognition nationwide. What do the colours of the new RRB logo signify?**

वित्त मंत्रालय ने एकल और एकीकृत ब्रांड पहचान बनाने, देश भर में उनकी दृश्यता और मान्यता को मजबूत करने के लिए सभी 28 क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों (आरआरबी) के लिए एक नए आम लोगो का अनावरण किया। नए आरआरबी लोगो के रंग क्या दर्शाते हैं?

- (a) Blue signifies technology, green signifies education
- (b) Red signifies power, yellow signifies energy
- (c) Dark blue signifies finance and trust, green signifies life and growth
- (d) White signifies peace, black signifies strength
- (e) Blue signifies water, green signifies agriculture

Ans. c

Sol. Finance Ministry Unveils New Unified Logo for Regional Rural Banks

The Finance Ministry unveiled a new common logo for all 28 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to create a single and unified brand identity, strengthening their visibility and recognition nationwide.

Under the principle of 'One State One RRB', 26 RRBs across 11 states/UTs were consolidated effective May 1, 2025, aiming to build stronger and more efficient rural banking institutions.

The colours of the logo convey the mission of RRBs—dark blue represents finance and trust, while green signifies life and growth, reflecting their commitment to serve rural India.

The branding initiative is part of the government's effort to modernise RRBs, enhance their identity, and promote financial inclusion and rural development through a distinct and easily recognisable brand.

266. Where was Karnataka's first Gen Z-themed post office inaugurated by India Post?

कर्नाटक का पहला Gen Z-थीम वाला पोस्ट ऑफिस कहाँ भारत पोस्ट द्वारा उद्घाटन किया गया?

- (a) Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
- (b) PES University, Bengaluru
- (c) Acharya Institute of Technology, Bengaluru
- (d) Bangalore University
- (e) Christ University

Ans. c

Sol. India Post Launches Karnataka's First Gen Z-Themed Post Office at Acharya Institute of Technology, Bengaluru

India Post unveiled Karnataka's first Gen Z-themed post office at Acharya Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, aimed at engaging the younger generation and reimagining the role of post offices in the digital age.

The post office includes colourful interiors, full Wi-Fi, selfie points, student-designed decor, reading areas, cafe-style seating, wellness spaces, and a physiotherapy lab, making it a social and functional hub for students.

The initiative reflects India Post's transition from traditional services like letters and money orders to digital banking, logistics, and e-commerce, showcasing its nationwide transformation to align with modern business models and youth engagement.

267. The Union Government has approved the development of the Viksit Bharat Mumbai Marina in Mumbai Harbour, aiming to boost coastal shipping, maritime tourism, and waterfront-led urban development. Considering the scale of the project, including berthing facilities for 424 yachts, world-class onshore infrastructure, and integration with national maritime initiatives, what is the estimated total cost of this project?

केंद्रीय सरकार ने मुंबई हार्बर में 'विकसित भारत मुंबई मरीना' के विकास को मंजूरी दी है, जिसका उद्देश्य तटीय नौवहन, समुद्री पर्यटन और वॉटरफ्रंट आधारित शहरी विकास को बढ़ावा देना है। इस परियोजना के पैमाने को देखते हुए, जिसमें 424 यॉट्स के लिए बर्थिंग सुविधाएँ, विश्व स्तरीय ऑनशोर इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर और राष्ट्रीय नौवहन पहलों के साथ एकीकरण शामिल हैं, इस परियोजना की अनुमानित कुल लागत क्या है?

- (a) ₹750 crore
- (b) ₹808 crore
- (c) ₹850 crore
- (d) ₹887 crore
- (e) ₹900 crore

Ans. d

Sol. Union Government Approves ₹887 Crore Plan for World-Class Mumbai Marina to Boost Coastal Shipping & Maritime Tourism

The Union Government has approved the development of a world-class Mumbai Marina at an estimated cost of ₹887 crore, aiming to boost coastal shipping, maritime tourism, and waterfront-led urban development.

Named 'Viksit Bharat Mumbai Marina', the project aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for global-standard tourism destinations and strengthening India's maritime economy, cleared by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. The Mumbai Port Authority will invest ₹470 crore to construct core marina infrastructure on an EPC basis, while a private operator will develop onshore facilities with ₹417 crore investment; tenders close on 29 December 2025.

Spread over 12 hectares of water area, the marina will berth 424 yachts up to 30 metres, and aligns with national frameworks such as Maritime India Vision 2030, Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, Sagarmala Programme, Cruise Bharat Mission, and Mumbai Port Master Plan 2047.

268. **Which airline was named Best Domestic Airline at the Travel + Leisure India and South Asia's Best Awards 2025?**

ट्रैवल + लीज़र इंडिया और साउथ एशिया बेस्ट अवार्ड्स 2025 में सर्वश्रेष्ठ घरेलू एयरलाइन का नाम कौन सी एयरलाइन को दिया गया?

- (a) IndiGo
- (b) Vistara
- (c) SpiceJet
- (d) Air India
- (e) GoAir

Ans. d

Sol. Air India Retains Best Domestic Airline Title at Travel + Leisure Awards 2025

Air India has been named Best Domestic Airline at the Travel + Leisure India and South Asia's Best Awards 2025 for the second consecutive year, based on reader votes reflecting passenger feedback.

The award highlights Air India's focus on comfort, service quality, and consistency, and acknowledges the efforts of frontline staff delivering services across airports and onboard flights.

In 2026, Air India is set to receive six new widebody aircraft (B787-9 and A350-1000), with plans for 96% of narrowbody fleet and nearly 60% of widebody fleet to be new or upgraded by the end of 2026.

Customer-Centric Improvements: The airline continues to focus on gradual operational enhancements as part of its long-term strategy to strengthen customer experience and overall service quality.

269. According to Travel+Leisure's India's Best Awards 2025, which airport was voted the world's best international airport based on factors such as overall travel experience, comfort, facilities, and passenger satisfaction?

Travel+Leisure के इंडिया बेस्ट अवार्ड्स 2025 के अनुसार, किस हवाई अड्डे को समग्र यात्रा अनुभव, सुविधा, आराम और यात्री संतुष्टि के आधार पर विश्व का सर्वश्रेष्ठ अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा चुना गया?

- (a) Dubai International Airport
- (b) London Heathrow Airport
- (c) Singapore Changi Airport
- (d) Tokyo Haneda Airport
- (e) Hong Kong International Airport

Ans. c

Sol. Singapore's Changi Airport Voted World's Best Airport for 2025 at India's Best Awards

Singapore's Changi Airport has been voted the best international airport in the world for 2025 at India's Best Awards by Travel+Leisure, based on readers' votes.

The airport is renowned for its sky-lit interiors, indoor gardens, art-filled spaces, butterfly gardens, and the world's tallest indoor waterfall, turning long layovers into a relaxing experience.

The award was part of the 14th edition of India's Best Awards, which honours top names in travel and hospitality through global online voting by readers, reflecting travellers' preferences.

Changi Airport was recognised for combining efficiency, comfort, and innovative design, setting a global standard and making the airport a destination in itself, not just a transit hub.

270. **The Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine was inaugurated at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, jointly organised by the WHO and the Ministry of AYUSH. What is the theme of the Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine?**

पारंपरिक चिकित्सा पर दूसरे WHO वैश्विक शिखर सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन भारत मंडपम, नई दिल्ली में हुआ, जो WHO और आयुष मंत्रालय द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से आयोजित किया गया था, पारंपरिक चिकित्सा पर दूसरे WHO वैश्विक शिखर सम्मेलन का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Science and Innovation in Health
- (b) Integrative Medicine for All
- (c) Restoring Balance: The Science and Practice of Health and Well-Being
- (d) Traditional Medicine for Global Health
- (e) Holistic Health Approaches

Ans. c

Sol. Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine Inaugurated in New Delhi
The Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine was inaugurated at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, with the theme "Restoring Balance: The Science and Practice of Health and Well-Being," jointly organised by the WHO and the Ministry of AYUSH, and held from 17–19 December 2025.

Union Health Minister JP Nadda and WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus highlighted the growing role of traditional medicine in global healthcare, with discussions on integration into national health systems, safety and quality standards, biodiversity conservation, and evidence-based research.

The summit showcased India's leadership in traditional medicine, including the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre at Jamnagar, ICD-11 Module 2, international collaborations, and research initiatives, reinforcing a global commitment to inclusive, sustainable, and balanced health systems.

271. **Which Ministry launched the dedicated portal for Republic Day Celebrations–2026 youth competitions?**

गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह–2026 के लिए समर्पित पोर्टल किस मंत्रालय द्वारा शुरू किया गया है?

- (a) Ministry of Education
- (b) Ministry of Culture
- (c) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (d) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- (e) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Ans. d

Sol. MY Bharat Launches Dedicated Portal for Republic Day Celebrations–2026 Youth Competitions

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, through the MY Bharat Portal, has launched a special webpage to host national-level youth competitions as part of Republic Day Celebrations–2026.

The initiative includes Essay Writing, Painting, and Slogan/Signature competitions, aimed at fostering patriotism, creativity, and civic engagement among youth nationwide.

Prize money has been announced for top performers, and selected participants will get an opportunity to attend and take part in the Republic Day Celebrations–2026 Parade.

272. An independent evaluation of the Jiyo Parsi Scheme was conducted in 2025 to assess its effectiveness in addressing the declining Parsi population, its outreach to beneficiaries, and overall impact. The evaluation report noted widespread acceptance and usefulness of the scheme among the Parsi community. Which organisation carried out this evaluation study?

घट्टी पारसी आबादी को संबोधित करने, लाभार्थियों तक इसकी पहुंच और समग्र प्रभाव को संबोधित करने में इसकी प्रभावशीलता का आकलन करने के लिए 2025 में जियो पारसी योजना का एक स्वतंत्र मूल्यांकन किया गया था। मूल्यांकन रिपोर्ट में पारसी समुदाय के बीच योजना की व्यापक स्वीकृति और उपयोगिता का उल्लेख किया गया है। यह मूल्यांकन अध्ययन किस संगठन ने किया?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) National Sample Survey Office
- (c) Registrar General of India
- (d) International Institute for Population Sciences
- (e) Indian Council of Medical Research

Ans. c

Sol. Jiyo Parsi Scheme Helps Arrest Decline in Parsi Population; 232 Babies Born in Five Years

The Parsi (Zoroastrian) population declined sharply from 1.14 lakh in 1941 to 57,264 in 2011, prompting the Government of India to launch the Jiyo Parsi Scheme in 2013–14 under the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

The scheme has three components—Medical Assistance (support for infertility and pregnancy-related treatment up to ₹30 lakh income limit), Health of Community (care for children and dependent elderly up to ₹15 lakh income limit), and Advocacy to raise awareness.

Financial assistance is provided through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) after biometric verification; during 2020–21 to 2024–25, an expenditure of ₹17.64 crore resulted in the birth of 232 babies under the scheme.

A 2025 evaluation by IIPS found the scheme largely successful with widespread acceptance among beneficiaries, and it is now being considered for continuation in

the next Finance Commission cycle, as informed by Union Minister Kiren Rijiju in Lok Sabha.

273. The Indian Army contingent has departed to participate in which joint military exercise with the UAE?

भारतीय सेना की टुकड़ी संयुक्त अरब अमीरात के साथ किस संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास में भाग लेने के लिए रवाना हुई है?

- (a) Exercise Al Nagah
- (b) Exercise Zayed Shield
- (c) Exercise Gulf Star
- (d) Exercise Desert Cyclone-II
- (e) Exercise Sand Storm

Ans. d

Sol. Indian Army Departs for India-UAE Joint Military Exercise DESERT CYCLONE-II in Abu Dhabi

An Indian Army contingent has departed for the India-UAE Joint Military Exercise DESERT CYCLONE-II, to be held at Abu Dhabi, UAE, from 18 to 30 December 2025. The Indian contingent consists of 45 personnel mainly from the Mechanised Infantry Regiment, while the UAE Land Forces are represented by the 53 Mechanised Infantry Battalion with similar strength.

The exercise aims to enhance interoperability and defence cooperation through joint training in urban warfare and sub-conventional operations under a United Nations mandate, including peacekeeping and counter-terrorism roles.

274. The Har Ghar Museum initiative was launched by the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) under the Ministry of Culture with the vision that every household preserves a part of India's living heritage. This initiative was honoured with a PRSI National Award 2025. Under which category was this award conferred?

हर घर म्यूज़ियम पहल संस्कृति मंत्रालय के तहत नेशनल काउंसिल ऑफ साइंस म्यूज़ियम (NCSM) द्वारा शुरू की गई थी, जिसका मकसद था कि हर घर भारत की जीवित विरासत के एक हिस्से को सहेज कर रखे। इस पहल को PRSI नेशनल अवॉर्ड 2025 से सम्मानित किया गया। यह अवॉर्ड किस कैटेगरी में दिया गया था?

- (a) Best Heritage Awareness Campaign
- (b) Best Digital Outreach Initiative
- (c) Best Community Engagement Programme
- (d) Best Use of Social Media in a Corporate Campaign
- (e) Best Cultural Documentation Project

Ans. d

Sol. NCSM Wins Two PRSI National Awards 2025 for Har Ghar Museum and Waste to Art Initiatives

The National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), under the Ministry of Culture, was conferred with two prestigious PRSI National Awards 2025 by the Public Relations Society of India.

NCSM won the Best Use of Social Media in a Corporate Campaign award for the Har Ghar Museum initiative and the Special/Prestige Publication award for its "Waste to Art" publication.

The publication highlights how nearly 1,250 kg of waste was creatively transformed into educational art installations across NCSM units, promoting sustainability and circular economy principles under Swachhata Hi Sewa.

The awards were presented at the 47th All India Public Relations Conference held in Dehradun and were received on behalf of NCSM by Shri Rajib Nath and Shri Satyajit N. Singh.

275. Piramal Finance Ltd recently announced an agreement to divest its entire equity holding in a life insurance company. Which company is Piramal Finance exiting through this transaction?

पीरामल फाइनेंस लिमिटेड ने हाल ही में एक लाइफ इंश्योरेंस कंपनी में अपनी पूरी इकिटी हिस्सेदारी बेचने के लिए एक एग्रीमेंट की घोषणा की है। इस ट्रांजैक्शन के ज़रिए पीरामल फाइनेंस किस कंपनी से बाहर निकल रही है?

- (a) Shriram General Insurance
- (b) Shriram Capital Ltd
- (c) Shriram Life Insurance
- (d) Shriram Finance Ltd
- (e) Shriram AMC

Ans. c

Sol. Piramal Finance to Sell Entire 14.72% Stake in Shriram Life Insurance for ₹600 Crore

Piramal Finance Ltd will sell its entire 14.72% equity stake in Shriram Life Insurance (SLI) to Sanlam Emerging Markets (Mauritius) Ltd (SEMM) for around ₹600 crore.

The transaction is expected to be completed by the quarter ending March 31, 2026, subject to regulatory approvals.

SEMM is a 100% subsidiary of the Sanlam Group, a leading pan-African financial services group headquartered in South Africa with operations in over 30 countries, including India.

276. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty on Kotak Mahindra Bank for failure to comply with certain banking and regulatory norms. What was the amount of this penalty?

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने कुछ बैंकिंग और रेगुलेटरी नियमों का पालन न करने पर कोटक महिंद्रा बैंक पर मौद्रिक जुर्माना लगाया। इस जुर्माने की रकम कितनी थी?

- (a) ₹58.50 lakh
- (b) ₹60.10 lakh
- (c) ₹61.95 lakh
- (d) ₹63.25 lakh
- (e) ₹65.00 lakh

Ans. c

Sol. RBI Imposes ₹61.95 Lakh Penalty on Kotak Mahindra Bank for Regulatory Lapses
RBI imposed a monetary penalty of ₹61.95 lakh on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance with multiple regulatory norms.

The violations relate to Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) accounts, Business Correspondents (BCs) guidelines, and provisions of the Credit Information Companies (CIC) Rules, 2006.

The penalty was levied through an order dated December 11, 2025, for failure to adhere to RBI's directions on access to banking services and permitted BC activities.

About Kotak Mahindra Bank

- **Founded** – 21 November 1985
- **Founders** - Uday Kotak
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **MD & CEO** - Ashok Vaswani (replace Dipak Gupta)

277. Which country unveiled the official logo "Yerevan Blue Butterfly" for the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity?

किस देश ने जैविक विविधता पर कन्वेंशन के 17वें कॉन्फ्रेंस ऑफ़ द पार्टीज़ (COP17) के लिए आधिकारिक लोगो "येरेवन ब्लू बटरफ्लाई" का अनावरण किया?

- (a) Georgia
- (b) Azerbaijan
- (c) Armenia
- (d) Kazakhstan
- (e) Uzbekistan

Ans. c

Sol. Armenia Unveils 'Yerevan Blue Butterfly' as Official Logo for COP17 Biodiversity Conference

Armenia unveiled the official logo for COP17, featuring the 'Yerevan Blue Butterfly' (*Polyommatus eriwanensis*), a species endemic to the Yerevan region.

The logo is accompanied by the slogan "Taking action for nature", highlighting the conference's emphasis on implementation over commitments in biodiversity conservation.

COP17, scheduled for October 2026, will conduct the first global review of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with the logo's 23 blended colours symbolising its 23 biodiversity targets.

About Armenia

- *Capital- Yerevan*
- *Currency- Armenian dram*
- *Official language - Armenian*
- *Continent- Asia*
- *President -Vahagn Khachaturyan*

278. **Who led the Indian delegation at the 11th United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia?**

सऊदी अरब के रियाद में हुए 11वें यूनाइटेड नेशंस अलायंस ऑफ सिविलाइज़ेशन्स (UNAOC) में भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल का नेतृत्व किसने किया?

- (a) S. Jaishankar
- (b) P. Kumaran
- (c) Vinay Mohan Kwatra
- (d) Harsh Vardhan Shringla
- (e) T.S. Tirumurti

Ans. b

Sol. MEA Secretary P. Kumaran Highlights India's Civilizational Values at 11th UNAOC in Riyadh

MEA Secretary (East) P. Kumaran led the Indian delegation at the 11th United Nations Alliance of Civilisations (UNAOC) held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and delivered India's national statement at the High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of UNAOC.

He highlighted India's civilizational values and global outlook, invoking the principles of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world as one family) and Sarva Dharma Samabhav, emphasising equal respect for all religions.

The 11th UNAOC, hosted by Saudi Arabia, marked two decades of dialogue under the theme "Two Decades of Dialogue for Humanity Advancing a New Era of Mutual Respect and Understanding in a Multipolar World" and also commemorated the 20th anniversary of UNAOC, established in 2005.

279. **In 2025, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) committed sovereign lending of USD 4.258 billion to India. This funding aims to support multiple sectors.**

Which of the following is not a focus area of ADB's 2025 lending to India?

2025 में, एशियन डेवलपमेंट बैंक (ADB) ने भारत को USD 4.258 बिलियन का सॉवरेन लोन देने का वादा किया। इस फंडिंग का मकसद कई सेक्टर्स को सपोर्ट करना है। निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा ADB के 2025 में भारत को दिए जाने वाले लोन का फोकस एरिया नहीं है?

- (a) Strengthening the skill ecosystem
- (b) Renewable energy deployment
- (c) Space exploration projects
- (d) Urban infrastructure and metro networks
- (e) Healthcare and ecotourism

Ans. c

Sol. ADB Commits USD 4.26 Billion in Sovereign Loans to India for Renewable Energy, Urban Development, and Healthcare in 2025

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) committed USD 4.258 billion in sovereign lending to India in 2025, supporting projects in skills development, renewable energy, urban infrastructure, metro expansion, healthcare, and ecotourism.

32% of ADB's 16 newly committed projects focus on human and social development, 26% on energy (mainly renewable energy), and over 18% on urban development.

Key initiatives include USD 650 million for PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (rooftop solar adoption), USD 460 million to Maharashtra for rural power modernisation, and USD 398.8 million to Assam for healthcare and medical education.

Additional loans include over USD 200 million to Meghalaya and Uttarakhand for ecotourism development; ADB, founded in 1966, is a multilateral development bank owned by 69 members supporting sustainable growth across Asia-Pacific.

About Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- **Founded** - 19 December 1966
- **Headquarters** - Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- **President** - Masato Kanda (replace Masatsugu Asakawa)
- **Member Countries** - 69 (Israel)

280. **On which date is World Saree Day celebrated?**

विश्व साड़ी दिवस किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 15th December
- (b) 20th December
- (c) 21st December
- (d) 25th December
- (e) 30th December

Ans. c

Sol. 21 December - World Saree Day

World Saree Day is celebrated on 21st December to honour and promote the rich cultural heritage of the saree, one of India's most iconic traditional garments.

The day highlights the craftsmanship, regional diversity, and artistry involved in saree weaving across India.

It encourages people globally to appreciate, wear, and celebrate the saree, fostering cultural pride and preserving this timeless tradition.

281. National Mathematics Day is celebrated in India on 22nd December every year to honour the birth anniversary of the legendary mathematician

भारत में हर साल 22 दिसंबर को महान गणितज्ञ _____ की जयंती के सम्मान में राष्ट्रीय गणित दिवस मनाया जाता है।

- (a) Aryabhata
- (b) Srinivasa Ramanujan
- (c) Bhaskaracharya
- (d) C.R. Rao
- (e) D.R. Kaprekar

Ans. b

Sol. 22 December - National Mathematics Day

National Mathematics Day is celebrated in India on 22nd December every year to honour the birth anniversary of the legendary mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. The day recognises Ramanujan's outstanding contributions to mathematical research, including number theory, infinite series, and continued fractions.

It aims to promote awareness and interest in mathematics among students, educators, and the general public across the country.

282. Which department under the Ministry of Jal Shakti organised the second edition of Sujal Gram Samvad in 2025, a unique initiative providing a direct platform for rural communities to share feedback on the Har Ghar Jal mission?

जल शक्ति मंत्रालय के तहत किस विभाग ने 2025 में सुजल ग्राम संवाद का दूसरा एडिशन आयोजित किया, जो ग्रामीण समुदायों को हर घर जल मिशन पर फीडबैक साझा करने के लिए एक सीधा मंच प्रदान करने वाली एक अनोखी पहल है?

- (a) Department of Rural Development
- (b) Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation
- (c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (d) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (e) National Water Mission

Ans. b

Sol. DDWS Organises Second Edition of Sujal Gram Samvad to Strengthen Rural Water Governance

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti organised the second edition of Sujal Gram Samvad to enhance rural water governance.

Sujal Gram Samvad provides a direct communication platform between the Union Government and rural communities, enabling villagers to share their experiences and feedback on the Har Ghar Jal mission.

The event was attended by Union Minister Shri C.R. Patil and Minister of State V. Somanna, along with village sarpanchs, Gram Panchayat members, Jal Jeevan Mission beneficiaries, women groups, students, and community leaders.

The first edition, held on 18 November 2025, successfully covered 12 States and Union Territories in 12 different languages, highlighting its inclusive and participatory approach.

283. India's first dedicated Forest University, aimed at strengthening education and research in forestry, wildlife, and environmental sciences, is set to be established in which city of Uttar Pradesh?

भारत का पहला डेडिकेटेड फॉरेस्ट यूनिवर्सिटी, जिसका मकसद फॉरेस्ट्री, वाइल्डलाइफ और एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस में शिक्षा और रिसर्च को मज़बूत करना है, उत्तर प्रदेश के किस शहर में स्थापित होने वाला है?

- (a) Lucknow
- (b) Gorakhpur
- (c) Kanpur
- (d) Varanasi
- (e) Noida

Ans. b

Sol. Uttar Pradesh to Establish India's First Dedicated Forest University in Gorakhpur
Uttar Pradesh will establish India's first dedicated Forest University in Gorakhpur, focusing on forestry, wildlife, and environmental sciences, marking a historic step in specialised education and research.

The 125-acre campus is strategically located near the Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre, providing opportunities for field-based learning and applied research in natural ecosystems.

The university will offer academic programmes in forestry, agroforestry, social forestry, horticulture, wildlife studies, ecology, climate change, and environmental sustainability, with strong emphasis on practical exposure.

UP government allocated ₹50 crore in the 2024 budget for preliminary work; the campus will include hostels, laboratories, classrooms, an auditorium, sports facilities, and faculty housing, making it a national hub for forest education and conservation training.

About Uttar Pradesh

- ***Capital*** - Lucknow
- ***Chief Minister*** – Yogi Adityanath
- ***Governor*** - Anandiben Patel

284. **Which country formally handed over the BRICS presidency to India for 2026?**

किस देश ने औपचारिक रूप से 2026 के लिए BRICS की अध्यक्षता भारत को सौंपी?

- (a) China
- (b) Russia
- (c) Brazil
- (d) South Africa
- (e) Indonesia

Ans. c

Sol. India Assumes BRICS Presidency 2026 as Brazil Hands Over Leadership

Brazil formally concluded its BRICS presidency in 2025 and officially handed over the rotating BRICS leadership to India for 2026 at a Sherpas meeting in Brasília, marking the transition of chairship within the bloc.

The transition ceremony included a review of Brazil's achievements under its presidency and a presentation of India's planned priorities for the upcoming BRICS agenda.

The presidency handover positions India to host the 18th BRICS Summit in 2026, furthering its role in shaping strategic cooperation among emerging economies. India will officially assume the chair on January 1, 2026.

285. **India has established the Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC) with which country to strengthen bilateral trade and investment?**

भारत ने द्विपक्षीय व्यापार और निवेश को मज़बूत करने के लिए किस देश के साथ संयुक्त व्यापार और निवेश समिति (JTIC) की स्थापना की है?

- (a) Germany
- (b) Netherlands
- (c) France
- (d) Japan
- (e) Australia

Ans. b

Sol. India and Netherlands Set Up Joint Trade and Investment Committee to Boost Bilateral Economic Ties

India and the Netherlands have established the India–Netherlands Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC) through an MoU, marking a key step toward strengthening bilateral trade, investment, and economic cooperation.

The JTIC will act as a formal institutional mechanism for regular dialogue to review trade relations, promote two-way investments, address trade and investment barriers, and explore cooperation in priority sectors.

As per the MoU, the JTIC will meet annually, with meetings held alternately in India and the Netherlands, ensuring sustained and structured engagement.

286. The GI-tagged Indi Lime that recently entered the Oman market is grown in which district of Karnataka?

हाल ही में ओमान बाजार में प्रवेश करने वाला जीआई-टैग इंडी लाइम कर्नाटक के किस जिले में उगाया जाता है?

- (a) Belagavi
- (b) Kalaburagi
- (c) Vijayapura
- (d) Bidar
- (e) Dharwad

Ans. c

Sol. GI-Tagged Indi Lime from Karnataka Enters Oman Market with First Export Shipment

GI-tagged Indi Lime from Vijayapura, Karnataka entered the Oman market with its first export shipment of 3 metric tonnes on 19 December 2025, boosting India's agricultural exports.

As part of market diversification, 350 kg of Indi Lime was also flagged off for export to the United Kingdom, taking the total exports to nearly 12.35 MTs from the district. The export to Oman gains importance following the India–Oman CEPA/FTA, which aims to strengthen bilateral trade and enhance market access for Indian agricultural products.

287. The National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub (NSSH) Scheme, aimed at promoting entrepreneurship among SC/ST communities and improving their participation in public procurement, is implemented by which ministry of the Government of India?

नेशनल शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट एंड शेड्यूल्ड ट्राइब हब (NSSH) योजना, जिसका मकसद SC/ST समुदायों में एंटरप्रेन्योरशिप को बढ़ावा देना और पब्लिक प्रोक्योरमेंट में उनकी भागीदारी को बेहतर बनाना है, भारत सरकार के किस मंत्रालय द्वारा लागू की जाती है?

- (a) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- (b) Ministry of Rural Development
- (c) Ministry of Finance
- (d) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- (e) Ministry of Labour and Employment

Ans. d

Sol. MSME Ministry Implements NSSH Scheme to Boost SC/ST Entrepreneurship and Public Procurement Participation

The Ministry of MSME is implementing the National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub (NSSH) Scheme to promote entrepreneurship among SC/ST communities and ensure 4% mandatory public procurement from SC/ST MSEs under the Public Procurement Policy.

The scheme provides multi-dimensional support through capacity building, market linkage initiatives, Special Vendor Development Programmes (SVDPs), awareness workshops, subsidies on plant & machinery, and financial assistance for the Single Point Registration Scheme.

Under the Special Marketing Assistance component, SC/ST entrepreneurs are supported to participate in domestic and international exhibitions; 3,929 entrepreneurs have been facilitated in domestic exhibitions at a cost of ₹36.41 crore over the last 7 years.

To enhance outreach, the NSSH Scheme conducts conclaves, SVDPs, and awareness workshops across the country and leverages social media platforms for wider dissemination among the target beneficiaries.

288. **Good Governance Week 2025 is observed during which period?**

शासन सप्ताह 2025 किस अवधि के दौरान मनाया जाता है?

- (a) December 11–18
- (b) December 15–21
- (c) December 19–25
- (d) December 20–26
- (e) December 23–29

Ans. c

Sol. Good Governance Week 2025 Launched with 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' to Strengthen Grassroots Governance

Good Governance Week 2025 has been launched by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and will be observed from 19 to 25 December 2025, with guidelines released by DARPG Secretary Rachna Shah.

The nationwide 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' campaign remains the core initiative, aiming to strengthen grassroots outreach, grievance redressal, and public service delivery through district administrations.

Under the campaign, district collectors will organise special camps at the tehsil, block, and panchayat levels to directly engage with citizens.

The campaign is being conducted in two phases—a preparatory phase (11–18 December) and an implementation phase (19–25 December), with district-level dissemination workshops on 23 December 2025 focusing on District @100 and good governance initiatives.

289. International Human Solidarity Day is observed on which date?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मानव एकजुटता दिवस किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 19 December
- (b) 21 December
- (c) 20 December
- (d) 23 December
- (e) 22 December

Ans. c

Sol. 20 December - International Human Solidarity Day

International Human Solidarity Day is observed every year on 20 December to promote unity, cooperation, and collective responsibility among nations and people.

Theme 2025 - Uniting Communities for a Shared Future

The day highlights solidarity as a core value for achieving sustainable development, poverty eradication, and social justice worldwide.

It emphasizes supporting vulnerable and marginalized communities, especially in developing and least-developed countries.

290. Exercise Avialndra is conducted between which two countries?

अभ्यास एवियाइंद्रा किन दो देशों के बीच आयोजित किया जाता है?

- (a) India and USA
- (b) India and France
- (c) India and Russia
- (d) India and Japan
- (e) India and China

Ans. c

Sol. India–Russia Conduct Joint Air Exercise Avialndra to Strengthen Defence and Aerospace Cooperation

The Indian Air Force is hosting Exercise AvialIndra with the Russian Federation Aerospace Force (RFASF), continuing the bilateral air exercise series that began in 2014.

Personnel from both countries are conducting joint flying operations on platforms such as Su-30 MKI, Tejas, IL-78 aircraft and Mi-17 helicopters, focusing on operational coordination.

The exercise aims to enhance bilateral defence cooperation, promote mutual understanding, and strengthen aerospace synergy by sharing best practices and lessons learned

291. ICGS Amulya, commissioned by the Indian Coast Guard to strengthen coastal and maritime security, is a new-generation Fast Patrol Vessel built with a high level of indigenous content under the Make in India initiative. It is the third vessel of its series and is designed for missions such as surveillance, interdiction, search and rescue, and anti-smuggling operations. ICGS Amulya belongs to which class of vessels?

ICGS अमूल्य, जिसे भारतीय कोस्ट गार्ड ने तटीय और समुद्री सुरक्षा को मज़बूत करने के लिए कमीशन किया है, एक नई पीढ़ी का फास्ट पेट्रोल वेसल है जिसे मेक इंडिया पहल के तहत ज्यादा स्वदेशी सामान के साथ बनाया गया है। यह अपनी सीरीज़ का तीसरा वेसल है और इसे निगरानी, रोकना, खोज और बचाव, और तस्करी विरोधी अभियानों जैसे मिशनों के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है। ICGS अमूल्य किस क्लास के वेसल से संबंधित है?

- (a) Samarth-class
- (b) Vikram-class
- (c) Adamya-class
- (d) Sankalp-class
- (e) Varuna-class

Ans. c

Sol. Indian Coast Guard Commissions ICGS Amulya, Strengthening Indigenous Maritime Security Capabilities

The Indian Coast Guard commissioned ICGS Amulya, the third vessel of the new-generation Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessels, at Goa, with the ceremony attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Defence and Goa Shipyard Limited.

Built by Goa Shipyard Limited, the 51-metre vessel has over 60% indigenous content, reflecting India's Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives; Amulya means "priceless".

Powered by two 3000 kW diesel engines, ICGS Amulya can achieve a top speed of 27 knots with an operational endurance of 1,500 nautical miles, and is equipped with advanced integrated navigation, machinery, and power management systems.

Based at Paradip, Odisha, the vessel will strengthen maritime security along the eastern seaboard by undertaking missions such as surveillance, search and rescue, anti-smuggling, interdiction, and pollution response.

292. An Indian team from Chennai achieved global recognition at NASA's 2025 International Space Apps Challenge by proposing an innovative solution to address the digital divide. The project focused on a sovereign phased-array satellite internet infrastructure, aimed at expanding broadband connectivity in remote and underserved regions and potentially benefiting over 700 million people in India. For this impactful idea, the team received the Most Inspirational Award at the global level. Which of the following teams achieved this feat?

चेन्नई की एक भारतीय टीम ने NASA के 2025 इंटरनेशनल स्पेस ऐप्स चैलेंज में डिजिटल डिवाइड की समस्या को हल करने के लिए एक इनोवेटिव सॉल्यूशन पेश करके ग्लोबल पहचान हासिल की। यह प्रोजेक्ट एक सॉवरेन फेज़-एरे सैटेलाइट इंटरनेट इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर पर केंद्रित था, जिसका मकसद दूरदराज और कम सुविधा वाले इलाकों में ब्रॉडबैंड कनेक्टिविटी का विस्तार करना और संभावित रूप से भारत में 700 मिलियन से ज्यादा लोगों को फायदा पहुंचाना था। इस असरदार आइडिया के लिए, टीम को ग्लोबल लेवल पर सबसे प्रेरणादायक पुरस्कार मिला। निम्नलिखित में से किस टीम ने यह उपलब्धि हासिल की?

- (a) AstroNet India
- (b) Orbital Innovators
- (c) SatCom Pioneers
- (d) Space Visionaries
- (e) Photonics Odyssey

Ans. e

Sol. Chennai Team Wins Global Honour at NASA's 2025 Space Apps Challenge with Satellite Internet Innovation

An Indian team's satellite internet concept emerged as a global winner of NASA's 2025 International Space Apps Challenge. The Chennai-based team, Photonics Odyssey, proposed a sovereign, phased-array satellite internet infrastructure to expand broadband access across remote regions and won the Most Inspirational Award.

The project aims to reduce ground dependency and help connect more than 700 million people in India who currently lack access to broadband connectivity. The winning team members, according to NASA Space Apps, are Manish D., M. K., Prasanth G., Rajalingam N., Rashi M., and Sakthi R.

The 2025 edition of its flagship global hackathon brought together more than 1 lakh 14 thousand participants across 5 hundred and 51 local events in 1 hundred and 67 countries and territories.

Indian American students and participants of Indian origin also featured prominently among the winners, reflecting the strong presence of the Indian diaspora in global science and technology innovation.

Launched in 2012, the International Space Apps Challenge is NASA's annual global hackathon designed to engage citizens worldwide in solving real-world problems using the agency's open data. It has grown into one of the world's largest collaborative platforms for STEM innovation.

About National Aeronautics and Space Administration

- Formed- July 29, 1958
- Headquarters- Washington, D.C., USA
- Administrator Jared Isaacman

293. The Government of India has decided to establish a dedicated Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) to strengthen the safety and security of ships, port facilities, and related infrastructure across the country. This Bureau will function as a statutory body with regulatory oversight under the framework of a newly promulgated act, which provides the legal basis for maritime safety, security, and administration of merchant shipping in India. Under which act will the Bureau of Port Security be formally established?

भारत सरकार ने देश भर में जहाजों, बंदरगाह सुविधाओं और संबंधित इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर की सुरक्षा और हिफाज़त को मज़बूत करने के लिए एक खास ब्यूरो ऑफ पोर्ट सिक्योरिटी (BoPS) बनाने का फैसला किया है। यह ब्यूरो एक नए लागू किए गए कानून के तहत एक वैधानिक निकाय के रूप में काम करेगा, जो भारत में समुद्री सुरक्षा, हिफाज़त और मर्चेंट शिपिंग के प्रशासन के लिए कानूनी आधार प्रदान करता है। ब्यूरो ऑफ पोर्ट सिक्योरिटी को औपचारिक रूप से किस अधिनियम के तहत स्थापित किया जाएगा?

- (a) Ports and Shipping Act, 2020
- (b) Merchant Shipping Act, 2025
- (c) Maritime Safety Act, 2022
- (d) Coastal Security Act, 2023
- (e) Indian Shipping and Port Authority Act, 2024

Ans. b

Sol. Centre to set up statutory Bureau of Port Security to strengthen maritime security framework

Union Home Minister Amit Shah convened a high-level meeting to initiate the creation of a dedicated Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) aimed at strengthening the security of ships and port infrastructure across India.

The Bureau of Port Security will be set up as a statutory body under Section 13 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, functioning under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and

Waterways, with responsibilities for regulatory oversight and coordination of port security.

The proposed security framework will follow a graded and risk-based approach, factoring in vulnerabilities, trade potential, geographical location, and emerging threats, including cyber security, with a dedicated division to protect port IT systems. CISF has been designated as a Recognised Security Organisation for ports, responsible for security assessments, preparation of security plans, and training and certification of private security agencies, while the BoPS will be headed by a Director General of IPS rank, modeled on BCAS.

294. Which institution appointed B P Kanungo as its non-executive chairman to strengthen leadership and governance?

किस संस्था ने लीडरशिप और गवर्नेंस को मज़बूत करने के लिए बी पी कानूनगो को अपना नॉन-एग्जीक्यूटिव चेयरमैन नियुक्त किया है?

- (a) State Bank of India
- (b) HDFC Bank
- (c) India Infoline Finance Limited
- (d) ICICI Bank
- (e) Reserve Bank of India

Ans. c

Sol. IIFL Finance Appoints Former RBI Deputy Governor B P Kanungo as Non-Executive Chairman

India Infoline Finance Limited (IIFL) has appointed B.P. Kanungo, a former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, as non-executive chairman of its board, bringing extensive regulatory and central banking expertise.

Kanungo has over four decades of experience in monetary policy, financial regulation, and central banking, having served as Deputy Governor of the RBI (2017–2021) and as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee.

As chairman, he will lead the board in strategic direction, enhance governance standards, and ensure the protection of interests of shareholders, customers, regulators, and other stakeholders.

295. At which event did Prime Minister Narendra Modi release the commemorative postal stamp on Ashwagandha?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने किस कार्यक्रम में अश्वगंधा पर स्मारक डाक टिकट जारी किया?

- (a) 1st WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine
- (b) 2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine
- (c) International Ayurveda Day

- (d) UN Health Summit
- (e) Global Herbal Medicine Conference

Ans. b.

Sol. PM Modi Releases Commemorative Ashwagandha Postal Stamp at WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine

At the 2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative postal stamp on Ashwagandha, symbolising India's commitment to promoting traditional medicine globally. The stamp highlights the scientific and cultural value of Ashwagandha, a key medicinal herb in Ayurveda known for stress reduction, immunity enhancement, and overall well-being, and reinforces India's efforts to promote AYUSH systems internationally.

The release serves as a symbolic and educational initiative, acting as a cultural ambassador to spread awareness of India's traditional medicinal heritage and its vision of integrating traditional medicine with modern healthcare systems.

296. The Meghalaya government has made which languages mandatory in the curriculum up to Class-1?

मेघालय सरकार ने कक्षा-1 तक पाठ्यक्रम में किन भाषाओं को अनिवार्य किया है?

- (a) Assamese and Bengali
- (b) Khasi and Garo
- (c) Hindi and English
- (d) Mizo and Manipuri
- (e) Nepali and Bodo

Ans. b.

Sol. Meghalaya Mandates Khasi and Garo in Early Education to Strengthen Cultural Roots

Meghalaya has made Khasi and Garo mandatory in the curriculum up to Class-1 to simplify learning and strengthen cultural identity from the foundational years.

New textbooks will be optional in the coming academic year and will become compulsory from the next session, considering schools have already finalised syllabi. Approval was given for a ₹25-crore Mission Mode HIV/AIDS project, mandatory green building certification for large constructions, new cooperative financing society, and arrangements for hosting the 39th National Games.

297. Jammu and Kashmir's first Gen Z Post Office has been inaugurated at which location?

जम्मू-कश्मीर का पहला जेन Z पोस्ट ऑफिस किस स्थान पर शुरू किया गया है?

- (a) AIIMS Srinagar

- (b) University of Jammu
- (c) AIIMS Vijaypur
- (d) IIT Jammu
- (e) GMC Anantnag

Ans. c.

Sol. Jammu & Kashmir Inaugurates First Gen Z Post Office at AIIMS Vijaypur
Jammu and Kashmir inaugurated its first Gen Z Post Office at the AIIMS Vijaypur campus, marking a major step in modernising postal services.

Launched under the Department of Posts' modernisation initiative, the facility offers a contemporary ambience, digital payments, and simplified service delivery tailored for Generation Z.

The post office provides postal, banking, and insurance services together, enhancing convenience for students and staff on campus.

298. Recently, South Indian Bank launched a new contactless payment solution to enhance digital transactions. What is the name of this NFC-enabled payment instrument?

हाल ही में साउथ इंडियन बैंक ने डिजिटल लेन-देन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कौन-सा नया NFC आधारित भुगतान साधन लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) RuPay Quick Card
- (b) SIB Smart Tap
- (c) RuPay Contactless SIB Paytag Sticker
- (d) SIB NFC Debit Card
- (e) RuPay PayWave

Ans. c.

Sol. South Indian Bank Launches RuPay Contactless 'SIB Paytag' NFC Payment Sticker
South Indian Bank has introduced the RuPay Contactless SIB Paytag Sticker, an NFC-enabled payment solution for faster, secure, and seamless transactions.

The compact sticker can be affixed to mobile phones, wallets, or cardholders, allowing customers to make contactless payments without carrying a physical debit card.

Payments up to ₹5,000 do not require a PIN, while transactions above ₹5,000 need PIN authentication to ensure enhanced security.

The SIB Paytag Sticker works at all contactless POS terminals and also supports online e-commerce payments through secure card details access via the SIB Mirror+ app.

299. The Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 replaces which earlier Act?

विकसित भारत-रोजगार और आजीविका मिशन (ग्रामीण) अधिनियम, 2025 के लिए गारंटी किस पुराने अधिनियम की जगह लेती है?

- (a) National Rural Livelihood Mission Act
- (b) PM Awas Yojana Act
- (c) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005
- (d) Rural Development Act, 2010
- (e) Food Security Act, 2013

Ans. c.

Sol. President Assents to Viksit Bharat (Gramin) Act

The President has given assent to the Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025, replacing MGNREGA, 2005 and aligning rural employment policy with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

The Act increases the statutory wage employment guarantee to at least 125 days per rural household per financial year, strengthening livelihood security, income stability, and the right to demand employment.

States may notify up to 60 days of aggregated pause during peak agricultural seasons while retaining the full 125-day guarantee; weekly or within 15 days wage payments are mandated, with compensation for delays.

Wage employment is integrated with the creation of durable rural assets across priority areas like water security, core rural infrastructure, livelihoods, and climate resilience, using bottom-up planning via Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans and national convergence platforms.

Implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with defined cost-sharing (60:40; 90:10 for NE/Himalayan states), enhanced administrative expenditure cap (9%), technology-enabled transparency, and strengthened decentralised governance through Panchayats and Gram Sabhas.

300. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of a ₹10,601-crore brownfield ammonia-urea fertiliser plant, aimed at boosting nitrogenous fertiliser production in eastern India. This plant, under the Assam Valley Fertiliser and Chemical Company Ltd (AVFCCL), will be established within the existing premises of BVFCL and is scheduled to be commissioned by 2030. In which location did this historic event take place?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने पूर्वी भारत में नाइट्रोजनयुक्त उर्वरक उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से ₹10,601 करोड़ के ब्राउनफील्ड अमोनिया-यूरिया उर्वरक संयंत्र की आधारशिला रखी। यह संयंत्र असम वैली फर्टिलाइजर एंड केमिकल कंपनी लिमिटेड (AVFCCL) के तहत BVFCL के

मौजूदा परिसर में स्थापित किया जाएगा और इसे 2030 तक चालू किया जाना है। यह ऐतिहासिक घटना किस स्थान पर हुई?

- (a) Guwahati, Assam
- (b) Dibrugarh, Assam
- (c) Namrup, Arunachal Pradesh
- (d) Silchar, Assam
- (e) Dispur, Assam

Ans. b

Sol. PM Modi Lays Foundation for ₹10,601-Crore Fertiliser Plant in Assam

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the ₹10,601-crore brownfield ammonia-urea plant in Dibrugarh, Assam, set to be commissioned by 2030.

The new Assam Valley Fertiliser and Chemical Company Ltd (AVFCCL) plant will have an annual urea production of 12.7 lakh metric tonnes, enhancing the region's fertiliser output.

AVFCCL is a joint venture among the Assam Government, Oil India, National Fertilisers Ltd (NFL), Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL), and BVFCL, combining public and state expertise.

The plant will be the first in India to use associated natural gas as a primary raw material for producing nitrogenous fertiliser, leveraging sustainable and efficient resources.

301. **When is Kisan Diwas celebrated in India?**

भारत में किसान दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 22 December
- (b) 23 December
- (c) 24 December
- (d) 25 December
- (e) 26 December

Ans. b.

Sol. 23 December -Kisan Diwas

23rd December is observed as Kisan Diwas (Farmer's Day) in India to honour the contributions of farmers to the nation.

The day marks the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, the 5th Prime Minister of India, known for his work towards farmers' welfare.

Kisan Diwas highlights the vital role of farmers in food security, rural economy, and sustainable agriculture in India.

302. Airtel Payments Bank has enabled EV wallet recharges on the Airtel Thanks app in partnership with which organisation?

एयरटेल पेमेंट्स बैंक ने किस ऑर्गनाइजेशन के साथ पार्टनरशिप में एयरटेल थैंक्स ऐप पर EV वॉलेट रिचार्ज शुरू किया है?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India
- (b) NPCI UPI
- (c) NPCI Bharat BillPay
- (d) NITI Aayog
- (e) Power Grid Corporation

Ans. c

Sol. Airtel Payments Bank Enables EV Wallet Recharges via Bharat Connect on Airtel Thanks App

Airtel Payments Bank, in partnership with NPCI Bharat BillPay, has enabled electric vehicle (EV) wallet recharges on the Airtel Thanks app through the Bharat Connect (BBPS) platform.

The facility allows users to instantly top up EV charging point operator (CPO) wallets linked with Bharat Connect, eliminating the need to use multiple operator-specific apps and ensuring secure, interoperable payments.

Customers can recharge EV wallets by selecting the "Recharge EV" option in the Airtel Thanks app, entering their registered mobile number and amount, with instant credit to the EV wallet across India.

303. MUFG Bank will acquire what percentage stake in Shriram Finance through the preferential issue?

MUFG बैंक प्रेफरेंशियल इश्यू के ज़रिए श्रीराम फाइनेंस में कितने परसेंट स्टेक खरीदेगा?

- (a) 10%
- (b) 15%
- (c) 18%
- (d) 20%
- (e) 25%

Ans. d.

Sol. MUFG Bank to Acquire 20% Stake in Shriram Finance for ₹39,618 Crore in India's Largest Financial Services FDI

Shriram Finance has entered into definitive agreements with Japan's MUFG Bank for a ₹39,618 crore (\$4.4 billion) investment to acquire a 20% stake via a preferential share issue, marking India's largest FDI in a financial services company.

MUFG will be allotted over 471 million shares at ₹840.93 per share and will have the right to appoint two nominee directors to Shriram Finance's board.

The transaction may lead to a credit rating upgrade for Shriram Finance and provides MUFG a clear pathway to gradually acquire a controlling stake, subject to RBI approvals, including a \$200 million non-compete fee signalling long-term strategic intent.

304. What percentage of Shriram Life Insurance stake is Piramal Finance selling to Sanlam?

पिरामल फाइनेंस शिराम लाइफ इंश्योरेंस में कितने प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी बेच रहा है?

- (a) 10.25%
- (b) 12.50%
- (c) 14.72%
- (d) 15.00%
- (e) 16.25%

Ans. c.

Sol. Piramal Finance to Sell 14.72% Stake in Shriram Life Insurance to Sanlam for ₹600 Crore

Piramal Finance has signed a share purchase agreement to sell its entire 14.72% equity stake in Shriram Life Insurance Company Ltd (SLIC) to Sanlam Emerging Markets (Mauritius) Ltd for ₹600 crore.

The deal is expected to be completed by the quarter ending March 31, 2026, subject to necessary regulatory approvals, including clearance from IRDAI.

SLIC contributed ₹12.68 crore to Piramal Finance's FY25 revenue, accounting for just 0.12% of its total revenue, mainly through dividend income.



305. Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Canara Bank?

केनरा बैंक के नए मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर (MD) और चीफ एग्जीक्यूटिव ऑफिसर (CEO) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Rajnish Kumar
- (b) Brajesh Kumar Singh
- (c) Arundhati Bhattacharya
- (d) Shikha Sharma
- (e) Usha Ananthasubramanian

Ans. b

Sol. Brajesh Kumar Singh Appointed as MD & CEO of Canara Bank

Brajesh Kumar Singh has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Canara Bank.

Singh brings extensive experience in banking operations, management, and strategic planning, positioning him to drive growth and innovation at the bank.

His appointment is expected to strengthen Canara Bank's leadership, enhance operational efficiency, and support its long-term business and financial objectives.

About Canara Bank

- *Founded - 1906*
- *Headquarters- Bengaluru, Karnataka*
- *MD & CEO - Brajesh Kumar Singh*
- *Tagline - Together with Can*

306. **Which two institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance collaboration in research, education, training, and technology support for India's defence and internal security, aiming to strengthen self-reliance and foster innovation?**

भारत की रक्षा और आंतरिक सुरक्षा के लिए रिसर्च, शिक्षा, ट्रेनिंग और टेक्नोलॉजी सपोर्ट में सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए किन दो संस्थानों ने एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिसका मकसद आत्मनिर्भरता को मजबूत करना और इनोवेशन को बढ़ावा देना है?

- (a) DRDO and IIT Delhi
- (b) DRDO and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)
- (c) ISRO and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)
- (d) DRDO and NIT Warangal
- (e) Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) and AIIMS

Ans. b

Sol. DRDO and Rashtriya Raksha University Sign MoU to Strengthen Defence and Internal Security Collaboration

DRDO and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) signed an MoU to strengthen collaboration in research, education, training, and technology support for defence and internal security.

The agreement aims to enhance India's self-reliance in defence and internal security technologies, integrating academic research, technological innovation, and operational insights.

Under the MoU, the institutions will undertake joint research projects, doctoral and fellowship programmes, specialised training, and studies on emerging operational challenges, contributing to a robust ecosystem for innovation and skill development in defence and internal security.

307. **Who became the first Indian woman to score 4,000 runs in Women's T20 Internationals?**

महिला T20 इंटरनेशनल में 4,000 रन बनाने वाली पहली भारतीय महिला कौन बनीं?

- (a) Harmanpreet Kaur
- (b) Jemimah Rodrigues
- (c) Smriti Mandhana
- (d) Shafali Verma
- (e) Deepti Sharma

Ans. c

Sol. Smriti Mandhana Becomes First Indian Woman to Score 4,000 T20I Runs as India Beat Sri Lanka in Series Opener

Smriti Mandhana became the first Indian woman batter to score 4,000 runs in Women's T20 Internationals, achieving the feat during the first T20I against Sri Lanka at the ACA-VDCA Stadium.

Mandhana is only the second woman globally after Suzie Bates to cross 4,000 T20I runs and did so in the fewest balls faced (3,227), underlining her consistency and strike efficiency.

308. **Which institution has been conferred the title of Best Health Technology**

Assessment (HTA) Institute for the second consecutive year?

किस संस्थान को लगातार दूसरे साल बेस्ट हेल्थ टेक्नोलॉजी असेसमेंट (HTA) इंस्टीट्यूट का खिताब दिया गया है?

- (a) AIIMS New Delhi
- (b) PGIMER Chandigarh
- (c) JIPMER Puducherry
- (d) NIMHANS Bengaluru
- (e) SGPGIMS Lucknow

Ans. b

Sol. PGIMER Chandigarh Named Best Health Technology Assessment Institute for Second Consecutive Year

PGIMER, Chandigarh, has been awarded the Best Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Institute in India for the second consecutive year by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

The honour was conferred at the ARISE 2025 national conclave held at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi, organised by Health Technology Assessment in India (HTAIn) under the MoHFW.

PGIMER's achievement is driven by its HTA Resource Hub under the Department of Health Research, led by Prof Shankar Prinja, which has played a key role in building national capacity for evidence-based health decision-making.

309. **Which IT Services Company has secured a multi-year contract with ASN Bank to modernise its digital operations?**

किस IT सर्विस कंपनी ने अपने डिजिटल ऑपरेशंस को मॉडर्न बनाने के लिए ASN बैंक के साथ मल्टी-ईयर कॉन्ट्रैक्ट हासिल किया है?

- (a) TCS
- (b) Infosys
- (c) Wipro
- (d) HCL Tech
- (e) Tech Mahindra

Ans. d

Sol. HCLTech Secures Multi-Year Deal to Modernise ASN Bank's Digital Operations in the Netherlands

IT services firm HCLTech has secured a multi-year contract with ASN Bank (formerly de Volksbank) to modernise the Dutch retail bank's digital operations.

The partnership aims to consolidate IT services and simplify the vendor landscape, improving operational efficiency.

HCLTech will manage enterprise applications and deliver services through a distributed delivery model to enhance efficiency and customer experience.

The collaboration marks a significant step for HCLTech in expanding its presence in the Dutch banking sector, supporting future-ready banking operations.

310. India and New Zealand have concluded a historic Free Trade Agreement, announced by which two Prime Ministers?

भारत और न्यूज़ीलैंड ने एक ऐतिहासिक मुक्त व्यापार समझौते को अंतिम रूप दिया है, जिसकी घोषणा किन दो प्रधानमंत्रियों ने की?

- (a) Narendra Modi and Jacinda Ardern
- (b) Narendra Modi and Christopher Luxon
- (c) S. Jaishankar and John Key
- (d) Narendra Modi and Winston Peters
- (e) S. Jaishankar and Christopher Luxon

Ans. b

Sol. India and New Zealand Conclude Historic Free Trade Agreement

India and New Zealand have successfully concluded a historic and ambitious Free Trade Agreement (FTA), announced by PM Narendra Modi and New Zealand PM Christopher Luxon after a telephonic conversation.

The FTA negotiations, initiated during PM Luxon's visit to India in March, were completed in a record time of nine months, reflecting strong political will and shared ambition.

The agreement will deepen bilateral economic engagement, improve market access, boost investment flows, and strengthen strategic cooperation between the two countries.

The FTA is expected to double bilateral trade within five years and facilitate over USD 20 billion investment from New Zealand into India over the next 15 years, benefiting innovators, farmers, MSMEs, students, and youth.

311. Which state has become the first in India to launch a large-scale genome sequencing project focused on tribal communities?

जनजातीय समुदायों पर केंद्रित बड़े पैमाने पर जीनोम सीक्रेंसिंग प्रोजेक्ट शुरू करने वाला भारत का पहला राज्य कौन सा बन गया है?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Chhattisgarh
- (c) Jharkhand
- (d) Gujarat

(e) Madhya Pradesh

Ans. d

Sol. Gujarat Becomes First State to Launch Large-Scale Genome Sequencing Project for Tribal Communities

Gujarat has become the first state in India to launch a large-scale genome sequencing project focused exclusively on tribal communities. The project is being led by the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC) to decode the genetic blueprint of tribal populations.

The initiative aims to develop customised diagnostics, treatment strategies, and long-term preventive healthcare based on genetic insights.

The project targets early detection of genetic diseases like thalassemia and sickle cell anaemia, enabling low-cost diagnostic panels, prenatal screening, and embryo-level testing during IVF.

About Gujarat

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

312. **Which state has become the first in India to implement the amended Bharat Net Scheme across the entire state?**

कौन सा राज्य पूरे राज्य में संशोधित भारत नेट योजना को लागू करने वाला भारत का पहला राज्य बन गया है?

- (a) Haryana
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Punjab
- (d) Himachal Pradesh
- (e) Uttar Pradesh

Ans. c

Sol. Punjab Becomes First State to Implement Amended Bharat Net Scheme Across Entire State

Punjab has emerged as the first state in India to implement the amended Bharat Net Scheme across the entire state, enabling live monitoring of border areas from anywhere in the country.

Under the scheme, internet and broadband services have been extended to 43 shadow areas, with only one village left, which is expected to be covered by the end of November. The Bharat Net Scheme aims to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats, households, and institutions, while promoting e-health and e-governance services in rural areas.

About Punjab

- *Capital - Chandigarh*
- *Chief Minister - Bhagwant Mann*
- *Governor - Banwarilal Purohit*

313. **The Bihar Cabinet approved the implementation of Saat Nischay-3, a five-year development programme aimed at placing Bihar among the developed states of India. For which period has this programme been approved?**

बिहार कैबिनेट ने सात निश्चय-3 को लागू करने की मंजूरी दे दी है, जो एक पाँच साल का डेवलपमेंट प्रोग्राम है जिसका मकसद बिहार को भारत के विकसित राज्यों में शामिल करना है। यह प्रोग्राम किस अवधि के लिए मंजूर किया गया है?

- (a) 2025-2029
- (b) 2025-2030
- (c) 2026-2031
- (d) 2025-2028
- (e) 2025-2027

Ans. b

Sol. Bihar Cabinet Approves Saat Nischay-3 (2025-2030) to Transform State into Developed Economy

Bihar Cabinet approved Saat Nischay-3 to be implemented from 2025 to 2030, aiming to place the State among India's developed states, building on the success of the previous two programmes.

The programme focuses on seven pillars — Double Employment-Double Income, Prosperous Industry-Empowered Bihar, Progress in Agriculture, Advanced Education-Bright Future, Accessible Health-Secure Life, Strong Foundation-Modern Expansion, and Respect for All-Easy Life — targeting income, employment, industries, agriculture, health, education, infrastructure, and ease of living.

Includes women's employment schemes with financial support, development of industrial areas and sugar mills, promotion of agriculture (including Makhana production), establishment of the Higher Education Department and Education City, and expansion of health infrastructure through block and district-level hospitals.

About Bihar

- ***Formation*** – 22 March 1912
- ***Capital*** – Patna
- ***Chief Minister*** – Nitish Kumar
- ***Governor*** – Arif Mohammed Khan

314. **The “Shunya Se Shatak” programme was held in which city to mark Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s birth centenary?**

अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी की जन्मशती के उपलक्ष्य में "शून्य से शतक" कार्यक्रम किस शहर में आयोजित किया गया था?

- (a) Bhopal
- (b) Indore
- (c) Gwalior
- (d) Jabalpur
- (e) Ujjain

Ans. b

Sol. "Shunya Se Shatak" Programme Held in Indore to Commemorate Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Birth Centenary

The "Shunya Se Shatak: Ek Shatabdi Atal Bharat Ki" programme was held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh on 21 December to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary year of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Key Dignitaries and Tributes: The event was attended by Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan, Governor Mangubhai Patel, and Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, among others, with cultural tributes, felicitation of eminent personalities, performances, and screenings reflecting Vajpayee's life and legacy.

Organised by the Atal Foundation at Daly College's auditorium, this programme served as a significant highlight in the year-long centenary celebrations of Vajpayee across the country.

315. Which company was responsible for the development of India's first nature-themed airport terminal at Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi International Airport in Guwahati, Assam, incorporating bamboo and orchid-inspired designs and coordinating closely with the Centre and Assam government for this ₹4,000 crore project?

असम के गुवाहाटी में लोकप्रिया गोपीनाथ बोरदोलोई इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर भारत के पहले नेचर-थीम वाले एयरपोर्ट टर्मिनल के डेवलपमेंट के लिए कौन सी कंपनी ज़िम्मेदार थी, जिसमें बांस और ऑर्किड से प्रेरित डिज़ाइन शामिल थे और इस ₹4,000 करोड़ के प्रोजेक्ट के लिए केंद्र और असम सरकार के साथ मिलकर काम किया गया था?

- (a) GMR Airports
- (b) Adani Airports Holdings Limited
- (c) Larsen & Toubro
- (d) Tata Projects
- (e) HCL Infrastructure

Ans. b

Sol. PM Modi Inaugurates India's First Nature-Themed Airport Terminal at Guwahati's LGBI Airport

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new terminal building of Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi International Airport in Guwahati, Assam, built at a cost of ₹4,000 crore and recognised as India's first nature-themed airport terminal.

The new terminal has an annual capacity of over 13 million passengers, making it the largest airport terminal in Northeast India and a major aviation hub and gateway to Southeast Asia.

Developed by Adani Airports Holdings Limited, the terminal reflects regional identity through bamboo and orchid-inspired designs, with the overall project involving close coordination between the Centre and the Assam government.

316. World Meditation Day is observed every year on which date?

विश्व ध्यान दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 18 December

- (b) 20 December
- (c) 21 December
- (d) 22 December
- (e) 25 December

Ans. c

Sol. 21 December - World Meditation Day

World Meditation Day is observed annually on 21 December to highlight the importance of meditation in promoting mental well-being, inner peace, and emotional balance.

Theme 2025 - Inner Peace, Global Harmony; One World, One Family; Healing the World From Within

The day emphasises meditation as a powerful tool for stress reduction, mindfulness, and improved concentration in today's fast-paced world.

It encourages individuals and communities to adopt meditation as a daily practice for holistic health, combining mental, emotional, and spiritual wellness.

World Meditation Day also recognises meditation's role in fostering harmony, compassion, and peace at both individual and societal levels.

317. **World Basketball Day is observed annually on which date?**

विश्व बास्केटबॉल दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 18 December
- (b) 20 December
- (c) 21 December
- (d) 22 December
- (e) 25 December

Ans. c

Sol. 21 December - World Basketball Day

World Basketball Day is observed every year on 21 December to celebrate the global popularity and unifying power of basketball.

The day marks the anniversary of the first official basketball game, played on 21 December 1891, after the sport was invented by Dr. James Naismith.

The occasion encourages youth participation and grassroots development, recognising basketball as a tool for peace, education, and healthy lifestyles worldwide.

318. **The Union Ministry of Tourism has announced the establishment of city-level Convention Promotion Bureaus to boost which segment of tourism?**

केंद्रीय पर्यटन मंत्रालय ने पर्यटन के किस सेगमेंट को बढ़ावा देने के लिए शहर-स्तरीय कन्वेशन प्रमोशन ब्यूरो स्थापित करने की घोषणा की है?

- (a) Medical tourism
- (b) Eco-tourism
- (c) MICE tourism
- (d) Adventure tourism
- (e) Rural tourism

Ans. c

Sol. Union Tourism Ministry to Set Up City-Level Convention Promotion Bureaus to Boost MICE Tourism from 2026

The Union Ministry of Tourism will establish independent, city-level Convention Promotion Bureaus from 2026, in partnership with stakeholders, to strengthen India's MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions) tourism ecosystem.

Global MICE Positioning: With world-class venues like Bharat Mandapam, Yashobhoomi, and Jio World Centre, and MICE tourism prioritised under the Incredible India campaign, the initiative aims to position Indian cities as globally competitive MICE destinations.

Strategic Roadmap & Industry Support: The initiative was complemented by a Round Table Summit on the Indian MICE Industry Roadmap for the next five years and the launch of IEIA's report "India MICE Opportunities Overview (2025–2030)", highlighting institutional and technological support for sector growth.

319. Which organisation has recently recognised Flipkart as an Awarding Body (Dual) to promote industry-led skilling in India's e-commerce sector?

हाल ही में किस ऑर्गनाइजेशन ने भारत के ई-कॉर्मस सेक्टर में इंडस्ट्री-लेड स्किलिंग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए फ्लिपकार्ट को एक अवार्डिंग बॉडी (ड्यूअल) के तौर पर मान्यता दी है?

- (a) National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)
- (b) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)
- (c) National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)
- (d) University Grants Commission (UGC)
- (e) NITI Aayog

Ans. c

Sol. NCVET Recognises Flipkart as Awarding Body (Dual) to Strengthen Industry-Led Skilling in E-commerce

CVET, under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, has recognised Flipkart as an Awarding Body (Dual) to strengthen industry-led vocational education in the e-commerce and logistics sector.

The collaboration aims to create nationally recognised, benchmarked skilling pathways aligned with the Skill India Mission, enhancing workforce employability in India's rapidly growing e-commerce ecosystem.

The partnership will enable Flipkart to develop standardized, high-quality training and certification programmes, with a special focus on improving employability for youth from underprivileged backgrounds.

320. Ravi Deecee, Publisher and Managing Director of DC Books, was recently conferred which prestigious French cultural honour in recognition of his contribution to literature and cross-cultural exchange?

DC Books के प्रकाशक और प्रबंध निदेशक रवि डीसी को हाल ही में साहित्य और सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान में उनके योगदान के लिए किस प्रतिष्ठित फ्रांसीसी सांस्कृतिक सम्मान से सम्मानित किया गया?

- (a) Legion of Honour

- (b) Ordre national du Mérite
- (c) Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres
- (d) Prix Goncourt
- (e) Prix Renaudot

Ans. c

Sol. Ravi Deecee Honoured with France's Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres for Literary Contributions

Malayalam publisher Ravi Deecee, Managing Director of DC Books, was awarded the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, one of France's highest cultural honours, for his contribution to literature and cross-cultural exchange.

The award was conferred by the French Ambassador to India, H.E. Thierry Mathou, at a ceremony held at the Embassy of France.

Under Ravi Deecee's leadership, DC Books emerged as a leading Indian publishing house, with a strong focus on translating world literature—especially French works—into Malayalam.

Recent Awards

- **Oman's Highest Civilian Honour 'The First Class of the Order Award'** - PM Narendra Modi
- **Ethiopia's highest civilian honour, "The Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia"** - PM Narendra Modi
- **Union Home Minister's Efficiency Medal for Exemplary Service** - CRPF Officer Dinesh Khatak
- **UN Environment Programme's 2025 Champions of the Earth** - Supriya Sahu
- **TIME's 2025 Athlete of the Year** - A'ja Wilson

321. **Mswipe Technologies recently received which regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?**

एमस्वाइप टेक्नोलॉजीज को हाल ही में भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (आरबीआई) से कौन सी नियामक मंजूरी मिली है?

- (a) Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) licence
- (b) Small Finance Bank licence
- (c) NBFC registration
- (d) Final Payment Aggregator (PA) licence
- (e) Payment Bank licence

Ans. d

Sol. Mswipe Technologies Secures RBI's Final Payment Aggregator Licence

Mswipe Technologies received the RBI's final Payment Aggregator (PA) licence, enabling it to operate across both online and physical payment acceptance channels under a unified regulatory framework.

The licence allows Mswipe to onboard merchants, aggregate digital and in-person payments, and facilitate inward and outward cross-border transactions, expanding its scope beyond point-of-sale solutions.

322. **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$650 million policy-based loan to support India's rooftop solar expansion, aiming to provide clean and affordable energy to 10 million households by 2027. The ADB loan will support which flagship Government of India scheme related to rooftop solar energy?**

एशियन डेवलपमेंट बैंक (ADB) ने भारत के रूफटॉप सोलर विस्तार को सपोर्ट करने के लिए \$650 मिलियन का पॉलिसी-बेस्ड लोन मंजूर किया है, जिसका मकसद 2027 तक 10 मिलियन घरों को साफ़ और सस्ती एनर्जी देना है। ADB का यह लोन भारत सरकार की रूफटॉप सोलर एनर्जी से जुड़ी किस प्रमुख योजना को सपोर्ट करेगा?

- (a) PM-KUSUM Yojana
- (b) National Solar Mission
- (c) Rooftop Solar Phase-II
- (d) Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana
- (e) Green Energy Corridor

Ans. d

Sol. ADB Approves \$650 Million Loan to Boost Rooftop Solar Adoption Under PM Surya Ghar Yojana in India

Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$650 million policy-based loan to support India's rooftop solar expansion, aiming to provide clean and affordable energy to 10 million households by 2027.

The funding will back the government's flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY), which promotes nationwide adoption of residential rooftop solar systems.

Under PMSGMBY, households installing rooftop solar systems up to 3 kW will receive subsidies of 60% (up to 2 kW) and 40% (2-3 kW), along with access to collateral-free, low-interest loans.

The program supports India's climate goals by targeting 30 GW rooftop solar capacity, reducing 28.8 million tonnes of CO₂ annually, creating green jobs, enhancing skills of 5,000 personnel (including 1,500 women), and strengthening the power sector.

About Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- **Founded** - 19 December 1966
- **Headquarters** - Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- **President** - Masato Kanda (replace Masatsugu Asakawa)
- **Member Countries** - 69 (Israel)

323. **The 'VijAlpatha' initiative is being implemented by the Cyient Foundation in partnership with which State government to promote AI and STEM education in government schools?**

सरकारी स्कूलों में AI और STEM शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किस राज्य सरकार के साथ साझेदारी में Cyient फाउंडेशन द्वारा 'विजयपथ' पहल लागू की जा रही है?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh Government
- (b) Telangana Government
- (c) Tamil Nadu Government
- (d) Maharashtra Government

(e) Karnataka Government

Ans. e

Sol. FM Nirmala Sitharaman Launches 'VijAIpatha' to Introduce AI and STEM Education in Government Schools

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched 'VijAIpatha', a pilot AI education initiative to equip government school students with AI, STEM, robotics, coding and digital innovation skills.

The programme is being implemented by Cyient Foundation in partnership with the Karnataka government and was inaugurated at Government Girls' PU College, Amaravati (Hosapete taluk, Vijayanagara district).

Under the pilot, five world-class AI, STEM and Robotics labs will be set up in government schools, benefiting over 2,000 students (Classes 6–10); more than 100 teachers have already been trained.

The CSR-led initiative will provide AI-ready computers, robotics kits, IoT devices and broadband connectivity, with an investment of ₹1 crore over three years, positively impacting around 6,000 households.

324. MoHUA launched the 10th edition of Swachh Survekshan (2025–26) in Bhopal, marking a decade of the world's largest urban cleanliness survey under Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban (SBM-U); the toolkit was released by Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal. What is the theme of the 10th edition of Swachh Survekshan?

MoHUA ने भोपाल में स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण (2025-26) का 10वां संस्करण लॉन्च किया, जो स्वच्छ भारत मिशन-शहरी (SBM-U) के तहत दुनिया के सबसे बड़े शहरी स्वच्छता सर्वेक्षण के एक दशक का प्रतीक है; टूलकिट केंद्रीय मंत्री श्री मनोहर लाल द्वारा जारी किया गया। स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण के 10वें संस्करण की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Clean Cities, Green India
- (b) Swachh Bharat, Healthy Bharat
- (c) Garbage Free India
- (d) Swacchata Ki Nayi Pehel – Badhayein Haath, Karein Safai Saath
- (e) Urban Cleanliness for All

Ans. d

Sol. MoHUA Launches 10th Edition of Swachh Survekshan 2025–26

MoHUA launched the 10th edition of Swachh Survekshan (2025–26) in Bhopal, marking a decade of the world's largest urban cleanliness survey under Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban (SBM-U); the toolkit was released by Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal.

The theme "Swacchata Ki Nayi Pehel – Badhayein Haath, Karein Safai Saath" highlights citizen participation and collective responsibility as key drivers of urban sanitation and waste management reforms.

Citizen feedback weightage has been significantly increased, with round-the-year participation enabled through digital platforms like Vote For My City, MyGov App, Swachhata App, and QR-code interfaces.

The survey's geographical scope has expanded to include all river towns across India and a separate assessment framework for coastal areas, addressing region-specific sanitation challenges.

Swachh Shehar Jodi (SSJ) initiative promotes peer learning, with 72 mentor cities and 200 mentee cities; a new award category will recognise best-performing city pairs. The assessment process has become more rigorous and tech-driven, involving 3,000+ GPS-enabled field assessors, a national oversight team, and 45-day on-ground surveys, starting Feb–March 2026, along with GFC and ODF evaluations.

335. The Indian Coast Guard has recently inducted its first ever Pollution Control Vessel (PCV) designed and built indigenously to enhance marine pollution management and maritime law enforcement. What is the name of this vessel?

भारतीय तट रक्षक ने हाल ही में अपना पहला प्रदूषण नियंत्रण पोत (PCV) शामिल किया है, जिसे स्वदेशी रूप से डिजाइन और निर्मित किया गया है, ताकि समुद्री प्रदूषण प्रबंधन और समुद्री कानून प्रवर्तन को मजबूत किया जा सके। इस पोत का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Samudra Rakshak
- (b) Samudra Pratap
- (c) Samudra Veer
- (d) SamudraParul
- (e) Samudra Jyoti

Ans. b

Sol. Indian Coast Guard inducts First Pollution Control Vessel at Goa Shipyard Limited The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) inducted its first Pollution Control Vessel (PCV), Samudra Pratap, at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), marking a major step in indigenous shipbuilding. Samudra Pratap is equipped with advanced technology, including a 30 mm CRN-91 gun, two 12.7 mm stabilised remote-controlled guns, a shaft generator, Sea boat davit, Pollution Response boat, and a high-capacity external firefighting system.

The vessel features retractable stern thruster, Dynamic Positioning System, flush-type side sweeping arms, and major Pollution Control equipment, with over 60% indigenous content, supporting Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives.

It will serve as a critical platform for marine pollution control, maritime law enforcement, search and rescue operations, and protection of India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

336. Vinod Kumar Shukla, who passed away recently, was a recipient of which prestigious literary award?

विनोद कुमार शुक्ला, जिनका हाल ही में निधन हुआ, किस प्रतिष्ठित साहित्यिक पुरस्कार के प्राप्तकर्ता थे?

- (a) Sahitya Akademi Award
- (b) Jnanpith Award
- (c) Booker Prize
- (d) Padma Shri
- (e) Katha Award

Ans. b

Sol. Renowned Litterateur and Jnanpith Awardee Vinod Kumar Shukla Passes Away at 88

Renowned litterateur and Jnanpith Awardee Vinod Kumar Shukla passed away at AIIMS Raipur at the age of around 88, after undergoing treatment for several days.

Born in 1937 in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh, Shukla had a literary career spanning over five decades, earning accolades including the Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel "Deewar Mein Ek Khidki".

His notable works include the novel "Naukar Ki Kameez", poetry collection "Lagbhag Jai Hind", and short story collection "Pedon Par Kamra", many of which have been translated into multiple languages, inspiring generations.

335. ISRO successfully launched the United States' AST SpaceMobile BlueBird Block-2 communication satellite from the Second Launch Pad, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The BlueBird Block-2 launch marks which operational flight of ISRO's LVM3 heavy-lift vehicle?

इसरो ने दूसरे लॉन्च पैड, सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र, श्रीहरिकोटा, आंध्र प्रदेश से संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के एएसटी स्पेसमोबाइल ब्लूबर्ड ब्लॉक -2 संचार उपग्रह को सफलतापूर्वक लॉन्च किया। ब्लूबर्ड ब्लॉक-2 का प्रद्वेषण इसरो के LVM3 हेवी-लिफ्ट वाहन की किस परिचालन उड़ान का प्रतीक है?

- (a) Fourth
- (b) Fifth
- (c) Sixth
- (d) Seventh
- (e) Ninth

Ans. c

Sol. ISRO Successfully Launches US AST SpaceMobile's BlueBird Block-2 Communication Satellite

ISRO successfully launched the United States' AST SpaceMobile BlueBird Block-2 communication satellite from the Second Launch Pad, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

The payload, BlueBird Block-2, is a 6.5-tonne communication satellite, making it the heaviest commercial satellite deployed to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) by LVM3 from India. This launch marks the sixth operational flight of ISRO's LVM3 heavy-lift vehicle, which has previously succeeded with missions like Chandrayaan-3 and OneWeb constellation deployments.

BlueBird Block-2 is designed to provide space-based cellular broadband directly to unmodified smartphones, aiming to revolutionize connectivity in remote and underserved areas.

336. India has handed over three Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) to Myanmar to support the socio-economic development of its people. These projects were

implemented specifically in which region of Myanmar to benefit local communities, including education, vocational training, and clean energy initiatives?

भारत ने म्यांमार में अपने नागरिकों के सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास को समर्थन देने के लिए तीन किंवित इम्पैक्ट प्रोजेक्ट्स (QIPs) सौंपे हैं। ये परियोजनाएँ किस क्षेत्र में लागू की गई ताकि स्थानीय समुदायों को शिक्षा, व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण और स्वच्छ ऊर्जा पहल में लाभ मिल सके?

- (a) Yangon Region
- (b) Mandalay Region
- (c) Naypyidaw Region
- (d) Sagaing Region
- (e) Rakhine State

Ans. b

Sol. India Hands Over Three Quick Impact Projects to Myanmar to Boost Socio-Economic Development

India handed over three Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) to Myanmar, aimed at enhancing the socio-economic well-being of people in Mandalay Region

A flexible rapier loom, a modern high-tech weaving machine made in India, was installed at the Saunder Weaving and Vocational Institute in Amarapura to promote vocational education in weaving.

A new single-storey building for the Girls Training School in Mandalay was inaugurated, providing a safe, spacious, and comfortable learning environment for young students.

The third QIP focuses on tar-free and dry type gasification of agricultural waste, supporting rural electrification, clean energy, environmental conservation, and local capacity-building.

337. The Pro Wrestling League (PWL) recently unveiled a new logo in preparation for which season?

प्रो रेसलिंग लीग (PWL) ने हाल ही में किस सीज़न की तैयारी के लिए एक नए लोगो का अनावरण किया?

- (a) 2024 Season
- (b) 2025 Season
- (c) 2026 Season
- (d) 2027 Season
- (e) 2028 Season

Ans. c

Sol. Pro Wrestling League Unveils New Logo Ahead of 2026 Season Comeback

The Pro Wrestling League (PWL) unveiled its new official logo ahead of the 2026 season, marking the league's return after a seven-year hiatus and its revival under new management.

Scheduled to resume in January 2026, the WFI-sanctioned league will feature top Indian and international wrestlers, aiming to re-establish itself on the global stage.

The modern red-and-blue logo, inspired by the traditional wrestling mat, symbolizes strength, balance, and competitive spirit, reflecting PWL's vision of a world-class professional platform for wrestlers.

338. India announced a \$450 million relief package for which country's post-cyclone recovery?

भारत ने किस देश की चक्रवात के बाद पुनर्पाप्ति के लिए 450 मिलियन डॉलर की राहत सहायता की घोषणा की?

- (a) Maldives
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Nepal
- (d) Myanmar
- (e) Sri Lanka

Ans. e

Sol. India Announces \$450 Million Relief Package to Support Sri Lanka's Post-Cyclone Recovery

India announced a \$450 million relief and reconstruction package to support Sri Lanka's recovery from Cyclone Ditwah, as stated by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

The announcement was made in Colombo, where Jaishankar affirmed that India stands firmly with Sri Lanka during the post-cyclone recovery phase.

The package includes \$350 million in concessional Lines of Credit and \$100 million in grants, targeting sectors most affected by the cyclone.

About Sri Lanka

- **Legislative capital - Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte**
- **Executive and Judicial capital - Colombo**
- **Currency - Sri Lankan rupee**
- **President - Anura Kumara Dissanayake**
- **Prime Minister - Harini Amarasuriya**

339. Who chaired the 'Chintan Shivir' of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs?

वित्त मंत्रालय और कॉर्पोरेट मामलों के मंत्रालय के 'चिंतन शिविर' की अध्यक्षता किसने की?

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

Ans. c

Sol. FM Sitharaman Chairs Finance-Corporate Affairs 'Chintan Shivir' to Review Policy and Development Challenges

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, along with MoS Harsh Malhotra, chaired the 'Chintan Shivir' of the Ministries of Finance and Corporate Affairs to deliberate on key policy and governance issues.

The brainstorming session was attended by Finance and Corporate Affairs Secretaries, Chairpersons of CBDT and CBIC, the Chief Economic Adviser, and senior officers from related departments.

During her address, Sitharaman highlighted the historical significance of the Vijayanagara region, describing it as one of the closest examples of India at its imperial peak about 500 years ago.

She also emphasized present-day developmental challenges in the region, pointing to the coexistence of grand monuments with drought-prone areas, low agricultural productivity, and human-animal conflict.

340. Which publishing house is releasing the book Salman Khan: The Sultan of Bollywood?

सलमान खान: द सुल्तान ऑफ बॉलीवुड पुस्तक किस प्रकाशन द्वारा जारी की जा रही है?

- (a) Penguin Random House
- (b) Rupa Publications
- (c) HarperCollins India
- (d) Bloomsbury India
- (e) Westland Publications

Ans. c

Sol. HarperCollins India Announces Salman Khan: The Sultan of Bollywood

HarperCollins India will publish Salman Khan: The Sultan of Bollywood by award-winning author Mohar Basu, a celebration of the life, stardom, and cinematic legacy of superstar Salman Khan.

The book offers more than a biography, presenting a fan's tribute through iconic roles, memorable dialogues, hit songs, rare photographs, and fan anecdotes, capturing Salman Khan's larger-than-life journey.

Authored by Mohar Basu, Chief Correspondent (Entertainment) at Midday and a 2024 Indian Achievers Club "40 Under 40" honoree.

Recent Books

- ***A Sixth of Humanity*** – Devesh Kapur and Arvind Subramanian
- ***Chunotiya Mujhe Pasand Hai (Challenges I Like)*** - Vinay Joshi, Ashok Desai, Dr. Pankaj Jani
- ***Different But No Less*** - Anupam Kher
- ***Operation Sindoor: The Untold Story of India's Deep Strikes Inside Pakistan*** - Retd. Lt. Gen KJS Dhillon (launched by Upendra Dwivedi)

341. The Indian Navy inducted Anjadip, designed and built by GRSE, Kolkata, with delivery taking place in Chennai. Anjadip inducted into the Indian Navy belongs to which category of vessels?

भारतीय नौसेना ने जीआरएसई, कोलकाता द्वारा डिजाइन और निर्मित अंजादीप को शामिल किया, जिसकी डिलीवरी चेन्नई में हुई। भारतीय नौसेना में शामिल अंजादीप किस श्रेणी के जहाजों से संबंधित है?

- (a) Aircraft Carrier
- (b) Destroyer

(c) Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft

(d) Frigate

(e) Fleet Tanker

Ans. b

Sol. Indigenous ASW Craft Anjadip Inducted into Indian Navy, Boosting Maritime Self-Reliance

The Indian Navy inducted Anjadip, the third of eight indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), designed and built by GRSE, Kolkata, with delivery taking place in Chennai.

The ASW SWC project is being executed under a Public-Private Partnership between GRSE and L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli, highlighting India's progress in self-reliant defence shipbuilding.

The vessel is named after Anjadip Island near Karwar, Karnataka, and revives the legacy of the erstwhile INS Anjadip, a Petya-class corvette decommissioned in 2003.

With Anjadip's induction, GRSE delivered five warships in a single year, making it the 115th warship built and the 77th delivered to the Indian Navy.

342. India Optel Limited (IOL) signed a collaboration agreement with which company for defence manufacturing in India?

इंडिया ऑप्टेल लिमिटेड (IOL) ने भारत में रक्षा विनिर्माण के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ सहयोग समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

(a) Thales Group

(b) Boeing Defence

(c) Safran Electronics & Defense

(d) Lockheed Martin

(e) Raytheon Technologies

Ans. c

Sol. IOL-Safran Pact Boosts Make-in-India Defence Manufacturing

India Optel Limited (IOL) signed a collaboration agreement with Safran Electronics & Defense to manufacture two high-precision, combat-proven defence systems in India under the Make-in-India initiative.

The systems include the SIGMA 30N Digital Ring Laser Gyro Inertial Navigation System and the CM3-MR Direct Firing Sight, used in artillery, missiles, air defence, radars, and anti-drone systems.

Under the agreement, IOL will handle manufacturing, final assembly, testing, quality control, and full life-cycle support to meet the operational requirements of the Indian Army.

343. Which country has unveiled its first polymer one-rial banknote as part of a broader move towards currency modernisation and enhanced security standards?

किस देश ने करेंसी के आधुनिकीकरण और बेहतर सुरक्षा मानकों की दिशा में एक बड़े कदम के तहत अपना पहला पॉलीमर एक-रियाल बैंकनोट जारी किया है?

(a) Saudi Arabia

- (b) United Arab Emirates
- (c) Qatar
- (d) Oman
- (e) Bahrain

Ans. d

Sol. Oman Unveils First Polymer One-Rial Banknote with Advanced Security Features, to Circulate from 2026

Oman has unveiled its first polymer one-rial banknote, issued by the Central Bank of Oman, which will enter circulation from January 11, 2026, alongside existing paper-based notes as legal tender.

The shift to polymer material enhances durability, suits Oman's hot and humid climate, reduces replacement costs, and strengthens protection against counterfeiting, aligning Oman with global best practices.

The note reflects Oman's cultural and economic identity, featuring the Oman Botanic Garden on the front and Duqm Port and Refinery on the reverse, along with advanced security elements such as a transparent window, colour-shifting foil, and iridescent ink. The banknote measures 145 x 76 mm and reflects Oman's culture and economy, featuring the Oman Botanic Garden on the front and the Sayyid Tariq bin Taimur Cultural Complex with Duqm Port and Refinery on the reverse.

About Oman

- *Capital- Muscat*
- *Currency- Omani Rial*
- *Official language- Arabic*

344. **INS Sindhughosh, the lead submarine of her class, was decommissioned after completing 40 years of distinguished service, marking the end of an important chapter in India's conventional submarine force. Where was the decommissioning ceremony of INS Sindhughosh held?**

INS सिंधुघोष, जो अपनी क्लास की लीड सबमरीन थी, 40 साल की शानदार सेवा पूरी करने के बाद डीकमीशन हो गई, जिससे भारत की पारंपरिक सबमरीन फोर्स में एक महत्वपूर्ण अध्याय का अंत हो गया। INS सिंधुघोष का डीकमीशनिंग समारोह कहाँ आयोजित किया गया था?

- (a) Visakhapatnam Naval Base
- (b) Kochi Naval Base
- (c) Karwar Naval Base
- (d) Mumbai Naval Dockyard
- (e) Port Blair Naval Base

Ans. d

Sol. INS Sindhughosh Decommissioned After 40 Years of Service

INS Sindhughosh, the lead submarine of her class, was decommissioned, after completing 40 years of distinguished service, marking the end of an important chapter in India's conventional submarine force.

The decommissioning ceremony was held at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, in the presence of Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, with the submarine formally paid off under the command of Lt Cdr Rajat Sharma.

Commissioned on April 30, 1986, INS Sindhughosh was a Soviet-origin Kilo-class diesel-electric submarine acquired from Russia under Project 877EKM.

345. Which team did East Bengal FC defeat in the final to win the inaugural SAFF Women's Club Championship 2025?

ईस्ट बंगाल FC ने 2025 का पहला SAFF महिला क्लब चैंपियनशिप जीतने के लिए फाइनल में किस टीम को हराया?

- (a) Sethu FC
- (b) APF (Armed Police Forces)
- (c) Gokulam Kerala FC
- (d) Sreebhumi FC
- (e) Nita Football Academy

Ans. b

Sol. East Bengal Football Club Wins Inaugural SAFF Women's Club Championship 2025
East Bengal FC has clinched the title of the inaugural SAFF Women's Club Championship 2025 with a dominant 3-0 win against hosts Nepal's APF (Armed Police Forces) in the final at Dasrath Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal.

With this win, East Bengal has become the first Indian women's club to win an international tournament.

346. Veteran Assamese actress Ranjana Sharma Bordoloi passed away in Dibrugarh at the age of 80, marking the end of an era in Assamese cinema. Which award did Ranjana Sharma Bordoloi receive in recognition of her contributions to Assamese arts and culture?

अनुभवी असमिया अभिनेत्री रंजना शर्मा बोरदोलोई का 80 वर्ष की आयु में डिब्रूगढ़ में निधन हो गया, जिससे असमिया सिनेमा में एक युग का अंत हो गया। रंजना शर्मा बोरदोलोई को असमिया कला और संस्कृति में उनके योगदान के लिए कौन सा पुरस्कार मिला?

- (a) Sangeet Natak Akademi Award
- (b) Bishnu Rabha Award
- (c) Padma Shri
- (d) Assam State Film Award
- (e) Dadasaheb Phalke Award

Ans. b

Sol. Veteran Assamese Actress Ranjana Sharma Bordoloi Passes Away at 80
Veteran Assamese actress Ranjana Sharma Bordoloi passed away in Dibrugarh at the age of 80, marking the end of an era in Assamese cinema.

She starred in landmark Assamese films such as "Dr Bezbarua" (1969), "Maniram Dewan" (1964), "Morom Trishna" (1968), and others, earning recognition for her versatility and screen presence during the 1960s-70s.

Bordoloi was an accomplished classical dancer (Bharatnatyam), theatre artist, and radio performer, co-founding the theatre group Mancharupa in 1957 and working with cultural icons like Bhupen Hazarika.

She was a recipient of the Bishnu Rabha Award and an artist pensioner, acknowledging her lifelong contributions to Assamese arts and culture.

347. IIT Delhi has developed an AI agent named AILAS capable of conducting scientific experiments independently, mimicking human researchers. What does AILAS stand for?

IIT दिल्ली ने AILAS नाम का एक AI एजेंट डेवलप किया है जो इंसानी रिसर्चर्स की तरह खुद से साइंटिफिक एक्सपरिमेंट कर सकता है। AILAS का पूरा नाम क्या है?

- (a) Artificially Intelligent Lab Assistant System
- (b) Artificially Intelligent Laboratory Agent
- (c) Automated Intelligent Laboratory Automation System
- (d) Advanced Intelligent Lab Analysis Software
- (e) Artificial Integrated Lab Automation System

Ans. b

Sol. IIT Delhi Develops AILAS: AI Agent Capable of Conducting Independent Laboratory Experiments

IIT Delhi has developed an AI agent named AILAS (Artificially Intelligent Laboratory Agent) capable of conducting scientific experiments independently, mimicking human researchers.

AILAS can control laboratory devices and make real-time decisions during experiments, enhancing efficiency and accuracy in research workflows.

348. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, on the occasion of the 101st birth anniversary of a former Prime Minister. The memorial is dedicated to the life, ideals and nation-building contributions of which leader?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी द्वारा लखनऊ, उत्तर प्रदेश में 101वीं जयंती के अवसर पर उद्घाटित 'राष्ट्र प्रेरणा स्थल' किस पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री के जीवन, आदर्शों और राष्ट्र निर्माण में योगदान को समर्पित है?

- (a) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- (b) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (c) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- (d) Morarji Desai
- (e) P. V. Narasimha Rao

Ans. c

Sol. PM Modi Inaugurates Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow on Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 101st Birth Anniversary

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, dedicated to former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his 101st birth anniversary, describing it as a symbol of self-respect, unity and service, aligned with the vision of Sabka Prayas for a developed India.

He praised the transformation of a 30+ acre former garbage dump into a modern national memorial, congratulating the Uttar Pradesh government, planners and workers for converting the area into a landmark of national inspiration.

Recalling the ideals of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister highlighted Article 370 abrogation, Antyodaya-based welfare saturation, expanded social security coverage, digital and infrastructure growth, and Uttar Pradesh's emergence as a hub of development and manufacturing.

349. National Consumer Rights Day is observed every year on 24 December in India to promote awareness about consumer rights, responsibilities and protection laws. What is the theme of National Consumer Rights Day 2025?

उपभोक्ता अधिकारों, जिम्मेदारियों और संरक्षण कानूनों के बारे में जागरूकता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए भारत में हर साल 24 दिसंबर को राष्ट्रीय उपभोक्ता अधिकार दिवस मनाया जाता है। राष्ट्रीय उपभोक्ता अधिकार दिवस 2025 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Consumer First
- (b) Protecting Consumer Interests
- (c) Digital Consumer Awareness
- (d) Justice for All Consumers
- (e) Efficient and Speedy Disposal through Digital Justice

Ans. e

Sol. 24 December - National Consumer Rights Day

National Consumer Rights Day is observed every year on 24 December in India to promote awareness about consumer rights, responsibilities and protection laws.

Theme 2025 - Efficient and Speedy Disposal through Digital Justice

The day marks the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, which provided legal safeguards to consumers against unfair trade practices.

It aims to empower consumers by highlighting key rights such as Right to Safety, Right to Information, Right to Choice, Right to be Heard, Right to Redressal and Right to Consumer Education.

350. Good Governance Day is observed every year in India on which date?

भारत में सुशासन दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 23 December
- (b) 24 December
- (c) 25 December
- (d) 26 December
- (e) 27 December

Ans. c

Sol. 25 December – Good Governance Day

Good Governance Day is observed every year on 25 December in India to promote awareness about accountability, transparency and effective public administration.

The day marks the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, recognising his contribution to strengthening democratic governance in India.

It aims to ensure citizen-centric governance, focusing on efficient delivery of public services, inclusive development and responsive institutions.

351. DMRC Foundation Day is observed on 24 December to commemorate the establishment of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), which laid the foundation of modern urban mass rapid transit in India. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) was established in which year?

दिल्ली मेट्रो रेल कॉर्पोरेशन (डीएमआरसी) की स्थापना की याद में 24 दिसंबर को डीएमआरसी स्थापना दिवस मनाया जाता है, जिसने भारत में आधुनिक शहरी जन तीव्र पारगमन की नींव रखी। दिल्ली मेट्रो रेल कॉर्पोरेशन (डीएमआरसी) की स्थापना किस वर्ष हुई थी?

- (a) 1993
- (b) 1994
- (c) 1995
- (d) 1997
- (e) 2000

Ans. c

Sol. 24 December – DMRC Foundation Day

DMRC Foundation Day is observed on 24 December to commemorate the establishment of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), which laid the foundation of modern urban mass rapid transit in India.

DMRC was set up in 1995 with the objective of developing and operating a world-class metro system in the National Capital Region (NCR).

The Delhi Metro is known for its timely project execution, technological innovation and eco-friendly operations, serving as a model for metro projects across India.

The first line of the Delhi Metro, the Red Line, was inaugurated by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the then Prime Minister of India on 24 December 2002. The first segment of the Red Line from Tis Hazari to Shahdara was opened to the public on 25 December 2002.

352. The Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB—G RAM G) Act, 2025, recently assented by President Droupadi Murmu, introduces a modern statutory framework for rural employment, enhances wage guarantee, and strengthens livelihood security. This Act replaces which age-old rural employment scheme that was implemented in 2005 to provide wage employment and income security to rural households?

विकसित भारत- रोज़गार और आजीविका मिशन (ग्रामीण) के लिए गारंटी (वीबी-जीरैम जी) अधिनियम, 2025, जिसे हाल ही में राष्ट्रपति द्वारा पदी मुर्मू ने मंजूरी दी है, ग्रामीण रोजगार के लिए एक आधुनिक वैधानिक ढांचा पेश करता है, वेतन गारंटी बढ़ाता है और आजीविका सुरक्षा को मजबूत करता है। यह अधिनियम किस पुरानी ग्रामीण रोजगार योजना का स्थान लेता है जिसे 2005 में ग्रामीण परिवारों को मजदूरी रोजगार और आय सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए लागू किया गया था?

- (a) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
- (b) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

- (c) Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana
- (d) National Rural Health Mission
- (e) Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

Ans. b

Sol. President Murmu Gives Assent to VB—G RAM G Act 2025

President Droupadi Murmu gave assent to the Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB—G RAM G) Act, 2025, replacing the MGNREGA and providing a modern statutory framework for rural employment aligned with Viksit Bharat @2047 vision.

The Act enhances the wage employment guarantee to 125 days per financial year for rural households, strengthens livelihood security, and links employment with the creation of durable and productive rural assets.

It empowers States to aggregate a pause period of up to 60 days to ensure availability of agricultural labour during peak sowing and harvesting seasons and mandates weekly or 15-day wage payments, with delay compensation for late payments.

VB—G RAM G removes previous dis-entitlement provisions, restores unemployment allowance if work is not provided within the stipulated period, and focuses on empowerment, inclusive growth, convergence, and saturation-based delivery.

The Act aligns wage employment with four thematic domains: water security, core rural infrastructure, livelihood-related infrastructure, and works to mitigate extreme weather, and will be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a cost-sharing pattern between Centre and States.

353. Donald Trump announced that a new class of US battleships will be named "Trump-class battleships", with the declaration made at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, USA. What is the name of the first vessel of the Trump-class battleships?

डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने घोषणा की कि अमेरिकी बैटलशिप की एक नई क्लास का नाम "ट्रम्प-क्लास बैटलशिप" रखा जाएगा, यह घोषणा उन्होंने फ्लोरिडा, USA में अपने मार-ए-लागो एस्टेट में की। ट्रम्प-क्लास बैटलशिप के पहले जहाज़ का नाम क्या है?

- (a) USS Freedom
- (b) USS Liberty
- (c) USS Defiant
- (d) USS Victory
- (e) USS Conqueror

Ans. c

Sol. Trump Announces "Trump-Class" Battleships

Donald Trump announced that a new class of US battleships will be named "Trump-class battleships", with the declaration made at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, USA.

The announcement was formally made by USA Navy Secretary John Phelan, who said the first vessel, USS Defiant, would be the largest and most powerful battleship ever built by the USA.

354. Bhogapuram International Airport is located near which city in Andhra Pradesh?

भगापुरम अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा किस शहर के पास स्थित है?

- (a) Visakhapatnam
- (b) Vijayawada
- (c) Vizianagaram
- (d) Tirupati
- (e) Guntur

Ans. c

Sol. Bhogapuram International Airport to Be Dedicated to Nation in May 2026

Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu announced that the Bhogapuram International Airport near Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh will be dedicated to the nation in May 2026, with trial runs scheduled next month, advancing the inauguration ahead of the original June 2026 timeline.

He made the announcement during the launch of the Aviation, Aerospace and Defence (AAD) EduCity near Bhogapuram Airport, noting that 91.7% of the airport construction work has already been completed.

Spread over 136 acres, the AAD EduCity is being developed as India's first integrated Aviation, Aerospace and Defence education hub, aimed at addressing the shortage of skilled aviation professionals and positioning India as a global talent supplier.

355. Who inaugurated the commercial operation of Unit-2 (250 MW) of the Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project?

सुबनसिरी लोअर जलविद्युत परियोजना की यूनिट-2 (250 MW) के वाणिज्यिक संचालन का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

- (a) Rajnath Singh
- (b) Manohar Lal
- (c) Nitin Gadkari
- (d) Piyush Goyal
- (e) R. K. Singh

Ans. b

Sol. Manohar Lal Inaugurates 250 MW Unit of Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project, Boosting India's Clean Energy Push

Union Minister Manohar Lal inaugurated the commercial operation of Unit-2 (250 MW) of the 2,000 MW Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project through virtual mode, marking a key milestone in India's largest hydropower project and boosting clean energy generation in the North-East region.

The commissioning reflects India's commitment to renewable energy expansion, national grid strengthening and Net Zero goals, while supporting regional development in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and the wider North-East.

With Unit-2 operational, three more 250 MW units are set for near-term commissioning, while the remaining four units will be commissioned in phases during 2026-27, taking the project closer to full capacity.

The project features the largest dam in North-East India (116-metre-high concrete gravity dam) and plays a crucial flood moderation role on the Subansiri River, enhancing grid resilience and downstream safety.

356. Japan has approved the restart of which nuclear power plant after nearly two decades, marking a significant shift in its post-Fukushima energy policy?

जापान ने लगभग दो दशकों के बाद किस न्यूक्लियर पावर प्लाट को फिर से शुरू करने की मंजूरी दी है, जो उसकी फुकुशिमा के बाद की ऊर्जा नीति में एक बड़ा बदलाव है?

- (a) Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant
- (b) Ohi Nuclear Power Plant
- (c) Takahama Nuclear Power Plant
- (d) Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant
- (e) Mihama Nuclear Power Plant

Ans. d

Sol. Japan Approves Restart of Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Plant

Japan has approved the restart of the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant after nearly 20 years, signalling a major shift in post-Fukushima energy policy with a renewed focus on energy security, cost control, and decarbonisation.

The Niigata prefectural assembly cleared the restart proposal, allowing TEPCO to resume operations; Reactor No. 6 is expected to restart by January 20, 2026, with an investment of nearly ¥100 billion for safety upgrades.

The move aims to reduce Japan's heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels, which cost about ¥10.7 trillion annually, positioning nuclear power as a stable domestic energy source despite local protests.

About Japan

- **Capital - Tokyo**
- **Currency - Yen**
- **Prime Minister - Sanae Takaichi**

357. To address tightening liquidity conditions in the banking system, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a major liquidity infusion measure in December 2025. What is the total amount of government securities that RBI will purchase under Open Market Operations (OMO)?

बैंकिंग प्रणाली में तरलता की स्थिति सुधारने के लिए RBI ने दिसंबर 2025 में OMO के तहत सरकारी बॉन्ड खरीद की घोषणा की। इसकी कुल राशि कितनी है?

- (a) ₹1.25 lakh crore
- (b) ₹1.50 lakh crore
- (c) ₹1.75 lakh crore
- (d) ₹2.00 lakh crore
- (e) ₹2.25 lakh crore

Ans. d

Sol. RBI Announces ₹2 Lakh Crore OMO Purchases, \$10 Billion Dollar-Rupee Swap to Boost Liquidity

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced OMO purchase auctions of ₹2 lakh crore and a USD/INR buy-sell swap of \$10 billion (3-year tenor) to inject liquidity into the banking system.

The OMO purchases will be conducted in four tranches of ₹50,000 crore each on Dec 29, 2025; Jan 5, Jan 12, and Jan 22, 2026, while the Dollar-Rupee swap auction is scheduled for Jan 13, 2026.

These measures aim to increase rupee liquidity, absorb excess dollar liquidity, and reduce elevated dollar-rupee forward premiums, according to market analysts.

RBI data shows that in October 2025, the central bank sold a net \$11.88 billion in the forex market to support the rupee; overall in 2025, it bought \$17.69 billion and sold \$29.56 billion of U.S. dollars.

To manage liquidity and forex volatility, the RBI has purchased government bonds worth ₹6.5 lakh crore in 2025 and reiterated that it will closely monitor market conditions and take necessary steps to ensure orderly liquidity.

358. State Bank of India (SBI) recently rolled out YONO 2.0, marking a major upgrade in its digital banking ecosystem. The new version was launched after a significant gap since the introduction of the original YONO platform, reflecting SBI's evolving digital strategy and focus on scale and security. After how many years of the original launch did SBI introduce YONO 2.0?

भारतीय स्टेट बैंक (SBI) ने हाल ही में YONO 2.0 लॉन्च किया है, जो उसके डिजिटल बैंकिंग इकोसिस्टम में एक बड़ा अपग्रेड है। नया संस्करण मूल योनो प्लेटफॉर्म की शुरुआत के बाद एक महत्वपूर्ण अंतराल के बाद लॉन्च किया गया था, जो एसबीआई की विकसित डिजिटल रणनीति और पैमाने और सुरक्षा पर ध्यान को दर्शाता है। मूल लॉन्च के कितने वर्षों के बाद SBI ने YONO 2.0 पेश किया?

- (a) 5 years
- (b) 6 years
- (c) 7 years
- (d) 8 years
- (e) 10 years

Ans. d

Sol. SBI Launches YONO 2.0, Unifying Mobile and Internet Banking to Boost Digital Scale and Security

State Bank of India (SBI) launched YONO 2.0, a major upgrade of its digital banking platform, integrating mobile and internet banking on a single backend architecture to enhance scale, security and seamless customer experience.

YONO 2.0 features include simplified KYC/re-KYC, improved personalisation and security, bilingual support (English & Hindi) with plans to expand to 15 regional languages, and sustainability tools like carbon footprint tracking and green score.

SBI Chairman C S Setty highlighted that technology-led distribution lowers customer acquisition costs, while enabling personalised services; SBI currently has 50+ crore customers and around 9.6 crore YONO users.

359. **Canara Bank launched its unified UPI app, Canara ai1Pe, enabling users of any bank to link their accounts for fund transfers, QR payments, bill payments, and auto-debit of recurring payments. Canara Bank launched Canara ai1Pe in collaboration with which organisation that manages the BHIM payment app?**

केनरा बैंक ने अपना एकीकृत UPI ऐप, Canara ai1Pe लॉन्च किया, जो किसी भी बैंक के उपयोगकर्ताओं को फंड ट्रांसफर, QR भुगतान, बिल भुगतान और आवर्ती भुगतान के ऑटो-डेबिट के लिए अपने खाते को लिंक करने में सक्षम बनाता है। केनरा बैंक ने BHIM भुगतान ऐप का प्रबंधन करने वाले किस संगठन के सहयोग से Canara ai1Pe लॉन्च किया?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India
- (b) Ministry of Finance
- (c) National Payments Corporation of India
- (d) NPCI BHIM Services Limited
- (e) UIDAI

Ans. d

Sol. Canara Bank Launches 'Canara ai1Pe', Unified Next-Gen UPI App for Seamless Digital Payments

Canara Bank launched its unified UPI app Canara ai1Pe, enabling users of any bank to link accounts for fund transfers, QR payments, bill payments and auto-debit of recurring payments.

Canara ai1Pe is part of the Canara ai1 Mobile Banking Super App, which offers 300+ features, including deposits, insurance and everyday banking services, providing a seamless digital payment experience.

The app supports all UPI services such as UPI Lite, Autopay, UPI Circle, IPO/Mandate services, along with enhanced security features like device binding and UPI PIN authentication.

Developed in collaboration with NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL), the app aims to deliver a next-generation UPI payment experience while also complementing Canara Bank's separate Canara ai1 corporate app for business customers.

360. **To strengthen research, academics and skill development in the Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) sector, two premier institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in December 2025. Which of the following institutions are parties to this MoU?**

बैंकिंग, वित्तीय सेवाएं और बीमा (BFSI) क्षेत्र में अकादमिक, शोध और कौशल विकास को मजबूत करने के लिए दिसंबर 2025 में किन दो प्रमुख संस्थानों ने समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and IIIT Hyderabad
- (b) IDRBT and IISc Bengaluru
- (c) IDRBT and IIIT Hyderabad
- (d) NABARD and IIT Hyderabad
- (e) SEBI and IIIT Bangalore

Ans. c

Sol. IDRBT and IIIT Hyderabad Sign MoU to Collaborate on Research and Skill Development in BFSI Technologies

The Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) and IIIT Hyderabad signed an MoU to collaborate in academics, research, training, student exchange and skill development in the BFSI sector.

The partnership aims to support integration and adoption of emerging technologies in banking and financial services, with the MoU signed by IIIT-H Director Sandeep Shukla and IDRBT Director Deepak Kumar.

As part of the collaboration, the institutes will offer joint PhD programmes focusing on areas such as digital payments, cybersecurity, AI, blockchain, cryptography, programmable money, tokens, and API management.

The MoU also seeks to enhance industry readiness and employability of research scholars, along with collaboration in BFSI technology standardisation, India-specific cybersecurity solutions, and user experience development.

361. Bharti Enterprises and Warburg Pincus announced a strategic investment in which Indian subsidiary of a Chinese consumer electronics company?

भारती एंटरप्राइज और वारबर्ग पिंक्स ने एक चीनी कंज्यूमर इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स कंपनी की किस भारतीय सब्सिडियरी में स्ट्रेटेजिक इन्वेस्टमेंट की घोषणा की?

- (a) Xiaomi India
- (b) Haier India
- (c) TCL India
- (d) Oppo India
- (e) Lenovo India

Ans. b

Sol. Bharti Enterprises and Warburg Pincus Acquire 49% Stake in Haier India to Boost Growth and Innovation

Bharti Enterprises and Warburg Pincus announced a strategic investment in Haier India, acquiring a collective 49% stake in the Indian subsidiary of China's Haier Group; the deal size was not disclosed.

Post-transaction, Haier Group will retain 49% ownership, while the remaining stake will be held by Haier India's management, ensuring continued operational continuity and local leadership.

The partnership aims to strengthen Haier India's "Made in India, Made for India" strategy by expanding local sourcing, manufacturing capacity, product innovation and market penetration.

362. Which NHAI-sponsored entity recently received SEBI approval as an Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) to monetise road assets?

किस NHAI-प्रायोजित इकाई को हाल ही में सङ्कर संपत्तियों के मुद्रीकरण के लिए इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर इन्वेस्टमेंट ट्रस्ट (InvIT) के रूप में SEBI की मंजूरी मिली है?

- (a) Raajmarg Toll Co.
- (b) Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust

- (c) NHAI Road Assets Fund
- (d) National Highway Developers Trust
- (e) India Highway Investment Ltd.

Ans. b

Sol. NHAI's Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust Gets SEBI Approval to Monetise Road Assets via InvIT

The Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust (RIIT), sponsored by NHAI, received SEBI approval as an Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) to enable monetisation of road assets through retail and domestic investors.

Raajmarg Infra Investment Managers Pvt. Ltd. (RIIMPL) has been incorporated as the Investment Manager for RIIT, with equity participation from leading banks and financial institutions including SBI, PNB, Axis Bank, HDFC, ICICI, IDBI, IndusInd, Yes Bank, and Bajaj Finserv Ventures.

The InvIT framework allows NHAI to transfer multiple revenue-generating road assets to a trust, issue units to investors, and raise funds for infrastructure development, complementing other monetisation models like ToT (Toll Operate Transfer) and securitisation.

As of FY 2024-25, NHAI has raised approximately ₹49,000 crore via ToT, ₹43,000 crore through InvIT, and ₹40,000 crore through securitisation, highlighting diversified financing for national highway development.

363. International Day against Cybercrime was observed on 24 December 2025, aiming to raise awareness about cyber threats and promote safe online practices. What is the theme of the International Day against Cybercrime 2025?

साइबर खतरों के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने और सुरक्षित ऑनलाइन तरीकों को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से 24 दिसंबर 2025 को साइबर अपराध के खिलाफ अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस मनाया गया।
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय साइबर अपराध विरोधी दिवस 2025 का थीम क्या है?

- (a) Cybersecurity for All
- (b) Countering Cybercrime – Sharing Responsibility – Securing our Future
- (c) Digital Safety and Protection
- (d) Preventing Cyber Fraud Globally
- (e) Safe Internet, Safe Life

Ans. b

Sol. 24 December - International Day against Cybercrime

International Day against Cybercrime was observed on 24 December 2025, aiming to raise awareness about cyber threats and promote safe online practices.

Theme 2025 - Countering Cybercrime – Sharing Responsibility – Securing our Future
The day highlights the increasing need for cybersecurity measures to protect individuals, businesses, and governments from cyber attacks.

It emphasizes the importance of education, reporting, and legal frameworks to prevent and combat various forms of cybercrime globally.

364. **President Droupadi Murmu released the Constitution of India in the Santhali language at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Constitution of India has been released in the Santhali language in which script?**

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने राष्ट्रपति भवन में आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में संथाली भाषा में भारत का संविधान जारी किया। भारत का संविधान संथाली भाषा में किस लिपि में जारी किया गया है?

- (a) Devanagari
- (b) Roman
- (c) Bengali
- (d) Ol Chiki
- (e) Perso-Arabic

Ans. d

Sol. President Droupadi Murmu Releases Constitution of India in Santhali Language at Rashtrapati Bhavan

President Droupadi Murmu released the Constitution of India in the Santhali language, written in the Ol Chiki script, at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan

Santhali, one of India's most ancient living languages included in the Eighth Schedule through the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003, is spoken widely in Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Bihar.

The President said the move will help Santhali-speaking people read and understand the Constitution in their own language and praised Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal for this initiative in the Constitution's centenary year.

365. **The Kimberley Process (KP) Plenary has selected India to assume the Chairpersonship from 1 January 2026, with India taking over as Vice Chair; this marks the third time India will chair the KP. The Kimberley Process primarily aims to prevent the trade of which of the following?**

किम्बरली प्रोसेस (KP) प्लेनरी ने 1 जनवरी 2026 से चेयरमैनशिप संभालने के लिए भारत को चुना है, और भारत वाइस चेयर का पद संभालेगा; यह तीसरी बार होगा जब भारत KP की अध्यक्षता करेगा। किम्बरली प्रोसेस का मुख्य उद्देश्य निम्नलिखित में से किसके व्यापार को रोकना है?

- (a) Synthetic diamonds
- (b) Blood gold
- (c) Conflict diamonds
- (d) Illegal gemstones
- (e) Smuggled jewellery

Ans. c

Sol. India to Chair Kimberley Process from January 2026, Strengthening Global Fight Against Conflict Diamonds

The Kimberley Process (KP) Plenary has selected India to assume the Chairpersonship from 1 January 2026, with India taking over as Vice Chair; this marks the third time India will chair the KP.

The Kimberley Process is a tripartite initiative involving governments, the international diamond industry and civil society, aimed at preventing the trade in conflict diamonds, as defined by UN Security Council resolutions.

Established in 2003, the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) has 60 participants (with the EU counted as one) and regulates over 99% of global rough diamond trade, making it the most comprehensive mechanism in the sector.

During its tenure, India will focus on strengthening governance and compliance, promoting digital certification and traceability, enhancing transparency, and building global trust in conflict-free diamonds.

366. The Union Cabinet approved three new corridors—R.K. Ashram Marg-Indraprastha, Aerocity-Airport Terminal-1, and Tughlakabad-Kalindi Kunj—under Delhi Metro Phase-V (A), taking the metro network beyond 400 km. What is the total approved cost of this project?

केंद्रीय कैबिनेट ने दिल्ली मेट्रो फेज-वी (A) के तहत तीन नए कॉरिडोर—आर.के. आश्रम मार्ग-इंद्रप्रस्थ, एयरोसिटी-एयरपोर्ट टर्मिनल-1, और तुगलकाबाद-कालिंदी कुंज—को मंजूरी दी है, जिससे मेट्रो नेटवर्क 400 किमी से ज्यादा हो जाएगा। इस प्रोजेक्ट की कुल मंजूर लागत कितनी है?

- (a) ₹8,500 crore
- (b) ₹10,200 crore
- (c) ₹11,500 crore
- (d) ₹12,015 crore
- (e) ₹14,040 crore

Ans. d

Sol. Cabinet Approves Three New Corridors Under Delhi Metro Phase-V (A)

The Union Cabinet approved three new corridors under Delhi Metro Phase-V (A) worth about ₹12,015 crore—R.K. Ashram Marg-Indraprastha, Aerocity-Airport Terminal-1, and Tughlakabad-Kalindi Kunj, taking the metro network beyond 400 km.

The project includes 13 new metro stations, with the R.K. Ashram Marg-Indraprastha stretch extending the Botanical Garden-R.K. Ashram Marg corridor and providing crucial connectivity to the redeveloping Central Vista area. The Central Vista corridor will connect all Kartavya Bhawans, benefiting nearly 60,000 office-goers and 2 lakh visitors daily, while improving last-mile access and easing traffic congestion.

Extensions on the Aerocity-Tughlakabad corridor will strengthen airport connectivity with South Delhi areas like Saket and Kalindi Kunj, boosting the economy, reducing road congestion, and improving air quality.

367. With the objective of facilitating nationwide collection of samples and ensuring their safe, reliable, and timely delivery for laboratory testing, which two institutions have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)?

पूरे देश में सैपल इकट्ठा करने और लैब टेस्टिंग के लिए उनकी सुरक्षित, भरोसेमंद और समय पर डिलीवरी सुनिश्चित करने के मकसद से, किन दो संस्थानों ने एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर साइन किए हैं?

- (a) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and India Post
- (b) National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) and India Post
- (c) National Test House (NTH) and Department of Posts
- (d) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and Department of Posts
- (e) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of Posts

Ans. c

Sol. National Test House and Department of Posts Sign MoU for Nationwide Sample Collection and Testing

National Test House (NTH) and the Department of Posts have signed an MoU to enable nationwide collection and safe, timely delivery of samples to NTH laboratories for testing.

Under the agreement, the Department of Posts will provide doorstep sample pickup and transport samples to NTH labs in Kolkata, Ghaziabad, Mumbai, Jaipur, Guwahati, Varanasi and Chennai, using its extensive postal network.

The collaboration will improve accessibility, affordability, and efficiency of NTH's testing services by reducing logistical hurdles and turnaround time across the country.

368. **Who became the youngest centurion in men's List A cricket history during the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025?**

विजय हजारे ट्रॉफी 2025 के दौरान पुरुषों की लिस्ट ए क्रिकेट इतिहास में सबसे कम उम्र का शतक लगाने वाला खिलाड़ी कौन बना?

- (a) Anmolpreet Singh
- (b) Jake Fraser-McGurk
- (c) AB de Villiers
- (d) Vaibhav Suryavanshi
- (e) Prithvi Shaw

Ans. d

Sol. Vaibhav Suryavanshi Becomes Youngest Centurion in Men's List A Cricket with 36-Ball Hundred

Vaibhav Suryavanshi scored a blistering 190 off 84 balls, including 15 sixes, and reached his century in just 36 balls for Bihar against Arunachal Pradesh in the Vijay Hazare Trophy Plate Group match.

At 14 years and 272 days, Suryavanshi became the youngest player in men's List A cricket history to score a century.

His 36-ball century is the second-fastest by an Indian in List A cricket, behind Anmolpreet Singh's 35-ball hundred, while globally the record is held by Jake Fraser-McGurk (29 balls) and AB de Villiers (31 balls).

369. Virat Kohli became the fastest player to reach 16,000 List A runs, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar, during Delhi's Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Andhra. In how many innings did Kohli achieve this milestone?

विराट कोहली आंध्र के खिलाफ दिल्ली के विजय हजारे ट्रॉफी मैच के दौरान सचिन तेंदुलकर को पीछे छोड़कर 16,000 लिस्ट ए रन बनाने वाले सबसे तेज़ खिलाड़ी बन गए। कोहली ने यह मुकाम कितनी पारियों में हासिल किया?

- (a) 300 innings
- (b) 330 innings
- (c) 350 innings
- (d) 370 innings
- (e) 391 innings

Ans. b

Sol. Virat Kohli Becomes Fastest to 16,000 List A Runs, Surpassing Sachin Tendulkar
Virat Kohli became the fastest player to reach 16,000 List A runs, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar, achieving the milestone in his 330th innings during Delhi's Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Andhra.

Kohli now holds the record for the fastest to each block of 1000 List A runs from 10,000 runs onwards, breaking multiple long-standing records.

In the Vijay Hazare Trophy, after a 15-year gap, Kohli has scored 819 runs from 13 matches at an average of 68.25 and a strike rate of 106, including four centuries and three fifties.

370. When is the International Day of Epidemic Preparedness observed?

महामारी की तैयारी का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 24 December
- (b) 25 December
- (c) 26 December
- (d) 27 December
- (e) 28 December

Ans. d

Sol. 27 December - International Day of Epidemic Preparedness

International Day of Epidemic Preparedness is observed annually on 27th December to raise awareness about the importance of preventing, detecting, and responding to epidemics and infectious disease outbreaks.

Theme 2025 -Strengthening Global Health Systems for Future Crises.

The day emphasizes the need for global cooperation, strong health systems, and rapid response mechanisms to contain epidemics and protect public health.

It highlights the role of research, innovation, and preparedness plans in mitigating the impact of emerging infectious diseases.

371. Which team won the Global Chess League 2025 Season 3 title?

ग्लोबल चेस लीग 2025 सीज़न 3 का खिताब किस टीम ने जीता?

- (a) Triveni Continental Kings
- (b) Alpine SG Pipers

- (c) Mumbai Chess Masters
- (d) Delhi Dynamos
- (e) Chennai Super Kings

Ans. b

Sol. R Praggnanandhaa and Anish Giri Lead Alpine SG Pipers to Maiden Global Chess League 2025 Title

R Praggnanandhaa and Anish Giri's team, Alpine SG Pipers, won the Global Chess League 2025 Season 3 title, defeating defending champions Triveni Continental Kings in Mumbai.

The finals were dominated by Pipers with scores of 4-2 in the first match and 4.5-1.5 in the second match, marking their maiden GCL title.

Anish Giri was named the Finals MVP, winning both his games with Black, while Praggnanandhaa secured a crucial victory against Vidit Gujrathi in the second match.

372. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has postponed the January 3, 2026 rollout of the 3-hour cheque clearance under the Continuous Clearing and Settlement on Realisation (CCSR) framework in the Cheque Truncation System (CTS). Phase 1 of the CCSR project was launched on which date?

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) ने चेक ट्रॅकेशन सिस्टम (CTS) में कंटीन्यूअस क्लियरिंग एंड सेटलमेंट ऑन रियलाइज़ेशन (CCSR) फ्रेमवर्क के तहत 3-घंटे की चेक क्लियरेंस की 3 जनवरी, 2026 की शुरुआत को टाल दिया है। CCSR प्रोजेक्ट का फेज 1 किस तारीख को लॉन्च किया गया था?

- (a) 1 April 2025
- (b) 15 August 2025
- (c) 4 October 2025
- (d) 4 January 2025
- (e) 1 December 2025

Ans. c

Sol. RBI Defers 3-Hour Cheque Clearance Rollout, Revises CTS Timings

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has postponed the January 3, 2026 rollout of the 3-hour cheque clearance under the Continuous Clearing and Settlement on Realisation (CCSR) framework in the Cheque Truncation System (CTS).

The directive is issued under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, reinforcing RBI's authority to regulate payment systems and maintain financial stability.

Phase 1 of CCSR was launched on October 4, 2025, while Phase 2 aimed to reduce cheque settlement time to within three hours, replacing the traditional T+1/T+2 system. The RBI deferred Phase 2 implementation "until further notice" to allow banks more time to prepare for operational and technological changes.

The RBI revised CTS operational timings: Presentation session (09:00 AM–03:00 PM) and Confirmation session (09:00 AM–07:00 PM), ensuring flexibility for banks while existing clearance timelines continue for now.

373. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)?

रेल विकास निगम लिमिटेड (RVNL) के नए चेयरमैन एवं मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर (CMD) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Sukhmal Chand Jain
- (b) Manoj Joshi
- (c) Saleem Ahmad
- (d) Anil Kumar Lahoti
- (e) Vinay Kumar Tripathi

Ans. c

Sol. Saleem Ahmad Takes Charge as CMD of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited

Saleem Ahmad has assumed charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), replacing Sukhmal Chand Jain, who stepped down from the role.

Ahmad, a civil engineering graduate from Jamia Millia Islamia University, brings over 35 years of experience in large infrastructure projects and previously served as Director (Projects) at NBCC (India) Ltd, with earlier stints at DMRC and Mumbai Port Trust.

He will serve in this role until 30 April 2029 (superannuation) or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

About Rail Vikas Nigam Limited

- *Founded- 24 January 2003*
- *Headquarters- New Delhi*
- *RVNL is a Navratna PSU in India under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways, GoI*

374. Who inaugurated the two-day Anti-Terrorism Conference-2025 held in New Delhi?

नई दिल्ली में आयोजित दो दिवसीय आतंकवाद विरोधी सम्मेलन-2025 का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

- (a) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- (b) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- (c) Union Home Minister Amit Shah
- (d) NSA Ajit Doval
- (e) NIA Director General

Ans. c

Sol. Amit Shah Inaugurates Anti-Terrorism Conference 2025

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the two-day Anti-Terrorism Conference-2025 in New Delhi, calling for a strong, impenetrable and technology-driven anti-terrorism grid to counter rapidly evolving security threats.

Organised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the conference focuses on actionable outcomes, enhanced inter-agency coordination, and analysing global and domestic terror incidents under the government's zero-tolerance policy.

During the event, Shah unveiled key tools including the updated NIA Crime Manual, Organised Crime Network Database, and Lost, Looted and Recovered Weapons

Database, while stressing uniform ATS structure, mandatory use of NATGRID & NIDAAN, and a "duty to share" intelligence culture among agencies.

375. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Union Minister Manohar Lal inaugurated the 'Atal Canteen' in New Delhi on the 101st birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. At what price will a meal be provided under the Atal Canteen scheme?

दिल्ली की मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता और केंद्रीय मंत्री मनोहर लाल ने पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी की 101वीं जयंती पर नई दिल्ली में 'अटल कैटीन' का उद्घाटन किया। अटल कैटीन योजना के तहत खाना कितने रुपये में मिलेगा?

- (a) ₹10
- (b) ₹15
- (c) ₹20
- (d) ₹5
- (e) Free of cost

Ans. d

Sol. Delhi Launches 'Atal Canteen' Scheme to Provide Meals at ₹5

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Union Minister Manohar Lal inaugurated the 'Atal Canteen' in New Delhi on the 101st birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The Atal Canteen scheme aims to provide meals at just ₹5 for needy and working people; 45 canteens began operations immediately, with 55 more to open within 15 days.

The initiative is expected to benefit millions of people and reflects Atal Bihari Vajpayee's vision of ensuring that no one goes to bed hungry.

376. Union Health Minister JP Nadda laid the foundation of India's first PPP-based medical colleges in which state?

केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जे.पी. नड्डा ने भारत के पहले PPP आधारित मेडिकल कॉलेजों की आधारशिला किस राज्य में रखी?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Chhattisgarh
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Jharkhand
- (e) Odisha

Ans. c

Sol. JP Nadda Lays Foundation of India's First PPP-Based Medical Colleges in MP's Tribal Districts

Union Health Minister JP Nadda and Madhya Pradesh CM Dr Mohan Yadav laid the foundation of two medical colleges in Dhar and Betul districts, becoming India's first medical colleges under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, aimed at strengthening healthcare in tribal-dominated regions.

The colleges are part of four PPP-based medical colleges in MP (Dhar, Betul, Katni, Panna), linked with district hospitals upgraded as per National Medical Commission (NMC) norms, while the state provides land and private partners build academic and clinical infrastructure.

The initiative reflects rapid expansion of medical education, with medical colleges increasing from 387 (2014) to 819, MBBS seats rising to over 1.28 lakh, and a target of adding 75,000 new medical seats by 2029, while MP plans more colleges across several districts.

377. The 150th Shree Baba Harivallabh Sangeet Sammelan is being held in which city?

150वां श्री बाबा हरिवल्लभ संगीत सम्मेलन किस शहर में आयोजित किया जा रहा है?

- (a) Amritsar
- (b) Patiala
- (c) Jalandhar
- (d) Ludhiana
- (e) Chandigarh

Ans. c

Sol. 150th Shree Baba Harivallabh Sangeet Sammelan Begins in Jalandhar Celebrating Hindustani Classical Music

Punjab is hosting the 150th Shree Baba Harivallabh Sangeet Sammelan, the oldest Hindustani classical music festival in India, from 26–28 December at Shree Devi Talab Temple, Jalandhar, organised in collaboration with NZCC, Patiala and supported by the state government.

The 3-day festival is dedicated to the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji and the late Banaras Gharana vocalist Pt Chhannu Lal Mishra, who passed away in October 2025.

The festival features renowned classical music artists including Vidushi Malini Awasthi, Pt Sajan Mishra, Swaransh Mishra, Pt Ronu Majumdar, Shashank Subramanyam, Ashwini Bhide, among others.

About Punjab

- **Capital** – Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister** – Bhagwant Mann
- **Governor** – Banwarilal Purohit

378. Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) has extended a Rs 9,821 crore loan to DFCCIL to refinance its World Bank foreign currency debt. The World Bank loan, which is being refinanced by IRFC, was originally taken for which major infrastructure project?

इंडियन रेलवे फाइनेंस कॉर्पोरेशन (IRFC) ने DFCCIL को 9,821 करोड़ रुपये का ऋण दिया है ताकि इसका विश्व बैंक से लिया गया विदेशी मुद्रा ऋण पुनर्वित्त किया जा सके। यह विश्व बैंक ऋण मूल रूप से किस बड़े बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजना के लिए लिया गया था?

- (a) Western Dedicated Freight Corridor**
- (b) Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor**
- (c) Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor**
- (d) Golden Quadrilateral Project**
- (e) Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail**

Ans. b

Sol. IRFC Extends ₹9,821 Crore Loan to DFCCIL to Refinance World Bank Debt for Eastern Freight Corridor

Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) has extended a Rs 9,821 crore rupee loan to DFCCIL to refinance its World Bank foreign currency debt for the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor project.

The loan agreement was signed by DFCCIL's Director (Finance) Rahul Kapoor and IRFC's Executive Director (Finance) Deepa Kotnis at the Railway Board, New Delhi, in the presence of senior officials including Chairman & CEO Satish Kumar.

The refinancing shifts DFCCIL's debt from foreign currency to rupee-denominated financing, reducing exchange rate risk and highlighting the growing capacity of Indian financial institutions to support large-scale infrastructure projects domestically.

377. **How much incentive has Ola Electric received under the PLI-Auto Scheme for FY 2024-25?**

Ola Electric को FY 2024-25 के लिए PLI-Auto योजना के तहत कितनी राशि का प्रोत्साहन प्राप्त हुआ है?

- (a) ₹250 crore**
- (b) ₹300 crore**
- (c) ₹366 crore**
- (d) ₹400 crore**
- (e) ₹450 crore**

Ans. c

Sol. Ola Electric Gets ₹366.78 Crore Incentive under PLI-Auto Scheme for FY 2024-25

Ola Electric has received a sanction order of ₹366.78 crore from the Ministry of Heavy Industries under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobile and Auto Components for FY 2024-25.

The incentive relates to the Demand Incentive for the Determined Sales Value and will be disbursed through IFCI Limited, the designated financial institution under the PLI-Auto Scheme.

Ola Electric stated that this milestone highlights its role in India's advanced automotive manufacturing ecosystem, reflecting its strengths in scale, localisation, and technology-led vertically integrated manufacturing.

378. **Canara HSBC Life Insurance has entered into a strategic bancassurance partnership to enhance life insurance accessibility across India. Which small finance bank is collaborating with Canara HSBC Life Insurance in this initiative?**

Canara HSBC Life Insurance ने भारत में जीवन बीमा की पहुँच बढ़ाने के लिए एक रणनीतिक बैंकेश्योरेंस साइडारी की है। इस पहल में Canara HSBC Life Insurance किस छोटे वित्त बैंक के साथ साइडारी कर रहा है?

- (a) AU Small Finance Bank
- (b) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- (c) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- (d) Jana Small Finance Bank
- (e) ESAF Small Finance Bank

Ans. c

Sol. Canara HSBC Life Insurance Partners with Equitas Bank to Expand Insurance Access Across India

Canara HSBC Life Insurance and Equitas Small Finance Bank have entered a strategic bancassurance partnership to increase life insurance accessibility across India, integrating the insurer's portfolio with the bank's branch network.

Through this collaboration, Canara HSBC Life Insurance will distribute products such as life protection, savings, annuity, child plans, and investment-linked policies across 994 Equitas Bank outlets and 365 ATMs in 18 states and Union Territories, including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, and Maharashtra.

The partnership aims to promote financial inclusion by allowing customers in Tier 1, 2, and 3 cities to access insurance plans directly through existing banking touchpoints, aligning with IRDAI's goal of 'Insurance for All by 2047'.

The alliance reflects the 'Promises Ka Partner' philosophy of Canara HSBC Life Insurance, focusing on simplifying insurance, enhancing trust, and expanding reach through a phygital banking model for straightforward and transparent services.

379. In December 2025, which fintech company received the Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) license from NPCI?

दिसंबर 2025 में, किस फिनेटक कंपनी को NPCI से थर्ड-पार्टी एप्लिकेशन प्रोवाइडर (TPAP) लाइसेंस प्राप्त हुआ?

- (a) PhonePe
- (b) PayNearby
- (c) Paytm
- (d) Google Pay
- (e) BharatPe

Ans. b

Sol. PayNearby Gets NPCI TPAP License, Launches 'Saathi' App with UPI

Fintech company PayNearby has received Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) license approval from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Following the approval, PayNearby has launched the PayNearby Saathi app, offering UPI-enabled savings accounts, payments, and investment products including FD, RD, Gold, and Mutual Funds.

The app also provides credit facilities such as personal loans, gold loans, business loans, and credit cards, expanding the range of financial services available to users.

About National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

- **Founded** - 2008
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **MD & CEO** - Dilip Asbe

380. Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) has recently delivered the first batch of WhAP 8x8 armoured vehicles to a foreign army, marking the initial supply from its Morocco-based production facility. Which company is responsible for this delivery?

टाटा एडवांस सिस्टम्स लिमिटेड (टीएएसएल) ने हाल ही में अपनी मोरक्को स्थित उत्पादन सुविधा से प्रारंभिक आपूर्ति को चिह्नित करते हुए, विदेशी सेना को WhAP 8x8 बख्तरबंद वाहनों का पहला बैच वितरित किया है। इस डिलीवरी के लिए कौन सी कंपनी जिम्मेदार है?

- (a) Bharat Electronics Limited
- (b) Tata Advanced Systems Limited
- (c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- (d) Larsen & Toubro Defence
- (e) Mahindra Defence Systems

Ans. b

Sol. TASL Delivers First WhAP 8x8 Armoured Vehicles to Royal Moroccan Army from Morocco Plant

Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) has handed over the first batch of WhAP 8x8 armoured vehicles to the Royal Moroccan Army, marking the initial supply under a local manufacturing arrangement in Morocco.

The Berrechid plant in Morocco, covering 20,000 square metres, began production after being inaugurated in September by India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Morocco's Minister Delegate for National Defence Abdelatif Loudyi.

The WhAP 8x8 platform, jointly developed by DRDO and TASL, is a versatile wheeled armoured vehicle with monocoque hull, scalable ballistic/mine protection, independent suspension, central tyre inflation system, and amphibious capability.

The vehicle can be configured for multiple operational roles including armoured personnel carrier, infantry combat vehicle, reconnaissance, command post, ambulance, and mortar carrier, with weapon configurations supporting both manned and remote-controlled systems.

381. International Cello Day is observed every year on which date?

अंतरराष्ट्रीय चेलो दिवस हर वर्ष किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 25 December
- (b) 26 December
- (c) 28 December
- (d) 29 December
- (e) 31 December

Ans. d

Sol. 29 December - International Cello Day

International Cello Day is observed every year on 29 December to celebrate the cello, a prominent string instrument of the violin family.

The day highlights the rich sound, versatility and emotional depth of the cello in classical, jazz and contemporary music.

It aims to promote awareness and appreciation of the cello and encourage young musicians to learn the instrument.

The cello plays a crucial role in orchestras, chamber music and solo performances, bridging harmony and rhythm in music compositions.

382. INSV Kaundinya will undertake her maiden overseas voyage from Porbandar to which country?

INSV कौडिन्य पोरबंदर से किस देश के लिए अपनी पहली विदेशी यात्रा शुरू करेगा?

- (a) Iran
- (b) Saudi Arabia
- (c) Oman
- (d) UAE
- (e) Russia

Ans. c

Sol. INSV Kaundinya Sets Sail on Maiden Overseas Voyage to Oman, Reviving India's Ancient Maritime Legacy

Indian Navy's stitched sailing vessel INSV Kaundinya will embark on her maiden overseas journey from Porbandar (Gujarat) to Muscat (Oman), retracing ancient Indian maritime trade routes.

Built entirely using traditional stitched-plank techniques, the vessel's wooden planks are stitched with coconut coir rope and sealed with natural resins, reflecting India's ancient coastal shipbuilding heritage.

Inspired by depictions of ancient Indian ships, the vessel highlights how early Indian mariners undertook long-distance voyages to West Asia, Africa and Southeast Asia, much before modern navigation tools.

383. Recently, India successfully test-fired the K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) to strengthen its sea-based nuclear deterrence. From which nuclear-powered submarine was this missile launched?

हाल ही में भारत ने अपनी समुद्री आधारित परमाणु प्रतिरोधक क्षमता को मजबूत करने के लिए K-4 पनडुब्बी-प्रक्षेपित बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल (SLBM) का सफल परीक्षण किया। यह मिसाइल किस परमाणु-संचालित पनडुब्बी से प्रक्षेपित की गई?

- (a) INS Arihant
- (b) INS Chakra
- (c) INS Arighaat
- (d) INS Kalvari
- (e) INS Vela

Ans. c

Sol. India Successfully Tests K-4 SLBM from INS Arighaat, Boosting Sea-Based Nuclear Deterrence

India successfully test-fired the K-4 intermediate-range submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) from the nuclear-powered submarine INS Arighaat in the Bay of Bengal, off the coast of Visakhapatnam.

With a strike range of around 3,500 km, the K-4 significantly enhances India's sea-based nuclear attack capability, strengthening the most survivable leg of the nuclear triad. Derived from the Agni-III missile, the K-4 is India's longest-range sea-launched strategic weapon, capable of carrying a 2.5-ton nuclear warhead and launching from Arihant-class submarines using underwater ejection technology.

Commissioned into the Navy in August 2024, the K-4 places India among a select group of nations with land, air and undersea nuclear strike capability; the 'K' series is named in honour of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

384. The inaugural edition of the Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG), aimed at promoting sports talent from India's tribal communities and strengthening grassroots inclusion under the Khelo India Scheme, is being hosted by which state?

खेलो इंडिया योजना के अंतर्गत जनजातीय क्षेत्रों से खेल प्रतिभा को बढ़ावा देने और जमीनी स्तर पर समावेशन को सुदृढ़ करने के उद्देश्य से आयोजित प्रथम खेलो इंडिया ट्राइबल गेम्स (KITG) की मेज़बानी कौन सा राज्य कर रहा है?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Jharkhand
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Telangana
- (e) Chhattisgarh

Ans. e

Sol. Chhattisgarh Unveils Logo, Mascot 'Morveer' for Inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games in Bilaspur

The logo, theme song and official mascot of the first-ever Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) were unveiled at Late B. R. Yadav Sports Stadium, Bilaspur, with the Games scheduled to begin from February 14.

Jointly organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, SAI, IOA, National Sports Federations and Chhattisgarh, the Games will feature 7 competitive sports and 2 indigenous demonstration sports, conducted as per international technical standards. The official mascot Morveer reflects Chhattisgarh's cultural identity, combining 'Mor' (our own) and 'Veer' (bravery), symbolising the pride, courage and collective spirit of India's tribal communities.

A key focus of KITG is talent scouting from tribal regions; selected athletes will be inducted as Khelo India Athletes and receive ₹5 lakh annual scholarships for 8 years, with Chhattisgarh becoming the first state to host this exclusive national tribal sports event.

385. On the occasion of Veer Bal Diwas, how many children from different States and Union Territories were conferred with the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar by President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi for their outstanding achievements?

वीर बाल दिवस के अवसर पर राष्ट्रपति द्वौपदी मुर्मू द्वारा नई दिल्ली में विभिन्न राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के कितने बच्चों को उनकी उत्कृष्ट उपलब्धियों के लिए प्रधानमंत्री राष्ट्रीय बाल पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया?

- (a) 15
- (b) 18
- (c) 20
- (d) 22
- (e) 25

Ans. c

Sol. President Droupadi Murmu Honours 20 Children with Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar on Veer Bal Diwas

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar on the occasion of Veer Bal Diwas in New Delhi.

20 children from 18 States and Union Territories were honoured for outstanding achievements in fields like bravery, art & culture, environment, innovation, and science & technology.

The President said the awards would encourage the recipients and inspire children across the country to strive for excellence.

Veer Bal Diwas is observed annually to commemorate the martyrdom of Sahibzada Baba Zorawar Singh ji and Baba Fateh Singh ji, sons of Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji.

Highlighting awardees' achievements, Vishwanath Karthikey from Hyderabad was honoured for becoming the youngest Indian to complete the Seven Summits Challenge, holding four world records.

Sunaina Kumari from Bihar received the award for the exceptional bravery of her brother, who sacrificed his life while saving a boy from drowning.

386. Vaibhav Suryavanshi received the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar for becoming the first Indian in which field to get the award?

वैभव सूर्यवंशी को प्रधानमंत्री राष्ट्रीय बाल पुरस्कार किस क्षेत्र में पहले भारतीय बनने के लिए मिला?

- (a) Athletics
- (b) Chess
- (c) Cricket
- (d) Badminton
- (e) Shooting

Ans. c

Sol. Vaibhav Suryavanshi Becomes First Indian Cricketer to Receive Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

Vaibhav Suryavanshi became the first Indian cricketer to receive the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, the country's highest civilian award for children.

The Bihar-based teenager, just months away from turning 15, achieved a historic milestone, joining the league of young achievers like R Praggnanandhaa and R Vaishali. The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar is awarded to children aged 5 to 18 years for exceptional achievements across various fields.

387. The Indian Standard IS 19412:2025 – Incense Sticks (Agarbatti) – Specification, which lays down safety norms by prohibiting harmful insecticidal chemicals and synthetic fragrance substances, has been developed and notified by which organisation?

अगरबत्ती में हानिकारक कीटनाशक रसायनों और कृत्रिम सुगंधित पदार्थों के उपयोग पर रोक लगाने वाले भारतीय मानक IS 19412:2025 – अगरबत्ती विनिर्देशन को किस संगठन द्वारा विकसित और अधिसूचित किया गया है?

- (a) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- (b) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- (c) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
- (d) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- (e) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Ans. c

Sol. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi Releases New BIS Standard IS 19412:2025 for Safe and Quality Incense Sticks

Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi released IS 19412:2025 – Incense Sticks (Agarbatti) Standard developed by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on National Consumer Day 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

The new BIS standard prohibits the use of harmful insecticidal chemicals and synthetic fragrance substances in agarbattis to protect human health, indoor air quality, and the environment.

Products complying with IS 19412:2025 will be eligible to carry the BIS Standard Mark, helping consumers make safe and informed choices while promoting ethical and sustainable manufacturing.

The standard is expected to boost consumer confidence, safeguard traditional livelihoods, and enhance global market access for India's agarbatti industry, which is valued at ₹8,000 crore with exports of ₹1,200 crore to over 150 countries.

388. Which institute signed an MoU with the Ministry of Minority Affairs to implement the PM VIKAS Scheme?

पीएम विकास योजना को लागू करने के लिए किस संस्थान ने अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) NIFTEM-Thanjavur
- (b) IIFT-Delhi
- (c) NIFTEM-Kundli
- (d) CFTRI-Mysuru
- (e) IIT-Kharagpur

Ans. c

Sol. NIFTEM-K Signs MoU with Ministry of Minority Affairs to Implement PM VIKAS Scheme

NIFTEM-Kundli signed an MoU with the Ministry of Minority Affairs in New Delhi to implement the PM VIKAS Scheme as a Project Implementing Agency (PIA).

The PM VIKAS Scheme aims to skill minority youth through need-based training programmes and ensure employment and livelihood opportunities.

Under the project, NIFTEM-K will train 2,110 beneficiaries in courses such as Multi Skill Technician (Food Processing), Millet Products Processor, and Assistant Baking Technician across Jharkhand, Bihar, Punjab, and Haryana.

The initiative seeks to enhance employability, provide market and credit linkages, and integrate minority communities into the economic mainstream, with rollout expected in January 2026.

389. The Union Government released Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV-FC) United Grants in FY 2025–26 to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) in Rajasthan and Jharkhand. How much was the first instalment of XV-FC Untied Grants released to Rajasthan for FY 2025–26?

ग्रामीण स्थानीय निकायों (आरएलबी) को मजबूत करने के लिए वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 में पंद्रहवें वित्त आयोग (XV-FC) संयुक्त अनुदान जारी किया। वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 के लिए राजस्थान को XV-FC अनटाइड अनुदान की पहली किस्त कितनी जारी की गई?

- (a) ₹250.50 crore
- (b) ₹303.04 crore
- (c) ₹275.12 crore
- (d) ₹145.24 crore
- (e) ₹400.00 crore

Ans. b

Sol. Union Government Releases XV Finance Commission Grants to Strengthen PRIs and Rural Local Bodies in Rajasthan and Jharkhand

The Union Government released Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV-FC) United Grants in FY 2025–26 to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) in Rajasthan and Jharkhand.

Rajasthan received ₹303.04 crore as the first instalment for FY 2025–26 and an additional ₹145.24 crore of withheld grants for FY 2024–25, benefiting District, Block, and Gram Panchayats across the state.

Jharkhand was released ₹275.13 crore as the first instalment of Untied Grants for FY 2024–25, while the grants will be used for location-specific needs under the Eleventh Schedule, excluding salaries and establishment expenses.

390. After over 30 years, Gujarat has been formally recognised again as a tiger-bearing state following confirmed photographic evidence from a wildlife sanctuary located in Dahod district. The confirmed tiger presence in Gujarat has been recorded in which sanctuary?

30 से ज्यादा सालों के बाद, दाहोद ज़िले में मौजूद एक वाइल्डलाइफ सैंक्युरी से मिले पक्के फ़ोटोग्राफ़िक सबूतों के बाद गुजरात को फिर से औपचारिक रूप से बाघों वाले राज्य के तौर पर पहचान मिली है। गुजरात में बाघ की मौजूदगी किस सैंक्युरी में दर्ज की गई है?

- (a) Gir National Park
- (b) Barda Wildlife Sanctuary
- (c) Ratanmahal Sanctuary
- (d) Jessore Sloth Bear Sanctuary
- (e) Purna Wildlife Sanctuary

Ans. c

Sol. Gujarat Returns to India's Tiger Map After 30 Years

After over 30 years, Gujarat has been formally recognised again as a tiger-bearing state following confirmed photographic evidence from Ratanmahal Sanctuary in Dahod district.

A nearly four-year-old tiger has been residing in Ratanmahal Sanctuary for about ten months, with continuous camera-trap and CCTV footage ruling out a transient visit.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has directed conservation measures, and Gujarat will be included in the All-India Tiger Estimation (AITE) 2026 with a dedicated camera-trap census along the Gujarat–Madhya Pradesh border.

Gujarat last appeared in the national tiger census in 1989; unlike earlier brief or unverified sightings, the current case marks a sustained and officially documented return of tigers to the state.

About Gujarat

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

391. The Indian Army has revised its long-standing restrictions to allow "passive participation" on select social media platforms, while continuing to enforce strict safeguards to protect operational and national security. Which authority issued the revised social media guidelines for Indian Army personnel?

भारतीय सेना ने कुछ चुनिंदा सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म पर "पैसिव भागीदारी" की अनुमति देने के लिए अपने पुराने प्रतिबंधों में बदलाव किया है, जबकि ऑपरेशनल और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा की रक्षा के लिए सख्त सुरक्षा उपायों को लागू करना जारी रखा है। भारतीय सेना के जवानों के लिए संशोधित सोशल मीडिया गाइडलाइंस किस अधॉरिटी ने जारी कीं?

- (a) Ministry of Defence
- (b) Army Training Command
- (c) Directorate General of Military Intelligence
- (d) National Security Council Secretariat
- (e) Integrated Defence Staff

Ans. c

Sol. Indian Army Eases Social Media Rules, Allows 'Passive Participation' With Strict Safeguards

The Indian Army has revised its long-standing restrictions to allow “passive participation” on select social media platforms, while continuing to enforce strict safeguards to protect operational and national security.

The new guidelines, issued by Army Headquarters through the DGMI, are effective immediately, with Instagram formally included in the list of restricted-use platforms. Platforms like WhatsApp, Telegram, Skype and Signal may be used only for sharing unclassified, general information with known individuals, with responsibility for verification placed on the user.

Personnel are allowed only to access information on platforms such as YouTube, X, Quora and Instagram; uploading content, active participation, use of risky websites, VPNs, torrents and unsafe cloud storage remains prohibited.

392. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) data tabled in the Rajya Sabha, over 24,600 Indian nationals were deported from 81 countries in 2025. Which country recorded the highest number of deportations of Indian nationals during this period?

विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) द्वारा राज्यसभा में पेश किए गए डेटा के अनुसार, 2025 में 81 देशों से 24,600 से ज्यादा भारतीय नागरिकों को डिपोर्ट किया गया। इस दौरान किस देश में भारतीय नागरिकों को सबसे ज्यादा डिपोर्ट किया गया?

- (a) United States
- (b) United Arab Emirates
- (c) Malaysia
- (d) Saudi Arabia
- (e) Myanmar

Ans. d

Sol. Over 24,600 Indians Deported From 81 Countries in 2025; Saudi Arabia Tops the List

Over 24,600 Indian nationals were deported from 81 countries in 2025, as per MEA data tabled in the Rajya Sabha on December 18, with Saudi Arabia accounting for the highest number (over 11,000).

About 3,800 Indians—mostly private employees—were deported from the United States, the highest figure in five years, largely due to stricter checks on visa validity, work authorisation, documentation, and overstays.

Significant deportations were also reported from Myanmar, Malaysia, UAE, Bahrain, Thailand, and Cambodia, reflecting diverse regional patterns affecting Indian migrants. MEA data highlights visa overstays, illegal employment, labour law violations, absconding from employers, and civil or criminal cases as key causes, especially in Gulf nations.

Indian Missions assist deportees through nationality verification, Emergency Certificates, helplines, and grievance portals, while cases from Myanmar and Cambodia often involve cybercrime-linked job frauds targeting Indian workers.

393. What percentage of stake in Indian Overseas Bank is the government planning to divest using the green-shoe option?

सरकार ग्रीन-शू ऑप्शन का इस्तेमाल करके इंडियन ऑवरसीज बैंक में कितने प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी बेचने की योजना बना रही है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Govt to Divest 3% Stake in Indian Overseas Bank Using Green-Shoe Option

The government has decided to use the green-shoe option to divest an additional 3% stake in Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) through an Offer for Sale (OFS), following strong investor response on the first day.

The base OFS comprises 2% equity (38.51 crore shares) with an option to sell an extra 1% (19.25 crore shares) at a floor price of ₹34 per share; the government currently holds 94.61% stake in IOB.

A small portion of shares is reserved for eligible employees, and the divestment aligns with SEBI norms requiring listed companies to maintain a minimum public shareholding of 25%.

394. President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu created history by undertaking a dived operational sortie onboard an indigenous Indian Navy submarine from the Western Seaboard. This submarine belongs to the Kalvari-class and the embarkation took place from Karwar Naval Harbour, Karnataka. The President thus became the second Indian President to experience a submarine sortie after Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. Which of the following submarines was involved in this historic event?

भारत की राष्ट्रपति श्रीमती द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने पश्चिमी समुद्र तट से एक स्वदेशी भारतीय नौसेना पनडुब्बी पर गोता लगाकर परिचालन उड़ान भरकर इतिहास रचा। यह पनडुब्बी कलवरी श्रेणी की है और इसकी शुरुआत कर्नाटक के कारवार नेवल हार्बर से हुई थी। इस प्रकार राष्ट्रपति डॉ. एपीजे अब्दुल कलाम के बाद पनडुब्बी उड़ान का अनुभव करने वाले दूसरे भारतीय राष्ट्रपति बन गए। इस ऐतिहासिक घटना में निम्नलिखित में से कौन सी पनडुब्बी शामिल थी?

- (a) INS Arihant
- (b) INS Vagir
- (c) INS Vaghsheer
- (d) INS Chakra
- (e) INS Kalvari

Ans. c

Sol. President Droupadi Murmu Makes Historic Dived Sortie Aboard Submarine INS Vaghsheer

President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu undertook a dived sortie onboard indigenous Kalvari-class submarine INS Vaghsheer from Karwar Naval Harbour, Karnataka, becoming the second Indian President after Dr APJ Abdul Kalam to do so.

During the over 2-hour sortie, the President interacted with the submarine crew and witnessed live operational demonstrations, accompanied by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi.

The embarkation reflects the Supreme Commander's continued engagement with the Armed Forces, following her operational demonstration visit onboard INS Vikrant in November 2024.

395. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) notified operational guidelines for the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS) and the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS) to strengthen India's domestic shipbuilding capacity and global competitiveness. What is the total financial corpus allocated under the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS)?

बंदरगाह, जहाजरानी और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय (MoPSW) ने भारत की घरेलू जहाज निर्माण क्षमता और वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धा को मजबूत करने के लिए शिपबिल्डिंग फाइनेंशियल असिस्टेंस स्कीम (SBFAS) और शिपबिल्डिंग डेवलपमेंट स्कीम (SbDS) के लिए ऑपरेशनल गाइडलाइंस जारी की हैं। शिपबिल्डिंग फाइनेंशियल असिस्टेंस स्कीम (SBFAS) के तहत कुल कितना वित्तीय कोष आवंटित किया गया है?

- (a) ₹19,989 crore
- (b) ₹15,004 crore
- (c) ₹30,000 crore
- (d) ₹24,736 crore
- (e) ₹96,000 crore

Ans. d

Sol. Govt Notifies SBFAS & SbDS Guidelines to Strengthen India's Shipbuilding Sector
The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) notified operational guidelines for the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS) and the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS) to strengthen India's domestic shipbuilding capacity and global competitiveness.

With a total corpus of ₹24,736 crore, SBFAS provides 15%–25% financial assistance per vessel, based on vessel category, with graded and milestone-linked disbursement, independent valuation, and security-backed governance mechanisms.

The scheme envisages a National Shipbuilding Mission and introduces a Shipbreaking Credit Note offering 40% of scrap value to ship owners scrapping vessels at Indian yards, linking ship recycling with new ship construction.

The Shipbuilding Development Scheme (₹19,989 crore) focuses on long-term capability building, offering 100% capital support for greenfield shipbuilding clusters and 25% assistance for brownfield expansion of existing shipyards.

SbDS includes a Credit Risk Coverage Framework for pre/post-shipment and vendor-default risks; both schemes will remain valid till March 31, 2036, with an in-principle extension up to 2047.

396. Anu Garg, a 1991-batch IAS officer, has been appointed as _____'s Chief Secretary, becoming the first woman to hold the top bureaucratic post in the state.

1991 बैच की आईएएस अधिकारी अनु गर्ग को _____ का मुख्य सचिव नियुक्त किया गया है, जो राज्य में शीर्ष नौकरशाही पद संभालने वाली पहली महिला बन गई है।

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Chhattisgarh
- (c) Jharkhand
- (d) Odisha
- (e) Andhra Pradesh

Ans. d

Sol. Anu Garg Appointed Odisha's First Woman Chief Secretary

Anu Garg, a 1991-batch IAS officer, has been appointed as Odisha's Chief Secretary, becoming the first woman to hold the top bureaucratic post in the state.

Her elevation follows the retirement of incumbent Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, who is set to superannuate on December 31, 2025.

Currently serving as Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary (Planning & Convergence) with additional charge of the Water Resources Department, Anu Garg is known for effectively implementing key development initiatives during the Naveen Patnaik-led government.

About Odisha

- **Capital** - Bhubaneswar
- **Chief Minister** - Mohan Charan Majhi (replace Naveen Patnaik)
- **Deputy CM** - KV Singhdeo and Pravati Parida
- **Governor** - Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati

397. VoxelGrids has developed India's first indigenous MRI scanner, marking a major milestone in the country's medical technology ecosystem. VoxelGrids is backed by which Indian technology company?

VoxelGrids ने भारत का पहला स्वदेशी MRI स्कैनर विकसित किया है, जो देश के मेडिकल टेक्नोलॉजी इकोसिस्टम में एक बड़ा मील का पत्थर है। VoxelGrids को किस भारतीय टेक्नोलॉजी कंपनी का समर्थन प्राप्त है?

- (a) Infosys
- (b) TCS
- (c) Wipro
- (d) HCL
- (e) Zoho

Ans. e

Sol. VoxelGrids Develops India's First Indigenous MRI Scanner

Zoho-backed start-up VoxelGrids has developed India's first indigenous MRI scanner, marking a major milestone in the country's medical technology ecosystem.

The 1.5-tesla MRI scanner has been deployed at the Chandrapur Cancer Care Foundation near Nagpur, showcasing successful real-world clinical adoption.

The scanner is the result of a 12-year mission led by founder Arjun Arunachalam to design and build a critical diagnostic system domestically, reducing dependence on foreign imports.

Unlike conventional global MRI systems, the VoxelGrids scanner does not use liquid helium, making it around 40% cheaper to build while incorporating original technological advancements.

398. Who has been elected as the Chair of the BWF Athletes' Commission for the 2026–2029 term?

2026–2029 की अवधि के लिए BWF एथलीट्स कमीशन की अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे चुना गया है?

- (a) Greysia Polii
- (b) An Se-young
- (c) PV Sindhu
- (d) Jia Yifan
- (e) Debora Jille

Ans. d

Sol. PV Sindhu Elected Chair of BWF Athletes' Commission for 2026–2029 Term
Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu has been elected Chair of the BWF Athletes' Commission for the 2026–2029 term, giving players a direct voice in global badminton governance.

As Chair, Sindhu will also serve as a member of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Council, strengthening athlete representation at the highest decision-making level.

Debora Jille (Netherlands) will serve as Deputy Chair, while other members include Olympic champions An Se-young (South Korea), Jia Yifan (China), African medallist Doha Hany (Egypt), and Indian para-badminton player Abu Hubaida.

India's most successful badminton player, Sindhu won Olympic silver at Rio 2016 and bronze at Tokyo 2020, and is set to lead India at the 2026 Badminton Asia Team Championships in Qingdao, China.

399. Former _____ cricketer Hugh Morris passed away at the age of 62.

पूर्व _____ क्रिकेटर ह्यू मोरिस का निधन 62 वर्ष की आयु में हो गया।

- (a) Australian
- (b) Indian
- (c) South African
- (d) England
- (e) New Zealand

Ans. d

Sol. Former England Cricketer and ECB Chief Executive Hugh Morris Dies

Former England cricketer Hugh Morris passed away at the age of 62.

Morris was a prolific opening batter, won three Test caps in 1991, led England A on multiple international tours, and became Glamorgan's youngest captain at 22, later leading them to the 1993 Sunday League title.

As a cricket administrator, Morris served as ECB Chief Executive and later as England's first Managing Director (2007–2013), during which the men's team reached No. 1 in Test rankings, won three Ashes series, and the 2010 T20 World Cup.

400. The Central Government has appointed three Senior Advocates as Additional Solicitors General (ASGs) to represent the Union of India before the Supreme Court of India. Which of the following is NOT among the newly appointed Additional Solicitors General?

केंद्र सरकार ने भारत के सुप्रीम कोर्ट के सामने भारत सरकार का प्रतिनिधित्व करने के लिए तीन सीनियर वकीलों को एडिशनल सॉलिसिटर जनरल (ASG) के रूप में नियुक्त किया है।

निम्नलिखित में से कौन नए नियुक्त एडिशनल सॉलिसिटर जनरल में से नहीं है?

- (a) Devinder Pal Singh
- (b) Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar
- (c) Anil Kaushik
- (d) Tushar Mehta
- (e) Both a and c

Ans. d

Sol. Government Appoints Three Senior Advocates as Additional Solicitors General for Supreme Court

The Central Government has appointed three Senior Advocates as Additional Solicitors General (ASGs) to represent the Union of India before the Supreme Court of India.

The appointees are Devinder Pal Singh, Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar, and Anil Kaushik, all seasoned legal professionals with extensive litigation experience.

The appointments were approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, and are typically for a three-year tenure or until further notice.

Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar notably brings both parliamentary experience as a former Rajya Sabha member (2018–2024) and legal expertise to his role as ASG

401. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), launched on 25 December 2000, completed 25 years in 2025, emerging as one of India's most impactful schemes for all-weather rural road connectivity and inclusive development. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), which of the following correctly describes the funding pattern?

25 दिसंबर 2000 को शुरू की गई प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना (PMGSY) ने 2025 में 25 साल पूरे कर लिए हैं, और यह सभी मौसम में ग्रामीण सड़क कनेक्टिविटी और समावेशी विकास के लिए भारत की सबसे प्रभावशाली योजनाओं में से एक बनकर उभरी है। प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना (PMGSY) के तहत, निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा फंडिंग पैटर्न सही ढंग से बताता है?

- (a) 70:30 for all States and 100% for UTs
- (b) 60:40 for General States, 90:10 for North-Eastern & Himalayan States
- (c) 50:50 for all States and UTs
- (d) 75:25 for General States and 90:10 for all Special Category States
- (e) 100% Central funding for all States

Ans. b

Sol. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) completing 25 years in 2025

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), launched on 25 December 2000, completed 25 years in 2025, emerging as one of India's most impactful schemes for all-weather rural road connectivity and inclusive development.

Since its inception, 8.25 lakh km of rural roads have been sanctioned, of which about 7.88 lakh km ($\approx 95\%$) have been completed as of December 2025, significantly integrating rural areas with markets and services.

The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development in coordination with State Governments and Union Territories.

PMGSY is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with funding 60:40 for general states, 90:10 for North-Eastern states, Himalayan states, J and K and UTs with legislatures and 100% central funding for UTs without legislatures

The scheme evolved through multiple phases—PMGSY-I (universal access), PMGSY-II (road upgradation), RCPLWEA (LWE areas), PMGSY-III (strategic rural links), and PMGSY-IV (2024-29) targeting last-mile connectivity.

PMGSY-IV aims to connect 25,000 unconnected habitations with 62,500 km of roads, with a total outlay of ₹70,125 crore, focusing on tribal areas, aspirational districts, and remote regions.

Technology-driven governance through platforms like OMMAS, e-MARG, and GPS-enabled monitoring has strengthened transparency, quality assurance, and lifecycle maintenance of rural roads.

PMGSY has delivered strong socio-economic impacts, including improved market access for farmers, better healthcare and education reach, increased rural employment, and enhanced regional equity and national integration.

402. Which of the following airlines have been granted No Objection Certificates (NOCs) by the Ministry of Civil Aviation to enter the Indian aviation market?

निम्नलिखित में से किन एयरलाइंस को नागरिक उड़ायन मंत्रालय द्वारा भारतीय विमानन बाज़ार में प्रवेश करने के लिए अनापत्ति प्रमाण पत्र (NOC) दिए गए हैं?

- (a) Akasa Air, Vistara, AirAsia India
- (b) Shankh Air, Al Hind Air, FlyExpress
- (c) Alliance Air, TruJet, Star Air
- (d) IndiGo, Air India, SpiceJet
- (e) Go First, FlyBig, Blue Dart

Ans. b

Sol. The Ministry of Civil Aviation Grants NOCs to Three New Airlines; Operations Expected in 2026

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has granted No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to three new airlines—Shankh Air, Al Hind Air, and FlyExpress to enter the Indian aviation market.

These approvals mark a significant move to boost competition and diversify India's domestic airline sector, which has long been dominated by a few major carriers.

Shankh Air has already received its NOC and is preparing to commence commercial operations in early 2026, with plans to connect regional and underserved routes.

AI Hind Air and FlyExpress recently secured their NOCs and are also targeting operational launches in 2026, aiming to enhance connectivity and offer more choices to flyers.

About Ministry of Civil Aviation

- *Union Minister- Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu*
- *Constituency- Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh*
- *Minister of State- Murlidhar Kisan Mohol*
- *Constituency- Pune, Maharashtra*

403. IIT-Patna inaugurated the PARAM Rudra supercomputer, marking Bihar's first high-performance computing (HPC) facility. The PARAM Rudra supercomputer at IIT-Patna has been launched under which national initiative?

IIT-पटना ने PARAM रुद्र सुपरकंप्यूटर का उद्घाटन किया, जो बिहार की पहली हाई-परफॉर्मेंस कंप्यूटिंग (HPC) सुविधा है। IIT-पटना में PARAM रुद्र सुपरकंप्यूटर को किस राष्ट्रीय पहल के तहत लॉन्च किया गया है?

- (a) Digital India Mission
- (b) Make in India Programme
- (c) National Supercomputing Mission
- (d) Startup India Mission
- (e) National Super AI Mission

Ans. c

Sol. Param Rudra Supercomputer Launched at IIT-Patna, Bihar

IIT-Patna inaugurated the PARAM Rudra supercomputer, marking Bihar's first high-performance computing facility installed under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).

The launch ceremony was presided over by Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), highlighting the government's push for advanced research infrastructure.

PARAM Rudra is an indigenously developed supercomputer, operating at high computational capacity and designed to support cutting-edge research across disciplines including AI, data science, quantum computing, material design, and fluid mechanics.

Under the National Supercomputing Mission, 37 supercomputers have already been deployed across India with a combined capacity of 39 petaFLOPS, supporting over 12,000 researchers.

The government plans to add 10 more supercomputers, which will raise India's total computing capacity to over 100 petaFLOPS in the next phase.

404. Which regulatory body recently imposed a ₹1 crore penalty on Reliance General Insurance Company for violations related to outsourcing of activities, payment of commission, and corporate governance norms?

हाल ही में किस रेगुलेटरी बॉडी ने आउटसोर्सिंग, कमीशन पेमेंट और कॉर्पोरेट गवर्नेंस नियमों के उल्लंघन के लिए रिलायंस जनरल इंश्योरेंस कंपनी पर ₹1 करोड़ का जुर्माना लगाया है?

- (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (c) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- (d) Ministry of Finance
- (e) Department of Financial Services

Ans. c

Sol. IRDAI Imposes ₹1 Crore Penalty on Reliance General Insurance for Regulatory Violations

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has imposed a ₹1 crore penalty on Reliance General Insurance Company for violations related to outsourcing norms, commission payments, and corporate governance guidelines. One major violation involved engaging an individual agent of another insurer for advertising and publishing services, which breached regulatory norms governing insurer-agent relationships.

About Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

- *Established- In the year 1999 under the IRDA Act, 1999*
- *Headquarters- Hyderabad, Telangana*
- *Type- Statutory body under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India*
- *Current Chairman - Ajay Seth*

405. Which company has received RBI's Certificate of Registration (CoR) to operate as an NBFC?

किस कंपनी को NBFC के रूप में कार्य करने के लिए RBI से पंजीकरण प्रमाणपत्र (CoR) प्राप्त हुआ है?

- (a) Aryaman Financial Services Ltd
- (b) Aryaman Capital Markets Ltd
- (c) Aryaman Investments Pvt Ltd
- (d) Aryaman Finance (India) Ltd
- (e) Aryaman Securities Ltd

Ans. d

Sol. Aryaman Finance (India) Ltd Gets RBI Nod to Operate as Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)

Aryaman Finance (India) Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Aryaman Financial Services Ltd (AFSL), has received a Certificate of Registration (CoR) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to commence operations as a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).

AFSL is a Mumbai-based SEBI-registered Category-I merchant banker, engaged in activities such as lead management, syndication of IPOs/FPOs/Rights Issues/QIPs, PIPE deals, VC funding, and other fund-raising activities.

The CoR allows the WOS to operate as a Type II NBFC (Non-Deposit taking – Investment and Credit Company), enabling it to provide credit and investment services without accepting public deposits.

406. Who has been named the captain of India's U19 cricket team for the ICC Men's Under-19 World Cup 2026?

आईसीसी पुरुष अंडर-19 विश्व कप 2026 के लिए भारत की अंडर-19 क्रिकेट टीम का कप्तान किसे बनाया गया है?

- (a) Vaibhav Sooryavanshi
- (b) Vihaan Malhotra
- (c) Ayush Mhatre
- (d) R.S. Ambrish
- (e) Mohamed Enaan

Ans. c

Sol. Ayush Mhatre Named India U19 Captain for ICC Men's World Cup 2026

Ayush Mhatre has been named captain of India's squad for the ICC Men's Under-19 World Cup 2026, scheduled in Zimbabwe and Namibia from January 15 to February 6. Mhatre and vice-captain Vihaan Malhotra will miss the pre-tournament South Africa tour (Jan 3-7) due to wrist injuries, with Vaibhav Sooryavanshi leading the side in their absence.

The India U19 World Cup squad features five-time champions India in Group A alongside New Zealand, USA, and Bangladesh, with the team opening against the USA on January 15 at Queens Sports Club, Bulawayo.

407. Who won the open section of the World Rapid Chess Championship 2025?

वर्ल्ड रैपिड चेस चैंपियनशिप 2025 का ओपन सेक्शन किसने जीता?

- (a) Vladislav Artemiev
- (b) Arjun Erigaisi
- (c) Magnus Carlsen
- (d) Nihal Sarin
- (e) R. Praggnanandhaa

Ans. c

Sol. Magnus Carlsen and Aleksandra Goryachkina Clinch World Rapid Chess Championship

Magnus Carlsen and Aleksandra Goryachkina won the World Rapid Chess Championship, with Carlsen taking the open section and Goryachkina triumphing in the women's section after tie-breaks.

India's Arjun Erigaisi and Koneru Humpy won bronze in the open and women's sections, respectively, while other Indian players like B. Savitha Shri (4th), R. Vaishali (5th), and Divya Deshmukh (8th) also performed strongly.

In the open event, Carlsen scored 10.5 points, Vladislav Artemiev was second, and Arjun Erigaisi scored 9.5 points for third place, while other Indian players like Aravindh Chithambaram (16th), Nihal Sarin (19th), and R. Praggnanandhaa (28th) also participated.

408. Brigitte Bardot, who passed away at the age of 91, was a legendary actress from which country?

ब्रिजिट बार्डोट, जिनका 91 साल की उम्र में निधन हो गया, वह किस देश की मशहूर अभिनेत्री थीं?

- (a) Italy
- (b) France
- (c) USA
- (d) Spain
- (e) Germany

Ans. b

Sol. French Cinema Icon Brigitte Bardot Dies at 91

French actress Brigitte Bardot, aged 91, has passed away, remembered as a cinema icon who revolutionised 1950s French cinema and became a symbol of sexual liberation.

Bardot acted in nearly 50 films, including the famous "And God Created Woman", before retiring in 1973 to focus on animal welfare through the Brigitte Bardot Foundation.

While widely celebrated, her later life was marked by controversy, including homophobic slurs and fines for inciting racial hatred, though French leaders like Emmanuel Macron and Marine Le Pen paid tribute to her talent, courage, and cultural impact.

409. Khaleda Zia, Bangladesh's first female Prime Minister and a key figure in the country's politics, passed away at the age of 80 after a prolonged illness. Khaleda Zia was associated with which political party?

बांग्लादेश की पहली महिला प्रधान मंत्री और देश की राजनीति में एक प्रमुख हस्ती खालिदा जिया का लंबी बीमारी के बाद 80 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। खालिदा जिया किस राजनीतिक दल से जुड़ी थीं?

- (a) Awami League
- (b) Jatiya Party
- (c) Bangladesh Nationalist Party
- (d) Jamaat-e-Islami
- (e) Workers Party

Ans. c

Sol. Bangladesh's First Female Prime Minister Khaleda Zia Passes Away at 80

Khaleda Zia, Bangladesh's first female Prime Minister and a key figure in the country's politics, passed away at the age of 80 after a prolonged illness, as confirmed by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

She served as Prime Minister twice—first after winning the 1991 election and again during 2001–2006, with long-standing political rivalry against Sheikh Hasina shaping Bangladesh's political landscape.

Her death comes ahead of the February parliamentary elections, where the BNP is seen as the frontrunner; her son and party's acting chairman Tarique Rahman recently returned from 17 years in self-exile and is considered a strong prime ministerial contender.

410. According to the Hurun India Rich List 2025, who emerged as the wealthiest Indian-origin tech executive?

Hurun India Rich List 2025 के अनुसार, सबसे अमीर भारतीय-मूल टेक एक्जीक्यूटिव कौन बनीं?

- (a) Sundar Pichai
- (b) Satya Nadella
- (c) Jayshree Ullal
- (d) Parul Tyagi
- (e) Nikesh Arora

Ans. c

Sol. Hurun India Rich List 2025: Jayshree Ullal Emerges as Wealthiest Indian-Origin Tech Executive

Indian-origin billionaire Jayshree Ullal, CEO and President of Arista Networks, topped the list of wealthiest tech executives of Indian origin, surpassing Sundar Pichai and Satya Nadella.

A British-born Indian-origin leader, Ullal has been heading Arista Networks since 2008; earlier, she worked with Cisco Systems, AMD, and Fairchild Semiconductor, and is based in Santa Clara, California.

She studied at Convent of Jesus & Mary, New Delhi, earned engineering degrees from San Francisco State University and Santa Clara University, and received an Honorary Doctorate in Engineering in 2025.

With a net worth of \$5.7 billion, Ullal ranks 713th globally; Arista Networks reported \$7 billion revenue in 2024, with her wealth rising steadily amid the AI and software boom.

411. Which institution will host eight disciplines of the World Police & Fire Games 2029?

World Police & Fire Games 2029 की आठ प्रतियोगिताओं की मेजबानी कौन करेगा?

- (a) Sardar Patel Sports Complex
- (b) Gujarat Sports Authority
- (c) Rashtriya Raksha University
- (d) Indian Olympic Association
- (e) Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy

Ans. c

Sol. RRU to Host Eight Disciplines of World Police & Fire Games 2029, Marking India's Hosting Debut

Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), Gujarat will host eight disciplines of the World Police & Fire Games 2029, marking India's first time as host of this Olympic-style global event for police and fire service personnel.

The disciplines to be hosted at RRU include Wrist Wrestling, Bench Press, Bodybuilding, Cross Country (10 km), Push-Pull Lifting, Muster, Indoor Rowing, and Darts, leveraging the university's advanced sports infrastructure.

The biennial World Police & Fire Games attracts thousands of participants; at the 2025 USA edition, over 9,000 athletes competed in 60+ sports, with India winning more than 600 medals.

RRU will also host the 2nd International Olympic Research Conference (IORC) 2026 in Gandhinagar (Jan 27–30), themed “Building a Sustainable Olympic Ecosystem”, featuring a two-day anti-doping workshop in collaboration with NADA.

412. The Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Academy of Social Security (PDUNASS) has signed an MoU with which institution to embed ethics in social security administration?

पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय राष्ट्रीय सामाजिक सुरक्षा अकादमी (पीडीयूएनएसएस) ने सामाजिक सुरक्षा प्रशासन में नीतिकता को शामिल करने के लिए किस संस्था के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration
- (b) National Institute of Public Finance and Policy
- (c) IC Centre for Governance
- (d) Indian Institute of Public Administration
- (e) Centre for Policy Research

Ans. c

Sol. PDUNASS and IC Centre for Governance Partner to Embed Ethical Leadership in EPFO Administration

The Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Academy of Social Security (PDUNASS), the apex training institute of EPFO, signed an MoU with the IC Centre for Governance (ICCFG) in New Delhi to embed ethical leadership in social security administration.

The partnership aims to integrate moral integrity, ethical leadership, and technical expertise among EPFO officers amid ongoing digital and Ease of Living reforms.

The collaboration supports Mission Karmayogi, shifting from rule-based compliance to role-based ethical competence, with emphasis on transparency, accountability, and empathy.

A tiered annual training framework has been introduced, including residential leadership programs for Group 'A' officers at ICCFG and citizen-centric conduct training for Group 'B' officers at PDUNASS.

413. Bhutan spinner Sonam Yeshey created history by becoming the first bowler to take an eight-wicket haul in a men's T20 International, setting a new world record. Against which country did Sonam Yeshey achieve his record-breaking eight-wicket haul?

भूटान के स्पिनर सोनम येशे ने पुरुषों के T20 इंटरनेशनल में आठ विकेट लेने वाले पहले गेंदबाज बनकर इतिहास रच दिया, और एक नया वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड बनाया। सोनम येशे ने किस देश के खिलाफ अपना रिकॉर्ड तोड़ने वाला आठ विकेट का कारनामा किया?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Thailand
- (c) China

(d) Myanmar

(e) Malaysia

Ans. d

Sol. Bhutan's Sonam Yeshey Creates History with Record 8-Wicket Haul in Men's T20 International

Bhutan spinner Sonam Yeshey created history by becoming the first bowler to take an eight-wicket haul in a men's T20 International, setting a new world record.

The 22-year-old left-arm spinner achieved the feat during the third T20I against Myanmar at Gelephu Mindfulness City, Bhutan, on December 26.

Sonam Yeshey returned sensational figures of 8 wickets for just 7 runs, bowling Myanmar out for 45 while defending Bhutan's total of 127/9.

Earlier, the best bowling figures in T20Is were 7/8 by Malaysia's Syazrul Idrus (2023), while only a few bowlers, including Ali Dawood, Colin Ackermann and Taskin Ahmed, have taken seven wickets in T20 matches.

414. Who won the Women's Singles title at the 87th Senior National Badminton Championships?

87वें सीनियर नेशनल बैडमिंटन चैंपियनशिप में महिला सिंगल्स का खिताब किसने जीता?

(a) Tanvi Patri

(b) Shikha Gautam

(c) Ashwini Bhat K

(d) Radhika Sharma

(e) Surya Charishma Tamiri

Ans. e

Sol. Surya Charishma Tamiri Clinches Women's Singles Title at 87th Senior National Badminton Championships

Surya Charishma Tamiri won the Women's Singles title at the 87th Senior National Badminton Championships in Vijayawada, staging a comeback to defeat Tanvi Patri 17-21, 21-12, 21-14.

Rithvik Sanjeevi S clinched the Men's Singles title defeating Bharat Raghav 21-16, 22-20, while A. Hariharan and Ruban Kumar won the Men's Doubles 24-22, 21-17.

Former champions Shikha Gautam and Ashwini Bhat K reclaimed the Women's Doubles title, and Sathwik Reddy K and Radhika Sharma won the Mixed Doubles championship with a 21-9, 21-15 victory.

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