

Best 300+ MCQs

January 2026

Current Affairs PDF



1. Which company's board has approved the merger with its holding company Go Digit Infoworks Services?

किस कंपनी के बोर्ड ने अपनी होल्डिंग कंपनी Go Digit Infoworks Services के साथ विलय को मंजूरी दी है?

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

Ans. d

Sol. Go Digit General Insurance Board Approves Merger with Holding Company in Landmark Move

The Go Digit General Insurance board has approved the merger of its holding company, Go Digit Infoworks Services, with the listed insurer, marking a landmark move.

This will be the first merger of an insurance company with a non-insurance holding company following recent liberalisation of insurance laws.

The scheme of amalgamation under Sections 230–232 of the Companies Act requires approvals from shareholders, creditors, and regulators including IRDAI, SEBI, stock exchanges, and NCLT.

2. LIC has partnered with which company to expand insurance access in rural and semi-urban India?

LIC ने ग्रामीण और अर्ध-शहरी भारत में बीमा पहुंच बढ़ाने के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) CSC e-Governance Services
- (b) India Post Payments Bank
- (c) Bajaj Finserv
- (d) Sahaj Insurance Services Pvt. Ltd.
- (e) None of above

Ans. d

Sol. LIC Partners with Sahaj Insurance Services to Expand Insurance Reach in Rural India

LIC has entered into a strategic partnership with Sahaj Insurance Services Pvt. Ltd. to expand insurance penetration in rural and semi-urban India.

Sahaj's assisted digital service network will help citizens understand, enrol in, and manage LIC life insurance policies, especially in low-awareness regions.

Sahaj Insurance Services, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sahaj Retail under the Kanoria Foundation initiative, holds a corporate agency licence from IRDAI to distribute insurance products nationwide.

3. Who has been appointed as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) from January 2026?

जनवरी 2026 से संयुक्त राष्ट्र शरणार्थी उच्चायुक्त (UNHCR) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) António Guterres
- (b) Filippo Grandi
- (c) Volker Türk
- (d) Barham Salih
- (e) Michelle Bachelet

Ans. d

Sol. Barham Salih Appointed as UN High Commissioner for Refugees from January 2026

The United Nations General Assembly has appointed former Iraqi President Barham Salih as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

His tenure will be for five years, commencing on January 1, 2026.

He will succeed Filippo Grandi of Italy as the head of the refugee agency.

The UNHCR is responsible for the protection and support of refugees, displaced persons, and stateless people worldwide.

4. What is the name of the digital communication platform launched by the Rajasthan government for medical education?

राजस्थान सरकार ने चिकित्सा शिक्षा के लिए कौन सा डिजिटल संचार प्लेटफॉर्म लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) e-Rajasthan Health
- (b) e-Swasthya Samvad
- (c) MedEdu Connect
- (d) Health Samvad Portal
- (e) DigiMedical Rajasthan

Ans. b

Sol. Rajasthan Launches "e-Swasthya Samvad" Digital Platform to Strengthen Medical Education Governance

The Rajasthan government has launched a new digital communication platform, "e-Swasthya Samvad," to enhance governance, transparency, and coordination in the state's medical education system.

The initiative has been introduced under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and Medical Education Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar as part of technology-driven health reforms.

e-Swasthya Samvad will act as a dedicated digital interface connecting policymakers and medical institutions, enabling faster decision-making, real-time monitoring, and effective policy implementation.

The platform will operate twice a week (Tuesday and Thursday) through video conferencing, with structured interactions involving senior officials first, followed by engagement with faculty, doctors, nursing staff, students, and the public.

About Rajasthan

- **Capital** – Jaipur
- **Chief Minister** – Bhajan Lal Sharma (replace Ashok Gehlot)
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Diya Kumari and Premchand Bairwa
- **Governor** – Haribhau Bagade

5. What is the name of the new digital payments platform being launched by Rediff.com India Ltd., which has received TPAP license approval from NPCI and aims to provide secure, interoperable UPI services while promoting financial inclusion across India?

Rediff.com India Ltd. द्वारा लॉन्च किया जा रहा नया डिजिटल पेमेंट प्लेटफॉर्म किस नाम से जाना जाता है, जिसे NPCI से TPAP लाइसेंस की मंजूरी मिली है और जो भारत में सुरक्षित, इंटरऑपरेबल UPI सेवाएं प्रदान करते हुए वित्तीय समावेशन को बढ़ावा देने का लक्ष्य रखता है?

- (a) RediffPayGo
- (b) RedPay
- (c) DigiRediff
- (d) RediffPay
- (e) PayRediff

Ans. d

Sol. Rediff.com Gets NPCI Approval for TPAP License, Begins UPI Testing for RediffPay
Rediff.com India Ltd. has received final approval from NPCI for its Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) license, enabling the launch of RediffPay.

The company has started Closed User Group (CUG) testing as a precursor to joining the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ecosystem.

RediffPay aims to provide secure, interoperable UPI services, promoting financial inclusion and facilitating saving, investing, and credit access across India.

6. According to the WADA 2024 report, India recorded 260 positive doping cases from 7,113 samples (3.6% positivity rate), marking the highest number of

doping offenders globally for the third consecutive year. Which country recorded the second-highest proportion of positive doping cases after India in 2024?

वाडा 2024 की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत में 7,113 सैंपल में से 260 पॉजिटिव डोपिंग मामले दर्ज किए गए (3.6% पॉजिटिविटी रेट), जो लगातार तीसरे साल दुनिया भर में डोपिंग करने वालों की सबसे ज़्यादा संख्या है। 2024 में भारत के बाद पॉजिटिव डोपिंग मामलों के अनुपात में दूसरा सबसे ज़्यादा अनुपात किस देश में दर्ज किया गया?

- (a) United States
- (b) France
- (c) Germany
- (d) Norway
- (e) Pakistan

Ans. d

Sol. India Tops Global Doping List for Third Consecutive Year, WADA 2024 Report Reveals

According to the WADA 2024 report, India recorded 260 positive doping cases from 7,113 samples (3.6% positivity rate), marking the highest number of doping offenders globally for the third consecutive year.

Norway documented the second-highest proportion of positive cases at 1.75%, followed by the U.S. at 1.15%, while countries like China and Germany reported far fewer violations despite higher testing volumes.

Athletics, weightlifting, and wrestling were the most affected sports in India, with 76, 43, and 29 positive cases respectively, reflecting a persistent pattern in endurance and strength-based sports.

In response, India has strengthened its anti-doping framework through NADA reforms, a new anti-doping panel by the Indian Olympic Association, and the National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025, aligning with global standards.

About World Anti-Doping Agency

- *Formation- 10 November 1999*
- *Headquarters- Montreal, Canada*
- *President- Witold Banka*

7. What is the full form of ECTA, the trade agreement between India and Australia that provides duty-free access to all Indian exports from January 1, 2026, and has contributed to sustained export growth, deeper market access, and stronger supply-chain resilience for Indian exporters, MSMEs, farmers, and workers?

ECTA का पूरा नाम क्या है, भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच वह व्यापार समझौता जो 1 जनवरी 2026 से सभी भारतीय निर्यात पर ड्यूटी-फ्री एक्सेस प्रदान करता है और जिसने भारतीय निर्यातकों, MSMEs, किसानों और श्रमिकों के लिए निरंतर निर्यात वृद्धि, गहरी बाजार पहुंच और मजबूत सप्लाई-चेन लचीलापन सुनिश्चित किया है?

- (a) Economic and Trade Alliance
- (b) Export and Trade Agreement
- (c) Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement
- (d) Export Cooperation Treaty Agreement
- (e) Economic Commercial Trade Accord

Ans. c

Sol. Australia to Grant Duty-Free Access to All Indian Exports from January 2026 under ECTA

From January 1, 2026, Australia will provide duty-free access to all Indian exports under the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), marking 100% zero-duty tariff lines.

The ECTA was an 'early harvest' deal, addressing select trade-related issues, while both countries are negotiating a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) for broader trade coverage.

India's exports to Australia grew by 8% in 2024-25, with significant gains across manufacturing, chemicals, textiles, plastics, pharmaceuticals, petroleum products, and gems & jewellery.

About Australia

- **Capital** - Canberra
- **Currency** - Dollar
- **President** - Anthony Albanese

8. What is the name of the Chinese military drills conducted around Taiwan in December 2025?

दिसंबर 2025 में ताइवान के चारों ओर आयोजित चीनी सैन्य अभ्यास का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Dragon Strike 2025
- (b) Eastern Shield 2025
- (c) Sea-Patrol 2025
- (d) Justice Mission 2025
- (e) Sovereign Guard 2025

Ans. d

Sol. China Launches "Justice Mission 2025" Military Drills Around Taiwan Amid Rising Tensions

The Chinese military has dispatched air, navy, and rocket troops to conduct joint drills around Taiwan, calling it a "stern warning" against separatist and external interference forces.

The drills, code-named "Justice Mission 2025", will focus on sea-air combat readiness, joint seizure of superiority, blockades on key ports, and deterrence around the Taiwan Strait.

The drills are being conducted by the Eastern Theatre Command of the People's Liberation Army.

9. Iran recently placed three indigenously developed satellites—Paya, Zafar-2 and Kowsar—into low-Earth orbit as part of its expanding space programme. Which launch vehicle was used for this satellite launch carried out in cooperation with another country?

ईरान ने हाल ही में अपने विस्तारित अंतरिक्ष कार्यक्रम के हिस्से के रूप में तीन स्वदेशी रूप से विकसित उपग्रहों-पाया, जफर-2 और कौसर को निचली-पृथ्वी की कक्षा में स्थापित किया है। दूसरे देश के सहयोग से किए गए इस उपग्रह प्रक्षेपण के लिए किस प्रक्षेपण यान का उपयोग किया गया था?

- (a) Falcon-9 (USA)
- (b) Long March (China)
- (c) PSLV (India)
- (d) Ariane-5 (Europe)
- (e) Soyuz Rocket (Russia)

Ans. e

Sol. Iran Launches Three Indigenous Satellites into Orbit with Russian Soyuz Rocket
Iran placed three domestically developed satellites—Paya, Zafar-2, and Kowsar (second unit)—into low-Earth orbit (LEO) using Russian Soyuz launch vehicles, as confirmed by Iranian state media.

The LEO satellites are meant for civilian uses such as agricultural monitoring, natural resource management, and environmental assessment in Iran and nearby regions. Due to Western sanctions and limited access to global launch services, Iran has increasingly relied on Russia for space launches, with cooperation expanding notably after 2022.

About Iran

- **Capital** – Tehran
- **Currency** – Rial
- **President** – Masoud Pezeshkian
- **Supreme Leader** - Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei

10. The Indian Air Force's Software Development Institute (SDI) recently signed an MoU with which institution for the development of an indigenous digital communication system for airborne applications?

भारतीय वायुसेना के सॉफ्टवेयर डेवलपमेंट इंस्टीट्यूट (SDI) ने वायुजनित अनुप्रयोगों के लिए स्वदेशी डिजिटल संचार प्रणाली के विकास हेतु किस संस्थान के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) IIT Bombay
- (b) IIT Kanpur
- (c) DRDO
- (d) IIT Madras
- (e) IISc Bengaluru

Ans. d

Sol. IAF's SDI Signs MoU with IIT Madras to Develop Indigenous Digital Communication System for Airborne Use

The Indian Air Force's Software Development Institute (SDI) signed an MoU with IIT Madras for the joint design and development of an indigenous digital communication system for airborne applications.

The collaboration supports the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, aiming to enhance self-reliance in defence technology and strengthen India's strategic capabilities.

The project will develop indigenous, secure and advanced digital communication systems for use in IAF aircraft and airborne platforms.

11. Former New Zealand cricketer Doug Bracewell has announced his retirement from which level of cricket?

पूर्व न्यूज़ीलैंड क्रिकेटर डग ब्रेसवेल ने किस स्तर की क्रिकेट से संन्यास की घोषणा की है?

- (a) Only Test cricket
- (b) Only limited-overs cricket
- (c) Domestic cricket only
- (d) Franchise T20 cricket
- (e) All forms of international cricket

Ans. e

Sol. Former New Zealand All-Rounder Doug Bracewell Retires from International Cricket

Former New Zealand all-rounder Doug Bracewell (35) announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket, ending a 12-year international career with the Black Caps.

Bracewell represented New Zealand in 28 Tests, 21 ODIs and 20 T20Is, taking 120 wickets and scoring 915 runs across formats.

He played a crucial role in New Zealand's famous 2011 Test win over Australia at Hobart, claiming career-best figures of 6 wickets in the second innings.

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 Scooper
- Jerome Boateng (German) - Professional Scooper
- Samuel Umtiti (France) - Professional Scooper

12. Veteran Malayalam cinema art director K Shekhar, who recently passed away, was best known for which technical innovation in Indian cinema?

हाल ही में निधन हुए मलयालम सिनेमा के वरिष्ठ कला निर्देशक के. शेखर भारतीय सिनेमा में किस तकनीकी नवाचार के लिए प्रसिद्ध थे?

- (a) Use of green screen technology
- (b) Motion capture animation
- (c) Digital de-aging effects
- (d) Anti-gravity room created using practical effects
- (e) First use of CGI in Malayalam cinema

Ans. d

Sol. Veteran Malayalam Cinema Art Director K Shekhar Passes Away at 72

Veteran Malayalam cinema art director K Shekhar passed away at the age of 72 at his residence in Thiruvananthapuram, leaving behind a legacy of innovation, craftsmanship and visual creativity in Indian cinema.

He is best known for designing the iconic anti-gravity room in the 3D film "My Dear Kuttichathan", created without computers or CGI using a rotating steel set and practical effects, a landmark achievement in Indian filmmaking.

Inspired by "2001: A Space Odyssey", Shekhar executed techniques decades ahead of global cinema; he began his career with "Padayottam" (1982) and later worked on acclaimed films like "Nokkethadhoorathu Kannum Nattu" and "Onnu Muthal Poojyam Vare

13. Global Family Day is observed annually on which date?

ग्लोबल फैमिली डे हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 1 January
- (b) 5 January
- (c) 6 January

(d) 7 January

(e) 8 January

Ans. a

Sol. 1 January - Global Family Day

Global Family Day is celebrated every year on 1 January to promote peace, unity and harmony among people worldwide.

The day evolved from the "One Day in Peace" initiative and emphasises resolving conflicts through non-violence and understanding.

It highlights the idea that the entire world is one family, encouraging compassion, tolerance and mutual respect.

14. DRDO Day is celebrated every year on 1 January to mark the achievements of India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). In which year was DRDO established?

DRDO दिवस हर साल 1 जनवरी को भारत के रक्षा अनुसंधान और विकास संगठन (DRDO) की उपलब्धियों को मनाने के लिए मनाया जाता है। DRDO की स्थापना किस वर्ष हुई थी?

(a) 1947

(b) 1950

(c) 1962

(d) 1975

(e) 1958

Ans. e

Sol. 1 January - DRDO Day

DRDO Day is celebrated every year on 1 January to mark the achievements of India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

DRDO was established in 1958, and it has since played a key role in advancing India's defence technology.

The day highlights India's advancements in defence technology, including missiles, radars, armaments, and aerospace systems.

DRDO Day honours the contributions of scientists and engineers who strengthen India's strategic and defence capabilities.

15. How many transactions did UPI record in December 2025, marking its highest monthly volume ever?

दिसंबर 2025 में UPI ने कितने लेनदेन दर्ज किए, जो अब तक का सबसे उच्च मासिक वॉल्यूम है?

(a) 20.47 billion

(b) 21.63 billion

(c) 22.10 billion

(d) 19.85 billion

(e) 21.00 billion

Ans. b

Sol. UPI Sets Record with 21.6 Billion Transactions in December 2025

UPI recorded a record 21.63 billion transactions in December 2025, marking its highest monthly volume ever, with a total value of ₹27.97 lakh crore.

Daily averages reached nearly 698 million transactions, up from 682 million in November, showing strong adoption in everyday payments.

Year-on-year, transaction volumes grew 29% and transaction values increased 20%, with average ticket size around ₹1,293, highlighting UPI's shift toward micro-payments.

For the full year 2025, UPI processed 228.3 billion transactions worth nearly ₹300 lakh crore, capturing 84.8% of retail digital payment volumes in H1 2025.

16. In a landmark achievement for Indian ophthalmology, India's first-ever 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography integrated with iStent technology was successfully performed by which medical institution?

भारतीय नेत्र चिकित्सा के क्षेत्र में एक ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि के रूप में, 3D फ्लेक्स एक्वियस एंजियोग्राफी को iStent तकनीक के साथ सफलतापूर्वक पहली बार किस संस्थान द्वारा किया गया?

(a) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi

(b) Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh

(c) Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi

(d) Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi Cantt

(e) Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad

Ans. d

Sol. Army Hospital Creates History with India's First 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography with iStent

India's first 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography with iStent was successfully performed by the Ophthalmology Department at Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi Cantt, marking a major milestone in glaucoma treatment.

The procedure used a stand-mounted Spectralis imaging system and a 3D operating microscope, enabling real-time visualization of aqueous outflow pathways for highly precise, minimally invasive surgery.

This breakthrough sets a new benchmark in glaucoma care in India, significantly improving surgical accuracy, patient outcomes, and positioning Armed Forces Medical Services among global leaders in ophthalmic innovation.

17. In a major milestone in global precision medicine, which hospital became the first in the world to successfully administer ITVISMA, a one-time gene therapy developed for the treatment of spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), a rare and progressive neuromuscular disorder?

वैश्विक प्रिंसीपल मेडिसिन के क्षेत्र में एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि के रूप में, स्पाइनल मस्कुलर एट्रोफी (SMA) नामक दुर्लभ और प्रगतिशील न्यूरोमस्कुलर रोग के उपचार हेतु विकसित एक-डोज जीन थेरेपी ITVISMA को विश्व में सबसे पहले किस अस्पताल द्वारा सफलतापूर्वक दिया गया?

- (a) Cleveland Clinic, United States
- (b) Mayo Clinic, United States
- (c) King Faisal Specialist Hospital, Saudi Arabia
- (d) Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi
- (e) Johns Hopkins Hospital, United States

Ans. d

Sol. Sheikh Khalifa Medical City Makes Global History with First Administration of ITVISMA Gene Therapy

Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi, has become the first hospital in the world to administer ITVISMA, a one-time gene therapy for spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), marking a significant milestone in precision medicine.

The therapy was administered under the supervision of the Department of Health, Abu Dhabi, after receiving regulatory approval, making the UAE the second country after the United States to authorise this advanced treatment.

Developed by Novartis, ITVISMA targets the genetic root cause of SMA by replacing the defective SMN1 gene, enabling the production of the survival motor neuron (SMN) protein.

As a single-dose gene therapy approved for patients aged two years and above, ITVISMA expands access beyond infant-only treatments and offers the potential for sustained motor improvement with reduced long-term treatment dependence.

18. The National Test House (NTH) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which organisation to strengthen quality assurance in national highway projects?

राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण गृह (NTH) ने राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग परियोजनाओं में गुणवत्ता आश्वासन को मजबूत करने के लिए किस संस्था के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Central Road Research Institute (CRRI)
- (b) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
- (c) Indian Roads Congress
- (d) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
- (e) Border Roads Organisation

Ans. d**Sol.** NTH and NHAI Sign MoU to Enhance Quality Assurance in National Highway Projects

National Test House (NTH) has signed an MoU with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to strengthen quality control, inspection and third-party testing in national highway and infrastructure projects.

Under the agreement, NTH will be empanelled as a recognised laboratory for NHAI, allowing highway construction and allied work samples to be sent for scientific testing and inspection.

Established in 1912 and functioning under the Department of Consumer Affairs, NTH will also support NHAI through online test requests, digital payments, nodal officer coordination and expert participation in technical committees.

19. As part of a ₹4,666 crore defence procurement programme aimed at enhancing India's underwater combat capabilities, the Ministry of Defence signed a contract for the procurement and integration of 48 Heavy Weight Torpedoes. These torpedoes are specifically intended to strengthen the operational and strike capability of which class of submarines of the Indian Navy?

₹4,666 करोड़ के रक्षा अधिग्रहण कार्यक्रम के तहत, भारत की पनडुब्बी युद्ध क्षमता को सुदृढ़ करने के उद्देश्य से रक्षा मंत्रालय ने 48 हेवी वेट टॉरपीडो की खरीद एवं एकीकरण हेतु अनुबंध किया। ये टॉरपीडो भारतीय नौसेना की किस श्रेणी की पनडुब्बियों की परिचालन एवं आक्रामक क्षमता को मजबूत करेंगे?

- (a) Arihant Class Submarines
- (b) Shishumar Class Submarines
- (c) Sindhughosh Class Submarines
- (d) Kalvari Class (P-75) Submarines
- (e) Chakra Class Submarines

Ans. d**Sol.** MoD Signs ₹4,666 Crore Defence Contracts for CQB Carbines and Heavy Weight Torpedoes

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed defence procurement contracts worth ₹4,666 crore for the acquisition of Close Quarter Battle (CQB) Carbines and Heavy Weight Torpedoes, in the presence of Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh at South Block, New Delhi.

This move aligns with the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, aiming to replace legacy weapon systems and equip Indian soldiers with modern, world-class combat capabilities.

A contract worth around ₹1,896 crore was signed with WASS Submarine Systems S.R.L., Italy, for the procurement and integration of 48 Heavy Weight Torpedoes for the Kalvari Class (P-75) submarines of the Indian Navy, significantly boosting their combat strength.

In FY 2025-26, the MoD has signed capital acquisition contracts worth ₹1,82,492 crore, reflecting a major push towards modernisation of the Indian Armed Forces.

20. The Delhi government has partnered with which institute to launch the AI-based Unified Grievance Redressal System?

दिल्ली सरकार ने AI-आधारित यूनिफाइड शिकायत निवारण प्रणाली शुरू करने के लिए किस संस्थान के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) IIT Delhi
- (b) IISc Bangalore
- (c) NIT Kurukshetra
- (d) IIT Kanpur
- (e) AIIMS Delhi

Ans. d

Sol. Delhi Govt Partners with IIT Kanpur to Launch AI-Based Unified Grievance Redressal System

The Delhi government, in partnership with IIT Kanpur, will launch an AI-based Unified Grievance Redressal System to ensure faster complaint resolution and real-time monitoring.

The system will integrate multiple grievance portals—including PGMS, LG Listening Post, and the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System—into a single unified dashboard for smarter analysis and quicker action.

Advanced AI features like semantic search, root cause analysis, automatic grievance routing, and digitisation of complaint documents will enhance efficiency, accuracy, and accountability in handling public grievances.

IIT Kanpur will manage system integration, cybersecurity audits, and portal maintenance, aiming to improve transparency, efficiency, and performance-based evaluation of departments and regions in grievance resolution.

21. Who has been assigned the additional charge of Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)?

केंद्र सरकार के गृह मंत्रालय (MHA) ने राष्ट्रीय जांच एजेंसी (NIA) के महानिदेशक का अतिरिक्त प्रभार किसे सौंपा है?

- (a) Sadanand Vasant Date
- (b) Rajesh Kumar Singh

- (c) Rakesh Aggarwal
- (d) Alok Verma
- (e) Dineshwar Sharma

Ans. c

Sol. Rakesh Aggarwal Assigned Additional Charge as Interim DG of NIA Following Sadanand Date's Repatriation

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has assigned the additional charge of NIA Director General to Rakesh Aggarwal following the premature repatriation of the incumbent DG, Sadanand Vasant Date, to his parent cadre.

Rakesh Aggarwal, a 1994-batch Himachal Pradesh cadre IPS officer and current Special Director General of NIA, will hold the interim charge until a regular DG is appointed or further orders are issued.

22. Who has been appointed as the Director General of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)?

किसे डायरेक्टरेट जनरल ऑफ फॉरेन ट्रेड (DGFT) का महानिदेशक नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Rabindra Kumar Agarwal
- (b) Srikant Nagulapalli
- (c) Nidhi Pandey
- (d) Ashutosh Agnihotri
- (e) Lav Aggarwal

Ans. e

Sol. Lav Aggarwal Appointed DG of DGFT Amid Key Bureaucratic Reshuffle

Lav Aggarwal has been appointed as Director General of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle.

Rabindra Kumar Agarwal, currently Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Cooperation, has been appointed as Chairman & Managing Director of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), replacing Ashutosh Agnihotri, who is now Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Srikant Nagulapalli, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Power, has been appointed as Director General of Hydrocarbons in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

Nidhi Pandey, currently Joint Secretary in the Department of Atomic Energy, will now serve as Additional Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, taking over a key administrative role.

23. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel recently granted in-principle approval for the establishment of a new research organisation aimed at accelerating artificial intelligence research and development in the state. What is the name of this organisation?

गुजरात के मुख्यमंत्री भूपेंद्र पटेल ने हाल ही में राज्य में कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) अनुसंधान और विकास को तेज करने के लिए एक नए शोध संगठन की प्रारंभिक स्वीकृति दी। इस संगठन का नाम क्या है?

- (a) National AI Research Council
- (b) Gujarat AI Innovation Hub
- (c) AI Research & Development Institute
- (d) Indian AI Research Organisation
- (e) AI Science and Technology Centre

Ans. d

Sol. Gujarat CM Approves Establishment of Indian AI Research Organisation (IAIRO) to Boost AI R&D

Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel granted in-principle approval for the establishment of the Indian AI Research Organisation (IAIRO) to boost AI research and development in the state.

The facility will be set up as a public-private partnership (PPP) through collaboration between the State government, Central government, and Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA), with operations based in GIFT City, Gandhinagar, as a Section 8 non-profit entity.

The estimated budget for the first five years is ₹300 crore, equally contributed by the State, Centre, and private partner, with IPA contributing ₹25 crore in 2025–26; the alliance includes 23 leading pharmaceutical companies such as Cipla, Sun Pharma, and Torrent Pharmaceuticals.

IAIRO will function as a multidisciplinary AI hub, focusing on advanced R&D, AI product development, academic-industry-government collaboration, intellectual property creation, capacity building, and policy-oriented research, supporting sectors like healthcare, education, and agriculture.

About Gujarat

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

24. Who inaugurated the ₹227 crore redeveloped Batadrava Than, the birthplace of Srimanta Sankardeva, in Assam's Nagaon district?

असम के नागांव जिले में 227 करोड़ रुपये में पुनर्विकसित बटाद्रवा थान, जो श्रीमंत शंकरदेव का जन्मस्थान है, का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

- (a) Himanta Biswa Sarma
- (b) Sarbananda Sonowal
- (c) Amit Shah
- (d) Bimal Bora
- (e) Pabitra Margherita

Ans. c

Sol. Amit Shah Inaugurates ₹227 Crore Redeveloped Batadrava Than Honouring Srimanta Sankardeva in Assam

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the ₹227 crore redeveloped Batadrava Than, the birthplace of Vaishnavite saint Srimanta Sankardeva, in Assam's Nagaon district.

The decision to redevelop the site, named as Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva Abhirbhav Kshetra, was first proposed in the 2021-22 State budget.

The project has been designed not only make the historic site a major tourist attraction but also to reflect the life, ideals, and artistic heritage associated with Mahapurush Sankardeva and the broader cultural traditions of the State.

25. Despite a cumulative reduction of 125 basis points in the RBI's repo rate during the ongoing easing cycle, the Central Government has continued to keep interest rates unchanged on various small savings schemes such as PPF and Sukanya Samriddhi. For how many consecutive quarters have these interest rates been retained without any revision?

आरबीआई द्वारा मौजूदा ढील नीति चक्र के दौरान रेपो दर में कुल 125 आधार अंकों की कटौती के बावजूद, केंद्र सरकार ने PPF और सुकन्या समृद्धि जैसी छोटी बचत योजनाओं की ब्याज दरों को बिना किसी बदलाव के जारी रखा है। ये ब्याज दरें लगातार कितनी तिमाहियों से अपरिवर्तित बनी हुई हैं?

- (a) Six quarters
- (b) Seven quarters
- (c) Eight quarters
- (d) Nine quarters
- (e) Ten quarters

Ans. c

Sol. Government Retains Interest Rates on Small Savings Schemes for 8th Straight Quarter

The government has kept interest rates unchanged for 12 small savings schemes, including PPF and Sukanya Samriddhi, for the March quarter, marking the 8th consecutive quarter with no rate revision.

This decision comes despite a 125 basis points cut in the repo rate by the RBI over the past year, bringing the policy rate down to 5.25% during the ongoing easing cycle.

As per the Department of Economic Affairs, PPF will continue to offer 7.1% interest, while Sukanya Samriddhi accounts will earn 8.2% during the March quarter.

Interest rates for other schemes such as Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (8.2%), NSC (7.7%), Kisan Vikas Patra (7.5%), Savings Deposits (4%), and various time and recurring deposits have also been retained.

Collections from small savings schemes help finance the Centre's fiscal deficit; the government plans to raise ₹3.43 lakh crore in FY26 from the National Small Savings Fund as it targets reducing the fiscal deficit to 4.4% of GDP.

Saving Schemes Interest rates for January 2026 – March 2026

- ***Post Office Savings Deposit- 4 per cent***
- ***Post Office Monthly Income Account- 7.4 percent***
- ***1-Year Post Office Time Deposits- 6.9 percent***
- ***2-Year Post Office Time Deposits- 7.0 percent***
- ***3-Year Post Office Time Deposits- 7.1 percent***
- ***5-Year Post Office Time Deposits- 7.5 percent***
- ***5-Year Recurring Deposits- 6.7 percent***
- ***Senior Citizens Savings Scheme- 8.2 per cent***
- ***Sukanya Samriddhi Account- 8.2 per cent***
- ***National Saving Certificates (NSC)- 7.7 percent***
- ***Kisan Vikas Patra- 7.5 percent (will mature in 115 months)***
- ***Public Provident Fund- 7.1 per cent***

26. With the objective of strengthening service delivery, transparency, and community ownership in rural drinking water systems, Union Jal Shakti Minister C. R. Patil virtually launched Jal Seva Aankalan. This initiative functions as a Gram Panchayat-led digital self-assessment tool hosted on the Jal Jeevan Mission portal. Jal Seva Aankalan has been launched under which of the following flagship government missions?

ग्रामीण पेयजल प्रणालियों में सेवा वितरण, पारदर्शिता और सामुदायिक स्वामित्व को मजबूत करने के उद्देश्य से केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री सी. आर. पाटिल ने जल सेवा आंकलन की शुरुआत की। यह पहल जल जीवन मिशन पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध ग्राम पंचायत-नेतृत्व वाला डिजिटल स्व-मूल्यांकन उपकरण है। जल सेवा आंकलन निम्नलिखित में से किस प्रमुख सरकारी मिशन के अंतर्गत शुरू किया गया है?

- (a) Swachh Bharat Mission
- (b) Atal Bhujal Yojana

- (c) Jal Shakti Abhiyan
(d) Jal Jeevan Mission
(e) AMRUT Mission

Ans. d

Sol. C R Patil Launches 'Jal Seva Aankalan' to Boost Community-Led Water Governance under Jal Jeevan Mission

Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil virtually launched Jal Seva Aankalan to strengthen service delivery and community ownership under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Jal Seva Aankalan is a Gram Panchayat-led digital assessment tool available on the Jal Jeevan Mission portal to evaluate drinking water service functionality at the village level.

The initiative is designed as a community-owned self-assessment, reducing dependence on infrequent and costly third-party surveys, with all Har Ghar Jal Gram Panchayats required to complete it by 26 January next year.

The tool will empower Gram Panchayats, strengthen democratic decision-making through Gram Sabhas, ensure transparency, and help identify service delivery gaps early for timely corrective action.

27. According to the RBI's Trend and Progress of Banking in India for FY25 report, what was the total number of ATMs in the country as of March 31, 2025?

RBI की ट्रेड एंड प्रोग्रेस ऑफ बैंकिंग इन इंडिया FY25 रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 31 मार्च 2025 तक देश में कुल एटीएम की संख्या कितनी थी?

- (a) 2,45,000
(b) 2,48,600
(c) 2,51,057
(d) 2,53,417
(e) 2,56,800

Ans. c

Sol. ATM Numbers Decline in FY25 as Digitisation Rises, Bank Branch Network Continues to Expand: RBI Report

According to the RBI's Trend and Progress of Banking in India for FY25, the total number of ATMs declined moderately to 2,51,057 as of March 31, 2025, primarily due to the increased digitisation of payments, which reduced customer dependence on cash transactions.

Both public and private sector banks reduced their ATM networks, with private banks' ATMs falling to 77,117 and public sector banks' ATMs declining to 1,33,544, largely because of the closure of offsite ATMs.

In contrast, independently-run white label ATMs increased to 36,216, while ATM distribution showed that PSBs had a balanced rural–urban spread, whereas private and foreign banks were concentrated in urban and metropolitan areas. Despite digital alternatives, bank branches continued to expand, rising by 2.8% to 1.64 lakh branches, with PSBs leading new openings, particularly in rural and semi-urban centres, reflecting a continued focus on financial inclusion.

28. Which two institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Contact Point Verification of informal micro enterprises registered on the Udyam Assist Platform?

उद्यम असिस्ट प्लेटफॉर्म पर पंजीकृत अनौपचारिक सूक्ष्म उद्यमों के संपर्क बिंदु सत्यापन के लिए किन दो संस्थानों ने समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Ministry of MSME and NABARD
- (b) Department of Financial Services and RBI
- (c) Ministry of Communications and NABARD
- (d) Department of Posts and SIDBI
- (e) India Post Payments Bank and SBI

Ans. d

Sol. India Post and SIDBI Sign MoU to Verify Informal Micro Enterprises on Udyam Assist Platform

The Department of Posts and SIDBI have signed an MoU to conduct Contact Point Verification (CPV) of informal micro enterprises registered on the Udyam Assist Platform, aiming to enhance data integrity, formalisation, and access to institutional credit.

Under the collaboration, India Post will leverage its nationwide network of over 1.64 lakh post offices and trained field workforce to carry out on-ground, geo-tagged verification of enterprise details using a SIDBI-developed CPV mobile application. SIDBI, the principal financial institution for MSME development, will provide the digital platform, backend infrastructure, operational guidelines, and training, with the MoU valid for two years (Dec 31, 2025–Dec 30, 2027) and provisions for extension, data security, and compliance.

29. IDFC FIRST Bank has launched “Gaj: Credit Card”, a premium, invitation-only metal credit card exclusively designed for the Bank’s high-net-worth individual (HNI) private banking customers. The design of the Gaj: Credit Card draws inspiration from which cultural symbol in Sanskrit philosophy?

IDFC FIRST बैंक ने "गज: क्रेडिट कार्ड" लॉन्च किया है, जो एक प्रीमियम, सिर्फ़ इनवितेशन पर मिलने वाला मेटल क्रेडिट कार्ड है, जिसे खास तौर पर बैंक के हाई-नेट-वर्थ इंडिविजुअल

(HNI) प्राइवेट बैंकिंग कस्टमर्स के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है। गज: क्रेडिट कार्ड का डिज़ाइन संस्कृत दर्शन में किस सांस्कृतिक प्रतीक से प्रेरित है?

- (a) Ashva (Horse)
- (b) Mayura (Peacock)
- (c) Gaj (Elephant)
- (d) Kamal (Lotus)
- (e) Nandi (Bull)

Ans. c

Sol. IDFC FIRST Bank Launches 'Gaj:' Invitation-Only Premium Metal Credit Card for HNIs

IDFC FIRST Bank has launched "Gaj: Credit Card", a premium, invitation-only metal credit card exclusively designed for the Bank's high-net-worth individual (HNI) private banking customers.

Gaj: Credit Card is the pinnacle of the Ashva–Mayura–Gaj trilogy, drawing inspiration from Sanskrit philosophy, where Gaj (Elephant) symbolises majesty, wisdom, stability, and sovereign power.

The card features a distinctive twin-elephant metal design, crafted to reflect Indian heritage and excellence, positioning it as a premium global offering with a strong cultural identity.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- Canara Bank Launches '**Canara ai1Pe**', Unified Next-Gen UPI App for Seamless Digital Payments
- South Indian Bank Launches RuPay Contactless '**SIB Paytag**' NFC Payment Sticker
- Amazon Pay Launches **UPI Biometric Authentication for Faster**, PIN-Free Transactions (Max Limit Rs 5,000)
- Bank of Baroda Launches '**Masterstroke**' Campaign Featuring Sachin Tendulkar to Promote Key Retail Banking Products
- PNB Launches Premium '**Luxura**' RuPay Metal Card

30. Recently, India successfully conducted a salvo launch of two 'Pralay' missiles off the Odisha coast during user evaluation trials. The missile is an indigenously developed, solid-propellant, quasi-ballistic surface-to-surface missile with a strike range of 150 km to 500 km. Which organisation is responsible for the development and successful testing of the 'Pralay' missile system?

हाल ही में, भारत ने यूज़र इवैल्यूएशन ट्रायल के दौरान ओडिशा तट से दो 'प्रलय' मिसाइलों का सफल सैल्वो लॉन्च किया। यह मिसाइल देश में ही विकसित, सॉलिड-प्रोपेलेंट, कासी-बैलिस्टिक सरफेस-टू-सरफेस मिसाइल है जिसकी स्ट्राइक रेंज 150 km से 500 km है।

‘प्रलय’ मिसाइल सिस्टम के डेवलपमेंट और सफल टेस्टिंग के लिए कौन सा संगठन जिम्मेदार है?

- (a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- (b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- (c) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- (d) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- (e) Indian Ordnance Factories

Ans. c

Sol. India Successfully Conducts Salvo Launch of Indigenous ‘Pralay’ Ballistic Missiles off Odisha Coast

India successfully conducted a salvo launch of two indigenously developed ‘Pralay’ missiles off the Odisha coast as part of user evaluation trials.

The test was carried out by DRDO and witnessed by officials from the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and industry partners involved in development and production.

‘Pralay’ is a surface-to-surface, short-range ballistic missile with a strike range of 150–500 km, capable of carrying multiple warhead types and equipped with advanced guidance systems for high precision.

31. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired an important review meeting of PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation), the ICT-enabled multi-modal platform aimed at accelerating infrastructure projects and governance reforms, in New Delhi. This meeting marked which numbered edition of PRAGATI?

हाल ही में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने नई दिल्ली में PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) की एक महत्वपूर्ण समीक्षा बैठक की अध्यक्षता की, जो बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाओं और शासन सुधारों को गति देने हेतु एक ICT-आधारित मंच है। यह PRAGATI की कौन-सी बैठक थी?

- (a) 45th
- (b) 48th
- (c) 50th
- (d) 52nd
- (e) 55th

Ans. c

Sol. PM Modi Chairs 50th PRAGATI Meeting, Reviews ₹40,000+ Crore Projects and Pushes Outcome-Oriented Governance

PM Narendra Modi chaired the 50th PRAGATI meeting in New Delhi, reviewing five major infrastructure projects across Road, Railways, Power, Water Resources and Coal sectors, spanning five states with a cost of ₹40,000+ crore.

The PRAGATI ecosystem has accelerated projects worth over ₹85 lakh crore in the last decade, resolving about 94% issues (2,958 out of 3,162) across 377 projects reviewed since 2014, significantly reducing delays and cost overruns.

32. President of India Droupadi Murmu launched the 'Skill The Nation' AI Challenge under which initiative?

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मु ने 'Skill The Nation' AI Challenge किस पहल के अंतर्गत शुरू किया?

- (a) Digital India Mission
- (b) Skill India Programme
- (c) AI for All Initiative
- (d) Skilling for AI Readiness (Soar) initiative
- (e) National AI Policy

Ans. d

Sol. President Droupadi Murmu Launches 'Skill The Nation' AI Challenge to Prepare India's Workforce for an AI-Driven Future

President Droupadi Murmu has launched the 'Skill The Nation' AI Challenge under the Skilling for AI Readiness (Soar) initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and virtually inaugurated the IGNOU Regional Centre and Skill Centre at Rairangpur, Odisha.

Artificial Intelligence is transforming economies, education and workplaces, and for a young country like India, it represents a major opportunity for inclusive social and economic change, not just a technological shift.

India's AI approach must be people-centric and inclusive, aiming to bridge social, economic and technological divides, particularly benefiting marginalised communities, while using AI to solve real-world problems.

33. Recently, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) unveiled a new logo as part of its initiative to modernise institutional identity and promote data-driven governance. The logo contains multiple symbolic elements representing transparency, growth and statistical science. Which symbol in the new MoSPI logo specifically highlights the role of statistical data in economic planning, policymaking and financial decision-making in India?

हाल ही में सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय (MoSPI) ने डेटा-आधारित शासन को बढ़ावा देने और अपनी संस्थागत पहचान को आधुनिक बनाने के उद्देश्य से एक नया लोगो लॉन्च किया। इस लोगो में पारदर्शिता, विकास और सांख्यिकी विज्ञान को दर्शाने वाले कई प्रतीक शामिल हैं। इनमें से कौन-सा प्रतीक भारत में आर्थिक योजना, नीति निर्माण और वित्तीय निर्णयों में सांख्यिकीय डेटा की भूमिका को विशेष रूप से दर्शाता है?

- (a) Ashoka Chakra
- (b) Upward Growth Bar

(c) Numerical Elements

(d) National Tricolour

(e) Rupee Symbol

Ans. e

Sol. MoSPI Unveils New Logo and Mascot 'सांख्यिकी' to Promote Data-Driven Governance and Public Trust

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) unveiled a new logo and mascot to modernise its institutional identity and enhance public outreach, reinforcing the role of official statistics in policy formulation and nation-building.

The new logo is based on the theme "Data for Development", featuring the Ashoka Chakra symbolising truth and transparency, the Rupee symbol highlighting the role of data in economic planning, and numerical elements with an upward growth bar indicating progress through reliable statistics.

The logo's colour palette—saffron, white, green and deep blue—reflects India's national colours and signifies growth, sustainability, stability and knowledge, aligning with data-driven governance and transparency.

MoSPI also launched its new mascot "सांख्यिकी", a citizen-centric character designed to simplify complex statistical concepts, promote participation in NSO surveys, and build public trust in official statistics through consistent and relatable engagement.

34. Recently, Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL), India's first maritime-focused Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), formally commenced its lending operations as part of the government's efforts to strengthen the maritime ecosystem and support port-led and blue economy development. At the start of its lending operations, approximately how much loan amount was sanctioned by SMFCL?

हाल ही में सागरमाला फाइनेंस कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (SMFCL), जो भारत का पहला समुद्री क्षेत्र-केंद्रित गैर-बैंकिंग वित्तीय कंपनी (NBFC) है, ने समुद्री वित्त पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को सशक्त करने और पोर्ट-आधारित विकास को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से औपचारिक रूप से अपने ऋण संचालन की शुरुआत की। अपने ऋण संचालन की शुरुआत में SMFCL द्वारा लगभग कितनी राशि के ऋण स्वीकृत किए गए?

(a) ₹2,500 crore

(b) ₹3,200 crore

(c) ₹3,800 crore

(d) ₹4,300 crore

(e) ₹5,500 crore

Ans. d

Sol. Sagarmala Finance Corporation Begins Lending Operations, Sanctions ₹4,300 Crore to Boost India's Maritime Sector Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited

(SMFCL), India's first maritime-focused NBFC, has formally commenced lending operations by sanctioning loans worth around ₹4,300 crore, marking a major step towards strengthening India's maritime finance ecosystem.

The loan approvals were cleared at SMFCL's 51st Board meeting (30 December 2025), in line with its board-approved strategy and AGM roadmap, which set a borrowing limit of ₹25,000 crore and a lending target of ₹8,000 crore, with the sanctioned amount to be disbursed within the current financial year.

Of the sanctioned loans, ₹4,000 crore has been allocated to a greenfield port project, reflecting the Centre's push for port-led development, while Dredging Corporation of India (₹150 crore) and Goa Shipyard (₹110 crore) received funding to support dredging operations and indigenous shipbuilding.

Inaugurated on June 26, 2025, by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, SMFCL has been designated as the nodal agency for the ₹25,000-crore Maritime Development Fund and aims to provide sector-specific financial solutions across ports, MSMEs, startups and shipbuilding, aligned with Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 and India's blue economy goals.

35. Ashika Group has recently received in-principle approval from SEBI to enter the mutual fund industry, enabling it to set up a dedicated entity that will manage, operate, and launch various mutual fund schemes for retail and institutional investors. Which entity is Ashika Group allowed to establish under this SEBI approval?

आशिका समूह को हाल ही में म्यूचुअल फंड उद्योग में प्रवेश करने के लिए सेबी से सैद्धांतिक मंजूरी मिल गई है, जिससे यह एक समर्पित इकाई स्थापित करने में सक्षम हो जाएगी जो खुदरा और संस्थागत निवेशकों के लिए विभिन्न म्यूचुअल फंड योजनाओं का प्रबंधन, संचालन और लॉन्च करेगी। सेबी की इस मंजूरी के तहत आशिका ग्रुप को कौन सी इकाई स्थापित करने की अनुमति है?

- (a) Investment Bank
- (b) Hedge Fund
- (c) Asset Management Company
- (d) Private Equity Fund
- (e) Mutual Fund Advisory Board

Ans. c

Sol. Ashika Group Gets SEBI Nod to Launch Ashika Mutual Fund

Ashika Group has received in-principle approval from SEBI to act as sponsor and establish Ashika Mutual Fund, allowing it to set up an Asset Management Company (AMC) and prepare for the launch of mutual fund schemes, subject to final regulatory clearances.

The approval marks a key milestone in Ashika Group's vision to build a future-ready asset management ecosystem, focused on disciplined investing, strong governance and long-term wealth creation.

Ashika's entry into the mutual fund space is backed by its diverse experience in capital markets and financial services, including retail and institutional broking, investment banking, research advisory, alternative assets, private equity and global family office services.

The proposed fund house plans to offer a well-curated range of investment schemes catering to varied investor needs, supported by robust research, prudent risk management and a governance-first approach, with a focus on sustainable long-term investor value.

36. Which country became the first in the world to grant legal rights to stingless bees?

कौन सा देश दुनिया में सबसे पहले बिना डंक वाले मधुमक्खियों (Stingless Bees) को कानूनी अधिकार प्रदान करने वाला बन गया?

- (a) Brazil
- (b) Colombia
- (c) Peru
- (d) Ecuador
- (e) Bolivia

Ans. c

Sol. Peru Grants Legal Rights to Stingless Bees, Making Them World's First Insects with Protected Status

Stingless bees in the Peruvian Amazon have become the first insects in the world to be granted legal rights, with local ordinances recognising them as rights-bearing entities and protecting them across large rainforest areas.

The laws guarantee the bees' right to exist, reproduce, and thrive in healthy ecosystems, establishing a new legal precedent for insect conservation and influencing biodiversity policies beyond South America.

Stingless bees play a critical ecological role, pollinating over 80% of rainforest plants—including cacao, coffee, and avocados—and rank among the oldest bee species on Earth, with nearly half of their species living in the Amazon.

The ordinances were the result of years of advocacy and research led by Rosa Vásquez Espinoza, involving Indigenous communities, and could lead to habitat restoration, stricter pesticide controls, and expanded pollinator research globally.

37. Eighteen-year-old Kaamya Karthikeyan made history by becoming the youngest Indian and the second-youngest woman in the world to ski to the South Pole. She completed an arduous expedition across Antarctica, covering extreme conditions such as temperatures dropping to -30°C , gale-force winds, and whiteout scenarios. What was the total distance Kaamya skied to reach the South Pole?

18 वर्षीय काम्या कार्तिकेयन ने इतिहास रचते हुए साउथ पोल तक स्की करने वाली सबसे कम उम्र की भारतीय और दुनिया की दूसरी सबसे कम उम्र की महिला बनकर नाम किया। उन्होंने अंटार्कटिका में कठिन परिस्थितियों जैसे कि -30°C तापमान, तेज हवाएं और श्वेत आच्छादन का सामना करते हुए अपनी यात्रा पूरी की। काम्या ने दक्षिण ध्रुव तक पहुँचने के लिए कुल कितनी दूरी स्की की?

- (a) 95 km
- (b) 100 km
- (c) 115 km
- (d) 120 km
- (e) 130 km

Ans. c

Sol. 18-Year-Old Kaamya Karthikeyan Becomes Youngest Indian to Ski to the South Pole

Kaamya Karthikeyan, 18, became the youngest Indian and second-youngest woman in the world to ski to the South Pole, completing a 115 km expedition in Antarctica under extreme conditions, including -30°C temperatures, gale-force winds, and whiteouts.

Daughter of Indian Navy officer S Karthikeyan and educator Lavanya Karthikeyan, Kaamya's early exposure to discipline and outdoor pursuits shaped her into one of India's most accomplished young adventurers.

Before turning 18, Kaamya had completed the Seven Summits Challenge (Mount Everest, Aconcagua, Denali, Kilimanjaro, Elbrus, Vinson, Kosciuszko), becoming the youngest Indian and second-youngest woman to summit Everest from Nepal and achieving several other mountaineering milestones.

38. India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train will run between Guwahati (Assam) and Howrah (West Bengal), connecting the Northeast with eastern India. The Vande Bharat Sleeper Train has been designed by which organisation?

भारत की पहली वंदे भारत स्लीपर ट्रेन गुवाहाटी (असम) और हावड़ा (पश्चिम बंगाल) के बीच चलेगी, जो पूर्वोत्तर को पूर्वी भारत से जोड़ेगी। वंदे भारत स्लीपर ट्रेन को किस संगठन ने डिज़ाइन किया है?

- (a) Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala
- (b) BEML Ltd

- (c) Integral Coach Factory
- (d) Indian Railways Board
- (e) Chittaranjan Locomotive Works

Ans. c

Sol. India's First Vande Bharat Sleeper Train to Run Between Guwahati and Howrah
India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train will run between Guwahati (Assam) and Howrah (West Bengal), connecting the Northeast with eastern India.

The sleeper train has been designed by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) and manufactured by BEML Ltd, Bengaluru, marking a key collaboration in railway production.

Under the ICF–BEML collaboration, 10 rakes will be built by March 2026 (the first two rakes are already ready), after which ICF will manufacture 50 more Vande Bharat Sleeper Trains.

39. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant recently announced the creation of a new third district in the coastal state. The district has been named after a river that flows through the region and is proposed to be developed as an aspirational district with additional central funding support. What will be the name of Goa's proposed third district?

गोवा के मुख्यमंत्री प्रमोद सावंत ने हाल ही में इस तटीय राज्य में एक नए तीसरे जिले के गठन की घोषणा की है। इस जिले का नाम उस नदी के नाम पर रखा गया है जो इस क्षेत्र से होकर बहती है और इसे अतिरिक्त केंद्रीय फंडिंग सहायता के साथ एक एस्पिरेशनल जिले के रूप में विकसित करने का प्रस्ताव है। गोवा के प्रस्तावित तीसरे जिले का नाम क्या होगा?

- (a) Mandovi
- (b) Zuari
- (c) Kushavati
- (d) Sal
- (e) Chapora

Ans. c

Sol. Goa to Get Third District Named 'Kushavati', Quepem to Be Headquarters

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced that the state's proposed third district will be named 'Kushavati', after a river flowing through the region, and it will be developed as an aspirational district.

The new district will comprise four talukas—Dharbandora, Quepem, Sanguem and Canacona (currently in South Goa), with Quepem town as its headquarters; interim administration will be managed by South Goa district authorities.

Kushavati district will be eligible for ₹15 crore additional central funding under the aspirational district programme, with special infrastructure focus due to its 27% tribal population.

About Goa

- **Formation** – 30 May 1987
- **Capital** – Panaji
- **Chief Minister** – Pramod Sawant
- **Governor** – Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju

40. Who won the recent presidential election in Guinea as per the latest news?

ताज़ा खबरों के अनुसार, गिनी में हाल ही में हुए राष्ट्रपति चुनाव किसने जीता?

- (a) Alpha Condé
- (b) Mamady Doumbouya
- (c) Umaro Sissoco Embaló
- (d) Paul-Henri Damiba
- (e) Alassane Ouattara

Ans. b

Sol. Guinea Coup Leader Mamady Doumbouya Wins Presidential Election

Mamady Doumbouya, the leader of Guinea's 2021 military coup, has won the presidential election.

Doumbouya had taken power after overthrowing President Alpha Condé and later promised a transition towards civilian rule in Guinea.

His election victory marks a formal consolidation of power, raising regional and international focus on democratic governance and political stability in West Africa.

About Guinea

- **Capital**- Conakry
- **Currency**- Franc
- **Prime Minister**- Bah Oury

41. Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director & CEO of Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) in January 2026?

जनवरी 2026 में हुंडई मोटर इंडिया लिमिटेड (HMIL) के नए मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर और CEO के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Sanjay Gupta
- (b) Tarun Garg
- (c) Rohit Sabharwal
- (d) Ashish Chauhan
- (e) Rajesh Gopinathan

Ans. b

Sol. Tarun Garg Appointed as MD & CEO of Hyundai Motor India, Becomes First Indian to Lead HMIL

Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) appointed Tarun Garg as Managing Director & CEO, making him the first Indian national to head the company in its 29-year history. With over three decades of automotive experience, Tarun Garg aims to lead HMIL's next phase of growth, focusing on sustainability, technological leadership, customer delight, and alignment with Hyundai's vision of "Progress for Humanity."

About Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL)

- It is the Indian subsidiary of the South Korean automobile manufacturer Hyundai Motor Company.
- Founded- 6 May 1996
- Headquarters- Gurugram, Haryana

42. What was the total gross GST collection in December 2025?

दिसंबर 2025 में कुल सकल GST संग्रह कितना रहा?

- (a) ₹1.64 lakh crore
- (b) ₹1.70 lakh crore
- (c) ₹1.75 lakh crore
- (d) ₹1.80 lakh crore
- (e) ₹1.85 lakh crore

Ans. c

Sol. Gross GST Collections Rise 6.1% in December

Gross GST collections in December 2025 rose 6.1% year-on-year to about ₹1.75 lakh crore, with CGST and SGST recording growth, while IGST declined compared to the same month last year.

From April to December 2025–26, gross GST collections increased by 8.6% to around ₹16.5 lakh crore, with all major components—CGST, SGST, and IGST—showing growth, reflecting stronger economic activity and improved compliance.

GST revenues have shown a steady upward trend over the years, rising from ₹11.37 lakh crore in 2020–21 to ₹20.18 lakh crore in 2023–24, with 2024–25 marking the highest-ever gross collection of ₹22.08 lakh crore.

GST Collection of Previous Months

- August 2025 – 1.86 lakh crore
- September 2025 – 1.89 lakh crore
- October 2025 – 1.96 lakh crore
- November 2025 – 1.70 lakh crore
- December 2025 – 1.75 lakh crore

43. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), a flagship maternity benefit scheme for pregnant women and lactating mothers, has completed nine years since its launch on 1 January 2017. Under PMMVY, financial assistance is provided to pregnant women and lactating mothers to support nutrition, medical checkups, and overall maternal health. For the first child, the total cash benefit is given in two instalments — the first instalment at the time of pregnancy registration and the second instalment after childbirth. What is the total cash benefit provided for the first child under PMMVY?

प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वंदना योजना (PMMVY) के तहत, जो गर्भवती और स्तनपान कराने वाली माताओं के लिए भारत सरकार की प्रमुख योजना है, पोषण, चिकित्सा जांच और समग्र मातृत्व स्वास्थ्य के समर्थन के लिए वित्तीय सहायता दी जाती है। पहले बच्चे के लिए कुल नकद लाभ दो किस्तों में दिया जाता है—पहली किस्त ₹3,000 गर्भधारण पंजीकरण पर और दूसरी किस्त ₹2,000 बच्चे के जन्म के बाद। पहले बच्चे के लिए पीएमएमवीवाई के तहत कुल नकद लाभ कितना है?

- (a) ₹3,000
- (b) ₹4,000
- (c) ₹5,000
- (d) ₹6,000
- (e) ₹7,000

Ans. c

Sol. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana Completes Nine Years

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), a flagship maternity benefit scheme for pregnant women and lactating mothers, has completed nine years, having been launched on 1 January 2017.

The centrally sponsored scheme aims to provide financial support to improve health and nutrition, especially for women from socially and economically disadvantaged sections.

Under PMMVY, beneficiaries receive ₹5,000 for the first child and ₹6,000 for the second girl child, in instalments linked to pregnancy registration and childbirth.

The first instalment of ₹3,000 is provided on pregnancy registration, while the second instalment of ₹2,000 is given after childbirth, along with additional incentives under the Janani Suraksha Yojana.

As per the Ministry of Women and Child Development, over 4.5 crore women have been enrolled, with more than ₹19,000 crore disbursed, supporting nutrition, medical check-ups, and overall maternal health.

44. What was the total number of UPI transactions recorded in December 2025?

दिसंबर 2025 में यूपीआई लेनदेन की कुल संख्या कितनी दर्ज की गई?

- (a) 19.85 billion
- (b) 20.47 billion
- (c) 21.10 billion
- (d) 21.63 billion
- (e) 22.25 billion

Ans. d

Sol. UPI Transactions Surge 29% in December, Digital Payments Maintain Strong Growth Momentum

UPI transactions rose 29% year-on-year in December, reaching 21.63 billion transactions, while the transaction value increased 20% to around ₹28 lakh crore, as per NPCI data.

On a month-on-month basis, UPI showed steady growth, with the average daily transaction value rising to ₹90,217 crore in December from ₹87,721 crore in November 2025.

The average daily UPI transaction count increased to 698 million in December, compared to 682 million in the previous month, reflecting higher digital payment adoption.

IMPS transactions also recorded growth, with the transaction value reaching ₹6.62 lakh crore (up 10% YoY) and volume increasing to 380 million, alongside a rise in average daily transaction value.

45. Deepti Sharma became the leading wicket-taker in women's T20Is by surpassing which Australian bowler?

दीप्ति शर्मा ने महिला टी20 अंतरराष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट में सर्वाधिक विकेट लेकर किस ऑस्ट्रेलियाई गेंदबाज़ को पीछे छोड़ा?

- (a) Ellyse Perry
- (b) Jess Jonassen
- (c) Megan Schutt
- (d) Ashleigh Gardner
- (e) Beth Mooney

Ans. c

Sol. Deepti Sharma Becomes Highest Wicket-Taker in Women's T20Is

Deepti Sharma became the highest wicket-taker in women's T20Is, overtaking Australia's Megan Schutt by claiming her 152nd wicket during the final T20I against Sri Lanka in Thiruvananthapuram.

She created history by becoming the first Indian cricketer (men or women) to take 150 T20I wickets and the first player globally to score 1,000 runs and take 150 wickets in T20Is.

India defeated Sri Lanka by 15 runs to complete a 5–0 series whitewash, with Harmanpreet Kaur's half-century and Deepti Sharma's economical spell contributing to the win.

46. India has the world's 3rd-largest rare earth reserves at about 6.9 million tonnes of rare earth oxide (REO). Which country currently dominates the global rare earth value chain by controlling nearly 90% of the world's rare earth refining capacity, including almost the entire processing of heavy rare earth elements, thereby gaining a strategic advantage over other nations?

भारत में लगभग 6.9 मिलियन टन दुर्लभ पृथ्वी ऑक्साइड (आरईओ) का दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा दुर्लभ पृथ्वी भंडार है। कौन सा देश वर्तमान में दुनिया की लगभग 90% दुर्लभ पृथ्वी शोधन क्षमता को नियंत्रित करके वैश्विक दुर्लभ पृथ्वी मूल्य श्रृंखला पर हावी है, जिसमें भारी दुर्लभ पृथ्वी तत्वों का लगभग संपूर्ण प्रसंस्करण शामिल है, जिससे अन्य देशों पर रणनीतिक लाभ प्राप्त होता है?

- (a) United States
- (b) Australia
- (c) Russia
- (d) Brazil
- (e) China

Ans. e

Sol. India Ranks 3rd in Rare Earth Reserves but Lags in Global Production Due to Mining and Processing Bottlenecks

India has the world's 3rd-largest rare earth reserves at about 6.9 million tonnes of rare earth oxide (REO), behind China (44 million tonnes) and Brazil (21 million tonnes), accounting for nearly 6–7% of global reserves.

Despite abundant reserves, India's production is very low—only 2,900 tonnes in 2024, ranking 7th globally, and contributing less than 1% of global rare earth output, far behind China's 270,000 tonnes.

Structural and regulatory bottlenecks hinder mining: most reserves lie in monazite-rich coastal sands containing radioactive thorium, making extraction complex and subject to strict regulations; mining was long dominated by IREL, with rare earths treated as by-products.

Lack of processing and refining capacity is a major constraint: China controls about 90% of global refining capacity and dominates heavy rare earth processing, while India has minimal refining infrastructure, limiting its role in the global rare earth value

47. Usman Khawaja has announced his retirement from international cricket after the fifth and final Ashes Test against England. Which of the following distinctions is associated with Usman Khawaja?

उस्मान ख्वाजा ने इंग्लैंड के खिलाफ पांचवें और आखिरी एशेज टेस्ट के बाद इंटरनेशनल क्रिकेट से संन्यास की घोषणा कर दी है। निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सी खासियत उस्मान ख्वाजा से जुड़ी है?

- (a) First left-handed captain of Australia
- (b) First Australian to score a triple century
- (c) First Muslim cricketer to play for England
- (d) First Pakistan-born player to captain Australia
- (e) First Pakistan-born and first Muslim cricketer to play for Australia

Ans. e

Sol. Usman Khawaja Announces Retirement After Final Ashes Test at Sydney Cricket Ground

Usman Khawaja has announced his retirement from international cricket after the fifth and final Ashes Test against England at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG), which will be his 88th and last Test match, at the same venue where his first-class career began.

Debuting in 2011 at the age of 24, Khawaja enjoyed a 15-year-long Test career, scoring over 6,000 Test runs; his international journey began after an injury to then captain Ricky Ponting opened the door for his debut.

Born in Pakistan and raised in Australia, Khawaja created history as Australia's first Pakistan-born and first Muslim cricketer, and was later honoured with the ICC Test Cricketer of the Year (2023) and Shane Warne Test Cricketer of the Year awards for his outstanding performances.

Recently Retired Players

- Doug Bracewell (New Zealand) - all forms of international cricket
- Mohit Sharma (India) - All Forms of Cricket
- Kane Williamson (New Zealand) - T20 Internationals
- Rohan Bopanna (India) - Professional Tennis
- Chris Woakes (England) - International Cricket

48. Who assumed charge as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff on January 1, 2026?
1 जनवरी 2026 को वायुसेना के उप प्रमुख (Vice Chief of the Air Staff) के रूप में किसने कार्यभार संभाला?

- (a) Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar
- (b) Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari
- (c) Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari

(d) Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor

(e) Air Marshal Sandeep Singh

Ans. d

Sol. Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor Takes Charge as Vice Chief of Air Staff

Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor assumed charge as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff on January 1, 2026, succeeding Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari, who retired after 40 years of distinguished service to the nation.

An alumnus of NDA, Defence Services Staff College and National Defence College, Air Marshal Kapoor is an accomplished fighter pilot with over 3,400 flying hours on MiG-21 and MiG-29 aircraft.

He has held several key command, operational and instructional appointments, including Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Training Command and South Western Air Command, and is a recipient of multiple gallantry and distinguished service awards.

In another key appointment, Lt. Gen. Harpal Singh assumed charge as the 29th Director General Border Roads (DG BRO); commissioned into the Corps of Engineers in 1991, he brings over three decades of experience in strengthening strategic border infrastructure and connectivity through the BRO (raised in 1960).

49. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of ESAF Small Finance Bank?

ESAF स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक के नए चेयरमैन के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

(a) Rajnish Kumar

(b) Rakesh Sharma

(c) Parul Tyagi

(d) Karthikeyan Manickam

(e) Ashok Chawla

Ans. d

Sol. Karthikeyan Manickam Appointed Chairman of ESAF Small Finance Bank

ESAF Small Finance Bank has appointed Karthikeyan Manickam as its new Chairman, aiming to strengthen leadership with his decades of experience in banking, risk management, and regulatory compliance.

A former Executive Director of Bank of India, Manickam will provide strategic guidance and independent oversight to the board, with expertise in banking operations, credit monitoring, risk management, regulatory compliance, and human resource management.

About ESAF Small Finance Bank

- **Founded-** 10 March 2017
- **Founders-** K. Paul Thomas, Mereena Paul, Jacob Samuel

- **Headquarters**- Thrissur, Kerala
- **Chairman** – P Karthikeyan Manickam

50. India has decided to extend the deadline for submission of fresh applications under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for textiles, following a significant response from companies across priority segments such as MMF Apparel, MMF Fabrics, and Technical Textiles. Until which date has the government now extended this application deadline?

एमएमएफ अपैरल, एमएमएफ फैब्रिक्स और टेक्निकल टेक्सटाइल्स जैसे प्राथमिकता वाले क्षेत्रों की कंपनियों से महत्वपूर्ण प्रतिक्रिया के बाद, भारत ने कपड़ा उद्योग के लिए प्रोडक्शन लिंक्ड इंसेंटिव (पीएलआई) योजना के तहत नए आवेदन जमा करने की समय सीमा बढ़ाने का फैसला किया है। सरकार ने अब इस आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि को किस तारीख तक बढ़ा दिया है?

- (a) December 31, 2026
- (b) March 31, 2026
- (c) June 30, 2026
- (d) September 30, 2026
- (e) January 31, 2026

Ans. b

Sol. India Extends PLI Scheme for Textiles to March 2026 to Boost MMF and Technical Textile Production

India extends PLI Scheme textile application deadline to March 31, 2026, following strong response from textile companies across priority segments like MMF Apparel, MMF Fabrics, and Technical Textiles.

As of September 9, 2025, 91 companies have been selected under the scheme, with investments of ₹7,731 crore, exports of ₹733 crore, turnover of ₹7,290 crore, and creation of around 30,838 jobs.

The PLI Scheme for textiles, approved in September 2021 with a budget of ₹10,683 crore over five years, aims to boost production of MMF apparel, MMF fabrics, and technical textiles, strengthening India's textile sector.

51. Punjab to launch 'Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna' on January 15, 2026, offering free cashless medical treatment up to _____ per family for all 65 lakh families in the State.

पंजाब 15 जनवरी, 2026 को 'मुख्यमंत्री सेहत योजना' शुरू करेगा, जो राज्य के सभी 65 लाख परिवारों के लिए प्रति परिवार _____ तक मुफ्त कैशलेस चिकित्सा उपचार की पेशकश करेगा।

- (a) ₹5 lakh
- (b) ₹7 lakh
- (c) ₹10 lakh

(d) ₹12 lakh

(e) ₹15 lakh

Ans. c

Sol. Punjab to Launch 'Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna' on January 15

Punjab to launch 'Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna' on January 15, 2026, offering free cashless medical treatment up to ₹10 lakh per family for all 65 lakh families in the State.

Any resident of Punjab with a valid Aadhaar card and voter ID can avail the benefits; the scheme aims to cover 100% of the state's population.

Over 9,000 camps will be conducted for issuing scheme cards; after enrolment, beneficiaries will be eligible for free treatment covering around 2,200 medical procedures.

The scheme provides cashless and paperless treatment, including hospitalisation, surgeries, ICU care, diagnostics, medicines, and pre- & post-hospitalisation treatments under approved packages.

About Punjab

- **Capital** – Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister** – Bhagwant Mann
- **Governor** – Gulab Chand Kataria

52. Which state has become the first in India to constitute its 8th State Pay Commission?

भारत का पहला राज्य कौन सा है जिसने अपना 8वां राज्य वेतन आयोग (State Pay Commission) गठित किया है?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Assam
- (e) Karnataka

Ans. d

Sol. Assam Becomes First State to Constitute 8th State Pay Commission Ahead of 7th Pay Commission Expiry

Assam becomes the first Indian state to constitute its 8th State Pay Commission, taking proactive action ahead of the 7th Pay Commission's expiry on January 1, 2026, signalling early focus on salary and pension revisions for state employees.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced the formation, appointing former chief secretary Subhas Das as the head of the new pay commission, positioning Assam ahead of other states and even the Union Government's 8th Pay Commission.

To revise salaries, allowances, and pensions for government employees and pensioners, replacing the 7th Pay Commission framework, with the actual implementation expected after detailed consultations, financial assessments, and approvals.

Early constitution may lead to faster clarity and implementation of revised pay, potentially giving Assam's workforce an advantage in the upcoming pay revision cycle, with recommendations expected in about 18 months and rollout likely in late 2026 or early 2027.

About Assam

- **Formation** - 26 January 1950
- **Capital** – Dispur
- **Chief Minister** –Himanta Biswa Sarma
- **Governor** – Lakshman Prasad Acharya

53. Which agency has assigned a AAA (Stable) rating to Raajmarg Infra InvIT?
राजमार्ग इंफ्रा इन्विट (Raajmarg Infra InvIT) को AAA (Stable) रेटिंग किस एजेंसी ने दी है?

- (a) ICRA
- (b) CARE Ratings
- (c) CRISIL
- (d) Moody's
- (e) Fitch

Ans. b

Sol. NHAI-Backed Raajmarg Infra InvIT Rated AAA (Stable) by CARE Ratings, Signaling Strong Creditworthiness

Raajmarg Infra InvIT, backed by NHAI, receives a AAA (Stable) rating from CARE Ratings, reflecting strong credit quality and investor confidence in the infrastructure investment trust.

The rating underscores the InvIT's robust revenue model, largely supported by toll collections from national highways and long-term contracts with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

AAA (Stable) rating indicates minimal credit risk, positioning Raajmarg Infra InvIT as a highly secure investment option for investors seeking stable returns in the infrastructure sector.

The recognition is expected to boost investor interest and enhance the InvIT's ability to raise funds for future highway projects, supporting India's broader infrastructure development goals.

54. Union Government has launched an integrated e-bill platform to digitally process fertiliser subsidies of nearly ₹2 lakh crore annually, replacing manual and paper-based systems. The e-bill system is developed through integration of IFMS with which platform?

केंद्र सरकार ने मैनुअल और कागज-आधारित प्रणालियों की जगह, सालाना लगभग ₹2 लाख करोड़ की उर्वरक सब्सिडी को डिजिटल रूप से संसाधित करने के लिए एक एकीकृत ई-बिल प्लेटफॉर्म लॉन्च किया है। ई-बिल प्रणाली किस प्लेटफॉर्म के साथ IFMS के एकीकरण के माध्यम से विकसित की गई है?

- (a) GeM
- (b) GSTN
- (c) PFMS
- (d) DBT Portal
- (e) RBI Core Banking

Ans. c

Sol. Union Government Launches Integrated E-Bill Platform for ₹2 Lakh Crore Fertiliser Subsidy

Union Government has launched an integrated e-bill platform to digitally process fertiliser subsidies of nearly ₹2 lakh crore annually, replacing manual and paper-based systems.

Inaugurated by Union Fertilisers Minister J.P. Nadda, the platform enables end-to-end online submission, processing and approval of fertiliser subsidy claims, reducing delays and bottlenecks.

The system integrates the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) of the Department of Fertilisers with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) under the Ministry of Finance, strengthening public financial management.

Key features include real-time bill tracking, tamper-proof digital audit trails, built-in validation checks and faster FIFO-based payments, improving transparency, accountability and ease of doing business for fertiliser companies.

55. Which multilateral financial institution has agreed to provide a ₹4,100 crore (\$500 million) loan to the Telangana Government for parts of Phase I of the Musi River Development Project

किस मल्टीलेटरल फाइनेंशियल इंस्टीट्यूशन ने मूसी नदी विकास परियोजना के पहले चरण के कुछ हिस्सों के लिए तेलंगाना सरकार को ₹4,100 करोड़ (\$500 मिलियन) का लोन देने पर सहमति जताई है?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) Asian Development Bank
- (c) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- (d) New Development Bank

(e) International Monetary Fund**Ans. b****Sol.** ADB Approves ₹4,100 Crore Loan in Principle for Phase-I of Telangana's Musi River Development Project

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to provide a ₹4,100 crore (\$500 million) loan to the Telangana Government for parts of Phase I of the Musi River Development Project

The Musi River project is divided into five zones, with the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Zone I currently under preparation.

Out of the 55 km stretch in Zone-I, 21 km in the first phase is being executed by the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Ltd. (MRDCL), while the state has also sought ₹3,188 crore from the Ministry of Jal Shakti under the National River Conservation Plan.

56. The United Nations General Assembly has approved a regular budget of how much for the year 2026?**संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा ने वर्ष 2026 के लिए कितने नियमित बजट को मंजूरी दी है?**

- (a) \$3.10 billion
- (b) \$3.25 billion
- (c) \$3.45 billion
- (d) \$3.75 billion
- (e) \$4.00 billion

Ans. c**Sol.** UN General Assembly Approves \$3.45 Billion Regular Budget for 2026

The UN General Assembly has approved a \$3.45 billion regular budget for the United Nations for 2026, authorising funding for core organisational activities including peace, security, sustainable development and human rights.

The budget was adopted after weeks of intensive negotiations by the 193 member states, reflecting consensus through the Assembly's main budgetary body, the Fifth Committee.

The approved amount is about 7 % lower than the 2025 regular budget and is slightly above the Secretary-General's original proposal, highlighting financial constraints and reform priorities under the UN80 initiative.

India's share of the United Nation's regular budget is 1.016 per cent, calculated based on factors such as gross national income, population and economic capacity. The United States remains the largest United Nation contributor at 22 per cent, followed by China at 20 per cent.

It finances the UN's core administrative and operational functions for the calendar year 2026, separate from peacekeeping and specialised agency budgets, and underscores ongoing efforts to align resources with mandates amid global fiscal challenges.

About United Nations (UN)

- **Founded** - 24 October 1945
- **Headquarters** - New York, US
- **Official languages** - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian & Spanish
- **Membership** - 193 members (193rd - South Sudan)
- **1st Secretary General** - Trygve Halvdan Lie (Norway)
- **9th Secretary-General** - António Guterres (Portugal)
- **United Nations Day** is celebrated on October 24 every year

57. Bulgaria officially joined the Eurozone on 1 January 2026, adopting the euro as its official currency, replacing the Bulgarian lev after a long transition process. With Bulgaria's entry, the total number of countries in the Eurozone has become:

बुल्गारिया 1 जनवरी 2026 को आधिकारिक तौर पर यूरोज़ोन में शामिल हो गया, और एक लंबी ट्रांज़िशन प्रक्रिया के बाद बल्गेरियाई लेव की जगह यूरो को अपनी आधिकारिक करेंसी के रूप में अपना लिया। बुल्गारिया के शामिल होने के बाद, यूरोज़ोन में देशों की कुल संख्या हो गई है:

- (a) 19
- (b) 20
- (c) 21
- (d) 22
- (e) 23

Ans. c

Sol. Bulgaria Officially Joins Eurozone, Adopts Euro as National Currency

Bulgaria officially joined the Eurozone on 1 January 2026, adopting the euro as its official currency, replacing the Bulgarian lev after a long transition process.

With this move, Bulgaria becomes the 21st member of the euro area, deepening its economic and monetary integration with the European Union.

The switch to the euro follows approval of required legal acts by the Council of the European Union and fulfilment of convergence criteria set by the European Commission and European Central Bank.

During the transition period, both the lev and the euro will circulate, with dual pricing in stores, and citizens can exchange levs for euros at banks and post offices free of charge until mid-2026.

About Bulgaria

- Capital- Sofia
- Currency - Euro
- Official language- Bulgarian
- President- Rumen Radev

58. Which country has recently legalised cryptocurrency mining and exchanges?

हाल ही में किस देश ने क्रिप्टोकॉरेन्सी माइनिंग और एक्सचेंज को वैध कर दिया है?

- (a) Kazakhstan
- (b) Uzbekistan
- (c) Turkmenistan
- (d) Kyrgyzstan
- (e) Tajikistan

Ans. c

Sol. Turkmenistan Legalises Cryptocurrency Mining and Exchanges Under New Law
 Turkmenistan has officially legalised cryptocurrency mining and exchanges, marking a major policy shift in its tightly controlled and gas-dependent economy; the law was signed by President Serdar Berdimuhamedov.

The new legislation brings virtual assets under civil law and introduces a licensing framework for crypto exchanges, to be regulated by the Central Bank of Turkmenistan.

Despite legalisation, cryptocurrencies are not recognised as legal tender, currency, or securities, and cannot be used as a means of payment in the country.

About Turkmenistan

- Capital- Ashgabat
- Currency- Turkmenistani Manat
- Official language- Turkmen
- President- Serdar Berdimuhamedow

59. _____, Maharashtra's first woman Director General of Police (DGP), retired on 3 January 2026 after 37.5 years of service in the Indian Police Service (IPS).

_____, महाराष्ट्र की पहली महिला पुलिस महानिदेशक (DGP), 3 जनवरी 2026 को भारतीय पुलिस सेवा (IPS) में 37.5 साल की सेवा के बाद रिटायर हुईं।

- (a) Kiran Bedi
- (b) Rashmi Shukla
- (c) Anjali Sharma
- (d) Parul Tyagi

(e) Suman Rao

Ans. b

Sol. Maharashtra's First Woman DGP Rashmi Shukla Retires After 37.5 Years of Service

Rashmi Shukla, Maharashtra's first woman Director General of Police (DGP), retired on 3 January 2026 after 37.5 years of service in the Indian Police Service (IPS).

She was honoured with a Guard of Honour at her farewell ceremony held at Naigaon Police Ground, Bhoiwada, attended by senior police officers.

Senior IPS officer Sadanand Date, a 26/11 hero and former DG of NIA, has been appointed as the new Maharashtra DGP.

60. How many tigers did India lose in 2025 according to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)?

राष्ट्रीय बाघ संरक्षण प्राधिकरण (NTCA) के अनुसार, भारत ने 2025 में कितने बाघ खो दिए?

- (a) 126
- (b) 140
- (c) 150
- (d) 166
- (e) 182

Ans. d

Sol. India Loses 166 Tigers in 2025, Madhya Pradesh Records Highest Deaths

India lost 166 tigers in 2025, forty more than 2024, according to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), highlighting increasing threats to the world's largest tiger population.

Madhya Pradesh accounted for the highest number of tiger deaths (55), followed by Maharashtra (38), Kerala (13), and Assam (12); 31 of the deceased tigers were cubs.

Experts cite territorial conflicts due to space crunch as a major reason for tiger fatalities, reflecting pressures on habitats and ecosystem imbalances.

The year's first reported death occurred in Bramhapuri forest, Maharashtra (Jan 2), while the last was in North Sagar, Madhya Pradesh (Dec 28), with intermediate deaths including Pench Tiger Reserve, MP.

61. The government removed which eligibility condition for startups to avail the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund?

सरकार ने स्टार्टअप्स को रिसर्च, डेवलपमेंट और इनोवेशन (RDI) फंड का फायदा उठाने के लिए कौन सी एलिजिबिलिटी शर्त हटा दी है?

- (a) Minimum turnover requirement
- (b) Three-year existence condition

- (c) Mandatory foreign funding
- (d) Profit-making condition
- (e) Export performance criteria

Ans. b

Sol. Government Removes 3-Year Eligibility Condition for Startups to Access RDI Fund

The government has removed the mandatory three-year existence condition for startups to access the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund, allowing even newly formed startups to apply through DSIR.

The announcement was made by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at the 41st Foundation Day of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) in New Delhi.

Key initiatives unveiled include Guidelines for Recognition of In-House R&D, Centres of Deep Tech Startups, PRISM Network Platform – TOCIC Innovator Pulse, and Creative India 2025 to strengthen India's R&D ecosystem.

62. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the exposition "The Light and the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One" at which venue?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने किस जगह पर "द लाइट एंड द लोटस: रेलिक्स ऑफ द अवेकन्ड वन" प्रदर्शनी का उद्घाटन किया?

- (a) Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
- (b) National Museum, New Delhi
- (c) Rai Pithora Cultural Complex, New Delhi
- (d) India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
- (e) Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

Ans. c

Sol. PM Modi Inaugurates Grand Exposition of Sacred Piprahwa Relics of Lord Buddha in New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Grand International Exposition of Sacred Piprahwa Relics, titled "The Light and the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One", at Rai Pithora Cultural Complex, New Delhi.

The Prime Minister stated that after more than 125 years, India's sacred heritage has returned, allowing people to have darshan of Lord Buddha's relics, which the government prevented from being auctioned internationally.

Discovered in 1898 and linked to ancient Kapilavastu, the Piprahwa relics—repatriated after 127 years—have been reunited for the first time from the National Museum, New Delhi, and Indian Museum, Kolkata, symbolising India's civilisational commitment to Buddhist heritage.

63. World Introvert Day is observed every year on which date?

विश्व इंद्रोवर्ट दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 1 January
- (b) 2 January
- (c) 3 January
- (d) 5 January
- (e) 10 January

Ans. b

Sol. 2 January - World Introvert Day

World Introvert Day is observed every year on 2 January to recognise and celebrate the strengths of introverts.

The day highlights the value of quiet reflection, deep thinking, and meaningful communication in personal and professional life.

It aims to promote awareness, acceptance, and understanding of introverted personalities in an extrovert-dominated society.

64. Who has been appointed as the Interim Managing Director & CEO of Canara Bank from January 1, 2026?

कैनरा बैंक के अंतरिम प्रबंध निदेशक एवं CEO के रूप में 1 जनवरी 2026 से किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) K. Satyanarayana Raju
- (b) Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia
- (c) Rajnish Kumar
- (d) Atanu Kumar Das
- (e) Sanjiv Chadha

Ans. b

Sol. Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia Appointed Interim MD & CEO of Canara Bank
Canara Bank has appointed Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia as Managing Director & CEO (Interim) with effect from January 1, 2026, following the superannuation of K. Satyanarayana Raju.

Ahluwalia will hold additional charge for three months (till March 31, 2026) or until a regular incumbent is appointed.

Currently serving as Executive Director, Ahluwalia brings over 30 years of banking experience, with expertise in credit, operations, risk management, strategic leadership, and international exposure in Hong Kong.

About Canara Bank

- *Founded - 1906*
- *Headquarters- Bengaluru, Karnataka*

- MD & CEO - Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia (replace K. Satyanarayana Raju)
- Chairman – Vijay Srirangan
- Tagline - Together with Can

65. Who was elected as the President of Atal Smriti Nyas Society in December 2025?

दिसंबर 2025 में अटल स्मृति न्यास सोसाइटी के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे चुना गया?

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Ram Bahadur Rai
- (c) M. Venkaiah Naidu
- (d) Vijay Kumar Malhotra
- (e) Amit Shah

Ans. c

Sol. M. Venkaiah Naidu Elected President of Atal Smriti Nyas Society

Former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu was elected as President of Atal Smriti Nyas Society.

He succeeds Vijay Kumar Malhotra, the former president of the society, who passed away recently.

The proposal for his appointment was made by Ram Bahadur Rai in consultation with other members, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to oversee the society's activities.

66. Who has been named the International Event Ambassador for the 21st edition of the Tata Mumbai Marathon?

टाटा मुंबई मैराथन के 21वें संस्करण के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय इवेंट एंबेसडर किसे बनाया गया है?

- (a) Usain Bolt
- (b) Wayde van Niekerk
- (c) Andre De Grasse
- (d) Yohan Blake
- (e) Kirani James

Ans. c

Sol. Andre De Grasse Named International Event Ambassador for Tata Mumbai Marathon 2026

Olympic sprint champion Andre De Grasse has been named International Event Ambassador for the 21st Tata Mumbai Marathon, scheduled on January 18, 2026, in Mumbai.

The Tata Mumbai Marathon, a World Athletics Gold Label Race, is recognised as Asia's largest mass participation sporting event and one of the world's premier road races.

As ambassador, De Grasse will promote the marathon globally, engage with runners and stakeholders, and support outreach initiatives to enhance the event's international visibility and inclusivity.

67. Who has been reappointed as the Chief Coach of the Indian women's hockey team?

भारतीय महिला हॉकी टीम के मुख्य कोच के रूप में किसे पुनः नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Harendra Singh
- (b) Graham Reid
- (c) Sjoerd Marijne
- (d) Roelant Oltmans
- (e) Ric Charlesworth

Ans. c

Sol. Sjoerd Marijne Reappointed as Chief Coach of Indian Women's Hockey Team

Dutch coach Sjoerd Marijne has been reappointed as Chief Coach of the Indian women's hockey team, marking his third stint, after a gap of about 4.5 years.

Marijne previously coached the team from 2017 to 2021, guiding India to a historic fourth-place finish at the Tokyo Olympics 2021 and helping the team break into the top-10 world rankings for the first time.

His return comes after the resignation of former head coach Harendra Singh in December 2025, amid poor performances, internal issues, and allegations of favouritism, including India finishing last in the FIH Pro League 2024–25.

68. The Indian Ministry of Transport has proposed a Battery Pack Aadhaar System to ensure end-to-end traceability, transparency, and efficient recycling of electric vehicle (EV) batteries. Under this system, each battery will be assigned a unique identification number, called the Battery Pack Aadhaar Number (BPAN). According to the draft guidelines, how many characters will this BPAN consist of?

भारत सरकार के परिवहन मंत्रालय द्वारा इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (EV) बैटरियों की end-to-end traceability, transparency और efficient recycling सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक Battery Pack Aadhaar System प्रस्तावित किया गया है। इस प्रणाली के तहत प्रत्येक बैटरी को एक यूनिक पहचान संख्या दी जाएगी, जिसे Battery Pack Aadhaar Number (BPAN) कहा जाएगा। ड्राफ्ट गाइडलाइंस के अनुसार, यह BPAN कितने characters का होगा?

- (a) 12
- (b) 16

(c) 18

(d) 21

(e) 24

Ans. d

Sol. Transport Ministry Proposes 'Battery Pack Aadhaar' for End-to-End Tracking and Recycling of EV Batteries

The Transport Ministry has proposed a 21-character Battery Pack Aadhaar Number (BPAN) for each EV battery to enable end-to-end traceability, transparency, and efficient recycling.

Battery producers or importers must assign BPAN, upload dynamic battery data on an official portal, and ensure the ID is clearly visible, durable, and accessible on each battery pack.

BPAN will capture data from raw material extraction to usage, recycling, repurposing, or final disposal; any major change in battery attributes will require issuance of a new BPAN.

With EVs accounting for 80–90% of lithium-ion battery demand in India, EV batteries will be prioritised under the BPAN framework, which will be developed through the Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) route for uniform national implementation.

69. The 'Ulagam Ungal Kaiyil' scheme, under which free laptops are distributed to students, is implemented by which state government?

'उलगम उंगल कैयिल' योजना, जिसके तहत छात्रों को मुफ्त लैपटॉप बांटे जाते हैं, किस राज्य सरकार द्वारा लागू की जाती है?

(a) Kerala

(b) Karnataka

(c) Andhra Pradesh

(d) Telangana

(e) Tamil Nadu

Ans. e

Sol. Tamil Nadu to Distribute Free High-Configuration Laptops to College Students Under 'Ulagam Ungal Kaiyil' Scheme

The Tamil Nadu government will distribute free laptops to college students under the 'Ulagam Ungal Kaiyil' scheme, with Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launching the distribution.

Nearly 20 lakh laptops are planned to be distributed by February, with about 10 lakh laptops expected to be handed out by March in the current phase.

Laptops will be procured by the Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu from OEMs like Acer, Dell, and HP, featuring Intel Core i3 processors, 8 GB RAM, and 256 GB SSD.

The scheme has an initial allocation of around ₹2,000 crore; Tamil Nadu has already distributed 52 lakh laptops to students since 2011 at a cost of over ₹7,000 crore.

About Tamil Nadu

- **Formation** – 26 January 1950
- **Capital** – Chennai
- **Chief Minister** – M K Stalin
- **Governor** – R N Ravi

70. Tamil Nadu's first Jallikattu event of 2026 was inaugurated at which place?

तमिलनाडु के 2026 के पहले जल्लीकट्टू कार्यक्रम का उद्घाटन किस स्थान पर किया गया?

- (a) Alanganallur
- (b) Palamedu
- (c) Avaniapuram
- (d) Thatchankurichi
- (e) Madurai

Ans. d

Sol. Tamil Nadu's First Jallikattu of 2026 Begins at Thatchankurichi

Tamil Nadu's first Jallikattu event of 2026 was inaugurated at Thatchankurichi near Gandharvakottai, marking the traditional start of the Jallikattu season in the State. About 900 bulls and 300 tamers are participating, with nearly 7,000 spectators expected; officials from Animal Husbandry, Health, and Revenue departments are present to ensure safety and animal welfare norms.

71. The foundation stone of the Bhoramdev Corridor Development Project was laid at Bhoramdev Dham, which is located in which district of Chhattisgarh?

भोरमदेव कॉरिडोर डेवलपमेंट प्रोजेक्ट की आधारशिला भोरमदेव धाम में रखी गई, जो छत्तीसगढ़ के किस जिले में स्थित है?

- (a) Raipur
- (b) Durg
- (c) Kabirdham
- (d) Bilaspur
- (e) Rajnandgao

Ans. c

Sol. Bhoramdev Corridor Project Launched Under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 in Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai and Union Tourism & Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat laid the foundation stone of the Bhoramdev Corridor Development Project at Bhoramdev Dham in Kabirdham district.

The project will be developed under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme 2.0 at an estimated cost of ₹146 crore, on the lines of the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor in Varanasi.

Centered around the Bhoramdev Temple (Khajuraho of Chhattisgarh), the corridor aims to provide modern facilities to pilgrims and tourists, boosting economic, social, and cultural development of the region.

About Chhattisgarh

- **Capital** – Raipur
- **Chief Minister** – Vishnu Deo Sai (replace Bhupesh Baghel)
- **Deputy CM** - Arun Sao & Vijay Sharma
- **Governor** – Raman Deka

72. World Day of War Orphans is observed every year on which date?

विश्व युद्ध अनाथ दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. 6 January - World Day of War Orphans

World Day of War Orphans is observed every year on 6 January to highlight the plight of children who have lost parents due to war and conflict.

The day aims to raise global awareness about the social, psychological, and economic challenges faced by war orphans.

The observance emphasises the need for peace, humanitarian assistance, and child rights protection worldwide.

73. National Birds Day is observed every year on which date?

राष्ट्रीय पक्षी दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 3 January
- (b) 4 January
- (c) 5 January
- (d) 6 January
- (e) 10 January

Ans. c

Sol. 5 January - National Birds Day

National Birds Day is observed every year on 5 January to raise awareness about the protection and conservation of birds.

The day highlights the ecological importance of birds, including pollination, seed dispersal, and pest control.

The observance encourages bird conservation efforts and biodiversity protection through public participation and policy action.

74. World Braille Day is observed every year on which date?

विश्व ब्रेल दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. 4 January - World Braille Day

World Braille Day is observed every year on 4 January to raise awareness about the importance of Braille as a means of communication for visually impaired persons.

The day marks the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of the Braille system.

Braille plays a crucial role in ensuring education, accessibility, and social inclusion for persons with visual disabilities.

75. International Mind–Body Wellness Day is observed every year on which date?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मन-शरीर कल्याण दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. 3 January - International Mind–Body Wellness Day

International Mind–Body Wellness Day is observed every year on 3 January to promote holistic well-being.

The day emphasises the connection between mental, physical, and emotional health.

It encourages adopting healthy lifestyles, including mindfulness, exercise, balanced nutrition, and stress management.

76. Who was presented the Nritya Kalanidhi award at the 19th Dance Festival held at the Music Academy, Chennai?

संगीत अकादमी, चेन्नई में आयोजित 19वें नृत्य महोत्सव में नृत्य कलानिधि पुरस्कार किसे प्रदान किया गया?

- (a) Alarmel Valli
- (b) Shobana
- (c) Urmila Satyanarayanan
- (d) Yamini Krishnamurthy
- (e) Rukmini Devi

Ans. c

Sol. Bharatanatyam Exponent Urmila Satyanarayanan Conferred Nritya Kalanidhi Award at 19th Music Academy Dance Festival

Renowned Bharatanatyam exponent Urmila Satyanarayanan was conferred the Nritya Kalanidhi award at the 19th Dance Festival, inaugurated at the Music Academy, Chennai.

The award was presented by Takahashi Muneo, Consul-General of Japan in Chennai, who highlighted her artistic excellence and lifelong contribution to preserving and propagating Bharatanatyam, drawing parallels with classical Japanese dance traditions.

Bharatnatyam is among the eight classical dances of India.

77. The 570 MW Wangchhu Hydro Electricity Project, recently launched by the Adani Group, is being developed in which country known for its rich hydropower potential and as a close energy partner of India?

अडानी ग्रुप द्वारा हाल ही में लॉन्च किया गया 570 MW का वांगचू हाइड्रो इलेक्ट्रिसिटी प्रोजेक्ट, किस देश में विकसित किया जा रहा है जो अपनी समृद्ध हाइड्रोपावर क्षमता और भारत के करीबी एनर्जी पार्टनर के रूप में जाना जाता है?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Malaysia
- (c) Bhutan
- (d) Bangladesh
- (e) Sri Lanka

Ans. c

Sol. Adani Group Launches 570 MW Wangchhu Hydro Electricity Project in Bhutan Under 5,000 MW MoU with DGPC

Adani Group has commenced the 570 MW Wangchhu Hydro Electricity Project in Bhutan, with the foundation stone laid in the presence of Bhutan's PM Tshering Tobgay and Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani.

The project will be jointly owned, with Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) holding 51% and Adani Group 49% stake.

In May 2025, Adani Group and DGPC signed MoUs to jointly develop 5,000 MW of hydropower projects in Bhutan, with Wangchhu being the first project under this agreement.

The Wangchhu project requires an investment of about ₹60 billion and is expected to be completed within five years, marking a key step in India-Bhutan renewable energy collaboration.

About Bhutan

- *Capital- Thimphu*
- *Currency- Ngultrum*
- *Language spoken in Bhutan-Dzongkha*
- *King- Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck*
- *Prime Minister- Tshering Tobgay*

78. _____-based start-ups TakeMe2Space and EON Space Labs completed testing and integration of a 14-kg Earth observation satellite along with a miniature space telescope.

_____ -आधारित स्टार्टअप TakeMe2Space और EON Space Labs ने एक छोटे स्पेस टेलीस्कोप के साथ 14 किलोग्राम के अर्थ ऑब्जर्वेशन सैटेलाइट की टेस्टिंग और इंटीग्रेशन पूरा कर लिया है।

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

Ans. b

Sol. Hyderabad Start-ups TakeMe2Space and EON Space Labs Ready 14-kg Earth Observation Satellite for Sriharikota Launch

Hyderabad-based start-ups TakeMe2Space and EON Space Labs completed testing and integration of a 14-kg Earth observation satellite along with a miniature space telescope, and shipped the payload to Sriharikota for launch later this month.

The satellite will be placed in low Earth orbit at around 500 km altitude and is intended to provide data for both commercial and defence applications over its expected 3–5 year lifespan.

The payload was tested and integrated with MIRA, a miniaturised space telescope and imaging hardware developed with EON Space Labs, at Azista BST Aerospace in Sanand GIDC, Ahmedabad.

The MOI-1 mission was completed at a total build cost of ₹2.5 crore, demonstrating a highly economical approach to space technology by Indian start-ups.

79. Who has inaugurated the 72nd National Volleyball Tournament in Varanasi?

वाराणसी में 72वें राष्ट्रीय वॉलीबॉल टूर्नामेंट का उद्घाटन किसने किया है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates 72nd National Volleyball Tournament in Varanasi
Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 72nd National Volleyball Tournament through video conferencing.

The inaugural ceremony took place at Dr Sampurnanand Sports Stadium, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

The tournament, with 1,000+ players from 58 teams, showcases high-level competition and sportsmanship, while positioning Varanasi as a hub for major cultural and sporting events, connecting sports, heritage, and community pride.

80. Jaipur will host the 78th Army Day Parade for the first time on January 15.

On which road in Jaipur will the Army Day parade be held?

जयपुर में 15 जनवरी को पहली बार 78वीं सेना दिवस परेड होगी। जयपुर में सेना दिवस परेड किस सड़क पर होगी?

- (a) MI Road
- (b) Jaipur–Agra Highway
- (c) Mahal Road
- (d) Tonk Road
- (e) Jaipur–Jaipur Bypass

Ans. c

Sol. Jaipur to Host 78th Army Day Parade on January 15

Jaipur will host the 78th Army Day Parade for the first time on January 15, with the event taking place on Mahal Road.

For the first time in India, the parade will be organised in a public setting outside a cantonment area, marking a historic move.

Army Day is celebrated across India every year on 15 January to honour the nation's armed forces.

81. Which city will host the Rajasthan Regional AI Impact Conference 2026?

राजस्थान रीजनल एआई इम्पैक्ट कॉन्फ्रेंस 2026 किस शहर में आयोजित होगी?

- (a) Jodhpur
- (b) Udaipur
- (c) Kota
- (d) Jaipur
- (e) Ajmer

Ans. d

Sol. Rajasthan to Host Regional AI Impact Conference 2026 in Jaipur

Jaipur will host the Rajasthan Regional AI Impact Conference 2026, as part of preparations for the India AI Impact Summit 2026.

The conference will discuss the role of Artificial Intelligence in governance reforms, economic growth, innovation, and inclusive development at the regional level.

The event will feature major policy announcements and MoU signings to strengthen Rajasthan's AI ecosystem and promote AI adoption across priority sectors.

The Rajasthan conference is one of eight Regional AI Conferences planned across India (October 2025–January 2026) to align regional priorities with national AI ambitions.

82. India has become the world's largest rice producer, surpassing China, marking a major milestone in food security and exports. India has become the world's largest rice producer with a total output of how much?

भारत चीन को पछाड़कर दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा चावल उत्पादक बन गया है, जो खाद्य सुरक्षा और निर्यात में एक बड़ा मील का पत्थर है। कुल कितने उत्पादन के साथ भारत विश्व का सबसे बड़ा चावल उत्पादक बन गया है?

- (a) 140.25 million tonnes
- (b) 145.28 million tonnes
- (c) 150.18 million tonnes
- (d) 155.60 million tonnes
- (e) 160.00 million tonnes

Ans. c

Sol. India Becomes World's Largest Rice Producer, Surpassing China with Record Output

India has become the world's largest rice producer, surpassing China, with a record output of 150.18 million tonnes, marking a major milestone in food security and exports.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan released 184 improved varieties of 25 crops, developed by ICAR, aimed at higher yields, better quality, and increased farmers' income.

Since 2014, 3,236 high-yielding varieties have been approved, reflecting India's transformation from a food-deficient nation to a global food provider.

83. India's traditional medicine system AYUSH has received formal recognition in trade agreements with which countries?

भारत की पारंपरिक चिकित्सा प्रणाली आयुष (AYUSH) को किन देशों के साथ व्यापार समझौतों में मान्यता मिली है?

- (a) UAE and Australia
- (b) Japan and South Korea
- (c) Oman and New Zealand
- (d) UK and Canada
- (e) Germany and France

Ans. c

Sol. AYUSH Gets Formal Recognition in Trade Agreements with Oman and New Zealand

India's traditional medicine system, AYUSH, has received formal recognition in bilateral trade agreements with Oman and New Zealand.

The India–Oman CEPA and India–New Zealand FTA, finalised in December last year, include specific annexures on health-related services and traditional medicine.

Exports of AYUSH and herbal products grew by 6.11%, rising from USD 649.2 million (2023–24) to USD 688.89 million (2024–25).

84. The Gaan Ngai festival, which marks the beginning of the New Year and is celebrated after the harvest season, is associated with which community of Manipur?

कटाई के बाद मनाया जाने वाला तथा नववर्ष की शुरुआत का प्रतीक गान न्गाई (Gaan Ngai) पर्व मणिपुर के किस समुदाय से संबंधित है?

- (a) Meitei
- (b) Tangkhul
- (c) Kabui
- (d) Kuki
- (e) Paite

Ans. c

Sol. Gaan Ngai Festival of Kabui Community Begins in Manipur, Marking New Year

The Gaan Ngai festival of the Kabui community has commenced across Manipur, marking the beginning of the New Year and being celebrated after the harvest season.

The State Level Gaan Ngai Festival 2026 was held at Konthoujam Mamang Kabui Village in Imphal West district, with widespread participation of the Kabui community.

The five-day festival marks the end of the agricultural year, symbolised by the lighting of new fire created by rubbing dry wood and bamboo, which is distributed to households to signify renewal and prosperity.

85. The Government of India has recently launched the Market Access Support (MAS) scheme with an aim to improve the global reach, visibility, and competitiveness of Indian exporters through structured and outcome-oriented interventions. For which financial period has this MAS scheme been officially launched?

भारत सरकार ने हाल ही में मार्केट एक्सेस सपोर्ट (MAS) योजना शुरू की है, जिसका उद्देश्य भारतीय निर्यातकों की वैश्विक पहुंच, दृश्यता और प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता को संरचित और परिणाम-उन्मुख हस्तक्षेपों के माध्यम से बढ़ाना है। इस MAS योजना को आधिकारिक रूप से किस वित्तीय अवधि के लिए शुरू किया गया है?

- (a) FY 2024–27
- (b) FY 2025–28
- (c) FY 2026–31
- (d) FY 2027–32
- (e) FY 2025–30

Ans. c

Sol. Government Launches ₹4,531 Crore Market Access Support Scheme to Boost Exports

The government has launched a ₹4,531 crore Market Access Support (MAS) scheme for FY 2025–26 to 2030–31 to enhance the global reach, visibility, and competitiveness of Indian exporters.

The scheme is a component of the ₹25,060 crore Export Promotion Mission, approved by the Union Cabinet in November, with ₹500 crore allocated in the current fiscal and ₹330 crore arrears to be cleared initially.

The launch comes as Indian exporters face challenges due to the 50% tariff imposed by the US on several Indian products, necessitating stronger market access initiatives. MAS will provide structured support for buyer–seller meets, international trade fairs and exhibitions, reverse buyer–seller meets in India, and trade delegations to priority and emerging markets.

At least 35% participation of MSMEs is mandatory in supported events, with special incentives for new geographies, smaller markets, and small exporters, including partial airfare support for exporters with turnover up to ₹75 lakh.

86. The Indian Army has declared 2026 as which special year to enhance connectivity, decision-making, and combat effectiveness?

भारतीय सेना ने कनेक्टिविटी, निर्णय लेने और युद्ध प्रभावशीलता को बढ़ाने के लिए 2026 को किस विशेष वर्ष के रूप में घोषित किया है?

- (a) Year of Modernization
- (b) Year of Indigenous Weapons
- (c) Year of Cyber Security
- (d) Year of Networking & Data Centricity
- (e) Year of Strategic Mobility

Ans. d

Sol. Indian Army Declares 2026 as 'Year of Networking & Data Centricity' to Boost Combat Readiness

The Indian Army has announced 2026 as the Year of Networking & Data Centricity to focus on enhancing connectivity, real-time decision-making, and combat effectiveness.

General Dwivedi emphasised the growing role of indigenous systems, data-driven operations, and enhanced networking, making the Army more agile and future-ready.

The initiative aims to strengthen resilience, improve operational efficiency, and enable a modern, technology-driven force prepared for future challenges.

87. Where has the Indian Army launched the community radio station 'Radio Sangam'?

भारतीय सेना ने 'रेडियो संगम' सामुदायिक रेडियो स्टेशन कहाँ शुरू किया है?

- (a) Srinagar, J&K
- (b) Poonch, J&K
- (c) Rajouri, J&K
- (d) Leh, Ladakh
- (e) Jammu city, J&K

Ans. c

Sol. Indian Army Launches 'Radio Sangam' in Rajouri, J&K to Strengthen Border Communication

The Indian Army, in collaboration with the local administration, has launched a community radio station 'Radio Sangam' (88.8 FM) in Keri village, Dongi area, Rajouri, J&K, near the Line of Control (LoC).

Radio Sangam is the first community radio station in the region, aimed at strengthening outreach to border residents and providing a credible local communication platform.

The station will counter cross-border propaganda, tackle misinformation, and provide reliable news and updates for residents of forward areas.

88. Under ICICI Bank's newly launched Capital Gains Account Scheme (CGAS), which allows taxpayers to park unutilised long-term capital gains or sale proceeds, earn interest, and claim tax exemptions, who are initially eligible to open an account starting from January 1, 2026?

ICICI बैंक की नई शुरू की गई कैपिटल गेन्स अकाउंट स्कीम (CGAS) के तहत, जो टैक्सपेयर्स को अप्रयुक्त लंबी अवधि के पूंजीगत लाभ या बिक्री आय को जमा करने, ब्याज कमाने और कर छूट का दावा करने की सुविधा देती है, प्रारंभ में किसे 1 जनवरी 2026 से खाता खोलने की अनुमति है?

- (a) Only Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)
- (b) Only corporate and non-individual entities
- (c) Resident individuals and Hindu Undivided Families
- (d) Foreign institutional investors
- (e) Trusts, charitable organizations, and NGOs

Ans. c

Sol. ICICI Bank Launches Capital Gains Account Scheme (CGAS) for Tax-Exempt Deposits from January 1, 2026

From 1 January 2026, ICICI Bank offers CGAS, allowing taxpayers to park unutilised long-term capital gains or sale proceeds, earn interest, and claim tax exemptions. Initially available to resident individuals and Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), with plans to extend to non-individual entities and NRIs later. Accounts can be opened at ICICI Bank branches (except rural branches).

Type A accounts function like savings accounts with flexible withdrawals for approved reinvestments, while Type B accounts are term deposit-like, available in cumulative or non-cumulative formats for a fixed tenure.

89. Which company successfully launched Italy's COSMO-SkyMed Second Generation satellite?

इटली के COSMO-SkyMed सेकंड जनरेशन सैटेलाइट को किस कंपनी ने सफलतापूर्वक लॉन्च किया?

- (a) Blue Origin
- (b) United Launch Alliance (ULA)
- (c) Arianespace
- (d) SpaceX
- (e) Roscosmos

Ans. d

Sol. SpaceX Successfully Launches Italy's COSMO-SkyMed Second Generation Earth Observation Satellite

SpaceX's Falcon 9 successfully deployed Italy's COSMO-SkyMed Second Generation low-Earth orbit satellite from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, in collaboration with the Italian Space Agency and Italian Ministry of Defence.

The launch marked the 21st mission for the first-stage booster used, which previously supported missions including Crew-7, CRS-29, PACE, Transporter-10, EarthCARE, NROL-186, and multiple Starlink launches.

The satellite carries synthetic aperture radar instruments designed to monitor Earth for emergency prevention, strategic, scientific, and commercial purposes, providing comprehensive global data.

90. Who has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court?

झारखंड उच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Justice Ramesh Chander Dimri
- (b) Justice Neerja Kulwant Kalson
- (c) Justice Mahesh Sharadchandra Sonak
- (d) Justice Dipak Misra
- (e) Justice N. V. Ramana

Ans. c

Sol. Justice Mahesh Sharadchandra Sonak Appointed Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court

The Centre has approved the appointment of Justice Mahesh Sharadchandra Sonak as the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court, with President Droupadi Murmu sanctioning the appointment.

Justice Sonak, who is currently a judge of the Bombay High Court, was recommended for the position by the Supreme Court Collegium during its recent meeting.

In addition, the government has approved the appointment of Ramesh Chander Dimri and Neerja Kulwant Kalson as Additional Judges of the Punjab and Haryana High Court for a two-year term, also following Supreme Court Collegium recommendations.

Recent Appointments

- **President of Atal Smriti Nyas Society** - M. Venkaiah Naidu (replace Vijay Kumar Malhotra)
- **MD & CEO of Hyundai Motor India** - Tarun Garg
- **DG of Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** - Lav Aggarwal

- **Chairman & Managing Director of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) - Rabindra Kumar Agarwal**
- **Director General of Hydrocarbons in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas - Srikant Nagulapalli**
- **Interim DG of NIA - Rakesh Aggarwal (replaec Sadanand Date)**

91. Who will be the chief guests at India's Republic Day celebrations in 2026?

2026 में भारत के गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि कौन होंगे?

- (a) Emmanuel Macron and Olaf Scholz
- (b) Ursula von der Leyen and António Costa
- (c) Charles Michel and Josep Borrell
- (d) Angela Merkel and Jean-Claude Juncker
- (e) Pedro Sánchez and Mark Rutte

Ans. b

Sol. EU Leaders Ursula von der Leyen and António Costa to Be Chief Guests at India's Republic Day 2026

European Union leaders Ursula von der Leyen and António Costa will be the chief guests at India's Republic Day 2026 celebrations on January 26, 2026, marking a significant diplomatic moment for the event.

Ursula von der Leyen serves as President of the European Commission and António Costa as President of the European Council, representing the top leadership of the EU.

This invitation underscores strengthening India–EU diplomatic and economic ties, highlighting India's strategic engagement with the European Union as a unified partner.

About European Union (EU)

- *Founded: 1 November 1993*
- *Founders: Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg*
- *Headquarters - Brussels, Belgium*
- *Members Country - 27*
- *President of European Council - Antonion Costa*
- *President of Commission - Ursula von der Leyen*
- *President of European Parliament - Roebrt Metsola*

92. Which Indian state documented its first-ever sighting of the ultra-rare "Sandalwood Leopard"?

किस भारतीय राज्य ने पहली बार बहुत ही दुर्लभ "चंदन तेंदुए" को देखे जाने की घटना को डॉक्यूमेंट किया है?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Tamil Nadu
- (e) Andhra Pradesh

Ans. c

Sol. Karnataka Records First Sighting of Ultra-Rare 'Sandalwood Leopard' in Vijayanagara

Karnataka recorded its first-ever sighting of the ultra-rare "Sandalwood Leopard" in Vijayanagara district, marking only the second confirmed instance in India.

The female leopard shows a pale reddish-pink coat with light-brown rosettes, unlike the usual tawny colour, and was captured on camera traps, later seen with a normally coloured cub.

The discovery was documented by wildlife biologist Sanjay Gubbi and the Holematthi Nature Foundation, with researchers noting that genetic confirmation will require non-invasive DNA analysis.

93. Which private sector bank has received approval from the Government of India to enter the Capital Gains Account Scheme (CGAS) market, allowing taxpayers to park uninvested long-term capital gains from January 1, 2026?

किस प्राइवेट सेक्टर बैंक को भारत सरकार से कैपिटल गेन्स अकाउंट स्कीम (CGAS) मार्केट में एंट्री करने की मंजूरी मिली है, जिससे टैक्सपेयर्स 1 जनवरी, 2026 से बिना इन्वेस्ट किए गए लॉन्ग-टर्म कैपिटल गेन्स को पार्क कर सकेंगे?

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

Ans. c

Sol. ICICI Bank Enters Capital Gains Account Scheme, Offering Tax-Saving Option from 2026

ICICI Bank has entered the Capital Gains Account Scheme (CGAS) after the Government of India approval, allowing resident individuals and HUFs to park uninvested long-term capital gains from January 1, 2026.

The CGAS account enables taxpayers to earn interest for up to three years while preserving capital gains tax exemptions and planning reinvestment.

ICICI Bank becomes one of the few authorised banks to offer CGAS, easing reinvestment timeline challenges faced by taxpayers, especially in property transactions.

The move expands access to CGAS in urban and semi-urban areas, positioning the scheme as both a tax-compliance tool and short-term capital management solution.

About Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) Bank

- **Founded** - 1994
- **Headquarters** – Mumbai
- **MD & CEO** - Sandeep Bakhshi
- **Tagline** - Hum Hai Na Khayal Apka

94. The 2nd Khelo India Beach Games will be held at Ghoghla Beach, Diu, from 5 to 10 January, organised by the UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. Which of the following is not a medal event at the Khelo India Beach Games?

दूसरे खेलो इंडिया बीच गेम्स 5 से 10 जनवरी तक दीव के घोगला बीच पर आयोजित किए जाएंगे, जिसका आयोजन दादरा और नगर हवेली और दमन और दीव के केंद्र शासित प्रदेश द्वारा किया जाएगा। निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा खेलो इंडिया बीच गेम्स में मेडल इवेंट नहीं है?

- (a) Beach Kabaddi
- (b) Beach Sepak Takraw
- (c) Open Water Swimming
- (d) Mallakhamb
- (e) Beach Volleyball

Ans. d

Sol. 2nd Khelo India Beach Games Kicks Off at Ghoghla Beach, Diu with 2,100+ Athletes

The 2nd Khelo India Beach Games will be held at Ghoghla Beach, Diu, from 5 to 10 January, organised by the UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

Over 2,100 athletes will compete in eight beach sports, with six medal events including Beach Soccer, Beach Volleyball, Beach Kabaddi, Pencak Silat and Open Water Swimming. Mallakhamb and Tug of War are the non-medal events.

Conducted under the technical supervision of the Sports Authority of India, the event aligns with PM Narendra Modi's vision of promoting a strong sports culture and healthy youth.

Mascot: Pearls - the Dolphin

95. Which country became the first to formally recognise Somaliland as an independent and sovereign state?

कौन सा देश औपचारिक रूप से सोमालीलैंड को एक स्वतंत्र और संप्रभु राज्य के रूप में मान्यता देने वाला पहला देश बन गया?

- (a) United States

- (b) United Kingdom
- (c) Israel
- (d) Turkey
- (e) United Arab Emirates

Ans. c

Sol. Israel Becomes First Country to Recognise Somaliland as an Independent State
Israel became the first country to formally recognise Somaliland as an independent and sovereign state, a move likely to impact regional dynamics and challenge Somalia's opposition to secession.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced immediate cooperation with Somaliland in agriculture, health, technology and the economy, and signed a joint declaration of mutual recognition with President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi.

About Israel

- **Capital** - Jerusalem
- **Currency** - Sheqel
- **President** - Isaac Herzog
- **Prime Minister** - Benjamin Netanyahu

96. A total of 63 wrestlers were bought in the Pro Wrestling League Season 5 auction, with six franchises spending over ₹11 crore to build their squads. Who received the highest bid of ₹60 lakh in the auction?

प्रो रेसलिंग लीग सीज़न 5 की नीलामी में कुल 63 पहलवानों को खरीदा गया, जिसमें छह फ्रेंचाइजी ने अपनी टीमों बनाने के लिए ₹11 करोड़ से ज़्यादा खर्च किए। नीलामी में सबसे ज़्यादा ₹60 लाख की बोली किसे मिली?

- (a) Robert Baran
- (b) Aman Sehrawat
- (c) Sujeet Kalkal
- (d) Yui Susaki
- (e) Antim Panghal

Ans. d

Sol. Pro Wrestling League Season 5 Auction Sees 63 Wrestlers Sold for Over ₹11 Crore

A total of 63 wrestlers were bought in the Pro Wrestling League Season 5 auction, with six franchises spending over ₹11 crore to build their squads.

Yui Susaki, two-time Olympic medallist and four-time world champion, received the highest bid of ₹60 lakh from Haryana Thunders.

Among men, Robert Baran was the most expensive, purchased by Maharashtra Kesari for ₹55 lakh, while Indian wrestlers Sujeet Kalkal and Antim Panghal attracted bids of ₹52 lakh each.

The tournament resumes after six years, scheduled from 15 January to 1 February at the Noida Indoor Stadium, featuring nine weight categories across men's and women's divisions.

97. Which company signed an MoU with NSTFDC for CSR-funded development of Eklavya Model Residential Schools?

किस कंपनी ने एकलव्य मॉडल रेजिडेंशियल स्कूलों के CSR-फंडेड डेवलपमेंट के लिए NSTFDC के साथ MoU साइन किया?

- (a) Indian Oil Corporation
- (b) ONGC Ltd.
- (c) Bharat Petroleum
- (d) Reliance Industries
- (e) GAIL India

Ans. b

Sol. ONGC Partners with NSTFDC to Boost Infrastructure and Education in Eklavya Model Residential Schools

ONGC Ltd. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NSTFDC to support infrastructure development and welfare initiatives for Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), aimed at tribal youth empowerment.

The initiative focuses on career mentorship, digital education, teacher capacity building, and holistic development of tribal students enrolled in EMRS.

Under the project, ONGC has sanctioned ₹28 crores for digital learning infrastructure, health and hygiene interventions (like sanitary pad vending machines and incinerators), career counseling, and entrepreneurship training across 144 EMRS in 11 states and UTs.

The project is expected to benefit over 35,000 tribal students, enhancing equal access to quality education, technology, and career opportunities.

98. Who released the book "Khutbat-e-Modi: Lal Qila Ki Faseel Se"?

“खुल्बात-ए-मोदी: लाल क़िला की फ़सील से” पुस्तक का विमोचन किसने किया?

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Amit Shah
- (c) Dharmendra Pradhan
- (d) Rajnath Singh
- (e) Nirmala Sitharaman

Ans. c

Sol. Dharmendra Pradhan Releases Urdu Compilation of PM Modi's Independence Day Speeches

Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan released the Urdu book "Khutbat-e-Modi: Lal Qila Ki Faseel Se" in New Delhi.

The book compiles Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speeches (2014–2025) delivered from the Red Fort, presented in Urdu.

Published by the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) under the Ministry of Education, the compilation highlights New India's transformation and the government's focus on linguistic inclusivity.

Recent Books

- **The Great Sanctions Hack** – Urjit Patel (Published by Rupa Publications India)
- **Salman Khan: The Sultan of Bollywood** - Mohar Basu (publish by HarperCollins India)
- **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 Dhillion (launched by Upendra Dwivedi)

99. The two-day Human Capital Working Group Meeting focusing on education reform, workforce transition and inclusive AI adoption is being jointly hosted by which of the following organisations at IIT Guwahati?

शिक्षा सुधार, कार्यबल परिवर्तन और मानव-केंद्रित AI अपनाने पर केंद्रित दो-दिवसीय मानव पूंजी कार्य समूह बैठक का आयोजन किन संस्थाओं द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से किया जा रहा है?

- (a) MeitY, IndiaAI Mission, Government of Assam and IIT Guwahati
- (b) Ministry of Education, NITI Aayog and IIT Guwahati
- (c) MeitY, NASSCOM, Government of Assam and IIT Delhi
- (d) IndiaAI Mission, AICTE and IIT Madras
- (e) MeitY, DRDO and IISc Bengaluru

Ans. a

Sol. MeitY, IndiaAI and IIT Guwahati Host Human Capital Working Group Meeting on AI

MeitY, IndiaAI Mission, Government of Assam and IIT Guwahati are jointly hosting a two-day Human Capital Working Group Meeting at the IIT Guwahati campus.

The meeting brought together policymakers, academic leaders and industry experts to discuss education reforms, workforce transition and human-centric AI adoption.

Chaired by Prof. T. G. Sitharam, the meeting serves as a precursor to the India AI Impact Summit 2026, scheduled in New Delhi (15–20 February 2026).

100. SAMPANN is an integrated online pension management system for Department of Telecommunications (DoT) pensioners, enabling end-to-end processing, sanctioning and direct bank transfer of pensions. What is the full form of SAMPANN in the context of pension management?

SAMPANN दूरसंचार विभाग (DoT) के पेंशनभोगियों के लिए एक इंटीग्रेटेड ऑनलाइन पेंशन मैनेजमेंट सिस्टम है, जो पेंशन की एंड-टू-एंड प्रोसेसिंग, मंजूरी और सीधे बैंक ट्रांसफर को सक्षम बनाता है। पेंशन प्रबंधन के संदर्भ में SAMPANN का पूरा नाम क्या है?

- (a) System for Accounting and Monitoring of Pension Network
- (b) Scheme for Automated Management of Pension and Nominations
- (c) System for Accounting and Management of Pension
- (d) Software for Allocation and Management of Pension Network
- (e) System for Administration and Monitoring of Pension Norms

Ans. c

Sol. SAMPANN Integrated Pension System Enhanced with DigiLocker Access for DoT Pensioners

SAMPANN (System for Accounting and Management of Pension) is an integrated online pension management system for Department of Telecommunications (DoT) pensioners, enabling end-to-end processing, sanctioning and direct bank transfer of pensions.

The platform provides online grievance redressal, digital profile management and transaction records, improving transparency, efficiency and service delivery for telecom retirees.

To promote digital governance and paperless services, key pension documents such as Pension Payment Orders, Gratuity Orders, Commutation Orders and Form 16 are now available via DigiLocker, allowing secure anytime access and long-term digital preservation.

101. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador for Reliance's packaged water brand Campa Sure?

रिलायंस के पैकेज्ड वाटर ब्रांड कैम्पा श्योर का ब्रांड एंबेसडर किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Ram Charan
- (b) Amitabh Bachchan
- (c) Deepika Padukone
- (d) Ajith Kumar
- (e) Salman Khan

Ans. b

Sol. Reliance Signs Amitabh Bachchan as Brand Ambassador for Campa Sure Packaged Water

Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL) has signed Amitabh Bachchan as the brand ambassador for its packaged drinking water brand Campa Sure.

This marks the third major brand endorsement by RCPL in recent months, following Ram Charan's association with Campa and a strategic partnership with Ajith Kumar's motorsport team.

The move comes amid heightened competition in the packaged water segment, especially after the GST on mineral water was reduced to 5% from 18%, prompting price cuts across the industry.

Recent Brand Ambassador

- *Andre De Grasse - Tata Mumbai Marathon 2026*
- *Cristiano Ronaldo - AI company Perplexity*
- *Harmanpreet Kaur - PNB (First Female Brand Ambassador)*
- *Indian cricket Abhishek Sharma - United Arab Emirates (NewsVair) DP World*
- *Rohit Sharma -ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026*
- *Shafali Verma - Haryana Women's Commission*

102. Which state government has recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Reserve Bank of India to enable the central bank to act as its banker, debt manager, and financial agent, thereby improving management of borrowings and cash flows?

. हाल ही में किस राज्य सरकार ने केंद्रीय बैंक को अपने बैंकर, ऋण प्रबंधक और वित्तीय एजेंट के रूप में कार्य करने में सक्षम बनाने के लिए भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं, जिससे उधार और नकदी प्रवाह के प्रबंधन में सुधार होगा?

- (a) Maharashtra Government
- (b) Delhi Government
- (c) Karnataka Government
- (d) Tamil Nadu Government
- (e) Gujarat Government

Ans. b

Sol. Delhi Government Signs MoU with RBI to Streamline Borrowings and Cash Management

Delhi government signs MoU with RBI, allowing it to act as banker, debt manager, and financial agent for the state.

The MoU enables market borrowings through State Development Loans, automatic surplus cash investment, professional cash management, and access to low-cost liquidity.

CM Rekha Gupta calls the agreement a transformational milestone and a long-overdue financial reform

103. In January 2026, which company entered the private credit market by launching Structured Credit Fund-I targeting mid-market companies?

जनवरी 2026 में, किस कंपनी ने मध्य-बाज़ार कंपनियों को लक्षित करते हुए स्ट्रक्चर्ड क्रेडिट फंड-I लॉन्च करके निजी क्रेडिट बाज़ार में प्रवेश किया?

- (a) ICICI Bank
- (b) HDFC AMC
- (c) SBI Mutual Fund
- (d) Kotak Mahindra AMC
- (e) Axis Bank

Ans. b

Sol. HDFC AMC Launches ₹2,500-Crore Structured Credit Fund to Tap Private Credit Market

HDFC AMC enters the private credit market with its new Structured Credit Fund-I, targeting mid-market companies with alternative debt financing.

IFC, part of the World Bank Group, will invest up to ₹220 crore as an anchor investor; the fund has already secured ₹1,290 crore in its first close, aiming for a total corpus of ₹1,500 crore with a green-shoe option of ₹1,000 crore.

The fund will invest in mid-market companies across sectors, aiming for mid-teen returns over 4–6 years, enhancing access to finance, supporting job creation, and promoting market innovation.

104. Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader Suresh Kalmadi passed away in Pune at the age of 81. During which years did Suresh Kalmadi serve as the president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)?

पूर्व केंद्रीय मंत्री और वरिष्ठ कांग्रेस नेता सुरेश कलमाड़ी का 81 वर्ष की आयु में पुणे में निधन हो गया। सुरेश कलमाड़ी ने किस वर्ष के दौरान भारतीय ओलंपिक संघ (IOA) के अध्यक्ष के रूप में कार्य किया?

- (a) 1990–2000
- (b) 1992–2008
- (c) 1996–2012
- (d) 1998–2014
- (e) 2000–2016

Ans. c

Sol. Former Union Minister and Congress Leader Suresh Kalmadi Passes Away at 81

Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader Suresh Kalmadi passed away in Pune at the age of 81.

He served as Union Minister of State for Railways (1995–1996) and presented the Railway Budget during P.V. Narasimha Rao's tenure.

Kalmadi was also the president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) from 1996 to 2012 and represented Pune multiple times in the Lok Sabha.

105. Recently, the website of the Post Graduate Insolvency Programme (PGIP) was launched at the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) campus. Who among the following launched this website while presiding over the event as the Chief Guest?

हाल ही में, इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ कॉर्पोरेट अफेयर्स (IICA) कैम्पस में पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट इनसॉल्वेंसी प्रोग्राम (PGIP) की वेबसाइट लॉन्च की गई। निम्नलिखित में से किसने इस कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि के तौर पर अध्यक्षता करते हुए इस वेबसाइट को लॉन्च किया?

- (a) Ajay Tyagi
- (b) Tuhin Kanta Pandey
- (c) Ravi Mittal
- (d) Rajesh Verma
- (e) Injeti Srinivas

Ans. c

Sol. IBBI Chairperson Ravi Mittal Launches IICA PGIP Programme Website

IBBI Chairperson Shri Ravi Mittal launched the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) PGIP programme website while presiding as Chief Guest at an event on the IICA campus.

He encouraged students interested in research to apply for the upcoming IBBI research programme, offering selected candidates an opportunity to work with IBBI. The newly launched website will serve as a digital platform to connect PGIP alumni with current students, promoting interaction, knowledge sharing, problem-solving, and industry exposure through alumni engagement.

106. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) recently approved the acquisition of which company by Nippon Steel Corporation?

भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (CCI) ने हाल ही में निप्पॉन स्टील कॉर्पोरेशन द्वारा किस कंपनी के अधिग्रहण को मंजूरी दी?

- (a) JFE Steel Corporation
- (b) Krosaki Harima Corporation
- (c) Sumitomo Metals
- (d) Kobe Steel
- (e) Tata Steel

Ans. b**Sol.** CCI Approves Nippon Steel Corporation's Acquisition of Krosaki Harima Corporation

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of Krosaki Harima Corporation by Nippon Steel Corporation, Japan.

Under the proposed combination, Nippon Steel will acquire 53.4% additional stake in Krosaki through a tender offer and potential squeeze-out, increasing its total shareholding to 100%.

Krosaki, a publicly listed Japanese company, operates in India through affiliates, manufacturing and selling refractory products serving industries like iron & steel, lime, aluminium, power, cement, and copper.

Nippon Steel, also Japan-based, is engaged in India in manufacturing tubes and pipes, processing automotive cold-rolled steel sheets, crankshafts, auto-parts, and importing and selling various steel products.

107. ITI Aayog released the fifth edition of its flagship publication Trade Watch Quarterly, presenting a data-driven assessment of India's trade performance in Q1 FY 2025–26 (April–June 2025), with a special focus on automotive exports. Who unveiled the fifth edition of Trade Watch Quarterly in New Delhi?

नीति आयोग ने अपने प्रमुख पब्लिकेशन ट्रेड वॉच क्वार्टरली का पांचवां एडिशन जारी किया, जिसमें Q1 FY 2025–26 (अप्रैल-जून 2025) में भारत के ट्रेड परफॉर्मेंस का डेटा-आधारित मूल्यांकन पेश किया गया है, जिसमें ऑटोमोटिव एक्सपोर्ट पर खास ध्यान दिया गया है। नई दिल्ली में ट्रेड वॉच क्वार्टरली के पांचवें एडिशन का अनावरण किसने किया?

- (a) **Nirmala Sitharaman**
- (b) **Dr. Arvind Virmani**
- (c) **Rajiv Kumar**
- (d) **Amitabh Kant**
- (e) **Ramesh Abhishek**

Ans. b**Sol.** NITI Aayog Unveils Fifth Edition of Trade Watch Quarterly

NITI Aayog released the fifth edition of its flagship publication Trade Watch Quarterly, presenting a data-driven assessment of India's trade performance in Q1 FY 2025–26 (April–June 2025), with a special focus on automotive exports.

The report was unveiled in New Delhi on January 6 by Dr. Arvind Virmani, Member, NITI Aayog, and highlights structural shifts in India's trade, including rising technology-intensive exports and resilient services-led growth.

A key thematic section analyses India's automotive exports, noting strong performance in auto components and select vehicle segments such as motorcycles

and tractors, while identifying a large untapped global market worth about USD 2.2 trillion.

The publication outlines policy priorities to enhance export competitiveness, including improving quality standards, adopting advanced technologies, strengthening logistics, diversifying markets, and deepening integration into global automotive value chains.

108. The Third Technical Hindi Symposium titled "Abhyuday-3", aimed at promoting the use of Technical Hindi in scientific and technological domains, was organised at which of the following institutions?

वैज्ञानिक और तकनीकी क्षेत्रों में तकनीकी हिंदी के इस्तेमाल को बढ़ावा देने के मकसद से, "अभ्युदय-3" नाम का तीसरा टेक्निकल हिंदी सिम्पोजियम इनमें से किस संस्थान में आयोजित किया गया था?

- (a) Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur
- (b) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- (c) Indian Institute of Technology Indore
- (d) Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
- (e) National Institute of Technology Bhopal

Ans. c

Sol. CSIR-NIScPR, IIT Indore and IIT Jodhpur Organise Third Technical Hindi Symposium "Abhyuday-3"

CSIR-NIScPR, IIT Indore, and IIT Jodhpur jointly organised the third Technical Hindi Symposium "Abhyuday-3" at IIT Indore, which concluded as a two-day academic event.

The symposium aimed to promote the use of Technical Hindi and enhance the outreach of science and technology to wider sections of society through effective communication.

The programme featured invited lectures on science, engineering, digital technologies, and innovation, along with paper presentation sessions where 25 participants presented their research in Hindi.

109. Union Minister for Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan recently released 55 literary works in classical Indian languages at which place?

केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्री श्री धर्मेन्द्र प्रधान ने हाल ही में किस जगह पर क्लासिकल भारतीय भाषाओं में 55 साहित्यिक कृतियों का विमोचन किया?

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

(d) New Delhi

(e) Thiruvananthapuram

Ans. d

Sol. Dharmendra Pradhan Releases 55 Literary Works in Classical Indian Languages
Union Minister for Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan released 55 literary works in classical Indian languages at an event held in New Delhi.

The releases include 41 books prepared by the Centres of Excellence for Classical Languages under the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL).

Additionally, 13 books and a Tirukkural Sign Language series were brought out by the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), covering Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Odia, and Tamil.

The initiative aims to promote India's linguistic heritage, strengthen classical language research, and foster cultural pride by integrating traditional knowledge into education.

110. WaveX, which recently signed an MoU with FITT-IIT Delhi, is an initiative under which ministry?

WaveX, जिसने हाल ही में FITT-IIT दिल्ली के साथ एक MoU साइन किया है, किस मिनिस्ट्री के तहत एक इनिशिएटिव है?

(a) Ministry of Electronics and IT

(b) Ministry of Education

(c) Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

(d) Ministry of Commerce & Industry

(e) Ministry of Science & Technology

Ans. c

Sol. Ministry of I&B's WaveX Signs MoU with FITT-IIT Delhi to Boost Innovation in Broadcasting and Entertainment

WaveX, the startup accelerator initiative of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, signed an MoU with the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi, to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in media, entertainment, broadcasting, and communication technologies.

Under the collaboration, FITT, IIT Delhi will support the implementation and expansion of the WaveX Programme by helping establish and strengthen incubation centres across the country.

FITT will provide strategic and operational guidance, technical expertise, research facilities, mentorship, intellectual property (IP) support, and capacity-building for startups and incubation managers.

111. The State Bank of India (SBI), the only Indian bank with a presence in Israel, is facilitating bilateral trade between India and Israel in Indian rupees (INR). This initiative comes amid growing economic engagement between the two countries, as discussions on which agreement gain momentum?

स्टेट बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया (SBI), जो इज़राइल में मौजूद एकमात्र भारतीय बैंक है, भारतीय रुपये (INR) में भारत और इज़राइल के बीच द्विपक्षीय व्यापार को आसान बना रहा है। यह पहल दोनों देशों के बीच बढ़ते आर्थिक जुड़ाव के बीच आई है, जिसके तहत किस समझौते पर चर्चा तेज़ हो रही है?

- (a) Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)
- (b) Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
- (c) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)
- (d) Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)
- (e) Strategic Defence Pact

Ans. b

Sol. SBI Promotes India-Israel Trade in Rupees as FTA Talks Gain Momentum

SBI, the only Indian bank in Israel, is promoting bilateral trade between India and Israel in Indian rupees (INR) as Free Trade Agreement (FTA) discussions gain momentum.

Israeli entities can now make and receive payments in INR through SBI's Special Rupee Vostro Account (SRVA) for exports/imports of goods and services.

SBI Tel Aviv has organised meetings and webinars with the Israel-India Chamber of Commerce and engaged major Israeli defence entities to facilitate rupee trade and strengthen economic ties.

The branch also supports over 40,000 Indian workers in Israel by facilitating remittances to India and opening NRI accounts, while providing trade finance, bank guarantees, and corporate banking services.

112. Australian batter Steve Smith became the second-highest run-scorer in Ashes history on January 6, 2026. Whose record did Steve Smith surpass to become the second-highest run-scorer in Ashes history?

ऑस्ट्रेलियाई बल्लेबाज़ स्टीव स्मिथ 6 जनवरी, 2026 को एशेज इतिहास में दूसरे सबसे ज़्यादा रन बनाने वाले खिलाड़ी बन गए। स्टीव स्मिथ ने एशेज इतिहास में दूसरे सबसे ज़्यादा रन बनाने वाले खिलाड़ी बनने के लिए किसका रिकॉर्ड तोड़ा?

- (a) Don Bradman
- (b) Joe Root
- (c) Jack Hobbs
- (d) Alastair Cook
- (e) Ricky Ponting

Ans. b

Sol. Steve Smith Becomes Second-Highest Run-Scorer in Ashes History, Only Behind Don Bradman

Australian batter Steve Smith became the second-highest run-scorer in Ashes history on January 6, 2026, surpassing England's Jack Hobbs during Day 2 of the fifth Test at Sydney Cricket Ground.

Smith has scored 3644 runs in 41 matches and 73 innings at an average of 56.93, including 13 centuries and 15 half-centuries, placing him only behind Australian legend Don Bradman, who scored 5028 runs.

Steve Smith notched his 37th Test century and 13th Ashes century, surpassing Jack Hobbs' record of 12 Ashes hundreds; only Don Bradman's 19 Ashes centuries remain ahead.

113. India has recently introduced the e-Production Investment Business Visa, also known as the e-B-4 Visa, for Chinese business professionals. What is the primary purpose of this visa?

भारत ने हाल ही में चीनी बिज़नेस प्रोफेशनल्स के लिए ई-प्रोडक्शन इन्वेस्टमेंट बिज़नेस वीज़ा पेश किया है, जिसे ई-बी-4 वीज़ा भी कहा जाता है। इस वीज़ा का मुख्य मकसद क्या है?

- (a) To allow Chinese nationals to travel to India for tourism, sightseeing, and leisure activities.
- (b) To provide employment opportunities exclusively in India's IT sector.
- (c) To facilitate specified industrial, manufacturing, and investment-related commercial activities.
- (d) To enable Chinese students to participate in academic research and exchange programs in Indian universities.
- (e) To allow diplomats and government officials to carry out bilateral discussions and official visits.

Ans. c

Sol. India Launches e-B-4 Visa for Chinese Business Professionals to Boost Industrial and Investment Activities

India has introduced the e-Production Investment Business Visa (e-B-4 Visa) for Chinese business professionals, allowing travel to India for specified industrial and commercial activities as part of measures to stabilise and reset bilateral ties.

The e-B-4 Visa, effective from January 1, can be applied for entirely online, permits a stay of up to six months, and is designed to facilitate production-linked and investment-related business operations.

Permitted activities under the visa include equipment installation, quality checks, IT system ramp-up, workforce training, supply chain development, plant commissioning, and visits by senior management, with applications processed via the

Bureau of Immigration portal for individuals and the NSW portal for Indian companies.

114. According to Indian Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra), India's GDP is projected to grow by what percentage in FY 2026-27?

इंडियन रेटिंग्स एंड रिसर्च (इंड-रा) के अनुसार, FY 2026-27 में भारत की GDP कितने प्रतिशत बढ़ने का अनुमान है?

- (a) 6.5%
- (b) 6.7%
- (c) 6.9%
- (d) 7.1%
- (e) 7.4%

Ans. c

Sol. India's GDP Projected to Grow 6.9% in FY 2026-27: Ind-Ra

This projected growth is lower than the estimated 7.4% GDP growth for the Financial Year 2025-26.

115. In January 2026, how much total funding did EXIM Bank raise through its dual-tranche U.S. dollar-denominated bonds?

जनवरी 2026 में, EXIM बैंक ने अपने दोहरे किश्त वाले अमेरिकी डॉलर-मूल्य वाले बांड के माध्यम से कुल कितनी धनराशि जुटाई?

- (a) \$500 million
- (b) \$750 million
- (c) \$1 billion
- (d) \$1.5 billion
- (e) \$2 billion

Ans. c

Sol. EXIM Bank Raises \$1 Billion Through Dual-Tranche U.S. Dollar Bonds in First 2026 Debt Issue

The Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) accepted bids worth \$1 billion for its dual-tranche, longer-duration U.S. dollar-denominated bonds, marking India's first such debt issue of 2026.

The bank raised \$500 million through 10-year bonds at a 5.00% yield, representing a spread of 85 basis points over the 10-year U.S. Treasury yield.

Another \$500 million was raised through 30-year bonds at a 5.75% yield, with a spread of 95 basis points over the comparable U.S. Treasury yield.

116. The first meeting of the Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) was held in Mumbai. Who chaired the first meeting of the Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)?

पेमेंट्स रेगुलेटरी बोर्ड (PRB) की पहली बैठक मुंबई में हुई। पेमेंट्स रेगुलेटरी बोर्ड (PRB) की पहली मीटिंग की अध्यक्षता किसने की?

- (a) Union Finance Minister
- (b) RBI Deputy Governor
- (c) RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra
- (d) SEBI Chairperson
- (e) Secretary, Ministry of Finance

Ans.)

Sol. First Meeting of Payments Regulatory Board Held Under RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra

The first meeting of the Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) was held in Mumbai under the chairmanship of RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

The PRB was constituted following amendments to the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, which came into effect on 9 May last year.

The meeting reviewed the functioning of the Department of Payment and Settlement Systems and discussed key issues related to domestic and global payment systems, including the draft Payments Vision 2028 and findings of the RBI's Digital Payments Survey.

117. Manoj Kothari, who passed away at the age of 67, was associated with which sport?

मनोज कोठारी, जिनका 67 साल की उम्र में निधन हो गया, किस खेल से जुड़े थे?

- (a) Snooker
- (b) Carrom
- (c) Billiards
- (d) Table Tennis
- (e) Chess

Ans. c

Sol. Former World Billiards Champion Manoj Kothari Passes Away at 67

Manoj Kothari, former IBSF World Billiards Champion and Dhyan Chand Award recipient, passed away at the age of 67.

He achieved global recognition by winning the IBSF World Billiards Championship in 1990 and later the World Doubles Billiards Championship in 1997.

Beyond his playing career, Kothari served as the chief national coach of the Indian billiards team from 2011 for over a decade, mentoring several generations of players and guiding them to multiple world titles.

In recognition of his lifetime contribution to sports, the Government of India honoured him with the Dhyan Chand Award in 2005, presented by then President A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.

118. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah created history by becoming the longest-serving Chief Minister of the state, surpassing the long-standing tenure record of which former Chief Minister?

कर्नाटक के मुख्यमंत्री सिद्धारमैया ने राज्य के सबसे लंबे समय तक मुख्यमंत्री रहने का इतिहास रचा, उन्होंने किस पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री के लंबे कार्यकाल के रिकॉर्ड को तोड़ा?

- (a) S. Nijalingappa
- (b) Ramakrishna Hegde
- (c) S. M. Krishna
- (d) Devaraj Urs
- (e) Dharam Singh

Ans. d

Sol. Siddaramaiah Becomes Longest-Serving Chief Minister of Karnataka
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah created history by becoming the longest-serving Chief Minister of Karnataka, surpassing the record of late Devaraj Urs, a key figure in the state's social justice and land reform movement.

On January 6, during his second term, the 77-year-old leader equalled Urs' total tenure of 2,792 days in office, combining service across two terms.

Siddaramaiah is also the only Chief Minister after Devaraj Urs to complete a full five-year term, having served 1,829 days in his first tenure (2013–2018) and 963 days in his current term since May 2023.

About Karnataka

- **Capital** – Bengaluru
- **Chief Minister** – Siddaramaiah
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - DK Shivakumar
- **Governor** – Thawar Chand Gehlot

119. In January 2026, Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque was sworn in as the Chief Justice of which High Court?

जनवरी 2026 में, जस्टिस ए. मुहम्मद मुस्ताक ने किस हाई कोर्ट के चीफ जस्टिस के तौर पर शपथ ली?

- (a) Kerala High Court
- (b) Calcutta High Court
- (c) Sikkim High Court
- (d) Gauhati High Court

(e) Patna High Court**Ans. c**

Sol. Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque Sworn in as 24th Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court

Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque was sworn in as the 24th Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim at Ashirwad Hall, Lok Bhawan, with Governor Om Prakash Mathur administering the oath of office.

He succeeds Justice Biswanath Somadder, who recently retired from the post of Chief Justice of the Sikkim High Court.

Recent Appointments

- **Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court** - Justice Mahesh Sharadchandra Sonak
- **President of Atal Smriti Nyas Society** - M. Venkaiah Naidu (replace Vijay Kumar Malhotra)
- **MD & CEO of Hyundai Motor India** - Tarun Garg
- **DG of Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** - Lav Aggarwal
- **Chairman & Managing Director of the Food Corporation of India (FCI)** - Rabindra Kumar Agarwal

120. The Election Commission of India held a conference of Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) in New Delhi to prepare for the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM 2026). What is the theme of IICDEM 2026?

भारत के चुनाव आयोग ने इंडिया इंटरनेशनल कॉन्फ्रेंस ऑन डेमोक्रेसी एंड इलेक्शन मैनेजमेंट (IICDEM 2026) की तैयारी के लिए नई दिल्ली में मुख्य चुनाव अधिकारियों (CEOs) का एक सम्मेलन आयोजित किया। IICDEM 2026 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Strengthening Electoral Reforms in Developing Nations
- (b) Democracy and Technology for Transparent Elections
- (c) Democracy for an inclusive, peaceful, resilient and sustainable world
- (d) Global Cooperation for Free and Fair Elections
- (e) Inclusive Governance through Digital Democracy

Ans. c

Sol. Election Commission Holds CEOs' Conference to Prepare for IICDEM 2026 in New Delhi

Election Commission of India held a conference of Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) in New Delhi to prepare for the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM 2026), scheduled from January 21–23 at Bharat Mandapam.

Theme: Democracy for an inclusive, peaceful, resilient and sustainable world
 Discussions focused on 36 thematic groups covering key aspects of election management, aimed at building a structured global knowledge base from the experiences of Election Management Bodies worldwide.

IICDEM 2026 is expected to be the largest international event hosted by India in the field of election management, with nearly 100 international delegates, multiple plenary sessions, bilateral meetings and participation from leading academic institutions.

About IICDEM (India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management)

- The India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) is a global platform initiated by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to promote dialogue, cooperation and knowledge-sharing on democratic processes and election management.
- Director General - Rakesh Kumar Verma

121. The National Textiles Ministers' Conference 2026, aimed at strengthening Centre-State coordination and promoting growth, innovation and heritage in the textile sector, was held in which city?

टेक्सटाइल सेक्टर में केंद्र-राज्य समन्वय को मज़बूत करने और विकास, इनोवेशन और विरासत को बढ़ावा देने के मकसद से नेशनल टेक्सटाइल्स मिनिस्टर्स कॉन्फ्रेंस 2026 किस शहर में आयोजित की गई थी?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Ahmedabad
- (c) Jaipur
- (d) Guwahati
- (e) Kolkata

Ans. d

Sol. Assam Hosts Two-Day National Textiles Ministers' Conference to Boost India's Textile Sector

The National Textiles Ministers' Conference 2026 was held in Guwahati, Assam, organised by the Ministry of Textiles in collaboration with the Government of Assam under the theme "India's Textiles: Weaving Growth, Heritage & Innovation".

The conference will focus on policy reforms, infrastructure development, sustainability, exports and technological innovation, aligning with the vision of making India a global textile manufacturing hub by 2030 and the principle of "Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi".

The inaugural session will be attended by Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and MoS for Textiles Pabitra Margherita, along with the launch of an exhibition showcasing India's textile capabilities and heritage.

About Ministry of Textiles

- Cabinet Minister- Giriraj Singh (Constituency- Begusarai, Bihar)
- Minister of State- Pabitra Margherita (Rajya Sabha- Assam)

122. According to Goldman Sachs, India's GDP growth rate in FY 2026–27 is expected to be:

गोल्डमैन सैक्स के अनुसार, FY 2026-27 में भारत की GDP ग्रोथ रेट रहने की उम्मीद है:

- (a) 7.5%
- (b) 7.3%
- (c) 7.0%
- (d) 6.8%
- (e) 6.5%

Ans. d

Sol. Goldman Sachs Projects India's GDP Growth at 6.8% in FY 2026–27

Goldman Sachs has projected that India's GDP growth will moderate to 6.8% in FY 2026–27, compared to an estimated 7.3% in FY 2025–26.

Goldman Sachs is an American multinational investment bank and financial services company, known for its global economic and financial forecasts.

The firm was founded in 1869 and is headquartered in Lower Manhattan, New York City.

GDP Projection List 2025

- India Ratings & Research – 6.9% (FY27)
- ADB – 7.2% (FY26)
- Fitch Rating – 7.4% (FY25)
- Ind-Ra – 7% (FY26)
- CRISIL – 7% (FY26)
- IMF – 6.4% (FY26); 6.2% (FY27)

123. According to the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as of March 2025, the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) had insured a portion of total bank deposits held in commercial and cooperative banks in India. Considering both public and private sector banks, foreign banks, regional rural banks, cooperative banks and small finance banks, what was the percentage of total bank deposits by value that were insured under DICGC?

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) द्वारा जारी नवीनतम आंकड़ों के अनुसार, मार्च 2025 तक, डिपॉजिट इंश्योरेंस एंड क्रेडिट गारंटी कॉर्पोरेशन (DICGC) ने भारत में कमर्शियल और कोऑपरेटिव बैंकों में रखे कुल बैंक डिपॉजिट के एक हिस्से का बीमा किया था। पब्लिक और प्राइवेट सेक्टर के बैंकों, विदेशी बैंकों, क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों, कोऑपरेटिव बैंकों और स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंकों को ध्यान में रखते हुए, DICGC के तहत कुल बैंक डिपॉजिट का मूल्य के हिसाब से कितना प्रतिशत बीमा किया गया था?

- (a) 39.8%
 (b) 41.5%
 (c) 43.1%
 (d) 45.0%
 (e) 47.2%

Ans. b

Sol. DICGC Insures 41.5% of Bank Deposits, Fund Balance Rises to ₹2.29 Lakh Crore as of March 2025

As of March 2025, 41.5% of total bank deposits by value and 97.6% by number of accounts in commercial and cooperative banks were insured by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), which provides coverage up to ₹5 lakh per depositor.

Out of ₹241.08 lakh crore total bank deposits, ₹100.12 lakh crore were insured, slightly lower than the previous year's 43.1% (₹94.12 lakh crore) coverage.

In FY 2025, DICGC settled ₹476 crore of claims and recovered ₹1,309 crore, with the deposit insurance fund balance reaching ₹2.29 lakh crore, a 15.2% increase year-on-year; insured deposits grew 6.4%.

Since its inception in 1961, DICGC has funded the scheme through a flat-rate premium of 12 paise per ₹100 of assessable deposits charged to banks.

Protected Pool

Bank Group wise insured deposits

Bank	Number	Insured Deposit	Assessable Deposits	IDR*
PSU Bank	12	59.5	126.1	47.2
Pvt Bank	21	25.7	81.9	31.4
Foreign Bank	44	0.5	10.9	4.8
Small Finance Banks	11	1.1	2.7	39.8
Payments Bank	6	0.3	0.3	99.4
RRB	43	5.3	6.6	79.6
Local Area Banks	2	0.0	0.1	72.2
Urban Coop Banks	1,457	3.8	5.8	65.0
State Coop Bank	34	0.7	1.6	42.2
DCCB	352	3.3	5.1	64.3
Total	1,982	100.1	241.0	41.5

Source: RBI; All number upto March 31, 2025; All number in ₹ lakh crore
 *IDR is Insured Deposits Ratio. It is the ratio of insured deposits to total assessable deposits in %

124. Who inaugurated the State Bank of India's first-ever Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Bengaluru, highlighting SBI's commitment to supporting the rapidly growing GCC ecosystem in India?

किसने 7 जनवरी, 2026 को बेंगलुरु में स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया का पहला ग्लोबल कैपेबिलिटी सेंटर (GCC) उद्घाटित किया, जो भारत में तेजी से बढ़ते GCC इकोसिस्टम के समर्थन के प्रति SBI की प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाता है?

- (a) Joohi Smita Sinha, Chief General Manager of Bengaluru Circle
- (b) Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, SBI Chairperson
- (c) S. Ramesh, SBI General Manager
- (d) Rajnish Kumar, Former SBI Chairperson
- (e) Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister

Ans. b

Sol. SBI Launches First Global Capability Centre in Bengaluru

SBI Chairperson Challa Sreenivasulu Setty inaugurated the bank's first-ever Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Bengaluru, along with 11 new SBI branches, highlighting SBI's support for India's growing GCC ecosystem.

SBI has set up a specialized relationship management team in Bengaluru to cater exclusively to the banking and financial needs of Global Capability Centres.

As part of its CSR efforts, SBI announced contributions including upgrading 35 government primary schools in Karnataka, providing ENT medical equipment to IISc Medical School, a 50,000-tree plantation at Tumkur University, and donating an e-ambulance to the Madras Engineer Group & Centre, Bengaluru.

125. Which two departments signed an MoU to create a pan-India logistics framework for transporting agricultural samples?

कौन-से दो विभागों ने कृषि नमूनों के परिवहन के लिए पैन-इंडिया लॉजिस्टिक्स फ्रेमवर्क बनाने हेतु MoU पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Department of Posts
- (b) Ministry of Commerce and Department of Posts
- (c) DA&FW and Ministry of Railways
- (d) Department of Biotechnology and DA&FW
- (e) Ministry of Communications and Ministry of Environment

Ans. a

Sol. A&FW Partners with India Post to Fast-Track Pesticide, Seed and Fertiliser Sample Testing Across India

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) and the Department of Posts (DoP) signed an MoU to create a pan-India logistics framework for transporting pesticide, seed, and fertiliser samples to testing labs.

The agreement was signed in New Delhi in the presence of Union Ministers Jyotiraditya M. Scindia (Communications & DoNER) and Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare).

India Post will provide end-to-end logistics, including QR code-based address masking, specialised packaging, monitored temperature transport for sensitive samples, and digital tracking for transparency and traceability.

Leveraging over 1.60 lakh post offices (1.40 lakh in rural areas), the system aims to reduce sample transit time from 10–15 days to 48–72 hours, improving laboratory testing speed and regulatory enforcement.

126. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned ICGS Samudra Pratap, India's first indigenously designed Pollution Control Vessel (PCV). Which shipyard built ICGS Samudra Pratap?

रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने भारत के पहले स्वदेशी रूप से डिज़ाइन किए गए प्रदूषण नियंत्रण पोत (PCV) ICGS समुद्र प्रताप को कमीशन किया। ICGS समुद्र प्रताप किस शिपयार्ड ने बनाया है?

- (a) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- (b) Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- (c) Goa Shipyard Limited
- (d) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- (e) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

Ans. c

Sol. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Commissions ICGS Samudra Pratap
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned ICGS Samudra Pratap, India's first indigenously designed Pollution Control Vessel (PCV), built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).

Samudra Pratap, with over 60% indigenous content, is the largest ship in the Indian Coast Guard fleet, integrating pollution control, coastal patrol, maritime safety, fire-fighting, and long-range surveillance capabilities on a single platform.

Equipped with advanced pollution detection systems, fire-fighting equipment, aviation facilities including a helicopter hangar, and capable of operating in rough seas, the vessel enhances India's marine environmental protection, blue economy safeguarding, and maritime security.

127. Amazon Pay has launched fixed deposits (FDs) through its fintech app in partnership with which type of financial institutions?

Amazon Pay ने किस तरह के फाइनेंशियल संस्थानों के साथ पार्टनरशिप में अपने फिनटेक ऐप के ज़रिए फिक्स्ड डिपॉज़िट (FD) लॉन्च किए हैं?

- (a) Only private banks
- (b) Only government banks
- (c) NBFCs and banks

(d) Insurance companies

(e) Mutual fund houses

Ans. c

Sol. Amazon Pay Launches Fixed Deposits Through App in Partnership with NBFCs and Banks

Amazon Pay expands into fixed income assets by rolling out fixed deposits (FDs) through its fintech app, allowing users to invest in multiple partner institutions without opening separate savings accounts.

The company has partnered with two NBFCs, Shriram Finance and Bajaj Finance, and five banks including Shivalik Small Finance Bank, Suryoday Small Finance Bank, South Indian Bank, Slice, and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank.

Users can start FDs from Rs 1,000, with deposits insured up to Rs 5 lakh per depositor per bank under DICGC norms, and partner institutions offering interest rates up to 8% per year, with additional benefits for senior citizens and women investors.

128. Which bank has partnered with FinTech provider TechFini to enhance its UPI acquiring and issuing capabilities?

किस बैंक ने अपनी UPI एक्वायरिंग और इश्यूइंग क्षमताओं को बेहतर बनाने के लिए फिनटेक प्रोवाइडर TechFini के साथ पार्टनरशिप की है?

(a) HDFC Bank

(b) ICICI Bank

(c) Tamilnad Mercantile Bank

(d) Axis Bank

(e) Kotak Mahindra Bank

Ans. c

Sol. TMB Partners with TechFini to Strengthen Scalable UPI Payment and Collection Solutions

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) partnered with FinTech provider TechFini to strengthen its UPI acquiring and issuing capabilities, supporting higher transaction volumes and complex digital payment use cases across India's growing UPI ecosystem.

Under the agreement, TechFini will act as a Technology Service Provider (TSP), enabling a cloud-native, scalable UPI infrastructure for payment aggregators, NBFCs, merchants, and FinTech companies, allowing TMB to offer high-volume bank-anchored UPI services.

The partnership focuses on expanding UPI use cases in lending and collections, with TechFini's UPI Autopay solution enabling NBFCs and digital lenders to automate EMI

and loan repayments via UPI e-mandates, improving efficiency and repayment predictability.

About Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd

- *Founded- 11 May 1921*
- *Headquarters- Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu*
- *MD and CEO- Salee Sukumaran Nair*

129. Which bank has launched the 'Safety Centre' on its mobile banking app 'open', allowing customers to control key digital banking functions and safeguard accounts against unauthorised or suspicious activities without visiting a branch?

किस बैंक ने अपने मोबाइल बैंकिंग ऐप 'ओपन' पर 'सेफ्टी सेंटर' लॉन्च किया है, जिससे ग्राहक बिना ब्रांच जाए, ज़रूरी डिजिटल बैंकिंग फंक्शन को कंट्रोल कर सकते हैं और अपने अकाउंट को अनधिकृत या संदिग्ध गतिविधियों से सुरक्षित रख सकते हैं?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Axis Bank Launches 'Safety Centre' on Mobile App to Enhance Digital Banking Security

Axis Bank launched the 'Safety Centre' on its mobile banking app 'open', allowing customers to control key digital banking functions and safeguard accounts against unauthorized or suspicious activities without visiting a branch.

The Safety Centre enables customizable security settings, letting users tailor protections according to their usage and comfort.

Key features include SMS Shield to verify message authenticity, the ability to disable Internet Banking, and instantly restrict all fund transfers across Mobile and Internet Banking with a single toggle.

130. Which bank has launched the "Zero-Forex Diamond Reserve Credit Card" for affluent global travellers?

किस बैंक ने अमीर ग्लोबल यात्रियों के लिए "ज़ीरो-फॉरेक्स डायमंड रिज़र्व क्रेडिट कार्ड" लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) Axis Bank
- (c) IDFC FIRST Bank

(d) ICICI Bank**(e) Yes Bank****Ans. c**

Sol. IDFC FIRST Bank Launches Zero-Forex Diamond Reserve Credit Card for Global Travellers

IDFC FIRST Bank launched the "Zero-Forex Diamond Reserve Credit Card" aimed at affluent global travellers, offering zero forex markup on international spends, along with rewards on hotel and flight bookings and access to travel lounges.

The card is priced at ₹3,000 + GST, with an annual fee waiver on spending ₹6 lakh per year, making it effectively free from the second year onwards.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

- ICICI Bank Enters **Capital Gains Account Scheme (CGAS)**, Offering Tax-Saving Option from 2026
- IDFC FIRST Bank Launches '**Gaj:** Invitation-Only Premium Metal Credit Card for HNIs
- Canara Bank Launches '**Canara ai1Pe**', Unified Next-Gen UPI App for Seamless Digital Payments
- South Indian Bank Launches RuPay Contactless '**SIB Paytag**' NFC Payment Sticker
- Amazon Pay Launches **UPI Biometric Authentication for Faster**, PIN-Free Transactions (Max Limit Rs 5,000)

131. Rajasthan hosted the Regional AI Impact Conference as a precursor to which upcoming national event?

राजस्थान ने किस आने वाले राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम की तैयारी के तौर पर रीजनल AI इम्पैक्ट कॉन्फ्रेंस की मेज़बानी की?

(a) Digital India Summit 2026**(b) National Technology Conference 2026****(c) India AI Impact Summit 2026****(d) Startup India Innovation Summit****(e) Global Artificial Intelligence Forum****Ans. c**

Sol. Rajasthan Hosts Regional AI Impact Conference Ahead of India AI Impact Summit 2026

Rajasthan hosted the Regional AI Impact Conference as a precursor to the India AI Impact Summit 2026, bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, startups and academia to discuss AI's role in governance, infrastructure, innovation and workforce development.

The conference highlighted Centre–State collaboration for inclusive and responsible AI, with leaders announcing major initiatives such as training one million youth in AI skills and a ₹10,000 crore India AI Mission to deploy AI across sectors like agriculture, healthcare and education.

Rajasthan launched its AI and ML Policy 2026 and AI portal, signalling a shift from e-governance to AI-driven, transparent and citizen-centric governance, along with programmes to boost innovation-led economic growth.

Key outcomes included the launch of YUVA AI for All, iStart Learning Management System, Rajasthan AVGC-XR Portal, and MoUs with Google, IIT Delhi and other institutions, reinforcing India's commitment to AI for public good and sustainable development.

132. The Supreme Court of India recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which country's apex court to facilitate the exchange of young legal professionals?

भारत के सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने हाल ही में किस देश के सुप्रीम कोर्ट के साथ युवा लीगल प्रोफेशनल्स के आदान-प्रदान को आसान बनाने के लिए एक मेमोरेण्डम ऑफ अंडरस्टैंडिंग (MoU) पर साइन किए हैं?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Bhutan
- (d) Sri Lanka
- (e) Myanmar

Ans. c

Sol. Supreme Court of India Signs MoU with Bhutan Apex Court to Exchange Young Legal Professionals

The Supreme Court of India has signed an MoU with the Supreme Court of Bhutan to promote the exchange of young legal professionals and strengthen judicial cooperation between the two countries.

Under the MoU, two law clerks from Bhutan will work with the Supreme Court of India for three months, receiving the same honorarium as Indian law clerks, with travel expenses borne by the Supreme Court.

The initiative aims to enhance institutional ties and judicial collaboration, with the Bhutanese law clerks being assigned to different courts during their tenure.

Chief Justice of India - Surya Kant

Chief Justice of Bhutan - Lyonpo Norbu Tshering

About Bhutan

- Capital- Thimphu
- Currency- Nagultram
- Language spoken in Bhutan-Dzongkha
- King- Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck
- Prime Minister- Tshering Tobgay

133. Recently, a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to deepen collaboration for inclusive and sustainable rural development. Which two entities were signatories to this MoU aimed at strengthening rural financial inclusion across India?

हाल ही में, समावेशी और टिकाऊ ग्रामीण विकास के लिए सहयोग को गहरा करने के लिए एक ऐतिहासिक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए। भारत भर में ग्रामीण वित्तीय समावेशन को मजबूत करने के उद्देश्य से इस MoU पर किन दो संस्थाओं ने हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Department of Posts and Ministry of Finance
- (b) Department of Posts and Ministry of Rural Development
- (c) India Post Payments Bank and NABARD
- (d) Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Reserve Bank of India
- (e) Ministry of MSME and Department of Posts

Ans. b

Sol. Department of Posts and Ministry of Rural Development Sign MoU to Boost Rural Financial Inclusion

The Department of Posts (DoP) and the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) signed an MoU to strengthen cooperation for inclusive and sustainable rural development, with a focus on expanding financial services in rural areas.

The collaboration aligns with the Government's vision of "Dak Sewa, Jan Sewa", positioning India Post as a key driver of the rural economy and leveraging its vast postal network.

Under the MoU, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) will provide digitally enabled doorstep banking services, including savings, payments and remittances, benefiting rural women, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and community institutions.

134. Kabindra Purkayastha, who recently passed away, was a senior leader of which political party?

हाल ही में निधन हुए कबिंद्र पुरकायस्थ किस राजनीतिक दल के वरिष्ठ नेता थे?

- (a) Indian National Congress
- (b) All India Trinamool Congress
- (c) Bharatiya Janata Party

(d) Janata Dal (United)

(e) Communist Party of India

Ans. c

Sol. Veteran BJP Leader Kabindra Purkayastha Passes Away at 94

Former Union Minister of State and senior BJP leader Kabindra Purkayastha passed away at the age of 94 in Silchar.

Born on 15th December 1931 in Kamarkhal (then Sylhet, now in Bangladesh),

Purkayastha joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in 1951 and played a key role in spreading its ideology across Northeast India.

He was a founding member of the BJP, elected to the Lok Sabha from Silchar in 1991 and 1998, and served as Minister of State for Telecommunications under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee from 1998 to 1999.

135. Jinson Johnson, who recently announced his retirement, is a national record-holder in which sport?

जिंसन जॉनसन, जिन्होंने हाल ही में रिटायरमेंट की घोषणा की है, किस खेल में नेशनल रिकॉर्ड होल्डर हैं?

(a) Swimming

(b) Middle-distance running

(c) Long jump

(d) Shooting

(e) Weightlifting

Ans. b

Sol. Asian Games Gold Medalist Jinson Johnson Announces Retirement from Athletics

National record-holder and Asian Games gold-medalist Jinson Johnson from Kerala announced his retirement from athletics at the age of 34.

Johnson's career highlights include winning gold in the 1500 metres and silver in the 800 metres at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games, with his 1500m gold timing of 3:44.72 seconds.

Johnson broke the 42-year-old 800m national record in 2018 and the 23-year-old 1500m national record during the Commonwealth Games, later improving his 1500m record to 3:35.24 seconds in 2019.

136. Federal Bank unveiled The Fortuna Wave, its updated brand identity, symbolising the Bank's evolution toward being contemporary and future-ready. Who was present as the Brand Ambassador during the launch of Federal Bank's new identity?

फेडरल बैंक ने अपनी अपडेटेड ब्रांड पहचान, द फॉर्च्यूना वेव को लॉन्च किया, जो बैंक के मॉडर्न और भविष्य के लिए तैयार होने की दिशा में विकास का प्रतीक है। फेडरल बैंक की नई पहचान के लॉन्च के दौरान ब्रांड एंबेसडर के तौर पर कौन मौजूद था?

- (a) Deepika Padukone
- (b) Priyanka Chopra
- (c) Vidya Balan
- (d) Kareena Kapoor
- (e) Alia Bhatt

Ans. c

Sol. Federal Bank Unveils 'The Fortuna Wave' Brand Identity to Reflect Modern, Future-Ready Vision

Federal Bank unveiled The Fortuna Wave, its updated brand identity, symbolising the Bank's evolution toward being contemporary and future-ready, in the presence of its leadership and Brand Ambassador Vidya Balan in Mumbai.

The new identity emphasises Authenticity, Prosperity, and Togetherness, reflecting the Bank's commitment to its customers, investors, and employees.

The refreshed branding ensures a distinct, coherent, and continuous visual language across digital and physical assets, supporting Federal Bank's growth from a locally trusted brand to a national and globally recognized player.

About Federal Bank

- *Founded- 23 April 1931*
- *Founder- K.P Hormis*
- *Headquarters - Kochi, Kerala.*
- *MD & CEO- - KVS Manian (replace Shyam Srinivasan)*

137. HDFC Bank has recently integrated the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) into one of its payment platforms, enabling businesses and merchants to accept digital rupee payments in addition to other existing digital payment methods. Which platform has received this upgrade?

HDFC बैंक ने हाल ही में सेंट्रल बैंक डिजिटल करेंसी (CBDC) को अपने एक पेमेंट प्लेटफॉर्म में इंटीग्रेट किया है, जिससे बिज़नेस और मर्चेन्ट दूसरे मौजूदा डिजिटल पेमेंट तरीकों के अलावा डिजिटल रुपये में भी पेमेंट ले सकेंगे। किस प्लेटफॉर्म को यह अपग्रेड मिला है?

- (a) HDFC NetBanking Portal
- (b) PayZapp
- (c) HDFC UPI App
- (d) SmartGateway
- (e) HDFC Mobile Banking App

Ans. d

Sol. HDFC Bank Integrates CBDC into SmartGateway to Enable Digital Rupee Payments

HDFC Bank has integrated the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) into its SmartGateway platform, enabling merchants and enterprises to accept digital rupee payments alongside existing digital modes.

With CBDC acceptance, SmartGateway strengthens its position as a comprehensive payment hub, allowing businesses to adopt digital currency without altering their core systems.

The integration opens avenues for instant settlement, programmable payments, reduced intermediary risk, and advanced use cases, reinforcing HDFC Bank's leadership in payment innovation.

About HDFC Bank

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

138. According to the First Advance Estimates (FAE) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, what is the estimated real GDP growth rate for India in FY 2025–26?

सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी पहले अग्रिम अनुमान (FAE) के अनुसार, FY 2025-26 में भारत के लिए अनुमानित वास्तविक GDP ग्रोथ रेट क्या है?

- (a) 6.5%
- (b) 6.8%
- (c) 7.0%
- (d) 7.4%
- (e) 8.0%

Ans. d

Sol. Government Pegs India's GDP Growth at 7.4% for FY 2025–26 in First Advance Estimates

The government has estimated real GDP growth at 7.4% for FY 2025–26, higher than 6.5% in FY 2024–25, while nominal GDP growth is projected at 8%, as per the First Advance Estimates released by MoSPI.

With Q1 and Q2 growth at 7.8% and 8.2%, respectively, growth in the second half of FY26 is expected to moderate to an average of 6.8%; the RBI has projected overall growth at 7.3% for the year.

Manufacturing growth is expected to accelerate to 7%, services to 9.1%, while agriculture growth may slow to 3.1%, and mining & quarrying is projected to contract by 0.7% in FY26.

Private consumption expenditure is estimated to grow at 7%, slightly lower than last year, whereas gross fixed capital formation (investment) is expected to rise faster at 7.8%, indicating continued investment momentum.

139. Simplilearn has collaborated with which government initiative to roll out the 'YUVA AI for ALL' course?

सिंपलीलर्न ने 'युवा AI फॉर ऑल' कोर्स शुरू करने के लिए किस सरकारी पहल के साथ सहयोग किया है?

- (a) Digital India Mission
- (b) Skill India Mission
- (c) Startup India Mission
- (d) IndiaAI Mission
- (e) National Knowledge Mission

Ans. d

Sol. Simplilearn Partners with IndiaAI Mission to Launch 'YUVA AI for ALL' Foundational Course

Simplilearn has partnered with the IndiaAI Mission (MeitY) to host and roll out the 'YUVA AI for ALL' foundational course, supporting India's vision of building a digitally skilled and AI-literate society.

The initiative aims to encourage 10 million citizens across age groups, regions, and socio-economic backgrounds to acquire essential AI knowledge, amid rising AI adoption in India.

YUVA AI for ALL is a free course designed to introduce learners to AI fundamentals, real-world applications, and its impact on daily life, hosted on Simplilearn's learning platform.

Learners will receive a co-branded certificate from IndiaAI (MeitY) and Simplilearn, combining government-backed AI resources with Simplilearn's edtech expertise to strengthen India's AI learning ecosystem.

About Simplilearn

- *Founded in 2010, Simplilearn is a Blackstone portfolio company with headquarters in Plano, Texas, and Bengaluru, India, and operates as a global digital upskilling platform across 150+ countries.*
- *The company delivers 1,500+ live classes every month, impacting over 8 million learners worldwide through industry-recognised, role-based programs developed with leading universities, corporations, and experts.*

140. Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) has been rated "Excellent" by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) for FY 2024–25. How many consecutive times has Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) received the "Excellent" rating from the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) since its listing?

इंडियन रेलवे फाइनेंस कॉर्पोरेशन (IRFC) को डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ पब्लिक एंटरप्राइजेज (DPE) द्वारा FY 2024-25 के लिए "उत्कृष्ट" रेटिंग दी गई है। लिस्टिंग के बाद से इंडियन रेलवे फाइनेंस कॉर्पोरेशन (IRFC) को डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ पब्लिक एंटरप्राइजेज (DPE) से लगातार कितनी बार "उत्कृष्ट" रेटिंग मिली है?

- (a) Three times
- (b) Four times
- (c) Five times
- (d) Six times
- (e) Seven times

Ans. c

Sol. IRFC Earns Fifth Consecutive 'Excellent' DPE Rating for FY 2024–25

Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) has been rated "Excellent" by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) for FY 2024–25, marking its fifth consecutive top rating since its listing in FY21.

The consistent recognition reflects robust corporate governance, disciplined financial management, and stable performance, even amid changing market conditions. During the year, IRFC strengthened and diversified its lending while remaining focused on financing railway and allied infrastructure, including power, mining, logistics, metro rail, and ports.

Founded in 1986, IRFC remains a key pillar in supporting India's railway modernisation and national infrastructure development.

141. Nagauri Ashwagandha recently received which special recognition from the Government of India?

नागौरी अश्वगंधा को हाल ही में भारत सरकार से कौन सी खास पहचान मिली है?

- (a) Organic Certification
- (b) Geographical Indication (GI) Tag
- (c) Agricultural Excellence Award
- (d) Export Quality Mark
- (e) National Plant Heritage Status

Ans. b

Sol. Nagauri Ashwagandha Gets GI Tag

The Centre has granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Nagauri Ashwagandha, giving Nagaur district of Rajasthan a distinct global agricultural identity.

Nagaur's dry climate and sandy soil produce Ashwagandha with longer, thicker roots and bright red berries, making it high-quality and the basis for the GI status.

The GI recognition protects authenticity, prevents misuse, enhances export potential, and is expected to improve farmers' incomes through premium pricing and market security.

142. India has become the first country in the world to commercially produce which eco-friendly material for road construction?

भारत दुनिया का पहला देश बन गया है जो सड़क निर्माण के लिए किस पर्यावरण-अनुकूल सामग्री का वाणिज्यिक उत्पादन करता है?

- (a) Plastic Bitumen
- (b) Bio-Bitumen
- (c) Rubber Bitumen
- (d) Asphalt Concrete
- (e) Petroleum Bitumen

Ans. b

Sol. India Becomes First Country to Commercially Produce Bio-Bitumen for Sustainable Road Construction

India becomes the first country in the world to commercially produce bio-bitumen for road construction, announced by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari at the CSIR Technology Transfer Ceremony in New Delhi.

Bio-bitumen, made from biomass and agricultural waste, reduces dependence on fossil fuels and addresses crop residue burning, a major source of air pollution.

The initiative demonstrates successful technology transfer by CSIR, supports Viksit Bharat 2047, promotes cleaner highways, circular economy practices, and sustainable infrastructure development.

143. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched the official Aadhaar mascot to make Aadhaar-related information more relatable and people-friendly. What is the name of the official Aadhaar mascot launched by UIDAI?

यूनिक आइडेंटिफिकेशन अथॉरिटी ऑफ़ इंडिया (UIDAI) ने आधार से जुड़ी जानकारी को ज्यादा रिलेटेबल और पीपल-फ्रेंडली बनाने के लिए ऑफिशियल आधार मैस्कॉट लॉन्च किया है। UIDAI द्वारा लॉन्च किए गए ऑफिशियल आधार मैस्कॉट का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Aadi
- (b) Udai
- (c) Bhavya
- (d) Mitra
- (e) Suraksha

Ans. b

Sol. UIDAI Launches Aadhaar Mascot 'Udai' to Make Services More People-Friendly
 The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched the official Aadhaar mascot, Udai, to make Aadhaar-related information more relatable and people-friendly.

Udai will help simplify the communication of Aadhaar services, including updates, authentication, and offline verification.

UIDAI held a Mascot Design Contest on the MyGov platform last year, receiving 875 entries from across India.

Arun Gokul from Thrissur, Kerala, bagged the first prize in the mascot design competition. Idris Dawaiwala of Pune, Maharashtra, and Krishna Sharma from Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh were the second and third prize winners, respectively. Riya Jain of Bhopal won the first prize in the mascot name competition, followed by Idris Dawaiwala of Pune and Maharaj Saran Chellapilla of Hyderabad in the second and third position respectively.

144. Who has been appointed as CEO of HSBC Private Bank?

एचएसबीसी प्राइवेट बैंक के सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Georges Elhedery
- (b) Ida Liu
- (c) Barry O'Byrne
- (d) Anshu Jain
- (e) Peter Wong

Ans. b

Sol. Ida Liu Appointed CEO of HSBC Private Bank

HSBC announced Ida Liu as CEO of HSBC Private Bank, succeeding Georges Elhedery. The appointment aims to accelerate HSBC's global wealth management strategy, focusing on ultra-high-net-worth (UHNW) clients and international wealth corridors.

Recent Appointments in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **CEO of Health Insurance Ecosystem by General Insurance Council - S. Prakash**
- **Interim MD & CEO of Canara Bank - Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia (replace K. Satyanarayana Raju)**
- **MD & CEO of Canara Bank - Brajesh Kumar Singh**
- **Non-Executive Chairman of India Infoline Finance Limited (IIFL) - B.P. Kanungo**
- **MD of SBI - Ashwini Kumar Tewari (extension for 2 years till Dec 2027)**

145. Who has been appointed as CEO, Health Insurance Ecosystem and Strategic Partnerships by the General Insurance Council?

जनरल इश्योरेंस काउंसिल द्वारा हेल्थ इश्योरेंस इकोसिस्टम और स्ट्रैटेजिक पार्टनरशिप का CEO कौन नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) S. Prakash
- (b) R. K. Sharma
- (c) Anil Kumar
- (d) P. S. Reddy
- (e) V. K. Singh

Ans. a

Sol. S. Prakash Appointed CEO of Health Insurance Ecosystem by General Insurance Council

General Insurance Council (GI Council) appointed S. Prakash as CEO, Health Insurance Ecosystem and Strategic Partnerships.

Prakash will work with insurers, hospitals, regulators, and other stakeholders to improve transparency, efficiency, and trust in the health insurance value chain, including standardising treatment protocols, enhancing grievance resolution, and addressing fraud and abuse.

146. The Indian Air Force (IAF) commemorated 25 years since the first flight of the indigenous Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), marking a milestone in India's fighter aircraft development. Which organisation developed the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft?

भारतीय वायु सेना (IAF) ने स्वदेशी तेजस लाइट कॉम्बैट एयरक्राफ्ट (LCA) की पहली उड़ान की 25वीं वर्षगांठ मनाई, जो भारत के फाइटर एयरक्राफ्ट डेवलपमेंट में एक मील का पत्थर है। तेजस लाइट कॉम्बैट एयरक्राफ्ट को किस संगठन ने विकसित किया?

- (a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- (b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- (c) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- (d) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- (e) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)

Ans. b

Sol. IAF Commemorates 25 Years of Tejas LCA First Flight

The Indian Air Force (IAF) commemorated 25 years since the first flight of the indigenous Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), marking a milestone in India's fighter aircraft development.

Tejas conducted its first flight on 4 January 2001, flown by Wing Commander Rajiv Kothiyal from HAL Airport in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

In late 2025, HAL secured a contract to supply 97 Tejas Mk-1A jets to the IAF, worth over ₹62,370 crore, reinforcing India's defence self-reliance.

147. Which medal did Indian squash player Anahat Singh win at the British Junior Open 2026 in the women's under-19 category?

भारतीय स्क्वैश खिलाड़ी अनाहत सिंह ने ब्रिटिश जूनियर ओपन 2026 में महिला अंडर-19 श्रेणी में कौन सा पदक जीता?

- (a) Gold
- (b) Silver
- (c) Bronze
- (d) No medal
- (e) Honorable mention

Ans. b

Sol. Anahat Singh Wins Silver in Women's U-19 at British Junior Open Squash Championships

Top-seeded Indian squash player Anahat Singh won the silver medal in the women's under-19 final at the British Junior Open.

She lost the final 9-11, 11-7, 3-11, 9-11 to France's Lauren Baltayan at the University of Birmingham, England.

Anahat reached the final after defeating Egypt's Malika El Karaksy in the semifinals.

148. What is the total prize money announced for the 2026 Australian Open, marking a record in the tournament's history?

2026 ऑस्ट्रेलियन ओपन के लिए कुल पुरस्कार राशि क्या घोषित की गई है, जो टूर्नामेंट के इतिहास में रिकॉर्ड है?

- (a) \$96.5 million
- (b) \$100 million
- (c) \$111.5 million
- (d) \$120 million
- (e) \$105 million

Ans. c

Sol. Australian Open 2026 to Feature Record \$111.5 Million Prize Pool

The 2026 Australian Open will feature a record \$111.5 million AUD prize pool, the highest in the tournament's history, a 16% increase from last year's \$96.5 million.

The men's and women's singles winners will each receive AUD 2.79 million, marking a 19% rise from the previous edition.

The 2026 edition will be the 114th Australian Open, held annually at Melbourne Park, Victoria, and is the first of the four Grand Slam events each year.

Matches will be played on a synthetic hard court (GreenSet), consistent with the tournament's traditional hard-court format.

149. New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) 2026 begins at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, and for the first time offers free entry to promote a stronger reading culture across India. What is the central theme of New Delhi World Book Fair 2026?

नई दिल्ली विश्व पुस्तक मेला (एनडीडब्ल्यूबीएफ) 2026 भारत मंडपम, नई दिल्ली में शुरू हो रहा है, और पहली बार पूरे भारत में एक मजबूत पढ़ने की संस्कृति को बढ़ावा देने के लिए मुफ्त प्रवेश की पेशकश की गई है। नई दिल्ली विश्व पुस्तक मेला 2026 का केंद्रीय विषय क्या है?

(a) Digital India and Knowledge Economy

(b) Literature for Sustainable Development

(c) India @ 100

(d) Global Languages and Culture

(e) Indian Military History: Valour & Wisdom @ 75

Ans. e

Sol. New Delhi World Book Fair 2026 Begins at Bharat Mandapam

New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) 2026 begins at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, and runs till January 18, 2026, and for the first time offers free entry to promote a stronger reading culture across India.

The 53rd edition is organised by the National Book Trust (NBT), India, under the Ministry of Education, with participation from 35+ countries, 1,000+ publishers, 3,000+ stalls, and 600 literary & cultural events.

The fair will be inaugurated by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and is based on the theme "Indian Military History: Valour & Wisdom @ 75", honouring the legacy and sacrifices of India's armed forces.

Qatar has been named the Guest of Honour and Spain the Focus Country, adding rich international literary and cultural perspectives to one of the world's largest book fairs.

150. India Energy Week (IEW) 2026 will be held in Goa from January 27 to 30, bringing together global ministers, CEOs, policymakers, academia and technology leaders to discuss energy security, investment and decarbonisation. India Energy Week 2026 is organised under the patronage of which Union Ministry?

इंडिया एनर्जी वीक (IEW) 2026 गोवा में 27 से 30 जनवरी तक आयोजित किया जाएगा, जिसमें एनर्जी सिक्योरिटी, इन्वेस्टमेंट और डीकार्बोनाइजेशन पर चर्चा करने के लिए दुनिया भर के मंत्री, CEO, पॉलिसी बनाने वाले, शिक्षाविद और टेक्नोलॉजी लीडर एक साथ आएंगे। इंडिया एनर्जी वीक 2026 किस केंद्रीय मंत्रालय के संरक्षण में आयोजित किया जा रहा है?

- (a) Ministry of Power
- (b) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- (c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (d) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- (e) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Ans. d

Sol. India Energy Week 2026 to be held in Goa from January 27–30

India Energy Week (IEW) 2026 will be held in Goa from January 27 to 30, bringing together global ministers, CEOs, policymakers, academia and technology leaders to discuss energy security, investment and decarbonisation.

Organised under the patronage of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and jointly hosted by FIPI and dmG events, IEW 2026 will be the first major international energy event of the year, with participation expected from 120+ countries.

The event will highlight India's growing role in the global energy landscape, with discussions aligned to IEA projections that India will account for over 23% of global incremental energy demand by 2050, alongside strategies for clean energy transition.

About International Energy Agency

- *Established- 18 November 1974*
- *Headquarters- Paris, France*
- *Member- 32*
- *Executive Director- Fatih Birol*

151. The World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2026 will be held from January 19 to 23, 2026, at Davos-Klosters, Switzerland, marking the 56th edition of the global forum. What is the official theme of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2026?

वर्ल्ड इकोनॉमिक फोरम (WEF) की सालाना बैठक 19 से 23 जनवरी, 2026 तक स्विट्जरलैंड के दावोस-क्लोस्टर्स में होगी, जो इस ग्लोबल फोरम का 56वां एडिशन होगा। वर्ल्ड इकोनॉमिक फोरम सालाना बैठक 2026 की आधिकारिक थीम क्या है?

- (a) Global Cooperation for the Future
- (b) Resilient World Order
- (c) Sustainable Growth Pathways
- (d) Shaping the Global Economy
- (e) A Spirit of Dialogue

Ans. e

Sol. WEF Annual Meeting 2026 to Be Held in Davos-Klosters from January 19–23

The World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2026 will be held from January 19 to 23, 2026, at Davos-Klosters, Switzerland, marking the 56th edition of the global forum.

The meeting will bring together world leaders, policymakers, business executives, economists and civil society representatives to deliberate on major global challenges.

Theme - A Spirit of Dialogue.

India's participation will include representation from 10 States and four Union Ministers, highlighting the country's active engagement in global economic and policy discussions.

- ✚ States Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Jharkhand, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat
- ✚ The four Union Ministers expected to attend are:
- ✚ Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare)
- ✚ Ashwini Vaishnaw (Information Technology & Railways)
- ✚ Pralhad Joshi (New & Renewable Energy)
- ✚ K. Rammohan Naidu (Civil Aviation)
- ✚ Jharkhand to make first global appearance at WEF.

About World Economic Forum (WEF)

- German economist Klaus Schwab founded the World Economic Forum in 1971 as a non-profit international organisation to provide a platform to promote collaboration between all stakeholders of global society to find common solutions to global issues.
- Headquarters of WEF- Cologny, Switzerland
- Chairman - Larry Fink
- President and CEO - Børge Brende

Report Released by WEF

- Global Gender Gap Report
- Global Competitiveness Report
- Energy Transition Index
- Global Travel and Tourism Report
- Global IT Report in collaboration with INSEAD and Cornell University.

152. India achieved a historic milestone in judicial reforms with the inauguration of the country's first fully paperless district judiciary, where the entire court system shifted to end-to-end digital functioning. This landmark initiative was launched in which place?

भारत ने देश की पहली पूरी तरह से कागज रहित जिला न्यायपालिका के उद्घाटन के साथ न्यायिक सुधारों में एक ऐतिहासिक मील का पत्थर हासिल किया, जहां पूरी अदालत प्रणाली

शुरू से अंत तक डिजिटल कामकाज में स्थानांतरित हो गई। यह ऐतिहासिक पहल किस स्थान पर शुरू की गई?

- (a) Kochi, Kerala
- (b) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- (c) Kozhikode, Kerala
- (d) Kalpetta, Wayanad, Kerala
- (e) Bengaluru, Karnataka

Ans. d

Sol. India's First Fully Paperless District Judiciary Inaugurated in Kalpetta, Kerala
 Chief Justice of India Surya Kant virtually inaugurated India's first fully paperless district judiciary at Kalpetta in Wayanad district, Kerala, marking a major milestone in judicial reform.

All courts in the district will function in end-to-end digital mode, with e-filing, online scrutiny, and digital access to case records through an in-house District Court Case Management System developed by the Kerala High Court.

The paperless courts are supported by AI-enabled tools, including case summarisation, digital annotations, voice-to-text transcription, and secure digital signatures for legally valid orders and judgments.

Describing the initiative as "green jurisprudence," the CJI said the move ends the "tyranny of the file," enhances transparency, accessibility, accountability, and builds greater public trust in the justice delivery system.

153. World Hindi Day is observed every year on 10th January to promote the Hindi language globally. What is the theme of World Hindi Day 2026?

विश्व हिंदी दिवस हर साल 10 जनवरी को विश्व स्तर पर हिंदी भाषा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए मनाया जाता है। विश्व हिंदी दिवस 2026 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Hindi in Education
- (b) Promoting Hindi on Global Platforms
- (c) Hindi Literature Celebration
- (d) Hindi for Digital India
- (e) Hindi in Media

Ans. b

Sol. 10 January - World Hindi Day

World Hindi Day is observed every year on 10th January to promote the Hindi language globally.

Theme 2026 - Promoting Hindi on Global Platforms

The day aims to spread awareness about Hindi, encourage its use internationally, and honour its cultural and literary significance.

It commemorates the first World Hindi Conference held in 1975 in Nagpur, which marked the recognition of Hindi as a global language.

154. When is Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (NRI Day) celebrated every year?

प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस (एनआरआई दिवस) हर साल कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 5 January
- (b) 8 January
- (c) 12 January
- (d) 15 January
- (e) 9 January

Ans. e

Sol. 9 January – NRI (Non-Resident Indian) Day / Pravasi Bharatiya Divas:

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated every year on 9th January to mark the contribution of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to India's development.

The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915, who became a key figure in India's freedom struggle.

It aims to strengthen the bond between India and its diaspora, recognize their achievements, and promote engagement in India's growth.

155. On which date is Earth's Rotations Day observed annually?

हर साल पृथ्वी घूर्णन दिवस किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 5 January
- (b) 8 January
- (c) 12 January
- (d) 15 January
- (e) 20 January

Ans. b

Sol. 8 January- Earth's Rotations Day

Celebrated every year on 8 January to recognise the Earth's rotation on its axis.

Highlights how Earth's rotation causes day and night and affects climate, timekeeping, and planetary motion.

Aims to raise awareness about astronomy and Earth sciences, helping people understand planetary dynamics.

156. On which date is the African National Congress (ANC) Foundation Day celebrated annually?

अफ्रीकन नेशनल कांग्रेस (ANC) स्थापना दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 11 January

- (b) 8 January
- (c) 10 January
- (d) 12 January
- (e) 13 January

Ans. b

Sol. 8 January - African National Congress Foundation Day

African National Congress (ANC) Foundation Day, celebrated on 8 January, marks the establishment of the ANC in 1912, the party that played a central role in South Africa's struggle against apartheid.

The day recognises the ANC's contributions to democracy, equality, and social justice, honouring leaders and activists who fought for liberation.

157. Who has taken charge as the Chairman of the Council for Leather Exports (CLE)?

काउंसिल फॉर लेदर एक्सपोर्ट्स (CLE) के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसने कार्यभार संभाला है?

- (a) Sanjay Jain
- (b) Rajiv Sharma
- (c) Anil Kumar
- (d) Ramesh Kumar Juneja
- (e) Ashok Mehta

Ans. d

Sol. Ramesh Kumar Juneja Assumes Charge as Chairman of Council for Leather Exports (CLE)

Ramesh Kumar Juneja has taken charge as Chairman of the Council for Leather Exports (CLE) during the 184th meeting of the Committee of Administration.

Juneja has been a board member for over 15 years and has served as Regional Chairman of the Eastern Region since 2014, and as Vice-Chairman of CLE since April 2024.

158. Financial Software and Systems (FSS) has become the first payments company in India, the Middle East, APAC, and South Africa to achieve which of the following certifications, reinforcing its leadership in ethical AI use?

फाइनेंशियल सॉफ्टवेयर एंड सिस्टम्स (FSS) भारत, मिडिल ईस्ट, APAC और साउथ अफ्रीका में पहली पेमेंट कंपनी बन गई है, जिसने इनमें से कौन सा सर्टिफिकेशन हासिल किया है, जिससे एथिकल AI के इस्तेमाल में उसकी लीडरशिप मज़बूत हुई है?

- (a) ISO 9001
- (b) ISO/IEC 42001
- (c) ISO/IEC 27001

(d) ISO 14001

(e) ISO 45001

Ans. b

Sol. FSS Becomes First Payments Company in India and APAC to Achieve ISO/IEC 42001 AI Governance Certification

Financial Software and Systems (FSS) has become the first payments company in India, the Middle East, APAC, and South Africa to be certified as ISO/IEC 42001 Lead, highlighting its leadership in responsible and ethical AI use in payments and banking technology.

By achieving ISO/IEC 42001 certification, FSS has shifted from ad-hoc AI usage to a formal, organisation-wide AI governance framework, making AI governance a core business priority alongside information security and quality management.

The ISO/IEC 42001 framework ensures clear ownership, defined governance structures, continuous monitoring, and proactive risk assessment, addressing AI-specific challenges like fairness, explainability, and accountability, which are critical in financial services.

159. A new species of reed snake has recently been discovered in Mizoram by researchers led by Prof. H. T. Lalremsanga. This species, named after the state of its discovery, belongs to the genus Calamaria, which includes 69 recognised species globally. What is the name of this newly identified species?

प्रोफेसर एच. टी. लालरेमसांगा के नेतृत्व में शोधकर्ताओं ने हाल ही में मिजोरम में रीड सांप की एक नई प्रजाति की खोज की है। इस प्रजाति का नाम इसके खोज के राज्य के नाम पर रखा गया है, और यह कैलामरिया जीनस से संबंधित है, जिसमें दुनिया भर में 69 मान्यता प्राप्त प्रजातियां शामिल हैं। इस नई पहचानी गई प्रजाति का नाम क्या है?

(a) Calamaria mizoramensis

(b) Calamaria indiana

(c) Mizoramophis nocturnus

(d) Calamaria nagaensis

(e) Mizoramia serpentina

Ans. a

Sol. New Reed Snake Species Calamaria mizoramensis Discovered in Mizoram

Researchers have discovered a new reed snake species in Mizoram, named Calamaria mizoramensis, after the state where it was found.

The discovery was led by Prof. H. T. Lalremsanga of Mizoram University, along with Indian and international collaborators, and was published in Zootaxa.

Belonging to the genus Calamaria (69 species globally), the newly identified snake is non-venomous, nocturnal, and semi-fossorial, inhabiting humid forested hill regions.

160. Renowned ecologist Madhav Gadgil, who passed away in January 2026, was best known for his work related to which ecological region?

जाने-माने इकोलॉजिस्ट माधव गाडगिल, जिनका जनवरी 2026 में निधन हो गया, किस इकोलॉजिकल क्षेत्र से जुड़े अपने काम के लिए सबसे ज़्यादा जाने जाते थे?

- (a) Eastern Himalayas
- (b) Thar Desert
- (c) Western Ghats
- (d) Sundarbans
- (e) Deccan Plateau

Ans. c

Sol. Renowned Ecologist and Environmentalist Madhav Gadgil Passes Away

Renowned ecologist Madhav Gadgil passed away at the age of 82 at his residence in Pune.

He was globally known for his path-breaking work on the ecological significance of the Western Ghats, for which he received the UN Champions of the Earth Award in 2024.

Gadgil founded the Centre for Ecological Sciences at IISc in 1983, played a crucial role in India's first Biosphere Reserve Project (1986), and contributed significantly to the Biological Diversity Act, 2003 and Forest Rights Act, 2006.

161. The 2026 IEEE Medal of Honour, regarded as the most prestigious recognition in the field of technology, has been awarded for lifetime contributions to accelerated computing. Who is the recipient of this honour?

2026 IEEE मेडल ऑफ़ ऑनर, जिसे टेक्नोलॉजी के क्षेत्र में सबसे प्रतिष्ठित सम्मान माना जाता है, एक्सीलरेटेड कंप्यूटिंग में आजीवन योगदान के लिए दिया गया है। इस सम्मान के प्राप्तकर्ता कौन हैं?

- (a) Elon Musk
- (b) Jensen Huang
- (c) Satya Nadella
- (d) Sundar Pichai
- (e) Tim Cook

Ans. b

Sol. NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang Wins 2026 IEEE Medal of Honor for Pioneering Accelerated Computing

NVIDIA founder and CEO Jensen Huang has been awarded the 2026 IEEE Medal of Honor, the highest recognition of IEEE, carrying a \$2 million prize.

He was honoured for a lifetime of visionary leadership and pioneering contributions to accelerated computing, which positioned NVIDIA at the forefront of global technological innovation.

Under his leadership, NVIDIA invented the first GPU in 1999 and became the first company to cross \$5 trillion market capitalization (October 2025), enabling breakthroughs across AI, medicine, robotics, and autonomous systems.

162. Who has assumed charge as the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)?

एटॉमिक एनर्जी रेगुलेटरी बोर्ड (AERB) के चेयरमैन के तौर पर किसने पदभार संभाला है?

- (a) Dr. D. K. Shukla
- (b) Shri A. K. Balasubrahmanian
- (c) Dr. R. Chidambaram
- (d) Shri Anil Kakodkar
- (e) Dr. S. Banerjee

Ans. b

Sol. A. K. Balasubrahmanian Assumes Charge as Chairman of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)

Shri A. K. Balasubrahmanian Assumes Charge as Chairman of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), succeeding Dr D. K. Shukla.

He earlier served as Chairman of the Project Design Safety Committee for PHWR-based Nuclear Power Plants and as a Member of the Safety Review Committee for operating plants of AERB.

Recent Appointments

- **Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court** - Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque; 24th (replace Justice Biswanath Somadder)
- **Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court** - Justice Mahesh Sharadchandra Sonak
- **President of Atal Smriti Nyas Society** - M. Venkaiah Naidu (replace Vijay Kumar Malhotra)
- **MD & CEO of Hyundai Motor India** - Tarun Garg
- **DG of Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** - Lav Aggarwal

163. Uttarakhand Police secured first position nationally in the ICJS 2.0 rankings with a score of 93.46. The ICJS 2.0 rankings are released through which dashboard/agency?

उत्तराखंड पुलिस ने 93.46 के स्कोर के साथ ICJS 2.0 रैंकिंग में राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर पहला स्थान हासिल किया। ICJS 2.0 रैंकिंग किस डैशबोर्ड/एजेंसी द्वारा जारी की जाती है?

- (a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (b) Election Commission of India
- (c) National Crime Records Bureau
- (d) NITI Aayog
- (e) Central Vigilance Commission

Ans. c

Sol. Uttarakhand Police Tops ICJS 2.0 Rankings

Uttarakhand Police secured first position nationally in the ICJS 2.0 rankings with a score of 93.46, as per the NCRB's CCTNS/ICJS Progress Dashboard, ahead of Haryana and Assam.

The achievement reflects advanced digital adoption, strong inter-departmental coordination, and effective implementation of ICJS modules across districts under the "One Data, One Entry" principle.

The Uttarakhand SDRF earned national praise for exemplary service at Prayagraj Mahakumbh-2025, where a 112-member team provided rescue, medical aid, crowd management, and pilgrim assistance, receiving medals and commendations from the UP Government.

164. National Youth Day is observed on 12 January every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. What is the theme of National Youth Day 2026?

स्वामी विवेकानंद की जयंती मनाने के लिए हर साल 12 जनवरी को राष्ट्रीय युवा दिवस मनाया जाता है। राष्ट्रीय युवा दिवस 2026 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) Youth for Nation
- (b) Empowering Young India
- (c) Youth and Innovation
- (d) Ignite the Self, Impact the World
- (e) Building Future Leaders

Ans. d

Sol. 12 January - National Youth Day

National Youth Day is observed on 12 January every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

Theme 2026 - Ignite the Self, Impact the World

The day celebrates the ideas, ideals, and teachings of Swami Vivekananda, which continue to inspire India's youth.

It aims to motivate young people towards nation-building, character development, and social responsibility.

165. In January 2026, a “Niveshak Shivir” was organised in Bengaluru to provide a single-window platform for resolving issues related to unclaimed dividends, shares, and pending claims, with participation from SEBI, MII, and RTAs. Which organisation was the main organiser of this investor facilitation camp?

जनवरी 2026 में, सेबी, एमआईआई और आरटीए की भागीदारी के साथ, दावा न किए गए लाभांश, शेयरों और लंबित दावों से संबंधित मुद्दों को हल करने के लिए एकल-खिड़की मंच प्रदान करने के लिए बेंगलुरु में एक "निवेशक शिविर" का आयोजन किया गया था। इस निवेशक सुविधा शिविर का मुख्य आयोजक कौन सा संगठन था?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India
- (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- (c) Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority
- (d) Ministry of Finance
- (e) National Stock Exchange

Ans. c

Sol. IEPFA Organises Niveshak Shivir in Bengaluru to Resolve Unclaimed Investment Claims

The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, in collaboration with SEBI and Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs), organised a Niveshak Shivir in Bengaluru to facilitate the resolution of unclaimed dividends, shares, and pending IEPFA claims.

The one-day investor facilitation camp provided a single-window platform for grievance redressal, claim assistance, KYC and nomination updates, with active participation from over 900 investors across Karnataka.

The event was attended by senior officials from IEPFA, SEBI, MIIs, RTAs, BSE and CDSL, including Smt. Anita Shah Akella, CEO, IEPFA, highlighting strong institutional support for investor services.

IEPFA launched an explainer booklet, “A Complete Guide to IEPFA Claims and Investor Services”, to enhance investor awareness and ensure smoother claim resolution.

The Bengaluru camp followed successful editions of Niveshak Shivir held earlier in Pune, Hyderabad, Jaipur and Amritsar.

166. After the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) included the Government of NCT of Delhi under its standard cash management framework, the aggregate Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for all States and Union Territories was revised.

What is the new aggregate WMA limit after this revision?

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) द्वारा राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली सरकार को मानक नकद प्रबंधन ढांचे में शामिल किए जाने के बाद, सभी राज्यों और केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों के लिए कुल Ways and

Means Advances (WMA) सीमा में संशोधन किया गया। इस संशोधन के बाद नई कुल WMA सीमा कितनी हो गई है?

- (a) ₹60,118 crore
- (b) ₹60,500 crore
- (c) ₹60,890 crore
- (d) ₹61,008 crore
- (e) ₹62,000 crore

Ans. d

Sol. RBI Revises WMA Limits to Strengthen Cash Management for States and UTs
The RBI has included the Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD) under its standard cash management framework, fixing a Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit of ₹890 crore effective from January 9, 2026.

With Delhi's inclusion, the aggregate WMA limit for all States and UTs increased to ₹61,008 crore from ₹60,118 crore, while limits for other States and UTs remain unchanged.

WMAs are short-term liquidity facilities provided by the RBI to manage temporary cash mismatches and do not expand borrowing capacity or finance fiscal deficits, ensuring continued fiscal discipline.

Structurally, the move is significant as it aligns Delhi with RBI's institutional cash management system, improves liquidity planning, enhances transparency, and strengthens sub-national fiscal stability without impacting markets or long-term debt.

167. The RBI has proposed amendments to its Governance Directions, 2025 for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) and Rural Co-operative Banks, introducing a mandatory three-year cooling-off period for directors completing the maximum tenure. What is the maximum continuous tenure allowed for directors of co-operative banks under existing rules?

RBI ने अर्बन कोऑपरेटिव बैंकों (UCB) और रूरल कोऑपरेटिव बैंकों के लिए अपने गवर्नेंस डायरेक्शन, 2025 में बदलाव का प्रस्ताव दिया है, जिसमें अधिकतम कार्यकाल पूरा करने वाले डायरेक्टर्स के लिए तीन साल का अनिवार्य कूलिंग-ऑफ पीरियड शुरू किया गया है। मौजूदा नियमों के तहत कोऑपरेटिव बैंकों के डायरेक्टर्स के लिए अधिकतम लगातार कार्यकाल कितना है?

- (a) 6 years
- (b) 8 years
- (c) 10 years
- (d) 12 years
- (e) 15 years

Ans. c

Sol. RBI Proposes Mandatory Cooling-Off Period for Directors of Co-operative Banks
 The RBI has proposed amendments to its Governance Directions, 2025 for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) and Rural Co-operative Banks, introducing a mandatory three-year cooling-off period for directors completing the maximum tenure.

The move aims to prevent circumvention of tenure limits, after RBI observed cases where directors resigned briefly and returned through re-election or co-option, undermining the intent of the Banking Regulation Act.

Under the proposal, directors completing 10 years of continuous tenure will be eligible for reappointment to the same bank's board only after three years, with the cooling-off period counting even if breaks are less than three years.

168. In January 2026, the United States, under President Donald Trump, signed a memorandum titled "Withdrawing the United States from International Organisations, Conventions, and Treaties that are Contrary to the Interests of the United States." The move involved the US withdrawing from a number of international organisations, including both UN bodies and non-UN entities such as the International Solar Alliance and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). How many organisations in total did the US withdraw from?

जनवरी 2026 में, राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के नेतृत्व में यूनाइटेड स्टेट्स ने "अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संगठनों, कन्वेंशनों और संधियों से यूनाइटेड स्टेट्स को वापस लेना जो यूनाइटेड स्टेट्स के हितों के खिलाफ हैं" शीर्षक वाला एक मेमोरेंडम साइन किया। इस कदम में अमेरिका कई अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संगठनों से बाहर निकल गया, जिसमें UN निकाय और गैर-UN संस्थाएं जैसे इंटरनेशनल सोलर अलायंस और इंटरगवर्नमेंटल पैनल ऑन क्लाइमेट चेंज (IPCC) शामिल थे। कुल कितने संगठनों से अमेरिका बाहर निकला?

- (a) 35
- (b) 50
- (c) 60
- (d) 66
- (e) 75

Ans. d

Sol. US Withdraws from 66 International Organisations, Including UN Bodies and ISA
 The United States, under President Donald Trump, has withdrawn from 66 international organisations, including 31 UN entities and 35 non-UN organisations, citing that membership is contrary to US interests.

The withdrawal covers prominent bodies such as the International Solar Alliance (India-France-led), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Science and Technology Centre in Ukraine, and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Trump signed a memorandum titled "Withdrawing the United States from International Organisations, Conventions, and Treaties that are Contrary to the Interests of the United States", directing all executive departments to implement the withdrawal immediately.

For UN entities, withdrawal involves ceasing participation and funding to the extent allowed by law, marking a significant shift in US engagement with multilateral institutions.

169. In January 2026, which company recently received final authorisation from the RBI to operate as a Payment Aggregator–Cross Border (PA-CB)?

जनवरी 2026 में, किस कंपनी को हाल ही में RBI से पेमेंट एग्रीगेटर-क्रॉस बॉर्डर (PA-CB) के रूप में काम करने के लिए फाइनल ऑथराइजेशन मिला है?

- (a) Paytm
- (b) Razorpay
- (c) Skydo
- (d) PhonePe
- (e) BharatPe

Ans. c

Sol. Skydo Receives RBI Approval to Operate as Cross-Border Payment Aggregator
Skydo, a cross-border payments platform for exporters, has received final authorisation from the RBI to operate as a Payment Aggregator–Cross Border (PA-CB).

The license will strengthen trust with SMB and enterprise customers, as well as global banks and payment partners, while enabling Skydo to scale payment volumes and expand across products and corridors.

170. Bajaj Finserv, along with Bajaj Holdings & Investment and Jamnalal Sons, acquired Allianz SE's 23% stake in Bajaj General Insurance and Bajaj Life Insurance, marking the largest transaction in the Indian insurance sector. What was the total value of Allianz SE's stakes acquired by Bajaj Finserv in Bajaj General Insurance and Bajaj Life Insurance?

बजाज फिनसर्व ने, बजाज होल्डिंग्स एंड इन्वेस्टमेंट और जमनालाल संस के साथ मिलकर, बजाज जनरल इश्योरेंस और बजाज लाइफ इश्योरेंस में एलियांज SE की 23% हिस्सेदारी हासिल कर ली, जो भारतीय बीमा क्षेत्र में सबसे बड़ा ट्रांजैक्शन है। बजाज फिनसर्व द्वारा बजाज जनरल इश्योरेंस और बजाज लाइफ इश्योरेंस में एलियांज SE की हासिल की गई हिस्सेदारी का कुल मूल्य कितना था?

- (a) Rs 10,000 crore and Rs 8,000 crore
- (b) Rs 11,500 crore and Rs 9,000 crore

- (c) Rs 12,190 crore and Rs 9,200 crore
 (d) Rs 13,010 crore and Rs 10,000 crore
 (e) Rs 15,000 crore and Rs 12,000 crore

Ans. c

Sol. Bajaj Finserv Acquires Allianz's Stake, Gains Complete Control of Insurance Businesses

Bajaj Finserv, along with Bajaj Holdings & Investment and Jamnalal Sons, acquired Allianz SE's 23% stake in Bajaj General Insurance and Bajaj Life Insurance for Rs 12,190 crore and Rs 9,200 crore, marking the largest transaction in the Indian insurance sector.

The acquisition raises the Bajaj Group's ownership in both insurance companies from 74% to 97%, giving Bajaj Finserv complete control over the businesses.

The remaining 3% stake of Allianz SE is expected to be bought back over the next few months, which will adjust Bajaj Finserv's holding to approximately 77.3%, Bajaj Holdings & Investment to 18.1%, and the balance with Jamnalal Sons.

171. The Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS) will conduct a Long Range Training Deployment to Southeast Asia as part of the 110th Integrated Officers' Training Course (IOTC), visiting Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand. Which Indian naval and coast guard ships are part of this deployment?

भारतीय नौसेना का पहला ट्रेनिंग स्क्वाड्रन (1TS) 110वें इंटीग्रेटेड ऑफिसर्स ट्रेनिंग कोर्स (IOTC) के हिस्से के तौर पर दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया में एक लंबी दूरी की ट्रेनिंग डिप्लॉयमेंट करेगा, जिसमें सिंगापुर, इंडोनेशिया और थाईलैंड का दौरा किया जाएगा। इस डिप्लॉयमेंट में कौन से भारतीय नौसेना और कोस्ट गार्ड जहाज शामिल हैं?

- (a) INS Vikramaditya, INS Shardul and INS Kolkata
 (b) INS Chakra, INS Shardul and INS Kamorta
 (c) INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata, and Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarathi
 (d) INS Arihant, Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarathi and INS Shivalik
 (e) INS Jalashwa and INS Sahyadri

Ans. c

Sol. Indian Navy's First Training Squadron Embarks on Long Range Deployment to Southeast Asia

The Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS) will conduct a Long Range Training Deployment to Southeast Asia as part of the 110th Integrated Officers' Training Course (IOTC), visiting Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand.

The deployment includes INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata, and Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarathi, providing officer trainees with operational and cross-cultural exposure while reinforcing India's maritime engagement under the Act East Policy.

During port calls, the squadron will engage in professional interactions, training exchanges, and joint exercises with host navies and maritime agencies, enhancing interoperability and mutual understanding.

The deployment reflects India's vision for a free, open, and inclusive Indian Ocean Region, includes six international officer trainees, and involves personnel from the Indian Army and Air Force to strengthen jointness and operational cohesion.

172. Who won the Open Rapid section at Tata Steel Chess India 2026?

टाटा स्टील चैस इंडिया 2026 में ओपन रैपिड सेक्शन किसने जीता?

- (a) Viswanathan Anand
- (b) D Gukesh
- (c) Wesley So
- (d) Nihal Sarin
- (e) Magnus Carlsen

Ans. d

Sol. Nihal Sarin Clinches Tata Steel Chess India 2026 Open Rapid Title

Nihal Sarin emerged as the champion of the Open Rapid section at Tata Steel Chess India 2026 in Kolkata, scoring 6.5 points from nine games with five wins and three draws, while former world champion Viswanathan Anand finished second with six points.

This is Nihal Sarin's second Open Rapid title at Tata Steel Chess India (first in 2022), earning him a cash prize of \$10,000, and he was a late entry replacing reigning world champion D Gukesh.

173. Retail inflation in India rose to a three-month high of how much in December 2025?

दिसंबर 2025 में खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति तीन महीने के उच्च स्तर पर कितनी रही?

- (a) 2.00%
- (b) 1.75%
- (c) 1.33%
- (d) 2.50%
- (e) 3.00%

Ans. c

Sol. Retail Inflation Hits 3-Month High at 1.33% in December

Retail inflation rose to a three-month high of 1.33% in December 2025, but remained well below the RBI's lower comfort limit of 2%, reflecting overall price stability.

Broad-based price decline kept inflation low, with food and beverages prices contracting by 1.85% in December, mainly due to a high base effect from 7.7% inflation in December 2024.

Inflation stayed unchanged at 2.96% for pan, tobacco and intoxicants, eased in clothing & footwear (1.44%), housing (2.86%), and fuel & light (1.97%), while prices of meat, oils and fruits remained above 5%.

Core inflation jumped to a 28-month high of 4.8%, driven largely by precious metals; however, core CPI excluding gold and silver stayed stable at 2.4%, indicating limited underlying inflation pressure.

Previous Months CPI-based Retail inflation

- **August 2025 – 2.07%**
- **September 2025 – 1.44% (8 year low)**
- **October 2025 – 0.25%**
- **November 2025 – 0.71%**
- **December 2025 – 1.33% (3 month high)**

174. Which organisation created four Guinness World Records during the construction of the Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Economic Corridor?

बेंगलुरु-कडप्पा-विजयवाड़ा इकोनॉमिक कॉरिडोर के निर्माण के दौरान चार गिनीज़ वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड किस संस्था ने बनाए?

- (a) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- (b) Indian Railways
- (c) National Highways Authority of India
- (d) Border Roads Organisation
- (e) National Infrastructure Pipeline

Ans. c

Sol. NHAI Sets Four Guinness World Records During Construction of Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Corridor

NHAI created four Guinness World Records during construction of the Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Economic Corridor (NH-544G), showcasing unprecedented speed and scale in highway paving works.

On January 6, two global records were set near Puttaparthi, including the longest continuous laying of bituminous concrete (28.89 lane km) and the highest quantity laid in 24 hours (10,655 metric tons).

Two more records were achieved on January 11, with continuous paving of 156 lane km and laying of 57,500 metric tons of bituminous concrete, surpassing the previous world record.

The 343 km, access-controlled six-lane corridor will significantly cut travel time by nearly four hours, boost regional connectivity in Andhra Pradesh, and support economic growth once completed.

175. National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is observed on which date?

राष्ट्रीय मानव तस्करी जागरूकता दिवस किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 10 January
- (b) 11 January
- (c) 12 January
- (d) 15 January
- (e) 18 January

Ans. b

Sol. 11 January - National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is observed on 11 January to raise awareness about human trafficking and promote efforts to prevent this serious crime. The day highlights the need to protect vulnerable groups, especially women and children, from exploitation, forced labour, and trafficking.

176. What is the name of the Military Civil Fusion exercise conducted at Khadki Military Station?

खड़की मिलिट्री स्टेशन पर आयोजित सैन्य-नागरिक समन्वय अभ्यास का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Prahar
- (b) Abhyas
- (c) Sanjha Shakti
- (d) Suraksha Setu
- (e) Samanvay

Ans. c

Sol. Military–Civil Fusion Exercise “Sanjha Shakti” Held at Khadki Military Station

The Military Civil Fusion exercise “Sanjha Shakti” was conducted at the Diggi Range, Khadki Military Station, under the aegis of MG & G Area, Southern Command. Over 350 personnel from 16 civilian agencies, including Maharashtra Police, Force One, and Fire Fighting Departments, participated alongside the Indian Army.

177. According to the UN DESA report, India’s GDP is expected to grow by what percentage in the current financial year (2025-26)?

UN DESA की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, वर्तमान वित्तीय वर्ष (2025-26) में भारत की GDP कितने प्रतिशत बढ़ने की उम्मीद है?

- (a) 6.5%

(b) 7.0%

(c) 7.4%

(d) 7.8%

(e) 8.0%

Ans. c

Sol. UN Projects India's GDP Growth at 7.4% in 2025-26

India's economic growth is projected at 7.4% for the current financial year (2025-26), driven primarily by strong consumption and public investment, according to the UN DESA World Economic Situation and Prospects 2026 report.

The report forecasts India's GDP growth at 6.6% in 2026-27 and 6.8% in 2027-28, supported by recent tax reforms, monetary easing, and targeted policy measures that boost domestic demand.

Global headline inflation is projected to decline from 3.4% in 2025 to 3.1% in 2026, but high costs of food, energy, and housing continue to strain real incomes, especially for low-income households, contributing to inequality.

178. Which city has been ranked as the best city for women in India in 2025, topping a nationwide study for urban inclusion due to its combination of strong social infrastructure and wide industrial and employment opportunities?

भारत में 2025 में महिलाओं के लिए सबसे अच्छा शहर कौन सा है, जिसे शहरी समावेशन के राष्ट्रीय अध्ययन में शीर्ष स्थान मिला क्योंकि इसमें मजबूत सामाजिक अवसंरचना और व्यापक औद्योगिक एवं रोजगार अवसर हैं?

(a) Chennai

(b) Pune

(c) Hyderabad

(d) Mumbai

(e) Bengaluru

Ans. e

Sol. Bengaluru Tops India's 2025 Women-Friendly Cities Ranking for Safety and Employem

Bengaluru has been ranked India's best city for women in 2025, topping a nationwide study on urban inclusion by effectively combining strong social infrastructure with wide industrial and employment opportunities.

The study, released by Avtar, assessed 125 cities across India; Bengaluru secured the highest City Inclusion Score of 53.29, followed by Chennai (49.86) and Pune (46.27), with Hyderabad and Mumbai completing the top five.

The index is based on a two-pillar framework: Social Inclusion (safety, health, education, mobility and liveability) and Industrial Inclusion (formal employment, skilling, corporate diversity practices and workforce participation).

179. The Karnataka Cabinet has approved the statewide rollout of the 'Akka Pade' scheme across all 31 districts and five police commissionerates in collaboration with the Home Department. The primary objective of the 'Akka Pade' scheme is to:

कर्नाटक मंत्रिमंडल ने गृह विभाग के सहयोग से सभी 31 जिलों और पांच पुलिस आयुक्तालयों में 'अक्का पड़े' योजना को राज्यव्यापी रूप से लागू करने की मंजूरी दे दी है। . 'अक्का पड़े' योजना का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य है:

- (a) Promote girls' education
- (b) Provide employment to women
- (c) Control population growth
- (d) Prevent child marriages and atrocities against women and minor girls
- (e) Improve health services for minor girls

Ans. d

Sol. Karnataka Cabinet Approves Statewide Rollout of 'Akka Pade' Scheme to Prevent Atrocities Against Women and Minors

The Karnataka Cabinet has approved the statewide rollout of the 'Akka Pade' scheme across all 31 districts and five police commissionerates in collaboration with the Home Department.

Akka Pade is a women- and community-oriented safety programme aimed at preventing violence, harassment, exploitation, and social evils such as child marriage. Initially implemented on a pilot basis in select districts, the scheme is being expanded statewide after successful outcomes, as announced by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil.

About Karnataka

- **Capital** – Bengaluru
- **Chief Minister** – Siddaramaiah
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - DK Shivakumar
- **Governor** – Thawar Chand Gehlot

180. To promote multidisciplinary research, innovation, and capacity building across the entire dairy sector, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which organisation?

संपूर्ण डेयरी क्षेत्र में बहु-विषयक अनुसंधान, नवाचार और क्षमता निर्माण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए, भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद (आईसीएआर) ने किस संगठन के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) ICAR and NABARD
- (b) NDDDB and NITI Aayog
- (c) ICAR and FCI
- (d) ICAR and NDDDB
- (e) NDDDB and APEDA

Ans. d

Sol. ICAR and NDDDB Sign MoU to Strengthen Research, Innovation, and Capacity Building in India's Dairy Sector

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) signed an MoU with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) to strengthen collaboration in multidisciplinary research, innovation, and capacity building across the dairy sector.

The MoU aims to combine ICAR's scientific expertise with NDDDB's field-level experience to address emerging grassroots challenges in dairy development.

The partnership will focus on climate resilience, productivity enhancement, value chain development, knowledge sharing, technology validation, and joint training programmes for researchers, professionals, and farmers.

About Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

- *Established- 16 July 1929*
- *Headquarters- New Delhi*
- *Director General- Dr Mangi Lal Jat*

181. The 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) is being held in which city?

28वां कॉमनवेल्थ स्पीकर्स एवं प्रीसाइडिंग ऑफिसर्स सम्मेलन (CSPOC) किस शहर में आयोजित हो रहा है?

- (a) London
- (b) Canberra
- (c) Ottawa
- (d) New Delhi
- (e) Kolkata

Ans. d

Sol. 28th CSPOC Conference Begins in New Delhi

The 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) has commenced in New Delhi, with participation from over 60

Commonwealth countries and semi-autonomous Parliaments in a three-day event.

The Conference aims to promote parliamentary democracy, strengthen legislative institutions, and encourage knowledge-sharing among different democratic systems, with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla serving as the Chairperson.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Conference at Samvidhan Sadan, which will feature sessions on AI in Parliament, social media impact, best practices, public engagement, security, and MPs' well-being, before the CSPOC Chair is handed over to UK House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle.

182. In a move aimed at facilitating smoother international travel and improving transit convenience for Indian travellers, which European country has allowed visa-free airport transit for Indian passport holders travelling to third countries?

भारतीय यात्रियों के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रा को सुगम बनाने और ट्रांजिट सुविधा में सुधार के उद्देश्य से किस यूरोपीय देश ने तीसरे देश की यात्रा करने वाले भारतीय पासपोर्ट धारकों को वीज़ा-मुक्त एयरपोर्ट ट्रांजिट की अनुमति दी है?

- (a) France
- (b) Italy
- (c) Spain
- (d) Germany
- (e) Netherlands

Ans. d

Sol. Germany Allows Visa-Free Transit for Indian Passport Holders

Germany has permitted visa-free transit for Indian passport holders, allowing them to pass through German airports without a transit visa under specified conditions. The move aims to facilitate smoother international travel for Indian travellers, especially those transiting to third countries.

This decision is expected to strengthen people-to-people ties and enhance travel convenience between India and Germany.

About Germany

- Capital- Berlin
- Currency - Euro
- Chancellor- Friedrich Merz
- Official language- German
- President- Frank-Walter Steinmeier

183. Who has been named New South Wales' Scientist of the Year, becoming the first mathematician to receive the state's highest science honour?

किसे न्यू साउथ वेल्स का सीनियर वैज्ञानिक (Scientist of the Year) नामित किया गया, और वे पहले गणितज्ञ बने जिन्होंने यह सम्मान प्राप्त किया?

- (a) Maryam Mirzakhani
- (b) Karen Uhlenbeck

- (c) Cédric Villani
 (d) Nalini Joshi
 (e) Terence Tao

Ans. d

Sol. Indian-Origin Mathematician Nalini Joshi Named New South Wales' Scientist of the Year

Indian-origin mathematician Nalini Joshi has been named New South Wales' Scientist of the Year, becoming the first mathematician to receive the state's highest science honour, in recognition of her pioneering contributions to applied mathematics.

The award highlights the growing relevance of mathematical sciences in addressing complex technological and societal challenges, from climate modelling to secure digital communications.

Joshi is a Professor and Chair of Applied Mathematics at the University of Sydney and was the institution's first woman Professor of Mathematics, marking a significant milestone for gender representation in Australian academia.

Recent Awards

- **2026 IEEE Medal of Honor** - NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang (for Pioneering Accelerated Computing)
- **Nritya Kalanidhi Award at 19th Music Academy Dance Festival** - Bharatanatyam Exponent Urmila Satyanarayanan Conferred
- **France's Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres for Literary Contributions** - Malayalam publisher Ravi Deecee (MDof DC Books)
- **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

184. Which Italian civilian honour was conferred on Goa-based industrialist Shrinivas Dempo?

गोवा स्थित उद्योगपति श्रीनिवास डेम्पो को कौन सा इतालवी नागरिक सम्मान प्रदान किया गया?

- (a) Order of Merit of the Italian Republic
 (b) Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia
 (c) Order of the Italian Star
 (d) Knight of Italy
 (e) Italian Excellence Award

Ans. b

Sol. Italy Conferred Prestigious 'Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia' Honour on Goa-Based Industrialist Shrinivas Dempo
Goa-based industrialist Shrinivas Dempo has been awarded the Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia, one of Italy's most respected civilian honours, for his contributions to Italian citizens and bilateral interests in India.
The award was presented in Goa by Walter Ferrara, Consul General of Italy in Mumbai, highlighting Dempo's role in strengthening Indo-Italian people-to-people and institutional ties.
As honorary vice consul of Italy in Goa, Dempo has assisted Italian nationals and facilitated investments, with the honour recognising his exceptional service in cultural, economic, and diplomatic spheres.

185. Major Swathi Shantha Kumar of the Indian Army won the UN Secretary-General's Award 2025 for her initiative "Equal Partners, Lasting Peace." Major Swathi is currently serving under which UN mission?

भारतीय सेना की मेजर स्वाति शांता कुमार ने अपनी पहल "इक्वल पार्टनर्स, लास्टिंग पीस" के लिए UN सेक्रेटरी-जनरल का अवॉर्ड 2025 जीता है। मेजर स्वाति अभी किस UN मिशन के तहत काम कर रही हैं?

- (a) UNIFIL
- (b) MONUSCO
- (c) UNAMID
- (d) UNMISS
- (e) UNSMIL

Ans. d

Sol. Indian Army Officer Major Swathi Shantha Kumar Wins UN Secretary-General's Award 2025

Major Swathi Shantha Kumar of the Indian Army won the UN Secretary-General's Award 2025 for her initiative "Equal Partners, Lasting Peace."
Serving with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), she made significant contributions toward strengthening gender parity and community-level engagement.
The prestigious award was announced and conferred by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

186. Justice Revati Mohite Dere recently created history by being sworn in as the first woman Chief Justice of which High Court, marking a milestone for a matrilineal northeastern state?

जस्टिस रेवती मोहिते डेरे ने हाल ही में किस हाई कोर्ट की पहली महिला चीफ जस्टिस के तौर पर शपथ लेकर इतिहास रचा, जो एक मातृसत्तात्मक उत्तर-पूर्वी राज्य के लिए एक मील का पत्थर है?

- (a) Bombay High Court
- (b) Gauhati High Court
- (c) Manipur High Court
- (d) Meghalaya High Court
- (e) Tripura High Court

Ans. d

Sol. Justice Revati Mohite Dere Sworn In as First Woman Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court

Justice Revati Mohite Dere was sworn in as the first woman Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court, marking a landmark moment for the matrilineal northeastern state.

The oath was administered by Meghalaya Governor Chandrashekhar H Vijayashankar at the Durbar Hall, Lok Bhavan, Shillong; she succeeds Justice Soumen Sen.

About Meghalaya

- **Capital** – Shillong
- **Chief Minister** - Conrad Kongkal Sangma
- **Governor** - C. H. Vijayashankar

187. Singer and actor Prashant Tamang (43) passed away due to cardiac arrest at his residence in New Delhi. Prashant Tamang rose to national fame after winning which reality show?

सिंगर और एक्टर प्रशांत तमांग (43) का नई दिल्ली में अपने घर पर कार्डियक अरेस्ट से निधन हो गया। प्रशांत तमांग किस रियलिटी शो को जीतकर नेशनल लेवल पर मशहूर हुए थे?

- (a) Sa Re Ga Ma Pa
- (b) Indian Idol Season 2
- (c) Indian Idol Season 3
- (d) The Voice India
- (e) Fame Gurukul

Ans. c

Sol. Indian Idol 3 Winner and Actor Prashant Tamang Passes Away at 43

Singer and actor Prashant Tamang (43), winner of Indian Idol Season 3, passed away due to cardiac arrest at his residence in New Delhi.

He rose to fame after winning Indian Idol and was recently seen playing the role of Daniel Lecho in Paatal Lok Season 2.

Tamang was born on January 4, 1983, in Darjeeling into a Nepali-speaking Gorkha family.

188. Justice Soumen Sen was recently sworn in as the Chief Justice of which High Court?

जस्टिस सौमेन सेन ने हाल ही में किस हाई कोर्ट के चीफ जस्टिस के तौर पर शपथ ली है?

- (a) Meghalaya High Court
- (b) Calcutta High Court
- (c) Kerala High Court
- (d) Karnataka High Court
- (e) Madras High Court

Ans. c

Sol. Justice Soumen Sen Sworn In as New Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court

Justice Soumen Sen was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court, with the oath administered by Governor Rajendra Viswanath Arlekar at Kerala Lok Bhavan, in the presence of senior state dignitaries.

He assumed charge after the superannuation of Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar and was previously serving as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court.

About Kerala

- **Capital** – Thiruvananthapuram
- **Chief Minister** – Pinarayi Vijayan
- **Governor** – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

189. Who inaugurated the 9th edition of Indusfood 2026 at Greater Noida?

ग्रेटर नोएडा में इंडसफूड 2026 के 9वें एडिशन का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Union Minister Chirag Paswan Inaugurates Indusfood 2026 in Greater Noida

Union Minister Chirag Paswan of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries inaugurated the 9th edition of Indusfood 2026 at the India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

The event was organised by the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Indusfood 2026 is Asia's premier global food and beverage sourcing trade show, aimed at promoting Indian agri-exports, entrepreneurship, and international trade partnerships.

190. Who has been appointed as the President and Vice Chairman of Meta recently?

हाल ही में मेटा के प्रेसिडेंट और वाइस चेयरमैन के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Sheryl Sandberg
- (b) Susan Wojcicki
- (c) Dina Powell McCormick
- (d) Amy Hood
- (e) Marissa Mayer

Ans. c

Sol. Meta Appoints Dina Powell McCormick as President and Vice Chairman
Meta, the parent company of Facebook, has appointed Dina Powell McCormick as its President and Vice Chairman, strengthening its top leadership.

A former adviser in the Trump administration and a seasoned finance executive, she had earlier served on Meta's Board of Directors.

191. Which Indian stock exchange, known for being Asia's oldest stock exchange and a pioneer in electronic trading, was recently conferred the Asia Best Employer Brand Award 2026 in recognition of its strong workplace culture, employee empowerment initiatives, and efforts to foster an inclusive, high-performance environment?

एशिया के सबसे पुराने स्टॉक एक्सचेंज और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक ट्रेडिंग में पायनियर के तौर पर जाने जाने वाले किस भारतीय स्टॉक एक्सचेंज को हाल ही में उसके मज़बूत वर्कप्लेस कल्चर, कर्मचारियों को सशक्त बनाने की पहलों और समावेशी, हाई-परफॉर्मेंस माहौल को बढ़ावा देने के प्रयासों के लिए एशिया बेस्ट एम्प्लॉयर ब्रांड अवार्ड 2026 से सम्मानित किया गया?

- (a) National Stock Exchange
- (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- (c) Bombay Stock Exchange
- (d) Multi Commodity Exchange of India
- (e) Kolkata Stock Exchange

Ans. c

Sol. Bombay Stock Exchange Wins Asia Best Employer Brand Award 2026

The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has been conferred the Asia Best Employer Brand Award 2026 at the Hong Kong Leadership Awards & CMO Asia Awards.

The award recognises BSE's strong people-first approach, focus on employee empowerment, professional development, and building an inclusive, high-performance work culture.

About Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)

- *Founded – 9 July 1875*
- *Headquarters - Mumbai Maharashtra*
- *Chairman - Subhasis Chaudhuri*
- *MD & CEO - Sundararaman Ramamurthy*

192. What is the new name of the Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala?

केरल के अरालम वाइल्डलाइफ सेंचुरी का नया नाम क्या है?

- (a) Aralam Bird Sanctuary
- (b) Aralam Nature Park
- (c) Aralam Insect Sanctuary
- (d) Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary
- (e) Aralam Eco Park

Ans. d

Sol. Kerala Renames Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary as First Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary
Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala has been officially renamed as Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary, making it the first butterfly-specific sanctuary in the state.

The renaming was notified via SRO No. 1407/2025 under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, based on the State Board for Wildlife's recommendation highlighting the area's exceptional butterfly diversity.

Aralam spans 55 sq km of evergreen and semi-evergreen forests in Kannur, hosting large-scale butterfly migrations, mud-puddling, and serving as a habitat for Schedule 1 species like the Slender Loris.

193. Which government organisation in Kerala announced the Science Literature Awards 2024, recognising outstanding contributions in Malayalam science writing across categories such as Popular Science, In-depth Science, Children's Literature, and Science Journalism?

कौन-सी केरल की सरकारी संस्था ने 2024 के विज्ञान साहित्य पुरस्कार की घोषणा की, जो मलयालम में विज्ञान लेखन में उत्कृष्ट योगदान को मान्यता देती है, जिसमें लोकप्रिय विज्ञान, गहन विज्ञान, बच्चों का साहित्य और विज्ञान पत्रकारिता जैसी श्रेणियाँ शामिल हैं?

- (a) Indian National Science Academy
- (b) Kerala Academy of Sciences
- (c) Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment
- (d) National Council for Science & Technology
- (e) Kerala Science Foundation

Ans. c

Sol. Kerala Announces Science Literature Awards 2024 for Excellence in Malayalam Science Writing

Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) announced the Science Literature Awards 2024, recognising excellence in science writing in Malayalam across four categories.

Each award carries ₹50,000, a plaque, and a certificate, celebrating contributions in Popular Science, In-depth Science, Children's Literature, and Science Journalism. Winners include Biju Dharmapalan (Popular Science), Gopakumar Cholayil (In-depth Science), and Pradeep Orkkatteri (Children's Literature) for their outstanding books published in 2024.

The Science Journalism award was presented to Ashwin S. for his series on artificial intelligence in Malayala Manorama, highlighting the role of media in popularising scientific knowledge.

194. Indian mountaineer Aritra Roy successfully summited Mount Aconcagua in Argentina, the highest peak outside Asia at 6,967.15 meters above sea level. Which organization fully sponsored Aritra Roy's solo expedition to Mount Aconcagua?

भारतीय पर्वतारोही अरित्रा रॉय ने अर्जेन्टीना में माउंट एकाँनकागुआ पर सफलतापूर्वक चढ़ाई की, जो समुद्र तल से 6,967.15 मीटर की ऊंचाई पर एशिया के बाहर सबसे ऊंची चोटी है। अरित्रा रॉय के माउंट एकाँनकागुआ के सोलो अभियान को किस संगठन ने पूरी तरह से स्पॉन्सर किया था?

- (a) ISRO
- (b) DRDO
- (c) ONGC
- (d) HAL
- (e) Indian Army

Ans. d

Sol. Indian Mountaineer Aritra Roy Conquers Mount Aconcagua in Argentina

Indian mountaineer Aritra Roy successfully summited Mount Aconcagua in Argentina, the highest peak outside Asia at 6,967.15 meters above sea level.

The solo expedition, sponsored by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), is part of Roy's Seven Summits challenge, following his earlier climb of Mount Everest.

Roy reached the summit on January 7 at 2:00 PM local time after a 44-km trek in extreme conditions with temperatures as low as -40°C , facing snowstorms and blizzards.

195. Australia women's team captain Alyssa Healy announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket ahead of the T20 World Cup 2026. In which years did Alyssa Healy win the ODI World Cup?

ऑस्ट्रेलिया महिला टीम की कप्तान एलिसा हीली ने T20 वर्ल्ड कप 2026 से पहले इंटरनेशनल क्रिकेट के सभी फॉर्मेट से रिटायरमेंट की घोषणा कर दी है। एलिसा हीली ने किन सालों में वनडे वर्ल्ड कप जीता था?

- (a) 2011 and 2019
- (b) 2012 and 2018
- (c) 2013 and 2022
- (d) 2010 and 2016
- (e) 2014 and 2020

Ans. c

Sol. Australia Women's Captain Alyssa Healy Announces Retirement from International Cricket

Australia women's team captain Alyssa Healy announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket ahead of the T20 World Cup 2026.

The 35-year-old wicketkeeper-batter ends an illustrious T20I career of nearly 15 years, scoring 3,054 runs at a strike rate of 129.79.

Debuting in 2010, Healy is a six-time T20 World Cup winner and also lifted the ODI World Cup in 2013 and 2022, marking the end of a golden era in Australian cricket.

Recently Retired Players

- *Jinson Johnson (Kerala, India) - Middle-distance Runner*
- *Usman Khawaja (Australia) - International cricket*
- *Doug Bracewell (New Zealand) - all forms of international cricket*
- *Mohit Sharma (India) - All Forms of Cricket*
- *Kane Williamson (New Zealand) - T20 Internationals*
- *Rohan Bopanna (India) - Professional Tennis*

196. India ranked 80th in the Henley Passport Index 2026, with visa-free, visa-on-arrival or eTA access to 55 destinations, sharing the rank with Algeria and Niger. Which country holds the world's most powerful passport in the Henley Passport Index 2026?

हेनले पासपोर्ट इंडेक्स 2026 में भारत 80वें स्थान पर रहा, जिसमें 55 डेस्टिनेशन के लिए वीजा-फ्री, वीजा-ऑन-अराइवल या eTA एक्सेस मिला, और यह रैंक अल्जीरिया और नाइजर के साथ शेयर की। हेनले पासपोर्ट इंडेक्स 2026 में दुनिया का सबसे शक्तिशाली पासपोर्ट किस देश के पास है?

- (a) Japan
- (b) Germany
- (c) South Korea
- (d) France
- (e) Singapore

Ans. e

Sol. India Climbs to 80th Position in Global Passport Index 2026

India ranked 80th in the Henley Passport Index 2026, with visa-free, visa-on-arrival or eTA access to 55 destinations, sharing the rank with Algeria and Niger.

India's position has improved by five places from 85th in 2025, reflecting a gradual increase in global mobility for Indian passport holders.

Despite the improvement, India remains below the global average of over 100 destinations, with limited access to Europe, the UK, the US, and Canada, restricting spontaneous travel.

Singapore continues to hold the most powerful passport (192 destinations), followed by Japan and South Korea jointly at second place, while Afghanistan remains the weakest (24 destinations).

Compared to peers, India lags behind China (59th, 81 destinations), Saudi Arabia (54th, 88 destinations) and South Africa (48th, 101 destinations), highlighting the mobility gap for Indian travellers.

197. PFRDA has constituted a high-level expert committee to develop an assured pension income product under the National Pension System (NPS), aimed at attracting risk-averse subscribers. The expert committee formed for assured pension payouts under NPS is chaired by whom?

PFRDA ने नेशनल पेंशन सिस्टम (NPS) के तहत एक पक्का पेंशन इनकम प्रोडक्ट डेवलप करने के लिए एक हाई-लेवल एक्सपर्ट कमेटी बनाई है, जिसका मकसद रिस्क से बचने वाले सब्सक्राइबर्स को आकर्षित करना है। NPS के तहत पक्की पेंशन पेमेंट के लिए बनी एक्सपर्ट कमेटी की अध्यक्षता कौन कर रहा है?

(a) Urjit Patel

(b) Rajeev Kumar

(c) Ajay Tyagi

(d) M. S. Sahoo

(e) N. S. Vishwanathan

Ans. d

Sol. PFRDA Forms Expert Panel to Develop Assured Pension Income Product Under NPS

PFRDA has constituted a high-level expert committee to develop an assured pension income product under the National Pension System (NPS), aimed at attracting risk-averse subscribers.

The 15-member panel, chaired by M. S. Sahoo (former IBBI chairperson), will act as a standing advisory body to frame guidelines and regulations for assured payouts under NPS.

The move aligns with the PFRDA Act and the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, marking the first structured effort to design a market-based assured pension product with inputs from multi-disciplinary experts.

198. Who has been appointed as a whole-time director of Kotak Mahindra Bank?

कोटक महिंद्रा बैंक के पूर्णकालिक निदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Rajeed Jain
- (b) Ashok Vaswani
- (c) Jaideep Hansraj
- (d) Parul Tyagi
- (e) Anup Kumar Saha

Ans. e

Sol. Kotak Mahindra Bank Names Former Bajaj Finance MD Anup Kumar Saha as Whole-Time Director

Kotak Mahindra Bank appointed former Bajaj Finance MD Anup Kumar Saha as its whole-time director.

Saha will oversee consumer banking, marketing, and data analytics, focusing on customer-centric transformation, digital innovation, and data-led strategies.

With this appointment, Saha becomes the fourth whole-time director on Kotak Mahindra Bank's board, joining MD & CEO Ashok Vaswani and executive directors Jaideep Hansraj and Paritosh Kashyap.

Recent Appointments in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **CEO of HSBC Private Bank** - *Ida Liu (replace Georges Elhedery)*
- **CEO of Health Insurance Ecosystem by General Insurance Council** - *S. Prakash*
- **Interim MD & CEO of Canara Bank** - *Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia (replace K. Satyanarayana Raju)*
- **Non-Executive Chairman of India Infoline Finance Limited (IIFL)** - *B.P. Kanungo*

199. Essar Future Energy Limited signed an MoU with which state government for a bio-fuel project?

एस्सार फ्यूचर एनर्जी लिमिटेड ने बायो-फ्यूल प्रोजेक्ट के लिए किस राज्य सरकार के साथ MoU साइन किया है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Essar Signs ₹5,100 Crore MoU with Gujarat for Large-Scale Bio-Fuel Project
 Essar Future Energy Limited signed an MoU with the Gujarat government to invest ₹5,100 crore in setting up a large-scale bio-fuel complex in Devbhumi Dwarka district.

The MoU was signed at the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference (VGRC) held in Rajkot, marking a major push for renewable energy in the state.

The proposed bio-fuel project will have an initial feedstock processing capacity of 1 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) and was signed in the presence of senior state ministers and officials.

Recent MoU

- *Supreme Court of India Signs MoU with Bhutan Apex Court to Exchange Young Legal Professionals*
- *Delhi Government Signs MoU with RBI to Streamline Borrowings and Cash Management*
- *NTH and NHAI Sign MoU to Enhance Quality Assurance in National Highway Projects*
- *PDUNASS and IC Centre for Governance Partner to Embed Ethical Leadership in EPFO Administration*
- *India Optel Limited (IOL) signed agreement with Safran Electronics & Defense to manufacture two high-precision, combat-proven defence systems in India*

200. Who chaired the meeting of the NIRANTAR platform to strengthen coordination among MoEFCC institutions?

MoEFCC संस्थाओं के समन्वय को मजबूत करने के लिए NIRANTAR प्लेटफॉर्म की बैठक की अध्यक्षता किसने की?

- Prime Minister
- Union Environment Minister
- Union Agriculture Minister
- Union Science & Technology Minister
- Union Forest Secretary

Ans. b

Sol. Union Environment Minister Chairs NIRANTAR Meeting to Strengthen MoEFCC Coordination

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav chaired a meeting on the NIRANTAR platform, aimed at strengthening coordination and collaboration among institutions under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

NIRANTAR's four verticals focus on research, assessment of outcomes, and their ultimate utilisation, enhancing effective use of India's natural resources.

201. GAIL (India) Limited has joined which nationwide campaign under the National PNG Drive 2.0 initiative?

गैल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड ने नेशनल PNG ड्राइव 2.0 के तहत किस राष्ट्रीय अभियान में भाग लिया है?

- (a) #CleanEnergyIndia
- (b) #GasForAll
- (c) #EnergyForFuture
- (d) #GreenIndiaMission
- (e) #NonStopZindagi

Ans. e

Sol. GAIL Joins PNGRB's National PNG Drive 2.0 to Promote PNG and CNG Across India

GAIL (India) Limited has partnered with PNGRB for the National PNG Drive 2.0 initiative, joining the nationwide #NonStopZindagi campaign to promote Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) adoption across India. National PNG Drive 2.0 runs from 1 January to 31 March 2026, supporting India's goal to increase the share of natural gas in the energy mix to 15% by 2030. The campaign aims to raise awareness, generate demand, and strengthen the City Gas Distribution (CGD) ecosystem, supported by the Unified Tariff framework under the principle of "One Nation, One Grid, One Tariff".

202. When is National Road Safety Week 2026 being observed in India?

राष्ट्रीय सड़क सुरक्षा सप्ताह 2026 भारत में कब मनाया जा रहा है?

- (a) January 10–20
- (b) January 11–17
- (c) January 15–21
- (d) January 20–26
- (e) January 25–31

Ans. b

Sol. 11 - 17 January 2026 - National Road Safety Week

National Road Safety Week 2026 is being observed from January 11 to 17 across India to raise awareness about road safety and reduce accidents.

The campaign focuses on promoting safe driving practices, adherence to traffic rules, and use of helmets and seatbelts among motorists and pedestrians.

The year 2026 marks the 37th observance of National Road Safety Week in India.

203. Indian Army signs ₹168 crore contract for MAPSS, a solar-powered surveillance drone system, marking the first induction of a solar-powered unmanned aerial platform for long-endurance border monitoring. What does MAPSS stand for in the context of the Indian Army's drone induction?

भारतीय सेना ने MAPSS के लिए ₹168 करोड़ का कॉन्ट्रैक्ट साइन किया है, जो एक सोलर-पावर्ड सर्विलांस ड्रोन सिस्टम है। यह लंबे समय तक बॉर्डर की निगरानी के लिए सोलर-पावर्ड मानवरहित एरियल प्लेटफॉर्म का पहला इंडक्शन है। भारतीय सेना के ड्रोन इंडक्शन के संदर्भ में MAPSS का मतलब क्या है?

- (a) Medium Altitude Precision Strike System
- (b) Multi-Aircraft Persistent Surveillance System
- (c) Medium Altitude Persistent Surveillance System
- (d) Modular Aerial Patrol Surveillance System
- (e) Mobile Airborne Protection and Surveillance System

Ans. c

Sol. Indian Army Inducts Solar-Powered MAPSS Drone for Long-Endurance Border Surveillance

Indian Army signs ₹168 crore contract for MAPSS, a solar-powered surveillance drone system, marking the first induction of a solar-powered unmanned aerial platform for long-endurance border monitoring.

MAPSS (Medium Altitude Persistent Surveillance System), developed by Bengaluru-based NewSpace Research & Technologies, uses solar energy instead of conventional fuel or batteries, allowing continuous airborne operations for extended periods.

The system is designed for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) missions across diverse terrains, providing quieter electric propulsion, reduced thermal signature, and support for tracking, observation, communications, and target identification.

204. The PSLV-C62 mission, launched by ISRO as its first mission of the year from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, was carrying multiple satellites, including the Earth observation satellite EOS-N1, several international payloads from Brazil, Nepal, and the UK, as well as a surveillance satellite named Anvesha developed by DRDO. How many total payloads were on board the PSLV-C62 mission?

ISRO का PSLV-C62 मिशन, वर्ष का पहला लॉन्च, सतीश धवन स्पेस सेंटर से किया गया था। इसमें ईओएस-एन1 अर्थ ऑब्जर्वेशन सैटेलाइट, ब्राज़ील, नेपाल और यूके के अंतरराष्ट्रीय पेलोड्स और DRDO द्वारा विकसित निगरानी सैटेलाइट अन्वेषा शामिल थे। इस मिशन में कुल कितने पेलोड्स थे?

- (a) 10
- (b) 12

(c) 14

(d) 16

(e) 18

Ans. d

Sol. ISRO's PSLV-C62 Mission Fails to Place 16 Satellites into Orbit

ISRO's PSLV-C62 mission, the first launch of the year, failed to place its 16 satellites into the intended orbit due to a technical problem in the rocket's third stage.

The rocket was launched successfully from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, with the first two stages performing normally.

The mission carried EOS-N1 (Earth observation satellite) along with 15 other payloads, including satellites from Brazil, Nepal, and the UK, as well as Anvesha, a surveillance satellite developed by DRDO.

This is the second consecutive PSLV mission affected by third-stage issues, despite PSLV's previous successes in missions like Chandrayaan-1, Mars Orbiter Mission, Aditya-L1, and Astrosat.

205. Bamanwas Kankar gram panchayat, recently in news for sustainable agriculture, is located in which district of Rajasthan?

सतत कृषि के लिए चर्चा में रहा बामनवास कांकर ग्राम पंचायत राजस्थान के किस जिले में स्थित है?

(a) Alwar

(b) Jaipur

(c) Sikar

(d) Kotputli–Behror

(e) Bharatpur

Ans. d

Sol. Bamanwas Kankar Becomes Rajasthan's First Fully Organic Certified Gram Panchayat

Bamanwas Kankar gram panchayat in Rajasthan has become the State's first fully organic certified village body, located in the newly formed Kotputli–Behror district.

The shift towards organic farming began after villagers collectively addressed declining soil fertility, falling groundwater levels, rising input costs, and health issues linked to chemical-based agriculture, focusing on long-term sustainability.

The panchayat has adopted chemical-free farming and ecological livestock practices, including crop rotation, mulching, biological pest control, vermicompost use, and environmentally responsible animal husbandry.

206. The Dagadarthi Greenfield Airport project, recently approved by the state cabinet, is located in which district of Andhra Pradesh?

हाल ही में राज्य मंत्रिमंडल द्वारा स्वीकृत दगदर्थी ग्रीनफील्ड एयरपोर्ट परियोजना आंध्र प्रदेश के किस जिले में स्थित है?

- (a) Prakasam
- (b) Chittoor
- (c) Nellore
- (d) Anantapur
- (e) Visakhapatnam

Ans. c

Sol. Andhra Pradesh Cabinet Approves Dagadarthi Greenfield Airport in Nellore District

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved the Dagadarthi Greenfield Airport project in Nellore district, marking a major boost to regional aviation infrastructure.

With this approval, Dagadarthi will become the 8th airport in Andhra Pradesh, strengthening air connectivity in the state.

The airport is strategically located near major National Highway corridors and close to Krishnapatnam Port and Ramayapatnam Port, enabling strong multimodal transport integration.

The project will be developed in phases over 1,332.80 acres of land and has already received in-principle approval from the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

About Andhra Pradesh

- **Capital** – Amaravati
- **Chief Minister** – N Chandrababu Naidu
- **Deputy CM** – Pawan Kalyan
- **Governor** – S. Abdul Nazeer

207. The Navi Mumbai International Airport will be named after which prominent leader associated with farmers' and local rights movements?

नवी मुंबई अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे का नाम किसानों और स्थानीय अधिकार आंदोलनों से जुड़े किस प्रमुख नेता के नाम पर रखा जाएगा?

- (a) Bal Thackeray
- (b) Sharad Pawar
- (c) D B Patil
- (d) Gopinath Munde
- (e) Vilasrao Deshmukh

Ans. c

Sol. Navi Mumbai International Airport to Be Named After D B Patil

Navi Mumbai International Airport will be named after late D B Patil, a prominent leader linked with farmers' and local rights movements, as announced by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at a public meeting in Airoli. Navi Mumbai is set to become the next economic growth engine of Maharashtra, with the airport acting as a catalyst for sectors like pharmaceuticals, food processing, services, innovation-driven enterprises, and import-export activities.

About Maharashtra

- **Capital** - Mumbai
- **Chief Minister** - Devendra Fadnavis (3rd time)
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Eknath Sindhe & Ajit Pawar
- **Governor** - Acharya Devvrat (additional charge)

208. India assumed the BRICS Presidency for 2026 on 1 January 2026, taking over from Brazil and marking its fourth term as the BRICS chair. On this occasion, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar launched the official BRICS 2026 website, theme and logo in New Delhi. Which of the following symbols are reflected in the BRICS 2026 logo to convey unity, prosperity and mutual respect among the BRICS member nations?

भारत ने 1 जनवरी 2026 को ब्राज़ील से BRICS की अध्यक्षता संभाली और 2026 के लिए BRICS की अध्यक्षता ग्रहण की, जो BRICS अध्यक्ष के रूप में उसका चौथा कार्यकाल है। इस अवसर पर, विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने नई दिल्ली में BRICS 2026 की आधिकारिक वेबसाइट, थीम और लोगो लॉन्च किया। BRICS सदस्य देशों के बीच एकता, समृद्धि और आपसी सम्मान को दर्शाने के लिए BRICS 2026 लोगो में निम्नलिखित में से कौन से प्रतीक दिखाए गए हैं?

- (a) Ashoka Chakra and Tricolour
- (b) Peacock and Banyan Tree
- (c) Lion and Lotus
- (d) Handshake and Globe
- (e) Lotus and Namaste

Ans. e

Sol. India Launches Theme, Logo and Website for BRICS 2026 Presidency

India assumed the BRICS Presidency (18th) for 2026 on 1 January 2026, taking over from Brazil, marking its fourth term as the BRICS chair.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar launched the official BRICS 2026 website, theme, and logo in New Delhi to kick-start India's chairship.

India's BRICS presidency will follow a "humanity-first" and people-centric approach, focusing on inclusive growth and global welfare.

The theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability" and the lotus-'Namaste' based logo symbolise unity, prosperity, respect, and mark 20 years of BRICS as a key platform for emerging economies.

About BRICS

- *Formation- 16 June 2009*
- *Founded at- Yekaterinburg, Russia (1st BRIC summit)*
- *Membership- Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates*

209. Who has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of the Border Security Force (BSF)?

BSF के महानिदेशक (DG) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor
 (b) Rakesh Aggarwal
 (c) Praveen Kumar
 (d) Y.S. Puram Kumar
 (e) Anil Kumar

Ans. c

Sol. Praveen Kumar Named BSF Chief, Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor Appointed DG ITBP
 The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor, a 1990-batch IPS officer of the Haryana cadre and former Haryana DGP, as Director General (DG) of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) till October 31 or until further orders.

Praveen Kumar, a 1993-batch IPS officer of the West Bengal cadre, currently serving as DG, ITBP, has been appointed as Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF), holding the post till September 30, 2030 or until further orders.

Praveen Kumar is presently holding dual charge of DG, BSF and DG, ITBP following his new appointment.

The ACC also cleared the appointment of Rakesh Aggarwal, a 1994-batch IPS officer, as Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), with tenure up to July 31, 2028 or until further orders.

About Border Security Force (BSF)

- *It is a central armed police force in India, under the Ministry of Home Affairs.*
- **Founded-** 1 December 1965
- **Founder-** Khusro Faramurz Rustamji
- **Constituting instrument** - Border Security Force Act 1968
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi
- **Director General-** Praveen Kumar

About Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

- It is a central armed police force in India, under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Formed- 24 October 1962
- Headquarters- New Delhi
- Director General - Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor

About National Investigation Agency (NIA)

- It is the principal counter-terrorism law enforcement agency in India.
- It was established under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.
- It operates under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Formed- 2009
- Headquarters- New Delhi
- Director General - Rakesh Aggarwal

210. NITI Aayog released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024, the fourth edition of the index, which evaluates export readiness across India's States and Union Territories. Under the index, States and UTs are categorised into Large States, Small States, North Eastern States, and Union Territories, and further classified as Leaders, Challengers, and Aspirers to promote comparative assessment and peer learning. In EPI 2024, the top-performing Large States are Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh, while leading performers among Small States, North Eastern States, and UTs include Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Nagaland, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, and Goa. The Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024 is structured around which of the following pillars?

नीति आयोग ने एक्सपोर्ट प्रिपेयर्डनेस इंडेक्स (EPI) 2024 जारी किया, जो इस इंडेक्स का चौथा एडिशन है, और यह भारत के राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में एक्सपोर्ट की तैयारी का मूल्यांकन करता है। इस इंडेक्स के तहत, राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों को बड़े राज्यों, छोटे राज्यों, उत्तर पूर्वी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में बांटा गया है, और तुलनात्मक मूल्यांकन और पीयर लर्निंग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उन्हें लीडर्स, चैलेंजर्स और एस्पायर्स के रूप में और वर्गीकृत किया गया है। EPI 2024 में, सबसे अच्छा प्रदर्शन करने वाले बड़े राज्य महाराष्ट्र, तमिलनाडु, गुजरात, उत्तर प्रदेश और आंध्र प्रदेश हैं, जबकि छोटे राज्यों, उत्तर पूर्वी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में सबसे अच्छा प्रदर्शन करने वालों में उत्तराखंड, जम्मू और कश्मीर, नागालैंड, दादरा और नगर हवेली और दमन और दीव, और गोवा शामिल हैं। एक्सपोर्ट प्रिपेयर्डनेस इंडेक्स (EPI) 2024 निम्नलिखित में से किन स्तंभों पर आधारित है?

1. Export Infrastructure
2. Business Ecosystem
3. Policy & Governance
4. Export Performance
5. Agricultural Sustainability

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

नीचे दिए गए कूट का प्रयोग कर सही उत्तर चुनिए:

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

Ans. b

Sol. NITI Aayog Releases Export Preparedness Index 2024

NITI Aayog released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024, the 4th edition of the index, which assesses export readiness across India's States and Union Territories; the first edition was published in August 2020.

The EPI 2024 aligns with India's goals of achieving USD 1 trillion in merchandise exports by 2030 and the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, providing an evidence-based framework for strengthening subnational export ecosystems.

The Index evaluates the strength, resilience, and inclusiveness of export systems at the State and district levels, while identifying structural challenges, growth drivers, and policy opportunities.

The EPI 2024 framework is based on 4 pillars, 13 sub-pillars, and 70 indicators, enabling a granular and policy-relevant assessment of export preparedness.

The four pillars are Export Infrastructure, Business Ecosystem, Policy & Governance, and Export Performance, covering areas such as logistics, finance, MSMEs, human capital, and trade facilitation.

States and UTs are categorised into Large States, Small States, North Eastern States, and UTs, and further classified as Leaders, Challengers, and Aspirers to encourage peer learning.

Top performers in EPI 2024 include Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh among Large States, and Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Nagaland, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, and Goa among Small States, North Eastern States, and UTs.

211. Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation in India stood at what level in December 2025?

दिसंबर 2025 में भारत की थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (WPI) आधारित मुद्रास्फीति कितनी रही?

- (a) 1.33%
- (b) 0.71%
- (c) 0.83%
- (d) 2.57%

(e) -0.32%

Ans. c

Sol. Wholesale Inflation Turns Positive at 0.83% in December 2025

Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation rose to 0.83% in December 2025, marking the second consecutive monthly increase and a return to positive territory after deflation in October (-1.21%) and November (-0.32%).

The rise in wholesale inflation was driven by higher prices of manufactured products, food and non-food articles, with manufactured goods inflation increasing to 1.82% and non-food articles inflation rising to 2.95%, while food deflation moderated sharply.

DPIIT releases the data. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is a central government department under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Recent WPI-based Wholesale inflation in India

- **August 2025** – 0.52%
- **September 2025** – 0.13%
- **October 2025** – (-)1.21%
- **November 2025** – (-) 0.32%
- **December 2025** – 0.83%

212. The Department of Financial Services launched Paripoorna Mediciam Ayush Bima for Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries, offering cashless treatment, modern medical procedures, and access to a wide hospital network. Beneficiaries can choose a sum insured of ₹10 lakh or ₹20 lakh, with an optional co-payment structure of 70:30 or 50:50 between the insurer and the subscriber. This insurance can be purchased through which company?

वित्तीय सेवा विभाग ने सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट हेल्थ स्कीम (CGHS) के लाभार्थियों के लिए परिपूर्ण मेडिकलेम आयुष बीमा लॉन्च किया है, जो कैशलेस इलाज, आधुनिक मेडिकल प्रक्रियाओं और एक बड़े हॉस्पिटल नेटवर्क तक पहुंच प्रदान करता है। लाभार्थी ₹10 लाख या ₹20 लाख की बीमा राशि चुन सकते हैं, जिसमें बीमा कंपनी और सब्सक्राइबर के बीच 70:30 या 50:50 का वैकल्पिक को-पेमेंट स्ट्रक्चर होगा। यह बीमा किस कंपनी के माध्यम से खरीदा जा सकता है?

- (a) Life Insurance Corporation of India
- (b) The New India Assurance Company Limited
- (c) State Bank of India Life Insurance
- (d) Lombard General Insurance Company Limited
- (e) Housing Development Finance Corporation Life Insurance

Ans. b

Sol. Centre Launches 'Paripoorna Mediciam Ayush Bima' for CGHS Beneficiaries

The Department of Financial Services launched Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima for Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries, offering cashless treatment, modern medical procedures, and access to a wide hospital network.

The policy is exclusively for CGHS beneficiaries, covering up to six family members per policy, and provides indemnity-based in-patient hospitalisation coverage within India.

Beneficiaries can choose a sum insured of ₹10 lakh or ₹20 lakh, with an optional co-payment structure of 70:30 or 50:50 between the insurer and the subscriber.

The insurance will be available as a retail product without GST to ensure affordability and can be purchased through New India Assurance Company Limited's offices and online platform.

213. The Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, launched a composite 'Salary Account Package' for Central Government employees to provide integrated banking and insurance benefits, supporting the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and Insurance for All by 2047. Banking features include zero-balance salary account, free RTGS/NEFT/UPI, concessional loans for housing, education, vehicles, personal needs, locker fee waivers, and family banking benefits. What is the maximum Personal Accident Insurance coverage under the package?

वित्त मंत्रालय के वित्तीय सेवा विभाग (DFS) ने केंद्र सरकार के कर्मचारियों के लिए एक कम्पोजिट 'सैलरी अकाउंट पैकेज' लॉन्च किया है ताकि इंटीग्रेटेड बैंकिंग और बीमा लाभ मिल सकें, जो विकसित भारत 2047 और 2047 तक सभी के लिए बीमा के विज़न को सपोर्ट करता है। बैंकिंग फीचर्स में जीरो-बैलेंस सैलरी अकाउंट, फ्री RTGS/NEFT/UPI, घर, शिक्षा, वाहन, पर्सनल ज़रूरतों के लिए रियायती लोन, लॉकर फीस में छूट और फैमिली बैंकिंग लाभ शामिल हैं। इस पैकेज के तहत अधिकतम पर्सनल एक्सीडेंट इंश्योरेंस कवरेज कितना है?

- (a) ₹50 lakh
- (b) ₹1 crore
- (c) ₹1.5 crore
- (d) ₹2 crore
- (e) ₹25 lakh

Ans. c

Sol. DFS Launches Composite Salary Account Package for Central Government Employees with Banking and Insurance Benefits

The Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, launched a composite 'Salary Account Package' for Central Government employees to provide integrated banking and insurance benefits, supporting the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and Insurance for All by 2047.

Banking features include zero-balance salary account, free RTGS/NEFT/UPI, concessional loans for housing, education, vehicles, personal needs, locker fee waivers, and family banking benefits.

Insurance coverage includes Personal Accident Insurance up to ₹1.5 crore, Air Accident Insurance up to ₹2 crore, Disability cover up to ₹1.5 crore, Term Life Insurance up to ₹20 lakh, and comprehensive health insurance with top-up options. Digital and card benefits offer enhanced debit/credit card perks, including airport lounge access, reward programs, cashback offers, unlimited transactions, and nil maintenance charges.

DFS has advised Public Sector Banks to publicize the scheme, organize awareness camps, guide employees, and facilitate migration of existing salary accounts with employees' consent.

214. Which Japanese bank has recently received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to establish a wholly-owned subsidiary in India, allowing it to expand its operations and provide full-fledged banking services in the country?

हाल ही में किस जापानी बैंक को भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) से भारत में पूरी तरह से स्वामित्व वाली सहायक कंपनी स्थापित करने के लिए अनुमोदन मिला है, जिससे वह अपने संचालन का विस्तार कर सके और देश में पूर्ण बैंकिंग सेवाएं प्रदान कर सके?

- (a) Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group
- (b) Nomura Bank
- (c) Mizuho Bank
- (d) Bank of Tokyo
- (e) Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

Ans. e

Sol. RBI Approves Japan's SMBC to Set Up Wholly-Owned Subsidiary in India
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) to establish a wholly-owned subsidiary in India, marking its first step to expand operations locally.

The move allows SMBC to provide full-fledged banking services in India under the subsidiary structure, strengthening its presence in the growing Indian market.

At present, SMBC operates in India through four branches located in: New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Bengaluru.

215. Ueli Kestenholz, who recently passed away, was famous in which sport?

यूली केस्टेनहोलज़, जिनका हाल ही में निधन हो गया, किस खेल में मशहूर थे?

- (a) Skiing

- (b) Ice Hockey
- (c) Snowboarding
- (d) Figure Skating
- (e) Alpine Skiing

Ans. c

Sol. Former Swiss Olympian Ueli Kestenholz Dies in Avalanche in Swiss Alps
Ueli Kestenholz, a former Swiss snowboarder and Olympic bronze medallist, died after being caught in an avalanche in the Swiss Alps.

The avalanche occurred near Hockuchriz peak in the Lötschental region at an altitude of around 2,400 metres, Kestenholz had won bronze in giant slalom snowboarding at the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics.

216. Thomas Kuthiravattam, who recently passed away, was a senior leader of which political party?

थॉमस कुथिरावट्टम, जिनका हाल ही में निधन हो गया, किस राजनीतिक दल के वरिष्ठ नेता थे?

- (a) Indian National Congress
- (b) Communist Party of India (Marxist)
- (c) Bharatiya Janata Party
- (d) Kerala Congress
- (e) Nationalist Congress Party

Ans. d

Sol. Senior Kerala Congress Leader Thomas Kuthiravattam Passes Away at 80

Senior Kerala Congress leader Thomas Kuthiravattam passed away at the age of 80 after battling age-related ailments.

A native of Kallissery, Chengannur, he had a long and notable career in Kerala politics, including serving as a Rajya Sabha member from 1985 to 1991.

217. In January 2026, which company has recently received RBI authorisation to operate as a Payment Aggregator?

जनवरी 2026 में, किस कंपनी को हाल ही में पेमेंट एग्रीगेटर के रूप में काम करने के लिए RBI प्राधिकरण प्राप्त हुआ है?

- (a) Paytm
- (b) Innoviti Technologies Private Limited
- (c) Razorpay
- (d) PhonePe
- (e) CCAvenue

Ans. b

Sol. Innoviti Technologies Receives RBI Authorization to Operate as Payment Aggregator

Innoviti Technologies Private Limited has received a Certificate of Authorization from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a Payment Aggregator.

The authorization, granted under the Payments and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, allows Innoviti to manage both online and in-store payment transactions across India.

218. Which Regional Rural Bank became the first in India to introduce a fully solar-powered mobile ATM van, named "TGB on Wheels"?

कौन सा रीजनल रूरल बैंक "TGB ऑन व्हील्स" नाम की पूरी तरह से सोलर पावर से चलने वाली मोबाइल ATM वैन शुरू करने वाला भारत का पहला बैंक बन गया है?

- (a) Kerala Gramin Bank
- (b) Tripura Gramin Bank
- (c) Telangana Gramin Bank
- (d) UP Gramin Bank
- (e) Karnataka Gramin Bank

Ans. b

Sol. Tripura Gramin Bank Launches India's First Solar-Powered ATM Van to Boost Rural Banking

Tripura Gramin Bank became the first Regional Rural Bank in India to introduce India's first fully solar-powered mobile ATM van, named "TGB on Wheels."

The project was launched with the support of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. NABARD

The initiative earned the bank the SKOCH Group Silver Award, recognising excellence in governance, innovation, and public service delivery.

The initiative was inaugurated on July 21, 2023, by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and currently, three solar-powered ATM vans are operational, supporting basic banking transactions in hard-to-reach locations.

About Tripura

- **Capital** – Agartala
- **Chief Minister** - Manik Sarkar
- **Governor** – Indra Sena Reddy Nallu

219. What is the World Bank's revised GDP growth forecast for India in FY 2025–26?

वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 में भारत के लिए वर्ल्ड बैंक का संशोधित GDP ग्रोथ का अनुमान क्या है?

- (a) 6.0%

- (b) 6.3%
- (c) 6.8%
- (d) 7.2%
- (e) 7.5%

Ans. d

Sol. World Bank Raises India's GDP Growth Forecast to 7.2% for FY 2025–26

The World Bank has revised India's GDP growth forecast upward to 7.2% for FY 2025–26, citing strong domestic demand, supportive tax reforms, and resilient exports despite global trade uncertainties.

In its flagship report "Global Economic Prospects", the World Bank raised the estimate by 0.9 percentage points from its earlier 6.3% projection made in June.

India is expected to remain the fastest-growing major economy, though growth is projected to moderate to 6.5% in 2026–27 and 6.6% in 2027–28.

GDP Projection List 2026

- NSO – 7.4% (FY26)
- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) - 7.4% (FY26); 6.6% (FY27) and 6.8%(FY28)
- Goldman Sachs - 7.3% (FY25); 6.8% (FY26)
- India Ratings & Research – 6.9% (FY27)
- ADB –7.2%(FY26)
- Fitch Rating – 7.4% (FY25)
- Ind-Ra – 7% (FY26)
- CRISIL – 7% (FY26)

220. Kochi, Kerala, will host the 9th International Spice Conference (ISC 2026) from February 23 to 26, bringing global focus to India's role in the international spice economy. What is the theme of the International Spice Conference (ISC 2026)?

कोच्चि, केरल, 23 से 26 फरवरी तक 9वें अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मसाला सम्मेलन (ISC 2026) की मेज़बानी करेगा, जिससे अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मसाला अर्थव्यवस्था में भारत की भूमिका पर दुनिया का ध्यान जाएगा। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मसाला सम्मेलन (ISC 2026) का थीम क्या है?

- (a) Global Spice Trade 2030
- (b) Sustainable Spices for the World
- (c) Innovation in Agro-Exports
- (d) Climate-Resilient Agriculture
- (e) Spice 360 – Getting Future Ready

Ans. e

Sol. Kochi to Host 9th International Spice Conference (ISC 2026) in February

Kochi, Kerala, will host the 9th International Spice Conference (ISC 2026) from February 23 to 26, bringing global focus to India's role in the international spice economy.

Organised by the All India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF), the four-day conference themed "Spice 360 – Getting Future Ready" will address challenges like changing trade dynamics, climate change and evolving consumer preferences.

The conference will be inaugurated by Amitabh Kant, former G20 Sherpa and ex-CEO of NITI Aayog, with Martin Sonntag, CEO of Oterra, attending as Guest of Honour.

About Kerala

- **Capital** – Thiruvananthapuram
- **Chief Minister** – Pinarayi Vijayan
- **Governor** – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

221. The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) has launched the Pharmaceutical Academy for Global Excellence (PAGE) to address the gap between academic output and industry-ready skills in India's pharmaceutical sector. The Pharmaceutical Academy for Global Excellence (PAGE) has been established in which city?

इंडियन फार्मास्युटिकल अलायंस (IPA) ने भारत के फार्मास्युटिकल सेक्टर में एकेडमिक आउटपुट और इंडस्ट्री के लिए तैयार स्किल्स के बीच के गैप को खत्म करने के लिए फार्मास्युटिकल एकेडमी फॉर ग्लोबल एक्सीलेंस (PAGE) लॉन्च किया है। फार्मास्युटिकल एकेडमी फॉर ग्लोबल एक्सीलेंस (PAGE) किस शहर में स्थापित की गई है?

- (a) Ahmedabad
- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Jaipur
- (e) Bengaluru

Ans. a

Sol. IPA Launches Pharmaceutical Academy for Global Excellence (PAGE) in Ahmedabad to Bridge Industry Skill Gap

The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) has launched the Pharmaceutical Academy for Global Excellence (PAGE) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat to address the gap between academic output and industry-ready skills in India's pharmaceutical sector.

The initiative was inaugurated in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the Gujarat Chief Minister, with IPA committing USD 50 million to establish and operate the programme.

222. The 'Inspiring Innovators – Naye Bharat Ki Nayi Pehchaan' initiative was developed in collaboration with which organisation?

‘इंस्पायरिंग इनोवेटर्स – नए भारत की नई पहचान’ पहल किस संगठन के सहयोग से विकसित की गई थी?

- (a) UNESCO
- (b) Amazon Prime Video India
- (c) Google Arts & Culture
- (d) Netflix Fund for Creative Equity
- (e) Meta (Facebook) India

Ans. d

Sol. Government and Netflix Conclude 'Inspiring Innovators – Naye Bharat Ki Nayi Pehchaan' Initiative

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, in collaboration with Netflix Fund for Creative Equity, concluded the 'Inspiring Innovators – Naye Bharat Ki Nayi Pehchaan' initiative.

The programme aimed to promote social innovation through impactful storytelling while training young creative talent across India.

The initiative was implemented with the support of Graphiti Studios, focusing on nurturing innovation-driven narratives.

223. The Makaravilakku festival is celebrated in which Indian state?

मकरविलक्कू त्योहार भारत के किस राज्य में मनाया जाता है?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Kerala
- (e) Telangana

Ans. d

Sol. Makaravilakku Festival Celebrations Commence at Sabarimala Temple in Kerala

The annual Makaravilakku festival celebrations have begun at the Sabarimala temple in Kerala, attracting thousands of devotees of Lord Ayyappa.

The festival is observed on Makara Sankrama night, considered one of the most sacred occasions in the Sabarimala pilgrimage calendar.

The highlight of the festival is the Makarajyothi, a divine celestial light that appears in the evening at Ponnambalamedu, witnessed by lakhs of pilgrims.

224. Piramal Finance Limited has secured \$350 million in multilateral financing from which institutions?

पीरामल फाइनेंस लिमिटेड ने किन संस्थानों से \$350 मिलियन की मल्टीलेटरल फाइनेंसिंग हासिल की है?

- (a) World Bank and IMF
- (b) IFC and Asian Development Bank
- (c) New Development Bank and AIIB
- (d) EXIM Bank and ADB
- (e) EBRD and IFC

Ans. b

Sol. Piramal Finance Secures \$350 Million Multilateral Funding from IFC and ADB
Piramal Finance Limited has secured \$350 million in multilateral funding from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) – \$200 million and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) – \$150 million, marking its first borrowing from development finance institutions (DFIs).

The funding is raised under the company's Sustainable Finance Framework, carries a five-year tenor, and will be disbursed in tranches between January and March 2026. The capital will support affordable housing finance, MSME lending, and credit to women borrowers and entrepreneurs, particularly in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, with total multilateral funding likely to reach \$500 million by FY end.

225. Who has been appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador for the Pune Grand Tour 2026?

पुणे ग्रैंड टूर 2026 के लिए सद्भावना राजदूत के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Sachin Tendulkar
- (b) Virat Kohli
- (c) MS Dhoni
- (d) Anil Kumble
- (e) Rohit Sharma

Ans. c

Sol. MS Dhoni Appointed Goodwill Ambassador for Pune Grand Tour 2026

MS Dhoni has been appointed Goodwill Ambassador for the Pune Grand Tour 2026, a five-day international road cycling event to be held in Pune from January 19 to 23, 2026.

The Pune Grand Tour 2026 will be India's first UCI-recognised multi-stage (Category 2.2) Continental Road Cycling Race for men, covering a 437-km route across the Deccan Plateau and Sahyadri Range.

The event will feature 171 riders from 29 professional teams representing 35 countries, with top international teams like Spain's Burgos Burpellet BH, China's Li Ning Star, and Malaysia's Terengganu Cycling Team participating.

226. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has extended its citizen-centric 'Clean Toilet Picture Challenge' initiative till _____, to improve cleanliness and user experience at toilet facilities along National Highways.

नेशनल हाईवे अथॉरिटी ऑफ़ इंडिया (NHAI) ने नेशनल हाईवे पर टॉयलेट सुविधाओं में सफ़ाई और यूज़र एक्सपीरियंस को बेहतर बनाने के लिए अपनी नागरिक-केंद्रित 'क्लीन टॉयलेट पिक्चर चैलेंज' पहल को _____ तक बढ़ा दिया है।

- (a) 30 June
- (b) 31 July
- (c) 30 August
- (d) 30 September
- (e) 31 December

Ans. a

Sol. NHAI Extends 'Clean Toilet Picture Challenge' Initiative Till June 30

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has extended its citizen-centric 'Clean Toilet Picture Challenge' initiative till 30 June, to improve cleanliness and user experience at toilet facilities along National Highways.

Under the extended campaign, clean toilet photos submitted by highway users will be evaluated daily, and eligible FASTag recharge rewards will be processed in a time-bound manner, with credits made within five days of validation to the linked Vehicle Registration Number (VRN).

The initiative is open to all National Highway commuters, who can participate by uploading clear, geo-tagged and time-stamped photographs via the Rajmargyatra mobile application.

227. Which Union Minister of India will participate in the G7 Critical Minerals Ministerial Meeting in Washington DC?

भारत के कौन से केंद्रीय मंत्री वाशिंगटन डीसी में G7 क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स मिनिस्टीरियल मीटिंग में हिस्सा लेंगे?

- (a) Piyush Goyal
- (b) Ashwini Vaishnaw
- (c) S. Jaishankar
- (d) Nitin Gadkari
- (e) Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Ans. b

Sol. Ashwini Vaishnaw to Participate in G7 Critical Minerals Ministerial Meeting in Washington DC

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will participate in the G7 Critical Minerals Ministerial Meeting in Washington DC, USA, aimed at strengthening global supply chains of strategic and critical minerals

Ashwini Vaishnav highlighted that secure supply chains for critical minerals are vital for achieving the vision of 'Viksit Bharat', especially in high-technology and manufacturing sectors.

228. India will host the Bharat Electricity Summit 2026, a global conference-cum-exhibition for the power and electricity sector, from March 19 to 22, 2026, at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi. What is the theme of the Bharat Electricity Summit 2026?

भारत 19 से 22 मार्च, 2026 तक नई दिल्ली के यशोभूमि में पावर और बिजली सेक्टर के लिए एक ग्लोबल कॉन्फ्रेंस-कम-एग्जीबिशन, भारत इलेक्ट्रिसिटी समिट 2026 की मेज़बानी करेगा। भारत इलेक्ट्रिसिटी समिट 2026 की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Powering Digital India
- (b) Clean Energy for All
- (c) Electrifying Growth. Empowering Sustainability. Connecting Globally
- (d) Global Energy for Future
- (e) Sustainable Power India

Ans. c

Sol. India to Host Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 in New Delhi

India will host the Bharat Electricity Summit 2026, a global conference-cum-exhibition for the power and electricity sector, from March 19 to 22, 2026, at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.

The four-day summit will be held under the theme "Electrifying Growth. Empowering Sustainability. Connecting Globally", highlighting India's leadership in the global energy transition and fostering international cooperation in the electricity sector.

The summit will feature 50+ conference sessions, 500+ exhibitors, 25,000+ visitors, and 1,000+ delegates with 300 speakers, including a Buyer-Seller Meet to promote global partnerships across the power and clean energy value chain.

229. Where will the University of New South Wales (UNSW) open its new campus in India?

यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ़ न्यू साउथ वेल्स (UNSW) भारत में अपना नया कैम्पस कहाँ खोलेगी?

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

Ans. b

Sol. University of New South Wales to Open Bengaluru Campus in August 2026

University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia, to open its Bengaluru campus at Manyata Tech Park in August 2026, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the presence of Ministers M.B. Patil and M.C. Sudhakar. The campus will initially offer undergraduate programmes in commerce, media, computer science, and data science, along with a postgraduate programme in cyber security.

230. Who has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Yemen?

यमन का नया प्रधान मंत्री किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Salem bin Breik
- (b) Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar
- (c) Shaya Mohsen Zindani
- (d) Ahmed Obeid bin Daghr
- (e) Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi

Ans. c

Sol. Yemen Appoints Shaya Mohsen Zindani as New Prime Minister

Salem bin Breik resigned from the post of Prime Minister of Yemen, leading to a leadership change in the internationally recognised government.

Shaya Mohsen Zindani, the sitting Foreign Minister, has been appointed as Yemen's new Prime Minister.

Newly Appointed Prime Ministers & Presidents

- *Prime Minister of the Czech Republic - Andrej Babis*
- *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)*

240. Which bank has won the 'Best Fintech & DPI Adoption' award at the IBA Banking Technology Awards?

किस बैंक ने IBA बैंकिंग टेक्नोलॉजी अवॉर्ड्स में 'बेस्ट फिनटेक और DPI एडॉप्शन' अवॉर्ड जीता है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Karnataka Bank Wins 'Best Fintech & DPI Adoption' at IBA Banking Technology Awards

Karnataka Bank won the 'Best Fintech & DPI Adoption' award at the Indian Banks' Association Banking Technology Awards, highlighting its progress in digital transformation and fintech integration.

The award recognises banks that effectively leverage fintech solutions and India's digital public infrastructure (DPI) to improve service delivery, scalability, security, and customer impact.

Karnataka Bank also received runner-up for 'Best Tech Talent' and Special Mentions in 'Best Technology Bank', 'Best Digital Financial Inclusion', and 'Best Digital Sales', reflecting a comprehensive approach to digital banking.

Recent Awards

- **Asia Best Employer Brand Award 2026** - Bombay Stock Exchange
- **UN Secretary-General's Award 2025** - Indian Army Officer Major Swathi Shantha Kumar (for her initiative Equal Partners, Lasting Peace)
- **Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia' Honour** - Goa-Based Industrialist Shrinivas Dempo
- **New South Wales' Scientist of the Year** - Indian-Origin Mathematician Nalini Joshi (First Mathematician to Receive the Honour)
- **2026 IEEE Medal of Honor** - NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang (for Pioneering Accelerated Computing)
- **Nritya Kalanidhi Award at 19th Music Academy Dance Festival** - Bharatanatyam Exponent Urmila Satyanarayanan

241. Tunisian filmmaker Zoubeir Jlassi recently won the world's largest AI Film Award. For which film did he receive this prestigious \$1 million award at the 1 Billion Followers Summit in Dubai?

ट्यूनीशियाई फिल्म निर्माता जुबैर जलासी ने हाल ही में दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा AI फिल्म अवॉर्ड जीता है। दुबई में 1 बिलियन फॉलोअर्स समिट में उन्हें किस फिल्म के लिए यह प्रतिष्ठित \$1 मिलियन का अवॉर्ड मिला?

- (a) Lily
- (b) Sunflower
- (c) Aurora
- (d) Mirage
- (e) Eclipse

Ans. a

Sol. Tunisian Filmmaker Zoubeir Jlassi Wins \$1 Million AI Film Award for 'Lily' at Dubai Summit

Tunisian filmmaker Zoubeir Jlassi won the world's largest AI Film Award for his film Lily, receiving a \$1 million prize from Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum at the 1 Billion Followers Summit in Dubai.

The award saw 3,500 film submissions and involved a jury of 40 experts reviewing over 400 hours of content, with shortlisted films undergoing AI verification via Google Gemini to ensure at least 70% generative AI usage.

The film Lily tells the story of a lonely archivist confronting guilt and seeking redemption after a hit-and-run, highlighting the award's goal of encouraging AI-driven storytelling that promotes humanitarian values and culturally meaningful content.

It was the fourth edition of the summit. It was organised in partnership with Google Gemini.

242. Who was named ICC Women's Player of the Month for December 2025?

दिसंबर 2025 के लिए ICC महिला प्लेयर ऑफ़ द मंथ किसे चुना गया?

- (a) Shafali Verma
- (b) Laura Wolvaardt
- (c) Ellyse Perry
- (d) Smriti Mandhana
- (e) Meg Lanning

Ans. b

Sol. Mitchell Starc and Laura Wolvaardt Named ICC Players of the Month for December 2025

Mitchell Starc has been named ICC Men's Player of the Month for December 2025, following his outstanding performance in Australia's Ashes series victory at home, marking the first time he has won this award.

South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt was named ICC Women's Player of the Month after key contributions in series victories over Ireland in T20I and ODI formats, earning her second Player of the Month award after previously winning in October 2025.

243. The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be hosted jointly for the first time by multiple countries in North America. Which combination of countries has been announced as the official hosts of the tournament?

2026 FIFA वर्ल्ड कप पहली बार नॉर्थ अमेरिका में कई देशों द्वारा मिलकर होस्ट किया जाएगा। टूर्नामेंट के ऑफिशियल होस्ट के तौर पर देशों के किस कॉम्बिनेशन की घोषणा की गई है?

- (a) United States, Brazil, Mexico
- (b) United States, Canada, Mexico
- (c) Canada, Germany, Mexico

(d) United States, Argentina, Canada

(e) United States, England, Mexico

Ans. b

Sol. FIFA World Cup 2026 Trophy Unveiled in India by Mansukh Mandaviya and Gilberto D'Silva

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and former Brazilian footballer Gilberto D'Silva unveiled the FIFA World Cup 2026 trophy during its visit to India.

The trophy stayed in Delhi for two days before traveling to Guwahati for one day, allowing fans in India to witness it up close.

The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be jointly hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico and will feature 48 teams for the first time.

244. Indian Army celebrated its 78th Army Day on 15 January 2026 in Jaipur, Rajasthan, marking the fourth time the Army Day parade was held outside Delhi. Which army command hosted the 78th Army Day parade in Jaipur for the first time?

भारतीय सेना ने 15 जनवरी 2026 को राजस्थान के जयपुर में अपना 78वां सेना दिवस मनाया, यह चौथी बार था जब सेना दिवस परेड दिल्ली के बाहर आयोजित की गई। जयपुर में पहली बार 78वें सेना दिवस परेड की मेजबानी किस सेना कमान ने की?

(a) Northern Command

(b) Eastern Command

(c) South Western Command

(d) Western Command

(e) Central Command

Ans. c

Sol. Indian Army Celebrates 78th Army Day with Parade in Jaipur

Indian Army celebrated its 78th Army Day on 15 January 2026 in Jaipur, Rajasthan, marking the fourth time the Army Day parade was held outside Delhi.

For the first time, the parade was hosted outside an army cantonment, in the heart of Jaipur city, and organized by the South Western Command.

Bhairav Battalion contingents participated for the first time, and the Nepal Army Band also took part in the celebrations.

245. President Droupadi Murmu appointed _____ as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission, as informed by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय द्वारा दी गई जानकारी के अनुसार, राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने _____ को केंद्रीय सतर्कता आयोग में सतर्कता आयुक्त नियुक्त किया है।

- (a) Praveen Vashista
- (b) T. M. Bhasin
- (c) K. P. Singh
- (d) Rakesh Asthana
- (e) Alok Verma

Ans. a

Sol. President Droupadi Murmu Appoints Praveen Vashista as Vigilance Commissioner

President Droupadi Murmu appointed Praveen Vashista as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission, as informed by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

Praveen Vashista took oath before the Central Vigilance Commissioner, formally assuming charge as Vigilance Commissioner.

He has over 30 years of experience in law enforcement and internal security and is a 1991-batch IPS officer (Bihar cadre), who served on central deputation in the Ministry of Home Affairs as Joint Secretary, Additional Secretary, and Special Secretary (Internal Security).

The Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003, provides for the appointment of a Central Vigilance Commissioner and two Vigilance Commissioners. The tenure of the Vigilance Commissioner is of four years or till the incumbent attains the age of 65 years.

246. National Startup Day is observed in India on which date?

भारत में राष्ट्रीय स्टार्टअप दिवस किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 12 January
- (b) 15 January
- (c) 16 January
- (d) 18 January
- (e) 26 January

Ans. c

Sol. 16 January - National Startup Day

National Startup Day is observed every year on 16 January to recognise and promote India's growing startup ecosystem.

The day highlights the role of startups and entrepreneurs in driving innovation, employment generation, and economic growth.

It aligns with the objectives of the Startup India initiative, launched to support startups through policy reforms, funding, and ease of doing business.

247. Which scientist has won the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement for her work on fungal networks?

किस वैज्ञानिक ने फंगल नेटवर्क पर अपने काम के लिए पर्यावरण उपलब्धि के लिए टायलर पुरस्कार जीता है?

- (a) Jane Goodall
- (b) Sylvia Earle
- (c) Toby Kiers
- (d) Rachel Carson
- (e) Vandana Shiva

Ans. c

Sol. American Scientist Toby Kiers Wins Tyler Prize for Revealing Hidden Fungal Networks

American evolutionary biologist Toby Kiers has won the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement, often referred to as the "Nobel for the environment," for her pioneering research on underground fungal networks.

She led efforts to map the global distribution of mycorrhizal fungi through a worldwide Underground Atlas, bringing attention to hidden below-ground biodiversity.

Her research provides crucial insights to guide conservation strategies, as these fungal networks play a key role in carbon storage and ecosystem health.

248. Under the Reserve Bank–Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS), 2026, what is the maximum limit on the amount of dispute that a complainant can bring before the RBI Ombudsman?

रिज़र्व बैंक-एकीकृत लोकपाल योजना (आरबी-आईओएस), 2026 के तहत, एक शिकायतकर्ता द्वारा आरबीआई लोकपाल के समक्ष लाए जा सकने वाले विवाद की मात्रा की अधिकतम सीमा क्या है?

- (a) ₹10 lakh
- (b) ₹20 lakh
- (c) ₹50 lakh
- (d) ₹1 crore
- (e) No limit

Ans. e

Sol. RBI Notifies Revised Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has notified revised rules under the Reserve Bank–Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS), 2026 to strengthen and streamline customer grievance redressal.

Under the new scheme, there is no upper limit on the amount of dispute that a complainant can raise against a regulated financial entity before the RBI Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman has the power to award compensation of up to ₹30 lakh for any consequential financial loss suffered by the complainant.

Additionally, compensation of up to ₹3 lakh may be granted for loss of time, expenses incurred, and harassment or mental anguish suffered by the complainant.

The revised RB-IOs, 2026, will be applicable to banks, NBFCs, non-bank PPI issuers, and credit information companies, and will come into effect from July 1, 2026.

RBI can appoint one or more officers as Ombudsman and Deputy Ombudsman.

Appointments will generally be for a three-year term.

249. IT services firm LTIMindtree has secured a ₹3,000 crore contract from the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to develop an AI-based programme for modernising India's national tax analytics platform. The ₹3,000 crore contract awarded to LTIMindtree by CBDT is related to which project?

IT सर्विसेज़ फर्म LTIMindtree को सेंट्रल बोर्ड ऑफ़ डायरेक्ट टैक्सेज़ (CBDT) से भारत के नेशनल टैक्स एनालिटिक्स प्लेटफ़ॉर्म को मॉडर्न बनाने के लिए AI-बेस्ड प्रोग्राम डेवलप करने का ₹3,000 करोड़ का कॉन्ट्रैक्ट मिला है। CBDT द्वारा LTIMindtree को दिया गया ₹3,000 करोड़ का कॉन्ट्रैक्ट किस प्रोजेक्ट से संबंधित है?

- (a) Project Faceless
- (b) Project TaxNet
- (c) Insight 2.0
- (d) Digital India Tax
- (e) Smart Tax Mission

Ans. c

Sol. LTIMindtree Wins ₹3,000 Crore CBDT Contract for AI-Based Tax Analytics Platform Modernisation

IT services firm LTIMindtree has secured a ₹3,000 crore contract from the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to develop an AI-based programme for modernising India's national tax analytics platform.

The project, titled "Insight 2.0", will be executed over a seven-year period and focuses on leveraging artificial intelligence for advanced tax data analytics.

The modernised platform is designed to deliver real-time insights to policymakers, supporting data-driven decision-making and strengthening tax administration.

250. Where has India's first Green Ammonia project been launched?

भारत की पहली ग्रीन अमोनिया परियोजना कहाँ शुरू की गई है?

- (a) Visakhapatnam
- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) Kakinada
- (d) Bengaluru
- (e) Kochi

Ans. c

Sol. India's First Green Ammonia Project Launched in Kakinada

India's first Green Ammonia project has been launched in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, with CM N. Chandrababu Naidu laying the foundation stone for large-scale green hydrogen and ammonia plants, aiming to establish a national green energy hub and a future "Green Hydrogen Valley."

The AM Green project will be the world's largest green ammonia facility, producing 1.5 million tonnes annually from June 2027, primarily for export to Germany.

The green hydrogen and ammonia plants together will attract ₹84,000 crore investment, supporting Andhra Pradesh's renewable energy targets, including 160 GW of green energy through solar, wind, and other renewable sources.

251. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first overnight sleeper Vande Bharat train connecting Howrah (Kolkata) to Kamakhya (Guwahati) during his two-day visit to West Bengal, with the inauguration held in Malda. How many sleeper coaches does the Howrah–Kamakhya Vande Bharat train have?

प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने पश्चिम बंगाल की अपनी दो-दिवसीय यात्रा के दौरान भारत की पहली ओवरनाइट स्लीपर वंदे भारत ट्रेन लॉन्च की, जो हावड़ा (कोलकाता) को कामाख्या (गुवाहाटी) से जोड़ती है, जिसका उद्घाटन मालदा में हुआ। हावड़ा-कामाख्या वंदे भारत ट्रेन में कितने स्लीपर कोच हैं?

- (a) 10
- (b) 12
- (c) 14
- (d) 16
- (e) 18

Ans. d

Sol. PM Modi Launches India's First Overnight Sleeper Vande Bharat Train on Howrah–Guwahati Route

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first overnight sleeper Vande Bharat train connecting Howrah (Kolkata) to Kamakhya (Guwahati) during his two-day visit to West Bengal, with the inauguration held in Malda.

The train was manufactured indigenously by BEML in Bengaluru, incorporating technology from the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai.

Covering nearly 1,000 km, the fully air-conditioned train has 16 sleeper coaches (First AC, AC 2-tier, AC 3-tier) accommodating around 823 passengers, and features modern amenities such as ergonomic berths, automatic doors, noise-reduction systems, advanced suspension, Kavach anti-collision technology, and a top speed of 130 km/h.

252. Who has won a seventh term as the President of Uganda?

उगांडा के राष्ट्रपति के रूप में सातवीं बार किसे जीत हासिल हुई है?

- (a) Paul Kagame
- (b) Uhuru Kenyatta
- (c) Yoweri Museveni
- (d) Cyril Ramaphosa
- (e) Julius Malema

Ans. c

Sol. Uganda President Yoweri Museveni Wins Seventh Term

Uganda President Yoweri Museveni has won a seventh term in office, further extending his long-standing leadership in the country.

He secured 71.65% of the total votes in the presidential election, reaffirming his political dominance.

Yoweri Museveni has been in power since 1986, making him one of Africa's longest-serving leaders.

About Uganda

- **Capital** - Kampala
- **Currency** - Ugandan shilling
- **Official languages**- Swahili, English
- **President** - Yoweri Museveni

253. Who has been re-appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of ICICI Bank for another two-year term?

आईसीआईसीआई बैंक के प्रबंध निदेशक और सीईओ के रूप में दो वर्ष के लिए पुनः किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Chanda Kochhar
- (b) Uday Kotak
- (c) Sashidhar Jagdishan
- (d) Sandeep Bakhshi
- (e) Aditya Puri

Ans. d

Sol. Sandeep Bakhshi Re-appointed as ICICI Bank MD & CEO

ICICI Bank has approved the re-appointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as Managing Director and CEO for another two-year term, marking his third re-appointment since 2021.

The new tenure of Sandeep Bakhshi will be effective from October 4, 2026, extending his leadership at ICICI Bank

About Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) Bank

- **Founded** - 1994
- **Headquarters** – Mumbai
- **MD & CEO** - Sandeep Bakhshi
- **Tagline** - Hum Hai Na Khayal Apka

254. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed a penalty of _____ on IndiGo for major flight disruptions witnessed in December 2025.

डायरेक्टोरेट जनरल ऑफ सिविल एविएशन (DGCA) ने दिसंबर 2025 में हुई बड़ी फ्लाइट गड़बड़ियों के लिए इंडिगो पर _____ का जुर्माना लगाया है।

- (a) ₹21.2 Crore
- (b) ₹22.2 Crore
- (c) ₹23.2 Crore
- (d) ₹24.2 Crore
- (e) ₹25.2 Crore

Ans. b

Sol. DGCA Imposes ₹22.2 Crore Penalty on IndiGo for December 2025 Flight Disruptions

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed a penalty of ₹22.2 crore on IndiGo for major flight disruptions witnessed in December 2025.

The regulator stated that the disruptions were primarily caused by overstretching of flight crew, resulting in widespread delays and cancellations.

255. Recently, which hand-woven fabric from Andhra Pradesh has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag?

हाल ही में, आंध्र प्रदेश के किस हाथ से बुने हुए कपड़े को ज्योग्राफिकल इंडिकेशन (GI) टैग दिया गया है?

- (a) Gadwal Saree
- (b) Ponduru Khadi
- (c) Mangalagiri Cotton
- (d) Venkatagiri Saree
- (e) Pochampally Ikat

Ans. b

Sol. Ponduru Khadi from Andhra Pradesh Receives GI Tag, Boosting Traditional Handloom Sector

Ponduru Khadi, a rare hand-woven cotton fabric from Andhra Pradesh, has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, enhancing global visibility, legal protection, and market opportunities for artisans of this traditional craft.

The GI registration, awarded to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, legally safeguards Ponduru Khadi—produced exclusively in Ponduru village, Srikakulam district—against imitation and certifies its geographical origin.

256. In which country is the Finke River, believed to be the world's oldest continuously flowing river, located?

विश्व की सबसे पुरानी लगातार बहती हुई नदी मानी जाने वाली फिंके नदी किस देश में स्थित है?

- (a) India
- (b) Egypt
- (c) Brazil
- (d) Australia
- (e) China

Ans. d

Sol. Finke River Recognised as World's Oldest Flowing River

The Finke River in central Australia, also known as Larapinta by the Arrernte people, is believed to be the world's oldest river still flowing today, dating back 300–400 million years.

Stretching over 640 kilometres across the Northern Territory and South Australia, the river cuts through some of Australia's most ancient landscapes, long predating the age of dinosaurs.

Unlike typical rivers, the Finke flows intermittently, appearing as isolated waterholes for most of the year, connecting briefly only after heavy rainfall, yet forming a continuous ancient river system.

257. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kaziranga Elevated Corridor Project, which is part of the 4-laning of the Kaliabor–Numaligarh section of NH-715, in which Indian state?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने एनएच-715 के कालीआबोर–नुमालीगढ़ खंड के 4-लेनिंग से जुड़ी काज़ीरंगा एलिवेटेड कॉरिडोर परियोजना का उद्घाटन किस राज्य में किया?

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Meghalaya

- (c) Assam
 (d) Nagaland
 (e) Manipur

Ans. c

Sol. PM Modi inaugurated the Kaziranga Elevated Corridor Project

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kaziranga Elevated Corridor Project (4-Laning of Kaliabor-Numaligarh section of NH-715), worth over Rs. 6,950 Crore in Kaliabor, Assam.

Under this, a 90-kms corridor from Kaliabor to Numaligarh is being developed at a cost of about Rs. 7,000 crore, including a 35-kilometre elevated wildlife corridor. It will feature 35 km of Elevated Wildlife Corridor that will pass through Kaziranga National Park, 21 km Bypass section and 30 km widening of the existing highway section of NH-715 from two to four lanes.

The project will pass through Nagaon, Karbi Anglong and Golaghat districts and will significantly improve connectivity to Upper Assam, particularly Dibrugarh and Tinsukia.

As part of the project, Bypasses will be developed at Jakhalabandha and Bokakhat that will help to decongest towns, improve urban mobility and enhance the quality of life for local residents.

258. As announced by the Tamil Nadu government, the newly instituted national-level literary honour "Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu (Classical Language Literary Award)" aims to recognise outstanding literary works in major Indian languages. What is the amount of cash prize awarded to each recipient under this award?

जैसा कि तमिलनाडु सरकार द्वारा घोषित किया गया है, नव स्थापित राष्ट्रीय स्तर के साहित्यिक सम्मान "सेमोझी इलाकिया विरुधु (शास्त्रीय भाषा साहित्य पुरस्कार)" का उद्देश्य प्रमुख भारतीय भाषाओं में उत्कृष्ट साहित्यिक कार्यों को मान्यता देना है। इस पुरस्कार के तहत प्रत्येक प्राप्तकर्ता को नकद पुरस्कार की राशि क्या है?

- (a) ₹2 lakh
 (b) ₹3 lakh
 (c) ₹4 lakh
 (d) ₹5 lakh
 (e) ₹10 lakh

Ans. d

Sol. Tamil Nadu Announces 'Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu': New National-Level Literary Award for Major Indian Languages

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin announced a new state-sponsored annual literary honour at the valedictory ceremony of the Chennai International Book Fair, aimed at recognising outstanding literary works in major Indian languages other than Hindi.

The award has been named "Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu (Classical Language Literary Award)", will be conferred annually, have a national-level character, and carry a cash prize of ₹5 lakh for each selected work.

In the first phase, the award will recognise literary excellence in seven Indian languages — Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odiya, Bengali and Marathi, with the government indicating that more languages may be included in future phases

259. According to the Department of Commerce, India's electronics exports crossed which milestone for the first time in 2025?

वाणिज्य विभाग के अनुसार, भारत के इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स निर्यात ने 2025 में पहली बार कौन सा मील का पत्थर पार किया?

- (a) \$40 billion
- (b) \$42 billion
- (c) \$45 billion
- (d) \$47 billion
- (e) \$50 billion

Ans. d

Sol. India's Electronics Exports Surge Past \$47 Billion in 2025

India's electronics exports crossed \$47 billion in 2025, registering a 37% growth over \$34.93 billion in 2024, with smartphones—mainly iPhones—contributing nearly two-thirds (~\$30 billion) of total exports, driven by PLI-linked manufacturing.

December 2025 exports stood at \$4.17 billion, up 16.8% year-on-year, with electronics crossing the \$4 billion monthly mark in 7 out of 12 months, making it the fastest-growing export category among India's top 10 sectors.

Growth has been propelled by successive PLI schemes (Smartphone PLI-2020, India Semiconductor Mission-2021, IT Hardware PLI-2023) and the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) 2025 (₹22,919 crore outlay), with exports projected to cross \$55 billion in 2026.

260. Penguin Awareness Day is observed every year on which date?

पेंगुइन जागरूकता दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 10 January
- (b) 15 January
- (c) 18 January

(d) 20 January

(e) 25 January

Ans. d

Sol. 20 January - Penguin Awareness Day

Penguin Awareness Day is observed annually on 20 January to spread awareness about penguin species, their habitats, and the environmental threats they face, especially due to climate change and melting polar ice.

Penguins are flightless seabirds found primarily in the Southern Hemisphere, with Antarctica hosting the largest population, and they play a crucial role in maintaining the marine ecosystem balance.

261. According to CareEdge Ratings, India's economy is expected to grow at what rate in FY 2026-27?

CareEdge Ratings के अनुसार, FY 2026-27 में भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था किस दर से बढ़ने की उम्मीद है?

(a) 6.5%

(b) 6.8%

(c) 7.0%

(d) 7.3%

(e) 7.5%

Ans. c

Sol. CareEdge Projects 7% GDP Growth for India in FY 2026-27 Despite Global Economic Uncertainties

CareEdge Ratings has projected that India's economy will grow at 7% in FY 2026-27, indicating continued resilience despite global economic uncertainties, while real GDP growth for FY 2025-26 has been pegged at 7.4% as per the First Advance Estimates. For FY 2026-27, CareEdge estimates real GDP growth at 7% and nominal GDP growth at 10.1%, with India's macroeconomic outlook remaining constructive, while the RBI has projected 7.3% GDP growth for FY 2025-26.

262. Which ships are part of the Indian Navy's First Training Squadron that visited Singapore?

सिंगापुर की यात्रा करने वाले भारतीय नौसेना के प्रथम प्रशिक्षण स्क्वाड्रन में कौन-कौन सी जहाज़ शामिल हैं?

(a) INS Vikrant, INS Shivalik, INS Sujata

(b) INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata, and ICGS Sarathi

(c) INS Vikramaditya, INS Shivalik, INS Talwar

(d) INS Tir, INS Talwar, INS Sahyadri

(e) INS Shardul, INS Kolkata, INS Sarathi

Ans. b

Sol. Indian Navy's First Training Squadron Reaches Singapore's Changi Naval Base
Indian Navy's First Training Squadron, comprising INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata, and Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarathi, arrived at Changi Naval Base, Singapore, for a training deployment in the South East Indian Ocean Region.

The visit strengthens maritime security cooperation, highlights India's leadership in the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), and aligns with the MAHASAGAR vision for mutual and holistic advancement of security and growth across regions.

263. Which of the following states does NOT celebrate 21 January as its Foundation Day?

निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा राज्य 21 जनवरी को अपना स्थापना दिवस नहीं मनाता है?

- (a) Tripura
- (b) Manipur
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh
- (e) All of the above

Ans. d

Sol. 21 January - Foundation Day of Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya

21 January is observed as the Foundation Day of Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya, marking their establishment as full-fledged states in India.

On 21 January 1972, under the North Eastern Region (Re-organisation) Act, 1971, these regions were officially granted statehood — Tripura and Manipur transitioned from Union Territories/princely states, and Meghalaya became a separate state from Assam.

The day is celebrated with cultural programmes, showcasing the traditions, dances, and customs of the three states at various venues across India.

264. Which state government recently announced the Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu (Classical Language Literary Award), a national-level annual literary honour aimed at recognising outstanding works in major Indian languages other than Hindi, with a cash prize of ₹5 lakh, and unveiled at the Chennai International Book Fair?

हाल ही में किस राज्य सरकार ने सेम्मोज़ी इलक्किया विरुधु (क्लासिकल लैंग्वेज लिटरेरी अवॉर्ड) की घोषणा की है, जो हिंदी के अलावा प्रमुख भारतीय भाषाओं में बेहतरीन कामों को पहचानने के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय स्तर का सालाना साहित्यिक सम्मान है, जिसमें ₹5 लाख का नकद पुरस्कार दिया जाता है, और जिसका अनावरण चेन्नई इंटरनेशनल बुक फेयर में किया गया?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Andhra Pradesh
- (e) Maharashtra

Ans. c

Sol. Tamil Nadu Announces Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu to Honour Literary Excellence in Major Indian Languages

The Tamil Nadu government announced a state-sponsored annual award called the Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu (Classical Language Literary Award) to recognise outstanding works in major Indian languages other than Hindi, with a cash prize of ₹5 lakh.

Unveiled by CM M K Stalin at the Chennai International Book Fair, the award will be conferred annually and will have a national-level character, celebrating literary excellence across linguistic boundaries.

In its first phase, the award will recognise works in seven Indian languages: Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odiya, Bengali, and Marathi, with the potential to expand to other languages in future phases.

About Tamil Nadu

- **Formation** – 26 January 1950
- **Capital** – Chennai
- **Chief Minister** – M K Stalin
- **Governor** – R N Ravi

265. Who addressed the Bagurumba Dwhou 2026 festival in Assam?

असम में बागुरुम्बा ड्वोउ 2026 उत्सव को किसने संबोधित किया?

- (a) Amit Shah
- (b) Rajnath Singh
- (c) Narendra Modi
- (d) Himanta Biswa Sarma
- (e) Pranab Mukherjee

Ans. c

Sol. PM Modi Addresses Bagurumba Dwhou 2026 in Assam

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed Bagurumba Dwhou 2026, a major cultural festival celebrating the heritage of the Bodo community, at Sarusajai Stadium, Guwahati, Assam.

The festival showcased the traditional Bodo folk dance and featured performances by over 10,000 artists, highlighting Assam's rich cultural heritage.

266. The 6th ASEAN-India Digital Ministers Meeting was held virtually by Vietnam to discuss strengthening regional digital cooperation, inclusion, and integration. Under which theme, highlighting the transition from basic connectivity to advanced, connected intelligence, was this meeting conducted?

6वीं आसियान-भारत डिजिटल मंत्रियों की बैठक वियतनाम द्वारा वर्चुअली आयोजित की गई थी, जिसमें क्षेत्रीय डिजिटल सहयोग, समावेश और एकीकरण को मजबूत करने पर चर्चा की गई। यह बैठक किस थीम के तहत आयोजित की गई थी, जिसमें बेसिक कनेक्टिविटी से एडवांस्ड, कनेक्टेड इंटेलिजेंस की ओर बदलाव पर ज़ोर दिया गया था?

- (a) Digital ASEAN: Innovation for Growth
- (b) Adaptive ASEAN: From Connectivity to Connected Intelligence
- (c) ASEAN-India: Digital Transformation for All
- (d) Connected ASEAN: Technology for Prosperity
- (e) Digital Future: ASEAN-India Collaboration

Ans. b

Sol. 6th ASEAN-India Digital Ministers Meeting Focuses on Inclusive, Secure, and Connected Digital Ecosystem

The 6th ASEAN-India Digital Ministers Meeting was held virtually under the theme "Adaptive ASEAN: From Connectivity to Connected Intelligence", focusing on regional digital cooperation, inclusion, and integration.

The meeting was co-chaired by Telecom Secretary Amit Agrawal (India) and Vietnam's Minister Nguyen Manh Hung, and approved the ASEAN-India Digital Work Plan 2026, covering ICT training, regulators' conferences, and telecom ICT deployment.

About Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- Established- 1967
- Headquarters- Jakarta, Indonesia
- Secretary-General- Kao Kim Hourn (Malaysia)

267. Which non-profit organisation, serving as the parent body of Wikipedia, recently signed strategic partnerships with major technology companies like Amazon, Meta, Microsoft, Mistral AI, and Perplexity to provide paid access to its content for Artificial Intelligence training?

विकिपीडिया की पेरेंट बॉडी के तौर पर काम करने वाले किस नॉन-प्रॉफिट ऑर्गनाइज़ेशन ने हाल ही में Amazon, Meta, Microsoft, Mistral AI और Perplexity जैसी बड़ी टेक्नोलॉजी कंपनियों के साथ आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस ट्रेनिंग के लिए अपने कंटेंट का पेड एक्सेस देने के लिए स्ट्रेटेजिक पार्टनरशिप साइन की है?

- (a) Google Foundation

(b) Wikimedia Foundation

(c) Internet Archive

(d) Wikicedia Foundation

(e) Linux Foundation

Ans. b

Sol. Wikimedia Foundation Partners with Big Tech for Paid AI Access to Wikipedia Content

The Wikimedia Foundation, the parent body of Wikipedia, has partnered with companies like Amazon, Meta, Microsoft, Mistral AI, and Perplexity to provide paid access to Wikipedia content for AI training.

Wikipedia hosts around 65 million articles across more than 300 languages, serving as a vast resource for AI models.

Its content is created and overseen by approximately 250,000 volunteer editors worldwide and receives nearly 15 billion views each month.

268. India recently flagged off the first batch of guided Pinaka rocket systems for export. Which country is the recipient of these rockets?

भारत ने हाल ही में एक्सपोर्ट के लिए गाइडेड पिनाका रॉकेट सिस्टम के पहले बैच को हरी झंडी दिखाई। इन रॉकेट का रिसेीवर कौन सा देश है?

(a) Oman

(b) Armenia

(c) Sri Lanka

(d) Myanmar

(e) Vietnam

Ans. b

Sol. India Flags Off First Batch of Guided Pinaka Rockets for Armenia

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off the first batch of guided Pinaka rocket systems for Armenia.

The rockets were dispatched from a facility in Nagpur, Maharashtra, and showcase the Pinaka system's accuracy and extended range, highlighting India as a reliable supplier of advanced defence technology.

Armenia signed a Rs 2,000 crore deal in September 2022 for four Pinaka batteries, including unguided, extended-range, and guided variants; deliveries of the initial unguided systems began in July 2023 and concluded by late 2024.

Minister Rajnath Singh also inaugurated SDAL's state-of-the-art medium calibre ammunition manufacturing facility in Nagpur.

269. During the 10-month Lokayan 26 expedition, INS Sudarshini will cover over 22,000 nautical miles and is scheduled to visit multiple international destinations. How many ports and countries is the ship expected to call at during this transoceanic voyage?

10 महीने के लोकायन 26 अभियान के दौरान, INS सुदर्शनि 22,000 नॉटिकल मील से ज़्यादा की दूरी तय करेगी और कई इंटरनेशनल जगहों पर जाने का कार्यक्रम है। इस ट्रांसओशनिक यात्रा के दौरान जहाज़ कितने बंदरगाहों और देशों में रुकेगा?

- (a) 15 ports across 10 countries,
- (b) 18 ports across 13 countries
- (c) 20 ports across 12 countries
- (d) 22 ports across 14 countries
- (e) 25 ports across 15 countries

Ans. b

Sol. INS Sudarshini to Embark on 10-Month Lokayan 26 Voyage

INS Sudarshini will embark on a 10-month expedition under Lokayan 26, covering over 22,000 nautical miles and visiting 18 ports across 13 countries to showcase India's maritime heritage and promote international naval cooperation.

Over 200 trainees from the Indian Navy and Coast Guard will gain hands-on experience in navigation and traditional seamanship, interact with foreign naval counterparts, and build enduring professional bonds.

The ship will participate in prestigious tall-ship events like Escale à Sète (France) and SAIL 250 (USA), serving as a platform for cultural diplomacy, maritime partnerships, and projecting India's naval capability and goodwill globally.

270. Which team created history by winning its maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy title in the 33rd edition of the tournament?

टूर्नामेंट के 33वें एडिशन में अपना पहला विजय हजारे ट्रॉफी खिताब जीतकर किस टीम ने इतिहास रचा?

- (a) Saurashtra
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Vidarbha
- (e) Maharashtra

Ans. d

Sol. Vidarbha Lift Maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy, Beat Saurashtra in Final

Vidarbha clinched their maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy, defeating two-time champions Saurashtra by 38 runs in the final.

The final was played at the BCCI Centre of Excellence, Bengaluru, and the tournament marked the 33rd edition of the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Karnataka and Tamil Nadu remain the most successful teams, with five titles each in the tournament's history.

About Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

- *Founded - December 1928*
- *Headquarters - Mumbai*
- *President - Mithun Manhas*

271. Which city will host the Laureus World Sports Awards for the third consecutive year?

कौन सा शहर लगातार तीसरे साल लॉरियस वर्ल्ड स्पोर्ट्स अवॉर्ड्स की मेज़बानी करेगा?

- (a) Paris
- (b) Rome
- (c) Madrid
- (d) London
- (e) Barcelona

Ans. c

Sol. Madrid to Host Laureus World Sports Awards for Third Consecutive Year

Madrid will host the Laureus World Sports Awards for the third consecutive year, with the ceremony scheduled at Cibeles Palace on April 20.

The Laureus World Sports Awards is an annual global ceremony that honours sportspersons, teams, and outstanding sporting achievements from across the world.

The awards were established in 1999 by the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation to celebrate excellence in sports and promote social change through sport.

272. The IMF has revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2025-26 to:

IMF ने वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 के लिए भारत की GDP ग्रोथ के अनुमान को संशोधित किया है:

- (a) 6.4%
- (b) 6.6%
- (c) 6.9%
- (d) 7.1%
- (e) 7.3%

Ans. e

Sol. IMF Upgrades India's GDP Growth Forecast to 7.3% for FY 2025-26

The IMF raised India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2025-26 to 7.3%, up from its earlier estimate of 6.6%, reflecting stronger economic momentum.

According to the January 2026 World Economic Outlook (WEO) update, India's growth is projected to moderate to 6.4% in both 2026 and 2027.

The IMF expects global economic growth to remain resilient, at 3.3% in 2026 and 3.2% in 2027, broadly stable compared to 3.3% in 2025.

GDP Projection List 2025

- CareEdge – 7% (FY27)
- World Bank – 7.2% (FY26)
- NSO – 7.4% (FY26)
- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) - 7.4% (FY26); 6.6% (FY27) and 6.8%(FY28)
- Goldman Sachs - 7.3% (FY25)6.8% (FY26)
- India Ratings & Research – 6.9% (FY27)

273. What is the target set by India and the UAE to double their bilateral trade by?

भारत और UAE ने अपने द्विपक्षीय व्यापार को दोगुना करने का क्या लक्ष्य रखा है?

- (a) \$150 billion by 2030
- (b) \$180 billion by 2031
- (c) \$200 billion by 2032
- (d) \$220 billion by 2035
- (e) \$250 billion by 2040

Ans. c

Sol. India–UAE Ties Strengthen: Trade Target of \$200 Billion by 2032

India and the UAE agreed to double bilateral trade to over \$200 billion by 2032 and expand cooperation in large nuclear reactors and Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).

PM Narendra Modi invited UAE sovereign wealth funds to participate in India's second Infrastructure Fund, scheduled to be launched in 2026; UAE firms First Abu Dhabi Bank and DP World will set up operations in GIFT City, Gujarat.

A 10-year LNG supply agreement was signed for 500,000 tonnes per annum from 2028 between HPCL and Adnoc Gas; leaders also discussed the Gaza Board of Peace proposal and the situation in Iran.

274. Who has been elected unopposed as the BJP National President?

किसे BJP का राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष निर्विरोध चुना गया है?

- (a) Parul Tyagi
- (b) Nitin Nabin
- (c) Smiriti Irani
- (d) Rekha Gupta
- (e) Pappu Yadav

Ans. b

Sol. Five-Time Bihar MLA Nitin Nabin Elected Unopposed as Youngest BJP National President

Five-time Bihar MLA Nitin Nabin (45) has been elected unopposed as the BJP National President, becoming the youngest leader ever to hold the top post. He succeeds J P Nadda, who has headed the party since 2020.

275. Which organisation received the SKOCH Award 2025 for its Cell Broadcast Solution (CBS)?

कौन सा संगठन अपनी Cell Broadcast Solution (CBS) के लिए SKOCH Award 2025 प्राप्त किया?

- (a) ISRO
- (b) DRDO
- (c) C-DOT
- (d) BHEL
- (e) TCS

Ans. c

Sol. C-DOT Wins SKOCH Award 2025 for Indigenous Cell Broadcast Solution Enhancing Disaster Alerts

C-DOT (Centre for Development of Telematics) received the SKOCH Award 2025 for its Cell Broadcast Solution (CBS) during the 104th SKOCH Summit under the theme "Resourcing Viksit Bharat," recognising excellence in technology-driven governance and public service.

The Cell Broadcast Solution is an indigenous disaster and emergency alert platform that enables near real-time dissemination of life-saving alerts to citizens in affected areas through cellular networks, integrating multiple agencies such as IMD, CWC, INCOIS, DGR, and Forest Survey of India.

The system unifies mobile service providers, State Disaster Management Authorities, and the National Disaster Management Authority to create an automated, geo-targeted, multi-hazard alert system supporting 21 Indian languages, enhancing disaster risk reduction and management efficiency.

276. Who chaired the 88th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) in New Delhi?

नई दिल्ली में राष्ट्रीय वन्य जीव बोर्ड (SC-NBWL) की 88वीं बैठक की अध्यक्षता किसने की?

- (a) Prime Minister of India
- (b) Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
- (c) Chief Wildlife Warden of India
- (d) Minister of Defence

(e) Union Minister of Home Affairs**Ans. b****Sol.** Union Environment Minister Chairs 88th SC-NBWL Meeting to Review Wildlife and Eco-Sensitive Zone Proposals

The 88th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) was chaired by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav in New Delhi, focusing on wildlife conservation and sustainable development.

During the meeting, the committee considered 70 proposals related to public utility services, defence requirements, and infrastructure development in and around Protected Areas, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Tiger Reserves, and Eco-Sensitive Zones, ensuring compliance with the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

277. Who inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for Regulatory Affairs in the Power Sector at IIT Delhi?

आईआईटी दिल्ली में विद्युत क्षेत्र में नियामक मामलों के उत्कृष्टता केंद्र का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

- (a) Prime Minister of India
- (b) Union Minister of Power
- (c) Chief Minister of Delhi
- (d) Chairman of CERC
- (e) Director of IIT Delhi

Ans. b**Sol.** IIT Delhi Launches Centre of Excellence for Regulatory Affairs in the Power Sector
Union Minister of Power, Shri Manohar Lal, inaugurated the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Regulatory Affairs in the Power Sector at IIT Delhi, envisioned as a national-level hub for regulatory research, capacity building, advisory support, and knowledge dissemination.

By situating the Centre within a premier academic institution and collaborating closely with CERC and Grid India, it integrates policy, regulation, system operations, and academic research under a single institutional framework to address key sectoral challenges.

278. Parakram Diwas is observed on 23 January every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of _____.

हर साल 23 जनवरी को _____ की जयंती मनाने के लिए पराक्रम दिवस मनाया जाता है।

- (a) Mahatma Gandhi
- (b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- (c) Bhagat Singh
- (d) Subhas Chandra Bose
- (e) Jawaharlal Nehru

Ans. d

Sol. 23 January - Parakram Diwas

Parakram Diwas is observed on 23 January every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

The day celebrates Netaji's courage, leadership, and contribution to India's freedom struggle, especially through the Indian National Army (INA).

Government of India announced Parakram Diwas in 2021 to inspire patriotism and national pride among citizens.

279. SBI Life Insurance recently launched which guaranteed savings life insurance plan?

SBI लाइफ इश्योरेंस ने हाल ही में कौन सा गारंटीड सेविंग्स लाइफ इश्योरेंस प्लान लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) SBI Life – Smart Wealth Plus
- (b) SBI Life – Platinum Secure
- (c) SBI Life – Smart Platina Advantage
- (d) SBI Life – Elite Income Shield
- (e) SBI Life – Guaranteed Future Plan

Ans. c

Sol. SBI Life Launches 'Smart Platina Advantage' Guaranteed Savings Insurance Plan
SBI Life Insurance launched 'SBI Life – Smart Platina Advantage', an individual, non-linked, non-participating guaranteed savings life insurance plan offering long-term assured returns along with life cover.

The plan aims to support key financial goals such as children's education, retirement planning, corpus creation and second-income generation, with guaranteed additions every policy year.

SBI Life Insurance was incorporated in October 2000 and is regulated by IRDAI since March 2001, making it one of India's most trusted private life insurers.

280. The BCCI signed a ₹270 crore sponsorship deal with which AI platform ahead of IPL 2026?

BCCI ने IPL 2026 से पहले किस AI प्लेटफॉर्म के साथ ₹270 करोड़ की स्पॉन्सरशिप डील साइन की?

- (a) ChatGPT
- (b) Bard
- (c) Gemini

(d) Copilot**(e) Watson****Ans. c****Sol.** BCCI Inks ₹270 Crore Gemini Sponsorship Deal Ahead of IPL 2026

BCCI signed a ₹270 crore sponsorship deal with Google's AI platform Gemini ahead of the IPL 2026 season, marking a major AI entry into Indian cricket.

The deal comes after real money gaming platforms like Dream11 were banned, forcing BCCI to find new sponsors; Apollo Tyres later took over the jersey sponsorship for ₹579 crore.

Tata Group continues as the IPL title sponsor, while the Gemini partnership highlights the rising interest of AI and tech companies in India's biggest T20 league.

Recent MoU

- *Essar Signs ₹5,100 Crore MoU with Gujarat for Large-Scale Bio-Fuel Project*
- *Supreme Court of India Signs MoU with Bhutan Apex Court to Exchange Young Legal Professionals*
- *Delhi Government Signs MoU with RBI to Streamline Borrowings and Cash Management*
- *NTH and NHAI Sign MoU to Enhance Quality Assurance in National Highway Projects*
- *PDUNASS and IC Centre for Governance Partner to Embed Ethical Leadership in EPFO Administration*

281. What is the name of the operation launched by the Punjab Police to tackle organised gangster networks?

संगठित गैंगस्टर नेटवर्क से निपटने के लिए पंजाब पुलिस द्वारा शुरू किए गए ऑपरेशन का नाम क्या है?

(a) Operation Shield**(b) Operation Vijay****(c) Operation Raksha****(d) Operation Suraksha****(e) Operation Parhar****Ans. e****Sol.** Punjab Police Launches "Operation Parhar" to Dismantle Gangster Networks Across the State

Punjab Police launched "Operation Parhar" to dismantle organised gangster networks and work towards making the state crime-free.

The operation involved around 2,000 police teams with nearly 12,000 personnel conducting simultaneous raids across Punjab.

To encourage public participation, an Anti-Gangster Helpline (93946-93946) has been launched for citizens to report criminal activities.

About Punjab

- **Capital** – Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister** – Bhagwant Mann
- **Governor** – Gulab Chand Kataria

282. Which global bank is setting up a branch in India's GIFT City to trade equities and other financial instruments?

कौन सा ग्लोबल बैंक भारत की GIFT सिटी में इक्विटी और दूसरे फाइनेंशियल इंस्ट्रुमेंट्स में ट्रेड करने के लिए एक ब्रांच खोल रहा है?

- (a) HSBC Holdings Plc
- (b) Standard Chartered Plc
- (c) JPMorgan Chase & Co.
- (d) Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc
- (e) Citibank

Ans. c

Sol. JPMorgan to Set Up Branch in GIFT City for Trading Equities and Financial Instruments

JPMorgan Chase & Co. is setting up a branch in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) to trade equities, derivatives, and other financial instruments, leveraging India's low-tax financial hub.

The branch is being established by JPMorgan Securities Plc, which has received a license from the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), GIFT City's regulator.

About JP Morgan Chase

- *It is an American multinational banking institution*
- *Founded- 2000*
- *Headquarters- New York City, USA*

283. Payoneer India has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Payment Aggregator – Cross Border (PA-CB).

Payoneer India is a subsidiary of which global company?

Payoneer India को पेमेंट एग्रीगेटर - क्रॉस बॉर्डर (PA-CB) के रूप में काम करने के लिए भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) से सैद्धांतिक मंजूरी मिल गई है। Payoneer India किस वैश्विक कंपनी की सहायक कंपनी है?

- (a) Paytm Global
- (b) Payoneer Global

(c) Visa Inc.

(d) Mastercard Inc.

(e) Stripe Inc

Ans. b

Sol. Payoneer India Gets RBI In-Principle Approval to Operate as Cross-Border Payment Aggregator

Payoneer India, a subsidiary of Payoneer Global, has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Payment Aggregator – Cross Border (PA-CB).

The PA-CB licence enables Payoneer India to facilitate cross-border payment transactions for merchants, including both inward (exports) and outward (imports) payments.

284. Canara Bank has partnered with NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of the NPCI that manages India's digital payment infrastructure, to integrate its plugin-based UPI solution. Into which of its own digital payment applications will Canara Bank implement these UPI services to enhance convenience and seamless transactions for its customers?

केनरा बैंक ने NPCI BHIM सर्विसेज लिमिटेड (NBSL) के साथ पार्टनरशिप की है, जो NPCI की पूरी तरह से स्वामित्व वाली सब्सिडियरी है और भारत के डिजिटल पेमेंट इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर को मैनेज करती है, ताकि अपने प्लगइन-बेस्ड UPI सॉल्यूशन को इंटीग्रेट किया जा सके। केनरा बैंक अपने ग्राहकों के लिए सुविधा और आसान ट्रांजैक्शन को बेहतर बनाने के लिए इन UPI सेवाओं को अपने किस डिजिटल पेमेंट एप्लिकेशन में लागू करेगा?

(a) BHIM UPI

(b) Canara aiPe

(c) CanaraIndi

(d) PhonePe

(e) Google Pay

Ans. b

Sol. Canara Bank Becomes First to Integrate NBSL's Plugin-Based UPI Solution into Canara aiPe

Canara Bank has partnered with NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL) to integrate UPI services into its payment application Canara aiPe.

NBSL, a wholly owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), manages India's digital payment infrastructure.

Canara Bank becomes the first bank to implement NBSL's plugin-based UPI solution, enhancing digital payment capabilities for its users.

About Canara Bank

• *Founded - 1906*

- *Headquarters- Bengaluru, Karnataka*
- *MD & CEO - Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia (replace K. Satyanarayana Raju)*
- *Chairman – Vijay Srirangan*
- *Tagline - Together with Can*

285. The Union Cabinet approved an equity infusion of ₹5,000 crore into SIDBI to expand credit availability for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Over how many tranches will the ₹5,000 crore equity infusion into SIDBI be made?

केंद्रीय कैबिनेट ने माइक्रो, स्मॉल और मीडियम एंटरप्राइजेज (MSMEs) के लिए क्रेडिट की उपलब्धता बढ़ाने के लिए SIDBI में ₹5,000 करोड़ के इक्विटी इन्फ्यूजन को मंजूरी दी। SIDBI में ₹5,000 करोड़ का इक्विटी इन्फ्यूजन कितनी किस्तों में किया जाएगा?

- (a) One
- (b) Two
- (c) Three
- (d) Four
- (e) Five

Ans. c

Sol. Union Cabinet Approves ₹5,000 Crore Equity Infusion into SIDBI to Boost Credit for MSMEs

The Union Cabinet approved an equity infusion of ₹5,000 crore into SIDBI to expand credit availability for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The infusion will be made in three tranches: ₹3,000 crore in 2025-26 and ₹1,000 crore each in 2026-27 and 2027-28, based on the respective book values of the previous financial years.

The capital boost is expected to increase the number of MSME beneficiaries from 76.26 lakh to 102 lakh by 2027-28, generating employment for approximately 1.12 crore people.

The additional equity will help SIDBI maintain a strong capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR), ensuring credit ratings remain healthy and allowing lending to MSMEs at competitive interest rates.

About Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

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

286. Until which financial year has the Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the Atal Pension Yojana (APY)?

केंद्रीय कैबिनेट ने अटल पेंशन योजना (APY) को किस वित्तीय वर्ष तक जारी रखने की मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) 2025-26
- (b) 2027-28
- (c) 2030-31
- (d) 2032-33
- (e) 2035-36

Ans. c

Sol. Union Cabinet Extends Atal Pension Yojana till 2030-31 and Approves Rs 5,000 Crore Equity Support for SIDBI to Boost MSMEs

The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) up to the financial year 2030-31, with government support for promotional, developmental activities and gap funding to expand outreach among unorganised sector workers. APY, launched on May 9, 2015, provides old-age income security, offering a guaranteed minimum pension of Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 per month starting at age 60, based on contributions; as of January 19, 2026, over 8.66 crore subscribers are enrolled.

The Union Cabinet also approved an equity support of Rs 5,000 crore to SIDBI, to boost credit flow to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) at competitive rates, with investment spread over three financial years (2025-26 to 2027-28).

287. The Office of the Principal Controller of Communication Accounts (Pr CCA) Delhi has integrated the SAMPANN pension platform with DigiLocker, enabling digital access to pension documents for retirees under the Department of Telecommunications. What does the SAMPANN platform stand for?

प्रिंसिपल कंट्रोलर ऑफ़ कम्युनिकेशन अकाउंट्स (Pr CCA) दिल्ली के ऑफिस ने SAMPANN पेंशन प्लेटफॉर्म को DigiLocker के साथ इंटीग्रेट कर दिया है, जिससे टेलीकम्युनिकेशन डिपार्टमेंट के रिटायर लोगों को पेंशन डॉक्यूमेंट्स का डिजिटल एक्सेस मिल सकेगा। SAMPANN प्लेटफॉर्म का फुल फॉर्म क्या है?

- (a) System for Automated Management of Accounts and National Pensions
- (b) System for Accounting and Management of Pension
- (c) Secure Access for Monetary Pension and Accounts Network
- (d) Standardized Administration of Monthly Pension and Notifications
- (e) System for Administrative Monitoring of Pension Payments

Ans. b

Sol. SAMPANN Pension Platform Integrated with DigiLocker to Provide Paperless Access for Pensioners

The Office of the Principal Controller of Communication Accounts (Pr CCA) Delhi has integrated the SAMPANN (System for Accounting and Management of Pension) pension platform with DigiLocker, enabling digital access to pension documents for retirees under the Department of Telecommunications.

The integration allows pensioners to retrieve key documents such as Pension Payment Orders (e-PPOs), Gratuity Sanction Orders, Communication Sanctions, and Form-16 electronically, removing the need for physical copies.

Pensioners can access documents securely via DigiLocker anytime using a smartphone or desktop, supporting services like banking, medical reimbursements, and verification, ensuring convenience, transparency, and paperless processing.

The SAMPANN platform, inaugurated in 2018, digitises the entire pension lifecycle, including case initiation, e-PPO issuance, disbursement, accounting, grievance redressal, and life certificate submission, empowering pensioners to manage their records independently.

288. Bharat Steel 2026, a two-day international conference-cum-exhibition focusing on sustainability, supply chain resilience, and technological transformation in the steel sector, will be held on 16–17 April 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Which ministry is organising this summit?

भारत स्टील 2026, स्टील सेक्टर में सस्टेनेबिलिटी, सप्लाय चैन रेजिलिएंस और टेक्नोलॉजिकल ट्रांसफॉर्मेशन पर फोकस करने वाला दो-दिवसीय इंटरनेशनल कॉन्फ्रेंस-कम-एग्जीबिशन, 16-17 अप्रैल 2026 को भारत मंडपम, नई दिल्ली में आयोजित किया जाएगा। इस समिट का आयोजन कौन सा मंत्रालय कर रहा है?

- (a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- (b) Ministry of Heavy Industries
- (c) Ministry of Steel
- (d) Ministry of Science & Technology
- (e) Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises

Ans. c

Sol. Bharat Steel 2026 Summit to Focus on Sustainability and Technological Transformation in Steel Sector

Bharat Steel 2026, a two-day international conference-cum-exhibition, will be organised by the Ministry of Steel on 16–17 April 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

The summit will focus on global steelmaking issues, including sustainability, supply chain resilience, and technological transformation in the steel sector.

India is the world's second-largest steel producer after China, and the government has set ambitious targets of 300 million tonnes steel capacity by 2030 and 500 million tonnes by 2047.

289. Who is set to take over as the Group Chief Executive Officer of Eternal after Deepinder Goyal steps down?

दीपिंदर गोयल के पद छोड़ने के बाद इटरनल के ग्रुप चीफ एग्जीक्यूटिव ऑफिसर के तौर पर कौन पदभार संभालने वाला है?

- (a) Deepinder Goyal
- (b) Albinder Dhindsa
- (c) Nandan Nilekani
- (d) Rohit Kapoor
- (e) Kalyan Krishnamurthy

Ans. b

Sol. Deepinder Goyal to Step Down as Eternal Group CEO

Deepinder Goyal will step down as Founder and Group CEO of Eternal, with Blinkit CEO Albinder Dhindsa set to take over the role.

Goyal will continue on the company's board of directors as Vice Chairman, ensuring leadership continuity during the transition.

290. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as Whole-time Director and Deputy Managing Director of HDFC Bank for a fresh three-year term. The fresh three-year term of Kaizad Bharucha will begin from which date?

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) ने कैज़ाद भरूचा को HDFC बैंक के होल-टाइम डायरेक्टर और डिप्टी मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर के तौर पर तीन साल के नए कार्यकाल के लिए फिर से नियुक्त करने की मंजूरी दे दी है। कैज़ाद भरूचा का नया तीन साल का कार्यकाल किस तारीख से शुरू होगा?

- (a) January 20, 2026
- (b) April 1, 2026
- (c) April 19, 2026
- (d) March 31, 2026
- (e) May 1, 2026

Ans. c

Sol. RBI Approves Re-appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as Deputy MD of HDFC Bank for Three Years

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as Whole-time Director and Deputy Managing Director of HDFC Bank for a fresh three-year term starting April 19, 2026.

Kaizad Bharucha oversees key business verticals, strategy execution, and risk management at HDFC Bank; the announcement was positively received by markets, with the bank's shares rising 0.38% on the BSE.

About HDFC Bank

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

291. India launched the Responsible Nations Index (RNI) at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. The Responsible Nations Index (RNI) was launched under the aegis of which organisation?

भारत ने नई दिल्ली में डॉ. अंबेडकर इंटरनेशनल सेंटर में रिस्पॉन्सिबल नेशंस इंडेक्स (RNI) लॉन्च किया। रिस्पॉन्सिबल नेशंस इंडेक्स (RNI) किस संगठन की देखरेख में लॉन्च किया गया था?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) United Nations Development Programme
- (c) World Intellectual Foundation
- (d) World Economic Forum
- (e) UNESCO

Ans. c

Sol. India Launches Responsible Nations Index to Assess Ethical Governance and Global Responsibility

India launched the Responsible Nations Index (RNI) at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, under the aegis of the World Intellectual Foundation (WIF).

The RNI provides a global framework to assess countries on ethical governance, social well-being, environmental stewardship, and global responsibility.

The Index is the result of a three-year academic and policy research initiative, with key contributions from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Mumbai.

An Expert Panel Discussion titled "From Human Well-being to Global Stewardship: Rethinking Responsibility, Prosperity and Peace in the 21st Century" was held, chaired by N. K. Singh, Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission of India.

Responsible Nations Index 2026: Country-wise Scores and Ranks

Rank	Country	Overall Score
1	Singapore	0.61945
2	Switzerland	0.58692
3	Denmark	0.58372
4	Cyprus	0.57737
5	Sweden	0.57397
15	Norway	0.55291
16	India	0.55151
17	France	0.54835
38	Japan	0.52930
39	North Macedonia	0.52845
40	Namibia	0.52775

292. Who released the Hindi edition of Dr C. Palanivelu's autobiography "Palanivelu GUTS"?

डॉ. सी. पलानीवेलु की आत्मकथा "पलानीवेलु गट्स" का हिंदी संस्करण किसने जारी किया?

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Jagdeep Dhankhar
- (c) C. P. Radhakrishnan
- (d) M. K. Stalin
- (e) Amit Shah

Ans. c

Sol. VP C. P. Radhakrishnan Releases Hindi Edition of Dr. C. Palanivelu's Autobiography "Palanivelu GUTS"

Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the Hindi edition of Dr. C. Palanivelu's autobiography "Palanivelu GUTS" in New Delhi.

Dr C. Palanivelu is an eminent surgeon who recognised the potential of laparoscopic surgery in the early 1990s and introduced it in Coimbatore in 1991, setting up South India's first laparoscopic surgery centre.

The Vice President described the book as an inspiring account of courage, perseverance, and ethical innovation in medicine; the event was also attended by Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Singh.

293. Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY) has completed 11 years since its launch on 22 January 2015 under the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initiative, aimed at securing the financial future of the girl child. What is the current interest rate under Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana?

सुकन्या समृद्धि योजना (SSY) को 22 जनवरी 2015 को 'बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ' पहल के तहत लॉन्च किए जाने के बाद से 11 साल पूरे हो गए हैं, जिसका मकसद लड़कियों के फाइनेंशियल भविष्य को सुरक्षित करना है।

- (a) 7.6%
- (b) 8.0%
- (c) 8.1%
- (d) 8.2%
- (e) 8.5%

Ans. d

Sol. Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana Completes 11 Years of Empowering the Girl Child
Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY) has completed 11 years since its launch on 22 January 2015 under the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initiative, aimed at securing the financial future of the girl child.

SSY offers an attractive government-notified interest rate, currently at 8.2%, making it one of the most rewarding small savings schemes.

Investments qualify for Section 80C tax deduction; the minimum annual deposit is ₹250, while the maximum is ₹1.50 lakh.

Deposits can be made for 15 years, and the account matures after 21 years from the date of opening.

294. A total of 30 tableaux will roll down Kartavya Path, New Delhi, during the 77th Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 2026. The tableaux will include 17 from States and Union Territories and 13 from Ministries, Departments, and Services. Which theme of Republic Day 2026 tableaux focuses on self-reliant India?

26 जनवरी 2026 को 77वें गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह के दौरान नई दिल्ली के कर्तव्य पथ पर कुल 30 झांकियां निकलेंगी। इन झांकियों में 17 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों की और 13 मंत्रालयों, विभागों और सेवाओं की होंगी। गणतंत्र दिवस 2026 की झांकियों की कौन सी थीम आत्मनिर्भर भारत पर केंद्रित है?

- (a) 150 years of Vande Mataram
- (b) Viksit Bharat
- (c) Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav
- (d) Digital India
- (e) Samriddhi ka Mantra

Ans. e

Sol. Republic Day 2026 Parade to Feature 30 Tableaux at Kartavya Path

A total of 30 tableaux will roll down Kartavya Path, New Delhi, during the 77th Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 2026.

The tableaux will include 17 from States and Union Territories and 13 from Ministries, Departments, and Services.

Based on the themes 'Swatantrata ka Mantra: Vande Mataram' and 'Samridhhi ka Mantra: Aatmanirbhar Bharat', the tableaux will highlight 150 years of the national song 'Vande Mataram' along with India's rapid progress and self-reliance.

295. During the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management in New Delhi, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar launched ECINET, a unified digital platform integrating 40+ election-related apps and web services to enhance citizen participation. ECINET has been developed in how many Indian languages (excluding English)?

नई दिल्ली में लोकतंत्र और चुनाव प्रबंधन पर भारत अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन के दौरान, मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त ज्ञानेश कुमार ने ECINET लॉन्च किया, जो नागरिकों की भागीदारी बढ़ाने के लिए 40 से ज्यादा चुनाव से संबंधित ऐप्स और वेब सेवाओं को इंटीग्रेट करने वाला एक यूनिफाइड डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म है। ECINET को कितनी भारतीय भाषाओं (अंग्रेजी को छोड़कर) में विकसित किया गया है?

- (a) 18
- (b) 20
- (c) 21
- (d) 22
- (e) 24

Ans. d

Sol. Election Commission launches ECINET digital platform at IICDEM 2026

During the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management in New Delhi, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar launched ECINET, a unified digital platform integrating 40+ election-related apps and web services to enhance citizen participation.

ECINET connects citizens, candidates, political parties, and election officials on a single platform and has been developed in 22 Indian languages along with English. On the second day, bilateral discussions were held with international delegations, including the UK, focusing on India's election arrangements, the ECINET app, and possibilities for closer cooperation in electoral management.

About Election Commissioner of India (ECI)

- *It is a constitutional body to conduct and regulate elections in the country.*
- *Founded - 25 January 1950*
- *Headquarters - New Delhi*
- *1st Chief - Sukumar Sen*
- *1st Women Chief - V.S. Ramadevi*
- *26th Chief - Gyanesh Kumar (replace Rajiv Kumar)*

- *Commissioner - Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi*
- *Tenure - 6/65yrs*

296. What scheme will Amit Shah launch on the occasion of Uttar Pradesh Day 2026?

उत्तर प्रदेश दिवस 2026 के अवसर पर अमित शाह कौन सी योजना लॉन्च करेंगे?

- (a) Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Yojana
- (b) One District One Cuisine
- (c) Sardar Patel Industrial Zone Programme
- (d) Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission
- (e) National Skill Development Mission

Ans. b

Sol. Amit Shah to Launch ODOC Scheme at Uttar Pradesh Day Celebrations in Lucknow

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah will attend the Uttar Pradesh Day celebrations as the Chief Guest in Lucknow, with the event being held at Rashtra Prerna Sthal.

On the occasion, he will launch the 'One District One Cuisine' (ODOC) scheme, aimed at identifying and promoting the traditional cuisine of each district of Uttar Pradesh through quality improvement, branding, and market access.

Mr Shah will also inaugurate the Sardar Patel Industrial Zone Programme, present awards under the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Yojana, and confer the Uttar Pradesh Gaurav Samman 2025–26.

About Uttar Pradesh

- **Capital** - Lucknow
- **Chief Minister** – Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor** - Anandiben Patel

297. CDS General Anil Chauhan released the Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework, outlining a policy and roadmap for adopting Quantum Technologies in India's Armed Forces. Which of the following is not a pillar of the Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework?

सीडीएस जनरल अनिल चौहान ने भारत के सशस्त्र बलों में क्वांटम प्रौद्योगिकियों को अपनाने के लिए एक नीति और रोडमैप की रूपरेखा बताते हुए सैन्य क्वांटम मिशन नीति फ्रेमवर्क जारी किया। निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा सैन्य क्वांटम मिशन नीति ढांचे का स्तंभ नहीं है?

- (a) Quantum Computing
- (b) Quantum Communication
- (c) Quantum Sensing & Metrology
- (d) Quantum Materials & Devices

(e) Quantum Nuclear Fusion**Ans. e**

Sol. CDS Releases Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework to Integrate Quantum Technologies in Armed Forces

CDS General Anil Chauhan released the Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework, outlining a policy and roadmap for adopting Quantum Technologies in India's Armed Forces.

The framework focuses on integrating four key pillars—Quantum Communication, Quantum Computing, Quantum Sensing & Metrology, and Quantum Materials & Devices—across the Tri-Services to prepare for future warfare and achieve technological dominance.

The vision document ensures synergy and alignment with the National Quantum Mission, defining an indicative roadmap and policy to implement quantum technologies as a niche but strategic capability in Defence forces.

298. Hyderabad to host Wings India 2026, Asia's largest civil aviation event, at Begumpet Airport, bringing together aviation leaders, aircraft manufacturers, and government delegations from over 20 countries. How often is Wings India organized?

हैदराबाद बेगमपेट एयरपोर्ट पर एशिया के सबसे बड़े सिविल एविएशन इवेंट, विंग्स इंडिया 2026 की मेज़बानी करेगा, जिसमें 20 से ज़्यादा देशों के एविएशन लीडर्स, एयरक्राफ्ट मैनुफैक्चरर्स और सरकारी प्रतिनिधिमंडल एक साथ आएंगे। विंग्स इंडिया कितने समय अंतराल पर आयोजित किया जाता है?

- (a) Annual
- (b) Biennial
- (c) Every 3 years
- (d) Every 5 years
- (e) Quarterly

Ans. b

Sol. Hyderabad to Host Wings India 2026, Asia's Largest Civil Aviation Event

Hyderabad to host Wings India 2026, Asia's largest civil aviation event, at Begumpet Airport, bringing together aviation leaders, aircraft manufacturers, and government delegations from over 20 countries.

The event will be inaugurated by Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu and has been held in Hyderabad since 2008 as a biennial event organized by the Indian government.

The theme for Wings India 2026 is: "Indian Aviation: Paving the Future From Design to Deployment, Manufacturing to Maintenance, Inclusivity to Innovation, and Safety to Sustainability".

299. Which ministry signed an MoU with the World Economic Forum to strengthen India's skills ecosystem?

भारत की कौशल पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को मजबूत करने के लिए विश्व आर्थिक मंच के साथ MoU किस मंत्रालय ने किया?

- (a) Ministry of Education
- (b) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- (c) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- (d) Ministry of Commerce
- (e) Ministry of Science & Technology

Ans. b

Sol. India Partners with World Economic Forum to Launch Skills Accelerator for Future-Ready Workforce

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship signed an MoU with the World Economic Forum to strengthen India's skills and Technical & Vocational Education and Training (TVET) ecosystem.

Under this MoU, a Skills Accelerator will be launched in India to bridge critical skill gaps and enhance the global employability of Indian youth.

The initiative aims to align India's talent pool with emerging domains like artificial intelligence, green energy, robotics, and advanced manufacturing, fostering a future-ready and globally competitive workforce.

Currently active skill accelerator countries include Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brazil, Indonesia, Nigeria and Qatar.

300. National Girl Child Day is observed every year on 24 January to raise awareness about the rights, education, and well-being of girls in India. What is the theme of National Girl Child Day 2026?

भारत में लड़कियों के अधिकारों, शिक्षा और भलाई के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए हर साल 24 जनवरी को राष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस मनाया जाता है। राष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस 2026 का थीम क्या है?

- (a) Educate a Girl, Empower a Nation
- (b) Empowering Every Daughter, Building a Stronger India
- (c) Girls First, India Next
- (d) Equal Rights for Girls
- (e) Girls and Technology

Ans. b

Sol. 24 January - National Girl Child Day

National Girl Child Day is observed every year on 24 January to raise awareness about the rights, education, and well-being of girls in India.

The day emphasizes ending gender discrimination and promoting equal opportunities for girls in education, health, and society.

Theme 2026- Empowering Every Daughter, Building a Stronger India.

301. The United States has officially withdrawn from the World Health Organization (WHO), following a one-year notice given by President Donald Trump in 2025. What percentage of WHO funding was contributed by the U.S.?

राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप द्वारा 2025 में दिए गए एक साल के नोटिस के बाद, संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका आधिकारिक तौर पर विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) से अलग हो गया है। WHO की फंडिंग में अमेरिका का कितना प्रतिशत योगदान था?

- (a) 10%
- (b) 15%
- (c) 18%
- (d) 20%
- (e) 25%

Ans. c

Sol. United States Officially Withdraws from WHO Citing COVID-19 Mismanagement

The United States has officially withdrawn from the World Health Organization (WHO), following a one-year notice given by President Donald Trump in 2025.

The U.S., which was the largest contributor to WHO funding (about 18%), cited poor management and mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic as reasons for withdrawal.

The U.S. announced it will now work directly with other countries on global health issues, bypassing WHO.

About World Health Organization (WHO)

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

302. International Day of Education is observed every year on 24 January to highlight the role of education in peace, development, and human rights worldwide. What is the theme of International Day of Education 2026?

हर साल 24 जनवरी को दुनिया भर में शांति, विकास और मानवाधिकारों में शिक्षा की भूमिका को उजागर करने के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा दिवस मनाया जाता है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा दिवस 2026 का थीम क्या है?

- (a) Education for All
- (b) The power of youth in co-creating education
- (c) Learning Never Stops
- (d) Global Education for Peace
- (e) Inclusive Learning Opportunities

Ans. b

Sol. 24 January - International Day of Education

International Day of Education is observed every year on 24 January to highlight the role of education in peace, development, and human rights worldwide.

Theme 2026 -The power of youth in co-creating education

The day emphasizes inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

It aims to raise awareness about global education challenges and encourage governments, organizations, and communities to invest in education for a sustainable future.

303. Razorpay POS, the offline payments arm of fintech major Razorpay, has secured a licence from the RBI to operate as an _____.

फिनटेक कंपनी रेज़रपे की ऑफलाइन पेमेंट्स शाखा रेज़रपे POS को _____ के तौर पर काम करने के लिए RBI से लाइसेंस मिल गया है।

- (a) Online payment aggregator
- (b) Cross-border payment aggregator
- (c) Cryptocurrency licence
- (d) Digital wallet licence
- (e) Offline payment aggregator

Ans. e

Sol. Razorpay POS Secures RBI Licence to Operate as Offline Payment Aggregator
Razorpay POS, the offline payments arm of fintech major Razorpay, has secured a licence from the RBI to operate as an offline payment aggregator.

With this licence, Razorpay now holds all three key RBI authorisations: online payment aggregator, cross-border payment aggregator (obtained in December 2025), and offline payment aggregator.

This development strengthens Razorpay's position in India's digital payments ecosystem, enabling it to offer seamless payment solutions across online and offline channels.

304. Saina Nehwal announced her retirement from competitive badminton after being out of action for nearly two years due to chronic knee problems and cartilage degeneration. At which Olympics did Saina Nehwal win a bronze medal, becoming the first Indian woman to medal in Olympic badminton?

घुटने की पुरानी समस्याओं और उपास्थि विकृति के कारण लगभग दो वर्षों तक खेल से बाहर रहने के बाद साइना नेहवाल ने प्रतिस्पर्धी बैडमिंटन से संन्यास की घोषणा की। साइना नेहवाल ने किस ओलंपिक में कांस्य पदक जीता और ओलंपिक बैडमिंटन में पदक जीतने वाली पहली भारतीय महिला बनीं?

- (a) Beijing 2008
- (b) Tokyo 2020
- (c) Rio 2016
- (d) London 2012
- (e) Athens 2004

Ans. d

Sol. Olympic Medallist Saina Nehwal Announces Retirement from Competitive Badminton

Saina Nehwal announced her retirement from competitive badminton after being out of action for nearly two years due to chronic knee problems and cartilage degeneration.

She made history by winning a bronze medal at the London 2012 Olympics, becoming the first Indian woman to medal in Olympic badminton.

Nehwal also achieved World No. 1 ranking in 2015, won the BWF Super Series title (Indonesia Open 2009), Commonwealth Games gold (2010 & 2018), and World Championship silver (2015).

Throughout her career, she overcame injuries, contributed to Indian badminton's global recognition, and received prestigious awards including Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, Khel Ratna, and Arjuna Award.

Recently Retired Players

- *Alyssa Healy (Australia)- All forms of international cricket*
- *Jinson Johnson (Kerala, India) - Middle-distance Runner*
- *Usman Khawaja (Australia) - International cricket*
- *Doug Bracewell (New Zealand) - all forms of international cricket*
- *Mohit Sharma (India) - All Forms of Cricket*
- *Kane Williamson (New Zealand) - T20 Internationals*

305. NASA astronaut Sunita 'Sunī' Williams retired after a stellar 27-year career, setting numerous human spaceflight records, including 608 days in space. She

is known for her missions aboard the International Space Station (ISS). How many missions aboard the ISS did Sunita Williams complete during her career?

नासा की अंतरिक्ष यात्री सुनीता 'सुनी' विलियम्स 27 साल के शानदार करियर के बाद सेवानिवृत्त हुई, जिन्होंने अंतरिक्ष में 608 दिनों सहित कई मानव अंतरिक्ष उड़ान रिकॉर्ड स्थापित किए। वह अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन (आईएसएस) पर अपने मिशनों के लिए जानी जाती हैं। सुनीता विलियम्स ने अपने करियर के दौरान आईएसएस पर कितने मिशन पूरे किए?

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

Ans. c

Sol. NASA Astronaut Sunita Williams Retires After 27-Year Stellar Career

NASA astronaut Sunita 'Suni' Williams retired after a stellar 27-year career, completing three missions aboard the International Space Station and setting numerous human spaceflight records, including 608 days in space.

She performed nine spacewalks totaling over 62 hours, became the first person to run a marathon in space, and ranks second in cumulative time in space among NASA astronauts.

Born to an Indian father and Slovenian mother, Williams is a retired U.S. Navy captain, helicopter and fixed-wing pilot with over 4,000 flight hours and holds degrees in physical science and engineering management.

During her visit to India, she participated in an interactive session at the American Center, sharing experiences from missions like the Boeing Starliner and SpaceX Crew-9, inspiring future generations in space exploration.

About National Aeronautics and Space Administration

- *Formed- July 29, 1958*
- *Headquarters- Washington, D.C., USA*
- *Administrator- Jared Isaacman*

306. Where has Punjab launched its first Dog Sanctuary as a pilot project?

पंजाब ने अपना पहला डॉग सेंचुरी पायलट प्रोजेक्ट के रूप में कहाँ लॉन्च किया?

- (a) Amritsar
- (b) Ludhiana
- (c) Chandigarh
- (d) Patiala
- (e) Jalandhar

Ans. b

Sol. Punjab Launches First Dog Sanctuary in Ludhiana as Pilot Project

Punjab launched its first Dog Sanctuary in Ludhiana at the Haibowal Dairy Complex as a pilot project to address the stray dog issue.

The initiative aims to reduce dog bite cases and improve public safety through organised management of stray dogs.

The sanctuary will function as per the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court, ensuring humane and lawful handling of animals.

About Punjab

- **Capital** – Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister** – Bhagwant Mann
- **Governor** – Gulab Chand Kataria

307. Which city has become the first in Uttar Pradesh to be officially recognised as a 'Zero Fresh Waste Dump' city?

उत्तर प्रदेश का कौन सा शहर आधिकारिक तौर पर 'ज़ीरो फ़ेश वेस्ट डंप' शहर के रूप में मान्यता पाने वाला पहला शहर बन गया है?

- (a) Kanpur
- (b) Varanasi
- (c) Prayagraj
- (d) Lucknow
- (e) Ghaziabad

Ans. d

Sol. Lucknow Becomes UP's First Zero Fresh Waste Dump City

Lucknow has become Uttar Pradesh's first 'Zero Fresh Waste Dump' city after achieving 100% scientific processing of municipal solid waste.

The milestone was achieved with the inauguration of the third waste processing facility at the Shivari Plant, strengthening the city's sustainable waste management system.

Lucknow generates about 2,000 metric tonnes of waste daily, managed through three plants of 700 MT/day capacity each, with waste segregated into 55% organic and 45% inorganic components.

308. Which organisation has been recognised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for all Authorised Dealers?

कौन सा संगठन सभी प्राधिकृत डीलरों (Authorised Dealers) के लिए भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) द्वारा स्वयं-नियामक संगठन (SRO) के रूप में मान्यता प्राप्त हुआ है?

- (a) Indian Banks' Association (IBA)
- (b) Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI)
- (c) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

(d) Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM)

(e) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

Ans. b

Sol. RBI Recognises FEDAI as Self-Regulatory Organisation for All Authorised Dealers
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has officially recognised the Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI) as a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for all Authorised Dealers.

FEDAI applied for recognition under the Omnibus Framework for SROs, and RBI noted that it has already been functioning like an SRO through its rules governing member conduct.

FEDAI has one year to align its functioning and governance with the Omnibus SRO framework and extend membership to all categories of Authorised Dealers.

Established in 1958 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, FEDAI governs inter-bank foreign exchange operations, liaises with RBI, and plays a key role in the development and reform of India's forex market.

SRO = An industry body that makes rules for its members and ensures they follow those rules.

309. Ms. N Rajam, awarded the Padma Vibhushan 2026, is recognised for her contribution in which field?

सुश्री एन. राजम, जिन्हें 2026 में पद्म विभूषण से सम्मानित किया गया, उन्हें किस क्षेत्र में उनके योगदान के लिए पहचाना जाता है?

(a) Literature and Education

(b) Science and Engineering

(c) Art

(d) Public Affairs

(e) Social Work

Ans. c

Sol. Government Announces 131 Padma Awards for 2026

Padma Awards, among India's highest civilian honours, are conferred in three categories: Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri.

For 2026, the government announced 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri awards.

The list includes 19 women awardees, 6 individuals from Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI category, and 16 posthumous honours.

5 Padma Vibhushan 2026

SN	Name	Field	State / Country
1	Shri Dharmendra Singh Deol (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
2	Shri K T Thomas	Public Affairs	Kerala
3	Ms. N Rajam	Art	Uttar Pradesh
4	Shri P Narayanan	Literature and Education	Kerala
5	Shri V S Achuthanandhan (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Kerala

13 Padma Bhushan 2026

SN	Name	Field	State / Country
6	Ms. Alka Yagnik	Art	Maharashtra
7	Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari	Public Affairs	Uttarakhand
8	Shri Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaniswamy	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
9	Shri Mammootty	Art	Kerala
10	Dr. Nori Dattatreyyudu	Medicine	United States of America
11	Shri Piyush Pandey (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
12	Shri S K M Maeilanandhan	Social Work	Tamil Nadu
13	Shri Shatavadhani R Ganesh	Art	Karnataka
14	Shri Shibu Soren (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Jharkhand
15	Shri Uday Kotak	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
16	Shri V K Malhotra (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Delhi
17	Shri Vellappally Natesan	Public Affairs	Kerala
18	Shri Vijay Amitraj	Sports	USA

113 Padam Shri 2026

SN	Name	Field	State / Country
19	Shri A E Muthunayagam	Science and Engineering	Kerala
20	Shri Anil Kumar Rastogi	Art	Uttar Pradesh
21	Shri Anke Gowda M.	Social Work	Karnataka
22	Ms. Armida Fernandez	Medicine	Maharashtra
23	Shri Arvind Vaidya	Art	Gujarat

SN	Name	Field	State / Country
24	Shri Ashok Khade	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
25	Shri Ashok Kumar Singh	Science and Engineering	Uttar Pradesh
26	Shri Asok Kumar Haldar	Literature and Education	West Bengal
27	Shri Baldev Singh	Sports	Punjab
28	Shri Bhagwandas Raikwar	Sports	Madhya Pradesh
29	Shri Bharat Singh Bharti	Art	Bihar
30	Shri Bhiklya Ladakya Dhinda	Art	Maharashtra
31	Shri Bishwa Bandhu (Posthumous)	Art	Bihar
32	Shri Brij Lal Bhat	Social Work	Jammu and Kashmir
33	Shri Buddha Rashmi Mani	Others - Archaeology	Uttar Pradesh
34	Dr. Budhri Tati	Social Work	Chhattisgarh
35	Shri Chandramouli Gaddamanugu	Science and Engineering	Telangana
36	Shri Charan Hembram	Literature and Education	Odisha
37	Shri Chiranji Lal Yadav	Art	Uttar Pradesh
38	Ms. Deepika Reddy	Art	Telangana
39	Shri Dharmiklal Chunilal Pandya	Art	Gujarat
40	Shri Gadde Babu Rajendra Prasad	Art	Andhra Pradesh
41	Shri Gafruddin Mewati Jogi	Art	Rajasthan
42	Shri Gambir Singh Yonzon	Literature and Education	West Bengal
43	Shri Garimella Balakrishna Prasad (Posthumous)	Art	Andhra Pradesh
44	Ms. Gayatri Balasubramanian and Ms. Ranjani Balasubramanian (Duo)*	Art	Tamil Nadu
45	Shri Gopal Ji Trivedi	Science and Engineering	Bihar
46	Shri Guduru Venkat Rao	Medicine	Telangana
47	Shri H V Hande	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
48	Shri Hally War	Social Work	Meghalaya
49	Shri Hari Madhab Mukhopadhyay (Posthumous)	Art	West Bengal
50	Shri Haricharan Saikia	Art	Assam
51	Ms. Harmanpreet Kaur Bhullar	Sports	Punjab

SN	Name	Field	State / Country
52	Shri Inderjit Singh Sidhu	Social Work	Chandigarh
53	Shri Janardan Bapurao Bothe	Social Work	Maharashtra
54	Shri Jogesh Deuri	Others - Agriculture	Assam
55	Shri Juzer Vasi	Science and Engineering	Maharashtra
56	Shri Jyotish Debnath	Art	West Bengal
57	Shri K Pajanivel	Sports	Puducherry
58	Shri K Ramasamy	Science and Engineering	Tamil Nadu
59	Shri K Vijay Kumar	Civil Service	Tamil Nadu
60	Shri Kabindra Purkayastha (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Assam
61	Shri Kailash Chandra Pant	Literature and Education	Madhya Pradesh
62	Ms. Kalamandalam Vimala Menon	Art	Kerala
63	Shri Kewal Krishan Thakral	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
64	Shri Khem Raj Sundriyal	Art	Haryana
65	Ms. Kollakal Devaki Amma G	Social Work	Kerala
66	Shri Krishnamurty Balasubramanian	Science and Engineering	Telangana
67	Shri Kumar Bose	Art	West Bengal
68	Shri Kumarasamy Thangaraj	Science and Engineering	Telangana
69	Prof. (Dr.) Lars-Christian Koch	Art	Germany
70	Ms. Liudmila Viktorovna Khokhlova	Literature and Education	Russia
71	Shri Madhavan Ranganathan	Art	Maharashtra
72	Shri Maganti Murali Mohan	Art	Andhra Pradesh
73	Shri Mahendra Kumar Mishra	Literature and Education	Odisha
74	Shri Mahendra Nath Roy	Literature and Education	West Bengal
75	Shri Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar	Literature and Education	Delhi
76	Ms. Mangala Kapoor	Literature and Education	Uttar Pradesh
77	Shri Mir Hajibhai Kasambhai	Art	Gujarat
78	Shri Mohan Nagar	Social Work	Madhya Pradesh
79	Shri Narayan Vyas	Others - Archaeology	Madhya Pradesh
80	Shri Naresh Chandra Dev Varma	Literature and Education	Tripura

SN	Name	Field	State / Country
81	Shri Nilesh Vinodchandra Mandlewala	Social Work	Gujarat
82	Shri Nuruddin Ahmed	Art	Assam
83	Shri Othuvaar Thiruthani Swaminathan	Art	Tamil Nadu
84	Dr. Padma Gurmet	Medicine	Ladakh
85	Shri Palkonda Vijay Anand Reddy	Medicine	Telangana
86	Ms. Pokhila Lekthepi	Art	Assam
87	Dr. Prabhakar Basavprabhu Kore	Literature and Education	Karnataka
88	Shri Prateek Sharma	Medicine	United States of America
89	Shri Praveen Kumar	Sports	Uttar Pradesh
90	Shri Prem Lal Gautam	Science and Engineering	Himachal Pradesh
91	Shri Prosenjit Chatterjee	Art	West Bengal
92	Dr. Punniamurthy Natesan	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
93	Shri R Krishnan (Posthumous)	Art	Tamil Nadu
94	Shri R V S Mani	Civil Service	Delhi
95	Shri Rabilal Tudu	Literature and Education	West Bengal
96	Shri Raghupat Singh (Posthumous)	Others - Agriculture	Uttar Pradesh
97	Shri Raghuveer Tukaram Khedkar	Art	Maharashtra
98	Shri Rajastapathi Kaliappa Goundar	Art	Tamil Nadu
99	Shri Rajendra Prasad	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
100	Shri Rama Reddy Mamidi (Posthumous)	Others - Animal Husbandry	Telangana
101	Shri Ramamurthy Sreedher	Others - Radio Broadcasting	Delhi
102	Shri Ramchandra Godbole and Ms. Suneeta Godbole (Duo)*	Medicine	Chhattisgarh
103	Shri Ratilal Borisagar	Literature and Education	Gujarat
104	Shri Rohit Sharma	Sports	Maharashtra
105	Ms. S G Susheelamma	Social Work	Karnataka
106	Shri Sangyusang S Pongener	Art	Nagaland
107	Sant Nirnanjan Dass	Others - Spiritualism	Punjab

SN	Name	Field	State / Country
108	Shri Sarat Kumar Patra	Art	Odisha
109	Shri Saroj Mandal	Medicine	West Bengal
110	Shri Satish Shah (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
111	Shri Satyanarayan Nuwal	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
112	Ms. Savita Punia	Sports	Haryana
113	Prof. Shafi Shauq	Literature and Education	Jammu and Kashmir
114	Shri Shashi Shekhar Vempati	Literature and Education	Karnataka
115	Shri Shrirang Devaba Lad	Others - Agriculture	Maharashtra
116	Ms. Shubha Venkatesha Iyengar	Science and Engineering	Karnataka
117	Shri Shyam Sundar	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
118	Shri Simanchal Patro	Art	Odisha
119	Ms. Sivasankari	Literature and Education	Tamil Nadu
120	Dr. Suresh Hanagavadi	Medicine	Karnataka
121	Swami Brahmdev Ji Maharaj	Social Work	Rajasthan
122	Shri T T Jagannathan (Posthumous)	Trade and Industry	Karnataka
123	Shri Taga Ram Bheel	Art	Rajasthan
124	Shri Tarun Bhattacharya	Art	West Bengal
125	Shri Techu Gubin	Social Work	Arunachal Pradesh
126	Shri Thiruvaarur Bakthavathsalam	Art	Tamil Nadu
127	Ms. Tripti Mukherjee	Art	West Bengal
128	Shri Veezhinathan Kamakoti	Science and Engineering	Tamil Nadu
129	Shri Vempaty Kutumba Sastry	Literature and Education	Andhra Pradesh
130	Shri Vladimer Mestvirishvili (Posthumous)	Sports	Georgia
131	Shri Yumnam Jatra Singh (Posthumous)	Art	Manipur

310. How much total liquidity is the RBI injecting into the banking system through its recent measures?

आरबीआई अपनी हालिया पहल के माध्यम से बैंकिंग सिस्टम में कितनी कुल तरलता डाल रहा है?

- (a) ₹50,000 crore
(b) ₹1 lakh crore

(c) ₹1.5 lakh crore

(d) ₹2 lakh crore

(e) ₹3 lakh crore

Ans. d

Sol. RBI to Inject Over ₹2 Lakh Crore into Banking System Through Liquidity Measures

RBI announced liquidity measures to inject over ₹2 lakh crore (~\$23 billion) into the banking system, using a mix of open market bond purchases, foreign exchange swaps, and variable rate repo operations.

On January 30, 2026, RBI will conduct a 90-day variable rate repo (VRR) of ₹25,000 crore, allowing banks to borrow funds at market-determined rates against collateral.

On February 4, 2026, the central bank will carry out a USD/INR buy/sell swap auction of \$10 billion with a tenor of three years, aimed at injecting durable rupee liquidity.

RBI will purchase government securities worth ₹1,00,000 crore through open market operations in February, in two tranches of ₹50,000 crore each on February 5 and February 12.

311. Which state's power distribution utilities emerged as top performers in the 14th Integrated Rating and Ranking Report by the Power Ministry?

पावर मंत्रालय की 14वीं इंटीग्रेटेड रेटिंग और रैंकिंग रिपोर्ट में शीर्ष प्रदर्शन करने वाली राज्य की पावर वितरण यूटिलिटीज़ कौन सी हैं?

(a) Maharashtra

(b) Odisha

(c) Gujarat

(d) Tamil Nadu

(e) Punjab

Ans. c

Sol. Gujarat and Odisha Power Utilities Top This Year's Performance Rankings

Gujarat's power distribution utilities emerged as top performers in the 14th Integrated Rating and Ranking Report by the Power Ministry, with four Gujarat discoms in the top 10.

Odisha's private power utilities also ranked among the best performers, highlighting strong performance in both public and private sectors across the country.

Out of 65 evaluated utilities, 31 were rated A+ or A, including 44 state-owned discoms, 12 private discoms, and 11 power departments, with several utilities from Punjab, UP, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra showing improvement.

The report pegged discoms' accumulated losses at Rs. 6.47 trillion and total borrowings at Rs. 7.26 trillion for FY 2024-25, showing a slight reduction from Rs. 6.91 trillion losses and Rs. 7.58 trillion borrowings in FY 2023-24.

312. India's rank among 11 countries in historical AI investments between 2010 and 2024 is:

2010 से 2024 तक ऐतिहासिक AI निवेश के मामले में भारत की 11 देशों में रैंक क्या है?

- (a) 5th
- (b) 6th
- (c) 7th
- (d) 8th
- (e) 9th

Ans. d

Sol. India Ranks 8th Among 11 Countries in AI Investment, WEF Report Reveals
India ranks 8th among 11 countries in terms of historical accumulated investments in the artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem between 2010 and 2024, measured as a percentage of 2024 GDP.

According to the World Economic Forum (WEF) white paper "Rethinking AI Sovereignty", India's AI investments since 2010 accounted for 1.2–1.8% of its 2024 GDP, lower than the US (3.4–5.1%), Singapore (3.1–4.6%), South Korea (2.2–3.3%), and China (1.7–2.6%).

Countries performing below India include Europe (excluding the UK) and Brazil, while those above include UAE, Japan, Canada, and the UK; globally, most AI investments were concentrated in hardware by TSMC and UMC.

313. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of IndusInd Bank?

इंडसइंड बैंक के नए चेयरमैन के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Sunil Mehta
- (b) Rakesh Sharma
- (c) Aditya Puri
- (d) Arijit Basu
- (e) Uday Kotak

Ans. d

Sol. Arijit Basu Appointed Chairman of IndusInd Bank

Arijit Basu has been appointed as the new Chairman of IndusInd Bank, effective January 31, 2026, succeeding Sunil Mehta after completion of his tenure, with approval from the RBI.

He currently serves as an independent director on the boards of Prudential Plc, Peerless Hospitex and Hospital Research Centre, and CleanMax Enviro Energy Solutions.

IndusInd Bank

- **Founded** - 1994
- **Founder** - S.P. Hinduja
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- **MD & CEO** – Rajiv Anand
- **Tagline** - We Make You Feel Richer

314. Indian Railways has deployed a humanoid robot named 'ASC ARJUN' at which railway station, marking a first-of-its-kind initiative to enhance passenger safety, security, and service delivery?

इंडियन रेलवे ने पैसेंजर सेफ्टी, सिक््योरिटी और सर्विस डिलीवरी को बेहतर बनाने के लिए अपनी तरह की पहली पहल करते हुए, किस रेलवे स्टेशन पर 'ASC ARJUN' नाम का ह्यूमैनाइड रोबोट तैनात किया है?

- (a) Chennai Terminal
- (b) Visakhapatnam
- (c) Mumbai CST
- (d) New Delhi
- (e) Kolkata Howrah

Ans. b

Sol. Indian Railways Deploys Humanoid Robot 'ASC ARJUN' at Visakhapatnam Station to Enhance Passenger Safety

Indian Railways has deployed a humanoid robot named 'ASC ARJUN' at Visakhapatnam Railway Station, marking a first-of-its-kind initiative to enhance passenger safety, security, and service delivery.

ASC ARJUN has been fully designed and developed in Visakhapatnam using home-grown technology, with a dedicated team working over a year to integrate advanced systems into daily railway operations.

The robot is equipped with Face Recognition System (FRS) for intrusion detection, AI-based crowd monitoring, real-time alerts to RPF control rooms, and can make automated announcements in English, Hindi, and Telugu to guide passengers and improve safety awareness.

315. International Day of Education is observed annually on 24 January to recognise the role of education in peace, development, and global progress. The theme of International Day of Education 2026 is:

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा दिवस हर साल 24 जनवरी को शांति, विकास और वैश्विक प्रगति में शिक्षा की भूमिका को पहचानने के लिए मनाया जाता है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा दिवस 2026 का विषय है:

- (a) Education for All
- (b) Learning Never Stops
- (c) Quality Education for Sustainable Future
- (d) The power of youth in co-creating education
- (e) Digital Education and Innovation

Ans. d

Sol. 24 January - International Day of Education

International Day of Education is observed annually on 24 January to recognise the role of education in peace, development, and global progress.

Theme 2026 - The power of youth in co-creating education

The day was proclaimed by the United Nations in 2018 to highlight the importance of inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all.

316. What type of licence has Payoneer India received from the RBI recently?

Payoneer India को हाल ही में RBI से किस तरह का लाइसेंस मिला है?

- (a) Payment Aggregator – Domestic Only
- (b) Digital Wallet Provider
- (c) Payment Aggregator – Cross Border (PA-CB)
- (d) Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI)
- (e) Foreign Exchange Dealer

Ans. c

Sol. Payoneer India Receives RBI In-Principle Approval as Cross-Border Payment Aggregator

Payoneer India, a subsidiary of Payoneer Global, has received in-principle approval from the RBI to operate as a Payment Aggregator – Cross Border (PA-CB), enabling it to facilitate cross-border transactions for merchants.

The approval comes as 19 entities are now fully authorised with a PA-CB licence, while Payoneer's global parent is a regulated entity in countries including the US, UK, Europe, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, China, and Australia.

317. The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which organisation to digitise geographical place names?

डिजिटल इंडिया BHASHINI डिवीजन (DIBD) ने भौगोलिक स्थान नामों को डिजिटलाइज करने के लिए किस संगठन के साथ MoU किया?

- (a) Survey of India

- (b) National Remote Sensing Centre
- (c) Geological Survey of India
- (d) Indian Space Research Organisation
- (e) National Informatics Centre

Ans. a

Sol. Digital India BHASHINI Division Signs MoU with Survey of India for AI-Based Toponym Data Digitisation

Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), MeitY, signed an MoU with the Survey of India (Sol) to digitise, transcribe, and standardise geographical place names (toponyms) using AI-based speech and language technologies.

The collaboration aims to create accurate, multilingual, and standardised toponymic datasets aligned with the National Geospatial Policy, 2022, covering over 16 lakh locations.

BHASHINI's speech-to-text and language processing capabilities will convert audio recordings of place names into structured digital text, supporting the Toponymy Database and integration into national mapping systems.

The initiative will enhance the National Geographical Name Information System (NGNIS) by enabling efficient processing, validation, and standardisation of toponymic data in local scripts, Devanagari, Roman, and other formats, ensuring consistency across maps, digital platforms, and governance systems.

318. During the 5th India–Namibia Foreign Office Consultations held on January 19–20, both countries agreed to deepen cooperation in multiple strategic sectors. Which of the following sectors was not explicitly mentioned as part of the discussions?

19-20 जनवरी को आयोजित 5वें भारत-नामीबिया विदेश कार्यालय परामर्श के दौरान, दोनों देश कई रणनीतिक क्षेत्रों में सहयोग को गहरा करने पर सहमत हुए। निम्नलिखित में से किस क्षेत्र का चर्चा के भाग के रूप में स्पष्ट रूप से उल्लेख नहीं किया गया था?

- (a) Health
- (b) Defence
- (c) Agriculture
- (d) Space Technology
- (e) Critical Minerals

Ans. d

Sol. India and Namibia Agree to Deepen Cooperation in Defence, Critical Minerals, and Key Sectors

India and Namibia held the 5th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) on January 19–20 to enhance collaboration in health, Digital Public Infrastructure, agriculture, defence, and critical minerals.

The meeting was co-chaired by Janesh Kain (Joint Secretary, MEA) and Ambassador Charles Josob (Acting Head, Namibia's Ministry of International Relations and Trade) and conducted in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Both countries reviewed progress from recent high-level exchanges and agreed to hold the next round of consultations in Windhoek, Namibia, at a mutually convenient date to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

319. Who released the book "Chalice of Ambrosia: Ram Janmabhoomi – Challenge and Response"?

"चैलिस ऑफ एम्ब्रोसिया: राम जन्मभूमि - चैलेंज एंड रिस्पांस" पुस्तक का विमोचन किसने किया?

- (a) President of India
- (b) Prime Minister of India
- (c) Union Home Minister
- (d) Vice President
- (e) Governor of Uttar Pradesh

Ans. d

Sol. Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan Releases Book on Ram Janmabhoomi Movement

Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the book "Chalice of Ambrosia: Ram Janmabhoomi – Challenge and Response", authored by Surendra Kumar Pachauri, at the Vice President's Enclave, New Delhi.

On the occasion, the Vice President described Lord Ram as the soul of the nation, stating that the Ram Janmabhoomi movement reaffirmed the triumph of dharma, and linked it to Mahatma Gandhi's concept of Ram Rajya, symbolising justice, equality, and dignity for all citizens.

320. India recently delivered 7.5 tonnes of life-saving cancer medicines to which country as part of healthcare cooperation?

भारत ने स्वास्थ्य सहयोग के तहत 7.5 टन जीवन-रक्षक कैंसर दवाएँ किस देश को भेजीं?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Myanmar
- (e) Afghanistan

Ans. e

Sol. India Sends 7.5 Tonnes of Life-Saving Cancer Medicines to Kabul as Part of Healthcare Cooperation

India delivered 7.5 tonnes of life-saving cancer medicines to Kabul, reinforcing its humanitarian and healthcare cooperation with Afghanistan.

The medical assistance aims to support cancer patients in Afghanistan and strengthen access to critical healthcare supplies.

The initiative follows a bilateral meeting in December between Afghanistan's Public Health Minister Mawlawi Noor Jalal Jalali and India's Health Minister JP Nadda to enhance healthcare cooperation between the two countries.

321. Tata Communications has appointed Ganesh Lakshminarayanan as the Managing Director and CEO-Designate of which company?

टाटा कम्युनिकेशंस ने गणेश लक्ष्मीनारायणन को किस कंपनी का मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर और CEO-Designate नियुक्त किया है?

- (a) Tata Consultancy Services
- (b) Tata Digital Limited
- (c) Tata Elxsi
- (d) Tata Tele Services
- (e) Tata Communications Limited

Ans. e

Sol. Tata Communications Appoints Ganesh Lakshminarayanan as MD and CEO-Designate

Tata Communications has appointed Ganesh Lakshminarayanan as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer-Designate of Tata Communications Limited.

He brings over 30 years of international management experience, having worked with multinational corporations, B2B start-ups, and Indian enterprises.

Prior to this role, he served as MD and Group Vice President for ServiceNow India & SAARC, and earlier was CEO of Airtel Business and Airtel's Enterprise Business unit.

Recent Appointments

- **BJP National President** - Nitin Nabin (Youngest,45)
- **Central Vigilance Commissioner** - Praveen Vashista
- **Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court** - Justice Revati Mohite Dere (First Woman)
- **Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court** - Justice Soumen Sen
- **Chairman of Council for Leather Exports (CLE)** - Ramesh Kumar Juneja

322. The NeSDA Way Forward for States/UTs – December 2025 report, released by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), primarily aims to assess which of the following aspects of governance?

NeSDA Way Forward (दिसंबर 2025) रिपोर्ट, जिसे प्रशासनिक सुधार एवं लोक शिकायत विभाग (DARPG) द्वारा जारी किया गया है, मुख्य रूप से शासन के किस पहलू का आकलन करती है?

- (a) Financial inclusion performance of States/UTs
- (b) Ease of Doing Business reforms
- (c) Implementation status of Smart Cities Mission
- (d) Status, coverage, and quality of e-service delivery across States/UTs
- (e) Performance of Panchayati Raj Institutions

Ans. d

Sol. Govt releases 32nd NeSDA Way Forward Monthly Report for States/UTs

The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) released the 32nd edition of the NeSDA Way Forward report (December 2025), providing a comprehensive overview of e-service delivery across States and Union Territories.

As per the report, 24,090 e-services are being delivered across States/UTs, with the Local Governance & Utility Services sector accounting for the highest share (8,656 services); additionally, 156 new e-services were added in November 2025.

21 States/UTs achieved over 90% saturation of 59 mandatory e-services, while portals such as Assam (Sewa Setu), J&K (e-UNNAT), Karnataka (Seva Sindhu), Odisha (Odisha One), MP (MP e-Service), Uttarakhand (Apuni Sarkar) and Kerala (e-Sevanam) provide 100% services.

The report highlights best practices from Central Government portals, city-level digital platforms (notably Puducherry and Guwahati municipalities), and presents AAKLAN parameter-wise insights on five assessment parameters for State/UT Unified Service Delivery Portals.

323. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed an MoU with which organisation to strengthen vocational education and training?

कौशल विकास और उद्यमिता मंत्रालय (MSDE) ने व्यावसायिक शिक्षा और प्रशिक्षण को मजबूत करने के लिए किस संगठन के साथ MoU किया है?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) UNESCO
- (c) International Labour Organization
- (d) World Economic Forum
- (e) OECD

Ans. d

Sol. MSDE Signs Landmark MoU with World Economic Forum to Strengthen India's TVET and Skills Ecosystem

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a landmark MoU with the World Economic Forum (WEF) to deepen cooperation in skill development, vocational education, and training.

The MoU aims to strengthen India's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) ecosystem by aligning skilling initiatives with industry needs and global economic demands.

Under the agreement, MSDE and WEF will launch a Skills Accelerator in India, a multi-stakeholder platform to identify, scale, and accelerate innovative skilling solutions and public-private partnerships.

The collaboration builds on momentum from India's participation in the 55th WEF Annual Meeting held in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland (January 2025), marking a new phase in India-WEF cooperation.

324. President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Granth Kutir at Rashtrapati Bhavan, housing around 50 manuscripts and 2,300 books in 11 Indian classical languages covering subjects like epics, philosophy, science, history, governance, devotional literature, and the Constitution. Which national initiative is Granth Kutir aligned with for preserving and digitising India's manuscript heritage?

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने राष्ट्रपति भवन में ग्रंथ कुटिर का उद्घाटन किया, जिसमें 11 भारतीय शास्त्रीय भाषाओं में लगभग 50 पांडुलिपियां और 2,300 किताबें हैं, जिनमें महाकाव्य, दर्शन, विज्ञान, इतिहास, शासन, भक्ति साहित्य और संविधान जैसे विषय शामिल हैं। भारत की पांडुलिपि विरासत को संरक्षित और डिजिटाइज़ करने के लिए ग्रंथ कुटिर किस राष्ट्रीय पहल से जुड़ा है?

- (a) National Digital Library Mission
- (b) Gyan Bharatam Mission
- (c) Manuscript Preservation Initiative
- (d) Rashtriya Granth Mission
- (e) Digital India Mission

Ans. d

Sol. President Droupadi Murmu Inaugurates Granth Kutir at Rashtrapati Bhavan to Promote India's Classical Languages

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Granth Kutir at Rashtrapati Bhavan, housing around 50 manuscripts and 2,300 books in 11 Indian classical languages covering subjects like epics, philosophy, science, history, governance, devotional literature, and the Constitution.

The Granth Kutir aims to enhance awareness of India's rich cultural and literary heritage, promote the spirit of unity in diversity, and support the preservation and promotion of classical languages through universities, libraries, and youth engagement.

Developed under the Gyan Bharatam Mission, the initiative is a collaborative effort involving the central and state governments, universities, research institutions, cultural organisations, and individual donors, focusing on digitising and disseminating India's manuscript heritage.

325. Who has been selected for the Subhas Chandra Bose National Award for Disaster Management 2026 in the individual category?

व्यक्तिगत श्रेणी में सुभाष चंद्र बोस राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन पुरस्कार 2026 के लिए किसे चुना गया है?

- (a) Lt. Colonel Sita Ashok Shelke
- (b) Shri Piyush Pandey
- (c) Ms. Alka Yagnik
- (d) Shri Dharmendra Singh Deol
- (e) Shri V S Achuthanandhan

Ans. a

Sol. Lieutenant Colonel Sita Ashok Shelke, Sikkim Disaster Authority Honoured with Subhas Chandra Bose National Award 2026

Lieutenant Colonel Sita Ashok Shelke has been awarded the Subhas Chandra Bose National Award for Disaster Management 2026 in the individual category for her exceptional contributions in disaster management.

The Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority has been selected for the award in the institutional category.

These awards honour outstanding efforts in disaster preparedness, response, and resilience, recognising exemplary contributions across India.

326. National Tourism Day is observed every year in India on which date?

भारत में हर साल राष्ट्रीय पर्यटन दिवस किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 24 January
- (b) 25 January
- (c) 26 January
- (d) 27 January
- (e) 28 January

Ans. b

Sol. 25 January - National Tourism Day

National Tourism Day is observed every year on 25 January to highlight the importance of tourism in India's economic growth and cultural exchange.

Theme 2026 - Rural and Community Centric Tourism

The day aims to promote sustainable, responsible and inclusive tourism, encouraging people to explore India's rich heritage and natural diversity.

327. The 7th India International Seaweed Expo & Summit will be held in which city?

7वां इंडिया इंटरनेशनल सीवीड एक्सपो और समिट किस शहर में होगा?

- (a) Kochi
- (b) Chennai
- (c) Thiruvananthapuram
- (d) Mumbai
- (e) Visakhapatnam

Ans. a

Sol. Kochi to Host Global Seaweed Expo and Summit on January 29-30.

The 7th India International Seaweed Expo & Summit will be held on January 29–30 at ICAR-CMFRI, bringing together global experts, policymakers, industry leaders, investors and entrepreneurs.

Delegates from countries including the US, Russia, Australia, France, Maldives, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Tanzania will discuss the economic, nutritional and environmental potential of seaweed, highlighting it as a sunrise sector for India.

The two-day event is being organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in collaboration with CMFRI and CSIR-CSMCRI, with participation expected from senior officials of central government departments.

328. National Voters' Day is observed every year on 25 January to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (ECI). What is the theme of National Voters' Day 2026?

भारत के चुनाव आयोग (ECI) के स्थापना दिवस को मनाने के लिए हर साल 25 जनवरी को राष्ट्रीय मतदाता दिवस मनाया जाता है। राष्ट्रीय मतदाता दिवस 2026 की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Every Vote Matters
- (b) Power of Democracy
- (c) My India, My Vote
- (d) Vote for a Better Nation
- (e) Democracy First

Ans. c

Sol. 25 National Voters' Day

National Voters' Day is observed every year on 25 January to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The day aims to encourage, facilitate and maximise enrolment of voters, especially new and young voters, across the country.

The theme for NVD 2026 is "My India, My Vote", with the tagline "Citizen at the Heart of Indian Democracy"

329. Recently, where was the rare worm-like amphibian Gegeneophis valmiki discovered?

हाल ही में, दुर्लभ कृमि जैसे उभयचर गेगेनोफिस वाल्मिकी की खोज कहाँ की गई थी?

- (a) Eastern Ghats
- (b) Himalayas
- (c) Northern Western Ghats
- (d) Sundarbans
- (e) Nilgiri Hills

Ans. c

Sol. Indian Scientists Discover Rare Worm-Like Amphibian 'Gegeneophis valmiki' in Northern Western Ghats

Indian scientists discovered a rare worm-like amphibian, Gegeneophis valmiki, in the northern Western Ghats, marking the first addition to its genus in over a decade. Gegeneophis valmiki is a caecilian, a limbless, blind amphibian that lives mostly underground, with eyes covered by bone and skin, making it nearly invisible.

330. Which company conducted the first-ever medical evacuation mission from the International Space Station (ISS)?

इंटरनेशनल स्पेस स्टेशन (ISS) से पहला मेडिकल इवैक्यूएशन मिशन किस कंपनी ने किया था?

- (a) Blue Origin
- (b) Boeing
- (c) SpaceX
- (d) Roscosmos
- (e) Arianespace

Ans. c

Sol. SpaceX Completes First-Ever Medical Evacuation from ISS

SpaceX, led by Elon Musk, successfully conducted the first-ever medical evacuation mission from the International Space Station (ISS), safely returning four astronauts to Earth.

The returning crew included NASA astronauts Zena Cardman and Mike Fincke, JAXA astronaut Kimiya Yui, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Oleg Platonov, who landed aboard SpaceX's Dragon capsule off the coast of San Diego, USA.

The astronauts concluded a 167-day mission, travelling nearly 71 million miles and completing over 2,670 orbits around Earth, returning earlier than scheduled due to medical reasons.

331. Where was the 5th LG Cup Ice Hockey Championship held in Ladakh?

लद्दाख में 5वें LG कप आइस हॉकी चैंपियनशिप का आयोजन कहाँ हुआ?

- (a) Leh Ice Stadium
- (b) Nubra Valley Ice Ground
- (c) Biamathang Ice Hockey Ground, Kargil
- (d) Pangong Ice Arena
- (e) Tso Moriri Ice Field

Ans. c

Sol. ITBP Clinches Title at 5th LG Cup Ice Hockey Championship in Kargil, Ladakh
The 5th LG Cup Ice Hockey Championship concluded at the Biamathang Ice Hockey Ground, Kargil, Ladakh.

ITBP won the men's final by defeating the Ladakh Scouts team of the Indian Army.

332. Which Indian Naval Sailing Vessel recently reached Muscat, strengthening India-Oman ties?

कौन सा भारतीय नौसैनिक पालतू जहाज हाल ही में मस्कट पहुँचा, जो भारत-ओमान संबंधों को मजबूत करता है?

- (a) INSV Tarini
- (b) INSV Mhadei
- (c) INS Arihant
- (d) INS Vikrant
- (e) INSV Kaundinya

Ans. e

Sol. Indian Naval Vessel INSV Kaundinya Reaches Muscat, Marking 70 Years of India-Oman Diplomatic Ties

The Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Kaundinya reached Port Sultan Qaboos, Muscat, completing its maiden voyage from Porbandar, India, strengthening India-Oman ties.

The vessel is a traditionally built stitched sail ship, inspired by a 5th-century ship depicted in Ajanta Caves paintings, and is named after the legendary Indian mariner Kaundinya.

The visit coincides with the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Oman, highlighting historical and cultural maritime connections.

333. Which Indian Fintech Company has received NPCI approval to operate as a Third-Party Application Provider under the UPI framework?

कौन सी भारतीय फिनटेक कंपनी को UPI फ्रेमवर्क के तहत थर्ड-पार्टी एप्लीकेशन प्रोवाइडर के रूप में काम करने के लिए NPCI की मंजूरी मिली है?

- (a) Paytm
- (b) ZET
- (c) PhonePe
- (d) Google Pay
- (e) BharatPe

Ans. b

Sol. ZET Gets NPCI Nod to Launch UPI Payments on RuPay Credit Cards

ZET, an Indian fintech firm, has received NPCI approval to operate as a Third-Party Application Provider under the UPI framework.

Following this approval, ZET has launched ZET UPI, allowing users to make UPI payments using RuPay credit cards issued through its platform.

The transaction processing and technology infrastructure for ZET UPI is powered by Juspay, ensuring secure and smooth digital payments.

334. Which nuclear reactor was restarted at Japan's Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant in 2026, marking nearly 15 years since the Fukushima disaster?

जापान के कशीवाज़ाकी-करीवा प्लांट में 2026 में कौन सा न्यूक्लियर रिएक्टर फिर से चालू किया गया, जो फुकुशिमा आपदा के लगभग 15 साल बाद है?

- (a) Reactor No. 4
- (b) Reactor No. 5
- (c) Reactor No. 6
- (d) Reactor No. 7
- (e) Reactor No. 8

Ans. c

Sol. Japan Restarts Reactor at World's Largest Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Plant After 15 Years

Japan restarted Reactor No. 6 at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear plant, the world's largest nuclear power plant, nearly 15 years after the Fukushima nuclear disaster led to a nationwide shutdown of reactors.

The Kashiwazaki–Kariwa plant is located northwest of Tokyo, and the reactor restart was delayed by one day due to an alarm malfunction, with commercial operations expected to begin next month.

Before 2011, nuclear energy contributed about 30% of Japan's electricity, and the country had planned to increase this share to around 50% by 2030, highlighting the importance of nuclear power in Japan's energy strategy.

335. Gulfood 2026, the world's largest annual food and beverage exhibition, will be held from January 26–30, 2026, making history as the first exhibition to operate simultaneously across two mega venues—Dubai World Trade Centre and Dubai Exhibition Centre, Expo City Dubai—with India as the partner country for the first time. Which country has been named the partner country for Gulfood 2026 for the first time?

गल्फूड 2026, दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी वार्षिक खाद्य और पेय प्रदर्शनी, 26-30 जनवरी, 2026 को आयोजित की जाएगी, जो दो मेगा स्थानों-दुबई वर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेंटर और दुबई प्रदर्शनी केंद्र, एक्सपो सिटी दुबई- में एक साथ संचालित होने वाली पहली प्रदर्शनी के रूप में इतिहास बनाएगी, जिसमें भारत पहली बार भागीदार देश होगा। किस देश को पहली बार गल्फूड 2026 के लिए भागीदार देश नामित किया गया है?

- (a) Saudi Arabia
- (b) United States
- (c) Egypt
- (d) India
- (e) Turkey

Ans. d

Sol. Gulfood 2026 Makes History in Dubai, India Named Partner Country for First Time

Gulfood 2026, the world's largest annual food and beverage exhibition, will be held from January 26–30, 2026, making history as the first exhibition to operate simultaneously across two mega venues—Dubai World Trade Centre and Dubai Exhibition Centre, Expo City Dubai—with India as the partner country for the first time.

India's participation marks a major milestone with 161 exhibitors, a doubled Indian pavilion, and the Bharati Pavilion by APEDA, showcasing export-ready agri-food and agri-tech startups, including eight high-potential startups selected from over 100 applicants.

Gulfood 2026 spans over 2.8 lakh sq metres across both venues, featuring 8,500+ exhibitors, 1.5 million products from 195 countries, and a strong focus on

sustainability, innovation, and future food systems, recording a 100% expansion in a single year.

336. The 25th edition of Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM) 2026, organised by the National School of Drama (NSD), will be held during which period?

राष्ट्रीय नाट्य विद्यालय (NSD) द्वारा आयोजित भारत रंग महोत्सव (BRM) 2026 का 25वाँ संस्करण किस अवधि के दौरान आयोजित किया जाएगा?

- (a) January 10 – February 5, 2026
- (b) January 20 – February 15, 2026
- (c) January 27 – February 20, 2026
- (d) February 1 – February 28, 2026
- (e) January 15 – March 1, 2026

Ans. c

Sol. NSD to Host 25th Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2026 Across 40 Locations

National School of Drama (NSD) will organise the 25th Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM) 2026 from January 27 to February 20, across 40 locations in India, featuring productions from all seven continents, making it the largest and most inclusive edition ever.

The festival will present 277 Indian productions (136 selected/invited), 12 international productions, and performances in 228 Indian and foreign languages and dialects, selected from 817 national and 34 international applications, highlighting unparalleled linguistic diversity.

BRM 2026 significantly expands its cultural reach by including tribal, endangered, and regional languages, adding new centres in remote regions like Ladakh, Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana, and showcasing theatre in far-flung areas.

For the first time, productions by transgender communities, sex workers, senior citizens, and other underrepresented groups will be included, alongside themed festivals, seminars, workshops, Theatre Bazaar, book launches, and collaborations with national and international cultural institutions, reinforcing the festival's inclusive and democratic spirit.

337. Government e-Marketplace (GeM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with which organisation to strengthen MSME participation in public procurement?

सरकारी ई-मार्केटप्लेस (GeM) ने पब्लिक खरीद में MSME की भागीदारी को मजबूत करने के लिए किस संगठन के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) FICCI

- (b) CII
 (c) World Trade Centre
 (d) ASSOCHAM
 (e) NITI Aayogs

Ans. c

Sol. GeM and WTC Mumbai Sign MoU to Boost MSME Participation and Global Outreach in Public Procurement

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and World Trade Centre (WTC) Mumbai signed an MoU to enhance outreach and strengthen MSME participation in public procurement.

The partnership will promote inclusive access for startups, women entrepreneurs, and small enterprises, focusing on capacity building, supplier outreach, and knowledge sharing in areas like AI, sustainability, and green procurement.

GeM officials highlighted that with over one crore registered users, the collaboration aims to improve global visibility, market access, and make GeM a globally benchmarked digital procurement platform, supporting Atmanirbhar Bharat.

About GeM

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is India's national public procurement portal.
- Launched on August 9, 2016, by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

338. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the PM SVANidhi Credit Card during his visit to Kerala. The launch took place in which city, highlighting the government's focus on financial inclusion for informal sector workers?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने अपने केरल दौरे के दौरान पीएम स्वनिधि क्रेडिट कार्ड लॉन्च किया। यह लॉन्च किस शहर में हुआ, जो अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र के श्रमिकों के लिए वित्तीय समावेशन पर सरकार के फोकस को उजागर करता है?

- (a) Kochi
 (b) Kozhikode
 (c) Thiruvananthapuram
 (d) Kollam
 (e) Thrissur

Ans. c

Sol. PM Modi Launches PM SVANidhi Credit Card, Flags Off Multiple Amrit Bharat Trains in Kerala

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the PM SVANidhi Credit Card during his visit to Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

The credit card aims to benefit street vendors, hawkers, and footpath workers by providing easy access to formal credit across India.

During the visit, the PM flagged off multiple trains, including Thiruvananthapuram–Tambaram, Nagercoil–Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram North–Charlapalli Amrit Bharat Express, and the Thrissur–Guruvayur Passenger train.

About Kerala

- **Capital** – Thiruvananthapuram
- **Chief Minister** – Pinarayi Vijayan
- **Governor** – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

339. Who became the first woman CRPF officer from Rajouri to lead an all-male CRPF contingent at the Republic Day Parade?

राजौरी की पहली महिला CRPF अधिकारी कौन बनीं जिन्होंने गणतंत्र दिवस परेड में पूरी तरह से पुरुषों वाली CRPF टुकड़ी का नेतृत्व किया?

- (a) Pooja Singh
- (b) Simran Bala
- (c) Ritu Sharma
- (d) Parul Tyagi
- (e) Anjali Gupta

Ans. b

Sol. Simran Bala Becomes First Woman CRPF Officer from Rajouri

Simran Bala, a 26-year-old Assistant Commandant, became the first woman CRPF officer from Rajouri (Jammu & Kashmir) to lead an all-male CRPF marching contingent at the 77th Republic Day Parade on Kartavya Path.

Breaking Barriers: Her leadership at the national parade marks a significant milestone for women in central armed police forces, inspiring greater gender inclusion in uniformed services.

About Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- **Headquarters**- New Delhi
- **Formation** - 27 July 1939
- **Motto**- Service and Loyalty
- **Director General**- Gyanendra Pratap Singh

340. According to the World Economic Forum (WEF) white paper “Rethinking AI Sovereignty”, India was placed at which position among 11 countries based on their historical accumulated investments in the artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem between 2010 and 2024, calculated as a percentage of their 2024 GDP?

वर्ल्ड इकोनॉमिक फोरम (WEF) के व्हाइट पेपर "रीथिंकिंग AI सॉवरेनिटी" के अनुसार, 2010 और 2024 के बीच आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (AI) इकोसिस्टम में उनके ऐतिहासिक कुल

निवेश के आधार पर, जिसे उनके 2024 के GDP के प्रतिशत के रूप में कैलकुलेट किया गया था, 11 देशों में भारत को कौन सी पोजीशन मिली?

- (a) 5th
- (b) 6th
- (c) 7th
- (d) 8th
- (e) 9th

Ans. d

Sol. India Ranks 8th in Global AI Investment: WEF White Paper

India ranked 8th among 11 countries in terms of historical accumulated investments in the AI ecosystem (2010–2024) as a percentage of 2024 GDP, according to a WEF white paper.

The US and Singapore led the rankings, with AI investments at 3.4–5.1% and 3.1–4.6% of GDP, respectively, followed by South Korea and China.

India's accumulated AI investments since 2010 stood at 1.2–1.8% of its 2024 GDP, placing it above Europe (excluding the UK) and Brazil, but below UAE, Japan, Canada, and the UK.

The report noted that global AI investments are heavily skewed towards hardware, largely driven by just two companies—TSMC and UMC.

341. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has constituted a high-level committee named the Strategic Asset Allocation and Risk Governance (SAARG) panel to review and modernise the investment framework of the National Pension System (NPS). Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of this SAARG committee?

पेंशन फंड रेगुलेटरी एंड डेवलपमेंट अथॉरिटी (PFRDA) ने नेशनल पेंशन सिस्टम (NPS) के इन्वेस्टमेंट फ्रेमवर्क की समीक्षा और उसे आधुनिक बनाने के लिए स्ट्रेटेजिक एसेट एलोकेशन एंड रिस्क गवर्नेंस (SAARG) पैनल नाम की एक हाई-लेवल कमेटी बनाई है। इस SAARG कमेटी का चेयरपर्सन किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Uday Kotak
- (b) Nandan Nilekani
- (c) Narayan Ramachandran
- (d) Deepak Parekh
- (e) Chanda Kochhar

Ans. c

Sol. PFRDA Constitutes SAARG Committee to Review and Modernise NPS Investment Framework

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has set up a high-level committee to review and modernise the investment framework of the National Pension System (NPS).

The committee, named the Strategic Asset Allocation and Risk Governance (SAARG) panel, will be chaired by Narayan Ramachandran, former CEO of Morgan Stanley India and current Chairman of TeamLease Services Ltd.

The SAARG committee will review existing NPS investment guidelines, benchmark them against global pension systems, and align them with India's evolving investment landscape.

342. Who has been appointed as the head coach of the senior Indian women's football team by the All India Football Federation (AIFF)?

ऑल इंडिया फुटबॉल फेडरेशन (AIFF) द्वारा सीनियर भारतीय महिला फुटबॉल टीम का हेड कोच किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Igor Štimac
- (b) Thomas Dennerby
- (c) Maymol Rocky
- (d) Sunil Chhetri
- (e) Amelia Valverde

Ans. e

Sol. Amelia Valverde Appointed Head Coach of Senior Indian Women's Football Team
 The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has appointed Amelia Valverde of Costa Rica as the head coach of the senior Indian women's football team.

Immediate Assignment: She has joined the Indian camp in Antalya, Türkiye, where the Blue Tigresses are preparing for the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026, scheduled for March.

Recent Appointments

- **MD and CEO of Tata Communications** - Ganesh Lakshminarayanan
- **BJP National President** - Nitin Nabin (Youngest,45)
- **Central Vigilance Commissioner** - Praveen Vashista
- **Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court** - Justice Revati Mohite Dere (First Woman)
- **Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court** - Justice Soumen Sen

343. Indian Air Force Group Captain and astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla has been awarded the Ashok Chakra, India's highest peacetime gallantry award, for his exceptional service. The Ashok Chakra was awarded to Shubhanshu Shukla in recognition of his service, including his role in which space mission?

भारतीय वायु सेना के ग्रुप कैप्टन और अंतरिक्ष यात्री शुभांशु शुक्ला को उनकी असाधारण सेवा के लिए भारत के सर्वोच्च शांतिकालीन वीरता पुरस्कार अशोक चक्र से सम्मानित किया गया है। शुभांशु शुक्ला को किस अंतरिक्ष मिशन में उनकी भूमिका सहित उनकी सेवा के लिए अशोक चक्र प्रदान किया गया?

- (a) Gaganyaan Mission
- (b) Chandrayaan-3
- (c) Axiom Mission
- (d) Artemis Mission
- (e) Shukrayaan Mission

Ans. c

Sol. IAF Group Captain and Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla Awarded Ashok Chakra at 77th Republic Day Parade

Indian Air Force Group Captain and astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla has been awarded the Ashok Chakra, India's highest peacetime gallantry award, for his exceptional service.

The honour recognises his significant role, including participation in the Axiom Mission to the International Space Station (ISS), marking a milestone in India's space and defence achievements.

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the award during the 77th Republic Day Parade.

342. On the eve of the 77th Republic Day, how many Armed Forces personnel were approved for gallantry awards by President Droupadi Murmu?

77वें गणतंत्र दिवस की पूर्व संध्या पर, राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने कितने सशस्त्र बलों के जवानों को वीरता पुरस्कारों के लिए मंजूरी दी?

- (a) 50
- (b) 60
- (c) 70
- (d) 80
- (e) 90

Ans. c

Sol. President Droupadi Murmu Approves Gallantry Awards for 70 Armed Forces Personnel on 77th Republic Day Eve

President Smt Droupadi Murmu approved gallantry awards for 70 Armed Forces personnel, including six posthumous recognitions, on the eve of the 77th Republic Day.

The awards include 1 Ashok Chakra, 3 Kirti Chakras, 13 Shaurya Chakras (including 1 posthumous), 1 Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry), 44 Sena Medals (Gallantry) (including 5 posthumous), 6 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), and 2 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).

These awards honour the exceptional courage, sacrifice, and gallantry of personnel from the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force.

President Droupadi Murmu Approves Gallantry Awards for 70 Armed Forces Personnel on 77th Republic Day Eve

President Smt Droupadi Murmu approved gallantry awards for 70 Armed Forces personnel, including six posthumous recognitions, on the eve of the 77th Republic Day.

The awards include 1 Ashok Chakra, 3 Kirti Chakras, 13 Shaurya Chakras (including 1 posthumous), 1 Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry), 44 Sena Medals (Gallantry) (including 5 posthumous), 6 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), and 2 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry). These awards honour the exceptional courage, sacrifice, and gallantry of personnel from the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Kirti Chakra Recipients

- IAF officer and astronaut Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair
- Major Arshdeep Singh of 1 Assam Rifles
- Naib Subedar Doleshwar Subba of 2 Para (SF)

343. Which Indian state has announced 2026 as the 'Year of Agriculture'?

किस भारतीय राज्य ने 2026 को 'कृषि वर्ष' घोषित किया है?

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

Ans. c

Sol. Madhya Pradesh to Observe 2026 as 'Year of Agriculture' Under "Prosperous Farmers – Prosperous State" Vision

Madhya Pradesh will observe 2026 as the 'Year of Agriculture', announced by Governor Mangubhai Patel during the 77th Republic Day function in Bhopal.

Under the theme "Prosperous Farmers – Prosperous State", a 10-point agricultural development model has been adopted, focusing on technology transfer, income growth, natural farming, marketing, exports, innovation, and digital transparency.

About Madhya Pradesh

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

344. Who will inaugurate the first phase of Assam's largest multi-sports stadium in Dibrugarh?

डिब्रूगढ़ में असम के सबसे बड़े मल्टी-स्पोर्ट्स स्टेडियम के पहले चरण का उद्घाटन कौन करेगा?

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Himanta Biswa Sarma
- (c) Nitin Gadkari
- (d) Rajnath Singh
- (e) Amit Shah

Ans. e

Sol. Amit Shah to Inaugurate Assam's Largest Multi-Sports Stadium in Dibrugarh on January 30

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the first phase of Assam's largest multi-sports stadium in Dibrugarh, marking a key step in the state's sports infrastructure development.

Built at Khanikar, Dibrugarh at a cost of Rs 233 crore, the stadium spans 104 bighas, has a 35,000 seating capacity, and is designed to host national and international sporting events, positioning Dibrugarh as a future sports hub in Northeast India. The multi-disciplinary stadium will offer world-class amenities for athletes, promote grassroots and professional sports development, and stimulate economic growth through sports tourism and allied services.

345. Which Indian Coast Guard ships arrived at the Port of Colombo for an official visit?

आधिकारिक दौरे के लिए कोलंबो बंदरगाह पर भारतीय तटरक्षक बल के कौन से जहाज पहुंचे?

- (a) ICGS Vijaya and ICGS Sarang
- (b) ICGS Varaha and ICGS Atulya
- (c) ICGS Samrat and ICGS Shaurya
- (d) ICGS Sagardhwani and ICGS Sujeet
- (e) ICGS Rajput and ICGS Tejas

Ans. b

Sol. ICGS Varaha & Atulya arrive at Port of Colombo for official visit

Indian Coast Guard ships ICGS Varaha and ICGS Atulya arrived at the Port of Colombo for an official visit.

ICGS Varaha, a 96.2-meter Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), is commanded by Commandant Ashvini Kumar, while ICGS Atulya, a 50-meter Fast Patrol Vessel, is under Commandant Anit Kumar Mishra.

The visiting ships will participate in exercises with the Sri Lanka Coast Guard, aiming to enhance professional interaction and bilateral maritime cooperation.

346. Which country has replaced Bangladesh in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026?

ICC पुरुष T20 विश्व कप 2026 में बांग्लादेश की जगह किस देश ने ली है

- (a) Ireland
- (b) Scotland
- (c) Afghanistan
- (d) Netherlands
- (e) Nepal

Ans. b

Sol. Scotland Replaces Bangladesh in ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 Scheduled in India

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that Scotland will replace Bangladesh in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 after Bangladesh declined to play according to the official schedule.

The T20 World Cup 2026 will be held in India from 7 February to 8 March 2026, featuring international teams competing across multiple venues.

347. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) is set to sign a term contract with which company to source crude oil?

भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (BPCL) कच्चा तेल खरीदने के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ टर्म कॉन्ट्रैक्ट साइन करने वाली है?

- (a) Shell
- (b) ExxonMobil
- (c) Petrobras
- (d) TotalEnergies
- (e) Chevron

Ans. c

Sol. BPCL to Sign \$780 Million Crude Oil Deal with Brazil's Petrobras at India Energy Week 2026

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) to sign a term contract with Brazil's Petrobras to source 12 million barrels of crude oil, valued at around \$780 million. The agreement will be formalised during India Energy Week (IEW) 2026, which will take place in Goa from January 27 to 30.

BPCL's overseas arm, Bharat PetroResources Ltd (BPRL), will also sign an MoU with Shell for potential collaboration in global exploration.

348. Which company is starting the second phase of construction of the Vizhinjam International Seaport in Kerala?

केरल में विझिंजम इंटरनेशनल सीपोर्ट के निर्माण का दूसरा चरण कौन सी कंपनी शुरू कर रही है?

- (a) DP World
- (b) Adani Port Pvt Ltd
- (c) Essar Ports
- (d) Mumbai Port Trust
- (e) Cochin Port Trust

Ans. b

Sol. Adani to Begin ₹9,700-Crore Phase 2 of Vizhinjam Port

Adani Vizhinjam Port Pvt Ltd (AVPPL) will begin Phase 2 construction of the Vizhinjam International Seaport in Kerala, with an investment of ₹9,700 crore, expected to be completed by 2028.

Phase 2 will increase the port's capacity from 1 million TEUs to 5 million TEUs, significantly expanding container handling capabilities.

Phase 1 involved an investment of about ₹28,867 crore, and the inauguration of Phase 2 will be led by Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, with Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal as chief guest.

349. According to the UNCTAD 2025 report, FDI inflows to India surged significantly due to large investments in services like finance, IT, and R&D, as well as manufacturing, supported by government policies to integrate India into global supply chains. What was the total value of FDI inflows to India in 2025?

UNCTAD 2025 की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, फाइनेंस, IT और R&D जैसी सर्विसेज़ के साथ-साथ मैन्युफैक्चरिंग में बड़े इन्वेस्टमेंट और भारत को ग्लोबल सप्लाय चैन में इंटीग्रेट करने वाली सरकारी नीतियों के कारण भारत में FDI इनफ्लो में काफी बढ़ोतरी हुई। 2025 में भारत में FDI इनफ्लो की कुल वैल्यू कितनी थी?

- (a) USD 35 billion
- (b) USD 40 billion
- (c) USD 47 billion
- (d) USD 50 billion
- (e) USD 55 billion

Ans. c

Sol. FDI inflows to India surged by 73 per cent to \$47 billion in 2025: UN

FDI inflows to India surged 73% to USD 47 billion in 2025, driven mainly by large investments in services (finance, IT, R&D) and manufacturing, supported by policies integrating India into global supply chains.

China's FDI declined for the third consecutive year, falling 8% to USD 107.5 billion, while global FDI rose 14% to USD 1.6 trillion in 2025.

A significant portion of global FDI growth came through major financial hubs such as the UK, Luxembourg, Switzerland, and Ireland, contributing over USD 140 billion.

Cross-border M&A activity fell by 22% to USD 132 billion, except for strong growth in semiconductors and telecommunications, while international project finance rose 7% to USD 218 billion.

Data centres were a major driver of FDI in 2025, with greenfield investments reaching USD 125 billion and India ranking among the top 10 recipients, alongside countries like France, the US, and South Korea.

350. National Geographic Day is observed every year on which date?

नेशनल ज्योग्राफिक डे हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 25 January
- (b) 26 January
- (c) 27 January
- (d) 28 January
- (e) 29 January

Ans. c

Sol. 27 January - National Geographic Day

National Geographic Day is observed every year on 27 January to celebrate the contributions of geography and geographic knowledge in understanding the Earth.

The day highlights the role of maps, exploration, environmental studies and geospatial science in human development. It aims to create awareness about natural resources, climate, biodiversity and sustainable development.

351. International Customs Day is observed every year on which date?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सीमा शुल्क दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 25 January
- (b) 26 January
- (c) 27 January
- (d) 28 January
- (e) 29 January

Ans. b

Sol. 26 January - International Customs Day

International Customs Day is observed every year on 26 January to recognise the role of customs administrations in securing international trade and borders.

Theme 2026 - Customs Protecting Society Through Vigilance and Commitment

The day marks the establishment of the World Customs Organization (WCO), which came into force on 26 January 1953.

352. How much financial assistance has the World Bank approved for the 'Jal Sanrakshit Haryana Project' to make Haryana self-reliant in the water sector?
हरियाणा को जल क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भर बनाने के लिए 'जल संरक्षित हरियाणा प्रोजेक्ट' के लिए वर्ल्ड बैंक ने कितनी वित्तीय सहायता मंजूर की है?

- (a) Rs 4,500 crore
- (b) Rs 5,000 crore
- (c) Rs 5,500 crore
- (d) Rs 5,700 crore
- (e) Rs 6,000 crore

Ans. d

Sol. World Bank Approves Rs 5,700 Crore for 'Jal Sanrakshit Haryana Project'

World Bank approves Rs 5,700 crore for the 'Jal Sanrakshit Haryana Project' to make Haryana self-reliant in the water sector, including restoration of 115 canals with WB funding, 284 canals from the state budget, and 279 canals through NABARD.

Micro-irrigation systems will be implemented over 70,000 acres of agricultural land with Rs 900 crore support from the World Bank, along with promotion of sustainable agriculture practices like crop diversification and direct seeding of rice (Rs 866 crore assistance).

Treated water from four major sewage treatment plants in Jind, Kaithal, and Gurugram will be reused to irrigate 28,000 acres, with Rs 600 crore financial support from the World Bank.

353. Ajit Pawar tragically died in a plane crash near Baramati in Pune district. Ajit Pawar held which political position in Maharashtra at the time of his death?
पुणे जिले के बारामती के पास एक विमान दुर्घटना में अजीत पवार की दुखद मृत्यु हो गई। अपनी मृत्यु के समय अजित पवार महाराष्ट्र में किस राजनीतिक पद पर थे?

- (a) Chief Minister
- (b) Governor
- (c) Mayor
- (d) Deputy Chief Minister
- (e) Finance Minister

Ans. d

Sol. Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar Dies in Plane Crash Near Baramati

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar tragically died in a plane crash near Baramati in Pune district, when the aircraft he was travelling in caught fire and crashed while landing.

Pawar, a key political leader and long-serving Deputy CM, was on his way for public engagements ahead of local polls.

354. Bharti AXA Life Insurance launches "Swabhimaan Retirement" deferred annuity plan, offering customers the ability to plan early, lock in current annuity rates, and secure guaranteed lifetime income, with an Atmanirbhar option. What is the "Atmanirbhar" option in this plan?

भारती एक्सा लाइफ इंश्योरेंस ने "स्वाभिमान सेवानिवृत्ति" आस्थगित वार्षिकी योजना लॉन्च की है, जो ग्राहकों को आत्मनिर्भर विकल्प के साथ जल्दी योजना बनाने, वर्तमान वार्षिकी दरों को लॉक करने और जीवन भर की गारंटीकृत आय सुरक्षित करने की क्षमता प्रदान करती है। इस योजना में "आत्मनिर्भर" विकल्प क्या है?

- (a) Allows customers to withdraw funds in case of emergency
- (b) Offers higher interest rates
- (c) Provides additional tax benefits
- (d) Provides a free health check-up
- (e) Extends premium payment term automatically

Ans. a

Sol. Bharti AXA Life Insurance launches deferred annuity "Swabhimaan Retirement" plan

Bharti AXA Life Insurance launches "Swabhimaan Retirement" deferred annuity plan, offering customers the ability to plan early, lock in current annuity rates, and secure guaranteed lifetime income, with an Atmanirbhar option for emergency withdrawals.

The plan provides Premium Payment Terms (2, 3, or 5 years), deferment of up to 7 years, and the option to withdraw part of the surrender value after all premiums are paid, subject to policy conditions.

355. Which AI tools can now be used to order groceries, food, and make dining reservations on Swiggy?

Swiggy पर अब किस AI टूल का उपयोग करके ग्रॉसरी, फूड ऑर्डर और डाइनिंग रिज़र्वेशन किया जा सकता है?

- (a) Siri and Alexa
- (b) Watson and Bixby
- (c) ChatGPT, Claude, and Google Gemini
- (d) Cortana and IBM Watson
- (e) Google Assistant only

Ans. c

Sol. Swiggy Integrates AI Tools Like ChatGPT, Claude, and Google Gemini for Grocery, Food, and Dining Orders

Swiggy now allows users to order groceries, food, and make dining reservations through popular AI tools like ChatGPT, Claude, and Google Gemini, with current transactions supporting cash on delivery.

Model Context Protocol (MCP) integration enables Swiggy Food, Instamart, and Dineout to interact seamlessly with AI agents, acting as a "universal connector" standardising API communication.

Similar pilot projects have been tested by BigBasket, allowing grocery purchases via ChatGPT using UPI payments, where the AI agent checks the catalogue, presents options, and completes the order with a single confirmation.

356. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has notified the launch of the 'NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme' as a Proof of Concept (PoC) under its Regulatory Sandbox Framework. Under the Swasthya Pension Scheme, subscribers over 40 years of age (excluding government employees) can transfer what percentage of their contributions from their Common Scheme Account?

पेंशन फंड रेगुलेटरी एंड डेवलपमेंट अथॉरिटी (PFRDA) ने अपने रेगुलेटरी सैंडबॉक्स फ्रेमवर्क के तहत 'NPS स्वास्थ्य पेंशन योजना' को प्रूफ ऑफ कॉन्सेप्ट (PoC) के तौर पर लॉन्च करने की घोषणा की है। स्वास्थ्य पेंशन योजना के तहत, 40 साल से ज़्यादा उम्र के सब्सक्राइबर (सरकारी कर्मचारियों को छोड़कर) अपने कॉमन स्कीम अकाउंट से अपने योगदान का कितना प्रतिशत ट्रांसफर कर सकते हैं?

- (a) 20%
- (b) 25%
- (c) 28%
- (d) 30%
- (e) 35%

Ans. d

Sol. PFRDA Launches NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme As Proof Of Concept For Medical Expenses

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has notified the launch of the 'NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme' as a Proof of Concept (PoC) under its Regulatory Sandbox Framework.

This innovative sector-specific scheme is designed to integrate health-related financial support with the existing National Pension System (NPS) architecture. It allows Indian citizens to voluntarily contribute toward a dedicated fund intended exclusively for out-patient (OPD) and in-patient (IPD) medical expenses.

The PoC will be managed by Pension Funds (PFs) in collaboration with FinTechs and Health Benefit Administrators (HBAs) to test operational and technological feasibility.

Contribution and Fund Management Mechanics

- **Corpus Transfers:** Subscribers over 40 years of age (excluding Government sector employees) can transfer up to 30% of their self or employee contributions from their Common Scheme Account to the Swasthya Account.
- **Investment Strategy:** Contributions will be managed by PFs according to Multiple Scheme Framework (MSF) investment guidelines.
- **Mandatory Dual Accounts:** Every subscriber must hold a Common Scheme Account alongside the Swasthya Pension Scheme Account.

Withdrawal and Claim Settlement Protocols

- **Partial Withdrawals:** Subscribers can withdraw up to 25% of their own contributions for medical needs once the corpus reaches a minimum of ₹50,000. There is no minimum waiting period or limit on the number of withdrawals.
- **Premature Exit:** If a single medical instance exceeds 70% of the Swasthya corpus, a 100% lump sum exit is permitted for treatment.
- **Direct Settlement:** Payments are remitted directly to the HBA, TPA, or hospital based on valid invoices, with any surplus returning to the subscriber's Common Scheme Account.

What is a "Regulatory Sandbox Framework" in the context of pension reforms?

- A Regulatory Sandbox allows PFRDA to conduct live, limited-scale testing of new pension products or innovations, such as the Swasthya Pension Scheme, by relaxing certain regulatory requirements.
- It helps the Authority evaluate the feasibility, risks, and technological readiness of a product before considering a full-scale national rollout.

357. Which Indian Company signed an MoU with Embraer to establish a commercial aircraft assembly facility in India?

किस भारतीय कंपनी ने भारत में वाणिज्यिक विमान असेंबली सुविधा स्थापित करने के लिए Embraer के साथ MoU पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Tata Aerospace
- (b) Reliance Defence
- (c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- (d) Adani Defence & Aerospace
- (e) Mahindra Aerospace

Ans. d

Sol. Adani and Embraer Sign MoU to Set Up India's First Commercial Aircraft Assembly Line

Adani Defence & Aerospace and Brazilian aircraft maker Embraer signed an MoU to establish India's first commercial aircraft final assembly line (FAL).

Embraer currently operates FALs in the US (Melbourne and Jacksonville, Florida) for business jets and defence aircraft, and will bring its expertise to India for commercial aircraft manufacturing.

With India's civil aviation market rapidly expanding—800 aircraft in operation and 1,700 on order—Embraer is already in talks with airlines like Star Air, IndiGo, and Air India for potential future sales and fleet expansion.

358. PM Narendra Modi and European Commission President H.E. Ms Ursula von der Leyen jointly announced the conclusion of the India–EU Free Trade Agreement at the 16th India–EU Summit, held during the visit of the European leaders to India. Under the India–EU FTA, what percentage of items India exports to the EU will have tariffs dropped?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और यूरोपीय आयोग की अध्यक्ष महामहिम सुश्री उर्सुला वॉन डेर लेयेन ने यूरोपीय नेताओं की भारत यात्रा के दौरान आयोजित 16वें भारत-ईयू शिखर सम्मेलन में संयुक्त रूप से भारत-ईयू मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA) के समापन की घोषणा की। भारत-ईयू FTA के तहत, भारत द्वारा EU को निर्यात की जाने वाली कितनी प्रतिशत वस्तुओं पर टैरिफ हटा दिया जाएगा?

- (a) 95%
- (b) 50%
- (c) 92.5%
- (d) 99.5%
- (e) 80%

Ans. d

Sol. India–EU Free Trade Agreement Concluded: A Strategic Breakthrough in India's Global Trade Engagement

Narendra Modi and European Commission President H.E. Ms Ursula von der Leyen, jointly announced the conclusion of the India–EU Free Trade Agreement at the 16th India–EU Summit, held during the visit of the European leaders to India.

The FTA comes after intense negotiations since the re-launch of negotiations in 2022. India and the EU are the 4th and 2nd largest economies, comprising 25% of Global GDP, and account for one third of global trade. India has secured unprecedented market access for more than 99% of Indian exports by trade value to the EU that also bolsters the 'Make in India' initiative.

The European Union is India's one of the largest trading partner, with bilateral trade in goods and services growing steadily over the years. In 2024–25, India's bilateral trade in goods with the EU stood at INR 11.5 Lakh Crore (USD 136.54 billion) with

exports worth INR 6.4 Lakh Crore (USD 75.85 billion) and imports amounting to INR 5.1 Lakh Crore (USD 60.68 billion).

The FTA secures expanded and commercially significant commitments from the EU across key sectors of Indian strength, including IT and IT-enabled services, professional services, education, financial services, tourism, construction, and other business sectors.

359. According to the three reports launched by NITI Aayog during the International Material Recycling Conference (IMRC) at Jaipur, which analysed challenges and opportunities in India's circular economy for End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs), waste tyres, e-waste, and lithium-ion batteries, the demand for Lithium-ion batteries in India is projected to increase significantly from 29 GWh in 2025 to what level by 2035, reflecting the rapid rise of electric vehicles and digitalisation in the country?

NITI आयोग द्वारा को जयपुर में आयोजित International Material Recycling Conference (IMRC) के दौरान लॉन्च की गई तीन रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, जिन्होंने End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs), वेस्ट टायर्स, ई-वेस्ट और लिथियम-आयन बैटरी के लिए भारत की सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी में चुनौतियों और अवसरों का विश्लेषण किया, भारत में लिथियम-आयन बैटरी की मांग 2025 में 29 GWh से 2035 तक कितने GWh तक बढ़ने का अनुमान है, जो देश में इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों और डिजिटलाइजेशन की तेज़ी को दर्शाता है?

- (a) 100 GWh
- (b) 158 GWh
- (c) 210 GWh
- (d) 248 GWh
- (e) 300 GWh

Ans. d

Sol. NITI Aayog Launches Reports to Boost Circular Economy for ELVs, E-Waste, Tyres, and Lithium-ion Batteries

NITI Aayog launched three reports at the Material Recycling Association of India (MRAI) during the International Material Recycling Conference (IMRC) in Jaipur, focusing on End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs), Waste Tyres, E-waste, and Lithium-ion Batteries.

The reports highlight challenges in India's circular economy and provide recommendations for infrastructure development, sector formalisation, strengthening the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework, and boosting revenue potential.

With the rise of electric vehicles and digitalisation, India's Lithium-ion battery demand is projected to surge from 29 GWh in 2025 to 248 GWh by 2035, while ELVs are expected to grow from 23 million in 2025 to 50 million by 2030.

E-waste in India is expected to increase from 6.19 MMT in 2024 to 14 MMT by 2030, highlighting the urgent need for effective circular economy practices to manage resources sustainably.

360. Which ministry of the Government of India recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Zepto Limited through its Export Promotion Council to facilitate online access to AYUSH medicines and wellness products across the country, aiming to strengthen digital discovery while ensuring quality compliance and consumer trust?

भारत सरकार का कौन सा मंत्रालय हाल ही में Zepto Limited के साथ अपने Export Promotion Council के माध्यम से एक Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किया, ताकि पूरे देश में एयुश दवाओं और वेलनेस उत्पादों तक ऑनलाइन पहुंच को आसान बनाया जा सके, डिजिटल खोज को मजबूत किया जा सके और गुणवत्ता पालन तथा उपभोक्ता विश्वास सुनिश्चित किया जा सके?

- (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (b) Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- (c) Ministry of Science & Technology
- (d) Ministry of Ayush
- (e) Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Ans. d

Sol. Ayush Ministry Partners with Zepto to Boost Online Access to AYUSH Medicines and Wellness Products

The Ayush Ministry signed an MoU with Zepto Limited via its Export Promotion Council to facilitate online access to Ayush medicines and wellness products across India.

The partnership aims to strengthen digital discovery, ensure quality compliance, and build consumer trust in traditional healthcare products.

Zepto, a quick-commerce platform, will help connect AYUSH manufacturers—especially MSMEs—to digital consumers, improving last-mile access to trusted wellness products.

Recent MoU

- *GeM and WTC Mumbai Sign MoU to Boost MSME Participation and Global Outreach in Public Procurement*
- *Digital India BHASHINI Division Signs MoU with Survey of India for AI-Based Toponym Data Digitisation*

- MSDE Signs Landmark MoU with World Economic Forum to Strengthen India's TVET and Skills Ecosystem
- BCCI Inks ₹270 Crore Gemini Sponsorship Deal Ahead of IPL 2026
- Essar Signs ₹5,100 Crore MoU with Gujarat for Large-Scale Bio-Fuel Project

361. International Data Privacy Day is observed every year on 28 January to raise awareness about the importance of protecting personal and sensitive data online. What is the official theme for International Data Privacy Day 2026?

हर साल 28 जनवरी को ऑनलाइन पर्सनल और संवेदनशील डेटा की सुरक्षा के महत्व के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय डेटा गोपनीयता दिवस मनाया जाता है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय डेटा गोपनीयता दिवस 2026 का आधिकारिक विषय क्या है?

- (a) Take Control of Your Data
- (b) Cybersecurity for All
- (c) Protect Your Passwords
- (d) Safe Social Media
- (e) Data Safety in Cloud

Ans. a

Sol. 28 January - International Data Privacy Day

International Data Privacy Day is observed every year on 28 January to raise awareness about the importance of protecting personal and sensitive data online.

Theme 2026 - Take Control of Your Data

The day emphasizes digital privacy, cybersecurity, and responsible data handling for individuals, businesses, and governments.

362. International Day of Peaceful Coexistence is observed every year on which date?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शांतिपूर्ण सह-अस्तित्व दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 24 January
- (b) 26 January
- (c) 28 January
- (d) 30 January
- (e) 31 January

Ans. c

Sol. 28 January - International Day of Peaceful Coexistence

International Day of Peaceful Coexistence is observed every year on 28 January to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, and understanding among people of different cultures and societies.

The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly to encourage living together in peace despite differences in religion, culture, or ethnicity.

363. Himachal Pradesh Statehood Day is observed every year on 25 January. In which year did Himachal Pradesh become a full-fledged state of India?

हिमाचल प्रदेश राज्य स्थापना दिवस हर साल 25 जनवरी को मनाया जाता है। हिमाचल प्रदेश किस वर्ष भारत का पूर्ण राज्य बना?

- (a) 1966
- (b) 1968
- (c) 1971
- (d) 1975
- (e) 1980

Ans. c

Sol. 25 January - Himachal Pradesh Statehood Day

Himachal Pradesh Statehood Day is observed every year on 25 January, marking the formation of the state in 1971.

On this day in 1971, Himachal Pradesh became the 18th state of India under the State of Himachal Pradesh Act, 1970.

The day is celebrated with official functions, cultural programmes, and tributes highlighting the state's history, culture, and development.

364. President Droupadi Murmu has approved the conferment of the Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards-2025 on 30 persons, which includes Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak and Jeevan Raksha Padak. How many persons received the Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak in 2025?

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने 30 व्यक्तियों को जीवन रक्षा पदक श्रृंखला पुरस्कार-2025 प्रदान करने की मंजूरी दे दी है, जिसमें सर्वोत्तम जीवन रक्षा पदक, उत्तम जीवन रक्षा पदक और जीवन रक्षा पदक शामिल हैं। 2025 में कितने व्यक्तियों को सर्वोत्तम जीवन रक्षा पदक प्राप्त हुआ?

- (a) 4
- (b) 6
- (c) 8
- (d) 12
- (e) 18

Ans. b

Sol. President Murmu honors 30 individuals with Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards

President Droupadi Murmu has approved the conferment of the Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards-2025 on 30 persons.

This includes the Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak to six persons, the Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak to six persons, and the Jeevan Raksha Padak to 18 persons. Six of the awardees are being honoured posthumously.

Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards is given to individuals for meritorious acts of human nature in saving the life of a person.

The awards are given in three categories, namely, Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak and Jeevan Raksha Padak. Persons of all walks of life are eligible for these awards. The award can also be conferred posthumously.

365. International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust is observed on which date?

होलोकॉस्ट के पीड़ितों की स्मृति में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्मरण दिवस किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 24 January
- (b) 25 January
- (c) 26 January
- (d) 27 January
- (e) 30 January

Ans. d

Sol. 27 January - International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust is observed every year on 27 January.

The day marks the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi concentration and extermination camp in 1945.

The observance promotes remembrance, education, and awareness to prevent genocide and crimes against humanity in the future.

364. Veteran journalist Sir William Mark Tully has passed away at the age of 90 in New Delhi. Tully was associated with which international media organisation?

वयोवृद्ध पत्रकार सर विलियम मार्क टुली का 90 वर्ष की आयु में नई दिल्ली में निधन हो गया है। टुली किस अंतरराष्ट्रीय मीडिया संगठन से जुड़े थे?

- (a) CNN
- (b) Reuters
- (c) BBC
- (d) Al Jazeera
- (e) The Guardian

Ans. c

Sol. Veteran Journalist William Mark Tully Passed Away.

Veteran BBC journalist Sir William Mark Tully has passed away at the age of 90 in New Delhi.

Tully was widely known as the “voice of India” for his long tenure as BBC’s New Delhi bureau chief and his authoritative, trusted reporting on major South Asian events over decades.

He was honoured by both nations, receiving the Knight Commander of the British Empire in 2002 and India's Padma Shri in 2005.

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