

# Best 300+ MCQs

**February 2026**

## Current Affairs PDF



**1. Under which Article is Parliament's approval required before money can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India?**

कौन-से अनुच्छेद के तहत भारत के समेकित कोष (Consolidated Fund of India) से पैसा निकालने के लिए संसद की मंजूरी आवश्यक है?

- (a) Article 112
- (b) Article 114
- (c) Article 266
- (d) Article 117
- (e) Article 110

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Budget in India: Constitutional Provisions and Role of the Finance Ministry

The Budget Division of the Department of Economic Affairs, Finance Ministry is the nodal body responsible for preparing the Budget.

The Budget provides insight into how the government plans to use citizens' money, collected through direct and indirect taxes, and outlines spending priorities that affect citizens' lives.

As per Article 266, money cannot be drawn from the Consolidated Fund of India without Parliament's approval, and Article 114(3) mandates that no withdrawal can occur without an Appropriation Bill.

The Constitution refers to the Budget as the "Annual Financial Statement", with Articles 112–117 governing its presentation, approval, and overall financial management.

**2. In 2026, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented a Budget in the Lok Sabha amid global economic uncertainties and a slowdown in exports.**

**Considering her previous terms as Finance Minister, which number Budget of hers was presented in 2026?**

2026 में वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने वैश्विक आर्थिक अनिश्चितताओं और निर्यात में धीमी वृद्धि के बीच लोकसभा में एक बजट पेश किया। उनके वित्त मंत्री पद के पिछले कार्यकालों को ध्यान में रखते हुए, यह उनके किस क्रम का बजट था?

- (a) 7th
- (b) 8th
- (c) 9th
- (d) 10th
- (e) 11th

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Presents Ninth Budget Amid Global Uncertainties Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her ninth Budget in the Lok Sabha, amid global uncertainties and a slowdown in exports.

This marks the third Budget of the BJP-led NDA government during its third term in office.

The Budget was framed keeping in mind economic slowdown, export challenges, and global uncertainties, aiming to sustain growth and stability.

**3. The Government's 'Sankalp' Mission focuses on uplifting the poor, underprivileged, and disadvantaged. It is guided by three Kartavya principles. In the Union Budget 2026, which of the following is the First Kartavya of the Sankalp Mission?**

रकार का 'संकल्प' मिशन गरीब, वंचित और पिछड़े लोगों को ऊपर उठाने पर फोकस करता है। यह तीन कर्तव्य सिद्धांतों से निर्देशित होता है। केंद्रीय बजट 2026 में, निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा संकल्प मिशन का पहला कर्तव्य है?

- (a) Fulfil aspirations of the people
- (b) Vision of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas
- (c) Accelerate and sustain economic growth
- (d) Promote cultural heritage
- (e) Strengthen defense capabilities

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Government's 'Sankalp' Mission: Driving Inclusive Growth and Empowering Every Citizen

The Government's 'Sankalp' focuses on uplifting the poor, underprivileged, and disadvantaged.

Three Kartavya guiding principles:

- First Kartavya – Accelerate and sustain economic growth:
  - Enhancing productivity and competitiveness.
  - Building resilience to volatile global dynamics.
- Second Kartavya – Fulfil aspirations of our people:
  - Build people's capacity.
  - Making citizens strong partners in India's path to prosperity.
- Third Kartavya – Vision of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas:
  - Ensure every family, community, region, and sector has access to resources, amenities, and opportunities.
  - Promote meaningful participation across society.

4. The Union Budget 2026 outlined several Pillars of Growth and Development.

Which of the following is NOT one of the pillars mentioned in the Budget?

केंद्रीय बजट 2026 में विकास और प्रगति के कई स्तंभों की रूपरेखा बताई गई है। निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा बजट में बताए गए स्तंभों में से एक नहीं है?

- (a) Sustaining Economic Growth
- (b) People-Centric Development
- (c) Trust-Based Governance
- (d) Promotion of Traditional Arts
- (e) Fiscal Matters

Ans. d

Sol. Pillars of Growth and Development in Budget 2026

**Sustaining Economic Growth**- The budget boosts infrastructure and manufacturing with a record public capex of ₹12.2 lakh crore and strategic sector incentives to keep growth momentum strong.

**Strengthening the Foundations of Growth**- Continued emphasis on robust infrastructure like high-speed rail, city economic regions, national waterways, and freight links to build long-term economic resilience.

**People-Centric Development**- Security of livelihoods, social services, and quality of life improved through expanded healthcare, skill programs, and targeted support for MSMEs and rural sectors.

**Trust-Based Governance, Ease of Doing Business & Ease of Living**- Simplified tax and compliance reforms, trust-based customs and regulatory measures, and reduced friction in citizen-centric services to improve both ease of doing business and ease of living.

**Fiscal Matters**- The budget maintains fiscal discipline with a targeted deficit of ~4.3 % of GDP while balancing capital spending and long-term financial stability.

5. In the Union Budget 2026, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the Bio Pharma Shakti programme to strengthen India's biopharmaceutical sector. With a focus on domestic manufacturing, innovation, and production of biosimilars, what is the total allocation proposed for this programme over the next five years?

केंद्रीय बजट 2026 में, वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने भारत के बायोफार्मास्युटिकल सेक्टर को मज़बूत करने के लिए बायो फार्मा शक्ति कार्यक्रम की घोषणा की। घरेलू मैन्युफैक्चरिंग, इनोवेशन और बायोसिमिलर के प्रोडक्शन पर फोकस करते हुए, अगले पाँच सालों में इस कार्यक्रम के लिए कुल कितना बजट प्रस्तावित किया गया है?

- (a) ₹5,000 crore

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

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Budget 2026: Sitharaman allocates Rs 10000 crore to make India biopharma hub  
FM Nirmala Sitharaman proposed a ₹10,000 crore Bio Pharma Shakti programme over five years to strengthen India's biopharmaceutical sector, including domestic manufacturing and innovation in biosimilars.

Budget 2026 includes scaling up manufacturing in strategic and frontier sectors and developing city economic regions to support long-term growth.

The Economic Survey projects India's real GDP growth for 2026–27 at 6.8–7.2%, with average headline inflation at 1.7% (April–December 2025), reflecting stable medium-term growth.

**6. On which date is Indian Coast Guard Day observed every year?**

भारतीय तटरक्षक दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

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

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 1 February - Indian Coast Guard Day

Indian Coast Guard Day is observed on 1st February to honour the personnel for their dedication to safeguarding India's maritime borders and interests.

The Coast Guard's key roles include search and rescue operations, maritime law enforcement, anti-smuggling and anti-piracy measures, and protection of marine resources.

The day is marked with parades, award ceremonies, and demonstrations of capabilities, highlighting their service and commitment to national security.

**7. Which state government signed an MoU to develop an exclusive industrial park for women entrepreneurs?**

किस राज्य सरकार ने महिला उद्यमियों के लिए विशेष औद्योगिक पार्क विकसित करने के लिए MoU पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Andhra Pradesh

- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Telangana
- (e) Maharashtra

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Andhra Pradesh to Launch Exclusive Industrial Park for Women Entrepreneurs  
The Andhra Pradesh government signed an MoU with FICCI Ladies Organisation (FICCI-FLO) to establish an exclusive industrial park for women entrepreneurs in the state.

The project aims to promote women-led industrial entrepreneurship, providing dedicated infrastructure and support to enhance women's participation in the industrial sector.

The MoU was signed by Industries and Commerce Minister T.G. Bharath on behalf of the state government, along with FICCI-FLO leaders, including national president Poonam Sharma, past president Ujjwala Singhania, and governing body member Mourya Boda.

**8. Recently, which bank has received RBI approval to open a branch in GIFT City IFSC?**

हाल ही में, किस बैंक को GIFT सिटी IFSC में शाखा खोलने के लिए RBI की मंजूरी मिली है?

- (a) Punjab National Bank
- (b) Bank of Baroda
- (c) Canara Bank
- (d) Punjab & Sind Bank
- (e) Union Bank of India

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Punjab & Sind Bank Receives RBI Approval to Open Branch in GIFT City IFSC  
State-owned Punjab & Sind Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's approval to open a branch at the IFSC in GIFT City, Gandhinagar (Gujarat).

The move marks the bank's entry into international banking and global financial services, strengthening its presence beyond domestic operations.

GIFT City IFSC, India's premier international financial hub, offers a world-class ecosystem for cross-border transactions, offshore banking, trade finance, and capital market activities.

**9. Assertion (A): The Ministry of Culture's tableau on "Vande Mataram – 150 Years Journey" won the First Prize at the Republic Day Parade 2026.**

**Reason (R):** The tableau effectively depicted the historical, cultural, and civilisational significance of Vande Mataram through powerful symbolism.

**कथन (A):** संस्कृति मंत्रालय की "वंदे मातरम – 150 साल की यात्रा" झाँकी ने गणतंत्र दिवस परेड 2026 में पहला पुरस्कार जीता।

**कारण (R):** झाँकी ने शक्तिशाली प्रतीकों के माध्यम से वंदे मातरम के ऐतिहासिक, सांस्कृतिक और सभ्यतागत महत्व को प्रभावी ढंग से दर्शाया।

- (a) A and R both are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) A and R both are true but R is NOT the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true but R is false
- (d) A is false but R is true
- (e) None of above

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Ministry of Culture Wins Double Honour at Republic Day Parade 2026 with 'Vande Mataram' Tableau and Cultural Presentation

The Ministry of Culture achieved a rare double honour at the Republic Day Parade 2026, with its tableau "Vande Mataram – 150 Years Journey" winning the First Prize among Central Ministries and Departments, and its cultural presentation "Vande Mataram: The Eternal Resonance of Bharat" receiving the Special Prize.

The award-winning tableau powerfully traced the 150-year evolution of Vande Mataram, portraying its transformation from a song of national awakening into a symbol of India's freedom struggle, unity, and civilisational consciousness.

The Special Prize-winning cultural presentation, curated by the Sangeet Natak Akademi with the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, featured 2,500 artists from all States and Union Territories, showcasing India's cultural diversity through classical, folk, and tribal art forms.

**10. Slice has positioned itself to match the everyday payment behaviour of Indian consumers. In this context, slice is designed as which type of bank?**

स्लाइस ने खुद को भारतीय कंज्यूमर्स के रोज़ाना के पेमेंट बिहेवियर से मैच करने के लिए तैयार किया है। इस कॉन्टेक्ट में, स्लाइस को किस टाइप के बैंक के तौर पर डिज़ाइन किया गया है?

- (a) Branch-centric traditional bank
- (b) Card-first digital bank
- (c) Wallet-based fintech platform
- (d) UPI-first digital bank
- (e) Cooperative digital bank

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Slice Launches UPI-First Banking Solutions

Slice integrates savings, credit, and investments into a single UPI-first digital banking experience, designed around how Indians already transact and pay in daily life. Slice has introduced India's first savings account linked to 100% of the RBI repo rate, offering daily interest credit, no minimum balance, instant liquidity, and transparent, market-aligned returns.

The slice UPI credit card allows users to scan and pay at any UPI-enabled merchant using an approved credit limit, seamlessly embedding credit into everyday UPI transactions.

**11. What is the name of the new web-based portal recently operationalised by MoSPI?**

**MoSPI द्वारा हाल ही में चालू किए गए नए वेब-आधारित पोर्टल का नाम क्या है?**

- (a) OCMS-2006
- (b) PAIMANA
- (c) IPMP
- (d) NIC-Monitor
- (e) e-Project

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** MoSPI Launches PAIMANA Portal for Enhanced Monitoring of Infrastructure Projects

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has operationalised a new web-based portal called PAIMANA (Project Assessment, Infrastructure Monitoring & Analytics for Nation-building) to strengthen the monitoring of Central Sector infrastructure projects.

The portal is designed for mandated monitoring of infrastructure projects worth ₹150 crore and above, replacing the older OCMS-2006 system and providing a more modern and efficient digital platform.

PAIMANA functions as a centralised national repository for project data, offering real-time dashboards, advanced analytics, and web-generated reports to improve data accuracy, transparency and operational efficiency.

It is integrated with the Integrated Project Monitoring Portal (IPMP/IIG-PMG) through APIs, reducing manual entries and enabling automatic data updates across ministries, departments and implementing agencies

**12. Patna Bird Sanctuary in Etah (Uttar Pradesh) and Chhari-Dhand in Kutch (Gujarat) have been officially designated as Ramsar wetlands of international importance. With these additions, how many Ramsar sites does India now have?**

एटा (उत्तर प्रदेश) में पटना पक्षी अभयारण्य और कच्छ (गुजरात) में छारी-ढांड को आधिकारिक तौर पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय महत्व के रामसर वेटलैंड्स के रूप में नामित किया गया है। इन नए स्थलों के साथ, अब भारत में कितने रामसर स्थल हो गए हैं?

- (a) 95
- (b) 96
- (c) 97
- (d) 98
- (e) 100

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Patna Bird Sanctuary and Chhari-Dhand in Kutch Designated as Ramsar Wetlands

Patna Bird Sanctuary in Etah (Uttar Pradesh) and Chhari-Dhand in Kutch (Gujarat) have been officially designated as Ramsar wetlands of international importance. These additions expand India's network of Ramsar sites to 98, reflecting the country's strong commitment to protecting wetlands and biodiversity.

Chhari-Dhand becomes Gujarat's fifth and Kutch's first Ramsar site, while Patna Bird Sanctuary boosts Uttar Pradesh's wetlands recognition, highlighting their ecological significance and importance for environmental conservation.

**13. Which country has recently passed major reforms in its oil laws to allow greater foreign participation?**

हाल ही में किस देश ने अपने तेल कानूनों में बड़े सुधार किए हैं ताकि विदेशी कंपनियों की भागीदारी बढ़ सके?

- (a) Brazil
- (b) Venezuela
- (c) Mexico
- (d) Saudi Arabia
- (e) Argentina

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Venezuela Passes Major Oil Law Reform, Opens Doors for Foreign Companies  
Venezuela's National Assembly has approved major reforms to the country's oil laws, allowing foreign energy companies greater operational control and reduced taxes and royalties to attract international investment, while state ownership through Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) remains intact.

The overhaul reverses key elements of the 2007 nationalisation era, enabling private firms to engage more directly in production, commercialization, and potentially

manage revenues, thus opening the sector to foreign capital after years of strict state monopoly.

**14. India is participating as a partner country at Gulfood 2026 in Dubai for the first time in the event's 31-year history. Which organisation is leading India's participation at Gulfood 2026?**

गुलफूड 2026 में भारत पहली बार पार्टनर देश के तौर पर हिस्सा ले रहा है, जो इस इवेंट के 31 साल के इतिहास में पहली बार हो रहा है। गुलफूड 2026 में भारत की भागीदारी का नेतृत्व कौन सा संगठन कर रहा है?

- (a) FSSAI
- (b) APEDA
- (c) FICCI
- (d) NABARD
- (e) CII

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India Participates as Partner Country at Gulfood 2026 in Dubai for the First Time India is participating as a partner country at Gulfood 2026 in Dubai for the first time in the event's 31-year history, marking a significant milestone in global food trade engagement.

The event is led by APEDA under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, spanning the Dubai World Trade Centre and Dubai Exhibition Centre at Expo City Dubai.

The Indian pavilion features 161 exhibitors from 25 states and regions, including exporters, farmer-producer organisations, cooperatives, startups, and state and national institutions.

**15. Recently, what is the name of the new plant species recently recorded in Nagaland?**

हाल ही में नागालैंड में दर्ज की गई नई पौधों की प्रजाति का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Hoya nagaensis
- (b) Rhododendron naga
- (c) Magnolia nagensis
- (d) Ficus nagalandia
- (e) Hibiscus naga

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** New Plant Species 'Hoya nagaensis' Discovered in Nagaland's Community Forests

Researchers from Nagaland University discovered a new plant species, *Hoya nagaensis*, in the high-altitude community forests of Nagaland, highlighting the region as a biodiversity hotspot.

The species was identified through botanical surveys in remote, largely unexplored forests, emphasizing the role of community-managed forests in conservation.

The study, led by Gyati Yam with colleagues Vieneite-o Koza and Joynath Pegu, was supported by the university's Start-Up Project for Young Faculty and published in *Kew Bulletin*, an international plant taxonomy journal.

**16. Which two companies signed a resource-sharing MoU to jointly use offshore assets for oil and gas exploration?**

किन दो कंपनियों ने तेल और गैस की खोज के लिए ऑफशोर एसेट्स का मिलकर इस्तेमाल करने के लिए एक रिसोर्स-शेयरिंग MoU पर साइन किए?

- (a) ONGC and GAIL
- (b) Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and Indian Oil
- (c) ONGC and Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)
- (d) BPCL and Hindustan Petroleum
- (e) Cairn India and ONGC

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** ONGC and Reliance Industries Sign MoU to Share Offshore Energy Resources  
ONGC and Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) signed a resource-sharing MoU to jointly use offshore assets such as supply vessels for oil and gas exploration and production, aiming to improve efficiency.

The agreement was signed on the sidelines of India Energy Week (IEW) and seeks to speed up offshore project execution and enhance synergies, especially in adjacent fields off India's east coast.

**17. According to a recent report released by the State Bank of India (SBI), what is the estimated year-on-year growth rate of the central government's capital expenditure (capex) for the financial year 2026–27 (FY27)?**

भारतीय स्टेट बैंक (SBI) की हालिया रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, वित्तीय वर्ष 2026–27 (FY27) में केंद्र सरकार के पूंजीगत व्यय (कैपेक्स) की अनुमानित वार्षिक वृद्धि दर कितनी रहने की संभावना है?

- (a) 6%
- (b) 8%
- (c) 9%
- (d) 10%

(e) 12%

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Centre's Capital Expenditure Likely to Cross ₹12 Lakh Crore in FY27: SBI Report  
Central government capital expenditure is projected to cross ₹12 lakh crore in FY27, registering about 10% year-on-year growth, according to a report by the State Bank of India (SBI).

The report highlights a consistent rise in government-led capex, with Budget capital expenditure increasing from ₹2.5 lakh crore in FY16 to ₹11.2 lakh crore in FY26, reflecting strong focus on infrastructure and economic growth.

Grants for creation of capital assets and CPSE spending have also increased, pushing effective capital expenditure to ₹15.5 lakh crore in FY26, indicating enhanced support for asset creation across sectors.

**18. Nat Sciver-Brunt of England created history by becoming the first batter to score a century in Women's Premier League (WPL) history during WPL 2026 Match. Nat Sciver-Brunt achieved this historic century while playing for which team?**

इंग्लैंड की नेट साइवर-ब्रंट ने WPL 2026 मैच के दौरान महिला प्रीमियर लीग (WPL) के इतिहास में शतक बनाने वाली पहली बल्लेबाज बनकर इतिहास रच दिया। नेट साइवर-ब्रंट ने यह ऐतिहासिक शतक किस टीम के लिए खेलते हुए बनाया?

- (a) Royal Challengers Bengaluru
- (b) Delhi Capitals
- (c) Gujarat Giants
- (d) UP Warriorz
- (e) Mumbai Indians

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Nat Sciver-Brunt Creates History, Becomes First Batter to Score a Century in WPL  
Nat Sciver-Brunt of England and Mumbai Indians created history by becoming the first batter to score a century in Women's Premier League (WPL) history during WPL 2026 Match 16.

She achieved the milestone against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) at the Kotambi Stadium, Vadodara.

Earlier, the highest WPL individual scores were 99 by Georgi Voll (99 off 56 balls)\* and Sophie Devine (99 off 36 balls), before Sciver-Brunt's record-breaking knock.



Nobbs earned 76 international caps for Australia (1979–1985) and was part of the Australian squads at the 1981 Hockey World Cup in Bombay and the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

He took charge of the Indian men's hockey team in 2011 after their failure to qualify for the 2008 Beijing Olympics and also served as head coach of Japan.

**21. In the Union Budget 2026–27, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed support for certain mineral-rich states to establish dedicated rare earth corridors. Which of the following sets of states are included in this initiative aimed at strengthening domestic rare earth processing and manufacturing capacity?**

केंद्रीय बजट 2026-27 में, वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने कुछ खनिज-समृद्ध राज्यों को समर्पित रेयर अर्थ कॉरिडोर स्थापित करने के लिए सहायता देने का प्रस्ताव दिया। घरेलू रेयर अर्थ प्रोसेसिंग और मैन्युफैक्चरिंग क्षमता को मजबूत करने के उद्देश्य से शुरू की गई इस पहल में निम्नलिखित में से कौन से राज्यों का समूह शामिल है?

- (a) Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Punjab
- (b) Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu
- (c) West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh
- (d) Karnataka, Telangana, Goa, and Haryana
- (e) Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, and Sikkim

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Budget 2026–27: FM Proposes Rare Earth Corridors, ₹40,000 Crore for Electronics, and Semiconductor Mission 2.0

FM Nirmala Sitharaman proposed support for Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu to establish dedicated rare earth corridors, aiming to strengthen domestic processing and manufacturing capacity.

The Rare Earth Permanent Magnets scheme, with a ₹7,280 crore outlay, targets production of 6,000 metric tonnes per annum, covering the full value chain from rare earth oxides to finished magnets.

An allocation of ₹40,000 crore is proposed for electronics components manufacturing, and the government plans to launch Semiconductor Mission 2.0 to expand equipment, materials, IP development, and supply chain capabilities.

**22. How many key priority areas has the Government of India identified under the first Kartavya in Budget 2026 for targeted interventions aimed at accelerating and sustaining the country's economic growth?**

**Budget 2026 में पहले 'Kartavya' के तहत भारत सरकार ने देश की आर्थिक वृद्धि को तेज करने और स्थायी बनाने के लिए लक्षित हस्तक्षेपों के लिए कितने प्रमुख प्राथमिकता वाले क्षेत्रों की पहचान की है?**

- (a) Four
- (b) Five
- (c) Six
- (d) Seven
- (e) Eight

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Budget 2026: Sitharaman outlines six key interventions to sustain growth  
Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has proposed targeted interventions across six key areas to accelerate and sustain India's economic growth.

Under the first Kartavya—accelerating and sustaining economic growth—the government has identified six priority areas for focused interventions aimed at strengthening the economic foundation and supporting long-term growth.

The first area involves scaling up manufacturing in seven strategic and frontier sectors to strengthen India's manufacturing capabilities and improve its position in critical segments of the economy.

The second intervention focuses on rejuvenating legacy industrial sectors.

Sitharaman said reviving traditional industries is necessary to sustain growth, preserve employment, and support regions dependent on these sectors.

The third area targets the creation of champion micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The Finance Minister said MSMEs play a vital role in economic activity and employment, and their growth is essential for overall economic stability.

The fourth intervention centres on delivering a strong push for infrastructure development, which she described as a key pillar for economic expansion, supporting both immediate economic activity and long-term productivity.

The fifth area focuses on ensuring long-term security and stability, which the Finance Minister said is crucial for sustaining growth and building confidence across the economy.

The sixth and final intervention involves the development of city economic regions, which Sitharaman said will play an important role in driving economic activity and supporting growth across urban centres.

**23. How many regional medical hubs were proposed by FM Nirmala Sitharaman to promote medical value tourism in the Budget 2026-27?**

वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने बजट 2026-27 में मेडिकल वैल्यू टूरिज्म को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कितने क्षेत्रीय मेडिकल हब प्रस्तावित किए थे?

- (a) Two
- (b) Three
- (c) Four
- (d) Five
- (e) Six

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Budget 2026: FM Sitharaman Proposes Five Regional Medical Hubs and Expansion of Ayurveda & Allied Health Sector

FM Nirmala Sitharaman proposed the creation of five regional medical hubs to promote medical value tourism, featuring Ayush centres, diagnostics, and post-care rehabilitation facilities.

Three new All India Institutes of Ayurveda will be set up to meet global demand, boost exports of quality Ayurveda products, and support farmers growing medicinal herbs.

Plans include upgrading Ayush pharmacies, drug testing labs, and the WHO Traditional Medicine Centre in Jamnagar to strengthen evidence-based research on traditional medicine.

New institutions for allied health professionals will cover 10 disciplines, aiming to add 1 lakh skilled professionals in the next five years, enhancing capacity in both public and private sectors.

**24. While presenting the Union Budget 2026–27 in Parliament, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a major push towards environmentally sustainable passenger transport. Under this initiative, how many high-speed rail corridors have been proposed across India?**

संसद में केंद्रीय बजट 2026–27 प्रस्तुत करते हुए वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने पर्यावरणीय रूप से सतत यात्री परिवहन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कितने हाई-स्पीड रेल कॉरिडोर प्रस्तावित किए?

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

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Union Budget: FM Sitharaman proposes seven high-speed rail corridors, freight links, new waterways push

Union Budget 2026–27, driven by “Yuvashakti” and based on “three Kartavyas”, proposes seven high-speed rail corridors to promote fast, clean, and sustainable passenger transport across major economic and urban centres.

The seven high-speed rail routes include Mumbai–Pune, Pune–Hyderabad, Hyderabad–Bengaluru, Hyderabad–Chennai, Chennai–Bengaluru, Delhi–Varanasi, and Varanasi–Siliguri, acting as growth connectors and reducing travel time and emissions.

To boost eco-tourism, the Budget proposes sustainable trekking and hiking trails in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Araku Valley (Eastern Ghats), Pudigai Malai (Western Ghats), along with wildlife trails like turtle trails and bird-watching trails.

The government announced new dedicated freight corridors connecting Dangkuni (West Bengal) to Surat and the operationalisation of 20 national waterways over the next five years to promote energy-efficient and cost-effective cargo movement.

**25. What fiscal deficit target has been set for the year 2026–27 in the Union Budget?**

केंद्रीय बजट 2026–27 में राजकोषीय घाटा कितने प्रतिशत GDP पर निर्धारित किया गया है?

- (a) 4.0%
- (b) 4.1%
- (c) 4.2%
- (d) 4.3%
- (e) 4.5%

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Union Budget 2026–27: Fiscal Deficit Pegged at 4.3% of GDP, Focus on Self-Reliance and Manufacturing-Led Growth

Fiscal deficit for 2026–27 has been pegged at 4.3% of GDP, lower than the 4.4% target for 2025–26, indicating continued fiscal consolidation and controlled government borrowings.

The Union Budget 2026–27 presents a comprehensive economic roadmap focused on strengthening Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) while maintaining strong integration with global markets.

**26. In the Union Budget 2026–27, how much allocation was announced for Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) technologies?**

केंद्रीय बजट 2026–27 में कार्बन कैप्चर, उपयोग एवं भंडारण (CCUS) तकनीक के लिए कितनी राशि आवंटित की गई है?

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

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Union Budget 2026–27: ₹20,000 Crore Allocated for CCUS Technologies to Drive India's Net-Zero Goals

Union Budget 2026–27 allocates ₹20,000 crore over five years for Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) technologies to support India's net-zero and climate commitments.

The funding will accelerate CCUS deployment in hard-to-abate sectors such as power, steel, cement, refineries and chemicals, which are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions.

The initiative aligns with India's CCUS Roadmap 2025, focusing on technology scaling, pilot projects, CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage infrastructure, and reducing dependence on imported technologies.

The move is expected to help Indian exporters remain competitive amid global climate regulations like the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), while also encouraging private investment, indigenisation and green jobs.

**27. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)?**

हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड (HAL) का नया अध्यक्ष और प्रबंध निदेशक कौन नियुक्त किए गए हैं?

- (a) Dr. D.K. Sunil
- (b) Parul Tyagi
- (c) Kota Ravi
- (d) Rajiv Kumar
- (e) R.K. Singh

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Kota Ravi Appointed as New CMD of HAL

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has appointed Kota Ravi as its new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD).

Kota Ravi will succeed Dr. D.K. Sunil, who is scheduled to retire in April 2026.

**About Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**

- **Founded**- 23 December 1940
- **Founder**- Walchand Hirachand
- **Headquarters**-Bengaluru
- **CMD** - Kota Ravi

**28. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of IRDAI's Reinsurance Advisory Committee?**

IRDAI के रीइश्योरेंस एडवाइजरी कमिटी के अध्यक्ष के रूप में कौन नियुक्त किए गए हैं?

- (a) R.K. Sharma
- (b) P.K. Gupta
- (c) A. V. Girija Kumar
- (d) S. K. Verma
- (e) Anil Mehta

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** IRDAI Reconstitutes Reinsurance Advisory Committee

IRDAI has reconstituted its Reinsurance Advisory Committee with immediate effect for a three-year tenure.

A. V. Girija Kumar, former CMD of Oriental Insurance Company Limited, has been appointed as the Chairman of the committee.

**About Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**

- **Established**- In the year 1999 under the IRDA Act, 1999
- **Headquarters**- Hyderabad, Telangana
- **Type**- Statutory body under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India
- **Current Chairman** - Ajay Seth

**29. Where has the Fifth Rusoma Orange Festival recently begun?**

पाँचवां रुसोमा ऑरेंज फेस्टिवल हाल ही में कहाँ शुरू हुआ है?

- (a) Manipur
- (b) Meghalaya
- (c) Nagaland
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh
- (e) Sikkim

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Fifth Rusoma Orange Festival Kicks Off in Nagaland

The 5th Rusoma Orange Festival has begun at Rusoma village, Kohima in Nagaland.

The two-day festival is organised under the theme "Abundance of Rüsoma", highlighting horticulture-led rural prosperity.

The event aims to promote village welfare, rural entrepreneurship, and recognise the efforts of local orange growers.

**30. Andhra Pradesh government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with FICCI Ladies Organisation (FICCI-FLO) to establish an exclusive 30-acre industrial park for women entrepreneurs, aiming to promote women-led industrial entrepreneurship in the State. Which organisation will mentor and mobilise women entrepreneurs in the park?**

आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार ने राज्य में महिला नेतृत्व वाली औद्योगिक उद्यमिता को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से महिला उद्यमियों के लिए एक विशेष 30 एकड़ का औद्योगिक पार्क स्थापित करने के लिए फिक्की लेडीज ऑर्गनाइजेशन (फिक्की-एफएलओ) के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर किए। कौन सा संगठन पार्क में महिला उद्यमियों को सलाह देगा और उन्हें संगठित करेगा?

- (a) APIIC
- (b) FICCI-FLO
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) MSME Ministry
- (e) Andhra Pradesh CM Office

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Andhra Pradesh to establish exclusive women industrial park

Andhra Pradesh government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with FICCI Ladies Organisation (FICCI-FLO) to establish an exclusive 30-acre industrial park for women entrepreneurs, aiming to promote women-led industrial entrepreneurship in the State.

The agreement involves FICCI-FLO mobilising and mentoring women entrepreneurs, while Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) will provide infrastructure, approvals, and statutory support, ensuring seamless development and operation of the park.

The initiative supports Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's "One Family, One Entrepreneur" vision and complements the plan to develop 175 MSME parks across Andhra Pradesh, focusing on enterprise creation, employment generation, and economic independence for women.

**31. Which state has launched the state-wide Mukhyamantri Gramotthan Yojana to provide urban-equivalent facilities in rural areas and promote inclusive development?**

किस राज्य ने ग्रामीण इलाकों में शहरी जैसी सुविधाएं देने और समावेशी विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्यव्यापी मुख्यमंत्री ग्रामोत्थान योजना शुरू की है?

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

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Gujarat Launches Mukhyamantri Gramotthan Yojana to Provide Urban-Level Facilities in Villages

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel launched the state-wide Mukhyamantri Gramotthan Yojana from Bhadran in Anand district, aiming to provide urban-equivalent facilities in rural areas and promote inclusive development.

In the first phase, 114 villages functioning as Taluka headquarters will be upgraded with modern infrastructure such as quality road networks, underground drainage systems, solar street lights, and digital e-Gram services.

Strengthening Rural Infrastructure: The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for 2,666 Gram Panchayat Ghar-cum-Talati Awas buildings at a cost of ₹663 crore and announced that the scheme will be expanded to villages with a population above 10,000 to bridge the rural-urban development gap.

**About Gujarat**

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

**32. Indian Railways has operationalised the country's first LNG-Diesel dual-fuel DEMU train at Sabarmati in Ahmedabad, marking a major step towards sustainable and eco-friendly rail operations. What is the power capacity of the LNG-Diesel dual-fuel DEMU train introduced by Indian Railways?**

इंडियन रेलवे ने अहमदाबाद के साबरमती में देश की पहली LNG-डीजल डुअल-फ्यूल DEMU ट्रेन शुरू की है, जो सस्तेनेबल और इको-फ्रेंडली रेल ऑपरेशन की दिशा में एक बड़ा कदम है। इंडियन रेलवे द्वारा शुरू की गई LNG-डीजल डुअल-फ्यूल DEMU ट्रेन की पावर कैपेसिटी कितनी है?

- (a) 1,000 HP

- (b) 1,200 HP
- (c) 1,400 HP
- (d) 1,600 HP
- (e) 1,800 HP

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Indian Railways launches first-ever LNG-diesel dual-fuel DEMU train in Ahmedabad

Indian Railways has operationalised the country's first LNG–Diesel dual-fuel DEMU train at Sabarmati in Ahmedabad, marking a major step towards sustainable and eco-friendly rail operations.

The 1,400 HP DEMU train's driving power cars have been converted to a dual-fuel system, using Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to replace about 40% of conventional diesel, and have successfully completed over 2,000 km of field trials.

The dual-fuel system significantly reduces carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions, improves air quality along railway routes, and delivers cost and efficiency benefits, with the train now operating regularly in passenger service without operational issues.

**33. What is CHAKRA, recently launched by the State Bank of India (SBI)?**  
स्टेट बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया (SBI) द्वारा हाल ही में लॉन्च किया गया CHAKRA क्या है?

- (a) A digital payments platform
- (b) A rural credit scheme
- (c) A Centre of Excellence for financing sunrise sectors
- (d) An MSME subsidy programme
- (e) A customer grievance portal

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** SBI launches CHAKRA, to invest ₹100 trn in sunrise sectors over 5 years  
State Bank of India (SBI) launched CHAKRA, a Centre of Excellence (CoE), to finance key sunrise sectors that are critical for India's long-term economic transformation. CHAKRA will support sectors such as renewable energy, advanced cell chemistry and battery storage, semiconductors, decarbonisation, smart infrastructure, and data centre infrastructure, with total potential investments estimated at around ₹100 trillion over the next five years.

**34. Which licence has Paysharp recently secured from the Reserve Bank of India?**

Paysharp ने हाल ही में रिज़र्व बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया से कौन सा लाइसेंस हासिल किया है?

- (a) Payment Bank licence
- (b) Small Finance Bank licence
- (c) Payment Aggregator–Physical (PA-P) licence
- (d) Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) licence
- (e) Bharat Bill Payment licence

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Paysharp Secures RBI's Payment Aggregator-Physical Licence for Offline Payments

Paysharp has secured the Payment Aggregator–Physical (PA-P) licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), enabling it to operate as an offline payment aggregator. Earlier, in August 2024, Paysharp had already received the Payment Aggregator–Online (PA-O) licence from the RBI, allowing it to provide online payment aggregation services.

**35. Elena Rybakina defeated which World No. 1 player to win the Australian Open 2026?**

एलेना रायबाकिना ने ऑस्ट्रेलियन ओपन 2026 जीतने के लिए किस वर्ल्ड नंबर 1 खिलाड़ी को हराया?

- (a) Iga Świątek
- (b) Jessica Pegula
- (c) Coco Gauff
- (d) Aryna Sabalenka
- (e) Maria Sakkari

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Elena Rybakina Wins Australian Open 2026

Elena Rybakina defeated World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka to win the Australian Open 2026 women's singles title.

This victory marked Rybakina's second Grand Slam title, after her earlier triumph at Wimbledon 2022.

Elena Rybakina is a Russian-born Kazakhstani professional tennis player, while runner-up Aryna Sabalenka is a Belarusian professional tennis player.

**36. Who won the men's singles title at the Australian Open 2026?**

ऑस्ट्रेलियन ओपन 2026 में पुरुष एकल का खिताब किसने जीता?

- (a) Novak Djokovic
- (b) Rafael Nadal
- (c) Carlos Alcaraz

(d) Daniil Medvedev

(e) Stefanos Tsitsipas

Ans. c

**Sol.** Alcaraz defeats Djokovic to win first Australian Open

Carlos Alcaraz defeated Novak Djokovic in the men's singles final to win his first Australian Open title, making the match one of the most memorable finals in the tournament's history.

Alcaraz became the youngest male player to complete a career Grand Slam and also the youngest to win seven Grand Slam titles.

Novak Djokovic, who was aiming for a record-extending 25th Grand Slam title, fell short and is hopeful of another opportunity as he approaches 39 years of age.

**37. World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on 2nd February to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands for the environment and biodiversity. What is the theme of World Wetlands Day 2026?**

पर्यावरण और बायोडायवर्सिटी के लिए वेटलैंड्स के महत्व के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए हर साल 2 फरवरी को विश्व वेटलैंड्स दिवस मनाया जाता है। विश्व वेटलैंड्स दिवस 2026 की थीम क्या है?

(a) Wetlands and Climate Change

(b) Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage

(c) Wetlands for Biodiversity

(d) Wetlands and Water Security

(e) Wetlands and Sustainable Tourism

Ans. b

**Sol.** 2 February - World Wetlands Day

World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on 2nd February to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands for the environment and biodiversity.

Theme 2026 - Wetlands and traditional knowledge: Celebrating cultural heritage

The day highlights the role of wetlands in water purification, flood control, carbon storage, and supporting wildlife, while promoting their conservation and sustainable use.

The day marks the adoption of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands on 2nd February 1971, an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

**38. When is International Development Week observed every year?**

हर साल अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विकास सप्ताह कब मनाया जाता है?

(a) 1-7 February

- (b) 2–8 February
- (c) 3–9 February
- (d) 4–10 February
- (e) 5–11 February

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 1 - 7 February - International Development Week

International Development Week is observed annually from 1st to 7th February to highlight global efforts in sustainable development and international cooperation. The week aims to raise awareness about global development challenges, promote sustainable solutions, and encourage participation in initiatives that support economic, social, and environmental progress worldwide.

**39. On which date is Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) Awareness Day observed every year?**

हर साल रुमेटाइड आर्थराइटिस (RA) जागरूकता दिवस किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 1st February
- (b) 2nd February
- (c) 5th February
- (d) 4th February
- (e) 5th February

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 2 February - Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day

Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day is observed annually on 2nd February to highlight the challenges of living with RA and promote early diagnosis.

The day aims to raise awareness about Rheumatoid Arthritis, a chronic autoimmune disease affecting joints, and educate people on treatment options and symptom management.

**40. On which date is National Golden Retriever Day observed every year?**

हर साल नेशनल गोल्डन रिट्रीवर डे किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

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

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 3 February - National Golden Retriever Day

National Golden Retriever Day is celebrated annually on 3rd February to honour the Golden Retriever breed and their contributions as family pets and service dogs. The day highlights the breed's loyalty, intelligence, friendly nature, and role in therapy, assistance, and companionship.

**41. How much has the Union Government allocated for the new Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar Aajeevika Mission (Grameen) [VB-G RAM G] scheme in the Budget 2026?**

केंद्र सरकार ने बजट 2026 में रोज़गार आजीविका मिशन (ग्रामीण) [वीबी-जी रैम जी] योजना के लिए नई विकसित भारत-गारंटी के लिए कितना आवंटन किया है?

- (a) ₹75,000 crore
- (b) ₹85,508 crore
- (c) ₹95,692 crore
- (d) ₹1,00,20 crore
- (e) ₹1,05,100 crore

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Budget Allocation: ₹95,692 Crore for VB-G RAM G, ₹30,000 Crore for MGNREGA  
The Union Government has allocated ₹95,692.31 crore for the newly introduced Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar Aajeevika Mission (Grameen) [VB-G RAM G] scheme in the Budget 2026.

The MGNREGA has been allotted ₹30,000 crore, and the scheme will continue during the transition period until the new employment programme is fully implemented and pending works are completed.

The VB-G RAM G scheme aims to provide 125 days of assured employment per year and will eventually replace the two-decade-old MGNREGA, enacted under the MGNREGA Act, 2005.

Overall, the total budget allocation for the Department of Rural Development has been fixed at ₹1,94,368.81 crore, reflecting a strong focus on rural employment and livelihoods.

**42. In the Union Budget 2026, which two institutions are proposed to be restructured to strengthen public sector financing in the power sector?**

केंद्रीय बजट 2026 में, पावर सेक्टर में पब्लिक सेक्टर फाइनेंसिंग को मज़बूत करने के लिए किन दो संस्थानों के पुनर्गठन का प्रस्ताव है?

- (a) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

(b) Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) and National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)

(c) Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC)

(d) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) and Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC)

(e) National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) and Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC)

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Union Budget 2026–27: Government Unveils Major Banking and Financial Sector Reforms for Viksit Bharat

Union Budget 2026–27 proposes the creation of a high-level committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat to review banks and NBFCs and align the financial sector with India's next phase of economic growth.

The committee will focus on financial stability, inclusion, consumer protection, and reforms to improve efficiency and preparedness, building on the sector's strong balance sheets and 98% village-level banking coverage.

The government has proposed restructuring Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) to enhance scale, operational efficiency, and support infrastructure and energy sector financing.

A comprehensive review of FEMA rules for non-debt instruments has been announced to simplify procedures, modernise the framework, and attract greater foreign investment inflows.

**43. According to the Union Budget 2026–27 and the Macroeconomic Framework Statement presented in Parliament, what is the estimated gross tax revenue of the Central Government for FY 2026–27, and this revenue is expected to account for about 11.2 per cent of GDP?**

केंद्रीय बजट 2026–27 एवं संसद में प्रस्तुत मैक्रोइकोनॉमिक फ्रेमवर्क स्टेटमेंट के अनुसार, FY 2026–27 के लिए केंद्र सरकार का अनुमानित सकल कर राजस्व कितना है, जो GDP के लगभग 11.2 प्रतिशत के बराबर है?

(a) ₹38.5 lakh crore

(b) ₹41.2 lakh crore

(c) ₹42.9 lakh crore

(d) ₹44.04 lakh crore

(e) ₹46.8 lakh crore

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** India's Economy Set for Strong Growth in FY26–FY27; GDP, Exports and Fiscal Health Show Resilience

India's real GDP is projected to grow by 7.4% in FY 2025–26, while nominal GDP growth is estimated at 8%, as per the Macroeconomic Framework Statement presented with the Union Budget 2026–27.

Nominal GDP growth is further projected at 10% in FY 2026–27, reflecting sustained strength in domestic demand, private investment, and structural reforms, according to estimates presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The services sector remains the main growth engine, expanding by 9.1% in FY26, while manufacturing and construction are expected to grow by 7%, and agriculture by 3.1%.

Total exports of goods and services touched USD 825.3 billion in FY25; during April–December 2025, merchandise exports grew by 2.4% and services exports by 6.5%, despite global trade uncertainties.

Gross FDI inflows stood at USD 81 billion in FY25, with FY26 recording the highest inflows in the first seven months of any financial year, indicating strong investor confidence.

The current account deficit (CAD) narrowed to 0.8% of GDP in H1 FY26, compared to 1.3% in the same period of FY25, highlighting improved external sector stability.

The Union Budget continues fiscal consolidation, targeting a fiscal deficit of 4.3% of GDP in FY27; central government debt is projected to decline to 55.6% of GDP, from 56.1% in FY26.

For FY27, gross tax revenue is estimated at ₹44.04 lakh crore (11.2% of GDP), with direct taxes contributing over 61%, while total expenditure is projected at ₹53.47 lakh crore, including ₹12.22 lakh crore capital expenditure and ₹16.56 lakh crore transfers to states.

**44. The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0, announced in the Union Budget 2026–27, has been allocated how much funding for FY 2026–27?**

केंद्रीय बजट 2026–27 में घोषित इंडिया सेमीकंडक्टर मिशन (ISM) 2.0 के लिए FY 2026–27 में कितनी राशि आवंटित की गई है?

- (a) ₹1,000 crore
- (b) ₹750 crore
- (c) ₹1,200 crore
- (d) ₹1,500 crore
- (e) ₹2,000 crore

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Union Budget 2026–27 Boosts Electronics & IT Sector with ISM 2.0, Tax Certainty and Data Centre Incentives

The Union Budget 2026–27 announced the launch of India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0 with an outlay of ₹1,000 crore, focusing on semiconductor equipment and materials, full-stack Indian IP design, supply-chain strengthening, and industry-led R&D and skill development.

To boost electronics manufacturing, the Budget proposes increasing the outlay for the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) to ₹40,000 crore, after the scheme attracted investment commitments at more than double its initial target since its launch in April 2025.

For providing tax certainty to the IT and ITeS sector, new safe harbour provisions have been introduced, clubbing software development, IT-enabled services, KPO and contract R&D under a single category of 'Information Technology Services' with a 15.5% margin and raising the threshold from ₹300 crore to ₹2,000 crore.

The Budget supports digital infrastructure and services growth by proposing a tax holiday till 2047 for foreign cloud service providers using data centres in India, a 15% safe harbour margin for related-party data centre services, and the creation of a High-Powered 'Education to Employment and Enterprise' Standing Committee to address future skills and AI-led job impacts.

**45. What is the total allocation made to the Ministry of Defence in the Union Budget 2026–27?**

केंद्रीय बजट 2026–27 में रक्षा मंत्रालय को कुल कितनी राशि आवंटित की गई है?

- (a) ₹6.90 lakh crore
- (b) ₹7.25 lakh crore
- (c) ₹7.50 lakh cror
- (d) ₹7.85 lakh crore
- (e) ₹8.20 lakh crore

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Union Budget 2026–27: Defence Gets Record ₹7.85 Lakh Crore Boost to Strengthen Military Preparedness and Self-Reliance

The Ministry of Defence has received a record-high allocation of ₹7.85 lakh crore in the Union Budget 2026–27, marking an increase of over 15% from FY 2025–26, accounting for 14.67% of total Central Government expenditure and around 2% of GDP.

A major thrust has been given to capital expenditure, with a record ₹2.19 lakh crore allocated under the capital head, including ₹1.85 lakh crore for capital acquisition to

procure next-generation fighter aircraft, ships, submarines, UAVs, drones, smart weapons and other advanced platforms.

Reinforcing Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence, about ₹1.39 lakh crore (nearly 75%) of the capital acquisition budget has been earmarked for procurement from domestic industries, boosting indigenous manufacturing, private sector participation and defence supply chains.

The Budget provides ₹3.65 lakh crore for revenue expenditure, up by over 17%, with ₹1.58 lakh crore dedicated to operational readiness, spares, ammunition, maintenance of platforms, and the remaining amount for pay and allowances of defence personnel.

Additional focus areas include enhanced allocations for border infrastructure (₹7,394 crore for BRO), ex-servicemen welfare (₹12,100 crore for ECHS), R&D (₹29,100 crore for DRDO), and defence pensions (₹1.71 lakh crore), strengthening overall military capability and welfare support.

**46. Where has SBI launched its Global Trade Finance Centre (GTFC) to boost trade and global banking?**

व्यापार और वैश्विक बैंकिंग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए SBI ने अपना ग्लोबल ट्रेड फाइनेंस सेंटर (GTFC) कहाँ लॉन्च किया?

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** SBI Launches Global Trade Finance Centre in Kolkata to Boost Trade and Global Banking

State Bank of India (SBI) has strengthened its trade finance and global banking operations by launching a Global Trade Finance Centre (GTFC) in Kolkata, West Bengal.

The GTFC is a centralised hub for handling inland trade and import-export transactions, helping reduce processing time and improve efficiency.

SBI had announced two specialised GTFCs in July 2025, at Kolkata and Hyderabad, to mark its 70th anniversary.

**47. What were the net GST revenues in January 2026?**

जनवरी 2026 में शुद्ध GST राजस्व कितना रहा?

- (a) ₹1.65 lakh crore
- (b) ₹1.70 lakh crore
- (c) ₹1.71 lakh crore
- (d) ₹1.74 lakh crore
- (e) ₹1.93 lakh crore

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Gross GST Collections Reach ₹1.93 Lakh Crore in January 2026

Gross GST collections in January 2026 rose 6.2% to a three-month high of over ₹1.93 lakh crore, indicating that increased consumption offset the rate cuts implemented in September 2025.

Net GST revenues grew 7.6% to ₹1.71 lakh crore, as refunds fell 3.1% to ₹22,665 crore, with domestic transaction collections at ₹1.41 lakh crore and import revenues at ₹52,253 crore.

GST rate changes included cuts on about 375 items, merger of four slabs (5, 12, 18, 28%) into two slabs of 5% and 18%, and a highest 40% slab for ultra-luxury goods and tobacco, which initially led to a dip in collections in November but recovery by January.

***GST Collection of Previous Months***

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

**48. What share of tax devolution to States has the 16th Finance Commission recommended the Centre retain?**

16वीं वित्त आयोग ने राज्यों को कर-वितरण में केंद्र द्वारा कितनी हिस्सेदारी बनाए रखने की सिफारिश की है?

- (a) 35%
- (b) 38%
- (c) 41%
- (d) 45%
- (e) 54%

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Centre Accepts 16th Finance Commission Recommendation, Allocates ₹1.4 Lakh Crore to States in FY 2026-27

The Sixteenth Finance Commission (16th FC) recommended that the Central Government retain the 41% share of tax devolution to the States, and the Centre has accepted this recommendation.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Budget 2026 speech, announced that ₹1.4 lakh crore will be provided to States for FY 2026-27 as Finance Commission Grants.

The grants include allocations for Rural and Urban Local Bodies as well as Disaster Management, ensuring support for state-level governance and development.

**49. What was the total value of UPI transactions in January 2026?**

जनवरी 2026 में UPI लेनदेन का कुल मूल्य कितना था?

- (a) ₹27.97 lakh crore
- (b) ₹28.00 lakh crore
- (c) ₹28.33 lakh crore
- (d) ₹29.00 lakh crore
- (e) ₹30.00 lakh crore

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** UPI Transactions Hit Record ₹28.33 Lakh Crore in January 2026

UPI transactions in January 2026 reached a record ₹28.33 lakh crore in value and 21.70 billion in volume, according to NPCI data, marking strong digital payment adoption in India.

Compared to December 2025 (₹27.97 lakh crore), UPI showed a month-on-month growth of 21% in value, with an average daily transaction of 700 million and an average daily value of ₹91,4033 crore.

**50. The India–World Bank Country Partnership Framework, announced in January 2026, is designed to accelerate economic growth and job creation across the country. For how many years will this partnership provide annual financing of USD 8–10 billion to support India’s development initiatives?**

प्रश्न 1. जनवरी 2026 में घोषित भारत-वर्ल्ड बैंक कंट्री पार्टनरशिप फ्रेमवर्क का उद्देश्य देश में आर्थिक विकास और रोजगार सृजन को तेज करना है। इस साझेदारी के तहत भारत के विकासात्मक कार्यक्रमों का समर्थन करने के लिए वार्षिक USD 8–10 बिलियन कितने वर्षों तक प्रदान किए जाएंगे?

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

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India, World Bank Launch Country Partnership Framework to Boost Jobs and Economic Growth

India and the World Bank Group have launched a new Country Partnership Framework to accelerate job creation and economic growth, starting January 2026. The partnership will provide USD 8–10 billion in financing annually for the next five years, supporting initiatives in both urban and rural areas for inclusive development. The framework aligns with India's long-term vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047 (Viksit Bharat), promoting balanced and sustainable economic growth.

**51. Where was the "Agni Pariksha" joint training exercise conducted by the Indian Army and ITBP?**

भारतीय सेना और ITBP द्वारा "अग्नि परीक्षा" संयुक्त प्रशिक्षण अभ्यास कहाँ आयोजित किया गया था?

- (a) Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Sigar, East Siang district, Arunachal Pradesh
- (c) Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
- (d) Bomdila, Arunachal Pradesh
- (e) Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Indian Army and ITBP Conduct "Agni Pariksha" Joint Exercise in Arunachal Pradesh to Boost Combat Synergy

The Indian Army and ITBP conducted a six-day joint training exercise "Agni Pariksha" in Arunachal Pradesh at Sigar, East Siang district, aimed at strengthening inter-force operational integration.

The exercise focused on enhancing combat synergy and jointmanship, ensuring better coordination between Army and ITBP personnel during operations.

**52. World Cancer Day is observed every year on which date?**

विश्व कैंसर दिवस हर वर्ष किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 2 February
- (b) 3 February
- (c) 4 February
- (d) 5 February
- (e) 7 February

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 4 February - World Cancer Day

World Cancer Day is observed every year on 4 February to raise global awareness about cancer, promote prevention, early detection, and encourage collective action to reduce cancer-related deaths.

Theme 2026 - United by Unique

The day is led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) and unites governments, health organizations, NGOs, and individuals worldwide under a common goal of fighting cancer.

**53. Under the Baggage Rules, 2026, what is the revised duty-free allowance for passengers arriving in India by air?**

बैगेज नियम, 2026 के तहत हवाई मार्ग से भारत आने वाले यात्रियों के लिए संशोधित ड्यूटी-फ्री सीमा क्या है?

- (a) ₹50,000
- (b) ₹60,000
- (c) ₹65,000
- (d) ₹75,000
- (e) ₹1,00,000

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Government Raises Duty-Free Baggage Limit to ₹75,000 Under New Baggage Rules, 2026

The government has increased the duty-free allowance for passengers arriving in India by air from ₹50,000 to ₹75,000 under the newly notified Baggage Rules, 2026, effective from February 2.

Under the new rules, foreign tourists can bring duty-free goods worth up to ₹25,000, raised from ₹15,000 earlier, while the 2026 rules replace the decade-old Baggage Rules, 2016.

For Indian residents or tourists of Indian origin returning after over one year abroad, duty-free jewellery limits have been set at 40 grams for female passengers and 20 grams for others, covering gold, silver, platinum, and other precious metals.

**54. Prime Minister Narendra Modi renamed Adampur Airport, Punjab, as Sri Guru Ravidas Ji Airport on the occasion of Ravidas Jayanti, marking the 649th birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas. Adampur Airport is located in which district of Punjab?**

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने रविदास जयंती के मौके पर पंजाब के आदमपुर एयरपोर्ट का नाम बदलकर श्री गुरु रविदास जी एयरपोर्ट कर दिया। यह गुरु रविदास की 649वीं जयंती थी। आदमपुर एयरपोर्ट पंजाब के किस जिले में स्थित है?

- (a) Ludhiana
- (b) Amritsar
- (c) Jalandhar
- (d) Patiala
- (e) Bathinda

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** PM Modi Renames Adampur Airport as Sri Guru Ravidas Ji Airport

Prime Minister Narendra Modi renamed Adampur Airport in Jalandhar district, Punjab, as Sri Guru Ravidas Ji Airport on the occasion of Ravidas Jayanti, marking the 649th birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas.

The Prime Minister also virtually inaugurated the civil terminal building at Halwara Airport in Ludhiana district, strengthening civil aviation infrastructure in Punjab.

#### **About Punjab**

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

**55. Which state government launched the "Garbh Sanskar" initiative to be taught in all universities and set up dedicated rooms in government hospitals?**

किस राज्य सरकार ने सभी विश्वविद्यालयों में "गर्भ संस्कार" पढ़ाने और सरकारी अस्पतालों में विशेष कक्ष स्थापित करने की पहल शुरू की?

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

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** MP to Introduce 'Garbh Sanskar' in All Universities, Special Rooms Planned in Government Hospitals

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has announced that "Garbh Sanskar" (education in the womb) will be taught in all universities across the State, and dedicated Garbh Sanskar rooms will be set up in government hospitals.

Garbh Sanskar means education and nurturing of the child while it is still in the mother's womb.

#### **About Madhya Pradesh**

- **Capital** – Bhopal
- **Chief Minister** – Dr Mohan Yadav

- **Deputy CM** - Jagdish Devda & Rajendra Shukla
- **Governor** – Mangubhai C. Patel

**56. What is the total allocation for the fisheries sector in Budget 2026–27?**  
बजट 2026–27 में मत्स्य पालन क्षेत्र के लिए कुल आवंटन कितना है?

- (a) ₹2,500 crore
- (b) ₹2,761 crore
- (c) ₹3,030 crore
- (d) ₹2,530 crore
- (e) ₹2,000 crore

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Union Budget 2026–27 Boosts Fisheries Sector with Record ₹2,761.80 Crore Allocation, Export Reforms, and Livelihood Support

The Union Budget 2026–27 proposes ₹2,761.80 crore for the fisheries sector, with ₹2,500 crore earmarked for Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) to strengthen coastal and inland fisheries, boost exports, and improve livelihoods of fishers.

Major initiatives include development of 500 reservoirs and Amrit Sarovars, enhancing market linkages through start-ups, women-led groups, and Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (Fish FPOs) while reducing post-harvest losses.

Around 200 fisheries start-ups will be supported, along with 34 production and processing clusters, promoting technology adoption, enterprise development, and efficiency across the sector.

Budget proposes duty-free fish catch by Indian vessels in EEZ and high seas and increases duty-free import of seafood processing inputs from 1% to 3%, boosting competitiveness in global markets like EU, Japan, UK, and South Korea.

**57. Total allocation for the Ministry of Education in Budget 2026–27 rises to ₹1,39,289.48 crore, an 8.27% increase over the previous year. One girls' hostel will be established in every district through viability gap funding to boost enrolment, especially in STEM education. How many University Townships are proposed under the Budget 2026–27?**

बजट 2026–27 में शिक्षा मंत्रालय के लिए कुल आवंटन बढ़कर ₹1,39,289.48 करोड़ हो गया है, जो पिछले साल की तुलना में 8.27% ज्यादा है। नामांकन बढ़ाने के लिए, खासकर STEM शिक्षा में, वायबिलिटी गैप फंडिंग के ज़रिए हर ज़िले में एक लड़कियों का हॉस्टल बनाया जाएगा। बजट 2026–27 के तहत कितने यूनिवर्सिटी टाउनशिप्स का प्रस्ताव है?

- (a) 3

- (b) 5  
(c) 7  
(d) 10  
(e) 12

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Union Budget 2026–27 Boosts Education with Record Allocation, Girls' Hostels, University Townships, and Skill Development Initiatives

Total allocation for the Ministry of Education in 2026–27 rises to ₹1,39,289.48 crore, an 8.27% increase over the previous year.

One girls' hostel will be established in every district through viability gap funding to boost enrolment, especially in STEM education.

Five University Townships will be set up near industrial and logistics corridors, hosting universities, colleges, research institutes, skill centres, and residential complexes.

A high-powered 'Education to Employment and Enterprise' Committee will focus on AI integration, teacher training, and emerging technology impacts on jobs and skills.

Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Content Creator Labs will be established in 15,000 schools and 500 colleges, supporting the creative economy and providing opportunities for up to two million professionals by 2030.

**58. What is the total allocation for the agriculture sector in Budget 2026–27?**

बजट 2026–27 में कृषि क्षेत्र के लिए कुल आवंटन कितना है?

- (a) ₹1,62,671 crore  
(b) ₹1,51,853 crore  
(c) ₹1,50,000 crore  
(d) ₹1,70,000 crore  
(e) ₹1,45,500 crore

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Union Budget 2026–27 Allocates ₹1.63 Lakh Crore for Agriculture

The Union Budget 2026–27 allocates ₹1,62,671 crore for the agriculture sector, a 7% increase over the 2025–26 revised estimate of ₹1,51,853 crore.

The allocation emphasizes farmer welfare, food security, and rural livelihoods, reflecting continued government support for the agricultural backbone of India.

Ministry outlay has grown from ₹21,933.50 crore in 2013–14 to ₹1,51,853 crore in 2025–26, showing a decade-long trend of increasing investment in agriculture.

**59. How many new dedicated Chemical Parks are proposed in Budget 2026–27?**

बजट 2026–27 में कितने नए समर्पित केमिकल पार्क स्थापित करने का प्रस्ताव है?

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

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Union Budget 2026–27 to Establish Three Chemical Parks

The Budget proposes the establishment of three new dedicated Chemical Parks on a cluster-based, plug-and-play model to strengthen domestic chemical manufacturing and reduce import dependence.

₹20,000 crore allocated over five years for Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) technologies across chemicals, power, steel, cement, and refineries to reduce carbon emissions and promote cleaner industrial growth.

A scheme to revive 200 legacy industrial clusters through infrastructure and technology upgradation aims to improve cost competitiveness, operational efficiency, and preserve employment in traditional industries.

**60. Who has become the first woman Board Director (HR) of the Airports Authority of India (AAI)?**

एअरपोर्ट्स अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया (AAI) की पहली महिला बोर्ड डायरेक्टर (HR) कौन बनीं?

- (a) Nivedita Dubey
- (b) Anjali Sharma
- (c) Priya Singh
- (d) Ritu Kapoor
- (e) Meena Gupta

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Nivedita Dubey Becomes First Woman Board Director (HR) of Airports Authority of India

Nivedita Dubey has become the first woman Board Director (HR) of the Airports Authority of India (AAI), assuming charge on 30 January.

She previously served as Regional Executive Director (Eastern Region), Kolkata, managing 12 airports across India.

As Member (Human Resources), she will oversee personnel and industrial relations policies and commercial management functions at AAI.

**61. What is the total budget allocation for the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in 2026–27?**

2026-27 में युवा मामले और खेल मंत्रालय के लिए कुल बजट आवंटन क्या है?

- (a) ₹3,346 crore
- (b) ₹4,010 crore
- (c) ₹4,479 crore
- (d) ₹5,000 crore
- (e) ₹4,500 crore

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Union Budget 2026-27 announces launch of Khelo India Mission; Rs 500 crore earmarked for sports goods manufacturing

The 2026-27 Budget introduces a decade-long Khelo India Mission to transform India's sports sector, focusing on talent development, infrastructure creation, and manufacturing-led employment generation.

The proposals are youth-driven, inspired by ideas from the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026, making the Budget "Yuva Shakti-driven."

₹500 crore has been allocated to promote domestic sports equipment manufacturing, research, and innovation, aiming to position India as a global hub for high-quality, affordable sports goods.

The mission will create integrated talent development pathways through foundational, intermediate, and elite training centres, along with systematic development of coaches, support staff, and sports science integration.

Allocation to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports rises by ₹1,133 crore (from ₹3,346 crore to ₹4,479.88 crore) to support athlete development, coaching, sports science integration, and India's long-term vision of becoming a top sporting nation.

**62. The Union Budget 2026-27 has introduced two major initiatives, named Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana and Divyang Sahara Yojana, for persons with disabilities (Divyangjan). These schemes aim to enhance skill development and access to assistive technologies, reflecting the government's commitment to inclusive growth under the vision of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas. Under the Divyang Sahara Yojana, which organisation is supported to scale up the production of assistive devices?**

केंद्रीय बजट 2026-27 ने विकलांग व्यक्तियों (दिव्यांगजनों) के लिए दिव्यांगजन कौशल योजना और दिव्यांग सहारा योजना नाम से दो प्रमुख पहल शुरू की हैं। इन योजनाओं का उद्देश्य कौशल विकास और सहायक प्रौद्योगिकियों तक पहुंच को बढ़ाना है, जो सबका साथ, सबका विकास के दृष्टिकोण के तहत समावेशी विकास के लिए सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाता है। दिव्यांग सहारा योजना के तहत सहायक उपकरणों के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने के लिए किस संगठन को सहायता प्रदान की जाती है?

- (a) ISRO
- (b) AIIMS
- (c) ALIMCO
- (d) DRDO
- (e) BHEL

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Two new schemes for empowerment of Divyangjan in Union Budget 2026-27

The Union Budget 2026-27 has introduced two major initiatives aimed at enhancing skill development and access to assistive technologies for persons with disabilities (Divyangjan), reinforcing the government's commitment to inclusive growth under the vision of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas.

**Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana**

The government will provide industry-relevant, customised training to Divyangjan in sectors such as Information Technology (IT), Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC), hospitality, and food and beverage services.

The scheme aims to ensure dignified and sustainable livelihood opportunities by aligning training modules with specific functional needs of different Divyang groups and the requirements of industry.

**Divyang Sahara Yojana**

The scheme aims to enhance access to high-quality assistive devices for eligible Divyangjan and senior citizens.

The government will support Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) to scale production, invest in research and development, and integrate advanced technologies, including AI, into device design.

**63. Who did Anahat Singh defeat to win her maiden PSA Bronze-level title at the Squash on Fire Open?**

अनाहत सिंह ने स्क्वैश ऑन फायर ओपन में अपना पहला पीएसए कांस्य स्तर का खिताब जीतने के लिए किसे हराया?

- (a) Nouran Gohar
- (b) Camille Serme
- (c) Joelle King
- (d) Georgina Kennedy
- (e) Amanda Sobhy

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Anahat Singh Wins Squash on Fire Open

Anahat Singh defeated England's top seed Georgina Kennedy to win the Squash on Fire Open in Washington, claiming her maiden PSA Bronze-level title.

This victory marks the biggest title of Anahat's career and her 15th PSA Tour title in just 26 tournaments.

In the men's final, Mohamed ElShorbagy defeated fellow Englishman Declan James to win his 52nd PSA Tour title.

**64. Devika Sihag won her maiden BWF Super 300 title at which tournament?**

देविका सिहाग ने अपना पहला BWF सुपर 300 खिताब किस टूर्नामेंट में जीता?

- (a) All England Open
- (b) Indonesia Open
- (c) Thailand Masters
- (d) Malaysia Open
- (e) Singapore Ope

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Devika Sihag Wins Maiden BWF Super 300 Title at Thailand Masters

Young Indian shuttler Devika Sihag clinched her maiden BWF Super 300 crown after Malaysia's Goh Jin Wei retired midway through the women's singles final of the Thailand Masters at Bangkok.

The 20-year-old from Haryana was leading 21-8, 6-3 when world No. 68 Goh, a two-time former world junior champion, pulled out due to a hamstring injury, handing the Indian the biggest title of her career.

**65. Where has the 13th edition of the joint military exercise KHANJAR between India and Kyrgyzstan begun?**

भारत और किर्गिजस्तान के बीच 13वीं संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास KHANJAR किस स्थान पर शुरू हुआ?

- (a) Guwahati, Assam
- (b) Tezpur, Assam
- (c) Misamari, Assam
- (d) Shillong, Meghalaya
- (e) Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India and Kyrgyzstan's joint military exercise KHANJAR begins in Assam

The 13th edition of the joint military Exercise KHANJAR between India and Kyrgyzstan begins at Misamari in Sonitpur district of Assam.

The 14-day-long military exercise aims to enhance interoperability between the Special Forces of both nations, with a focus on joint operations in urban warfare and counter-terrorism scenarios under the United Nations mandate.

India and Kyrgyzstan organising joint military exercises annually since 2011, with venues alternating between the countries to reflect deepening defence ties.

The 12th edition was conducted in March 2025 in Kyrgyzstan.

**66. Defence Ministry has approved the grant of Miniratna Category-I status to Yantra India Limited (YIL). With Miniratna-I status, what is the maximum capital expenditure YIL can incur without government approval?**

रक्षा मंत्रालय ने यंत्र इंडिया लिमिटेड (YIL) को मिनीरत्न कैटेगरी-1 का दर्जा देने की मंजूरी दे दी है। मिनीरत्न-1 का दर्जा मिलने के बाद, YIL बिना सरकारी मंजूरी के ज़्यादा से ज़्यादा कितना पूंजीगत खर्च कर सकती है?

- (a) ₹100 crore
- (b) ₹250 crore
- (c) ₹400 crore
- (d) ₹500 crore
- (e) ₹1000 crore

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Defence Ministry Grants Miniratna Category-I Status to Yantra India Limited  
Defence Ministry has approved the grant of Miniratna Category-I status to Yantra India Limited (YIL).

YIL manufactures key defence products including carbon fibre and glass composites, aluminium alloys, and assembly products for ammunition, armoured vehicles, artillery guns and main battle tanks.

With Miniratna-I status, the YIL Board can now incur capital expenditure up to 500 crore rupees without government approval, enabling faster modernisation and growth.

**67. In February 2026, Indian mountaineer Kabak Yano summited which mountain as part of her 7-Summit Mountaineering Expedition?**

फरवरी 2026 में, भारतीय पर्वतारोही कबाक यानो ने अपने 7-शिखर पर्वतारोहण अभियान के हिस्से के रूप में किस पर्वत पर चढ़ाई की?

- (a) Mount Everest
- (b) Mount Denali
- (c) Mount Kilimanjaro
- (d) Mount Elbrus

**(e) Mount Aconcagua****Ans. e****Sol.** Indian Mountaineer Kabak Yano Summits Mount Aconcagua

Kabak Yano (27), a mountaineer from Arunachal Pradesh, successfully summited Mount Aconcagua in Argentina—the highest peak in South America and the Western Hemisphere (22,831 feet)—as part of her ambitious 7-Summit Mountaineering Expedition.

Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt Gen K.T. Parnaik (Retd.) congratulated Yano, recalling that he had flagged off her 7-Summit Expedition from Itanagar on July 28 last year, and described her success as a source of inspiration for the youth of the state.

**68. Adani Defence & Aerospace signed an MoU with Italian defence major Leonardo (formerly AgustaWestland) to establish a fully integrated helicopter manufacturing ecosystem in India, targeting the large defence aviation market. Which of the following helicopter models is specifically targeted under the Adani–Leonardo collaboration?**

अदानी डिफेंस एंड एयरोस्पेस ने इटैलियन डिफेंस कंपनी लियोनार्डो (पहले अगस्टावेस्टलैंड) के साथ भारत में एक पूरी तरह से इंटीग्रेटेड हेलीकॉप्टर मैनुफैक्चरिंग इकोसिस्टम स्थापित करने के लिए एक MoU साइन किया है, जिसका लक्ष्य बड़े डिफेंस एविएशन मार्केट पर है। अदानी-लियोनार्डो सहयोग के तहत निम्नलिखित में से किस हेलीकॉप्टर मॉडल को विशेष रूप से टारगेट किया गया है?

(a) Apache AH-64

(b) Chinook CH-47

(c) Dhruv ALH

(d) AW169M

(e) Mi-17

**Ans. d****Sol.** Adani Defence and Leonardo Sign MoU to Build Integrated Helicopter Manufacturing Ecosystem in India

Adani Defence & Aerospace signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Italian defence major Leonardo (formerly AgustaWestland) to establish a fully integrated helicopter manufacturing ecosystem in India, targeting the large defence aviation market.

The partnership aims to cater to the Indian Armed Forces' helicopter requirement of over 1,000 units, including light utility, medium-lift, intermediate, and maritime multi-role helicopters across the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

The MoU will focus on Leonardo's AW169M and AW109 TrekkerM helicopters, with emphasis on phased indigenisation, strong MRO capabilities, and comprehensive pilot training.

**69. Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which institution to strengthen cybersecurity in highway operations?**

भारतीय राजमार्ग प्रबंधन कंपनी लिमिटेड (IHMCL) ने राजमार्ग संचालन में साइबर सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने के लिए किस संस्था के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Central Forensic Science Laboratory
- (b) Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
- (c) National Cyber Coordination Centre
- (d) Indian Statistical Institute
- (e) National Forensic Sciences University

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** IHMCL and NFSU Sign MoU to Strengthen Cyber Security in National Highway Operations

Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL), under the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU).

The MoU aims to strengthen cyber security and data protection in National Highway operations across the country.

The collaboration will focus on cyber forensics, digital evidence integrity, research, training, and consultancy to enhance technological resilience.

**70. Which airport is set to become the first in India to operate hydrogen-powered buses for passenger transportation?**

यात्री परिवहन के लिए हाइड्रोजन-चालित बसें संचालित करने वाला भारत का पहला हवाई अड्डा कौन-सा होगा?

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Kochi Airport to Become India's First with Hydrogen-Powered Buses

Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) is set to become India's first airport to operate hydrogen-powered buses for passenger transportation.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between Kerala Hydrogen Valley Innovation Cluster (HVIC) Foundation and CIAL, exchanged by Kerala Electricity Minister K. Krishnankutty and Industries Minister P. Rajeeve.

The agreement covers the procurement and operation of three hydrogen fuel cell electric buses at Kochi airport under the Kerala Hydrogen Valley initiative of the National Green Hydrogen Mission, with funding capped at ₹2.90 crore per bus and a total project outlay of ₹8.7 crore.

### **About Kerala**

- **Capital** – Thiruvananthapuram
- **Chief Minister** – Pinarayi Vijayan
- **Governor** – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

**71. Which state launched Pilloo AI, a voice-based billing and accounting agent that allows businesses to create invoices, record transactions, generate reports, and manage accounts by speaking in their native language?**

किस राज्य ने Pilloo AI नामक वॉयस-आधारित बिलिंग और अकाउंटिंग एजेंट लॉन्च किया, जो स्थानीय भाषा में बोलकर इनवॉइस बनाने, लेन-देन दर्ज करने और रिपोर्ट तैयार करने की सुविधा देता है?

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu Launches 'Pilloo AI' Voice-Based Accounting App

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched Pilloo AI, a voice-based billing and accounting agent that allows businesses to create invoices, record transactions, generate reports, and manage accounts by speaking in their native language.

Available in five Indian languages, the app enables users to record daily sales and payments, access business reports like balance sheets, receivables, and payables, and automate entries by uploading bills and bank statements for instant data extraction.

Launched at the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat in Amaravati, the initiative aims to help small businesses and entrepreneurs manage finances easily, save time, reduce manual effort, and improve financial transparency.

### **About Andhra Pradesh**

- **Capital** – Amaravati
- **Chief Minister** – N Chandrababu Naidu
- **Deputy CM** – Pawan Kalyan
- **Governor** – S. Abdul Nazeer

**72. Under the new trade agreement, US tariffs on Indian goods were reduced from 25% to what level?**

नए व्यापार समझौते के तहत भारतीय वस्तुओं पर अमेरिकी शुल्क 25% से घटाकर कितना कर दिया गया?

- (a) 20%
- (b) 15%
- (c) 18%
- (d) 10%
- (e) 12%

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India–US Announce Major Trade Deal, Slash Tariffs and Deepen Economic Ties  
 India and the United States announced a major bilateral trade agreement to lower reciprocal tariffs and strengthen economic ties, following a phone conversation between PM Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump.

As part of the deal, the US reduced tariffs on Indian goods from 25% to 18% with immediate effect, boosting the competitiveness of Indian exports in the American market.

In return, India agreed to cut tariffs and non-tariff barriers on US products to zero, along with provisions on energy trade, including increased US energy purchases and cessation of Russian oil imports, as per US officials.

**73. Assertion (A): Sunetra Pawar became the first woman Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra.**

**Reason (R): She was sworn in after the Deputy CM post fell vacant due to the death of Ajit Pawar.**

कथन (A): सुनेत्रा पवार महाराष्ट्र की पहली महिला उपमुख्यमंत्री बनीं।

कारण (R): अजीत पवार की मृत्यु के कारण उपमुख्यमंत्री का पद खाली होने के बाद उन्होंने शपथ ली।

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.  
 (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.  
 (c) A is true, but R is false.  
 (d) A is false, but R is true.  
 (e) Both A and R are false.

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Sunetra Pawar Becomes First Woman Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra  
 Sunetra Pawar was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, becoming the first woman to hold this constitutional post in the state's history.

The oath of office and secrecy was administered by Maharashtra Governor Acharya Devvrat at Raj Bhavan.

The Deputy CM post became vacant following the death of Ajit Pawar, senior NCP leader and her husband, in a plane crash on January 29, 2026.

#### **About Maharashtra**

- **Capital** - Mumbai
- **Chief Minister** - Devendra Fadnavis (3<sup>rd</sup> time)
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Eknath Sindhe & Sunetra Pawar
- **Governor** - Acharya Devvrat (additional charge)
- **Legislative Assembly Speaker** - Rahul Narwekar

**74. Who has been sworn in as the 13th Chief Minister of Manipur?**

मणिपुर के 13वें मुख्यमंत्री के रूप में किसने शपथ ली है?

- (a) N Biren Singh  
 (b) Yumnam Khemchand Singh  
 (c) Ajay Kumar Bhalla  
 (d) Rajnath Singh  
 (e) Thokchom Radheshyam

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Yumnam Khemchand Singh Becomes 13th Chief Minister as Manipur Exits President's Rule

Yumnam Khemchand Singh sworn in as 13th Chief Minister of Manipur; takes oath from Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla.

President's Rule in Manipur ends following the resignation of N Biren Singh in February 2025.

BJP leader and two-time MLA from Singjamei constituency, Khemchand Singh assumes office.

#### **About Manipur**

- **Capital** – Imphal
- **Chief Minister** – Yumnam Khemchand Singh
- **Governor** - Ajay Bhalla

**75. To strengthen India's skill development ecosystem and modernise Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), the World Bank has approved a major financial assistance. What is the total amount of loan approved for this purpose?**

भारत के कौशल विकास ढांचे को मजबूत करने और औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों (ITI) के आधुनिकीकरण के लिए विश्व बैंक ने कितनी राशि का ऋण स्वीकृत किया है?

- (a) \$650 million
- (b) \$700 million
- (c) \$750 million
- (d) \$830 million
- (e) \$900 million

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** World Bank Approves \$830 Million Loan To Revamp India's Skill Training Institutes

World Bank approves a \$830 million loan to support the revamp of India's skills training ecosystem, particularly the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).

PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded (ITIS) align training with labour market needs, and generates over one million skilled workers annually while improving low job placement rates.

Project prepared jointly with the Asian Development Bank, with plans to mobilise at least \$680 million in private sector investment; the loan has a 19.5-year maturity with a 4-year grace period.

It is a centrally sponsored scheme. It was launched on 4th Oct 2025.

Under the scheme, 1,000 government ITIs to be upgraded under a hub-and-spoke model, with 200 hub ITIs connected to 800 spoke ITIs to provide advanced infrastructure, innovation centres, placement support, and digital learning.

Industry-led cluster management through Anchor Industry Partners and SPVs, with each hub serving about four spoke ITIs to ensure outcome-oriented and region-focused skill training.

**76. From which date will the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Act, 2025, come into force?**

सबका बीमा सबकी रक्षा (बीमा कानून संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2025 किस तिथि से लागू होगा?

- (a) June 1, 2026

- (b) July 15, 2026  
 (c) February 5, 2026  
 (d) March 1, 2026  
 (e) April 1, 2026

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** New Insurance Act to Take Effect from Feb 5, Allows 100% FDI with Stronger Policyholder Protection

New Insurance Laws to come into force from February 5, 2026, allowing 100% FDI in the insurance sector, except Section 25, as notified by the Finance Ministry.

Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Act, 2025 amends the Insurance Act, 1938, LIC Act, 1956 and IRDAI Act, 1999, while mandating that top leadership of insurance companies must be Indian citizens.

Reforms aimed at boosting ease of doing business and policyholder protection, including higher limits for share transfer approval, reduced capital norms for foreign reinsurers, LIC autonomy, creation of a Policyholders' Education and Protection Fund, and stronger regulatory powers for IRDAI.

**77. Which company has appointed A R Rahman as its brand ambassador?**

किस कंपनी ने ए. आर. रहमान को अपना ब्रांड एंबेसडर नियुक्त किया है?

- (a) L&T Construction  
 (b) DLF Limited  
 (c) Tata Projects  
 (d) DAC Developers  
 (e) Shapoorji Pallonji

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** DAC Developers Appoints Oscar–Grammy Winner A R Rahman as Brand Ambassador

DAC Developers appoints legendary music director A R Rahman as its brand ambassador, strengthening its brand presence.

A R Rahman is an Oscar and Grammy Award–winning composer, and one of India's most celebrated music directors.

**Recent Brand Ambassador**

- *MS Dhoni - Goodwill Ambassador for Pune Grand Tour 2026*
- *Amitabh Bachchan - Reliance Campa Sure Packaged Water*
- *Andre De Grasse - Tata Mumbai Marathon 2026*
- *Cristiano Ronaldo - AI company Perplexity*
- *Harmanpreet Kaur - PNB (First Female Brand Ambassador)*

**78. Who has been approved by RBI as the new MD & CEO of YES Bank?**  
 आरबीआई द्वारा YES बैंक के नए एमडी और सीईओ के रूप में किसे मंजूरी दी गई है?

- (a) Prashant Kumar
- (b) Ashwani Kumar
- (c) Vinay Muralidhar Tonse
- (d) Dinesh Khara
- (e) Rajnish Kumar

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** RBI Approves Vinay Muralidhar Tonse as MD and CEO of Yes Bank

RBI approves appointment of SBI MD Vinay Muralidhar Tonse as MD & CEO of YES Bank for a tenure of three years.

Vinay Muralidhar Tonse is a former Managing Director of State Bank of India.

His appointment follows the end of Prashant Kumar's tenure as MD and CEO of Yes Bank on 6 April 2026.

**About Yes Bank**

- **Founded** - 2003
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **MD & CEO** - Vinay Muralidhar Tonse (replace Prashant Kumar)
- **Chairman** - Rama Subramaniam Gandhi
- **Tagline** - Experience our Expertise

**79. Bharat Taxi was launched by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, marking India's first cooperative-based ride-hailing platform. Bharat Taxi is registered under which Act?**

भारत टैक्सी को केंद्रीय गृह और सहकारिता मंत्री अमित शाह ने लॉन्च किया, जो भारत का पहला कोऑपरेटिव-आधारित राइड-हेलिंग प्लेटफॉर्म है। भारत टैक्सी किस एक्ट के तहत रजिस्टर्ड है?

- (a) Companies Act, 2013
- (b) Motor Vehicles Act, 1988
- (c) Cooperative Societies Act, 1912
- (d) Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002
- (e) Consumer Protection Act, 2019

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Amit Shah launched Bharat Taxi, India's First Cooperative-Based Ride-Hailing Platform

Bharat Taxi was launched by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, marking India's first cooperative-based ride-hailing platform. Registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, Bharat Taxi was established on June 6, 2025 and follows a zero-commission, surge-free pricing model with profits directly shared with drivers (sarathis). Driver-centric model emphasises ownership and welfare, including share certificates, ₹5 lakh personal accident insurance, ₹5 lakh family health cover, retirement support, and social security benefits. Over 3 lakh drivers onboarded, 1 lakh+ users, 10,000+ daily rides across Delhi-NCR and Gujarat, ₹10 crore distributed to drivers, with nationwide expansion planned within two years.

**80. To strengthen India's drone testing and certification ecosystem, which organisation has entered into a government-to-government collaboration to enable Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) and Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) testing of drones?**

भारत के ड्रोन टेस्टिंग और सर्टिफिकेशन इकोसिस्टम को मज़बूत करने के लिए, किस संगठन ने ड्रोन के इलेक्ट्रोमैग्नेटिक इंटरफेरेंस (EMI) और इलेक्ट्रोमैग्नेटिक कम्पैटिबिलिटी (EMC) टेस्टिंग को सक्षम बनाने के लिए सरकार-से-सरकार सहयोग किया है?

- (a) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
- (b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)
- (c) National Test House (NTH)
- (d) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- (e) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** NTH Partners with STQC-ERTL to Enable EMI-EMC Testing of Drones in India  
National Test House (NTH) partners with STQC-ERTL (North) under MeitY through a government-to-government collaboration to enable EMI/EMC testing of drones in India.

Collaboration aims to support Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) and Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) testing, a critical requirement for drone safety and certification.

Partnership strengthens India's drone testing and certification ecosystem, boosting regulatory compliance and indigenous drone development.

**81. Which Indian Navy ship made its first international port call at Salalah, Oman?**

भारतीय नौसेना के किस जहाज ने ओमान के सलालाह में अपना पहला अंतर्राष्ट्रीय पोर्ट कॉल किया?

- (a) INS Tarangini
- (b) INS Vikrant
- (c) INS Sudarshini
- (d) INS Shardul
- (e) INS Trikand

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** INS Sudarshini Makes First International Port Call at Salalah During Lokayan 26 Expedition

INS Sudarshini makes its first international port call at Salalah, Oman, during the transoceanic expedition Lokayan 26.

Lokayan 26 expedition began on 20 January 2026, undertaken by the Indian Navy's sail training ship INS Sudarshini.

The 10-month voyage will cover over 22,000 nautical miles, with visits to 18 foreign ports across 13 countries.

**82. Indian-origin climate scientist Veerabhadran Ramanathan, who is known for his pioneering research on climate change and atmospheric science, has been awarded the 2026 Crafoord Prize. This prestigious award is given specifically for outstanding contributions in which field?**

भारतीय मूल के जलवायु वैज्ञानिक वीरभद्रन रामनाथन, जो जलवायु परिवर्तन और वायुमंडलीय विज्ञान पर अपने अग्रणी शोध के लिए जाने जाते हैं, को 2026 क्राफोर्ड पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया है। यह प्रतिष्ठित पुरस्कार विशेष रूप से किस क्षेत्र में उत्कृष्ट योगदान के लिए दिया जाता है?

- (a) Environmental Economics
- (b) Atmospheric Physics
- (c) Climate Policy Studies
- (d) Geosciences
- (e) Meteorology

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Indian-Origin Climate Scientist Veerabhadran Ramanathan Wins 2026 Crafoord Prize in Geosciences

Indian-origin climate scientist Veerabhadran Ramanathan has won the 2026 Crafoord Prize in Geosciences, often called the "Nobel of Geosciences", for his groundbreaking work on climate science.

He is globally known for discovering in 1975 that CFCs trap heat up to 10,000 times more effectively than CO<sub>2</sub> and for his research on atmospheric brown clouds through the Indian Ocean Experiment (INDOEX).

The award, given by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, includes 8 million Swedish kronor and a gold medal, and his research has significantly influenced global climate agreements like the Montreal Protocol.

### Recent Awards

- **Win Wiley Research Heroes Prize 2025** - Dr Chandrakant Lahariya (in Impact Beyond Academia category); 1<sup>st</sup> Indian
- **President's Police Colour Award (Nishaan) 2026** - Sikkim Police
- **Padmapani Award at 11th Ajanta-Ellora International FF** - Ashutosh Gowariker (for his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema)
- **Ashok Chakra at 77th Republic Day Parade** - IAF Group Captain and Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla (for Axiom Mission)

**83. The 4th Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting between India and Tanzania was held at which place?**

भारत-तंजानिया की 4वीं संयुक्त रक्षा सहयोग समिति (JDCC) बैठक कहाँ आयोजित की गई?

- (a) Dar es Salaam
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Dodoma
- (d) Zanzibar
- (e) Mumbai

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** India and Tanzania Hold 4th Joint Defence Cooperation Committee Meeting in Zanzibar

India-Tanzania 4th Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting was held in Zanzibar, focusing on reviewing ongoing bilateral defence cooperation.

Both sides discussed expanding collaboration in military training, maritime security, service-to-service cooperation, defence industry, and explored new areas like counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, EW, Cyber and AI.

**84. Paradip Port Authority (PPA) was awarded the First Prize at the Swachhata Pakhwada Awards 2025 by which ministry?**

पारादीप पोर्ट अथॉरिटी को स्वच्छता पखवाड़ा पुरस्कार 2025 का प्रथम पुरस्कार किस मंत्रालय द्वारा दिया गया?

- (a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (b) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- (d) Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- (e) Ministry of Rural Development

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Paradip Port Authority Wins Swachhata Pakhwada Award 2025

Paradip Port Authority (PPA) won the First Prize at the Swachhata Pakhwada Awards 2025, conferred by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, for excellence in cleanliness, sustainability and community participation under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

The award was presented in New Delhi by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and was received by P. L. Haranadh, Chairman, PPA, in the presence of senior officials of the Ministry.

PPA effectively implemented the three core pillars of Swachhata Pakhwada 2025—Jan Bhagidari, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam (including plantation of 40,000 saplings at Paradip Sea Beach), and Safai Mitra Suraksha, focusing on public participation, environmental sustainability and sanitation workers' welfare.

**85. Which organisation has developed and operationalised the digital portal for issuance of Certificates of Origin for cultivated medicinal plants?**

किस संस्था ने संवर्धित औषधीय पौधों के लिए प्रमाण-पत्र (Certificate of Origin) जारी करने हेतु डिजिटल पोर्टल विकसित किया है?

- (a) National Biodiversity Authority
- (b) Ministry of AYUSH
- (c) National Medicinal Plants Board
- (d) Botanical Survey of India
- (e) Indian Council of Agricultural Research

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Government Launches Digital Portal for Online Issuance of Certificates of Origin for Cultivated Medicinal Plants

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), has launched a digital portal for electronic issuance of Certificates of Origin for cultivated medicinal plants.

The portal supports implementation of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, enabling stakeholders to avail Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) exemptions in a transparent and streamlined manner.

The initiative benefits multiple sectors including AYUSH, seed industry and research institutions, following the notification of Biological Diversity Rules in 2024 and 2025 to operationalise the amended Act.

**86. The 22nd Upendra Nath Brahma 'Soldier of Humanity' Award, 2025, was conferred on a prominent personality from Bhutan in recognition of lifelong humanitarian and social contributions. Who was the awardee?**

22वाँ उपेन्द्र नाथ ब्रह्मा 'सोल्जर ऑफ ह्यूमैनिटी' पुरस्कार 2025, आजीवन मानवतावादी और सामाजिक योगदान के लिए भूटान की किस प्रतिष्ठित हस्ती को प्रदान किया गया?

- (a) Queen Jetsun Pema
- (b) King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck
- (c) Gyalyum Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck
- (d) Tshering Tobgay
- (e) Sangay Ngedup

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Bhutan Queen Mother conferred 'Soldier of Humanity' award in Assam. Bhutan's Queen Mother Gyalyum Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck was conferred the 22nd Upendra Nath Brahma 'Soldier of Humanity' Award 2025 at Bodoland University, Kokrajhar, Assam.

The award was presented by the Upendra Nath Brahma Trust (UNBT) in recognition of her lifelong contributions to humanitarian service, social development and inclusive growth.

The honour includes a citation, statuette of Bodofa Upendra Nath Brahma, traditional Bodo artefacts, and a cash prize of ₹2 lakh.

**87. Walmart recently achieved a historic milestone by becoming the world's first retail company to reach what market valuation?**

वॉलमार्ट ने हाल ही में किस बाजार मूल्यांकन तक पहुंचने वाली दुनिया की पहली खुदरा कंपनी बनकर एक ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि हासिल की?

- (a) \$500 billion
- (b) \$750 billion
- (c) \$900 billion
- (d) \$1 trillion
- (e) \$2 trillion

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Walmart Becomes World's First Retailer to Cross \$1 Trillion Market Valuation

Walmart became the world's first retail company to achieve a market valuation of \$1 trillion, a milestone usually associated with technology giants, following a strong rally in its shares.

With this achievement, Walmart joins the elite group of trillion-dollar companies such as Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Alphabet, Nvidia and Meta, highlighting its scale and global dominance in retail.

Founded in 1962 in Arkansas, Walmart now operates around 4,600 stores across the US, went public in 1970, joined the Dow Jones Index in 1997, and remains a key constituent of the S&P 500.

**88. Who became the first female member from Iran to be elected to the International Olympic Committee (IOC)?**

अंतरराष्ट्रीय ओलंपिक समिति (IOC) की पहली ईरानी महिला सदस्य कौन बनीं?

- (a) Kimia Alizadeh
- (b) Samira Asghari
- (c) Nahid Kiyani Chandeh
- (d) Soraya Aghaei
- (e) Kirsty Coventry

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** IOC Elects Soraya Aghaei as First Female Member from Iran

Soraya Aghaei has been elected as the first female IOC member from Iran, becoming the youngest current member and the 107th member of the International Olympic Committee, elected by a 95–2 vote.

A former Iranian badminton Olympian at Tokyo 2020, Aghaei is only the third Iranian representative at the IOC and the first since 2004, marking a significant milestone for Iran's presence in the global Olympic body.

Her election comes under the leadership of IOC's first female President, Kirsty Coventry, with women now forming 45% of IOC membership, reflecting greater gender representation in the organisation.

Aghaei will serve an eight-year term, during which she will participate in key decisions, including voting for the host city of the 2036 Summer Olympics.

**89. India recently joined which BRICS initiative to support manufacturing and MSMEs?**

भारत ने हाल ही में विनिर्माण और MSMEs को समर्थन देने के लिए BRICS की किस पहल में शामिल हुआ है?

- (a) BRICS Development Bank

- (b) BRICS Skill Council
- (c) BRICS Centre for Industrial Competencies
- (d) BRICS Trade Facilitation Mechanism
- (e) BRICS Innovation Forum

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India Joins BRICS Centre for Industrial Competencies to Boost Manufacturing and MSMEs

India has joined the BRICS Centre for Industrial Competencies (BCIC) at an event organised by DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, held at Vanijya Bhavan in New Delhi.

The BCIC, launched in partnership with UNIDO, will function as a one-stop centre to provide integrated support to manufacturing companies and MSMEs across BRICS countries, with a focus on Industry 4.0 capabilities.

The National Productivity Council (NPC) has been designated as the India Centre for BRICS Industrial Competencies and will lead capacity building, productivity improvement, and adoption of advanced manufacturing practices under DPIIT's policy guidance and UNIDO's technical support.

**90. Which ministry signed an MoU with IPE Global Limited to strengthen the women-centric skilling ecosystem?**

महिला-केंद्रित स्किलिंग इकोसिस्टम को मजबूत करने के लिए IPE Global Limited के साथ किस मंत्रालय ने MoU पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Ministry of Women & Child Development
- (b) Ministry of Labour & Employment
- (c) Ministry of Education
- (d) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- (e) Ministry of MSME

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** MSDE Partners with IPE Global to Strengthen Women-Centric Skilling Ecosystem in India

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has signed an MoU with IPE Global Limited to build a gender-responsive and future-ready skilling ecosystem for young women across India.

The collaboration aims to improve programme design, increase women's participation in aspirational job roles, and strengthen linkages between skilling, employability, and inclusive economic growth.

The partnership will focus on evidence-based interventions, addressing structural barriers, aligning training with industry demand, and enhancing placement pathways through private sector engagement.

**91. Royal Challengers Bengaluru won the Women's Premier League (WPL) title by defeating Delhi Capitals by six wickets in the final held at Vadodara. How many WPL titles have the Royal Challengers Bengaluru won so far?**

रॉयल चैलेंजर्स बेंगलुरु ने वडोदरा में आयोजित फाइनल में दिल्ली कैपिटल्स को छह विकेट से हराकर महिला प्रीमियर लीग (डब्ल्यूपीएल) का खिताब जीता। रॉयल चैलेंजर्स बेंगलुरु ने अब तक कितने WPL खिताब जीते हैं?

- (a) One
- (b) Two
- (c) Three
- (d) Four
- (e) Five

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Royal Challengers Bengaluru Clinch Second Women's Premier League Title  
Royal Challengers Bengaluru won their second Women's Premier League (WPL) title by defeating Delhi Capitals by six wickets in the final held at Vadodara.

Chasing a target of 204 runs, RCB scored 204/4 in 19.4 overs, led by captain Smriti Mandhana's 87 runs off 41 balls and Georgia Voll's 79 off 54 balls.

Earlier, Delhi Capitals posted a strong total of 203/4 in 20 overs after being asked to bat first.

Delhi's innings was powered by Jemimah Rodrigues (57 off 37 balls), Laura Wolvaardt (44 off 25 balls), and an unbeaten 35 off 15 balls by Chinelle Henry.

- Player of the series - Sophie Devine (Gujarat Giants)
- Most runs - Smriti Mandhana (337, Royal Challengers Bengaluru)
- Most wickets - Sophie Devine (17, Gujarat Giants) & Nandani Sharma (17 Delhi Capitals)

**92. The RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.25%, with the decision announced by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra after the meeting held from February 4–6. What policy stance did the RBI MPC continue with in the latest meeting?**

RBI मॉनेटरी पॉलिसी कमेटी (MPC) ने रेपो रेट को 5.25% पर अपरिवर्तित रखा, यह फैसला 4-6 फरवरी को हुई बैठक के बाद RBI गवर्नर संजय मल्होत्रा ने घोषित किया। हालिया बैठक में RBI MPC ने किस नीतिगत रुख को जारी रखा?

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** RBI MPC Keeps Repo Rate Unchanged at 5.25%, Raises Growth Outlook

The RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.25%, with the decision announced by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra after the meeting held from February 4–6.

The MPC decided to continue with a 'neutral' policy stance, following a phase of rate cuts undertaken last year.

Since February 2025, the MPC has reduced the repo rate by a total of 100 basis points through three consecutive cuts, bringing it down from 6.5% to around 5.5%.

The quarterly growth projections are as follows:

- Q1 FY27: 6.9 per cent
- Q2 FY27: 7 per cent

The MPC revised its inflation forecast from 2 per cent to 2.1 per cent. The quarterly inflation forecasts are:

- Q4 FY26: 3.2 per cent
- Q1 FY27: 4 per cent
- Q2 FY27: 4.2 per cent

*RBI Current Policy Rate are as under*

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

**93. According to official trade data for FY 2024–25, what was the total value of bilateral trade between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, which accounted for more than 15% of India's global trade during the year?**

आधिकारिक व्यापार आंकड़ों के अनुसार FY 2024–25 में भारत और खाड़ी सहयोग परिषद (GCC) देशों के बीच द्विपक्षीय व्यापार का कुल मूल्य कितना था, जो भारत के कुल वैश्विक व्यापार का 15% से अधिक हिस्सा रहा?

- (a) USD 150 billion
- (b) USD 165 billion
- (c) USD 178 billion
- (d) USD 190 billion
- (e) USD 200 billion

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India and Gulf Cooperation Council Sign Terms of Reference for India–GCC Free Trade Agreement

India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the proposed India–GCC Free Trade Agreement (FTA) at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, to formally begin negotiations.

The ToR was signed between Shri Ajay Bhadoo (Department of Commerce) and Dr. Raja Al Marzouqi (GCC Secretariat) and will define the scope, structure, and modalities of the FTA negotiations.

The India–GCC FTA is expected to significantly enhance bilateral trade; in FY 2024–25, India–GCC trade stood at USD 178.56 billion, accounting for 15.42% of India's global trade, with an average annual growth of 15.3% over the last five years.

GCC countries collectively represent a market of 61.5 million people with a GDP of USD 2.3 trillion, and are a major source of FDI for India, with cumulative investments exceeding USD 31.14 billion.

**94. According to the report "India's 155 Million Student Mandate", which Indian city has been ranked as the world's most affordable city for international students?**

भारत के 155 मिलियन छात्र जनादेश" रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, किस भारतीय शहर को अंतरराष्ट्रीय छात्रों के लिए दुनिया के सबसे किफायती शहर के रूप में स्थान दिया गया है?

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Delhi Ranked World's Most Affordable City for International Students: Report  
Delhi has been ranked the world's most affordable city for international students, according to a joint report by Knight Frank, Deloitte India, and QS, titled "India's 155 Million Student Mandate".

The report highlights that Delhi secured the top global position, while Mumbai ranked 11th and Bengaluru 15th in the global affordability and attractiveness assessment.

The rankings are part of the QS Best Student Cities 2026, which evaluated 150 cities worldwide across six equally weighted parameters: affordability, employer activity, university rankings, city desirability, student voice, and student mix.

**95. Axis Bank has launched Rooftop Solar Finance, a customised financing solution aimed at helping MSMEs transition to solar energy and achieve greater energy self-reliance. Under Axis Bank's Rooftop Solar Finance, MSMEs can avail collateral-free loans in which range?**

एक्सिस बैंक ने रूफटॉप सोलर फाइनेंस लॉन्च किया है, जो एक कस्टमाइज़्ड फाइनेंसिंग सॉल्यूशन है जिसका मकसद MSMEs को सोलर एनर्जी अपनाने और ज़्यादा एनर्जी के मामले में आत्मनिर्भर बनने में मदद करना है। Axis Bank की रूफटॉप सोलर फाइनेंस योजना के तहत MSMEs कितनी राशि का बिना जमानत ऋण ले सकते हैं?

- (a) ₹5 lakh – ₹50 lakh
- (b) ₹10 lakh – ₹1 crore
- (c) ₹10 lakh – ₹2 crore
- (d) ₹25 lakh – ₹3 crore
- (e) ₹50 lakh – ₹5 crore

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Axis Bank launches Rooftop Solar Finance for MSMEs

Axis Bank has launched Rooftop Solar Finance, a customised financing solution aimed at helping MSMEs transition to solar energy and achieve greater energy self-reliance.

Under the scheme, MSMEs can avail collateral-free loans ranging from ₹10 lakh to ₹2 crore, with flexible repayment tenures of 4–7 years, easing pressure on working capital.

The initiative is designed to help MSMEs reduce operating and energy costs, gain better control over power expenses, and build long-term financial resilience.

The product is available nationwide through Axis Bank branches, with partnerships involving leading OEMs and a technology partner to ensure transparency in costs, savings estimates, and project timelines.

**96. International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is observed on which date?**

महिला जननांग विकृति (FGM) के प्रति शून्य सहनशीलता का अंतरराष्ट्रीय दिवस किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 1 February
- (b) 4 February
- (c) 6 February
- (d) 7 February
- (e) 2 February

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 6 February - International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation  
International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is observed every year on 6 February to raise awareness about the harmful practice and promote its complete elimination.

The day is led by the United Nations, in collaboration with UNICEF, UNFPA, and other global organisations, to highlight FGM as a serious violation of human rights.

**97. Which team did India defeat to win their sixth U19 Cricket World Cup title in 2026?**

2026 में अपना छठा U19 क्रिकेट विश्व कप खिताब जीतने के लिए भारत ने किस टीम को हराया?

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

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** India Clinch Record Sixth U19 Cricket World Cup Title with 100-Run Win Over England

India won the U19 Cricket World Cup 2026, clinching the title for a record sixth time by defeating England by 100 runs in the final held at Harare, Zimbabwe.

Batting first, India posted a massive 411/9 in 50 overs, led by 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi's stunning 175 off 80 balls, with captain Ayush Mhatre scoring 53 off 51 balls.

**98. Recently, Equitas Small Finance Bank entered into a strategic bancassurance partnership to expand its life insurance offerings for customers. With which life insurance company has this agreement been signed?**

हाल ही में Equitas Small Finance Bank ने अपने ग्राहकों के लिए जीवन बीमा सेवाओं का विस्तार करने हेतु एक रणनीतिक बैकअश्योरेंस साझेदारी की है। यह समझौता किस जीवन बीमा कंपनी के साथ किया गया है?

- (a) HDFC Life Insurance
- (b) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- (c) Bharti AXA Life Insurance
- (d) SBI Life Insurance
- (e) Max Life Insurance

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Equitas Small Finance Bank Partners with Bharti AXA Life for Bancassurance Services

Equitas Small Finance Bank has entered into a strategic bancassurance partnership with Bharti AXA Life Insurance, a subsidiary of Bharti Life Ventures Pvt. Ltd.

Under the partnership, Bharti AXA Life will offer protection, savings, and retirement insurance plans to Equitas SFB customers through its 1,042+ banking outlets across 18 states/UTs.

The collaboration aims to boost life insurance penetration and enhance long-term financial preparedness by leveraging Equitas SFB's distribution network and Bharti AXA Life's insurance expertise.

**99. Bastar Pandum Festival is primarily associated with which Indian state?**

**Bastar Pandum Festival मुख्य रूप से भारत के किस राज्य से संबंधित है?**

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Jharkhand
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Telangana
- (e) Chhattisgarh

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated grand tribal cultural festival 'Bastar Pandum-2026' in Jagdalpur

President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated the Bastar Pandum Festival during her one-day visit to Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh.

The Bastar Pandum Festival features divisional-level cultural competitions, with over 700 artists from 84 teams showcasing 12 tribal art forms, including folk dances, handicrafts, traditional cuisine, and indigenous musical instruments.

Focused on tribal heritage, folk arts, and indigenous lifestyles, the festival promotes cultural preservation and youth engagement, with over 54,000 participants registered this year, reflecting its growing popularity and deep cultural significance.

**100. India successfully test-fired the Agni-III intermediate-range ballistic missile from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur (Odisha). What is the approximate strike range of the Agni-III ballistic missile?**

भारत ने इंटीग्रेटेड टेस्ट रेंज, चांदीपुर (ओडिशा) से अग्नि-III इंटरमीडिएट-रेंज बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल का सफल परीक्षण किया। अग्नि-III बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल की अनुमानित मारक क्षमता कितनी है?

- (a) 1,500–2,000 km
- (b) 2,000–2,500 km
- (c) 3,000–3,500 km
- (d) 4,000–4,500 km
- (e) Above 5,000 km

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India successfully test-fires Agni-III intermediate-range ballistic missile  
 India successfully test-fired the Agni-III intermediate-range ballistic missile from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur (Odisha).

The launch was conducted by the Strategic Forces Command, with the missile following its pre-designated trajectory and meeting all mission objectives, highlighting the operational readiness of India's strategic forces.

Agni-III, an indigenously developed, two-stage solid-fuel missile with a range of 3,000–3,500 km, is capable of carrying a 1,500 kg payload, uses advanced inertial navigation with GPS support, and is designed primarily as a nuclear delivery system.

**101. Which regulatory body has imposed a compounding fee on Paytm for FEMA violations?**

किस नियामक संस्था ने Paytm पर FEMA उल्लंघनों के लिए कंपाउंडिंग शुल्क लगाया है?

- (a) SEBI
- (b) SIDBI
- (c) Reserve Bank of India
- (d) IRDAI
- (e) NITI Aayog

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** RBI Imposes ₹18.76 Lakh Compounding Fee on Paytm for FEMA Violations

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a compounding fee of ₹18.76 lakh on Paytm for FEMA violations related to investments in one of its subsidiaries. Paytm stated that the compounding fee is a regulatory resolution mechanism under FEMA and does not have a material impact on its operations. Compounding involves voluntarily admitting the contravention, seeking redressal, and once paid, the matter will be disposed of, resolving the issue linked to the violations.

### **About Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**

- **Founded** - 1 April 1935
- **RBI Nationalized** - 1 January 1949
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **RBI set up** - Hilton Young Commission
- **1st Governor** - Sir Osborne Smith (Australia)
- **1st Indian Governor** - CD Deshmukh
- **26th Governor** - Sanjay Malhotra (replace Shaktikanta Das)
- **RBI Deputy Governor (4)** - 1. Tavana Rabi Sankar  
2. Swaminathan Janakiraman  
3. Poonam Gupta  
4. Shirish Chandra Murmu

**102. The Government has sanctioned over 3.87 crore houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) to States and Union Territories. As of 2nd February, more than 2.95 crore houses have been completed, while 2.10 crore houses were sanctioned in the last five years. Which ministry is responsible for implementing this scheme?**

सरकार ने राज्यों और केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों को 3.87 करोड़ से अधिक घरों की स्वीकृति दी है। 2 फरवरी तक 2.95 करोड़ से अधिक घर पूरे हो चुके हैं, जबकि पिछले पांच वर्षों में 2.10 करोड़ घरों को मंजूरी दी गई। इस योजना को लागू करने की जिम्मेदारी किस मंत्रालय की है?

- (a) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- (b) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- (c) Ministry of Rural Development
- (d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- (e) Ministry of Panchayati Raj

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Govt sanctions over 3 crore 87 lakh houses to States & Union Territories under PMAY-G

The Government has sanctioned over 3.87 crore houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) to States and Union Territories. As of 2nd February, more than 2.95 crore houses have been completed, while 2.10 crore houses were sanctioned in the last five years, highlighting accelerated progress. PMAY-G, implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development since 1st April 2016, aims to construct 4.95 crore rural houses by March 2029.

**103. Which private equity firm has received RBI approval to acquire up to 9.99% stake in Federal Bank?**

किस प्राइवेट इक्विटी फर्म को Federal Bank में 9.99% तक हिस्सेदारी खरीदने के लिए RBI की मंजूरी मिली है?

- (a) Warburg Pincus
- (b) SMBC
- (c) Blackstone
- (d) Emirates NBD
- (e) Abu Dhabi Investment Authority

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** RBI Approves Blackstone's ₹6,196 Crore Investment to Acquire 9.99% Stake in Federal Bank

RBI approves Blackstone's investment in Federal Bank, allowing the private equity firm to acquire up to 9.99% stake through a preferential issue via private placement. Blackstone will invest ₹6,196.51 crore via Asia II Topco XIII Pte Ltd, making it the largest shareholder in Federal Bank, which has no promoter and all publicly held shares.

The move reflects growing foreign investment interest in India's banking sector, following large investments by Emirates NBD in RBL Bank, SMBC in Yes Bank, and Warburg Pincus & ADIA in IDFC First Bank, and aligns with potential reforms allowing up to 49% foreign ownership in public sector banks.

**104. Which district has become the first in India to achieve 100% insurance coverage under the 'Insurance for All by 2047' roadmap?**

'इंश्योरेंस फॉर ऑल बाय 2047' रोडमैप के अंतर्गत 100% बीमा कवरेज हासिल करने वाला भारत का पहला जिला कौन-सा है?

- (a) Jaipur district of Rajasthan
- (b) Gurugram dist of Haryana
- (c) Indore district of Madhya Pradesh

**(d) Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh**

**(e) Alwar district of Rajasthan**

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Alwar Becomes India's First District to Achieve 100% Insurance Coverage Under 'Insurance for All by 2047' has become India's first to achieve 100% insurance coverage, marking a major milestone under the Centre's 'Insurance for All by 2047' vision of a Secure India–Insured India.

The initiative is a joint effort of the Government of India and IRDAI under the Ministry of Finance, aiming for universal, affordable, and inclusive insurance coverage by the centenary of Independence.

Complete saturation was achieved through door-to-door surveys, bringing all identified uninsured residents across nine villages under formal insurance coverage and creating a model for nationwide replication.

**105. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off a joint expedition to Mount Aconcagua from South Block, New Delhi, led by the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (Uttarkashi) and the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering & Winter Sports (Pahalgam). Mount Aconcagua is located in which country?**

रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने नई दिल्ली के साउथ ब्लॉक से नेहरू इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ माउंटेनियरिंग (उत्तरकाशी) और जवाहर इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ माउंटेनियरिंग एंड विंटर स्पोर्ट्स (पहलगाम) के नेतृत्व में माउंट एकाॅनकागुआ के लिए एक संयुक्त अभियान को हरी झंडी दिखाई। माउंट एकाॅनकागुआ किस देश में स्थित है?

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Rajnath Singh Flags Off Joint Indian Expedition to Mount Aconcagua  
 Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off a joint expedition to Mount Aconcagua in Argentina from South Block, New Delhi, led by the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (Uttarkashi) and the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering & Winter Sports (Pahalgam).

The expedition begins on 6 February 2026 and concludes by month-end, aiming to scale Mount Aconcagua (6,960 m), the highest peak in South America and the highest mountain outside Asia.

**106. Which institution has launched the ₹600 crore IIT Madras Unicorn Frontier Fund aimed at supporting deep-tech startups?**

डीप-टेक स्टार्टअप्स को समर्थन देने के उद्देश्य से ₹600 करोड़ का IIT मद्रास यूनिकॉर्न फ्रंटियर फंड किस संस्था ने लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- (b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- (c) NITI Aayog in collaboration with private investors
- (d) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- (e) IIT Madras Research Park

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** IIT Madras Research Park Launches ₹600 Crore Unicorn Frontier Fund for Deep-Tech Startups

IIT Madras Research Park has launched the ₹600 crore IIT Madras Unicorn Frontier Fund, a deep-tech-focused venture capital fund, with Unicorn India Ventures appointed as the fund manager and a ₹400 crore greenshoe option.

The fund will invest ₹5–10 crore per startup, targeting frontier domains aligned with India's strategic priorities such as defence, climate tech, quantum computing, and semiconductors.

**107. What is the maximum compensation proposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for victims of small-value online frauds under its new draft framework?**

नए ड्राफ्ट ढांचे के तहत छोटे मूल्य की ऑनलाइन धोखाधड़ी के पीड़ितों को RBI द्वारा प्रस्तावित अधिकतम मुआवजा कितना है?

- (a) ₹10,000
- (b) ₹15,000
- (c) ₹15,000
- (d) ₹25,000
- (e) Full refund of the amount lost without any limit

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** RBI Proposes Compensation of Up to ₹25,000 for Victims of Online Fraud

RBI has proposed a compensation framework for victims of online fraud, offering relief of up to ₹25,000 for losses arising from small-value fraudulent transactions.

Under the proposed mechanism, the victim and the bank will each bear 15% of the loss, while the remaining amount (up to 85%) will be paid by the RBI from its Depositor Education and Awareness Fund.

Compensation will be limited to the lower of 85% of the amount lost or ₹25,000, with examples showing payouts of ₹17,000 on a ₹20,000 loss and ₹25,000 on a ₹50,000 loss.

No questions will be asked of victims for small frauds (below ₹50,000)—which make up 65% of online fraud cases—even if an OTP was shared, provided the loss was unintended and not mala fide.

**108. The RBI has increased the collateral-free loan limit for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) from ₹10 lakh to what amount?**

RBI ने माइक्रो और स्मॉल एंटरप्राइजेज के लिए बिना गारंटी ऋण सीमा ₹10 लाख से बढ़ाकर कितनी कर दी है?

- (a) ₹12 lakh
- (b) ₹15 lakh
- (c) ₹18 lakh
- (d) ₹20 lakh
- (e) ₹25 lakh

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** RBI Doubles Collateral-Free Loan Limit for Micro and Small Enterprises to ₹20 Lakh

RBI has doubled the limit of collateral-free loans for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) from ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh, giving a major boost to small businesses.

The enhanced limit will apply to all MSE loans sanctioned or renewed on or after April 1, aimed at improving access to formal credit, encouraging entrepreneurship, and strengthening last-mile credit delivery.

RBI data shows strong credit growth in the industry segment, with 13.3% year-on-year growth as of December 31, 2025, compared to 7.5% a year earlier, highlighting rising credit demand.

**109. India won the SAFF Under-19 Women's Championship title after defeating which team in the final?**

फाइनल में किस टीम को हराकर भारत ने SAFF अंडर-19 महिला चैंपियनशिप का खिताब जीता?

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

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** India Crush Bangladesh 4–0 to Win SAFF Under-19 Women’s Football Championship

India clinched the SAFF Under-19 Women’s Championship title by defeating Bangladesh 4–0 in the final at the Pokhara Rangasala Stadium, Nepal.

Captain Julan Nongmaithem opened the scoring, followed by goals from Elizabeth Lakra, Pearl Fernandes, and substitute Anwita Raghuraman, as the Young Tigresses delivered a dominant performance.

The emphatic win helped India avenge their earlier round-robin defeat and served as key preparation, with the Under-17 women’s team participating ahead of the AFC Under-17 Women’s Asian Cup later this year.

**110. National Opera Day is observed on which date?**

राष्ट्रीय ओपेरा दिवस किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 6 February
- (b) 7 February
- (c) 8 February
- (d) 9 February
- (e) 10 February

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 8 February - National Opera Day

National Opera Day is observed on 8 February to celebrate the rich tradition and cultural significance of opera as a performing art.

The day highlights the role of opera in storytelling through music, drama, and vocals, and promotes appreciation of classical and contemporary opera forms.

**111. According to the government, the India–US Trade Agreement has opened access to a global import market worth how much for textiles and apparel?**

सरकार के अनुसार, भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार समझौते ने टेक्सटाइल और कपड़ों के लिए कितने मूल्य के ग्लोबल इंपोर्ट मार्केट तक पहुंच खोल दी है?

- (a) \$85 billion
- (b) \$95 billion
- (c) \$108 billion
- (d) \$118 billion
- (e) \$130 billion

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** India-US Trade Deal Opens \$118 Billion Global Textile Market: Government

The India–US Trade Agreement has opened access to a \$118 billion global import market for textiles, apparel and made-ups, significantly boosting India’s textile export potential.

The US remains India’s largest textile export destination with exports worth about \$10.5 billion, of which nearly 70% is apparel and 15% made-ups; the agreement strengthens bilateral textile trade ties.

With 18% reciprocal tariffs, India gains a competitive edge over rivals, helping reduce costs, diversify sourcing from the US, promote value-added textile manufacturing, and support the \$100 billion textile export target by 2030.

**112. Recently, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the nationwide Pulses Self-Reliance Mission with the objective of strengthening domestic pulse production and making India a global exporter of pulses. From which location was this mission officially launched?**

हाल ही में, केंद्रीय कृषि और किसान कल्याण और ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान ने घरेलू दलहन उत्पादन को मज़बूत करने और भारत को दलहन का वैश्विक निर्यातक बनाने के उद्देश्य से राष्ट्रव्यापी दलहन आत्मनिर्भरता मिशन लॉन्च किया। इस मिशन को आधिकारिक तौर पर किस स्थान से लॉन्च किया गया था?

- (a) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi
- (b) Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Pusa
- (c) Food Legumes Research Centre (FLRP), Amlaha, Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Bhopal
- (e) National Seed Corporation, Indore

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launches Nationwide Pulse Self-Reliance Mission

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the nationwide Pulses Self-Reliance Mission from the Food Legumes Research Centre (FLRP), Amlaha (Sehore), Madhya Pradesh, in the presence of senior central and state leaders.

The mission’s roadmap focuses on cluster-based pulse production, seed villages, setting up 1,000 pulse mills, and strengthening research–farmer linkages across the country.

**113. PLASTINDIA 2026, one of the world’s largest plastics exhibitions, is being held in New Delhi as a 6-day event focusing on building a self-reliant industrial base, boosting manufacturing-led growth and large-scale employment. What is the theme of PLASTINDIA 2026?**

**PLASTINDIA 2026**, दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी प्लास्टिक प्रदर्शनियों में से एक, नई दिल्ली में 6-दिवसीय कार्यक्रम के रूप में आयोजित की जा रही है, जिसका फोकस आत्मनिर्भर औद्योगिक आधार बनाने, मैनुफैक्चरिंग-आधारित विकास और बड़े पैमाने पर रोजगार को बढ़ावा देने पर है। **PLASTINDIA 2026** की थीम क्या है

- (a) Make in India
- (b) Green Growth
- (c) Sustainable Future
- (d) Bharat Next
- (e) Industry 5.0

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** PLASTINDIA 2026 Kicks Off in New Delhi

PLASTINDIA 2026, one of the world's largest plastics exhibitions, is being held in New Delhi as a 6-day event focusing on building a self-reliant industrial base, boosting manufacturing-led growth and large-scale employment.

The exhibition provides a major platform for youth, innovators and start-ups to showcase sustainable plastic solutions; companies like ExxonMobil are displaying advanced chemicals and lubrication solutions and collaborating with OEMs.

With the theme "BHARAT NEXT", aligned with Atmanirbhar Bharat, PLASTINDIA 2026 is being organized as a zero-wastage exhibition at Bharat Mandapam, concluding on the 10th of this month.

**114. The Black Swan Summit India is being organised by which state government?**

**ब्लैक स्वान समिट इंडिया किस राज्य सरकार द्वारा आयोजित की जा रही है?**

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Telangana
- (d) Kerala
- (e) Odisha

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Black Swan Summit India Begins in Bhubaneswar to Boost AI and Digital Finance Ecosystem

The two-day Black Swan Summit India has begun in Bhubaneswar, organised by the Odisha Government under the BharatNetra initiative, aiming to position the state as a hub for AI, FinTech and InsurTech.

Held for the first time in India, the summit has drawn 1,700+ delegates from 24 countries and nearly 100 speakers from five continents, highlighting its global significance.

Skill development and employment are key focuses, with a job fair for youth, and President Droupadi Murmu scheduled to attend on the second day along with Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi.

**115. Spain has announced a nationwide ban on social media access for children below which age?**

स्पेन ने बच्चों के लिए सोशल मीडिया उपयोग पर कितने वर्ष से कम आयु के लिए प्रतिबंध की घोषणा की है?

- (a) 10 years
- (b) 12 years
- (c) 15 years
- (d) 16 years
- (e) 18 years

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Spain Becomes First European Nation to Ban Social Media for Children Under 16  
Spain has imposed a nationwide ban on social media for children under 16, becoming the first European country and the second globally after Australia to take this step.

**About Spain**

- **Capital-** Madrid
- **Currency** – Euro
- **Prime Minister-** Pedro Sánchez
- **Official language-** Spanish

**116. Which company has secured a defence export contract to supply a training ship to the Royal Navy of Oman?**

रॉयल नेवी ऑफ ओमान को प्रशिक्षण पोत आपूर्ति करने का रक्षा निर्यात अनुबंध किस कंपनी को मिला है?

- (a) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- (b) Garden Reach Shipbuilders
- (c) Larsen & Toubro
- (d) Swan Defence and Heavy Industries Limited
- (e) Cochin Shipyard Limited

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Swan Defence Secures Oman Navy Training Ship Export Contract

Swan Defence and Heavy Industries Limited (SDHI) has secured a defence export contract from the Government of Oman to supply a training ship for the Royal Navy of Oman, to be delivered within 18 months.

The 104.25-metre training vessel will feature classrooms, training offices, an auditorium for 70 officer cadets, advanced navigation and communication systems, and helicopter operation capability.

The order marks a major boost to India's defence shipbuilding exports, aligning with the Amrit Kaal Vision, as SDHI showcases its world-class shipbuilding capacity at its Pipavav facility in Gujarat.

**117. India will host the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship for the second consecutive time in which year?**

भारत लगातार दूसरी बार किस वर्ष एशियन राइफल/पिस्टल चैंपियनशिप की मेजबानी करेगा?

- (a) 2025
- (b) 2026
- (c) 2027
- (d) 2028
- (e) 2029

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India to Host Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2027 in New Delhi

India will host the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2027 after the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) secured the hosting rights through a successful bid.

This marks the second consecutive time India will host the prestigious continental shooting championship, to be held from 1–10 December 2027 at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Ranges, New Delhi.

The 2027 championship will double as an Olympic qualifier for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics, with eight Olympic quota places up for grabs for Asian shooters.

**118. Esha Singh won the gold medal in which event at the Asian Rifle and Pistol Championship?**

एशा सिंह ने एशियन राइफल और पिस्टल चैंपियनशिप में किस स्पर्धा में स्वर्ण पदक जीता?

- (a) 25m Sports Pistol
- (b) 50m Rifle 3 Positions
- (c) 10m Air Pistol
- (d) 10m Air Rifle
- (e) Rapid Fire Pistol

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Esha Singh Strikes Gold as India Dominates Women's 10m Air Pistol at Asian Championship

Esha Singh won gold in the women's individual 10m air pistol event on the opening day of the Asian Rifle and Pistol Championship at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range, New Delhi.

The 21-year-old scored 239.8 points, finishing ahead of Cheng Yen-Ching (silver, 235.4) and Yu Ai-Wen (bronze, 217.7) of Chinese Taipei.

India also clinched team gold in the women's 10m air pistol event with a total score of 1,726, led by Esha Singh, Manu Bhaker, and Suruchi Singh.

**119. Which state-owned power sector financier's board approved a merger with its subsidiary REC Ltd, as part of the government's plan to enhance efficiency of public-sector non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)?**

किस सरकारी स्वामित्व वाली विद्युत क्षेत्र की वित्तपोषक कंपनी के बोर्ड ने अपनी सहायक कंपनी REC लिमिटेड के साथ विलय को मंजूरी दी, जो सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के गैर-बैंकिंग वित्त कंपनियों (NBFCs) की दक्षता बढ़ाने की सरकार की योजना का हिस्सा है?

- (a) NTPC
- (b) Power Finance Corporation
- (c) Rural Electrification Corporation
- (d) NHPC
- (e) Power Grid Corporation

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** PFC board clears merger with REC to boost scale, efficiency of NBFCs  
Power Finance Corporation (PFC) announced that its board has approved the merger with its subsidiary REC Ltd, as part of the government's plan to enhance efficiency in public-sector NBFCs.

In March 2019, PFC acquired 52.63% of the government's stake in REC Ltd for ₹14,500 crore, and both entities have been operating as holding and subsidiary companies since then.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Budget speech 2026, highlighted plans to restructure PFC and REC to achieve scale, improve efficiency, and adopt technology in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat.

**120. International Epilepsy Day is observed every year on 10 February to raise awareness about epilepsy and reduce stigma associated with the condition. What is the theme of International Epilepsy Day 2026?**

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मिर्गी दिवस हर साल 10 फरवरी को मिर्गी के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने और इस बीमारी से जुड़े कलंक को कम करने के लिए मनाया जाता है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मिर्गी दिवस 2026 का थीम क्या है?

- (a) #Epilepsy Awareness for All
- (b) #EpilepsyPledge: Turning Stories into Action
- (c) #Understanding Epilepsy
- (d) #Early Diagnosis Saves Lives
- (e) #Fighting Stigma Together

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 10 February - International Epilepsy Day

International Epilepsy Day is observed every year on 10 February to raise awareness about epilepsy and reduce stigma associated with the condition.

Theme 2026 - #EpilepsyPledge: Turning Stories into Action

The day aims to educate the public, promote early diagnosis and treatment, and support people living with epilepsy globally.

**121. World Pulses Day is observed annually on 10 February to raise awareness about the importance of pulses in food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture. What is the theme of World Pulses Day 2026?**

विश्व दलहन दिवस हर साल 10 फरवरी को खाद्य सुरक्षा, पोषण और टिकाऊ कृषि में दालों के महत्व के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए मनाया जाता है। विश्व दलहन दिवस 2026 की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Pulses for Nutrition
- (b) Pulses of the World: From Modesty to Excellence
- (c) Global Protein Power
- (d) Sustainable Agriculture and Pulses
- (e) Healthy Eating with Pulses

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 10 February - World Pulses Day

World Pulses Day is observed annually on 10 February to raise awareness about the importance of pulses in food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture.

Theme 2026 - **Pulses of the World: From Modesty to Excellence**

The day highlights the role of pulses in healthy diets, reducing malnutrition, and promoting protein-rich plant-based foods.

Designated by the United Nations, the day emphasizes sustainable agricultural practices and the contribution of pulses to environmental conservation.

**122. The 39th Surajkund International Crafts Mela was held in Faridabad, Haryana, attracting widespread public participation and enthusiasm. This year's theme, "Vocal to Global", aims to promote Indian crafts and culture on the international stage. Which states were the theme states for the Mela?**

39वां सूरजकुंड अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शिल्प मेला हरियाणा के फरीदाबाद में आयोजित किया गया, जिसमें बड़े पैमाने पर लोगों ने हिस्सा लिया और उत्साह दिखाया। इस साल की थीम, "वोकल टू ग्लोबल", का मकसद भारतीय शिल्प और संस्कृति को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मंच पर बढ़ावा देना है। मेले के लिए थीम राज्य कौन से थे?

- (a) Rajasthan and Kerala
- (b) Uttar Pradesh and Meghalaya
- (c) Gujarat and Punjab
- (d) Madhya Pradesh and Assam
- (e) Haryana and Bihar

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 39th Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2026 Begins in Haryana with Theme "Vocal to Global"

The 39th Surajkund International Crafts Mela was held in Faridabad, Haryana, attracting widespread public participation and enthusiasm.

This year's theme, "Vocal to Global", aims to promote Indian crafts and culture on the international stage.

Uttar Pradesh and Meghalaya are the theme states, showcasing their unique cultural heritage, while Egypt participates as the partner nation, adding an international dimension.

The Mela emphasizes self-reliance (Atma Nirbharta) by empowering artists and craftsmen, as highlighted by Parth Gupta, MD of Haryana Tourism Corporation.

**123. When is National Deworming Day observed in India?**

भारत में राष्ट्रीय डिवार्मिंग दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 12 February
- (b) 10 February
- (c) 11 February
- (d) 9 February
- (e) 13 February

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 10 February - National Deworming Day

National Deworming Day is observed every year on 10 February across India to improve children's health by controlling parasitic worm infections.

The program primarily targets children aged 1–19 years in schools, anganwadis, and communities, ensuring widespread coverage.

The initiative aims to eliminate intestinal worms, reduce malnutrition, improve absorption of nutrients, and enhance overall growth and development in children.

**124. Which state's women's team won the gold medal in the Women's Category at the Para Throwball National Federation Cup 2026?**

पैरा थ्रोबल नेशनल फेडरेशन कप 2026 में महिलाओं की श्रेणी में कौन-सी राज्य की टीम ने स्वर्ण पदक जीता?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Jharkhand
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Telangana
- (e) Haryana

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Jharkhand Women Win Gold at Para Throwball National Federation Cup 2026  
Jharkhand's women's team won the gold medal in the Para Throwball National Federation Cup 2026, defeating Rajasthan 21–17 in the final held at Jhunjhunu. The competition was held from February 3 to 5, featuring high-quality matches and tactical play, with Jharkhand women delivering a composed and well-structured championship campaign.

In the men's category, Andhra Pradesh won the title, Telangana finished as runners-up and Haryana secured the bronze medal, while Jharkhand placed fourth.

**125. Which city has recently joined the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)?**

हाल ही में कौन-सा शहर ग्लोबल आउटब्रेक अलर्ट एंड रिस्पॉन्स नेटवर्क (GOARN) से जुड़ा है?

- (a) London
- (b) New York
- (c) Paris
- (d) Tokyo
- (e) New Delhi

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** New York City Joins WHO-Coordinated Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)

New York City (USA) has joined the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), which is coordinated by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Established in 2000, GOARN is a WHO-coordinated network comprising 360+ institutions worldwide, including public health agencies, laboratories, universities and technical organisations.

GOARN aims to detect, monitor and rapidly respond to disease outbreaks and public health emergencies at the global level.

**126. State Bank of India's standalone profit after tax in Q3FY26 increased by what percentage on a year-on-year basis?**

स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया का Q3FY26 में टैक्स के बाद स्टैंडअलोन प्रॉफ़िट पिछले साल के मुकाबले कितने प्रतिशत बढ़ा?

- (a) 12.5%
- (b) 18.4%
- (c) 21.0%
- (d) 24.5%
- (e) 30.2%

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** SBI Q3FY26 Profit Jumps 24.5% to ₹21,028 Crore on Higher Net Interest Income State Bank of India (SBI) reported a 24.5% year-on-year rise in standalone profit after tax to ₹21,028 crore in Q3FY26, driven mainly by an increase in Net Interest Income (NII).

SBI's Net Interest Income grew 9.04% YoY, while the Net Interest Margin (NIM) dipped marginally to 3.12% from 3.15% in the year-ago period.

Gross advances rose 15.17% to ₹46.8 lakh crore and deposits increased 9.02% to ₹57 lakh crore; asset quality improved with GNPA falling 12.3% to ₹73,637 crore and Net NPA declining 15.74% to ₹18,012 crore.

**127. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed exempting which category of NBFCs from mandatory registration?**

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) ने किस श्रेणी के NBFCs को अनिवार्य पंजीकरण से छूट देने का प्रस्ताव किया है?

- (a) Type-1 NBFCs with assets below ₹1,000 crore
- (b) Systemically Important NBFCs
- (c) Deposit-taking NBFCs
- (d) Housing Finance Companies
- (e) Microfinance NBFCs

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** RBI Proposes Exempting Small Type-1 NBFCs from Registration to Ease Compliance Burden

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed exempting Type-1 NBFCs with an asset size below ₹1,000 crore from mandatory registration with the RBI, subject to specified conditions.

Type-1 NBFCs are entities that do not access public/external funds and have no customer interface, largely covering pure-play, equity-funded investment companies. Experts estimate that if implemented, the proposal could reduce the number of registered NBFCs from over 9,000 to nearly half or even lower, leading to a more streamlined regulatory framework.

The move is logical and efficient, as such investment companies pose minimal systemic risk, and may encourage firms to restructure liabilities to avoid public funds and regulatory burden.

**128. The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare signed an MoU with which organisation to operationalise a traceable logistics mechanism?**

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय ने ट्रेसेबल लॉजिस्टिक्स तंत्र लागू करने के लिए किस संगठन के साथ MoU किया है?

- (a) Department of Posts
- (b) Food Corporation of India
- (c) Indian Railways
- (d) NITI Aayog
- (e) National Informatics Centre

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Agriculture Ministry Signs MoU with Department of Posts for Fully Traceable Agri Input Sample Logistics

The Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare signed an MoU with the Department of Posts to implement a standardised, faceless and fully traceable logistics system for transporting samples of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides.

The initiative ensures tamper-proof, time-bound transportation of samples from collection centres to designated laboratories with end-to-end digital tracking.

The system digitises the entire quality control chain—target fixation, sample collection, laboratory testing, report generation and prosecution, thereby strengthening regulatory enforcement under relevant agricultural laws.

**129. Goa became the second state in India to publish a comprehensive State-level Bird Atlas after which state?**

गोवा, भारत में किस राज्य के बाद व्यापक राज्य-स्तरीय बर्ड एटलस प्रकाशित करने वाला दूसरा राज्य बना है?

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

Ans. c

**Sol.** Goa Becomes Second State To Publish Bird Atlas

Goa has become the second state in India, after Kerala, to publish a comprehensive State-level Bird Atlas, strengthening avian research, biodiversity documentation and conservation planning.

The Bird Atlas of Goa was released during the 9th Bird Festival of Goa held at Valpoi, themed "Majestic Mhadei", highlighting the biodiversity of the Mhadei river basin. Along with the atlas, a Konkani-language publication on bird nomenclature was launched to promote community participation, citizen science and wider public awareness in wildlife conservation.

**About Goa**

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

**130. As per the tripartite agreement signed between the Central Government, the Government of Nagaland and the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO), the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) will be established for how many districts of Nagaland?**

केंद्र सरकार, नागालैंड सरकार और पूर्वी नागालैंड पीपुल्स ऑर्गनाइजेशन (ENPO) के बीच हस्ताक्षरित त्रिपक्षीय समझौते के अनुसार, नागालैंड के कितने जिलों के लिए फ्रंटियर नागालैंड टेरिटोरियल अथॉरिटी (FNTA) की स्थापना की जाएगी?

- (a) Four
- (b) Five
- (c) Six
- (d) Seven
- (e) Eight

Ans. c

**Sol.** Centre, Nagaland Govt and ENPO Sign Agreement to Form Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA)

The Central Government, Nagaland Government and the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO) signed an agreement to establish the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) for 6 eastern districts of Nagaland, in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio.

The FNTA will have powers over 46 subjects, a mini-Secretariat headed by a senior officer, and proportionate sharing of development outlay based on population and area, while not affecting Article 371(A) of the Constitution.

The agreement aims at inclusive governance, financial autonomy and accelerated development of Eastern Nagaland, marking another step toward a dispute-free North-East, with the Modi government having signed 12 major peace agreements since 2019.

### About Nagaland

- Formation - 1 December 1963
- Capital- Kohima
- Chief Minister- Neiphiu Rio
- Governor- Ajay Kumar Bhalla (additional charge)

**131. What is the name of the operation launched by Delhi Police to curb online threats and fear-mongering?**

ऑनलाइन धमकियों और भय फैलाने पर रोक लगाने के लिए दिल्ली पुलिस ने किस ऑपरेशन की शुरुआत की है?

- (a) Operation Suraksha
- (b) Operation Cyber Shield
- (c) Operation Shastra
- (d) Operation Kavach
- (e) Operation Prahar

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Delhi Police Launches 'Operation Shastra' to Curb Online Threats and Fear-Mongering

Delhi Police has launched "Operation Shastra" to curb the misuse of social media platforms for spreading fear, intimidation and criminal posturing.

The operation targets individuals posting photos/videos with weapons and using abusive, threatening or fear-mongering language online to maintain public order and digital safety.

**132. As part of a corporate restructuring exercise approved by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), how many wholly-owned subsidiaries of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) are proposed to be merged?**

कॉर्पोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय (MCA) द्वारा स्वीकृत कॉर्पोरेट पुनर्गठन योजना के तहत, पावर ग्रिड कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड (POWERGRID) की कितनी पूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली सहायक कंपनियों के विलय का प्रस्ताव है?

- (a) 12
- (b) 15
- (c) 16
- (d) 17
- (e) 18

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** MCA Approves Merger of 17 POWERGRID Subsidiaries Under Corporate Restructuring Plan

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has approved the merger of 17 wholly-owned subsidiaries of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) as part of a corporate restructuring exercise.

The restructuring will be carried out through two composite schemes of arrangement—Scheme Group-A and Scheme Group-B.

Under Group-A, 12 subsidiaries will merge into POWERGRID Khavda II-C Transmission Limited, while Group-B involves the merger of 5 subsidiaries into POWERGRID Vataman Transmission Limited.

**About Power Grid Corporation of India Limited**

- Ministry- Ministry of Power
- Founded- 23 October 1989
- Headquarters- Gurugram, Haryana
- CMD- Ravindra Kumar Tyagi

**133. Which port authority became the first in India to initiate the implementation of an Anti-Drone System?**

भारत में एंटी-ड्रोन सिस्टम लागू करने की पहल करने वाला पहला पोर्ट प्राधिकरण कौन-सा है?

- (a) Deendayal Port Authority
- (b) Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority
- (c) V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority
- (d) Chennai Port Authority
- (e) Paradip Port Authority

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** VOC Port Becomes First In India To Deploy Anti-Drone System

V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority has become the first port in India to begin implementing an advanced Anti-Drone System to strengthen maritime and coastal security.

The system integrates RF and radar-based technologies, offering 360° coverage up to 5 km, with real-time detection, tracking and neutralisation of unauthorised drones in complex port environments.

The project is being implemented in collaboration with Central Electronics Limited (CEL) and is expected to be completed within three months, enhancing protection of critical port infrastructure.

**134. Kerala is set to launch which AI-powered mobile application for identifying invasive plant species?**

केरल इनवेसिव पौधों की प्रजातियों की पहचान करने के लिए कौन सा AI-पावर्ड मोबाइल एप्लिकेशन लॉन्च करने जा रहा है?

- (a) FloraScan
- (b) GreenWatch
- (c) NeophyteID
- (d) PlantSafe
- (e) EcoTrack

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Kerala Launches NeophyteID for Invasive Plant Detection

Kerala is set to launch "NeophyteID", an AI-powered mobile application for detecting and managing invasive plant species, with its formal launch scheduled at the Kerala Science Congress.

Developed by researchers at the Malabar Botanical Garden and Institute for Plant Sciences, the app uses artificial intelligence to identify non-native plants (neophytes) from smartphone-captured images, aiding early detection and rapid response.

Powered by the YOLOv11 machine learning model and integrated with geospatial tagging, NeophyteID enables fast, accurate identification and location-based monitoring to protect Kerala's vulnerable ecosystems.

**135. Andhra Pradesh has announced an exclusive Women Industrial Park spread over 30 acres, dedicated entirely to women-owned and women-managed enterprises, to promote women-led industrial growth. With which organisation has the Andhra Pradesh government signed an MoU to operationalise the Women Industrial Park?**

आंध्र प्रदेश ने 30 एकड़ में फैला एक खास महिला इंडस्ट्रियल पार्क बनाने की घोषणा की है, जो पूरी तरह से महिलाओं के मालिकाना हक वाले और महिलाओं द्वारा मैनेज किए जाने वाले उद्यमों को समर्पित होगा, ताकि महिलाओं के नेतृत्व वाले औद्योगिक विकास को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके। आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार ने महिला इंडस्ट्रियल पार्क को चालू करने के लिए किस संगठन के साथ MoU पर साइन किए हैं?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) SIDBI
- (c) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- (d) FICCI Ladies Organisation (FICCI-FLO)
- (e) National Skill Development Corporation

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Andhra Pradesh Announces Exclusive 30-Acre Women Industrial Park

Andhra Pradesh has announced an exclusive Women Industrial Park spread over 30 acres, dedicated entirely to women-owned and women-managed enterprises, to promote women-led industrial growth.

The state government has signed an MoU with FICCI Ladies Organisation (FICCI-FLO) to provide institutional support, mentorship, skill development, and ecosystem-building for women entrepreneurs.

FICCI-FLO will act as the ecosystem enabler, mobilising women entrepreneurs across manufacturing, services, and technology, while focusing on long-term sustainability and access to markets and finance.

Infrastructure development will be handled by APIIC, aligning the initiative with CM N. Chandrababu Naidu's "One Family, One Entrepreneur" vision and the broader plan to set up 175 MSME parks across the state.

**136. The Ministry of Statistics has revised the base year of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 2012 to which year?**

सांख्यिकी मंत्रालय ने उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (CPI) का आधार वर्ष 2012 से बदलकर किस वर्ष कर दिया है?

- (a) 2022
- (b) 2023
- (c) 2024
- (d) 2025
- (e) 2026

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Ministry of Statistics Revises Consumer Price Index Base Year to 2024

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has revised the Consumer Price Index base year from 2012 to 2024. This revision reflects the post-pandemic shift in household consumption patterns across India.

India revises CPI base years roughly once every 5–10 years to maintain statistical relevance.

The first CPI 2024 data will be released on 12 February 2026. A linking factor will be provided to maintain continuity with CPI 2012. Initially, both series will coexist to aid smooth policy transition.

Why the CPI matters for India

- The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices paid by households for goods and services. It is the primary inflation indicator used for macroeconomic decision-making. CPI inflation directly influences interest rates, welfare schemes, and wage adjustments.
- The CPI basket expands from 299 to 358 items. New goods and services reflecting digital and service-oriented consumption are included. This allows more granular tracking of price movements.
- The revision also improves regional and quality-based representation of goods. It captures evolving preferences in transport, health, and lifestyle services.

**137. Who won the Global Teacher Prize 2026, receiving a USD 1 million award at the World Government Summit in Dubai, marking a major global recognition for Indian education?**

दुबई में वर्ल्ड गवर्नमेंट समिट में USD 1 मिलियन का अवार्ड पाकर ग्लोबल टीचर प्राइज़ 2026 किसने जीता, जो भारतीय शिक्षा के लिए एक बड़ी ग्लोबल पहचान है?

- (a) Sudha Murty
- (b) Rouble Nagi
- (c) Gita Gopinath
- (d) Kiran Bedi
- (e) Falguni Nayar

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Indian teacher wins Global Teacher Prize 2026 at World Government Summit  
Indian teacher Rouble Nagi won the Global Teacher Prize 2026, receiving a USD 1 million award at the World Government Summit in Dubai, marking a major global recognition for Indian education.

The award, in its 10th edition, was presented by GEMS Education and handed over by Dubai Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

She was honoured for transforming neglected walls into interactive educational murals, teaching literacy, numeracy, public health, and environmental awareness, and has helped over 1 million children enter formal education through art-based learning. Selected from 5,000+ nominations across 139 countries, Nagi has also established 800+ educational centres through the Rouble Nagi Art Foundation, benefiting 100+ low-income communities and villages across India.

**138. India and Canada recently agreed on a 'shared work plan' primarily to enhance cooperation in which area?**

भारत और कनाडा ने हाल ही में 'शेयर्ड वर्क प्लान' पर सहमति मुख्य रूप से किस क्षेत्र में सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए की?

- (a) Climate change mitigation
- (b) Trade and investment promotion
- (c) National security and law enforcement cooperation
- (d) Space research collaboration
- (e) Cultural exchange programmes

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India, Canada Finalise Shared Work Plan to Strengthen Security and Law Enforcement Cooperation

India and Canada agreed on a 'shared work plan' to strengthen cooperation in national security and law enforcement, with a focus on tackling transnational criminal networks and other common security challenges.

The decision was taken during a meeting between India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Canada's NSA Nathalie Drouin held in Ottawa.

The shared work plan aims to enable practical and priority-based cooperation, providing a structured framework to enhance bilateral security coordination between the two countries.

**139. IIT Madras Research Park (IITMRP) partnered with which venture capital firm to launch the ₹600 crore deep tech fund?**

आईआईटी मद्रास रिसर्च पार्क (IITMRP) ने ₹600 करोड़ के डीप टेक फंड की शुरुआत के लिए किस वेंचर कैपिटल फर्म के साथ साझेदारी की?

- (a) Sequoia Capital India
- (b) Accel Partners
- (c) Unicorn India Ventures
- (d) Nexus Venture Partners
- (e) Kalaari Capital

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** IIT Madras and Unicorn India Ventures Launch ₹600 Crore Deep Tech Fund to Boost IP-Led Startups

IIT Madras Research Park (IITMRP) and Unicorn India Ventures have launched a ₹600 crore deep tech fund, with an additional ₹400 crore greenshoe option, to strengthen India's innovation and startup ecosystem.

The fund aims to invest in 25+ IP-led, engineering-driven startups across sectors such as robotics, spacetech, defencetech, semiconductors, and medtech, aligned with India's strategic priorities.

About 60% of the corpus will be used for initial investments and 40% reserved for follow-on funding, ensuring "patient capital" support, with many startups expected to be sourced from the IIT Madras ecosystem.

**140. Which bank became the first custodian in India to issue a fully digital Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) licence?**

भारत में पूर्णतः डिजिटल विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेशक (FPI) लाइसेंस जारी करने वाला पहला कस्टोडियन बैंक कौन-सा बना?

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Kotak Mahindra Bank Issues India's First Fully Digital FPI Licence

Kotak Mahindra Bank became the first custodian in India to issue a fully digital FPI (Foreign Portfolio Investor) licence, completing the entire account-opening process through electronic signatures.

The initiative follows SEBI's operationalisation of a unified digital workflow in January 2026, enabling seamless and paperless onboarding for overseas investors.

The move strengthens Kotak's digital-first custody and onboarding ecosystem, simplifying and accelerating access to Indian financial markets for foreign investors.

**141. The Qualcomm 2 nm semiconductor chip was launched in Bengaluru by which Union Minister?**

क्वालकॉम 2 nm सेमीकंडक्टर चिप बेंगलुरु में किस केंद्रीय मंत्री ने लॉन्च किया?

- (a) Piyush Goyal
- (b) Rajeev Chandrasekhar
- (c) Ashwini Vaishnaw
- (d) Nirmala Sitharaman

**(e) Jyotiraditya Scindia****Ans. c**

**Sol.** Ashwini Vaishnaw Launches Qualcomm 2 nm Semiconductor Chip in Bengaluru  
Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched Qualcomm's 2 nm semiconductor chip in Bengaluru, highlighting India's growing role in advanced semiconductor design and global engineering operations.

The Minister stated that 10 semiconductor units are under construction, with 4 already starting pilot production, and the first unit expected to begin commercial production soon.

He emphasized the emergence of a strong talent pipeline, with students from remote universities actively designing, taping out, and validating semiconductor chips.

Under India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0, the focus will shift towards design-led startups, strengthening the semiconductor ecosystem (equipment, chemicals, testing), and deepening the talent base to enhance India's self-reliance in the sector.

**142. Which Indian Navy ship concluded the first port call of Lokayan 26 at Salalah, Oman?**

लोकायन 26 के अंतर्गत सलालाह, ओमान में पहली पोर्ट कॉल किस भारतीय नौसेना पोत ने पूरी की?

- (a) INS Tarangini
- (b) INS Vikramaditya
- (c) INS Sudarshini
- (d) INS Shardul
- (e) INS Tir

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** INS Sudarshini Concludes First Port Call of Lokayan 26 in Oman, Boosting India–Oman Maritime Ties

Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini concluded its first port call of Lokayan 26 at Salalah, Oman, strengthening India–Oman maritime ties.

The port call marked a significant milestone in the ship's ten-month trans-oceanic voyage, Lokayan 26, aimed at showcasing India's maritime heritage and the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The World is One Family).

INS Sudarshini will now proceed to the next leg of Lokayan 26, continuing to project India's seafaring legacy, maritime excellence, and goodwill across the oceans.

**143. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed an MoU with which organisation to enhance last-mile connectivity at select airports?**

एयरपोर्ट्स अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया (AAI) ने चयनित हवाई अड्डों पर अंतिम मील कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ाने के लिए किस संगठन के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Ola Cabs
- (b) Uber India
- (c) Bharat Taxi
- (d) Meru Cabs
- (e) Rapido

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** AAI Signs MoU with Bharat Taxi to Boost Passenger-Friendly Last-Mile Connectivity at Select Airports

Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed an MoU with Bharat Taxi to introduce regulated, transparent, and passenger-friendly cab services at select airports across India.

The MoU was exchanged by AAI Chairman Vipin Kumar, aiming to improve inclusive last-mile connectivity for air travellers through reliable airport-based transportation. Bharat Taxi operates on a driver-owned cooperative model, promoted by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and supported by leading cooperative institutions.

The initiative aligns with national priorities such as Atmanirbhar Bharat, Sahakar se Samridhi, and Viksit Bharat 2047, with services proposed at airports including Rajkot, Vadodara, Surat, Bhuj, Pune, Varanasi, Kanpur, Prayagraj, and Agra, among others.

**144. iLive Connect, recently launched by India, is described as the world's first:**  
हाल ही में भारत द्वारा लॉन्च किया गया iLive Connect किस रूप में वर्णित किया गया है?

- (a) AI-based medical college network
- (b) Doctor-led AI healthcare ecosystem
- (c) Government insurance portal
- (d) Robotic surgery platform
- (e) Telemedicine-only mobile application

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India Launches iLive Connect, World's First Doctor-Led AI Healthcare Ecosystem for Real-Time Home Monitoring

India launched iLive Connect, the world's first doctor-led AI healthcare ecosystem, aimed at providing continuous clinical monitoring and early-intervention care at patients' homes.

The system integrates AI-powered predictive analytics with real-time oversight by specialised doctors, helping bridge gaps in chronic disease management and post-hospital care, especially in remote areas and for elderly patients.

iLive Connect uses wearable medical-grade biosensors (chest patch and wristband) to track vital parameters such as ECG, heart rate, SpO<sub>2</sub>, blood pressure trends, and activity, with real-time data monitored 24/7 at a central medical command centre.

**145. Transcorp International Limited recently received in-principle approval from which authority to participate in Centralized Payment Systems (CPS)?**

ट्रांसकॉर्प इंटरनेशनल लिमिटेड को सेंट्रलाइज्ड पेमेंट सिस्टम (CPS) में भागीदारी के लिए किस प्राधिकरण से सैद्धांतिक स्वीकृति मिली?

- (a) Ministry of Finance
- (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- (c) Reserve Bank of India
- (d) National Payments Corporation of India
- (e) Department of Financial Services

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Transcorp International Secures RBI's In-Principle Approval for Centralized Payment Systems Participation

Transcorp International Limited received RBI's in-principle approval to participate in Centralised Payment Systems (CPS), marking a major boost to its banking and payments infrastructure.

The CPS authorisation enables Transcorp to operate RTGS and NEFT services, maintain a bank account with the RBI, and obtain its own IFSC code, in line with RBI guidelines.

The approval strengthens Transcorp's RBI-regulated digital payments ecosystem, enhancing operational efficiency, regulatory compliance, and secure technology-driven payment solutions, with the company also having zero outstanding public fixed deposits.

**146. India improved its rank to 45th in the Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2025, climbing four places from the previous year. The Network Readiness Index 2025 report is released by which organisation?**

नेटवर्क रेडीनेस इंडेक्स (NRI) 2025 में भारत की रैंक पिछले साल से चार पायदान ऊपर चढ़कर 45वीं हो गई है। नेटवर्क रेडीनेस इंडेक्स 2025 रिपोर्ट किस संस्था ने जारी की है?

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) OECD
- (c) Portulans Institute, Washington DC

(d) World Bank

(e) ITU

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India Rises to 45th Rank in Network Readiness Index 2025

India improved its rank to 45th in the Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2025, climbing four places from the previous year, as per the report released by the Portulans Institute (Washington DC).

India's overall score increased from 53.63 (2024) to 54.43 (2025), with the NRI assessing 127 economies across four pillars — Technology, People, Governance, and Impact — based on 53 indicators.

India ranked 1st globally in telecom investment, AI scientific publications, ICT services exports, and e-commerce legislation, while also securing top positions in FTTH subscriptions, mobile broadband traffic, and international internet bandwidth, highlighting its growing digital strength.

Overall Global Ranking (Top 5)

- USA – Score 79.13
- Finland – 75.82
- Singapore – 75.46
- Denmark – 75.14
- Sweden – 75.09

**147. Yotta Data Services collaborated with which platform to deploy an end-to-end Sovereign AI Cloud in India?**

योद्धा डेटा सर्विसेज ने भारत में एंड-टू-एंड सॉवरेन AI क्लाउड तैनात करने के लिए किस प्लेटफॉर्म के साथ सहयोग किया?

(a) Aadhaar

(b) DigiLocker

(c) BHASHINI

(d) CoWIN

(e) UPI

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Yotta and BHASHINI Deploy Sovereign AI Cloud, Showcasing India's Readiness for Population-Scale AI

Yotta Data Services collaborated with BHASHINI to deploy an end-to-end sovereign AI cloud on Yotta's Government Community Cloud (GCC) and NVIDIA H100-enabled Shakti Cloud, highlighting India's readiness for population-scale AI.

With this deployment, BHASHINI now operates entirely on Indian cloud and GPU infrastructure, ensuring data sovereignty by keeping language datasets, AI models, and citizen interactions within India.

The initiative was showcased at the India AI Sovereignty Dialogues and validated through a real-world deployment at Maha Kumbh 2025, where BHASHINI delivered real-time multilingual translation and voice assistance in 11+ Indian languages, bridging language and digital divides.

**148. World Day of the Sick is observed every year on which date?**

वर्ल्ड डे ऑफ द सिक प्रत्येक वर्ष किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 4 February
- (b) 10 February
- (c) 11 February
- (d) 12 February
- (e) 15 February

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 11 February - World Day of the Sick

World Day of the Sick is observed annually on 11 February, aimed at raising awareness about the needs of the sick and the importance of quality healthcare and compassionate care.

The day was instituted by Pope John Paul II in 1992, and it coincides with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, a site associated with healing.

It recognises the efforts of healthcare workers, caregivers, and volunteers who provide medical and emotional support to patients worldwide.

**149. India has been designated 'Country of the Year' at which international trade fair in 2026?**

2026 में किस इंटरनेशनल ट्रेड फेयर में भारत को 'कंट्री ऑफ द ईयर' चुना गया है?

- (a) Gulfood
- (b) BIOFACH
- (c) SIAL
- (d) Anuga
- (e) Foodex

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India Named 'Country of the Year' at BIOFACH 2026 in Germany

India has been designated 'Country of the Year' at BIOFACH 2026, the world's leading trade fair for organic products, held in Nuremberg, Germany.

India's participation at the event is being coordinated by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to promote the country's organic agri-exports.

Five GI-tagged rice varieties—Indrayani, Navara, Gobindbhog, Red Rice, and Chak Hao (Black Rice)—will be highlighted, along with live food tastings

### **About Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**

- *APEDA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, to promote the export and development of agricultural and processed food products in India.*
- *Formed- 13 February 1986*
- *Headquarters- New Delhi*

**150. Which Indian state recently launched 'Aikam', an autonomous organisation aimed at promoting the AI ecosystem by upskilling the workforce, supporting AI-first startups, providing compute infrastructure, and establishing a dedicated AI Fund-of-Funds?**

हाल ही में किस भारतीय राज्य ने 'Aikam' नाम का एक ऑटोनॉमस संगठन लॉन्च किया है, जिसका मकसद वर्कफोर्स को अपस्किल करके, AI-फर्स्ट स्टार्टअप्स को सपोर्ट करके, कंप्यूट इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर देकर और एक डेडिकेटेड AI फंड-ऑफ-फंड्स बनाकर AI इकोसिस्टम को बढ़ावा देना है?

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

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Telangana Launches 'Aikam' to Boost AI Ecosystem and Global Innovation

The Telangana Government has launched Aikam, an autonomous organisation to promote the AI ecosystem in the state, focusing on workforce upskilling, supporting AI startups, offering compute infrastructure, and establishing a dedicated AI Fund-of-Funds.

Aikam aims to position Telangana as a top-20 global innovation hub, inviting international partners to set up pilot and testing facilities in the state.

Aikam's autonomous structure ensures speed, public trust, and responsible AI adoption, providing a clear path from ideas to globally scalable AI solutions.

**151. Assam's Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched the Atal Vichal Agragami Assam scheme to support research scholars financially, aiming to strengthen the state's academic and innovation ecosystem. How much monthly financial assistance will regular research scholars receive under the scheme?**

असम के मुख्यमंत्री हिमंत बिस्वा सरमा ने रिसर्च स्कॉलर्स को फाइनेंशियली सपोर्ट करने के लिए अटल विचल अग्रगामी असम स्कीम शुरू की है, जिसका मकसद राज्य के एकेडमिक और इनोवेशन इकोसिस्टम को मजबूत करना है। इस स्कीम के तहत रेगुलर रिसर्च स्कॉलर्स को हर महीने कितनी फाइनेंशियल मदद मिलेगी?

- (a) ₹15,000
- (b) ₹20,000
- (c) ₹25,000
- (d) ₹30,000
- (e) ₹40,000

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Assam Launches 'Atal Vichal Agragami Assam' Scheme to Boost Research and Innovation

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched the Atal Vichal Agragami Assam scheme to support research scholars financially, aiming to strengthen the state's academic and innovation ecosystem.

Under the scheme, research scholars will receive ₹25,000 per month, while Divyang research scholars will get ₹40,000 per month, helping cover expenses like research materials, fieldwork, data collection, and living costs.

The initiative is designed to empower talent, promote high-quality research, encourage innovation, and reduce financial constraints, fostering a knowledge-driven and inclusive academic environment in Assam.

#### **About Assam**

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

**152. Which Indian state government recently signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Starlink, the satellite internet subsidiary of Elon Musk's SpaceX, to provide high-speed satellite-based internet connectivity to remote, tribal, and border areas, as part of a major initiative to strengthen digital infrastructure under the 'Digital India' vision?**

हाल ही में किस भारतीय राज्य सरकार ने एलन मस्क की स्पेसएक्स की सैटेलाइट इंटरनेट सब्सिडियरी स्टारलिंग के साथ एक लेटर ऑफ़ इंटेंट (LoI) पर साइन किया है। यह 'डिजिटल

इंडिया' विज्ञान के तहत डिजिटल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर को मज़बूत करने की एक बड़ी पहल के तहत दूर-दराज, आदिवासी और सीमावर्ती इलाकों में हाई-स्पीड सैटेलाइट-बेस्ड इंटरनेट कनेक्टिविटी देने के लिए है?

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

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Gujarat Govt signs Letter of Intent with Starlink to achieve 'Digital India' vision  
The Government of Gujarat has signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Starlink, Elon Musk's satellite internet subsidiary, to boost high-speed digital connectivity across the state.

The initiative aims to provide reliable satellite-based internet to Gujarat's remote, tribal, and border regions, linking Common Service Centres (CSCs), e-Governance facilities, Primary Health Centres, and tele-medicine hubs.

The collaboration will enhance digital infrastructure in government schools, ports, and wildlife sanctuaries, with a Joint Working Group formed to oversee capacity building, disaster management integration, and robust district-level digital networks.

**153. What real GDP growth rate has Moody's projected for India in the Financial Year 2026-27?**

मूडीज़ ने फ़ाइनेंशियल ईयर 2026-27 में भारत के लिए कितनी रियल GDP ग्रोथ रेट का अनुमान लगाया है?

- (a) 5.8%
- (b) 6.0%
- (c) 6.4%
- (d) 6.8%
- (e) 7.2%

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Moody's Projects India's GDP Growth at 6.4% for FY 2026-27, Fastest in G20  
Moody's projects India's GDP growth: Moody's Ratings has projected India's real GDP growth at 6.4% for the Financial Year 2026-27, marking it as the fastest among G20 economies.

Comparison with government projection: Moody's estimate of 6.4% is slightly lower than the Finance Ministry's Economic Survey projection of 6.8–7.2% for the same period.

**GDP Projection List 2026**

- Goldman Sachs - 6.9% (FY26)
- IMF - 7.3% (FY26)
- CareEdge - 7% (FY27)
- World Bank - 7.2% (FY26)
- NSO - 7.4% (FY26)

**154. Which regulatory body granted a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to IIFL Capital Services Limited for setting up a subsidiary at GIFT IFSC?**

किस रेगुलेटरी बॉडी ने IIFL कैपिटल सर्विसेज लिमिटेड को GIFT IFSC में एक सब्सिडियरी बनाने के लिए नो ऑब्जेक्शन सर्टिफिकेट (NOC) दिया?

- (a) RBI
- (b) SEBI
- (c) IRDAI
- (d) NSE
- (e) PFRDA

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** SEBI Approves IIFL Capital Subsidiary at GIFT IFSC

IIFL Capital Services Limited has received a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from SEBI to set up a wholly owned subsidiary at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City – International Financial Services Centre (GIFT IFSC).

The proposed entity, named IIFL Capital Services (IFSC) Limited or IIFL Capital (IFSC) Limited, will operate as a separate legal entity.

**About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**

- **Founded** - 12 April 1988
- **Act** - 1992
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai
- **Chairman** - Tuhin Kanta Pandey (replace Madhabi Puri Buch)
- **Executive Director** - G Ram Mohan Rao
- **SEBI Set up** - Uday Kotak committee

**155. International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed globally on 11 February to promote gender equality in scientific fields. What is the theme of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science for the year 2026?**

साइंस में महिलाओं और लड़कियों का इंटरनेशनल डे 11 फरवरी को दुनिया भर में मनाया जाता है ताकि साइंटिफिक फील्ड में जेंडर इक्वालिटी को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके। साल 2026 के लिए साइंस में महिलाओं और लड़कियों के इंटरनेशनल डे की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Women in Innovation: Shaping the Future
- (b) From Vision to Impact: Redefining STEM by Closing the Gender Gap

(c) Girls in Tech: Empowering Change

(d) Science for All

(e) STEM Leadership for Women

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 11 February - International Day of Women and Girls in Science

International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed globally on 11 February to promote gender equality in scientific fields.

Theme 2026 - From Vision to Impact: Redefining STEM by Closing the Gender Gap

The day aims to recognise the critical role women and girls play in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and to encourage more female participation.

**156. Safer Internet Day is observed every year on which date?**

सुरक्षित इंटरनेट दिवस हर वर्ष किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

(a) 10 February

(b) 11 February

(c) 12 February

(d) 9 February

(e) 15 February

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 11 February - Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day is observed globally on 11 February every year to promote the safe and responsible use of digital technology, especially among children and young people.

Theme 2026 - AI Aware: Safe, Smart, In Control

The day aims to raise awareness about online safety, cyberbullying, data privacy, digital fraud, and responsible social media usage.

**157. Which organisation granted in-principle approval to Transcorp International Limited to participate in Centralized Payment Systems?**

किस संस्था ने ट्रांसकॉर्प इंटरनेशनल लिमिटेड को केंद्रीकृत भुगतान प्रणाली में भाग लेने की सैद्धांतिक स्वीकृति दी?

(a) SEBI

(b) Ministry of Finance

(c) NABARD

(d) Reserve Bank of India

(e) NPCI

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Transcorp International Gets RBI's In-Principle Nod to Join Centralized Payment Systems

Transcorp International Limited has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to participate in Centralized Payment Systems (CPS).

Following this approval, the company will be able to maintain and operate a bank account with RBI and will be allotted its own Indian Financial System Code (IFSC).

The CPS approval, usually granted to banks, will enable Transcorp to operate a payment ecosystem with RTGS and NEFT facilities in accordance with RBI guidelines.

**158. Darwin Day is observed every year on which date?**

डार्विन दिवस हर वर्ष किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

(a) 11 February

(b) 12 February

(c) 13 February

(d) 10 February

(e) 15 February

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 12 February – Darwin Day

Darwin Day is observed annually on 12 February to commemorate the birth anniversary of Charles Darwin, the British naturalist who proposed the theory of evolution by natural selection.

The day highlights the importance of scientific thinking, rational inquiry, and evidence-based understanding in explaining natural phenomena.

Various institutions worldwide mark the day through lectures, discussions, and educational events to promote awareness of evolutionary biology and science education.

**159. SBI became the \_\_\_\_ Indian company to cross the ₹10 lakh crore market capitalisation mark.**

SBI ₹10 लाख करोड़ मार्केट कैपिटलाइज़ेशन मार्क को पार करने वाली \_\_\_\_ भारतीय कंपनी बन गई। (a) Fourth

(b) Fifth

(c) Sixth

(d) Seventh

(e) Eighth

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** SBI Crosses ₹10 Lakh Crore Market Capitalisation, Joins Elite Club of India's Top Firms

State Bank of India (SBI) crossed the landmark of ₹10 lakh crore market capitalisation, becoming the sixth Indian company to achieve this milestone.

SBI joined the elite ₹10 lakh crore mcap club, which includes Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), and ICICI Bank.

SBI's market capitalisation stood at around ₹10.4 lakh crore, surpassing ICICI Bank (₹10.03 lakh crore), while HDFC Bank remains the most valuable bank with approximately ₹14.47 lakh crore mcap.

**160. Manu Bhaker won which medal in the women's 25m pistol event at the Asian Shooting Championship held in New Delhi?**

नई दिल्ली में आयोजित एशियन शूटिंग चैंपियनशिप में महिला 25 मीटर पिस्टल स्पर्धा में मनु भाकर ने कौन-सा पदक जीता?

- (a) Gold
- (b) Silver
- (c) Bronze
- (d) No medal
- (e) Platinum

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Manu Bhaker Wins Silver in Women's 25m Pistol at Asian Shooting Championship

Manu Bhaker, Olympic double bronze medallist, won silver in the women's 25m pistol event at the Asian Shooting Championship in New Delhi

Manu finished the final tied at 35 with Vietnam's Nguyen Thuy Trang, forcing a shoot-off to decide the gold medal.

**161. Which of the following books authored by Biswabhusan Harichandan is written in Odia language?**

बिस्वभूषण हरिचंदन द्वारा लिखित निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सी पुस्तक ओड़िया भाषा में है?

- (a) Buxi Jagabandhu: The Great Commander
- (b) Odisha Through Ages
- (c) Freedom Struggle of India
- (d) E Mati Katha Kahe
- (e) Jagabandhu Chronicles

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Releases Books by Biswabhusan Harichandan

Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati released two books authored by Biswabhusan Harichandan, former Odisha Cabinet Minister and former Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

The books released include "E Mati Katha Kahe" (Odia) and "Buxi Jagabandhu: The Great Commander" (English).

**162. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of R. Vijay Anandh as MD & CEO of which bank?**

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) ने आर. विजय आनंद को किस बैंक के MD & CEO के रूप में नियुक्ति की मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) RBL Bank
- (b) Axis Bank
- (c) Federal Bank
- (d) City Union Bank
- (e) South Indian Bank

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** RBI Approves R. Vijay Anandh as New MD & CEO of City Union Bank Effective May 1

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of R. Vijay Anandh as the new Managing Director & CEO of City Union Bank, effective May 1, 2026, for a period of three years, subject to shareholder approval.

Vijay Anandh is currently serving as the Executive Director (ED) at City Union Bank and was earlier appointed as Executive President in 2023 before being designated as ED in 2024.

He will succeed N. Kamakodi, who has been serving as MD & CEO since May 2011, with his term ending on April 30, 2026.

**About City Union Bank**

- *Founded- 1904*
- *Founders- R. Santhanam Iyer; S. Krishna Iyer; V. Krishnaswami Iyengar*
- *Headquarters- Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu*
- *MD and CEO- R. Vijay Anandh*

**163. Who has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of the inaugural Delhi Khel Mahakumbh?**

दिल्ली खेल महाकुंभ के पहले संस्करण के ब्रांड एम्बेसडर के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Virat Kohli
- (b) MS Dhoni

- (c) Shikhar Dhawan  
(d) Rohit Sharma  
(e) Gautam Gambhir

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Shikhar Dhawan Appointed Brand Ambassador for Inaugural Delhi Khel Mahakumbh 2026

Former Indian cricketer and Arjuna Awardee Shikhar Dhawan has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of the inaugural Delhi Khel Mahakumbh by the Government of Delhi.

The Delhi Khel Mahakumbh will be held on 13 February 2026 across 16 locations covering all 12 districts of Delhi.

It is a large-scale grassroots sports festival launched by the Directorate of Education and Sports, Government of Delhi, aimed at promoting sports culture at the community level.

#### **Recent Brand Ambassador**

- A R Rahman - DAC Developers
- MS Dhoni - Goodwill Ambassador for Pune Grand Tour 2026
- Amitabh Bachchan - Reliance Campa Sure Packaged Water
- Andre De Grasse - Tata Mumbai Marathon 2026
- Cristiano Ronaldo - AI company Perplexity

**164. V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority has become the first major Indian port to receive a prestigious green building rating for its sustainable, eco-friendly, and energy-efficient administrative building. Which certification did it achieve?**

V.O. चिदम्बरनार पोर्ट अथॉरिटी अपने प्रशासनिक भवन के सतत, पर्यावरण-मित्र और ऊर्जा-कुशल निर्माण के लिए एक प्रतिष्ठित ग्रीन बिल्डिंग रेटिंग प्राप्त करने वाला पहला प्रमुख भारतीय पोर्ट बन गया है। यह किस प्रमाणन को प्राप्त करने में सफल हुआ?

- (a) LEED Gold  
(b) IGBC Platinum  
(c) BEE Silver  
(d) ISO 14001  
(e) Green Globe

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** V.O. Chidambaranar Port Becomes India's First IGBC Platinum & Net Zero Certified Major Port

V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority becomes the first major Indian port to achieve the prestigious IGBC Platinum Rating for its sustainable, eco-friendly, and energy-efficient administrative building.

The port's administrative building operates on 100% renewable energy, while the Hospital and CISF Barracks earned Shunya Plus certification, and the Administrative Building and Guest House earned Shunya certification from BEE, highlighting net zero and net positive energy performance.

Features include rooftop solar panels, rainwater harvesting, IoT water meters, indoor air quality monitoring, 70% green cover, inclusive facilities for differently-abled and senior citizens, and zero-waste practices, setting a benchmark for sustainable port infrastructure in India.

**165. World Radio Day is observed on 13 February every year to celebrate radio as a powerful medium of communication. What is the theme of World Radio Day 2026?**

रेडियो को बातचीत के एक ताकतवर ज़रिया के तौर पर मनाने के लिए हर साल 13 फरवरी को वर्ल्ड रेडियो डे मनाया जाता है। वर्ल्ड रेडियो डे 2026 की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Radio and Education
- (b) Radio and Artificial Intelligence: AI is a tool, not a voice
- (c) Radio for Entertainment
- (d) Radio and Technology
- (e) Radio and Communication

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 13 February - World Radio Day

World Radio Day is observed on 13 February every year to celebrate radio as a powerful medium of communication.

Theme 2026 - Radio and Artificial Intelligence: AI is a tool, not a voice

The day was proclaimed by UNESCO in 2011 to recognise radio's contribution to society and media freedom.

To mark World Radio Day 2026, Akashvani Raipur, Chhattisgarh, in collaboration with UNESCO, is organising a World Radio Day Conclave

**166. Who has become India's youngest male analog astronaut after completing a lunar-habitat-inspired mission?**

चांद की तरह के आवास प्रेरित मिशन को पूरा करने के बाद भारत का सबसे युवा पुरुष एनालॉग अंतरिक्ष यात्री कौन बन गया है?

- (a) Rohan Sharma
- (b) Arjun Mehta
- (c) Aditya Pandya
- (d) Kunal Singh
- (e) Vishal Gupta

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Aditya Pandya Becomes India's Youngest Male Analog Astronaut

Seventeen-year-old Aditya Pandya becomes India's youngest male analog astronaut after successfully completing a lunar-habitat-inspired analog mission conducted by AAKA Space Studio in Dholavira, Kutch.

The mission simulated Moon-like isolation, autonomous operations, and long-duration confinement, with a four-member crew living in a container-based lunar analog habitat, focusing on human-machine interaction and system reliability. Aditya Pandya also served as lead for hardware, IoT, and habitat intelligence systems, developing and integrating environmental sensors, biometric monitoring, real-time telemetry, and modular components via 3D printing and rapid prototyping.

**167. Which autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has recently signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the Goa State Pharmacy Council (GSPC), Quality Council of India (QCI), and HLL Infra Tech Services Limited (HITES) to strengthen medicine safety, quality assurance, pharmacovigilance, and capacity building across India?**

कौन सा स्वायत्त संगठन, जो स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत काम करता है, ने हाल ही में गोवा स्टेट फार्मसी काउंसिल (GSPC), क्वालिटी काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया (QCI) और HLL Infra Tech Services Limited (HITES) के साथ दवा सुरक्षा, गुणवत्ता आश्वासन, फार्माकोविजिलेंस और क्षमता निर्माण को मजबूत करने के लिए MoU पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) National Health Authority
- (b) Indian Medical Association
- (c) Both a and b
- (d) Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission
- (e) Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission signs MoUs to strengthen drug safety and quality standards

Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) signs MoUs with Goa State Pharmacy Council (GSPC), Quality Council of India (QCI), and HLL Infra Tech Services Limited (HITES) to strengthen medicine safety, quality assurance, and capacity building across India.

The agreements aim to enhance pharmacovigilance, promote rational medicine use, improve pharmacists' professional competencies, and advance healthcare quality and patient safety standards.

Under the MoU with Goa State Pharmacy Council, IPC will focus on strengthening ADR reporting, promoting the National Formulary of India, conducting training and

workshops for pharmacists, and establishing robust pharmacovigilance and drug safety systems.

**168. Which company received the FIP Award 2025 for 'Oil and Gas Production Company of the Year'?**

किस कंपनी को 'Oil and Gas Production Company of the Year' के लिए FIP Award 2025 से सम्मानित किया गया?

- (a) Indian Oil Corporation
- (b) Bharat Petroleum
- (c) Hindustan Petroleum
- (d) Oil India Limited
- (e) ONGC

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** OIL Wins FIP Award 2025 for 'Oil and Gas Production Company of the Year' Oil India Limited received the FIP Award 2025 for 'Oil and Gas Production Company of the Year'.)

The Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI) presented the honor at India Energy Week 2026 in Goa.

**About Oil India Limited**

- *Founded- 18 February 1959*
- *Headquarters- Duliagan, Assam*
- *Chairman and MD- Dr. Ranjit Rath*
- *Ministry- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas*

**169. On which date is National Productivity Day observed in India?**

भारत में राष्ट्रीय उत्पादकता दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 10 February
- (b) 11 February
- (c) 12 February
- (d) 15 February
- (e) 20 February

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 12 February - National Productivity Day

National Productivity Day is observed on 12 February every year in India to promote awareness about the importance of productivity in economic growth, efficiency, and competitiveness.

Theme 2026 - Clusters as Growth Engine: Maximizing Productivity in MSMEs

The day is celebrated to encourage industries, organisations, and individuals to adopt best practices, improve work processes, and enhance overall productivity.

The National Productivity Council (NPC), under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, plays a key role in organizing events, workshops, and campaigns to mark the day.

**170. India climbs five places to 91st position on the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2025, showing a modest improvement in public sector integrity, as per Transparency International. Which country retained the first position in CPI 2025 with a score of 89?**

ट्रांसपेरेंसी इंटरनेशनल के अनुसार, भारत करप्शन परसेप्शन इंडेक्स (CPI) 2025 में पांच पायदान चढ़कर 91वें स्थान पर आ गया है, जो पब्लिक सेक्टर की ईमानदारी में मामूली सुधार दिखाता है। CPI 2025 में 89 स्कोर के साथ कौन सा देश पहले स्थान पर रहा?

- (a) Finland
- (b) Singapore
- (c) Sweden
- (d) Norway
- (e) Denmark

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** India Rises to 91st Position in Corruption Perceptions Index 2025

India climbs five places to 91st position on the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2025, showing a modest improvement in public sector integrity, as per Transparency International.

India's CPI score increased by one point, moving from 96th to 91st out of 182 countries and territories, on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

Top-ranking countries include Denmark (1st, 89 points), Finland, and Singapore, while the lowest-ranking countries are South Sudan and Somalia (9 points). Among major democracies, the UK is 20th and the USA 29th, highlighting global concerns about anti-corruption performance.

**171. How much additional financing has the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved for flood and riverbank erosion management along the Brahmaputra in Assam?**

एशियाई विकास बैंक (ADB) ने असम में ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी के किनारे बाढ़ और कटाव प्रबंधन के लिए कितनी अतिरिक्त वित्तीय सहायता मंजूर की है?

- (a) \$150 million
- (b) \$160 million
- (c) \$175 million

(d) \$182 million

(e) \$200 million

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** ADB Approves \$182 Million to Boost Flood and Erosion Management Along Brahmaputra in Assam

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved \$182 million in additional financing to strengthen flood and riverbank erosion management along the Brahmaputra River in Assam, enhancing disaster preparedness in Northeast India. With this funding, the ongoing \$200 million climate-resilience project (approved in 2023) now reaches a total scale of nearly \$487 million, including contributions from the state government.

**172. Which Indian state has emerged as the largest wool producer in the country, accounting for nearly 47.5% of India's total wool output, producing 16,013.50 thousand kg, and surpassing states like Jammu & Kashmir and Karnataka?**

कौन सा भारतीय राज्य देश में सबसे बड़ा ऊन उत्पादक बनकर उभरा है, जो भारत के कुल ऊन उत्पादन का लगभग 47.5% हिस्सा है, 16,013.50 हजार kg का उत्पादन करता है, और जम्मू-कश्मीर और कर्नाटक जैसे राज्यों को पीछे छोड़ देता है?

(a) Uttar Pradesh

(b) Uttrakhand

(c) Gujarat

(d) Maharashtra

(e) Rajasthan

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Rajasthan Emerges as India's Largest Wool Producer, Contributing 47.5% of National Output

Rajasthan has become India's largest wool producer, with a production of 16,013.50 thousand kg, contributing 47.5% of the country's total wool output, followed by Jammu & Kashmir (7,770 thousand kg) and Karnataka (6,472 thousand kg).

As per Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2024-25, India has the second-largest sheep population in the world (77.4 million) and ranks ninth globally in total wool production, with 33.69 million kg produced in FY 2023-24.

On the global scale, China remains the top wool producer, dominating with 367.5 thousand tonnes, far ahead of other countries.

**About Rajasthan**

- **Capital** – Jaipur
- **Chief Minister** – Bhajan Lal Sharma

- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Diya Kumari and Premchand Bairwa
- **Governor** – Haribhau Bagade

**173. Which Indian state has become the first in the country to formally present its own Economic Survey, highlighting its rapid economic development, industrialisation, and contribution to the national economy?**

देश का पहला ऐसा राज्य कौन सा है जिसने अपनी खुद की आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण रिपोर्ट पेश की, जिसमें इसके तेज़ आर्थिक विकास, औद्योगिकीकरण और राष्ट्रीय अर्थव्यवस्था में योगदान को उजागर किया गया है?

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Uttar Pradesh Becomes First State to Present Its Own Economic Survey Highlighting Rapid Growth

Uttar Pradesh becomes the first Indian state to present its own Economic Survey, highlighting rapid development and industrialisation.

The survey shows the state's contribution to the national economy rising from 8.6% in 2016-17 to 9.1% in 2024-25.

UP's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) grew at an average annual rate of 10.8%, increasing from ₹13.30 lakh crore in 2016-17 to ₹30.25 lakh crore in 2024-25, and is projected to reach ₹36 lakh crore in 2025-26.

**About Uttar Pradesh**

- **Capital** - Lucknow
- **Chief Minister** – Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor** - Anandiben Patel

**174. Which Indian state/UT has become the first to partner with Bharat Taxi's cooperative mobility platform?**

भारत टैक्सी के कोऑपरेटिव मोबिलिटी प्लेटफॉर्म के साथ पार्टनरशिप करने वाला पहला भारतीय राज्य/UT कौन सा है?

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

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Delhi Becomes First State to Partner with Bharat Taxi's Cooperative Platform for Structured Urban Taxi Services

Delhi becomes the first Indian state to partner with Bharat Taxi's cooperative platform, aiming to provide safe, reliable, and transparent urban taxi services while enhancing the income security and welfare of drivers.

A MoU was signed between Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC) and Sahkar Taxi Cooperative Limited to roll out technology-enabled, structured taxi services across the city.

Under the partnership, DTTDC will focus on driver training, soft skills, and sensitisation to Delhi's culture, while Bharat Taxi will provide mobility services through a digital booking system and organised driver network, positioning drivers as brand ambassadors for Delhi Tourism.

**175. What is the name of the new financial assistance scheme launched by the Delhi government for girls from economically weaker families?**

दिल्ली सरकार ने आर्थिक रूप से कमज़ोर परिवारों की लड़कियों के लिए जो नई फ़ाइनेंशियल मदद स्कीम शुरू की है, उसका नाम क्या है?

- (a) Beti Bachao Yojana
- (b) Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana
- (c) Shiksha Saathi Yojana
- (d) Kanya Samridhi Yojana
- (e) Ladli Laxmi Yojana

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Delhi Launches Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana for Girls from Economically Weaker Families

Delhi government launches Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana from April 1 to provide financial assistance to girls from economically weaker families, aiming to reduce school dropouts and build a savings cushion for higher education or adulthood.

The scheme offers staged deposits totalling ₹56,000 over the girl's education journey, which, with accrued interest, is expected to grow to around ₹1 lakh, credited to an Aadhaar-enabled bank account in the girl's name.

Phased payments are linked to key school milestones: ₹11,000 at birth, ₹5,000 at Class 1, and additional deposits at Classes 6, 9, 10, 12, and post-graduation/diploma, incentivizing families to keep girls enrolled through higher education.

**176. Which Oscar-winning song is played when vehicles drive over the specially designed rumble strips on Mumbai's Coastal Road musical stretch, allowing passengers to hear the melody through the vibration of the wheels?**

मुंबई की कोस्टल रोड के विशेष रूप से डिज़ाइन किए गए रंबल स्ट्रिप्स पर गाड़ी चलाने पर कौन सा ऑस्कर विजेता गीत सुनाई देता है, जिससे पहियों की कंपन के माध्यम से यात्रियों को धुन सुनाई देती है?

- (a) Tum Hi Ho
- (b) Chaiyya Chaiyya
- (c) Roobaroo
- (d) Jai Ho
- (e) Vande Mataram

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Mumbai's Coastal Road Becomes India's First 'Musical Path' Playing 'Jai Ho'  
 Mumbai's Coastal Road becomes India's first 'musical path', featuring special rumble strips that play the Oscar-winning song 'Jai Ho' when vehicles drive at 60–80 kmph. The stretch, named 'Sangeet Marg', runs from Nariman Point to Worli, and was inaugurated by Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy CM Eknath Shinde. Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) stated this is the fifth musical road in the world, with prior examples in Hungary, Japan, South Korea, and the UAE. Signboards have been installed at 500 m, 100 m, and 60 m before the stretch to alert motorists about the upcoming musical experience and required speed.

**About Maharashtra**

- **Capital** - Mumbai
- **Chief Minister** - Devendra Fadnavis (3<sup>rd</sup> time)
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Eknath Sindhe & Sunetra Pawar
- **Governor** - Acharya Devvrat (additional charge)

**177. Who has been appointed Chair of the USISPF Global Value Chains Committee?**

यूएस-इंडिया स्ट्रैटेजिक पार्टनरशिप फोरम (USISPF) ग्लोबल वैल्यू चेन कमिटी के चेयर के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Ajay Seth
- (b) Rohit Kumar Singh
- (c) Piyush Goyal
- (d) Arvind Subramanian
- (e) S. Jaishankar

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Rohit Kumar Singh Appointed Chair of USISPF Global Value Chains Committee  
 Rohit Kumar Singh, former Secretary, Consumer Affairs, has been appointed Chair of the Global Value Chains Committee of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).

He has also been appointed Advisor to the USISPF Board of Directors.

**178. Who won Thailand's 2026 General Election?**

थाईलैंड का 2026 आम चुनाव किसने जीता?

- (a) Prayut Chan-o-cha
- (b) Pita Limjaroenrat
- (c) Anutin Charnvirakul
- (d) Yingluck Shinawatra
- (e) Thaksin Shinawatra

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Anutin Charnvirakul Secures Victory in Thailand's 2026 General Election  
 Anutin Charnvirakul, leader of the conservative Bhumjaithai Party, won Thailand's 2026 general election, consolidating his party's position in national politics. He had assumed office as Prime Minister in September 2025 amid political turbulence and continued as caretaker PM throughout the election period.

**179. Which two institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote science communication and evidence-based science policy research in India?**

भारत में साइंस कम्युनिकेशन और सबूतों पर आधारित साइंस पॉलिसी रिसर्च को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किन दो संस्थानों ने मेमोरेण्डम ऑफ़ अंडरस्टैंडिंग पर साइन किए?

- (a) Indian National Science Academy and DRDO
- (b) Indian National Science Academy and CSIR-NIScPR
- (c) CSIR and NITI Aayog
- (d) Department of Science and Technology and UNESCO
- (e) ISRO and Indian Council of Social Science Research

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Indian National Science Academy and CSIR-NIScPR Sign MoU to Strengthen Science Communication and Evidence-Based Policy Research  
 Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) signed an MoU in New Delhi to enhance science communication and evidence-based policy research.

The agreement promotes collaborative policy research, joint publications, pilot projects, capacity-building programmes, outreach initiatives, and stakeholder consultations to strengthen India's science and technology ecosystem.

The partnership aims to advance robust, inclusive, and forward-looking Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policies through research collaboration, knowledge exchange, and national and global dialogue.

**180. According to the Bird Census-2026 conducted by the Gujarat Forest Department, which wildlife sanctuary recorded more than 6.42 lakh birds belonging to 270 species?**

गुजरात फॉरेस्ट डिपार्टमेंट द्वारा किए गए बर्ड सेंसस-2026 के अनुसार, किस वाइल्डलाइफ सैक्चुरी में 270 प्रजातियों के 6.42 लाख से ज़्यादा पक्षी रिकॉर्ड किए गए?

- (a) Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary
- (b) Thol Lake Bird Sanctuary
- (c) Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary
- (d) Porbandar Bird Sanctuary
- (e) Barda Wildlife Sanctuary

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Gujarat's Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary Records Over 6.42 Lakh Birds of 270 Species in Bird Census 2026

A bird census by the Gujarat Forest Department recorded 6,42,232 birds of 270 species at the Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary, located near Ahmedabad.

The sanctuary was divided into 50 survey zones, and teams conducted two systematic counts (morning and evening) to ensure accurate estimation of bird populations.

The exercise saw participation from 220 bird experts and wildlife enthusiasts, 12 forest officials, and 99 local boatmen and guides, reflecting strong community involvement.

Recognised as a Ramsar site in 2012, Nalsarovar is Gujarat's largest wetland and is protected under the international framework of the Ramsar Convention for conservation and sustainable use.

**181. In February 2026, which company announced that its subsidiary PB Pay had received a Payment Aggregator licence from the RBI?**

फरवरी 2026 में, किस कंपनी ने घोषणा की कि उसकी सब्सिडियरी PB Pay को RBI से पेमेंट एग्रीगेटर लाइसेंस मिला है?

- (a) Paytm
- (b) PhonePe

(c) PB Fintech Limited

(d) Razorpay

(e) BharatPe

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** PB Fintech Subsidiary PB Pay Secures Payment Aggregator Licence from Reserve Bank of India

PB Fintech, the parent company of Policybazaar and Paisabazaar, announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary, PB Pay, has received a Payment Aggregator licence from the Reserve Bank of India.

The authorisation was granted under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, and became effective on 6 February 2026, following an in-principle approval received in April 2025.

As a licensed payment aggregator, PB Pay can now onboard merchants and facilitate digital payments such as UPI, cards, and wallets, enabling greater vertical integration and streamlined digital transactions for the company.

**182. Agneevasthraa, which is a leading Indian manufacturer specialising in advanced carbon fabrics and high-performance composite materials, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for supplying defence-grade materials. With which organisation was this MoU signed?**

अग्निवस्तु, जो एडवांस्ड कार्बन फैब्रिक और हाई-परफॉर्मेंस कंपोजिट मटीरियल में स्पेशलाइज़ेशन रखने वाली एक लीडिंग इंडियन मैनुफैक्चरर है, ने हाल ही में डिफेंस-ग्रेड मटीरियल सप्लाई करने के लिए एक मेमोरेंडम ऑफ़ अंडरस्टैंडिंग (MoU) साइन किया है। यह MoU किस ऑर्गनाइज़ेशन के साथ साइन किया गया था?

(a) Indian Navy

(b) DRDO

(c) Indian Army

(d) Indian Air Force

(e) Ministry of Defence

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Agneevasthraa Signs MoU with Indian Army to Supply Advanced Carbon & Composite Materials

Agneevasthraa signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army to supply advanced carbon fabrics and high-performance composite materials.

The collaboration focuses on the custom design and manufacturing of specialised carbon and allied materials tailored for critical, high-stakes defence applications.

The MoU strengthens access to cutting-edge, locally developed carbon technologies for the Indian Army, ensuring compliance with the most stringent global quality and performance standards.

**183. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) recently approved the acquisition of the low voltage motor business of Siemens Limited by which company?**

प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (CCI) ने हाल ही में Siemens Limited के लो वोल्टेज मोटर व्यवसाय के अधिग्रहण को किस कंपनी द्वारा मंजूरी दी?

- (a) Amundi Asset Management
- (b) ICG Plc
- (c) Innomotics India Private Limited
- (d) Tata Motors
- (e) Larsen & Toubro

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Competition Commission of India Approves Innomotics India's Acquisition of Low Voltage Motor Business of Siemens Limited

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of the low-voltage motor business of Siemens Limited by Innomotics India Private Limited through a slump sale arrangement.

The approved combination strengthens Innomotics India's presence in the industrial motors segment by expanding its portfolio to include low voltage motors, complementing its existing high and medium voltage motor and large drive systems business.

Innomotics India, part of KPS Capital Partners LP, supplies industrial motors and drive systems to key sectors such as oil & gas, metals, cement, power, and marine industries.

**184. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved Fidelity Funds' acquisition of a minority stake in which company?**

प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (CCI) ने Fidelity Funds द्वारा किस कंपनी में अल्पांश हिस्सेदारी के अधिग्रहण को मंजूरी दी?

- (a) Tata Motors
- (b) Flipkart Internet Pvt Ltd
- (c) Paytm Payment
- (d) Ola Electric
- (e) Valuedrive Technologies Private Limited

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Competition Commission of India Approves Fidelity Funds' 6.63% Minority Stake Acquisition in Valuedrive Technologies Private Limited

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed acquisition of around 6.63% minority shareholding in Valuedrive Technologies Private Limited by the Fidelity Funds.

The approved combination involves the acquisition of shares on a fully diluted basis through primary subscription and secondary acquisition of compulsory convertible preference shares (CCPS) of Valuedrive Technologies.

Valuedrive Technologies is the operating-cum-holding company of the Spinny Group, while Fidelity Funds operate as global investment vehicles under the Fidelity Group with a diversified international portfolio.

**185. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) imposed a penalty of ₹27.38 crore on which company for anti-competitive practices?**

कॉम्पिटिशन कमीशन ऑफ़ इंडिया (CCI) ने एंटी-कॉम्पिटिव प्रैक्टिस के लिए किस कंपनी पर ₹27.38 करोड़ का जुर्माना लगाया है?

- (a) AMD
- (b) Nvidia
- (c) Qualcomm
- (d) Intel Corporation
- (e) IBM

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** CCI Imposes ₹27.38 Crore Penalty on Intel Corporation for Anti-Competitive Practices

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed a penalty of ₹27.38 crore on Intel Corporation for engaging in anti-competitive practices related to its India-specific warranty policy.

The Commission found that Intel abused its dominant position in the market for Boxed Micro Processors (BMPs) for desktops in India by enforcing unfair business practices.

The ruling reinforces CCI's commitment to ensuring fair competition and preventing misuse of market dominance in India's technology and semiconductor sector.

***About Competition Commission of India (CCI)***

- *CCI was set up under the Competition Act, 2002. It comes under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.*
- *It promotes healthy market competition and prevents activities that have an adverse effect on competition in India.*

- CCI also approves merger and acquisitions of companies in India so that the two merging entities do not dominate the market unfairly.
- Founded – 14 Oct 2003
- Headquarter - New Delhi
- Chairperson - Ravneet Kaur
- Secretary - Inder Pal Singh Bindra

**186. In a landmark development highlighting India's growing role in collaborative maritime security and capacity building in the Indian Ocean Region and beyond, the Indian Navy has assumed command of a key multinational training task force. Which task force is it?**

भारतीय महासागर क्षेत्र और उससे आगे सहयोगात्मक समुद्री सुरक्षा एवं क्षमता निर्माण में भारत की बढ़ती भूमिका को दर्शाते हुए, भारतीय नौसेना ने किस प्रमुख बहुराष्ट्रीय प्रशिक्षण टास्क फोर्स की कमान संभाली है?

- (a) Combined Task Force 150
- (b) Combined Task Force 151
- (c) Combined Task Force 152
- (d) Combined Task Force 154
- (e) Combined Task Force 153

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Indian Navy Assumes First-Ever Command of Combined Task Force 154

The Indian Navy has assumed command of Combined Task Force 154 for the first time, marking a significant milestone in India's role in collaborative maritime security under the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).

The change of command ceremony was held at CMF Headquarters in Manama, Bahrain, where Cmde Milind M. Mokashi of the Indian Navy took over command from the Italian Navy, in the presence of senior naval leaders from member nations. Established in May 2023, CTF 154 focuses on multinational training and capacity building across five key pillars — Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), Law of the Sea, Maritime Interdiction Operations, Maritime Rescue and Assistance, and Leadership Development — strengthening maritime security across the Middle East and beyond.

**187. To promote private sector participation in India's space ecosystem, Astrome Technologies, Azista Industries and Dhruva Space were selected to develop indigenous small satellite bus platforms under the Satellite Bus as a Service (SBaaS) initiative. Which organisation selected these companies?**

भारत के स्पेस इकोसिस्टम में प्राइवेट सेक्टर की भागीदारी को बढ़ावा देने के लिए, सैटेलाइट बस एज़ ए सर्विस (SBaaS) पहल के तहत स्वदेशी छोटे सैटेलाइट बस प्लेटफॉर्म बनाने के लिए

एस्ट्रोम टेक्नोलॉजीज, अज़िस्ता इंडस्ट्रीज और ध्रुव स्पेस को चुना गया। किस संगठन ने इन कंपनियों को चुना?

- (a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- (b) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- (c) Antrix Corporation Limited (ACL)
- (d) NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)
- (e) Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** IN-SPACe selects Astrome, Azista and Dhruva Space for satellite bus plan. The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has selected three Indian start-ups—Astrome Technologies, Azista Industries, and Dhruva Space—to develop and test indigenous small satellite bus platforms under its Satellite Bus as a Service (SBaaS) initiative.

The SBaaS initiative, announced in April 2025, invited proposals from Indian Non-Governmental Entities to create modular satellite buses capable of hosting diverse customer payloads; out of 15 proposals received by July 2025, these three firms were selected after a rigorous multi-stage evaluation.

Each selected company will receive a ₹5 crore grant to build robust, scalable satellite buses that can support multiple hosted payloads, providing cost-effective solutions for both domestic and global space.

**188. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued draft guidelines to curb harsh and coercive debt recovery practices, explicitly banning abusive language, threats, harassment, public humiliation, misleading claims, and excessive or anonymous calls by banks or recovery agents. Under the draft guidelines, recovery agents are allowed to contact borrowers only between:**

रिज़र्व बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया (RBI) ने कर्ज वसूली के सख्त और ज़बरदस्ती वाले तरीकों पर रोक लगाने के लिए ड्राफ़्ट गाइडलाइंस जारी की हैं। इसमें बैंकों या रिकवरी एजेंटों द्वारा गाली-गलौज, धमकी, परेशान करना, सबके सामने बेइज्जत करना, गुमराह करने वाले दावे करना और बहुत ज़्यादा या गुमनाम कॉल करने पर साफ़ तौर पर रोक लगाई गई है। ड्राफ़्ट गाइडलाइंस के तहत, रिकवरी एजेंट सिर्फ़ इन समयों के बीच कर्ज लेने वालों से संपर्क कर सकते हैं:

- (a) 7 am to 9 pm
- (b) 9 am to 6 pm
- (c) 8 am to 8 pm
- (d) 10 am to 7 pm
- (e) 8 am to 7 pm

**Ans. e****Sol.** RBI Proposes Strict Rules to Curb Harsh and Coercive Debt Rec Practices

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued draft guidelines to curb harsh and coercive debt recovery practices, explicitly banning abusive language, threats, harassment, public humiliation, misleading claims, and excessive or anonymous calls by banks or recovery agents.

Under the proposed norms, recovery calls and visits will be permitted only between 8 am and 7 pm, agents must avoid sensitive occasions (such as bereavement or festivals), and recovery agents can interact only with borrowers or guarantors, not relatives or associates.

Banks are required to establish a dedicated grievance redressal mechanism, document and record all recovery calls, notify borrowers in writing when a case is assigned to or changed between recovery agents, and pause recovery if a genuine grievance is pending.

For microfinance loans, collections must take place at a mutually agreed location, with home or workplace visits allowed only after repeated failure by the borrower to appear at the designated place.

RBI has mandated training and certification of recovery agents through the Indian Institute of Banking & Finance, enforcement of a code of conduct, public disclosure of empanelled agents, safeguards for borrower data, and has invited public feedback on the draft guidelines by March 4, with implementation proposed from July 1.

**189. Who has been appointed as the Interim Prime Minister of Bulgaria ahead of the April 19 national elections?**

19 अप्रैल को होने वाले राष्ट्रीय चुनावों से पहले बुल्गारिया के अंतरिम प्रधानमंत्री के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Andrey Gyurov
- (b) Boyko Borissov
- (c) Nikolai Denkov
- (d) Kiril Petkov
- (e) Rumen Radev

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Andrey Gyurov Takes Charge as Interim PM Amid Repeated Elections in Bulgaria  
 Iliana Yotova, President of Bulgaria, has appointed central bank deputy governor Andrey Gyurov as interim prime minister to lead a caretaker government ahead of national elections scheduled for April 19.

The caretaker government's primary mandate is to ensure the conduct of free and fair elections amid prolonged political instability, as Bulgaria prepares for its eighth

election in five years following repeated failures to form a stable parliamentary coalition.

### **About Bulgaria**

- *Capital- Sofia*
- *Currency - Euro*
- *Official language- Bulgarian*

**190. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Digital Payments Index (DPI) increased to 516.76 in September 2025, up from 465.33 in September 2024, indicating rapid growth and adoption of digital payments across India. The RBI Digital Payments Index (DPI) was constituted with which base period assigned a score of 100?**

सितंबर 2025 में रिज़र्व बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया (RBI) डिजिटल पेमेंट्स इंडेक्स (DPI) बढ़कर 516.76 हो गया, जो सितंबर 2024 में 465.33 था। यह पूरे भारत में डिजिटल पेमेंट्स की तेज़ी से बढ़ोतरी और इसे अपनाने का संकेत है। RBI डिजिटल पेमेंट्स इंडेक्स (DPI) किस बेस पीरियड के साथ बनाया गया था और इसे 100 का स्कोर दिया गया था

- (a) January 2017
- (b) March 2017
- (c) December 2017
- (d) March 2018
- (e) January 2019

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Reserve Bank of India Digital Payments Index Rises to 516.76 in September 2025  
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Digital Payments Index (DPI) increased to 516.76 in September 2025, up from 465.33 in September 2024, indicating rapid growth and adoption of digital payments across India.

The RBI-DPI had earlier stood at 493.22 in March 2025, showing a consistent upward trend in digital payment usage over successive reporting periods.

According to the RBI, the rise in the index was mainly driven by strong growth in payment performance and payment enablers, reflecting improvements in both transaction efficiency and enabling infrastructure.

Constituted with March 2018 as the base year (index value 100), the RBI-DPI has been published on a semi-annual basis since 1 Jan 2021 and is based on five parameters: payment enablers, payment infrastructure (demand-side and supply-side), payment performance, and consumer centricity.

**191. World Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day is observed on which date?**

विश्व जन्मजात हृदय दोष जागरूकता दिवस किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) February 10

- (b) February 12
- (c) February 14
- (d) February 18
- (e) February 20

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 14 February - World Congenital Heart Defect (CHD) Awareness Day

14 February is observed as World Congenital Heart Defect (CHD) Awareness Day to spread awareness about heart defects that are present at birth.

The day highlights the importance of early detection, proper medical treatment, and lifelong care for individuals affected by congenital heart defects.

It also aims to support patients and families, promote research, and improve access to quality cardiac healthcare worldwide.

**192. BOBCARD Premier Credit Card, which was recently launched, is specially designed for which group?**

**BOBCARD** प्रीमियर क्रेडिट कार्ड, जो हाल ही में लॉन्च हुआ है, खास तौर पर किस ग्रुप के लिए बनाया गया है?

- (a) Senior citizens
- (b) Students
- (c) Business professionals
- (d) Visually impaired persons
- (e) Transgender

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** BOBCARD Launches Braille-Enabled Premier Credit Card

BOBCARD Limited, the credit card arm of Bank of Baroda (BOB), launched a Braille-enabled BOBCARD Premier Credit Card in Manipal, Karnataka.

The card features Braille markings to help visually impaired users easily identify and use the card.

**193. India's retail inflation stood at what percentage in January 2026 under the revised CPI series?**

जनवरी 2026 में रिवाइज्ड CPI सीरीज़ के तहत भारत की रिटेल महंगाई कितने परसेंट पर रही?

- (a) 1.33%
- (b) 2.13%
- (c) 2.50%
- (d) 2.75%

(e) 3.00%

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** India's Retail Inflation Rises to 2.75% in January Under Revised CPI Series

India's retail inflation stood at 2.75% in January under the revised Consumer Price Index (CPI) series, with the base year updated from 2012 to 2024 — marking the first major revision in over a decade.

Inflation remained within the tolerance limit of the Reserve Bank of India, despite rising from 1.33% (old series) in December.

Rural inflation rose to 2.73% and urban inflation to 2.77%, while food inflation stood at 2.13%, reversing the deflation recorded in December.

The increase in inflation was mainly driven by higher prices in personal care, education services, clothing & footwear, restaurants & accommodation, and tobacco, with the revised CPI reducing the weight of food in the index.

**Previous Months CPI-based Retail inflation (Base Year 2012)**

- **August 2025 – 2.07%**
- **September 2025 – 1.44%**
- **October 2025 – 0.25%**
- **November 2025 – 0.71%**
- **December 2025 – 1.33%**

**194. DuitNow QR is the national QR standard of which country, recently integrated with India's UPI system to enable seamless cross-border merchant payments?**

हाल ही में भारत की UPI प्रणाली के साथ एकीकृत किया गया DuitNow QR किस देश का राष्ट्रीय QR मानक है, जिससे निर्बाध सीमा-पार व्यापारी भुगतान संभव हो सके?

- (a) Singapore
- (b) Thailand
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) Malaysia
- (e) Vietnam

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** NPCI International Partners with Malaysia's PayNet to Enable UPI–DuitNow QR Cross-Border Payments

NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the global arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), signed an agreement with Payments Network Malaysia Sdn Bhd (PayNet) to enable QR-based cross-border merchant payments between India and Malaysia.

In the first phase, Indian travellers in Malaysia can use UPI apps to pay at DuitNow QR merchant outlets, integrating India's UPI system with Malaysia's national QR standard.

In the next phase, Malaysian travellers visiting India will be able to scan UPI QR codes and make payments using their DuitNow apps at millions of UPI-enabled merchant locations.

The partnership aims to expand UPI's global footprint, promote interoperable real-time payment systems, and strengthen digital and economic connectivity between India and Malaysia under the guidance of the Government of India and RBI.

**195. NTT DATA Business Solutions partnered with NPCI Bharat Connect to streamline and digitise B2B payments for SAP-based enterprises through a unified payment interface. At which event was the NTT DATA–NPCI Bharat Connect collaboration announced?**

NTT DATA Business Solutions ने SAP-बेस्ड एंटरप्राइज़ के लिए एक यूनिफाइड पेमेंट इंटरफ़ेस के ज़रिए B2B पेमेंट को आसान और डिजिटाइज़ करने के लिए NPCI भारत कनेक्ट के साथ पार्टनरशिप की। NTT DATA–NPCI भारत कनेक्ट कोलेबोरेशन की घोषणा किस इवेंट में की गई थी?

- (a) India Digital Summit 2026
- (b) Tech Innovate 2026
- (c) Transformation NOW! 2026
- (d) Global Payments Forum 2026
- (e) Enterprise Tech Con 2026

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** NTT DATA Business Solutions Partners with NPCI Bharat Connect to Simplify B2B Payments for SAP Enterprises

NTT DATA Business Solutions partnered with NPCI Bharat Connect to streamline and digitise B2B payments for SAP-based enterprises through a unified payment interface.

The collaboration, announced at Transformation NOW! 2026, aims to simplify complex payment processes within SAP ERP systems and reduce inefficiencies caused by multiple banking relationships and fragmented platforms.

**196. Recently, the Department of Posts signed an MoU to distribute mutual fund products across India through its vast network of post offices. This agreement has been signed with which of the following organisations?**

हाल ही में, डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ़ पोस्ट्स ने अपने पोस्ट ऑफिस के बड़े नेटवर्क के ज़रिए पूरे भारत में म्यूचुअल फंड प्रोडक्ट्स डिस्ट्रीब्यूट करने के लिए एक MoU साइन किया है। यह एग्रीमेंट इनमें से किस ऑर्गनाइज़ेशन के साथ साइन किया गया है?

- (a) Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)
- (b) Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)
- (c) National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE)
- (d) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India Post Partners with NSE to Distribute Mutual Funds Nationwide, Boosting Financial Inclusion

The Department of Posts signed an MoU with National Stock Exchange of India Limited to distribute mutual fund products through India Post's extensive network of over 1.64 lakh post offices.

Under the partnership, NSE will provide its digital mutual fund platform, handling order placement, processing, and settlement in compliance with SEBI regulations. The initiative aims to boost financial inclusion, increase investor awareness, ensure transparency, and encourage greater participation in India's capital markets.

**197. Which homegrown messaging application is being promoted by Russian authorities as an alternative to WhatsApp?**

WhatsApp के विकल्प के रूप में रूसी अधिकारियों द्वारा किस स्वदेशी मैसेजिंग एप्लिकेशन को बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा है?

- (a) VK Messenger
- (b) Telegram
- (c) Yandex Chat
- (d) ICQ
- (e) Max

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Russia Blocks WhatsApp

Russia has blocked WhatsApp for not complying with local laws, urging users to switch to domestic alternatives.

Around 100 million Russian users are encouraged to use the homegrown messaging app Max.

**About Russia**

- **Capital** – Moscow
- **Currency** – Rubel
- **President** – Vladimir Putin (5<sup>th</sup> time)

- *Prime Minister - Mikhail Mishustin*

**198. Who became the first woman Train Ticket Examiner (TTE) in the history of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway?**

दार्जिलिंग हिमालयन रेलवे के इतिहास में पहली महिला ट्रेन टिकट एग्जामिनर (TTE) कौन बनी?

- (a) Sarita Yolmo
- (b) Kavita Rai
- (c) Parul Tyagi
- (d) Poonam Gurung
- (e) Sunita Lama

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Appoints First Woman TTE in 145 Years

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) has appointed its first woman Train Ticket Examiner (TTE), Sarita Yolmo, nearly 145 years after its establishment in 1881.

Sarita Yolmo, who shifted from the Railway Press to the Commercial Department, made history by being assigned 'tour duty' on the iconic 88-km mountain railway route from New Jalpaiguri to Darjeeling.

Operated by the Northeast Frontier Railway, the DHR is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (since 1999) and Asia's oldest two-foot narrow-gauge system, symbolizing progress in women's representation in Indian Railways.

**199. Goa's first Biodiversity and Cultural Features Map has been developed by which organisation?**

गोवा का पहला जैव विविधता और सांस्कृतिक विशेषताओं का मानचित्र किस संगठन द्वारा विकसित किया गया है?

- (a) Wildlife Institute of India
- (b) Ministry of Environment
- (c) WWF India
- (d) National Biodiversity Authority
- (e) UNEP

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** WWF India Develops Goa's First Biodiversity and Cultural Features Map for School Students

WWF India has developed Goa's first Biodiversity and Cultural Features Map, combining ecological and cultural education for students.

The map showcases 48 commonly found species along with traditional art forms of Goa, focusing on biodiversity visible in everyday surroundings.

It will be unveiled at the Goa Art and Literature Festival and distributed free of cost to schools in both print and digital formats.

### **About Goa**

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

**200. Under the Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) programme approved by the Defence Acquisition Council, India plans to procure 114 fighter jets to strengthen the Indian Air Force's air dominance, long-range strike capability, and deterrence posture. Which of the following fighter aircraft has been selected under this programme?**

MRFA कार्यक्रम के तहत, जिसे रक्षा अधिग्रहण परिषद द्वारा स्वीकृति दी गई है, भारत भारतीय वायुसेना की वायु श्रेष्ठता, लंबी दूरी की स्ट्राइक क्षमता और प्रतिरोधक शक्ति को मजबूत करने के लिए 114 लड़ाकू विमान खरीदेगा। निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा विमान इस कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत चुना गया है?

- (a) Sukhoi-30 MKI
- (b) F-21
- (c) Tejas Mk-2
- (d) Rafale
- (e) Mirage 2000

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Defence Acquisition Council Clears ₹3.60 Lakh Crore Defence Procurement, Including 114 Rafale Jets

The Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by Rajnath Singh, accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisition proposals worth ₹3.60 lakh crore, marking one of the largest defence clearances in recent years.

For the Indian Air Force and Navy, approvals include 114 Rafale fighter jets under the MRFA programme from France's Dassault Aviation, six P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft from the U.S., combat missiles, and an Air-Ship Based High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (AS-HAPS), significantly boosting air dominance, ISR, and maritime strike capabilities.

The clearances also cover Army modernisation (Vibhav anti-tank mines and overhaul of T-72, BMP-II and ARVs), a 4 MW Marine Gas Turbine generator under the Make-I category, and EO/IR systems for Coast Guard Dornier aircraft, reinforcing indigenisation and force modernisation across services.

**201. The Ministry of Defence signed a ₹2,312 crore contract with which company for the procurement of eight Dornier 228 aircraft?**

रक्षा मंत्रालय ने आठ डोर्नियर 228 विमान की खरीद के लिए ₹2,312 करोड़ का अनुबंध किस कंपनी के साथ किया?

- (a) Bharat Electronics Limited
- (b) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- (c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- (d) Larsen & Toubro
- (e) Tata Advanced Systems

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Ministry of Defence Signs ₹2,312 Crore Deal with HAL for 8 Dornier 228 Aircraft for Indian Coast Guard

The Ministry of Defence signed a ₹2,312 crore contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for the procurement of eight Dornier 228 aircraft for the Indian Coast Guard, under the Buy (Indian) category to boost indigenous defence manufacturing. The Dornier 228 aircraft, equipped with operational role equipment, will enhance coastal surveillance, maritime reconnaissance, search-and-rescue operations, and strengthen monitoring of India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

**202. Recently, mixed martial artist Pablo Oliveira Costa, who passed away in a tragic accident, belonged to which country?**

हाल ही में दुखद दुर्घटना में निधन हुए मिश्रित मार्शल आर्ट खिलाड़ी पाब्लो ओलिवेरा कोस्टा किस देश से संबंधित थे?

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Brazilian MMA Fighter Pablo Oliveira Costa Dies in Electrocution Accident at 31  
Brazilian mixed martial artist Pablo Oliveira Costa died at the age of 31 after suffering a fatal electrocution accident in São José, when a metal ladder he was moving came into contact with a high-voltage power line.

Despite emergency responders performing CPR for nearly 40 minutes, he succumbed to severe burns and cardiac arrest.

**203. The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Sanjay Agarwal as Managing Director of which bank?**

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक ने संजय अग्रवाल को किस बैंक के प्रबंध निदेशक के रूप में पुनर्नियुक्ति की मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) Bandhan Bank
- (b) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- (c) Jana Small Finance Bank
- (d) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- (e) AU Small Finance Bank

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** RBI Approves Third-Term Reappointment of Sanjay Agarwal as MD of AU Small Finance Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Sanjay Agarwal as Managing Director of AU Small Finance Bank, marking his third term at the helm of the bank.

Agarwal's fresh term will be for three years, effective from April 19, ensuring leadership continuity at the Jaipur-based small finance bank.

**About AU Small Finance Bank Limited**

- *Founded - 1996*
- *Founder - Sanjay Agarwal*
- *Headquarters - Jaipur, Rajasthan*
- *MD & CEO - Sanjay Agarwal*
- *Tagline - Chaloo Aage Badhein*

**204. The Gujarat government has appointed Uday Kotak as Chairman of which entity?**

गुजरात सरकार ने उदय कोटक को किस संस्था का अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किया है?

- (a) Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation
- (b) Gujarat State Financial Services Ltd
- (c) Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Company Ltd
- (d) International Financial Services Centres Authority
- (e) Gujarat Urban Development Authority

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Uday Kotak Appointed Chairman of GIFT City Developer Company

The Gujarat government has appointed Uday Kotak as Chairman of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Company Ltd, the state-promoted entity responsible for developing and managing GIFT City.

Uday Kotak replaces Hasmukh Adhia, who had been serving as non-executive chairman since June 19, 2023; the new appointment takes immediate effect as per the Gujarat government's resolution.

**205. Mia Mottley is the Prime Minister of which country?**

मिया मोटली किस देश की प्रधानमंत्री हैं?

- (a) Jamaica
- (b) Bahamas
- (c) Trinidad and Tobago
- (d) Barbados
- (e) Grenada

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Barbados PM Mia Mottley Secures Third Consecutive Election Victory

Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, secured her third consecutive election victory, with the Barbados Labour Party winning all seats in the House of Assembly.

**About Barbados**

- *Barbados is an eastern Caribbean island and an independent British Commonwealth nation*
- *Capital- Bridgetown*
- *Currency- Barbados Dollar*
- *Continent- North America*
- *President- Sandra Mason*
- *Prime minister- Mia Mottley*
- *Official language- English*

**206. In February 2026, India signed an Agreement on Social Security relating to Social Security Contributions with which country?**

फरवरी 2026 में, भारत ने किस देश के साथ सोशल सिक्योरिटी कंट्रीब्यूशन से जुड़े सोशल सिक्योरिटी एग्रीमेंट पर साइन किए?

- (a) France
- (b) Germany
- (c) Australia
- (d) Canada
- (e) United Kingdom

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** India, UK sign Social Security Agreement for Temporary Employees

India signed an Agreement on Social Security with the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland in New Delhi, aimed at avoiding double social security contributions for employees on temporary assignments of up to 36 months.

The agreement was signed by Vikram Misri and Lindy Cameron, and forms part of India's broader trade engagement with the UK, coming into force alongside the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement.

Separately, Vikram Misri held the India–China Strategic Dialogue with Ma Zhaoxu, Executive Vice Foreign Minister of China, on the sidelines of the BRICS Sherpa Meeting, reviewing bilateral ties and discussing regional and global issues.

**207. What is Seva Teerth, which was seen in the news recently?**

सेवा तीर्थ क्या है, जो हाल ही में खबरों में था?

- (a) A newly launched pilgrimage tourism project
- (b) A defence training establishment under the Ministry of Defence
- (c) A residential complex for Members of Parliament
- (d) A newly inaugurated administrative complex housing the PMO
- (e) A digital governance portal for citizen services

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** PM Modi Inaugurates Seva Teerth and Kartavya Bhavan Complexes

Narendra Modi inaugurated the Seva Teerth Complex, which now houses the Prime Minister's Office, National Security Council Secretariat, and Cabinet Secretariat, along with Kartavya Bhavan-1 and Kartavya Bhavan-2, accommodating several key Union ministries.

The new complexes aim to replace fragmented and ageing infrastructure in the Central Vista area by consolidating ministries into modern, digitally integrated, citizen-centric facilities, enhancing coordination, efficiency, security, and governance processes.

Built to 4-Star GRIHA standards, the buildings incorporate renewable energy, water conservation, waste management, and advanced safety systems, reflecting the government's broader administrative reforms and renaming initiatives such as Rajpath to Kartavya Path and Race Course Road to Lok Kalyan Marg.

**208. Which two institutions signed an MoU to collaborate on telecom and cybersecurity products, as seen in the news recently?**

हाल ही में समाचार में, दूरसंचार और साइबर सुरक्षा उत्पादों पर सहयोग के लिए किन दो संस्थानों ने समझौता किया?

- (a) ISRO and IIT Delhi
- (b) DRDO and IISC Bengaluru

- (c) C-DOT and RRU
- (d) BSNL and NIC
- (e) MeitY and CERT-In

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** C-DOT and Rashtriya Raksha University Sign MoU to Boost Telecom and Cybersecurity Innovation

Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), Gandhinagar, signed an MoU to collaborate on telecom and cybersecurity products, strengthening research and innovation in critical technology domains. Under the agreement, an Innovation-cum-Experience Centre will be set up at RRU's campus to advance work in Cybersecurity, Quantum Technologies, AI & ML, IoT, M2M solutions, 5G networks, and Mission Critical Services.

The initiative will also focus on training, capacity-building, and skilling programmes to create an industry-ready workforce for self-reliant innovation in telecom and cybersecurity.

**209. Oil India Limited (OIL) was conferred which prestigious award in 2025 for its outstanding performance in the oil and gas sector?**

ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड (OIL) को तेल और गैस सेक्टर में शानदार परफॉर्मेंस के लिए 2025 में कौन सा प्रतिष्ठित अवॉर्ड दिया गया?

- (a) ONGC Excellence Award 2025
- (b) FIPI Award 2025
- (c) Golden Hydrocarbon Award 2025
- (d) National Energy Leadership Award 2025
- (e) PSU Performance Award 2025

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Oil India Limited Bags FIPI Award 2025 as 'Oil & Gas Production Company of the Year'

Oil India Limited (OIL) has been awarded the FIPI Award 2025 by the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry as 'Oil & Gas Production Company of the Year' in the category of more than 1 MTOE.

The award recognises OIL's strong performance in boosting domestic oil and gas production, improving operational excellence, and contributing to India's goal of a secure and self-reliant energy sector.

**210. Amazon India has partnered with which institute to develop non-wood paper packaging from agricultural waste?**

अमेज़न इंडिया ने खेती के कचरे से नॉन-वुड पेपर पैकेजिंग बनाने के लिए किस इंस्टिट्यूट के साथ पार्टनरशिप की है?

- (a) IIT Delhi
- (b) IIT Bombay
- (c) IIT Roorkee
- (d) IISc Bangalore
- (e) NIT Trichy

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Amazon India Partners with IIT Roorkee to Develop Sustainable Non-Wood Paper Packaging from Agricultural Waste

Amazon India has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee to develop non-wood paper packaging from agricultural waste like wheat straw and bagasse, promoting recyclable and home-compostable materials.

The 15-month research, led by IIT Roorkee's Department of Paper and Packaging Technology and INNOPAP Lab, aims to reduce stubble burning, cut reliance on imported wood pulp, and provide additional income to farmers

**211. Dayananda Sagar University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with which global technology company to build India's first AI-first factory aimed at large-scale AI research and supercomputing?**

दयानंद सागर यूनिवर्सिटी ने किस ग्लोबल टेक्नोलॉजी कंपनी के साथ भारत की पहली AI-फर्स्ट फैक्ट्री बनाने के लिए एक मेमोरेंडम ऑफ़ अंडरस्टैंडिंग साइन किया है, जिसका मकसद बड़े पैमाने पर AI रिसर्च और सुपरकंप्यूटिंग करना है?

- (a) Intel Corporation
- (b) Google LLC
- (c) NVIDIA
- (d) Microsoft Corporation
- (e) IBM Corporation

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Dayananda Sagar University Partners with NVIDIA to Launch India's First AI-First Factory with ₹175 Crore Investment

Dayananda Sagar University has signed an MoU with NVIDIA to establish India's first AI-first factory with an investment exceeding ₹175 crore.

The AI factory will feature 20 NVIDIA DGX B200 (Blackwell) supercomputing clusters, enabling large-scale AI model training and inference.

The initiative aims to bridge gaps in AI infrastructure, reduce dependence on foreign AI models, promote domestic supercomputing technologies, and align academic training with industry requirements.

**212. Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan launched the Sthree Suraksha Scheme, providing a monthly pension to unemployed women and transwomen in Kerala.**

**How much monthly pension is provided under the Sthree Suraksha Scheme?**

केरल के CM पिनाराई विजयन ने स्त्री सुरक्षा स्कीम शुरू की, जिससे केरल में बेरोज़गार महिलाओं और ट्रांसवुमन को हर महीने पेंशन मिलेगी। स्त्री सुरक्षा स्कीम के तहत हर महीने कितनी पेंशन दी जाती है?

- (a) ₹500
- (b) ₹1,000
- (c) ₹1,500
- (d) ₹2,000
- (e) ₹2,500

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Kerala CM Launches 'Sthree Suraksha' Scheme Providing ₹1,000 Monthly Pension

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan launched the Sthree Suraksha Scheme, providing a monthly pension of ₹1,000 to unemployed women and transwomen in Kerala, with the first payment disbursed to 10,18,042 beneficiaries.

The scheme targets economically backward women aged 35–60 who are not receiving benefits from other social welfare pension schemes, along with transwomen, aiming to provide financial support and social security.

Part of Kerala's broader gender-focused welfare initiatives, the scheme aligns with gender budgeting, women-centric projects, and past initiatives like the pink police wing, reinforcing the government's commitment to women's safety and empowerment

#### **About Kerala**

- **Capital** – Thiruvananthapuram
- **Chief Minister** – Pinarayi Vijayan
- **Governor** – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- **Folk Dance**- Kathakali, Ottan Thullal, Mohiniyattam, Kaikottikali

**213. Which two organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote science communication and evidence-based policy research in India?**

भारत में साइंस कम्युनिकेशन और एविडेंस-बेस्ड पॉलिसी रिसर्च को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किन दो ऑर्गनाइज़ेशन ने मेमोरेंडम ऑफ़ अंडरस्टैंडिंग (MoU) पर साइन किए?

(a) National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

(b) Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR)

(c) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

(d) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

(e) Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** INSA And CSIR-NIScPR Sign MoU To Advance Science Policy Research  
 Indian National Science Academy and CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research signed an MoU to foster collaboration in science communication and policy research.

The partnership aims to promote evidence-based Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) policy research to support informed and effective policymaking in India.

**214. Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, inaugurated the SATYA, bringing STQC services onto a single, integrated, and user-friendly digital platform. In the context of the STQC Lab Automation Portal, what does the abbreviation 'SATYA' stand for?**

इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और इन्फॉर्मेशन टेक्नोलॉजी राज्य मंत्री जितिन प्रसाद ने SATYA का उद्घाटन किया, जो STQC सर्विसेज़ को एक सिंगल, इंटीग्रेटेड और यूज़र-फ्रेंडली डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म पर लाता है। STQC लैब ऑटोमेशन पोर्टल के संदर्भ में, 'SATYA' का शॉर्ट फ़ॉर्म क्या है?

(a) System for Automated Testing of Young Applications

(b) Software Access and Technology Yield Application

(c) Standardisation, Automation and Testing for Your Assurance

(d) Secure Access for Testing and Yield Analysis

(e) Standard Application for Technology and Your Assessment

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Union Minister Jitin Prasada inaugurates STQC Lab Automation Portal, SATYA  
 Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, inaugurated the Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Lab Automation Portal – SATYA, bringing STQC services onto a single, integrated, and user-friendly digital platform.

The Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate ensures the quality, security, and reliability of electronic and IT products and services, and the SATYA Portal will benefit citizens, industry, startups, MSMEs, and government departments.

The SATYA Portal aims to enhance ease, transparency, accountability, cybersecurity, and data protection, strengthening citizen-centric digital governance and supporting India's growth as a trusted global technology and manufacturing hub.

**215. Which state has introduced the Nawodhan Scheme to bring fallow agricultural land back into active cultivation?**

किस राज्य ने परती खेती की ज़मीन को फिर से खेती लायक बनाने के लिए नवधन स्कीम शुरू की है?

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

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Kerala Launches Nawodhan Scheme to Revive Fallow Land and Boost Self-Reliance in Horticulture

Kerala has launched the Nawodhan Scheme to bring large areas of fallow land back into cultivation and boost self-reliance in agricultural produce, especially fruits and vegetables.

The scheme promotes modern, high-yield commercial farming through a partnership model where landowners retain ownership, while skilled farmers, investors, agri-startups, and farmer collectives undertake cultivation without any transfer of land rights.

Nawodhan is a key component of the KERA Project, implemented by the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare with financial and technical support from the World Bank.

**216. Which authority imposed monetary penalties on Bank of Maharashtra, DCB Bank, CSB Bank, IIFL Finance and Navi Finserv for regulatory non-compliance?**

किस अथॉरिटी ने रेगुलेटरी नॉन-कम्प्लायंस के लिए बैंक ऑफ़ महाराष्ट्र, DCB बैंक, CSB बैंक, IIFL फाइनेंस और नवी फिनसर्व पर मॉनेटरी पेनल्टी लगाई?

- (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- (b) Ministry of Finance

(c) Reserve Bank of India

(d) National Payments Corporation of India

(e) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** RBI Slaps Fines on Bank of Maharashtra, DCB Bank, CSB Bank, IIFL Finance and Navi Finserv for Non-Compliance with Norms

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed monetary penalties on Bank of Maharashtra (₹32.50 lakh), DCB Bank (₹29.60 lakh), and CSB Bank (₹63.60 lakh) for non-compliance with regulatory directions.

The RBI also fined Navi Finserv (₹3.80 lakh) and IIFL Finance (₹5.30 lakh) for regulatory lapses related to customer communication, asset classification, and recovery practices.

The penalties were imposed for violations such as failure to report Self Help Group data, non-adherence to loan-to-value norms in gold loans, improper arrangements with business correspondents, non-disclosure of charges, incorrect NPA classification, and recovery calls at odd hours.

**217. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of GAIL (India) Limited?**

**GAIL (India) Limited के नए चेयरमैन एवं प्रबंध निदेशक (CMD) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

(a) Sandeep Kumar

(b) Deepak Gupta

(c) Rajeev Singh

(d) Anil Mehta

(e) Manoj Sharma

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** GAIL (India) Limited Appoints Deepak Gupta as New CMD

GAIL (India) Limited appointed Deepak Gupta as its new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD); he will assume charge on or after 1 March 2026 and serve till 28 February 2029.

He will succeed Sandeep Kumar Gupta, who is set to retire on 28 February 2026.

The appointment was approved by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

**About GAIL (India) Limited**

- GAIL (India) Limited serves as India's leading natural gas processing and transmission company, a Maharatna public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- Established- 1984

- Headquarters- New Delhi

**218. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director & CEO of Slice Small Finance Bank?**

Slice Small Finance Bank के प्रबंध निदेशक एवं CEO के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Rajeev Jain
- (b) Rajan Bajaj
- (c) Mehak Gupta
- (d) Ankit Mehta
- (e) Sandeep Bakhshi

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Reserve Bank of India Approves Rajan Bajaj as MD & CEO of Slice Small Finance Bank

The Reserve Bank of India approved the appointment of Rajan Bajaj as Managing Director & CEO of Slice Small Finance Bank, following approval from the bank's board and shareholders.

Slice had acquired North East Small Finance Bank in 2023 and later merged it to form Slice Small Finance Bank, marking its transition from a fintech startup to a licensed deposit-taking bank.

**219. The six-lane Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu, inaugurated to enhance connectivity in Assam, has been constructed over which of the following rivers?**

असम में कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ाने के लिए उद्घाटित छह-लेन कुमार भास्कर वर्मा सेतु निम्नलिखित में से किस नदी पर निर्मित किया गया है?

- (a) Ganga
- (b) Barak
- (c) Teesta
- (d) Brahmaputra
- (e) Subansiri

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** PM Modi Inaugurates Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu in Assam

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a six-lane bridge over the Brahmaputra River in Assam.

The bridge is named Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu and cost 3,030 crore.

It is the 1.24 km-long bridge that connects Guwahati with North Guwahati. It is the first extradosed bridge in the Northeast.

An extradosed bridge uses external support cables and low towers to increase strength and span length.

**220. India's first National Cow Culture Museum is proposed to be established in which city?**

भारत का पहला राष्ट्रीय गौ संस्कृति संग्रहालय किस शहर में स्थापित किया जाएगा?

- (a) Varanasi
- (b) Ayodhya
- (c) Mathura
- (d) Prayagraj
- (e) Agra

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India to Establish First National Cow Culture Museum in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh  
India will set up its first National Cow Culture Museum in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, within the campus of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Veterinary Science University. The museum aims to present a balanced narrative by highlighting the cultural, agricultural, and economic importance of cattle, going beyond purely religious symbolism and integrating scientific awareness.

It will showcase the spiritual and practical role of cows, including cattle conservation, sustainable farming practices, use of draught power, organic manure, and the role of dairy in supporting rural livelihoods.

**221. National Payments Corporation of India has extended its UPI One World wallet to international delegates attending the India AI Impact Summit 2026, enabling UPI payments without an Indian mobile number or bank account.**

**What is the maximum limit per transaction under the 'UPI One World' wallet?**

नेशनल पेमेंट्स कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ़ इंडिया ने इंडिया AI इम्पैक्ट समिट 2026 में शामिल होने वाले इंटरनेशनल डेलीगेट्स के लिए अपना UPI वन वर्ल्ड वॉलेट बढ़ाया है, जिससे बिना इंडियन मोबाइल नंबर या बैंक अकाउंट के UPI पेमेंट किया जा सकेगा। 'UPI वन वर्ल्ड' वॉलेट के तहत हर ट्रांज़ैक्शन की मैक्सिमम लिमिट क्या है?

- (a) ₹10,000
- (b) ₹20,000
- (c) ₹25,000
- (d) ₹40,000
- (e) ₹50,000

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** NPCI Extends 'UPI One World' Wallet to International Delegates at India AI Impact Summit 2026

National Payments Corporation of India has extended its UPI One World wallet to international delegates attending the India AI Impact Summit 2026, enabling UPI payments without an Indian mobile number or bank account.

The pilot is available to delegates from 40+ countries participating in the summit held in New Delhi from 16–20 February, allowing real-time P2M payments by scanning UPI QR codes during their stay.

The wallet is issued via authorised PPI issuers at New Delhi International Airport and the NPCI Pavilion at Bharat Mandapam; users register through the Transcorp-powered CheqUPI app using passport/visa verification and a UPI PIN.

Wallets can be loaded using international cards with limits of ₹25,000 per transaction and ₹50,000 per month; unused balances are refundable per forex rules, amid strong UPI growth (Jan 2026: 21.70 bn transactions worth ₹28.33 lakh crore).

**222. Which bank became the first issuer in the Asia-Pacific region to pilot Visa Intelligent Commerce (VIC)?**

एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में Visa Intelligent Commerce (VIC) का पायलट शुरू करने वाला पहला बैंक कौन सा है?

- (a) HSBC
- (b) Standard Chartered
- (c) DBS Bank
- (d) OCBC Bank
- (e) Citi Bank

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** DBS Bank Becomes First in Asia-Pacific to Pilot Visa Intelligent Commerce for AI-Driven Payments

DBS Bank became the first issuer in the Asia-Pacific region to pilot Visa Intelligent Commerce, in collaboration with Visa, marking a key step toward agent-initiated, AI-driven digital payments.

The pilot validates AI-ready card credentials, authentication systems, and payment signals, ensuring secure, consent-based transactions executed by artificial intelligence agents within issuer-controlled safeguards.

During trials, DBS and Visa successfully enabled real-world food and beverage transactions using DBS and POSB cards; the initiative will now expand to online shopping, travel bookings, and other digital services.

**223. The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has signed an MoU to establish 'VAYYU'—a Virtual Research Centre focusing on aerosol–meteorology interactions and Himalayan atmosphere-cryosphere studies. It has partnered with which of the following organizations?**

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मद्रास (IIT Madras) ने 'VAYYU' नामक वर्चुअल रिसर्च सेंटर स्थापित करने हेतु एक MoU पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं, जो एरोसोल-मौसम विज्ञान अंतःक्रिया और हिमालयी वायुमंडल-क्रायोस्फीयर अध्ययन पर केंद्रित है। इस परियोजना के लिए IIT मद्रास ने किस संगठन के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- (b) European Environment Agency (EEA)
- (c) Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI)
- (d) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- (e) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** IIT Madras Partners with Finnish Meteorological Institute to Establish 'VAYYU' Climate Research Centre

Indian Institute of Technology Madras has partnered with the Finnish Meteorological Institute to establish VAYYU – a Virtual Research Centre focusing on aerosol–meteorology interactions, Himalayan atmosphere-cryosphere dynamics, and urban air quality.

The centre will conduct advanced simulations and state-of-the-art observations to study the impact of aerosols on regional hydro-climate, Himalayan snow and glacier melt, and air pollution in Indian megacities.

The collaboration, formalised through an MoU signed by senior IIT Madras and FMI officials, aims to strengthen Indo-Finnish cooperation in climate science, urban sustainability, and next-generation environmental research.

**224. IIT Bombay signed an MoU with which international university to establish the Centre of AI for Manufacturing?**

IIT बॉम्बे ने Centre of AI for Manufacturing स्थापित करने हेतु किस अंतरराष्ट्रीय विश्वविद्यालय के साथ MoU पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Harvard University
- (b) Stanford University
- (c) Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- (d) Columbia University
- (e) University of Oxford

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** IIT Bombay and Columbia University Sign MoU to Establish Centre of AI for Manufacturing

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and Columbia University signed an MoU to establish the Columbia–IIT Bombay Centre of AI for Manufacturing, in the presence of Dharmendra Pradhan at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

The Centre will function as a joint research and translation hub focused on applying artificial intelligence to real-world manufacturing systems, developing interoperable and scalable AI solutions across sectors.

**225. The 2026 edition of the MILAN naval exercise is being held at which place?  
MILAN 2026 नौसैनिक अभ्यास किस स्थान पर आयोजित किया जा रहा है?**

- (a) Kochi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Chennai
- (d) Visakhapatnam
- (e) Port Blair

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Indian Navy Launches Mega Multilateral Naval Exercise 'MILAN' at Visakhapatnam

MILAN, the ten-day mega multilateral naval exercise hosted by the Indian Navy, has commenced at Visakhapatnam with participation from 72 nations, over 60 warships, and three foreign aircraft.

Major global powers, including the US, Russia, Japan, Germany, the Philippines, UAE, and South Africa are participating, while India has deployed key assets such as aircraft carriers INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant along with Visakhapatnam-class destroyers.

The MILAN Village was inaugurated at the Eastern Naval Command by Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, creating a dedicated platform for social, cultural, and professional interaction among naval delegates from over 70 countries, strengthening global maritime cooperation.

The theme: is "Camaraderie, Cooperation, Collaboration" and it supports the Prime Minister's

**226. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has approved a Joint Venture Agreement with which company for the HAMMER weapon system project?**

**HAMMER हथियार प्रणाली परियोजना के लिए BEL ने किस कंपनी के साथ संयुक्त उद्यम समझौते को मंजूरी दी है?**

- (a) Thales Group

- (b) Dassault Aviation  
 (c) MBDA  
 (d) Safran Electronics and Defence  
 (e) Airbus Defence

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Bharat Electronics Limited Approves Joint Venture with Safran Electronics and Defence for HAMMER Weapon System Project

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has approved signing a Joint Venture Agreement with Safran Electronics and Defence, France, for the HAMMER weapon system project, as per a stock exchange filing.

Under the agreement, BEL and Safran will jointly incorporate a private limited company under the Companies Act, 2013, with its registered office and principal place of business proposed to be in Pune or another mutually agreed location.

**About Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**

- *Bharat Electronics Limited is an Indian Government-owned aerospace and defence electronics company.*
- *Founded -1954*
- *Headquarters – Bengaluru*

**227. Recently in the news, space tech start-up GalaxEye signed a data reseller partnership agreement to expand the global reach of its satellite imagery solutions. This agreement was signed with which organisation?**

हाल ही में खबरों में, स्पेस टेक स्टार्ट-अप GalaxEye ने अपने सैटेलाइट इमेजरी सॉल्यूशंस की ग्लोबल पहुंच बढ़ाने के लिए एक डेटा रीसेलर पार्टनरशिप एग्रीमेंट साइन किया। यह एग्रीमेंट किस ऑर्गनाइज़ेशन के साथ साइन किया गया था?

- (a) Antrix Corporation  
 (b) IN-SPACe  
 (c) Department of Space  
 (d) NewSpace India Limited  
 (e) Defence Space Agency

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** GalaxEye Becomes First Private Indian Satellite Operator to Partner with NewSpace India Limited for Global Data Reseller Agreement

Space tech start-up GalaxEye has signed a data reseller agreement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation, for providing advanced satellite imagery solutions.

Under the collaboration, NSIL will resell GalaxEye's full product portfolio, including its 'SyncFused OptoSAR' solutions, enabling high-precision applications across sectors

such as agriculture, disaster management, infrastructure planning, natural resource management, and environmental monitoring.

With this agreement, GalaxEye becomes the first private Indian satellite operator to formally partner with NSIL as a data reseller, supporting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative by promoting Indian space products and services at the global level.

**228. Who won the 2026 FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship?**

**2026 FIDE फ्रीस्टाइल शतरंज विश्व चैंपियनशिप किसने जीती?**

- (a) Fabiano Caruana
- (b) Hikaru Nakamura
- (c) Ding Liren
- (d) Ian Nepomniachtchi
- (e) Magnus Carlsen

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Magnus Carlsen Wins Inaugural FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship

Magnus Carlsen won the 2026 FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship, defeating Fabiano Caruana in the final held at Weissenhaus from 13–15 February, marking the first official Freestyle Chess World Championship recognised by FIDE.

Carlsen secured the title with a 2.5–1.5 scoreline in the four-game final, sealing victory with a composed draw in the fourth game after gaining a crucial edge earlier in the match.

**229. Geeta Patnaik passed away at the age of 73. Geeta Patnaik was primarily associated with which regional music industry?**

**गीता पटनायक का 73 साल की उम्र में निधन हो गया। गीता पटनायक मुख्य रूप से किस रीजनल म्यूज़िक इंडस्ट्री से जुड़ी थीं?**

- (a) Bengali
- (b) Marathi
- (c) Gujarati
- (d) Assamese
- (e) Odia

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Renowned Odia Singer Geeta Patnaik Passes Away

Geeta Patnaik, a renowned Odia singer, passed away at the age of 73, leaving behind a rich legacy in the field of Odia music.

She was widely respected for her lifelong contribution to Odia music and remained a prominent cultural figure in Odisha for several decades.

**230. David J. Farber, widely regarded as a “grandfather of the internet,” passed away in Tokyo at the age of 91. David J. Farber is known for which of the following contributions?**

डेविड जे. फार्बर, जिन्हें आम तौर पर “इंटरनेट का दादा” माना जाता है, का 91 साल की उम्र में टोक्यो में निधन हो गया। डेविड जे. फार्बर को इनमें से किस योगदान के लिए जाना जाता है?

- (a) Development of microprocessors
- (b) Invention of the World Wide Web
- (c) Pioneering work in computer networking and foundations of the Internet
- (d) Creation of the Linux operating system
- (e) Development of quantum computing models

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Internet Pioneer David J. Farber Passes Away at 91

David J. Farber, widely regarded as a “grandfather of the internet,” passed away in Tokyo at the age of 91.

Farber began his career at Bell Laboratories in the 1950s, where he worked on integrating computing systems with telecommunications, laying early foundations for modern computer networking.

**231. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India’s first Emergency Landing Facility in Northeast India at which location?**

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने पूर्वोत्तर भारत की पहली आपातकालीन लैंडिंग सुविधा किस स्थान पर उद्घाटित की?

- (a) Tezpur
- (b) Jorhat
- (c) Silchar
- (d) Dibrugarh
- (e) Tinsukia

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** PM Modi Inaugurates Northeast India’s First Emergency Landing Facility in Assam

Narendra Modi inaugurated the Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) on the Moran Bypass along a national highway in Dibrugarh district, Assam, marking the first such facility in Northeast India designed for emergency operations of military and civil aircraft in coordination with the Indian Air Force.

He also virtually inaugurated the temporary campus of the Indian Institute of Management Guwahati and the National Data Centre for the North Eastern Region,

flagged off 225 electric buses under the PM-eBus Sewa Scheme, and later addressed a BJP Booth Sanmilan in Guwahati.

**232. When is Global Tourism Resilience Day observed annually?**

ग्लोबल टूरिज्म रेजिलिएंस डे प्रतिवर्ष कब मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 15 February
- (b) 13 February
- (c) 14 February
- (d) 17 February
- (e) 28 February

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** 17 February - Global Tourism Resilience Day

Global Tourism Resilience Day is observed annually on 17 February to highlight the importance of building resilient, sustainable, and adaptable tourism sectors worldwide.

Theme 2026 - Tourism Resilience in Action: From Crisis Response to Impactful Transformation.

The day was officially proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly to promote strategies that help tourism industries recover from crises such as pandemics, climate change, natural disasters, and economic shocks.

**233. What is the primary purpose of the AI-based farmer platform Bharat-VISTAAR, recently launched in Jaipur by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan?**

हाल ही में जयपुर में केंद्रीय कृषि मंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान द्वारा लॉन्च किए गए एआई आधारित किसान प्लेटफॉर्म Bharat-VISTAAR का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?

- (a) To promote e-commerce and online sale of farm products among farmers
- (b) To Provide AI-based agricultural assistance and information
- (c) To replace agricultural universities and research institutions
- (d) To facilitate international exports of Indian crops directly from farms
- (e) To train farmers exclusively in modern mechanical farming techniques

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Shivraj Singh Chouhan to Launch AI-Powered Farmer Platform 'Bharat-VISTAAR' in Jaipur

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to launch AI-based farmer platform 'Bharat-VISTAAR' in Jaipur to empower farmers with technology.

Platform offers weather updates, mandi prices, pest & disease management, soil health, crop advisory, and government schemes in one place.

Farmers can access services via phone calls, chatbot, and in future, a mobile application; initially available in Hindi and English across multiple states like Maharashtra, Bihar, and Gujarat.

**234. Who inaugurated India's first CBDC-based Public Distribution System (PDS) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat?**

गुजरात के गांधीनगर में भारत की पहली CBDC-आधारित सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

- (a) **Nirmala Sitharaman**
- (b) **Piyush Goyal**
- (c) **Amit Shah**
- (d) **Narendra Modi**
- (e) **Rajnath Singh**

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Amit Shah Inaugurates India's First CBDC-Based Public Distribution System in Gujarat

Amit Shah inaugurated India's first CBDC-based Public Distribution System (PDS) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, where ration beneficiaries receive digital coupons instead of cash.

The digital coupons are stored as e-Rupee (CBDC) in an RBI-approved wallet and specify the ration item, quantity, and subsidised price; the funds can only be used for purchasing ration items.

Beneficiaries with smartphones can scan a QR code at ration shops, while feature phone users can complete transactions using Aadhaar OTP verification, ensuring accessibility for all.

The pilot project has been launched in Ahmedabad, Anand, Valsad, and Surat districts in collaboration with the Reserve Bank of India and the Government of Gujarat, with plans to expand to Union Territories like Chandigarh, Puducherry, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

As part of the rollout, Gujarat inaugurated the "Annapurta Grain ATM", an automated 24×7 machine capable of dispensing up to 25 kg of grain in about 35 seconds, enhancing efficiency and accessibility in ration distribution.

**235. The Union Cabinet recently approved the Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 to provide financial support to startups across India, especially in non-metro areas, and to reduce early-stage funding failures. What is the total corpus allocated for this initiative?**

हाल ही में यूनियन कैबिनेट ने Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 को मंजूरी दी, जिसका उद्देश्य पूरे भारत में स्टार्टअप्स को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करना, विशेष रूप से गैर-मेट्रो क्षेत्रों में, और शुरुआती चरण के फंडिंग फेल्यर्स को कम करना है। इस पहल के लिए कुल कितनी राशि आवंटित की गई है?

- (a) ₹5,000 crore
- (b) ₹7,500 crore
- (c) ₹10,000 crore
- (d) ₹12,500 crore
- (e) ₹15,000 crore

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Union Cabinet Approves ₹10,000 Crore Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 to Boost Innovation and Non-Metro Startups

The Union Cabinet approved Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore to support startups, particularly in non-metro areas, and reduce early-stage funding failures.

The fund will mobilise venture capital for high-tech and innovation-driven sectors, building on the success of Fund of Funds 1.0 launched in 2016.

Since 2016, India's startup ecosystem has grown to over 2 lakh DPIIT-recognised startups, highlighting the increasing need for structured early-stage funding.

Under Fund of Funds 1.0, the full corpus of ₹10,000 crore was allocated to 145 Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), which invested over ₹25,500 crore, benefiting more than 1,370 startups across India.

**236. What was India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation in January 2026?**

जनवरी 2026 में भारत की थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (WPI) मुद्रास्फीति कितनी रही?

- (a) 0.83%
- (b) 1.25%
- (c) 2.51%
- (d) 1.81%
- (e) 3.00%

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** India's Wholesale Inflation Rises to 1.81% in January

India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation rose to 1.81% in January 2026, marking the highest in 10 months and continuing its upward trend for the third consecutive month, driven by rising prices of food, non-food articles, and manufactured items.

Retail inflation inched up to 2.75% in January 2026, while the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced policy interest rates by 1.25 percentage points in the current fiscal year due to overall low inflation.

**237. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Narendra Modi, approved the ₹1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) to promote market-linked, reform-driven urban infrastructure development across India from FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31 (extendable to FY 2033–34), aiming to leverage ₹4 lakh crore in urban sector investments. Under the Urban Challenge Fund, what percentage of project costs will be covered by Central Assistance (CA)?**

नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में केंद्रीय कैबिनेट ने FY 2025–26 से FY 2030–31 (जिसे FY 2033–34 तक बढ़ाया जा सकता है) तक पूरे भारत में मार्केट-लिंक्ड, सुधार-आधारित शहरी इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट को बढ़ावा देने के लिए ₹1 लाख करोड़ के अर्बन चैलेंज फंड (UCF) को मंजूरी दी, जिसका मकसद शहरी सेक्टर में निवेश में ₹4 लाख करोड़ का फ़ायदा उठाना है। अर्बन चैलेंज फंड के तहत, प्रोजेक्ट लागत का कितना प्रतिशत सेंट्रल असिस्टेंस (CA) से कवर किया जाएगा?

- (a) 10%
- (b) 20%
- (c) 25%
- (d) 50%
- (e) 75%

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Union Cabinet Approves ₹1 Lakh Crore Urban Challenge Fund to Boost Market-Linked, Reform-Driven Urban Development

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Narendra Modi, approved the ₹1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) to promote market-linked, reform-driven urban infrastructure development across India from FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31 (extendable to FY 2033–34), aiming to leverage ₹4 lakh crore in urban sector investments.

The Fund will operate on a challenge-mode, outcome-oriented model, covering 25% of project costs through Central Assistance, with at least 50% of financing mobilised from market sources such as municipal bonds, bank loans, and PPPs, and the remainder contributed by states, Union Territories, and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

Key project verticals include:

- Cities as Growth Hubs – integrated spatial/economic planning, urban mobility, greenfield development, and critical infrastructure.
- Creative Redevelopment of Cities – renewal of CBDs, heritage areas, brownfield regeneration, climate resilience, and decongestion, especially in northeastern and hilly states.
- Water and Sanitation – upgrading water supply, sewerage, stormwater systems, integrated solid waste management, and legacy waste remediation.

To strengthen creditworthiness of smaller cities (particularly Tier-II, Tier-III, and northeastern/hilly ULBs), the Cabinet approved a ₹5,000 crore Credit Repayment Guarantee Scheme, providing central guarantees of up to ₹7 crore or 70% of first-time loans, and up to 50% for subsequent loans, facilitating initial market access for smaller cities.

**238. Google announced the 'America-India Connect' initiative at the India AI Impact Summit, a \$15 billion investment over five years to link India and the USA through new subsea cables. Where will the new international subsea gateway be established as part of the initiative?**

गूगल ने इंडिया AI इम्पैक्ट समिट में 'अमेरिका-इंडिया कनेक्ट' पहल की घोषणा की। यह भारत और USA को नए सबसे केबल के ज़रिए जोड़ने के लिए पांच सालों में \$15 बिलियन का निवेश है। इस पहल के तहत नया इंटरनेशनल सबसे गेटवे कहाँ बनाया जाएगा?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Chennai
- (c) Vizag
- (d) Kolkata
- (e) Hyderabad

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Google Unveils \$15 Billion 'America-India Connect' Subsea Cable Project to Boost AI Connectivity

Google announced the 'America-India Connect' initiative at the India AI Impact Summit, a \$15 billion investment over five years to link India and the USA through new subsea cables.

As part of the initiative, a new international subsea gateway will be established in Vizag, along with three new subsea paths connecting India to Singapore, South Africa, and Australia, and four strategic fibre-optic routes.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai stated that the project will enhance AI connectivity between India, the USA, and multiple locations across the southern hemisphere, supporting India's extraordinary AI growth trajectory.

**239. Tarique Rahman, Chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Bangladesh, ending nearly 18 months of political uncertainty under the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus. Tarique Rahman is the Chairman of which political party?**

बांग्लादेश नेशनलिस्ट पार्टी के चेयरमैन तारिक रहमान ने बांग्लादेश के नए प्रधानमंत्री के तौर पर शपथ ली, जिससे मुहम्मद यूनुस की अंतरिम सरकार के तहत लगभग 18 महीने की राजनीतिक अनिश्चितता खत्म हो गई। तारिक रहमान किस राजनीतिक पार्टी के चेयरमैन हैं?

- (a) Awami League
- (b) Jatiya Party
- (c) Communist Party of Bangladesh
- (d) Bangladesh Nationalist Party
- (e) Liberal Democratic Party

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Tarique Rahman Sworn in as Bangladesh Prime Minister

Tarique Rahman, Chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Bangladesh, ending nearly 18 months of political uncertainty under the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus.

The oath of office was administered by President Mohammed Shahabuddin at the South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in Dhaka; subsequently, 25 cabinet ministers and 24 state ministers were also sworn in.

India was represented at the ceremony by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

#### **About Bangladesh**

- **Capital**- Dhaka
- **Currency** – Taka
- **President** – Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu
- **Prime Minister** - Tarique Rahman

**240. India and France elevated their bilateral relationship to which new designation during President Macron's 2026 visit to India?**

भारत और फ्रांस ने राष्ट्रपति मैक्रों के 2026 के भारत दौरे के दौरान अपने आपसी रिश्तों को किस नए नाम तक बढ़ाया?

- (a) Comprehensive Economic Partnership
- (b) Indo-Pacific Strategic Alliance
- (c) Global Defence Cooperation Framework
- (d) Special Global Strategic Partnership
- (e) Enhanced Multilateral Partnership

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** India, France elevate ties to 'Special Global Strategic Partnership'

India and France elevated their ties to a "Special Global Strategic Partnership" after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Emmanuel Macron, expanding cooperation across defence, advanced technologies, critical minerals, climate action, health, education, and economic security.

The upgrade builds on the 1998 Strategic Partnership and the Horizon 2047 Roadmap, with both sides agreeing to launch an annual Foreign Ministers Comprehensive Dialogue and reaffirming support for a rules-based international order and India's permanent membership in a reformed United Nations Security Council.

Defence cooperation was deepened through renewal of the 10-year defence agreement, MoUs under the 6th India–France Defence Dialogue, progress on Rafale–Marine jets, joint production of HAMMER missiles, and new initiatives in co-design, co-development, and “Make in India” manufacturing.

The two countries also launched the 2026 India–France Year of Innovation, enhanced collaboration in AI, startups, and critical minerals, agreed to amend the DTAA to boost trade and investment, and strengthened cooperation in climate action, nuclear energy, and the Indo-Pacific region.

**241. The first national call for the BIRAC-RDI Fund, aimed at scaling high-impact biotechnology innovations under the ₹1 lakh crore RDI initiative, was announced by which Union Minister?**

₹1 लाख करोड़ की RDI पहल के तहत हाई-इम्पैक्ट बायोटेक्नोलॉजी इनोवेशन को बढ़ाने के मकसद से BIRAC-RDI फंड के लिए पहली नेशनल कॉल की घोषणा किस केंद्रीय मंत्री ने की थी?

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (c) Dharmendra Pradhan
- (d) Dr Jitendra Singh
- (e) Piyush Goyal

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Govt Launches First National Call for BIRAC-RDI Fund to Boost High-Impact Biotechnology Innovation

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh announced the first national call for the BIRAC-RDI Fund, aimed at scaling high-impact biotechnology innovations under the Government of India's ₹1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) initiative.

The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) has been appointed as a second-level fund manager and will deploy ₹2,000 crore over up to five years, with provisions for future expansion.

The BIRAC-RDI Fund is part of the national RDI initiative approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2025 and launched in November 2025 under the Anusandhan

National Research Foundation (ANRF), anchored by the Department of Science and Technology.

The fund will provide long-term, low-interest financing for high-risk and long-gestation research projects in sunrise sectors such as biotechnology, deep-tech, and artificial intelligence.

**242. Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda has launched two national AI-driven healthcare initiatives—SAHI and BODH—at the India AI Summit being held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI (BODH) has been developed by IIT Kanpur in collaboration with which organisation?**

केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा ने नई दिल्ली के भारत मंडपम में हो रहे इंडिया AI समिट में दो नेशनल AI-ड्रिवन हेल्थकेयर पहल—SAHI और BODH—लॉन्च की हैं। बेंचमार्किंग ओपन डेटा प्लेटफॉर्म फॉर हेल्थ AI (BODH) को IIT कानपुर ने किस संगठन के साथ मिलकर डेवलप किया है?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) Indian Council of Medical Research
- (c) Ministry of Electronics and IT
- (d) National Health Authority
- (e) National Informatics Centre

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** JP Nadda Launched SAHI and BODH to Strengthen AI Use in India's Healthcare System

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda has launched two national AI-driven healthcare initiatives—SAHI and BODH—at the India AI Summit being held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

The Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare for India (SAHI) has been introduced as a national guidance framework to ensure safe, ethical, evidence-based and inclusive adoption of AI across India's healthcare system.

The Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI (BODH), developed by the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur in collaboration with the National Health Authority, will enable privacy-preserving evaluation of AI models using real-world health data.

Positioned as a digital public good under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, SAHI and BODH together aim to strengthen trust, transparency and global competitiveness of India's health AI ecosystem.

**243. Which Indian state has approved the country's first comprehensive Graphene Policy with the objective of emerging as a global hub for graphene research, development and manufacturing?**

किस भारतीय राज्य ने ग्राफीन रिसर्च, डेवलपमेंट और मैनुफैक्चरिंग के लिए ग्लोबल हब के तौर पर उभरने के मकसद से देश की पहली कॉम्प्रिहेंसिव ग्राफीन पॉलिसी को मंजूरी दी है?

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

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Kerala Approves India's First Graphene Policy

Kerala has approved India's first comprehensive Graphene Policy, aiming to position the state as a global hub for graphene research, development, and manufacturing, integrating advanced materials into its long-term economic growth strategy.

As part of the initiative, the Union Cabinet approved the establishment of Grefine Park, and the state will set up a dedicated graphene industrial park in Palakkad along with a ₹200 crore Digital Innovation Centre to promote graphene-based innovation.

To attract domestic and global investors, Kerala will offer a 50% subsidy on lease payments for manufacturing units established in government-managed parks, creating a competitive ecosystem for advanced material production.

**About Kerala**

- **Capital** – Thiruvananthapuram
- **Chief Minister** – Pinarayi Vijayan
- **Governor** – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

**244. The first indigenous Cadet Training Ship (CTS) for the Indian Navy was launched at Kattupalli, Chennai, in the presence of Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan. The Cadet Training Ship 'Krishna' was built by which company?**

इंडियन नेवी के लिए पहला स्वदेशी कैडेट ट्रेनिंग शिप (CTS) चेन्नई के कट्टुपल्ली में चीफ ऑफ डिफेंस स्टाफ अनिल चौहान की मौजूदगी में लॉन्च किया गया। कैडेट ट्रेनिंग शिप 'कृष्णा' किस कंपनी ने बनाया था?

- (a) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd
- (b) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- (c) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- (d) Larsen & Toubro Shipyard
- (e) Hindustan Shipyard Limited

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** First Indigenous Cadet Training Ship Launched at L&T Kattupalli in Chennai  
The first indigenous Cadet Training Ship (CTS), built by M/s L&T Shipyard for the Indian Navy, was launched at Kattupalli, Chennai, in the presence of Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan.

The ship, named 'Krishna', pays tribute to the Krishna River, the third longest river in India, and was launched by Anupama, President of DWWA, following maritime traditions.

The contract for building three Cadet Training Ships was signed on 07 March 2023 between the Ministry of Defence and Larsen & Toubro (L&T Shipyard).

The ship will accommodate 20 Officers, 150 Sailors, and 200 Cadets, primarily for basic sea training, while also capable of roles like Hospital Ship, Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR), Search and Rescue (SAR), and Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO).

**245. As part of efforts to strengthen decentralised agricultural storage and cooperative infrastructure, which district has been selected as the pilot region under the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in the Cooperative Sector, where a modern 500-metric-tonne godown has been constructed at the PACS level?**

कृषि भंडारण को विकेंद्रीकृत करने और सहकारी अवसंरचना को मजबूत करने के उद्देश्य से, सहकारी क्षेत्र में विश्व की सबसे बड़ी अनाज भंडारण योजना के तहत किस जिले को पायलट क्षेत्र के रूप में चुना गया है, जहाँ PACS स्तर पर 500 मीट्रिक टन का आधुनिक गोदाम बनाया गया है?

- (a) Sehore
- (b) Lucknow
- (c) Balaghat
- (d) Jaipur
- (e) Sohna

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Balaghat Chosen as Pilot District Under World's Largest Cooperative Grain Storage Plan

Balaghat district in Madhya Pradesh has been selected as a pilot region under the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in the Cooperative Sector, with a 500-metric-tonne godown constructed at Parswada and inaugurated by Narendra Modi on 24 February 2024.

The modern storage facility is operated by the Madhya Pradesh Warehousing and Logistics Corporation and aims to strengthen rural storage capacity, promote

scientific warehousing, and support decentralised agricultural infrastructure at the grassroots level.

The initiative focuses on empowering Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) by integrating schemes like AIF, AMI, SMAM, and PMFME, enabling PACS to become multi-functional service centres while reducing farmers' dependence on distant warehouses.

### **About Madhya Pradesh**

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

**246. In a major step toward digital transformation of the judiciary, which High Court has introduced the Artificial Intelligence-assisted system known as Superlaw Courts to enhance case management and improve judicial efficiency?**

न्यायपालिका के डिजिटल परिवर्तन की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाते हुए, किस उच्च न्यायालय ने केस प्रबंधन में सुधार और न्यायिक दक्षता बढ़ाने के लिए 'Superlaw Courts' नामक कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) आधारित प्रणाली शुरू की है?

- (a) Madras High Court
- (b) Delhi High Court
- (c) Bombay High Court
- (d) Calcutta High Court
- (e) Karnataka High Court

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Madras High Court Launches AI-Assisted 'Superlaw Courts' System to Boost Judicial Efficiency

The Madras High Court has launched an AI-assisted system called Superlaw Courts, aimed at enhancing judicial efficiency by helping judges and legal professionals manage large volumes of case records and reduce delays in proceedings.

The system acts as an intelligent record assistant, creating a secure digital workspace, converting scanned documents into searchable text using OCR (Optical Character Recognition) technology, and enabling faster retrieval of relevant case information.

Established in 1862, the Madras High Court is one of India's three oldest High Courts, along with the Bombay High Court and the Calcutta High Court, and this initiative reflects the growing role of technology in strengthening India's justice delivery system.

**247. Lucas Pinheiro Braathen won the gold medal in which event at the Winter Olympics Milano Cortina 2026?**

लुकास पिनहेइरो ब्राथेन ने विंटर ओलंपिक मिलानो-कोर्टिना 2026 में किस स्पर्धा में स्वर्ण पदक जीता?

- (a) Slalom
- (b) Super-G
- (c) Giant Slalom
- (d) Downhill
- (e) Combined

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Lucas Pinheiro Braathen Creates History, Wins Giant Slalom Gold for Brazil at Milan Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics

Lucas Pinheiro Braathen won gold in the Giant Slalom at the Winter Olympics Milano Cortina 2026, securing Brazil's and South America's first-ever Winter Olympics medal. The 25-year-old clocked a combined time of 2 minutes 25 seconds, defeating Switzerland's defending champion Marco Odermatt by 0.58 seconds on the challenging Stelvio course amid snow and fog.

In the overall medal standings, Norway leads with 20 medals (10 gold), followed by Italy (18) and the United States (17), while India's Arif Mohammad Khan is set to compete in the slalom event.

**248. Norway's Johannes Hoesflot Klaebo won his ninth gold medal in which sport at the Milan Cortina Olympics?**

नॉर्वे के योहानेस होसफ्लोट क्लेबो ने मिलान-कोर्टिना ओलंपिक में अपना नौवां स्वर्ण पदक किस खेल में जीता?

- (a) Biathlon
- (b) Alpine Skiing
- (c) Cross-country skiing
- (d) Ice Hockey
- (e) Ski Jumping

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Norway's Johannes Hoesflot Klaebo wins ninth gold medal in cross-country skiing

Norway's Johannes Hoesflot Klaebo won his ninth gold medal in cross-country skiing, setting a Winter Games record, at the Milan Cortina Olympics.

The 29-year-old anchored the 4 x 7.5-kilometre relay in the men's competition for his fourth gold of the 2026 Games. He had shared the record with three retired Norwegian athletes.

**249. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the PM RAHAT (Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment) Scheme, providing cashless treatment to eligible road accident victims for seven days from the date of the accident. What is the maximum cashless treatment amount provided under the PM RAHAT scheme per road accident victim?**

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने PM RAHAT (रोड एक्सीडेंट विक्टिम हॉस्पिटलाइज़ेशन एंड एश्योर्ड ट्रीटमेंट) स्कीम को मंजूरी दी है, जो एक्सीडेंट की तारीख से सात दिनों तक योग्य रोड एक्सीडेंट पीड़ितों को कैशलेस ट्रीटमेंट देती है। PM RAHAT स्कीम के तहत हर रोड एक्सीडेंट पीड़ित को दी जाने वाली ज़्यादा से ज़्यादा कैशलेस ट्रीटमेंट रकम कितनी है?

- (a) ₹50,000
- (b) ₹1,00,000
- (c) ₹1,50,000
- (d) ₹2,00,000
- (e) ₹75,000

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** PM Modi Launches PM RAHAT Scheme for Cashless Road Accident Treatment  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the PM RAHAT (Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment) Scheme, providing cashless treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh per eligible road accident victim for seven days from the date of the accident.

The Road, Transport and Highways Ministry emphasized that the scheme reflects the government's commitment to ensuring no life is lost due to delayed medical assistance.

Reimbursement to hospitals under PM RAHAT will be facilitated through the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, ensuring smooth implementation of cashless treatment.

The launch of PM RAHAT from Seva Teerth, New Delhi, highlights a citizen-first approach, aiming to reduce preventable road accident fatalities through timely medical intervention.

**250. Who has become the first Asian bowler to take more than 150 wickets in T20 International cricket, marking a historic milestone for the continent?**

कौन एशियाई गेंदबाज T20 अंतरराष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट में 150+ विकेट लेकर महाद्वीप के लिए ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि हासिल करने वाले पहले खिलाड़ी बन गए हैं?

- (a) Mohammed Shami
- (b) Rashid Khan
- (c) Jasprit Bumrah

(d) Yuzvendra Chahal

(e) Dawlat Zadran

Ans. b

**Sol.** Rashid Khan Makes History as First Asian Bowler with 150+ T20I and 200+ ODI Wickets

Rashid Khan becomes the first Asian bowler to take over 150 wickets in T20Is and more than 200 wickets in ODIs.

He is the first Afghan bowler to achieve 200 ODI wickets, reaching the milestone during the first ODI against Bangladesh in Abu Dhabi.

In 115 ODIs, Rashid has 202 wickets at an average of 20.28 and an economy rate of 4.23, including six four-wicket hauls and five five-wicket hauls, with best figures of 7/18.

**251. The President of India inaugurated the 100-year celebrations of the Ol Chiki script, organised by the Ministry of Culture in New Delhi. Who invented the Ol Chiki script for the Santhali language?**

भारत के राष्ट्रपति ने नई दिल्ली में संस्कृति मंत्रालय द्वारा आयोजित ओल चिकी स्क्रिप्ट के 100 साल पूरे होने के जश्न का उद्घाटन किया। संथाली भाषा के लिए ओल चिकी स्क्रिप्ट किसने बनाई थी?

(a) Pandit Raghunath Murmu

(b) Rabindranath Tagore

(c) Mahatma Gandhi

(d) Bhimrao Ambedkar

(e) Smt. Droupadi Murmu

Ans. a

**Sol.** President Murmu Inaugurates Centenary Celebrations of Ol Chiki Script, Honours Santal Achievers

The President of India inaugurated the 100-year celebrations of the Ol Chiki script, organised by the Ministry of Culture in New Delhi.

The script, invented by Pandit Raghunath Murmu in 1925, preserves the Santhali language and serves as a symbol of Santal identity worldwide.

Before Ol Chiki, the Santhali language was written in Roman, Devanagari, Oriya, and Bengali scripts, which could not capture the original pronunciation accurately.

The President released a special coin and postage stamp and felicitated 10 achievers for promoting the use of Ol Chiki among the Santhali people.

**252. The 23rd edition of the international summit begins at Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) with the theme 'TechBio Unleashed –**

**AI, Automation, and the Revolutionary Changes in Life Sciences.’ What is the theme of BioAsia 2026 this year?**

इंटरनेशनल समिट का 23वां एडिशन हैदराबाद इंटरनेशनल कन्वेंशन सेंटर (HICC) में ‘टेकबायो अनलीशड – AI, ऑटोमेशन, और लाइफ साइंसेज में क्रांतिकारी बदलाव’ थीम के साथ शुरू हो रहा है। इस साल बायोएशिया 2026 की थीम क्या है?

(a) Life Sciences for Sustainable Future

(b) TechBio Unleashed

(c) Digital India in Healthcare

(d) Pharma Innovations 2047

(e) AI and Robotics in Medicine

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to Inaugurate BioAsia 2026 Summit Highlighting TechBio Innovations

The 23rd edition of the international summit begins at Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) with the theme ‘TechBio Unleashed – AI, Automation, and the Revolutionary Changes in Life Sciences.’

A. Revanth Reddy will officially launch the international exhibition featuring renowned life sciences organisations before delivering the keynote address.

Telangana Chief Minister highlights future of healthcare and biotech – Delegates will discuss next-generation biologics, AI-driven R&D, digital transformation, and strategies under the theme ‘Telangana Rising 2047 – World-Class Life Sciences Ecosystem.’

**253. Which two companies recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on thermal and renewable energy projects in India?**

हाल ही में भारत में थर्मल और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं पर सहयोग के लिए किस दो कंपनियों ने मेमोरेंडम ऑफ अंडरस्टैंडिंग (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

(a) NTPC & BHEL

(b) NLCIL & NALCO

(c) SAIL & Coal India

(d) ONGC & GAIL

(e) Power Grid & NHPC

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** NLCIL Signs MoU with NALCO to Boost Thermal and Renewable Energy Collaboration

NLC India Ltd. signed an MoU with National Aluminium Company to collaborate on thermal and renewable energy initiatives.

The MoU covers a 1,200 MW Thermal Captive Power Project and renewable energy development to meet NALCO's long-term and captive power needs efficiently.

The collaboration includes potential joint project development, long-term power arrangements, and coal supply agreements to ensure energy and fuel security.

**254. According to recent official data, the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) facilitated refund claims amounting to approximately how much across 31 sectors during the nine-month period from 25 April to 31 January 2026?**

हाल के ऑफिशियल डेटा के अनुसार, नेशनल कंज्यूमर हेल्पलाइन (NCH) ने 25 अप्रैल से 31 जनवरी 2026 तक नौ महीने के समय में 31 सेक्टर में लगभग कितने पैसे के रिफंड क्लेम को आसान बनाया?

- (a) ₹36 crore
- (b) ₹52 crore
- (c) ₹79 crore
- (d) ₹31 crore
- (e) ₹47 crore

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** National Consumer Helpline Facilitates ₹52 Crore Refunds Across 31 Sectors in Nine Months

National Consumer Helpline (NCH) facilitated refunds worth ₹52 crore across 31 sectors by resolving 79,521 refund-related grievances between 25 April and 31 January 2026.

The refunds were secured at the pre-litigation stage, providing consumers timely relief without approaching Consumer Commissions, under the framework of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

The E-commerce sector recorded the highest complaints (47,743 cases) with refunds exceeding ₹36 crore, followed by the Travel & Tourism sector, where refunds of over ₹4 crore were facilitated through the Helpline.

**255. The AI Impact Casebooks on Health & Education, launched at the India AI Impact Summit 2026, were developed with support from which international organisation to document large-scale AI deployments in India's health and education sectors?**

इंडिया AI इम्पैक्ट समिट 2026 में लॉन्च की गई हेल्थ और एजुकेशन पर AI इम्पैक्ट केसबुक्स, भारत के हेल्थ और एजुकेशन सेक्टर में बड़े पैमाने पर AI डिप्लॉयमेंट को डॉक्यूमेंट करने के लिए किस इंटरनेशनल ऑर्गनाइज़ेशन के सपोर्ट से डेवलप की गई थीं?

- (a) UNICEF

- (b) World Bank
- (c) World Health Organisation
- (d) International Monetary Fund
- (e) UNESCO

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** AI Impact Casebooks on Health & Education Launched at India AI Impact Summit 2026

The India AI Impact Summit 2026 witnessed the launch of AI Impact Casebooks – Health & Education, developed under the guidance of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, and the IndiaAI Mission, with support from the World Health Organisation and Central Square Foundation.

These casebooks document real-world AI deployments that have successfully moved beyond pilot projects to full implementation in clinics, classrooms, and skill development ecosystems.

The initiative aims to provide a structured reference for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders to understand AI's transformative impact in health and education sectors in India.

**256. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will develop India's first-ever bee-friendly corridors along national highways. What is the primary goal of NHAI's BeeCorridors initiative?**

नेशनल हाईवे अथॉरिटी ऑफ़ इंडिया (NHAI) नेशनल हाईवे के किनारे भारत का पहला मधुमक्खी-फ्रेंडली कॉरिडोर बनाएगा। NHAI के BeeCorridors इनिशिएटिव का मुख्य लक्ष्य क्या है?

- (a) To promote highway toll collection
- (b) To enhance habitat for pollinators like bees
- (c) To build more highways in urban areas
- (d) To encourage road transport businesses
- (e) To reduce traffic congestion

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** NHAI to Create India's First 'BeeCorridors' to Boost Pollinator Conservation

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will develop India's first-ever bee-friendly corridors along national highways to support pollinator conservation.

These corridors aim to enhance the habitat for bees and other pollinators, contributing to ecological balance and biodiversity along highway stretches.

NHAI plans to collaborate with environmentalists, ecologists, and research organisations to design and maintain these corridors effectively.

The initiative integrates environmental sustainability into national highway development, promoting eco-conscious infrastructure.

**257. Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched an Online Death Claim Settlement Portal, enabling families and legal heirs to settle claims digitally in a simplified, time-bound manner. What is the maximum claim amount for which no third-party surety is required?**

इंडियन ओवरसीज बैंक (IOB) ने एक ऑनलाइन डेथ क्लेम सेटलमेंट पोर्टल लॉन्च किया है, जिससे परिवार और कानूनी वारिस डिजिटल तरीके से आसान और समय पर क्लेम सेटल कर सकेंगे। वह अधिकतम क्लेम अमाउंट क्या है जिसके लिए किसी थर्ड-पार्टी श्योरिटी की ज़रूरत नहीं है?

- (a) ₹15 lakh
- (b) ₹10 lakh
- (c) ₹20 lakh
- (d) ₹5 lakh
- (e) ₹25 lakh

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** IOB Launches Online Death Claim Settlement Portal for Faster, Transparent Processing

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched an Online Death Claim Settlement Portal, enabling families and legal heirs to settle claims digitally in a simplified, time-bound manner.

Claimants can initiate and complete the entire process from home, entering their details along with the deceased customer's account information and uploading required documents directly.

The portal includes a real-time tracking system, allowing claimants to monitor the progress of their application at every stage for transparency.

For claims up to ₹15 lakh, the bank has introduced a simplified procedure with no third-party surety and a strict 15-day processing timeline.

#### **About Indian Overseas Bank**

- *Founded- 10 February 1937*
- *Headquarters- Chennai*
- *Founder- M. Ct. M. Chidambaram Chettyar*
- *MD & CEO - Ajay Kumar Srivastava*

**258. Paras Dogra became the second player to cross 10,000 runs in the Ranji Trophy during the 2025-26 semi-final against Bengal in Kalyani. Which state team is Paras Dogra currently captaining?**

पारस डोगरा कल्याणी में बंगाल के खिलाफ 2025-26 के सेमीफाइनल के दौरान रणजी ट्रॉफी में 10,000 रन पार करने वाले दूसरे खिलाड़ी बन गए। पारस डोगरा अभी किस स्टेट टीम के कप्तान हैं?

- (a) Jammu and Kashmir
- (b) Himachal Pradesh
- (c) Bengal
- (d) Mumbai
- (e) Delhi

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Paras Dogra Becomes Second Batter to Cross 10,000 Runs in Ranji Trophy  
Jammu and Kashmir captain Paras Dogra became the second player to cross 10,000 runs in the Ranji Trophy during the 2025-26 semi-final against Bengal in Kalyani. The 41-year-old right-handed batter has played 151 First Class matches, scoring over 10,000 runs at an average of 48.15, including 34 centuries and 35 fifties, with a highest score of 253.

Dogra made his debut in 2001/02 for Himachal Pradesh, moved to Jammu and Kashmir in 2024, and soon became the state team's captain, joining the elite list alongside Wasim Jaffer.

**259. Who has been named BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025?**

2025 के लिए बीबीसी इंडियन स्पोर्ट्सवुमन ऑफ द ईयर कौन बनीं?

- (a) Smriti Mandhana
- (b) Harmanpreet Kaur
- (c) Divya Deshukh
- (d) Suruchi Singh
- (e) Jyothi Yarraji

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Smriti Mandhana Named BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025

Smriti Mandhana has been named BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025 for her outstanding performances.

As India's vice-captain, she scored 434 runs in the 2025 ICC Women's World Cup, helping her team win the tournament.

Mandhana was chosen by a grand jury including Leander Paes, Deepa Malik, and Anju Bobby George, with other nominees like Harmanpreet Kaur and Divya Deshukh. Making her debut at age 16, she has scored 17 international centuries across formats, sharing the record with Australia's Meg Lanning.

**260. Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi resigned along with her cabinet.**

**Which political party does Sanae Takaichi belong to?**

जापान की प्रधानमंत्री साने ताकाइची ने अपनी कैबिनेट के साथ इस्तीफ़ा दे दिया। साने ताकाइची किस पॉलिटिकल पार्टी से हैं?

- (a) Liberal Democratic Party
- (b) Democratic Party of Japan
- (c) Constitutional Democratic Party
- (d) Komeito Party
- (e) Japan Innovation Party

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Sanae Takaichi Resigns as Japan PM

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi resigned along with her cabinet, with all ministers submitting their resignation letters ahead of a new parliamentary session to elect the prime minister.

Despite the resignation, Takaichi is expected to be reinstated as prime minister, as her ruling Liberal Democratic Party holds over two-thirds majority in the lower house after winning the February 2026 general election.

**About Japan**

- **Capital** – Tokyo
- **Currency** – Yen
- **Continent** - Asia

**261. The Department of Posts released a set of 8 commemorative postage stamps titled “Puppets of India” at the India Habitat Centre, highlighting India’s rich puppetry heritage. Which of the following puppetry forms from Rajasthan is featured in the stamp set?**

डाक विभाग ने इंडिया हैबिटेट सेंटर में “पपेट्स ऑफ़ इंडिया” नाम के 8 यादगार डाक टिकटों का एक सेट जारी किया, जिसमें भारत की कठपुतली कला की समृद्ध विरासत को दिखाया गया है। राजस्थान की इनमें से कौन सी कठपुतली कला इस स्टैम्प सेट में शामिल है?

- (a) Tolu Bommalatta
- (b) Ravanachhaya
- (c) Pavakathakali
- (d) Kathputli
- (e) Daanger Putul

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** DoP Unveils 8 Commemorative Stamps Celebrating ‘Puppets of India’ at India Habitat Centre

The Department of Posts released a set of 8 commemorative postage stamps titled "Puppets of India" at the India Habitat Centre, highlighting India's rich puppetry heritage.

The stamps were formally released by Vandita Kaul, Secretary (Posts), in the presence of artists and members of the cultural fraternity, celebrating one of India's oldest storytelling traditions.

The issue showcases eight traditional puppetry forms—Kathputli (Rajasthan), Yakshagana Sutrada Gombeyatta (Karnataka), Daanger Putul & Benir Putul (West Bengal), Kathi Kundhei & Ravanachhaya (Odisha), Pavakathakali (Kerala), and Tolu Bommalatta (Andhra Pradesh)—covering string, glove, rod, and shadow puppets. The stamp set, along with the First Day Cover, Miniature Sheet, and Special Cancellation, was designed by Shri Sankha Samanta, with artistic references and text support from Sangeet Natak Akademi, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Daricha Foundation, and The Ishara Puppet Theatre Trust.

**262. Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the World Food Programme (WFP), how much rice will be supplied by FCI to support global humanitarian operations aimed at combating hunger and food insecurity?**

ड कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ़ इंडिया (FCI) और वर्ल्ड फूड प्रोग्राम (WFP) के बीच साइन किए गए मेमोरेण्डम ऑफ़ अंडरस्टैंडिंग (MoU) के तहत, FCI भूख और खाने की कमी से निपटने के मकसद से दुनिया भर में मानवीय कामों में मदद के लिए कितना चावल सप्लाई करेगा?

- (a) 1 lakh metric tonnes
- (b) 1.5 lakh metric tonnes
- (c) 2 lakh metric tonnes
- (d) 2.75 lakh metric tonnes
- (e) 3 lakh metric tonnes

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** FCI Signs MoU with WFP to Supply 2 Lakh Metric Tonnes of Rice for Global Hunger Relief

Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the World Food Programme (WFP) signed an MoU for the supply of rice to support global humanitarian operations aimed at combating hunger and food insecurity.

Under the agreement, FCI will supply 2 lakh metric tonnes of rice to WFP, as informed by the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Department of Food and Public Distribution Secretary Sanjeev Chopra stated that the partnership reflects India's strong commitment to global food security and its role as

a responsible contributor in addressing malnutrition and humanitarian needs worldwide.

The agreement will remain valid for five years and can be extended by mutual consent. The price will be decided annually, with the current rate fixed at 2,800 per quintal until 31 March 2026.

**263. In February 2026, India and Nepal signed an agreement primarily related to cooperation in which of the following areas?**

फरवरी 2026 में, भारत और नेपाल ने मुख्य रूप से इनमें से किस क्षेत्र में सहयोग से संबंधित एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Extradition of prisoners
- (b) Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters
- (c) Border trade facilitation
- (d) Defence technology transfer
- (e) Cybersecurity infrastructure

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India and Nepal Sign Mutual Legal Assistance Pact to Strengthen Cooperation in Criminal Matters

India and Nepal signed an agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters to strengthen cooperation in investigations, prosecutions, and judicial proceedings between the two countries.

The pact was signed by Naveen Srivastava, Ambassador of India to Nepal, and Binod Kumar Bhattarai, Joint Secretary of Nepal's Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

It provides a formal framework for the collection and exchange of evidence, assistance during investigations, prosecutions, and judicial proceedings, thereby enhancing rule of law and judicial coordination between both nations.

**Recently India signed MoUs with others countries**

- *India and Nepal Sign Mutual Legal Assistance Pact to Strengthen Cooperation in Criminal Matters*
- *India and Liberia Sign MoU on Pharmacopoeia to Enhance Access to Safe and Affordable Medicines*
- *Hub71 and UAE-India CEPA Council Sign Pact to Boost Cross-Border Startup Expansion*
- *India and Saudi Arabia Sign MoU to Boost Cultural Cooperation and Heritage Exchange*
- *India and Ecuador Sign MoU on Diplomatic Training Cooperation*

- *India and Morocco Sign Defence Cooperation MoU to Strengthen Strategic Partnership*

**264. World Anthropology Day is observed every year on which of the following occasions?**

वर्ल्ड एंथ्रोपोलॉजी डे हर साल इनमें से किस मौके पर मनाया जाता है?

- (a) First Monday of February
- (b) Second Tuesday of February
- (c) Third Thursday of February
- (d) Fourth Friday of February
- (e) Last Sunday of February

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 19 February 2026 - World Anthropology Day

World Anthropology Day is observed every year on the third Thursday of February, and in 2026, it falls on 19 February, celebrating the discipline that studies humanity, cultures, societies, and human evolution.

The day was initiated by the American Anthropological Association in 2015 (originally called National Anthropology Day) and later renamed to highlight its global significance.

**265. Which company has recently partnered with leading Indian universities such as IIT Delhi, IIM Ahmedabad, and AIIMS New Delhi to embed Artificial Intelligence across management, healthcare, engineering, and multidisciplinary education in order to build AI-ready talent for a technology-driven economy?**

हाल ही में किस कंपनी ने IIT दिल्ली, IIM अहमदाबाद और AIIMS नई दिल्ली जैसी बड़ी भारतीय यूनिवर्सिटीज़ के साथ पार्टनरशिप की है ताकि मैनेजमेंट, हेल्थकेयर, इंजीनियरिंग और मल्टीडिसिप्लिनरी एजुकेशन में आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस को शामिल किया जा सके और टेक्नोलॉजी से चलने वाली इकॉनमी के लिए AI-रेडी टैलेंट तैयार किया जा सके?

- (a) Google
- (b) Microsoft
- (c) OpenAI
- (d) IBM
- (e) Meta

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** OpenAI Partners with Leading Indian Universities to Embed AI Across Campuses and Build Future-Ready Talent

OpenAI has partnered with leading Indian universities to embed Artificial Intelligence across management, healthcare, engineering, creative, and multidisciplinary education, aiming to build AI-ready talent for a tech-driven economy.

The first cohort includes the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, All India Institute of Medical Sciences New Delhi, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, and Pearl Academy, supporting over 1 lakh students, faculty, and staff in the coming year.

The collaboration includes enterprise-grade ChatGPT Edu access, structured onboarding, AI certifications, discipline-specific guidance, and responsible-use frameworks to integrate AI into core academic workflows such as coding, analytics, simulations, and AI-assisted research.

OpenAI will also support hackathons, Industry Days, and partnerships with ed-tech platforms like PhysicsWallah, upGrad, and HCL GUVI to expand structured AI learning for students and early-career professionals.

**266. IIT Madras Global Research Foundation will establish its first Applied Artificial Intelligence Innovation Centre in which location?**

IIT मद्रास ग्लोबल रिसर्च फाउंडेशन अपना पहला एप्लाइड आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस इनोवेशन सेंटर किस जगह पर बनाएगा?

- (a) Abu Dhabi Free Zone
- (b) Dubai Silicon Oasis
- (c) Dubai CommerCity
- (d) Sharjah Media City
- (e) Qatar Science Park

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** IIT Madras Global Research Foundation to Launch First Applied AI Innovation Centre at Dubai CommerCity

The IIT Madras Global Research Foundation will establish its first Applied Artificial Intelligence Innovation Centre at Dubai CommerCity to accelerate applied AI innovation and promote technology-led economic growth, positioning Dubai as a global AI launchpad.

In its first phase, the Centre will host six applied AI startups with a combined valuation of around US\$118 million and projected revenues of US\$281 million over five years, reflecting strong global scalability potential.

The MoU was signed during WORLDEF Dubai 2026, inaugurated by Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, reinforcing international collaboration in digital commerce and AI innovation.

**267. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has recently collaborated with which technology company to scale and advance its sovereign AI model capabilities, specifically designed to strengthen India's large-scale, real-time digital payments ecosystem with enhanced trust, resilience, and security?**

नेशनल पेमेंट्स कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ़ इंडिया (NPCI) ने हाल ही में किस टेक्नोलॉजी कंपनी के साथ मिलकर अपनी सॉवरेन AI मॉडल क्षमताओं को बढ़ाने और आगे बढ़ाने के लिए काम किया है, जिसे खास तौर पर भारत के बड़े पैमाने पर, रियल-टाइम डिजिटल पेमेंट इकोसिस्टम को बेहतर भरोसे, लचीलेपन और सुरक्षा के साथ मजबूत करने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है?

- (a) Intel
- (b) Microsoft
- (c) IBM
- (d) Google
- (e) NVIDIA

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** NPCI collaborates with NVIDIA to advance India's sovereign AI infrastructure for digital payments

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has collaborated with NVIDIA to scale and enhance its sovereign AI model capabilities tailored for India's payments ecosystem.

The initiative aims to strengthen large-scale, real-time payment systems by focusing on trust, resilience, security, and overall ecosystem enablement.

The partnership combines NPCI's expertise in operating population-scale digital payment infrastructure with NVIDIA's advanced AI and accelerated computing technologies.

**268. The European Union has opened its first European Legal Gateway Office in which Indian city?**

यूरोपियन यूनियन ने अपना पहला यूरोपियन लीगल गेटवे ऑफिस किस भारतीय शहर में खोला है?

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

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** EU Launches First European Legal Gateway Office in India to Boost Study and Work Opportunities in ICT Sector

The European Union has opened its first-ever European Legal Gateway Office in New Delhi, marking the first such initiative in any partner country.

The office will function as a one-stop help centre for Indian students and professionals seeking to study or work in EU countries, particularly in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector.

**269. Amit Shah will launch the Vibrant Villages Programme-II in Assam's Cachar district. The initiative aims to strengthen border villages, generate sustainable livelihood opportunities, and enhance security in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. The total financial outlay approved for the programme up to the financial year 2028-29 is approximately:**

अमित शाह असम के कछार जिले में वाइब्रेंट विलेज प्रोग्राम-II लॉन्च करेंगे। इस पहल का मकसद बॉर्डर के गांवों को मजबूत करना, रोजी-रोटी के पक्के मौके पैदा करना और विकसित भारत 2047 के विजन के हिसाब से सुरक्षा बढ़ाना है। फाइनेंशियल ईयर 2028-29 तक प्रोग्राम के लिए मंजूर कुल फाइनेंशियल खर्च लगभग है:

- (a) ₹4,500 crore
- (b) ₹5,200 crore
- (c) ₹6,800 crore
- (d) ₹7,500 crore
- (e) ₹8,000 crore

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Union Home Minister to Launch Vibrant Villages Programme-II in Assam's Cachar District

Amit Shah will launch the Vibrant Villages Programme-II in Assam's Cachar district, a ₹6,800+ crore initiative aimed at developing border villages and promoting sustainable livelihoods in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The programme will be implemented across 15 States and 2 Union Territories through a saturation-based, convergence-driven approach to strengthen border communities and enhance internal security.

**270. Kiren Rijiju launched the NIGRANI App at the 'Chintan Shivir' held at Nalanda University, aimed at strengthening monitoring mechanisms. The NIGRANI App is primarily aimed at monitoring which scheme?**

किरेन रिजिजू ने नालंदा यूनिवर्सिटी में हुए 'चिंतन शिविर' में NIGRANI App लॉन्च किया, जिसका मकसद मॉनिटरिंग सिस्टम को मजबूत करना है। NIGRANI App का मुख्य मकसद किस स्कीम की मॉनिटरिंग करना है?

- (a) PM Awas Yojana
- (b) PM Jan Dhan Yojana
- (c) PM Jan Vikas Karyakram
- (d) PM Kisan Samman Nidhi
- (e) Digital India Mission

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Kiren Rijju Launches NIGRANI App at Nalanda University to Boost PMJVK Monitoring

Kiren Rijju launched the NIGRANI App at the 'Chintan Shivir' held at Nalanda University, aimed at strengthening monitoring mechanisms.

The NIGRANI App facilitates real-time tracking and transparent implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), ensuring better infrastructure development in minority-concentrated areas.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs also introduced the Haj Wrist Band, a digital identification band designed to support and efficiently manage Indian Haj pilgrims during their pilgrimage.

**271. Harmanpreet Kaur became the highest-capped player in women's international cricket after playing her \_\_\_ international match.**

हरमनप्रीत कौर अपना \_\_\_ इंटरनेशनल मैच खेलने के बाद महिला इंटरनेशनल क्रिकेट में सबसे ज़्यादा मैच खेलने वाली खिलाड़ी बन गई।

- (a) 356th
- (b) 355th
- (c) 350th
- (d) 366th
- (e) 365th

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Harmanpreet Kaur becomes highest capped woman in international cricket  
Harmanpreet Kaur became the highest-capped player in women's international cricket, making her 356th appearance for India in a T20I against Australia and surpassing Suzie Bates.

Since her debut in 2009, Kaur has played 6 Tests, 161 ODIs, and 189 T20Is, scoring eight centuries and 38 fifties, and leading India to their first Women's World Cup title on home soil.

Despite her milestone and a top score of 36 in the match, India lost to Australia by 19 runs in the second T20I, levelling the three-match series.

**272. Which United Nations agency awarded an international certificate to West Bengal for its 'Matir Srishti' programme?**

'Matir Srishti' कार्यक्रम के लिए पश्चिम बंगाल को अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रमाणपत्र किस संयुक्त राष्ट्र एजेंसी ने प्रदान किया?

- (a) UNESCO
- (b) UNDP
- (c) FAO
- (d) UNICEF
- (e) WHO

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** FAO Awards International Certificate to West Bengal for 'Matir Srishti' Programme

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations awarded an international certificate to West Bengal, as announced by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

The recognition was given for the community-based 'Matir Srishti' programme (launched in 2020), which focuses on converting barren and dry land into cultivable land and promoting multi-crop farming, horticulture, and vegetable cultivation. FAO also recognised three aromatic rice varieties of West Bengal — Gobindobhog, Tulaipanji, and Kanakchur — adding to the state's earlier global recognition when the Kanyashree scheme received the UN Public Service Award in 2017.

***About Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)***

- *Founded- 16 October 1945*
- *Headquarters- Rome, Italy*
- *Parent organization- United Nations Economic and Social Council*
- *Director General - Qu Dongyu*

**273. Where was the first CM Shri School, launched as part of India's first AI-driven comprehensive education model, inaugurated by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta?**

दिल्ली की मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता द्वारा भारत के पहले AI-आधारित समग्र शिक्षा मॉडल के तहत स्थापित पहले CM Shri School का उद्घाटन कहाँ किया गया?

- (a) Dwarka
- (b) Rohini
- (c) Sarojini Nagar
- (d) Karol Bagh
- (e) Lajpat Nagar

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Rekha Gupta Launches India's First AI-Driven CM Shri School in Delhi  
Delhi CM Rekha Gupta inaugurated the first CM Shri School at Sarojini Nagar, launching what is described as India's first AI-driven comprehensive education model, with foundation stones laid for 75 such schools across Delhi.  
The CM Shri Schools focus on modern infrastructure and academic excellence, targeting students from economically weaker and middle-income families, with the goal of making Delhi's children globally competitive through advanced teaching methods and upgraded facilities.

**274. Who won the men's SL3 gold medal at the BWF Para World Championships in Bahrain?**

बहरीन में आयोजित BWF पैरा वर्ल्ड चैंपियनशिप में पुरुषों के SL3 स्वर्ण पदक किसने जीता?

- (a) Sukant Kadam
- (b) Pramod Bhagat
- (c) Krishna Nagar
- (d) Lakshya Sen
- (e) Chirag Shetty

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Pramod Bhagat Wins SL3 Gold at BWF Para World Championships  
India's Pramod Bhagat won the men's SL3 gold medal at the BWF Para World Championships in Bahrain, defeating Indonesia's Muhammad Al Imran in straight games (21-12, 21-18).

The 37-year-old secured his fourth consecutive singles gold and sixth overall world title in the SL3 category, surpassing Lin Dan to become the most decorated singles champion in world championship history across the sport.

**275. Under which mission has the Uttar Pradesh Government launched the district-level manuscript digitization initiative?**

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने जिला-स्तरीय पांडुलिपि डिजिटलीकरण पहल किस मिशन के तहत शुरू की है?

- (a) Digital India Mission
- (b) Gyan Bharatam Mission
- (c) National Archives Mission
- (d) Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat
- (e) BharatNet Mission

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** UP Government Launches District-Level Manuscript Digitisation Drive Under 'Gyan Bharatam Mission'

The Uttar Pradesh Government has launched a district-level manuscript digitisation initiative under the 'Gyan Bharatam Mission', directing all districts to identify, document, and digitally present manuscripts on a global platform to revive India's rich knowledge and intellectual heritage.

The Chief Development Officer (CDO) of each district has been designated as the nodal officer to supervise the identification, survey, cataloguing, preservation, and digitisation of manuscripts and rare texts.

The initiative covers handwritten texts, palm-leaf and birch-bark manuscripts, and rare documents preserved in government and private institutions, temples, monasteries, libraries, educational institutions, and with individual collectors, aiming to make them accessible to researchers, students, and the public.

### **About Uttar Pradesh**

- **Capital** - Lucknow
- **Chief Minister** – Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor** - Anandiben Patel

### **276. Which streaming platform has partnered with OpenAI to introduce ChatGPT-powered conversational streaming in India?**

किस स्ट्रीमिंग प्लेटफॉर्म ने भारत में ChatGPT-आधारित संवादात्मक स्ट्रीमिंग शुरू करने के लिए OpenAI के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Netflix
- (b) Amazon Prime Video
- (c) JioHotstar
- (d) SonyLIV
- (e) Zee5

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** JioHotstar Partners with OpenAI to Launch ChatGPT-Powered Conversational Streaming in India

JioHotstar has partnered with OpenAI to introduce a ChatGPT-powered voice and text interface, transforming how Indian audiences discover and engage with streaming content.

The integration replaces traditional keyword searches and menu navigation with multilingual, natural-language conversations, offering a first-of-its-kind conversational streaming experience in India.

Through Multilingual Cognitive Search, the feature aims to solve the "what to watch" dilemma by enabling viewers to explore content based on their mood, intent, and context, turning streaming into a two-way interactive experience.

**277. India has set a Guinness World Record for receiving the highest number of pledges in 24 hours under which campaign?**

भारत ने 24 घंटे में सबसे अधिक प्रतिज्ञाएँ प्राप्त करने का गिनीज वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड किस अभियान के तहत बनाया है?

- (a) Digital India Awareness Campaign
- (b) AI Innovation Drive
- (c) AI Responsibility Pledge Campaign
- (d) Responsible Tech Mission
- (e) National AI Literacy Campaign

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India Sets Guinness World Record with Over 2.5 Lakh AI Responsibility Pledges in 24 Hours

India achieved a Guinness World Record for the "Most pledges received for an AI responsibility campaign in 24 hours," securing 250,946 valid pledges between February 16–17 during the India AI Impact Summit 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

The achievement was announced by Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Electronics and IT, and officially verified by a Guinness World Records adjudicator in the presence of senior officials from MeitY, IndiaAI Mission, and Intel.

The nationwide AI Responsibility Pledge campaign, launched under the IndiaAI Mission in collaboration with Intel India, encouraged citizens to commit to the ethical, inclusive, and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence through a dedicated online portal.

**278. Which state government has recently approved India's first comprehensive Graphene Policy aimed at positioning itself as a global hub for advanced material research and production?**

किस राज्य सरकार ने हाल ही में भारत की पहली व्यापक ग्राफीन नीति को मंजूरी दी है, जिसका उद्देश्य स्वयं को उन्नत सामग्री अनुसंधान और उत्पादन का वैश्विक केंद्र बनाना है?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Gujarat
- (e) Telangana

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Kerala to launch India's first graphene policy to become global tech hub

Kerala has approved India's first comprehensive Graphene Policy, aiming to position the state as a global hub for research, development, and production of graphene, often referred to as the "wonder material" of the future.

The Union Cabinet has approved the Graphene (Grefine) Park, with the state government offering strategic incentives such as a 50% subsidy on lease payments for manufacturing units set up in government-managed parks to attract domestic and global investors.

As part of its broader advanced materials vision, Kerala plans to establish a graphene industrial park in Palakkad and a dedicated Digital Innovation Centre backed by an investment of ₹200 crore.

### **About Kerala**

- **Capital** – Thiruvananthapuram
- **Chief Minister** – Pinarayi Vijayan
- **Governor** – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

### **279. Where is the 6th National Rafting Championship, "The Ultimate River Battle", being held?**

6वां नेशनल राफ्टिंग चैंपियनशिप "The Ultimate River Battle" कहाँ आयोजित किया जा रहा है?

- (a) Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
- (b) Shibnote, Jammu & Kashmir
- (c) Manali, Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Leh, Ladakh
- (e) Gangtok, Sikkim

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 6th National Rafting Championship "The Ultimate River Battle" Begins in Doda, J&K

The 6th National Rafting Championship, "The Ultimate River Battle," has commenced at Shibnote in Doda district, Jammu & Kashmir, aiming to showcase top rafting talent and promote adventure tourism in the region.

Held on the scenic and challenging Chenab River, known for its strong rapids and breathtaking landscape, the event is expected to attract professional rafting teams, adventure enthusiasts, and tourists from across India.

### **280. Where has India's first private-sector helicopter Final Assembly Line (FAL) been set up?**

भारत की पहली निजी क्षेत्र की हेलिकॉप्टर फाइनल असेंबली लाइन (FAL) कहाँ स्थापित की गई है?

- (a) Bengaluru
- (b) Vemagal
- (c) Hyderabad
- (d) Pune
- (e) Chennai

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India's First Private-Sector Helicopter Assembly Line Inaugurated by TASL for Airbus H125

India's first private-sector helicopter Final Assembly Line (FAL) for the Airbus H125 has been established at Vemagal, Karnataka, by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) and inaugurated virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Emmanuel Macron.

The facility will assemble civil H125 helicopters and potentially the military variant H125M, offering localised maintenance and lifecycle support for missions like tactical reconnaissance, high-altitude logistics, search and rescue, and medical evacuation. The "Made in India" H125 aims to serve civil and para-public sectors, including emergency medical services, disaster management, law enforcement, and regional connectivity under the UDAN scheme; it is also notable for being the only helicopter to have landed on Mount Everest and accumulating over 40 million flight hours.

**281. Which bank has recently launched the Hello Cashback Credit Card, a fixed-deposit-backed offering aimed at digitally savvy young adults to help them build credit history while earning tiered cashback rewards on online, in-store, and UPI transactions?**

किस बैंक ने हाल ही में Hello Cashback Credit Card लॉन्च किया है, जो फिक्स्ड-डिपॉजिट आधारित है और डिजिटल रूप से सक्षम युवा वयस्कों को क्रेडिट हिस्ट्री बनाने और ऑनलाइन, इन-स्टोर और UPI लेनदेन पर टायर्ड कैशबैक कमाने में मदद करता है?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) ICICI Bank
- (c) IDFC FIRST Bank
- (d) Axis Bank
- (e) SBI

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** IDFC FIRST Bank Launches Hello Cashback Credit Card with Tiered Rewards and Credit-Building Benefits

IDFC FIRST Bank launches Hello Cashback Credit Card targeted at digitally savvy young adults (18+) with online-first and UPI-led spending habits, allowing them to build credit history while enjoying cashback rewards.

5% on online spends above ₹10,000, 3% on online spends up to ₹10,000, and 1% on in-store, contactless, UPI transactions, including essentials like utilities, education, and insurance.

Joining fee of ₹1,000 (waived until 31 March 2026) and annual fee of ₹1,000 (waived on annual spends of ₹2,00,000 in the previous year), offering a strong mix of rewards, access, and credit-building benefits.

### **About IDFC First Bank**

- **Founded** - October 2015
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai
- **MD & CEO** - V. Vaidyanathan

### **282. What type of NBFC has Airtel Money been registered as by the RBI?**

RBI ने Airtel Money को किस प्रकार के NBFC के रूप में पंजीकृत किया है?

- Type I Deposit Accepting NBFC
- Type II Non-Deposit Accepting NBFC
- Type III Investment NBFC
- Type IV Loan NBFC
- Type I Non-Banking NBFC

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Bharti Airtel arm receives RBI nod to operate as Type II NBFC-ND

Bharti Airtel's subsidiary, Airtel Money, has received a Certificate of Registration from the RBI to operate as a Type II Non-Deposit Accepting Non-Banking Financial Company [Type II-NBFC-ND (ICC)], allowing it to commence non-banking financial operations without accepting public deposits.

The certificate (Registration No. N-14.03676, dated 13 February 2026) was issued under Section 45-IA of the RBI Act, 1934, with RBI clarifying that it does not guarantee the company's financial soundness, correctness of statements, or repayment of liabilities.

### **283. World Thinking Day is observed annually on February 22 by members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to celebrate global sisterhood and the shared values of the guiding and scouting movement. What is the theme of World Thinking Day 2026?**

वर्ल्ड एसोसिएशन ऑफ़ गर्ल गाइड्स एंड गर्ल स्काउट्स के सदस्य हर साल 22 फरवरी को वर्ल्ड थिंकिंग डे मनाते हैं। यह दिन ग्लोबल भाईचारे और गाइडिंग और स्काउटिंग मूवमेंट के साझा मूल्यों का जश्न मनाने के लिए मनाया जाता है। वर्ल्ड थिंकिंग डे 2026 की थीम क्या है?

- Leadership for All
- Global Citizenship

- (c) Our Friendship
- (d) Youth Empowerment
- (e) Sustainable Development

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 22 February - World Thinking Day

World Thinking Day is observed annually on February 22 by members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to celebrate global sisterhood and the shared values of the guiding and scouting movement.

Theme 2026 - Our Friendship

The day encourages reflection on personal and community development, promoting awareness of social issues, leadership, and global citizenship among young members.

**284. World Day of Social Justice is observed every year on which date?**

वर्ल्ड डे ऑफ़ सोशल जस्टिस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

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

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 20 February - World Day of Social Justice

World Day of Social Justice is observed annually on February 20 to promote social equity, inclusion, and equal opportunities for all.

Theme 2026 - Renewed Commitment to Social Development and Social Justice

The observance was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007 to highlight issues such as poverty eradication, gender equality, unemployment, and social protection.

The day emphasizes the importance of social justice in achieving sustainable development, human rights, and inclusive growth worldwide.

**285. India finished the Asian Shooting Championships 2026 with how many total medals in senior rifle and pistol events?**

भारत ने सीनियर राइफल और पिस्टल इवेंट्स में कुल कितने मेडल के साथ एशियन शूटिंग चैंपियनशिप 2026 खत्म की?

- (a) 28
- (b) 30
- (c) 31
- (d) 33

(e) 35

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** India Finishes Asian Shooting Championships 2026 in New Delhi with 33 Medals  
India concluded the Asian Shooting Championships 2026 in New Delhi with a total of 33 medals in senior rifle and pistol events, including 13 gold, 11 silver, and 9 bronze; seven medals were won on the final day.

Amanpreet Singh won gold in the 25m centre fire pistol with 589 points, while Gurpreet Singh (silver, 584) and Ankur Goel (bronze, 570) completed a clean podium sweep for India in the event.

In the women's 50m rifle prone, Sift Kaur Samra secured silver (623.2) and Tejaswini Sawant won bronze (621.0), while the trio of Sift Kaur Samra, Tejaswini Sawant, and Manini Kaushik clinched gold in the women's team event with a combined score of 1862.9.

**286. International Mother Language Day is observed every year on February 21 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism; the idea was approved in 1999 by UNESCO. What is the theme of International Mother Language Day 2026?**

इंटरनेशनल मदर लैंग्वेज डे हर साल 21 फरवरी को भाषा और संस्कृति में विविधता और कई भाषाओं को बढ़ावा देने के लिए मनाया जाता है; इस आइडिया को 1999 में UNESCO ने मंजूरी दी थी। इंटरनेशनल मदर लैंग्वेज डे 2026 की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Languages for Peace
- (b) Multilingual World for All
- (c) Language and Technology
- (d) Inclusive Education for Future
- (e) Youth voices on multilingual education

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** 21 February - International Mother Language Day

International Mother Language Day is observed every year on February 21 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism; the idea was approved in 1999 by UNESCO.

The day highlights the importance of languages in fostering inclusion, preserving minority and indigenous languages, and supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through multilingual education.

Theme 2026 - Youth voices on multilingual education

**287. Which ministry launched 'VoicERA', an open-source end-to-end Voice AI stack aimed at strengthening multilingual Voice and Language AI systems under India's national language infrastructure?**

किस मिनिस्ट्री ने 'VoicERA' लॉन्च किया, जो एक ओपन-सोर्स एंड-टू-एंड Voice AI स्टैक है, जिसका मकसद भारत के नेशनल लैंग्वेज इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के तहत मल्टीलिंगुअल Voice और Language AI सिस्टम को मजबूत करना है?

- (a) Ministry of Communications
- (b) Ministry of Science & Technology,
- (c) Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
- (d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- (e) Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** MeitY Launches 'VoicERA' Open-Source Voice AI Stack at India AI Impact Summit 2026

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched VoicERA, an open-source end-to-end Voice AI stack, at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi, aimed at enabling secure and scalable multilingual voice systems.

Deployed on the BHASHINI National Language Infrastructure, VoicERA serves as a national execution layer for multilingual Voice and Language AI, supporting cloud and on-premises deployment across government and research ecosystems.

By modularising the voice technology stack, VoicERA reduces duplication and vendor lock-in while expanding BHASHINI's capabilities into real-time speech systems, conversational AI, and multilingual telephony at population scale.

**288. Under Vision 2035, India has launched the 'Offshore Wind Task Force' to strengthen cooperation in renewable energy and offshore wind development in partnership with which of the following countries?**

विज़न 2035 के तहत, भारत ने इनमें से किस देश के साथ पार्टनरशिप में रिन्यूएबल एनर्जी और ऑफशोर विंड डेवलपमेंट में सहयोग को मजबूत करने के लिए 'ऑफशोर विंड टास्क फोर्स' लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) France
- (b) Germany
- (c) United States
- (d) Japan
- (e) United Kingdom

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** India and UK Launch Offshore Wind Task Force under Vision 2035 at 4th Energy Dialogue

India and the United Kingdom launched the India–UK Offshore Wind Task Force in New Delhi under Vision 2035 to strengthen cooperation in renewable energy and offshore wind development.

The initiative was launched by Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and UK Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy during the 4th India–UK Energy Dialogue.

**289. The book The Sage who Reimagined Hinduism is authored by which Member of Parliament?**

किताब 'द सेज हू रीडिमेजिन्ड हिंदुइज्म' किस सांसद ने लिखी है?

- (a) S. Jaishankar
- (b) Shashi Tharoor
- (c) P. Chidambaram
- (d) Kapil Sibal
- (e) Rajeev Chandrasekhar

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** VP C. P. Radhakrishnan Launches Book on Sree Narayana Guru Authored by Shashi Tharoor

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan launched the book The Sage who Reimagined Hinduism: The Life, Lessons and Legacy of Sree Narayana Guru in New Delhi, authored by MP Shashi Tharoor.

He highlighted that Sree Narayana Guru emerged as a spiritual reformer during a period of deep caste divisions and social discrimination, promoting social justice and equality.

#### **Recent Books**

- **Red Lines Redrawn: Operation Sindoor and India's New Normal** - Maj Gen Bipin Bakshi (Retd), Air Mshl Rajesh Kumar, Amb Anil Trigunayat, and Brig Akhelesh Bhargava; Released by: General Upendra Dwivedi
- **Chalice of Ambrosia: Ram Janmabhoomi - Challenge and Response** - Surendra Kumar Pachauri (Released By VP C. P. Radhakrishnan)
- **The Maker of Filmmakers -How Jagat Murari and FTII changed Indian Cinema forever** - Radha Chadha
- **History That India Ignored** - Prem Prakash(Released By: Goa CM Dr. Pramod Sawant)

**290. Who won the inaugural Liber Win Champions Cup 2026?**

पहला लिबर विन चैंपियंस कप 2026 किसने जीता?

- (a) Kamal Chawla
- (b) Aditya Mehta
- (c) Sourav Kothari
- (d) Pankaj Advani
- (e) Manan Chandra

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Pankaj Advani Wins Inaugural Liber Win Champions Cup 2026

Pankaj Advani won the inaugural Liber Win Champions Cup 2026, defeating Kamal Chawla 6–3 in the best-of-11 final held at the Karnataka State Billiards Association (KSBA), Bengaluru.

The three-day invitational tournament featured 16 top professional cueists, with Advani displaying tactical mastery and break-building excellence to become the first-ever champion of the event.

The 2026 edition marked the formal entry of Liber Win into the Indian market, and Advani was officially announced as the brand's Indian ambassador at the conclusion of the tournament.

**291. The 21st G20 Leaders' Summit will be hosted by which country?**

**21वें G20 लीडर्स समिट को कौन सा देश होस्ट करेगा?**

- (a) United Kingdom
- (b) South Africa
- (c) Germany
- (d) United States
- (e) Canada

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Donald Trump to Host 21st G20 Leaders' Summit in Miami on December 14–15

Donald Trump will host the G20 Leaders' Summit in Miami on December 14–15; it will be the 21st meeting of the Group of Twenty.

The 2025 G20 Summit was held in South Africa, and the United Kingdom is scheduled to host the G20 in 2027.

**292. Which country will host the AI Impact Summit 2027?**

**कौन सा देश AI इम्पैक्ट समिट 2027 होस्ट करेगा?**

- (a) Germany
- (b) France
- (c) United Kingdom
- (d) Switzerland

(e) Singapore

Ans. d

**Sol.** Switzerland to Host AI Impact Summit 2027 in Geneva

Switzerland announced that the AI Impact Summit 2027 will be held in Geneva, reinforcing its position as a global hub for technology and multilateral cooperation. The announcement was made by Swiss President Guy Parmelin during the AI Summit held in New Delhi.

The AI Impact Summit 2028 will be hosted by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), continuing the summit's global rotation.

**293. During the India AI Impact Summit 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the 'MANAV' framework for responsible AI governance. In this framework, what does the letter 'N' specifically represent?**

इंडिया AI इम्पैक्ट समिट 2026 के दौरान, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने ज़िम्मेदार AI गवर्नेंस के लिए 'MANAV' फ्रेमवर्क पेश किया। इस फ्रेमवर्क में, 'N' अक्षर खास तौर पर क्या दिखाता है?

- (a) National Development
- (b) New Innovation to
- (c) National Sovereignty
- (d) Network Security
- (e) Neutral Governance

Ans. c

**Sol.** PM Modi Inaugurates India AI Impact Summit 2026

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the India AI Impact Summit 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, with participation from over 100 countries, making it one of the largest global AI gatherings.

During the summit, he presented India's AI governance framework "MANAV" — Moral & Ethical Systems, Accountable Governance, National Sovereignty, Accessible & Inclusive, and Valid & Legitimate.

The summit was guided by the theme "Welfare for All, Happiness for All," highlighting India's commitment to inclusive and responsible AI development.

**294. India joined which U.S.-led coalition to strengthen supply chains for electronics and critical minerals?**

इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और ज़रूरी मिनरल्स के लिए सप्लाई चेन को मज़बूत करने के लिए भारत, U.S. के नेतृत्व वाले किस गठबंधन में शामिल हुआ?

- (a) Blue Dot Network
- (b) Indo-Pacific Economic Framework
- (c) Pax Silica

**(d) Mineral Security Partnership****(e) Quad Tech Alliance****Ans. c****Sol.** India Joins U.S.-Led Pax Silica Coalition to Strengthen Electronics and Critical Minerals Supply Chains

India joined the U.S.-led Pax Silica coalition on 20 February 2026 during the AI Impact Summit, with Union Minister for Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw signing the agreement to formally include India in the group.

The coalition aims to build a common and resilient supply chain for electronics and critical minerals, reducing dependence on China, especially in refined rare earth elements.

Other signatories of Pax Silica include the United States, Canada, Japan, South Korea, and the European Union, working together to strengthen supply chain security and strategic technology cooperation.

**295. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is contemplating discontinuing cash transactions at toll plazas from which date?**

नेशनल हाईवे अथॉरिटी ऑफ़ इंडिया (NHAI) किस तारीख से टोल प्लाज़ा पर कैश ट्रांज़ैक्शन बंद करने पर विचार कर रहा है?

**(a) January 1, 2025****(b) October 2, 2025****(c) March 31, 2026****(d) April 1, 2026****(e) July 1, 2026****Ans. d****Sol.** NHAI Plans 100% Digital Toll Collection from April 1, 2026

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is considering discontinuing cash transactions at National Highway toll plazas from April 1, 2026, with all payments proposed to be made through digital modes such as FASTag and UPI.

The initiative aims to create a fully digital tolling ecosystem, improve 'Ease of Commuting', enhance lane throughput, reduce congestion at toll plazas, and ensure greater transparency and consistency in toll collection.

FASTag penetration has crossed 98%, with most toll payments already processed electronically through RFID-enabled FASTags, while UPI facilities have also been operationalised to provide instant and accessible digital payment options.

**296. The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) has constituted a high-level Advisory Group to support reforms and strengthen India's regulatory framework under which of the following initiatives?**

इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ़ कॉर्पोरेट अफेयर्स (IICA) ने इनमें से किस पहल के तहत सुधारों को सपोर्ट करने और भारत के रेगुलेटरी फ्रेमवर्क को मज़बूत करने के लिए एक हाई-लेवल एडवाइज़री ग्रुप बनाया है?

- (a) Startup India aimed at promoting entrepreneurship
- (b) Digital India programme for digital governance
- (c) Make in India campaign for manufacturing growth
- (d) Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan for self-reliance
- (e) Ease of Doing Business to improve India's business and regulatory ecosystem

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** IICA Forms High-Level Advisory Group on Ease of Doing Business, Signs MoU for 'Viksit Bharat 2047' Reform Study

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, has constituted a high-level Advisory Group on Ease of Doing Business to strengthen the regulatory and business ecosystem.

The Advisory Group is chaired by Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, who serves as Director General and CEO of IICA.

IICA has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to undertake a research study titled "Re-envisioning Ease of Doing Business for Viksit Bharat 2047", aligning reforms with the long-term development vision.

**297. Eminent Bengali author Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay, popularly known as Sankar, passed away in Kolkata at the age of 92. Sankar received which prestigious literary award in 2021?**

मशहूर बंगाली लेखक मणिशंकर मुखोपाध्याय, जिन्हें शंकर के नाम से जाना जाता है, का 92 साल की उम्र में कोलकाता में निधन हो गया। शंकर को 2021 में कौन सा मशहूर लिटरेरी अवॉर्ड मिला?

- (a) Jnanpith Award
- (b) Padma Shri
- (c) Booker Prize
- (d) Sahitya Akademi Award
- (e) Bharat Ratna

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Sahitya Akademi Awardee Author Sankar Passes Away at 92

Eminent Bengali author Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay, popularly known as Sankar, passed away in Kolkata at the age of 92 due to age-related ailments; he was a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award (2021).

His debut book "Kata Ajanare" (1955) became an instant success, and two of his novels were adapted into films by Satyajit Ray — Seemabaddha and Jana Aranya, portraying corporate life and middle-class struggles.

Sankar also authored books on Ramakrishna Paramhansa and Swami Vivekananda, leaving behind a lasting legacy in Bengali literature.

**298. Which Manipuri film has won the BAFTA Award for Best Children's & Family Film in 2026?**

किस मणिपुरी फिल्म ने 2026 में बेस्ट चिल्ड्रन्स एंड फैमिली फिल्म का BAFTA अवॉर्ड जीता है?

- (a) Lilo and Stitch
- (b) Arco
- (c) Zootropolis 2
- (d) Boong
- (e) Sentimental Value

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Manipuri film Boong wins BAFTA Award for Best Children's & Family Film in London

The Manipuri film Boong, produced by Farhan Akhtar's Excel Entertainment, won the BAFTA Award for Best Children's & Family Film in London, with debutant director Lakshmi Priya Devi making an emotional plea for peace during her acceptance speech.

The film stars Gugun Kipgen and Bala Hijam, and beat international competitors including Lilo and Stitch, Arco, and Zootropolis 2, marking a historic win for Manipuri cinema on the global stage.

The 79th BAFTA Awards also celebrated films like One Battle After Another, winning six awards including Best Film and Best Director (Paul Thomas Anderson), while Hamnet, Sinners, and Frankenstein earned multiple honours, with the ceremony attended by Hollywood and British stars, including Prince William and Catherine, Princess of Wales.

**299. The 475-year-old Our Lady of Grace Cathedral in Papdy village, Vasai, received the Award of Merit at the 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation for its community-led restoration. The Our Lady of Grace Cathedral in Vasai was originally built during which era?**

वसई के पापड़ी गांव में 475 साल पुराने अवर लेडी ऑफ ग्रेस कैथेड्रल को कम्युनिटी के नेतृत्व में किए गए रेस्टोरेशन के लिए 2025 UNESCO एशिया-पैसिफिक अवार्ड्स फॉर कल्चरल हेरिटेज कंज़र्वेशन में अवार्ड ऑफ़ मेरिट मिला। वसई में अवर लेडी ऑफ ग्रेस कैथेड्रल असल में किस ज़माने में बनाया गया था?

- (a) British era
- (b) Maratha era
- (c) Mughal era
- (d) Portuguese era
- (e) French colonial era

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Vasai Cathedral Wins UNESCO Award for Conservation

The 475-year-old Our Lady of Grace Cathedral in Papdy village, Vasai, received the Award of Merit at the 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation for its community-led restoration, highlighting the successful revival of a sixteenth-century Portuguese-era structure.

Built without cement or bricks using traditional mud-based construction, the cathedral faced structural weakening over centuries; the Rs 4.5 crore restoration project addressed roof, façade, corridors, colonnade, and intricate interior liturgical elements while preserving its architectural and religious integrity.

The conservation was executed by architect Ainsley Lewis in collaboration with parish members and church authorities, with the local community funding the restoration through donations, exemplifying strong stakeholder engagement and traditional craftsmanship.

**300. Which cooperative bank has been officially excluded from the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, following its merger with Saraswat Co-operative Bank and the resolution of a ₹300 crore embezzlement scam?**

सारस्वत को-ऑपरेटिव बैंक के साथ मर्जर और ₹300 करोड़ के गबन स्कैम के समाधान के बाद, किस को-ऑपरेटिव बैंक को रिज़र्व बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया एक्ट, 1934 के दूसरे शेड्यूल से ऑफिशियली बाहर कर दिया गया है?

- (a) New India Co-operative Bank Ltd.
- (b) Saraswat Co-operative Bank
- (c) Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative Bank
- (d) Karnataka Bank Co-operative
- (e) Mumbai District Central Co-operative Bank

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** RBI Removes New India Co-operative Bank Ltd. from Second Schedule Following Merger with Saraswat Co-operative Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has excluded New India Co-operative Bank Ltd. from the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, thereby removing its "scheduled bank" status.

Earlier, in August 2025, RBI approved the amalgamation of New India Co-operative Bank with Saraswat Co-operative Bank following a ₹300 crore embezzlement scam, to stabilise the bank and safeguard depositors' interests.

Effective August 4, 2025, all branches, assets, and liabilities of New India Co-operative Bank were transferred to Saraswat Bank under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, ensuring full protection to depositors.

**301. In February 2026, the Reserve Bank of India imposed a monetary penalty of ₹38.60 lakh for non-compliance with regulatory directions related to savings accounts, SHG credit reporting, and locker rent refund on which bank?**

फरवरी 2026 में, रिज़र्व बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया ने सेविंग्स अकाउंट, SHG क्रेडिट रिपोर्टिंग और लॉकर रेंट रिफंड से जुड़े रेगुलेटरी निर्देशों का पालन न करने पर किस बैंक पर ₹38.60 लाख की मॉनेटरी पेनल्टी लगाई?

- (a) Punjab National Bank
- (b) Bank of Baroda
- (c) Canara Bank
- (d) UCO Bank
- (e) Indian Bank

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** RBI Imposes ₹38.60 Lakh Penalty on UCO Bank for Regulatory Non-Compliance  
The Reserve Bank of India imposed a monetary penalty of ₹38.60 lakh on UCO Bank for non-compliance with certain regulatory directions.

The penalty was imposed under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005.

RBI identified violations including non-payment of interest on some savings accounts, failure to report SHG members' credit data to Credit Information Companies, and non-refund of proportionate locker rent upon early surrender.

**Recent Penalties imposed on Financial Institution**

- **UCO Bank (₹38.60 lakh) by RBI** - for non-compliance with certain regulatory directions
- **Bank of Maharashtra (₹32.50 lakh) by RBI** - for non-compliance with regulatory directions.

- **DCB Bank (₹29.60 lakh) by RBI** - for non-compliance with regulatory directions.
- **CSB Bank (₹63.60 lakh) by RBI** - for non-compliance with regulatory directions.
- **Navi Finserv (₹3.80 lakh) by RBI** - for regulatory lapses related to customer communication, asset classification, and recovery practices

**302. India recently (in February 2026) signed key agreements to strengthen cooperation in rare earth and critical minerals, steel mining, renewable energy, and digital partnership with which country?**

भारत ने हाल ही में (फरवरी 2026 में) किस देश के साथ रेयर अर्थ और ज़रूरी मिनरल, स्टील माइनिंग, रिन्यूएबल एनर्जी और डिजिटल पार्टनरशिप में सहयोग को मज़बूत करने के लिए ज़रूरी एग्रीमेंट साइन किए हैं?

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

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India and Brazil Sign Key Agreements, Set \$30 Billion Trade Target by 2030  
 India and Brazil signed key agreements to enhance cooperation in rare earth and critical minerals, steel and mining, renewable energy, and digital partnership during talks in New Delhi.

The discussions were held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to deepen strategic and economic ties.

Both nations set a target to boost bilateral trade to \$30 billion annually by 2030, aiming to significantly expand economic engagement beyond current levels.

**303. Central Excise Day is observed annually on 24 February to commemorate the enactment of the \_\_\_\_\_.**

सेंट्रल एक्साइज डे हर साल 24 फरवरी को \_\_\_\_\_ के लागू होने की याद में मनाया जाता है।

- (a) GST Act, 2017
- (b) Customs Act, 1962
- (c) Income Tax Act, 1961
- (d) Finance Act, 1994
- (e) Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** 24 February - Central Excise Day

Central Excise Day is observed annually on 24 February to commemorate the enactment of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944.

The day recognises the contribution of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and excise officials in administering indirect taxes and ensuring revenue collection for the nation.

**304. The Indo-French Centre for AI in Health (IF-CAIH) was inaugurated at which premier medical institution in New Delhi to strengthen bilateral healthcare collaboration?**

हेल्थ में AI के लिए इंडो-फ्रेंच सेंटर (IF-CAIH) का उद्घाटन नई दिल्ली के किस प्रमुख मेडिकल संस्थान में द्विपक्षीय हेल्थकेयर सहयोग को मजबूत करने के लिए किया गया?

- (a) Safdarjung Hospital
- (b) PGIMER Chandigarh
- (c) AIIMS New Delhi
- (d) JIPMER Puducherry
- (e) Lady Hardinge Medical College

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** J. P. Nadda and Emmanuel Macron Inaugurate Indo-French Centre for AI in Health at AIIMS New Delhi

Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda and French President Emmanuel Macron inaugurated the Indo-French Centre for AI in Health (IF-CAIH) at AIIMS New Delhi. The centre aims to advance AI-based research, medical education, and clinical innovation to address complex healthcare challenges through Indo-French collaboration.

IF-CAIH has been established under a joint MoU between AIIMS New Delhi, Sorbonne University, and Paris Brain Institute, with academic support from IIT Delhi and other French institutions.

**305. World Peace and Understanding Day is observed annually on:**

वर्ल्ड पीस एंड अंडरस्टैंडिंग डे हर साल मनाया जाता है:

- (a) 21 February
- (b) 22 February
- (c) 23 February
- (d) 24 February
- (e) 25 February

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 23 February - World Peace and Understanding Day

World Peace and Understanding Day is observed annually on 23 February to promote global harmony, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence among nations. The day highlights the importance of dialogue, tolerance, and international cooperation in resolving conflicts and strengthening global unity.

It also commemorates the founding of Rotary International in 1905, recognising its contributions toward peacebuilding and humanitarian service worldwide.

**306. The 3rd International AYUSH Conference & Expo concluded at the Dubai World Trade Centre, attracting over 1,500 delegates and nearly 20,000 visitors from 30 countries with support from India's Ministry of AYUSH. The theme of the 3rd International AYUSH Conference was:**

तीसरा इंटरनेशनल आयुष कॉन्फ्रेंस और एक्सपो दुबई वर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेंटर में खत्म हुआ, जिसमें भारत के आयुष मंत्रालय के सपोर्ट से 30 देशों से 1,500 से ज़्यादा डेलीगेट्स और लगभग 20,000 विज़िटर्स आए। तीसरे इंटरनेशनल आयुष कॉन्फ्रेंस की थीम थी:

- (a) Global Ayurveda for Sustainable Future
- (b) Holistic Healthcare for All
- (c) Traditional Medicine and Innovation
- (d) Evidence-based Herbal Medicine
- (e) Evidence-based AYUSH interventions for mind-body health

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** 3rd International AYUSH Conference Concludes at Dubai World Trade Centre  
 The 3rd International AYUSH Conference & Expo concluded at the Dubai World Trade Centre, attracting over 1,500 delegates and nearly 20,000 visitors from 30 countries under the theme "Evidence-based AYUSH interventions for mind-body health," with support from India's Ministry of AYUSH.

The conference featured 62 scientific sessions, 16 plenary discussions, and the release of a white paper on AYUSH interventions by 100 experts from 20 countries, while the next edition of the biennial event is scheduled for 2028.

**307. India has set a Guinness World Records record for receiving the "Most pledges for an AI responsibility campaign in 24 hours," as announced by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. How many valid pledges were recorded during the 24-hour AI Responsibility campaign?**

केंद्रीय मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने बताया कि भारत ने "24 घंटे में AI ज़िम्मेदारी कैम्पेन के लिए सबसे ज़्यादा वादे" पाने का गिनीज़ वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड्स रिकॉर्ड बनाया है। 24 घंटे के AI ज़िम्मेदारी कैम्पेन के दौरान कितने सही वादे दर्ज किए गए?

- (a) 1,50,000
- (b) 2,00,501
- (c) 2,25,360
- (d) 2,40,000
- (e) 2,50,946

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** India Sets Guinness World Records Record for Most AI Responsibility Pledges in 24 Hours

India has set a Guinness World Records record for receiving the "Most pledges for an AI responsibility campaign in 24 hours," as announced by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

A total of 2,50,946 valid pledges were recorded between 16 and 17 February 2026, with the announcement made at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 held at Bharat Mandapam.

The nationwide AI Responsibility Pledge campaign was launched under the IndiaAI Mission in collaboration with Intel India to promote responsible and ethical use of artificial intelligence.

**308. The Bihar Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, has approved the construction of a new international airport at \_\_\_\_\_, targeted for completion by 2030 to boost air connectivity in north Bihar.**

मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार की अध्यक्षता में बिहार कैबिनेट ने \_\_\_\_\_ में एक नए इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के कंस्ट्रक्शन को मंजूरी दे दी है, जिसे 2030 तक पूरा करने का टारगेट है ताकि नॉर्थ बिहार में एयर कनेक्टिविटी को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके।

- (a) Gaya
- (b) Darbhanga
- (c) Sonapur
- (d) Muzaffarpur
- (e) Purnea

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Bihar Approves New International Airport at Sonapur with 4,200-Metre Runway  
 The Bihar Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, has approved the construction of a new international airport at Sonapur, targeted for completion by 2030 to boost air connectivity in north Bihar.

The airport will have a 4,200-metre runway capable of handling wide-body aircraft, including the Airbus A380, and will support both passenger and cargo operations at an international level.

Spread across 4,228 acres between Hajipur and Dumaria, it will be the largest airport in Bihar by land area, with site clearance and in-principle approval granted by the Union Civil Aviation Ministry and the Centre.

**309. Bela Gram village has become India's first net-zero panchayat (net-zero village) and was honoured during Climate Week 2026. Bela Gram is located in which state?**

बेला ग्राम भारत का पहला नेट-ज़ीरो पंचायत (नेट-ज़ीरो गांव) बन गया है और इसे क्लाइमेट वीक 2026 के दौरान सम्मानित किया गया। बेला ग्राम किस राज्य में है?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Maharashtra
- (e) Rajasthan

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Bela Gram Becomes India's First Net-Zero Panchayat

Bela Gram, a village in Bhandara district in Maharashtra, has become India's first net-zero panchayat (net-zero village) and was honoured during Mumbai Climate Week 2026.

A net-zero village reduces its greenhouse gas emissions and balances any remaining emissions through eco-friendly measures like tree plantation and renewable energy adoption.

In simple terms, a net-zero status means: Pollution produced = Pollution reduced or absorbed, ensuring environmental sustainability.

**About Maharashtra**

- **Capital** - Mumbai
- **Chief Minister** - Devendra Fadnavis (3<sup>rd</sup> time)
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Eknath Sindhe & Sunetra Pawar
- **Governor** - Acharya Devvrat (additional charge)

**310. On the occasion of International Mother Language Day (21 February), C. P. Radhakrishnan released the updated versions of the Constitution of India in \_\_\_\_\_ languages.**

इंटरनेशनल मदर लैंग्वेज डे (21 फरवरी) के मौके पर, सी. पी. राधाकृष्णन ने भारत के संविधान के अपडेटेड वर्जन को \_\_\_\_\_ भाषाओं में जारी किया।

- (a) Odia and Assamese
- (b) Gujarati and Marathi
- (c) Gujarati and Tamil

(d) Punjabi and Bengali

(e) Telugu and Kannada

Ans. c

**Sol.** C. P. Radhakrishnan Releases Gujarati and Tamil Versions of Constitution of India on International Mother Language Day

On the occasion of International Mother Language Day (21 February), C. P.

Radhakrishnan released the updated versions of the Constitution of India in Gujarati and Tamil languages.

The Santali version of the Constitution was earlier released on 25 December 2025, further promoting linguistic inclusivity and constitutional awareness.

**311. Which ministry has constituted a High-Level Committee for the proposed merger of Power Finance Corporation and REC Limited?**

पावर फाइनेंस कॉर्पोरेशन और REC लिमिटेड के प्रस्तावित मर्जर के लिए किस मिनिस्ट्री ने एक हाई-लेवल कमेटी बनाई है?

(a) Ministry of Power

(b) Ministry of Finance

(c) Ministry of Heavy Industries

(d) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

(e) Ministry of Coal

Ans. a

**Sol.** Ministry of Power Forms High-Level Committee to Oversee Proposed Merger of Power Finance Corporation and REC Limited

The Ministry of Power has set up a three-member High-Level Committee and a three-member Working Group to oversee the proposed merger of Power Finance Corporation and REC Limited.

Both PFC and REC function under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power, and the merger aims to strengthen the power sector financing framework.

The High-Level Committee includes Parminder Chopra (CMD, PFC), Jitendra Srivastava (CMD, REC), and Shashank Mishra, Joint Secretary (Distribution), Ministry of Power.

**312. Peru recently appointed whom as the interim (temporary) President?**

पेरू ने हाल ही में किसे अंतरिम (टेम्पररी) प्रेसिडेंट अपॉइंट किया है?

(a) Jose Jeri

(b) Pedro Castillo

(c) Jose Maria Balcazar

(d) Dina Boluarte

**(e) Martin Vizcarra****Ans. c**

**Sol.** Peru Appoints Jose Maria Balcazar as Interim President After Impeachment of Jose Jeri

Peru has appointed Jose Maria Balcazar as the interim (temporary) President following a political transition.

He assumed office after former President Jose Jeri was impeached and removed from power over graft/corruption allegations.

### **Newly Appointed Prime Ministers & Presidents**

- *PM of Barbados- Mia Mottley*
- *Interim PM of Bulgaria - Andrey Gyurov*
- *President of Uganda - Yoweri Museveni (7th Term)*
- *PM of Yemen - Shaya Mohsen Zindani*
- *Prime Minister of the Czech Republic - Andrej Babis*

**313. Where is the National Round Table Conference of the Election Commission of India being held in 2026?**

2026 में भारत निर्वाचन आयोग की नेशनल राउंड टेबल कॉन्फ्रेंस कहाँ आयोजित की जा रही है?

- (a) Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi
- (b) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- (c) India Gate, New Delhi
- (d) Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi
- (e) Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** ECI Holds National Round Table Conference After 27 Years to Strengthen Electoral Synergy and Technology

The Election Commission of India is organising the National Round Table Conference of ECI and State Election Commissioners at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, marking the first such event in 27 years since 1999.

The conference will be chaired by Gyanesh Kumar, with Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, and attended by State Election Commissioners, Chief Electoral Officers, and their legal and technical experts.

Key objectives include fostering synergy between the ECI and State Election Commissioners, sharing technology and best practices related to EVMs, electoral rolls, and the ECINET digital platform, and reinforcing cooperative federalism in electoral management.

**314. Which Corps of the Indian Army conducted a high-intensity live firing test of the Strela-10 Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Rajasthan, demonstrating enhanced operational readiness and air defence capability?**

भारतीय सेना के किस कोर ने राजस्थान के Pokhran Field Firing Range में Strela-10 Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) का हाई-इंटेंसिटी लाइव फायरिंग टेस्ट किया, जिससे उनकी उन्नत परिचालन तत्परता और हवाई रक्षा क्षमता का प्रदर्शन हुआ?

- (a) Strike Corps
- (b) Konark Corps
- (c) Gajraj Corps
- (d) Deccan Corps
- (e) Dakshin Corps

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Indian Army's Konark Corps Conducts Live Firing Test of Strela-10 VSHORADS at Pokhran Range

The Indian Army's Konark Corps, along with the Air Defence Warriors of the Blazing Skies Brigade, carried out a high-intensity live firing test of the Strela-10 Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS).

The exercise was conducted at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Rajasthan, demonstrating enhanced air defence preparedness and operational capability.

**315. Which country has won the men's Olympic ice hockey gold medal in 2026? 2026 में पुरुषों का ओलंपिक आइस हॉकी गोल्ड मेडल किस देश ने जीता है?**

- (a) Canada
- (b) Finland
- (c) United States
- (d) Slovakia
- (e) Sweden

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** USA Clinch Men's Olympic Ice Hockey Gold After 46 Years with Overtime Win Over Canada

The United States men's national ice hockey team defeated the Canada men's national ice hockey team 2–1 to win the men's Olympic ice hockey gold after 46 years.

Jack Hughes scored the decisive goal 1 minute 41 seconds into overtime, securing the USA's first Olympic title since the historic 1980 "Miracle on Ice" at 1980 Winter Olympics.

Finland's men's national ice hockey team, the defending champions from the 2022 Beijing Games, claimed the bronze medal by defeating Slovakia 6–1.

**316. Mukul Roy, who passed away recently, was associated with which ministry at the Union level?**

मुकुल रॉय, जिनका हाल ही में निधन हो गया, केंद्र स्तर पर किस मंत्रालय से जुड़े थे?

- (a) Finance Minister
- (b) Home Minister
- (c) Railway Minister
- (d) Defence Minister
- (e) Agriculture Minister

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Former Union Minister Mukul Roy Passes Away at 71

Mukul Roy, former Union Railway Minister and senior leader of the All India Trinamool Congress, passed away at the age of 71.

He began his political career with the Congress and co-founded the Trinamool Congress with Mamata Banerjee in 1998; he also submitted the party's official symbol to the Election Commission of India.

In 2017, he joined the Bharatiya Janata Party and played a key role in its strong performance in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal; he later won the 2021 Assembly election from Krishnanagar North as a BJP MLA.

**317. Which company launched 'PF NPS Swasthya Equity Plus' under the PFRDA regulatory sandbox?**

किस कंपनी ने PFRDA रेगुलेटरी सैंडबॉक्स के तहत 'PF NPS स्वास्थ्य इक्विटी प्लस' लॉन्च किया?

- (a) SBI Pension Fund Management Company
- (b) HDFC Pension Fund Management Company
- (c) ICICI Pension Fund Management Company
- (d) LIC Pension Fund Management Company
- (e) UTI Pension Fund Management Company

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** ICICI Pension Funds Unveils 'NPS Swasthya Equity Plus' in PFRDA Regulatory Sandbox

ICICI Pension Fund Management Company launched ICICI PF NPS Swasthya Equity Plus under the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) regulatory sandbox, as a pilot within the National Pension System (NPS), not part of regular NPS offerings.

The scheme links retirement savings with medical access, allowing up to 25% withdrawal of own contributions for treatment through Apollo HealthCo Limited via Apollo 24|7; no cap on number of withdrawals (minimum ₹50,000 corpus required), and emergency exit up to 100% if medical costs exceed 70% of corpus.

### **Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- IDFC FIRST Bank Launches **Hello Cashback Credit Card** with Tiered Rewards and Credit-Building Benefits
- IOB Launches **Online Death Claim Settlement Portal** for Faster, Transparent Processing
- BOBCARD Launches **Braille-Enabled Premier Credit Card**
- Axis Bank launches **Rooftop Solar Finance** for MSMEs

### **318. Which State Government has launched the 'Meri Rasoi Yojna' to provide free quarterly food kits to NFSA beneficiaries?**

किस राज्य सरकार ने NFSA लाभार्थियों को हर तीन महीने में मुफ्त फूड किट देने के लिए 'मेरी रसोई योजना' शुरू की है?

- (a) Haryana
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Punjab
- (d) Delhi
- (e) Himachal Pradesh

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Punjab government launched 'Meri Rasoi' scheme

The Punjab government has launched 'Meri Rasoi Yojna' to provide additional food items to families covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

Under this scheme 40 lakh families will receive free quarterly food kits starting April, apart from wheat already provided under NFSA.

Each food kit will include 2 kg of lentils, 2 kg of sugar, 1 kg of salt, 200 gm turmeric powder, and 1 litre of mustard oil for monthly consumption.

### **About Punjab**

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

### **319. Who has been appointed as the Director (Commercial) of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL)?**

पंजाब स्टेट पावर कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (PSPCL) के डायरेक्टर (कॉमर्शियल) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Rajinder Gupta
- (b) Harsharan Kaur Trehan
- (c) Manpreet Singh
- (d) Gurpreet Kaur
- (e) Anil Joshi

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Harsharan Kaur Trehan Appointed Director (Commercial) of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Harsharan Kaur Trehan has been appointed as the Director (Commercial) of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) by the Punjab government for a tenure of two years, subject to a maximum age limit of 65 years.

She previously made history as the first woman Engineer-in-Chief at PSPCL, bringing over 34 years of experience in key power-sector roles.

**320. Soundala village, located in the Ahilyanagar district of Maharashtra, has declared itself a "caste-free" village through a unanimous Gram Sabha resolution, Aamchi jaat... manav. What is the meaning of the motto "Aamchi jaat... manav"?**

महाराष्ट्र के अहिल्यानगर जिले में मौजूद सौंदला गांव ने ग्राम सभा के एकमत प्रस्ताव, आमची जात... मानव के ज़रिए खुद को "जाति-मुक्त" गांव घोषित किया है। "आमची जात... मानव" मोटो का क्या मतलब है?

- (a) My caste is religion
- (b) My caste is equality
- (c) My caste is humanity
- (d) My caste is unity
- (e) My caste is freedom

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Maharashtra's Soundala Village Declares Itself 'Caste-Free' with Unanimous Gram Sabha Resolution

Soundala village in Maharashtra has declared itself a "caste-free" village through a unanimous Gram Sabha resolution passed, adopting the motto "Aamchi jaat... manav" (My caste is humanity).

Located in the Ahilyanagar district, the village formally renounced caste-based discrimination and social exclusion, promoting equality and shared human values. The resolution ensures equal access to public spaces and services—including schools, temples, water bodies, and cremation grounds—and commits to addressing caste-based grievances and preventing derogatory social media content.

**About Maharashtra**

- **Capital** - Mumbai
- **Chief Minister** - Devendra Fadnavis (3<sup>rd</sup> time)
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Eknath Sindhe & Sunetra Pawar
- **Governor** - Acharya Devvrat (additional charge)

**321. The Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR) has launched the 'Vanjeevi Didi' initiative, a community-driven programme aimed at empowering women to protect forests and wildlife. The Palamu Tiger Reserve is located in which state?**

पलामू टाइगर रिज़र्व (PTR) ने 'वनजीवी दीदी' पहल शुरू की है। यह एक कम्युनिटी द्वारा चलाया जाने वाला प्रोग्राम है जिसका मकसद महिलाओं को जंगलों और जंगली जानवरों की रक्षा के लिए मज़बूत बनाना है। पलामू टाइगर रिज़र्व किस राज्य में है?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Chhattisgarh
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Jharkhand
- (e) Bihar

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Palamu Tiger Reserve Launches 'Vanjeevi Didi' Initiative to Empower Women in Forest Conservation

The Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Jharkhand has launched the 'Vanjeevi Didi' initiative, a community-driven programme aimed at empowering women to protect forests and wildlife.

Under the scheme, 18 educated women from each of 17 villages have been selected as forest ambassadors to promote awareness and discourage poaching and deforestation.

The initiative was launched on February 17 in the Garu range and targets hinterland villages such as Henar, Surkumi, Hasua, Armu, Kotam and Pandra to build grassroots conservation efforts.

Each Vanjeevi Didi will receive a monthly incentive of ₹3,000, and the programme—initially planned for two months—will be reviewed for expansion with approval from the state forest department.

#### **About Jharkhand**

- **Capital** – Ranchi
- **Chief Minister** – Hemant Soren
- **Governor** - Santosh Kumar Gangwar

**322. Waaree Energies has announced an investment of ₹8,175 crore to set up India's largest integrated lithium-ion battery gigafactory at Rambilli in Andhra**

**Pradesh. What is the proposed production capacity of the lithium-ion battery plant?**

वारी एनर्जीज ने आंध्र प्रदेश के रामबिली में भारत की सबसे बड़ी इंटीग्रेटेड लिथियम-आयन बैटरी गीगाफैक्ट्री बनाने के लिए ₹8,175 करोड़ के इन्वेस्टमेंट की घोषणा की है। लिथियम-आयन बैटरी प्लांट की प्रस्तावित प्रोडक्शन कैपेसिटी क्या है?

- (a) 10 GWh
- (b) 12 GWh
- (c) 14 GWh
- (d) 16 GWh
- (e) 20 GWh

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Waaree Energies to Set Up India's Largest 16 GWh Lithium-Ion Battery Gigafactory in Andhra Pradesh

Waaree Energies has announced an investment of ₹8,175 crore to set up India's largest integrated lithium-ion battery gigafactory at Rambilli in Andhra Pradesh, with a production capacity of 16 GWh.

The greenfield facility, approved in principle by the State Investment Promotion Board, will cover the entire battery value chain — including cell manufacturing, battery pack assembly, and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

The project is expected to boost domestic value addition, reduce dependence on imported battery components (especially from East Asia), and position Andhra Pradesh as a major hub in India's clean energy storage sector.

**323. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established a high-security greenfield data centre in which city to strengthen India's critical financial infrastructure?**

रिज़र्व बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया (RBI) ने भारत के ज़रूरी फ़ाइनेंशियल इंफ़्रास्ट्रक्चर को मज़बूत करने के लिए किस शहर में एक हाई-सिक्योरिटी ग्रीनफ़ील्ड डेटा सेंटर बनाया है

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Chennai
- (c) Hyderabad
- (d) Bhubaneswar
- (e) Kolkata

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** RBI Establishes High-Security Data Centre in Bhubaneswar to Strengthen Financial Infrastructure

The Reserve Bank of India has established a high-security data centre in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, to enhance the safety and continuity of India's critical financial infrastructure.

The greenfield facility has been developed at Info Valley-II in Khordha, spread across an 18.55-acre campus.

It will support RBI's core functions such as currency management, payment and settlement systems, and regulatory data operations; RBI's primary data centre is located at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.

**324. Which ministry unveiled India's new national counter-terrorism policy titled 'PRAHAR'?**

'PRAHAR' नामक भारत की नई राष्ट्रीय आतंकवाद-रोधी नीति किस मंत्रालय ने प्रस्तुत की?

- (a) Ministry of Defence
- (b) Ministry of External Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (d) Ministry of Law and Justice
- (e) Ministry of Finance

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Ministry of Home Affairs Unveils 'PRAHAR' – India's New National Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The Ministry of Home Affairs unveiled India's new national counter-terrorism policy and strategy titled PRAHAR.

The PRAHAR strategy provides a comprehensive and proactive framework to prevent and counter evolving terror threats while safeguarding national interests.

PRAHAR stands for Prevention, Response, Aggregation of capacities, Human rights & Rule of Law, Attenuation of radicalisation, Alignment of international efforts, and Recovery & resilience, ensuring a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

**325. Consider the following statements regarding National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) 2.0:**

राष्ट्रीय मुद्राीकरण पाइपलाइन (NMP) 2.0 के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. It was launched by Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi.
2. NITI Aayog has developed it in consultation with infrastructure line ministries.
3. It covers the period from FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31.
4. The estimated aggregate monetisation potential under NMP 2.0 is ₹16.72 lakh crore.

5. It applies only to State government assets and excludes Central ministries.

326. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

उपरोक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only

(b) 1, 2, and 4 only

(c) 2, 3 and 5 only

(d) 1, 4 and 5 only

(e) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans. b

**Sol.** Nirmala Sitharaman Launches National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0 with ₹16.72 Lakh Crore Potential in New Delhi

Nirmala Sitharaman launched the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) 2.0 in New Delhi, marking the second phase of asset monetisation for Central ministries and public sector entities.

NMP 2.0 has been developed by NITI Aayog under the 'Asset Monetisation Plan 2025–30' announced in the Union Budget 2025–26.

The pipeline estimates a total monetisation potential of ₹16.72 lakh crore, including ₹5.8 lakh crore private sector investment, for the period FY 2025–26 to FY 2029–30.

The Finance Minister highlighted that nearly 90% of the ₹6 lakh crore target under NMP 1.0 was achieved and stated that NMP 2.0 aligns with the vision of Viksit Bharat through accelerated infrastructure development.

327. Rob Jetten is set to be sworn in as the youngest Prime Minister of the Netherlands. Rob Jetten will be the Netherlands' first openly \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Minister.

रॉब जेटन नीदरलैंड्स के सबसे कम उम्र के प्रधानमंत्री के तौर पर शपथ लेने वाले हैं। रॉब जेटन नीदरलैंड्स के पहले खुले तौर पर \_\_\_\_\_ प्रधानमंत्री होंगे।

(a) Female

(b) Gay

(c) Immigrant

(d) Independent

(e) Socialist

Ans. b

**Sol.** Rob Jetten Set to Become Youngest and First Openly Gay Prime Minister of the Netherlands

Rob Jetten is set to be sworn in as the youngest Prime Minister of the Netherlands and the country's first openly gay Prime Minister.

His rise follows a closely fought snap election in October, where his centrist party defeated the far-right Party for Freedom led by Geert Wilders.

### **About Netherlands**

- Capital- Amsterdam
- Currency- Euro
- Prime Minister – Rob Jetten (Youngest and First Openly Gay PM)

### **328. Bangladesh became which signatory to endorse the New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact?**

AI इम्पैक्ट पर नई दिल्ली डिक्लेरेेशन को एंडोर्स करने वाला बांग्लादेश कौन सा सिग्नेटरी बना?

- (a) 85th
- (b) 87th
- (c) 88th
- (d) 89th
- (e) 90th

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Bangladesh Becomes 89th Signatory as New Delhi Declaration on AI Gains Global Backing at India AI Impact Summit 2026

The New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact was adopted at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi, with Bangladesh becoming the 89th signatory, reflecting global consensus on using AI for economic growth and social good.

A total of 89 countries and international organisations endorsed the Declaration, including the United States, United Kingdom, Japan, Australia, and Bangladesh.

Guided by the principle of "Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya," the Declaration emphasises the equitable and inclusive sharing of AI benefits across humanity.

The Summit and Expo saw participation from 500+ AI leaders, 100+ CEOs, 150 academicians, and 400 CTOs, attracting over five lakh visitors, and highlighted AI's role in sectors like agriculture, as noted by Rajeev Ahuja.

### **329. The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to change the name of the State of Kerala to "Keralam", following a resolution passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly on 24 June 2024. Under which Article of the Constitution has the Kerala Assembly urged the Centre to amend the state's name?**

केरल विधानसभा द्वारा 24 जून 2024 को पारित प्रस्ताव के बाद, केंद्रीय कैबिनेट ने केरल राज्य का नाम बदलकर "केरलम" करने के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दे दी है। संविधान के किस आर्टिकल के तहत केरल विधानसभा ने केंद्र से राज्य का नाम बदलने का आग्रह किया है?

- (a) Article 1
- (b) Article 2

- (c) Article 3  
(d) Article 225  
(e) Article 356

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Union Cabinet Approves Renaming of Kerala to 'Keralam'

The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to change the name of the State of Kerala to "Keralam", following a resolution passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly on 24 June 2024.

After Cabinet approval, the President of India will refer the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, to the State Legislative Assembly for its views, after which it will be introduced in Parliament for final approval.

The Kerala assembly has urged the central government to take immediate steps to amend it as Keralam under Article 3 of the Constitution and in all the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

#### About Kerala

- **Capital** – Thiruvananthapuram
- **Chief Minister** – Pinarayi Vijayan
- **Governor** – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

**330. World NGO Day is observed annually on which date?**

विश्व एनजीओ दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 24 February  
(b) 25 February  
(c) 26 February  
(d) 27 February  
(e) 28 February

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** 27 February - World NGO Day

World NGO Day is observed annually on 27 February to recognise and honour the role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in society.

The day highlights the contribution of NGOs in areas such as human rights, education, health, environment, and social development.

It was officially recognized in 2010 and first celebrated in 2014 to promote collaboration between NGOs and governments.

**331. Who inaugurated the Tourism Leadership Summit-2026 in New Delhi?**

नई दिल्ली में पर्यटन नेतृत्व शिखर सम्मेलन-2026 का उद्घाटन किसने किया?

- (a) Droupadi Murmu
- (b) Narendra Modi
- (c) C. P. Radhakrishnan
- (d) Amit Shah
- (e) G. Kishan Reddy

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan Inaugurates Tourism Leadership Summit-2026  
Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated the Tourism Leadership Summit-2026, organised by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum in New Delhi, highlighting tourism as a driver of economic growth and soft diplomacy.

He emphasised that tourism is a major employment generator and stressed investment in skills, entrepreneurship, and women-led enterprises for inclusive and sustainable growth.

The Vice President highlighted Tourism Vision 2029, aiming to develop at least one world-class tourist destination in every state, promoting sustainable practices, improved connectivity, and AI-driven solutions for better visitor experience.

**332. A six-member team from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (Uttarkashi) and the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering & Winter Sports (Pahalgam) successfully summited Mount Aconcagua. Mount Aconcagua is located in which country?**

नेहरू इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ़ माउंटेनियरिंग (उत्तरकाशी) और जवाहर इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ़ माउंटेनियरिंग एंड विंटर स्पोर्ट्स (पहलगाम) की छह लोगों की टीम ने माउंट अकोंकागुआ पर सफलतापूर्वक चढ़ाई की। माउंट अकोंकागुआ किस देश में है?

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

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Indian Mountaineers Summit Mount Aconcagua in Argentina

A six-member team from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (Uttarkashi) and the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering & Winter Sports (Pahalgam) successfully summited Mount Aconcagua in Argentina.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh ceremonially flagged off the expedition on the 5th February.

Mount Aconcagua is the highest peak in South America and the second-highest peak outside Asia, highlighting India's growing excellence in international mountaineering.

### About Argentina

- Capital- Buenos Aires
- Currency- Argentine Peso
- National sport- Pato

### 333. Who launched the UN-JCDecaux Global Campaign for Road Safety titled "Make A Safety Statement"?

"Make A Safety Statement" शीर्षक से UN-JCDecaux वैश्विक सड़क सुरक्षा अभियान किसने शुरू किया?

- (a) António Guterres
- (b) Jean Todt
- (c) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- (d) Ban Ki-moon
- (e) Achim Steiner

Ans. b

**Sol.** Jean Todt Launches UN Global Road Safety Campaign 'Make A Safety Statement' in India

The UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, Jean Todt, launched the UN-JCDecaux Global Campaign for Road Safety titled "Make A Safety Statement", aimed at promoting simple daily measures like wearing seat belts and helmets, following speed limits, and avoiding mobile phone use while driving.

The campaign supports the UN's Second Decade of Action for Road Safety (2021–2030) to reduce road deaths by 50% by 2030.

A new project, "Sustainable Financing for Road Safety in India: A Collaborative Approach," supported by the UN Road Safety Fund and implemented with technical support from WHO, UNICEF, and UN ESCAP, was also launched to strengthen road safety systems and establish sustainable financing mechanisms in India.

### 334. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change will organise 'Him-CONNECT' in New Delhi as part of TERI's World Sustainable Development Summit. Him-CONNECT is being organised as part of which major summit?

पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, TERI के वर्ल्ड सस्टेनेबल डेवलपमेंट समिट के हिस्से के तौर पर नई दिल्ली में 'Him-CONNECT' का आयोजन करेगा। Him-CONNECT किस बड़े समिट के हिस्से के तौर पर आयोजित किया जा रहा है?

- (a) India Climate Action Summit
- (b) World Sustainable Development Summit
- (c) Global Green Growth Summit
- (d) UN Climate Adaptation Forum

**(e) National Biodiversity Congress****Ans. b****Sol.** MoEFCC to Host 'Him-CONNECT' in New Delhi to Promote Sustainable Innovations in the Indian Himalayan Region

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change will organise 'Him-CONNECT' in New Delhi as part of TERI's World Sustainable Development Summit. Him-CONNECT aims to connect researchers from the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) with start-ups, investors, and policymakers to promote scaling and real-world implementation of research outcomes.

Over 24 technologies, prototypes, patents, and pilot projects developed under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies will be showcased, with participation from more than 100 start-ups, incubators, investors, and policymakers.

**335. The 16th edition of Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR between India and the USA is being conducted at the Special Forces Training School located in which state of India?**

भारत और USA के बीच एक्सरसाइज वज्र प्रहार का 16वां एडिशन भारत के किस राज्य में मौजूद स्पेशल फोर्सिंग ट्रेनिंग स्कूल में हो रहा है?

- (a) Uttarakhand
- (b) Punjab
- (c) Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Jammu & Kashmir
- (e) Rajasthan

**Ans. c****Sol.** India-US 16th Joint Special Forces Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR Begins in Himachal Pradesh

The 16th edition of Joint Special Forces Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR between India and the United States has commenced at the Special Forces Training School, Bakloh (Himachal Pradesh) and will continue till the 16th of next month.

The Indian Army is represented by 45 personnel from its Special Forces units, while the United States has deployed 12 Green Berets from the US Special Forces.

The exercise aims to strengthen military cooperation, enhance interoperability, and improve joint special operations capabilities between the two countries.

**336. The 7th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' is conducted between which two countries?**

संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास 'धर्म गार्डियन' का 7वां संस्करण किन दो देशों के बीच आयोजित किया जा रहा है?

- (a) India and USA
- (b) India and Australia
- (c) India and South Korea
- (d) India and France
- (e) India and Japan

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** 7th India–Japan Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' Begins in Uttarakhand  
 The 7th edition of Joint Military Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN between India and Japan has commenced in Uttarakhand, and will continue till 9th March.

Around 120 personnel from each country are participating, with the Japanese side represented by the 32nd Infantry Regiment and the Indian side by the Ladakh Scouts of the Indian Army.

Held alternately in India and Japan, the exercise aims to strengthen defence cooperation and enhance joint operational capabilities, particularly for operations in a semi-urban environment.

#### Recent Exercise

- 13th edition of joint military **Exercise KHANJAR** between India and Kyrgyzstan - Misamari in Sonitpur district of Assam.
- Training exercise "**Agni Pariksha**" between Indian Army and ITBP - Sigar, East Siang district Arunachal Pradesh
- 3rd edition of **Exercise AviaIndra** between India and Russia - India
- Joint Military Exercise **DESERT CYCLONE-II** between India and UAE - Abu Dhabi, UAE

**337. Tomas Martin Etcheverry won his maiden ATP Tour title at which tournament?**

टॉमस मार्टिन एचेवेरी ने अपना पहला ATP टूर खिताब किस टूर्नामेंट में जीता?

- (a) Argentina Open
- (b) Chile Open
- (c) Rio Open
- (d) Miami Open
- (e) Barcelona Open

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Tomas Martin Etcheverry Clinches Maiden ATP Title at Rio Open

Tomas Martin Etcheverry won his maiden ATP Tour title at the ATP 500 Rio Open, defeating Alejandro Tabilo 3-6, 7-6(3), 6-4 in the final, despite playing two matches in one day due to rain delays.

The 26-year-old Argentine secured his first ATP crown after three previous runner-up finishes and also recorded his 100th tour-level match win, improving his head-to-head record against Tabilo to 2-0.

With the victory, Etcheverry climbed 18 places to World No. 33, re-entering the Top 40; in men's doubles, Joao Fonseca and Felipe Melo won the title, marking Fonseca's first home trophy and Melo's second consecutive title.

**338. A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was signed to facilitate the expedited implementation of the Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP) in Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh signed this MoC with which organisation under the Ministry of Communications?**

आंध्र प्रदेश में संशोधित भारतनेट कार्यक्रम (ABP) के त्वरित कार्यान्वयन के लिए एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoC) पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए। आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार ने यह MoC संचार मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत किस संगठन के साथ किया?

- (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
- (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- (c) Digital Bharat Nidhi
- (d) National Informatics Centre
- (e) NITI Aayog

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Digital Bharat Nidhi and Andhra Pradesh Sign MoC for Fast-Track Implementation of Amended BharatNet Programme

A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was signed between Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) under the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, and the Government of Andhra Pradesh for faster implementation of the Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP) in the state.

The agreement provides a collaborative framework where the Andhra Pradesh government will facilitate Right of Way (RoW), infrastructure access, and coordination support to ensure expedited rollout of the programme.

The project will be funded primarily by DBN, along with state contributions, and the created digital network will be utilized to enhance socio-economic development across Andhra Pradesh.

**339. According to ICRA, India's GDP growth is projected at what rate in Q3 FY2025-26?**

ICRA के अनुसार Q3 FY2025-26 में भारत की GDP वृद्धि दर कितनी रहने का अनुमान है?

- (a) 6.5%
- (b) 6.9%

- (c) 7.2%
- (d) 7.8%
- (e) 8.2%

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India's GDP growth to ease to 7.2% in Q3FY26: ICRA

ICRA has projected India's GDP growth to moderate to 7.2% in Q3 FY2025-26, down from 8.2% in Q2 FY2025-26, indicating a slowdown in overall economic momentum. The moderation is mainly due to slower growth in the services sector (7.8% vs 9.2%) and the agriculture sector (3.0% vs 3.5%) compared to the previous quarter.

Despite the slowdown, the industrial sector recorded a six-quarter high growth of 8.3% in Q3, improving from 7.7% in Q2, partially offsetting the weaker performance in other sectors.

**340. Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda launched the indigenously manufactured Tetanus & Adult Diphtheria (Td) Vaccine at the Central Research Institute (CRI), Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh. The Td vaccine has been introduced under which programme?**

केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा ने हिमाचल प्रदेश के कसौली में सेंट्रल रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट (CRI) में देश में बनी टेटनस और एडल्ट डिप्थीरिया (Td) वैक्सीन लॉन्च की। Td वैक्सीन किस प्रोग्राम के तहत शुरू की गई है?

- (a) Ayushman Bharat
- (b) National Health Mission
- (c) Universal Immunization Programme
- (d) Mission Indradhanush
- (e) National Digital Health Mission

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Jagat Prakash Nadda Launches Indigenous Td Vaccine at CRI Kasauli

Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda launched the indigenously manufactured Tetanus & Adult Diphtheria (Td) Vaccine at the Central Research Institute (CRI), Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh.

The Td vaccine has been introduced under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP), with CRI set to supply 55 lakh doses by April 2026, and production expected to scale up in the coming years.

CRI is the first government institute to manufacture vaccines under Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) standards, showcasing modernization of public sector vaccine units.

The UIP, the world's largest immunisation programme, currently provides 11 vaccines against 12 diseases, and aligns with WHO recommendations (2006, reaffirmed in 2017) to shift from Tetanus Toxoid (TT) to the Td vaccine.

**341. The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) signed an MoU with whom?**

नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ फार्मास्युटिकल एजुकेशन एंड रिसर्च (NIPER) ने किसके साथ समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (b) A private pharmaceutical company
- (c) World Health Organization
- (d) AIIMS Delhi
- (e) Indian Council of Medical Research

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** NIPER signs MoU with private pharmaceutical company to advance pharmaceutical education

The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) signed an MoU with a private pharmaceutical company in New Delhi to strengthen pharmaceutical education and research in India, under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers.

During the event, Cohort 2 of AMRITVA (Alliance for Medicinal Research, Innovation, Translation and Value Acceleration) was launched to convert academic pharmaceutical research into market-oriented and entrepreneurial initiatives.

**342. The first AI Impact Summit in 2023 was hosted by which country?**

2023 में पहला एआई इम्पैक्ट समिट किस देश द्वारा आयोजित किया गया था?

- (a) India
- (b) France
- (c) United Kingdom
- (d) Switzerland
- (e) South Korea

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Switzerland Announces Geneva as Host City for 2027 AI Impact Summit  
Switzerland's President Guy Parmelin announced that Geneva will host the AI Impact Summit 2027, emphasising the need for smaller nations to collaborate for fair and responsible AI governance.

Switzerland will partner with the United Arab Emirates, the host of the 2028 AI Impact Summit, to ensure continuity and global cooperation in AI development.

Since its inception in the United Kingdom (2023), the AI Impact Summit has been hosted by South Korea, France, and India, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcoming Switzerland as the fifth summit host.

**343. PhonePe has launched an AI-powered natural language search feature built using which platform?**

फोनपे ने एआई-संचालित नेचुरल लैंग्वेज सर्च फीचर किस प्लेटफॉर्म का उपयोग करके लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Google Cloud AI
- (b) Amazon Web Services
- (c) Microsoft Foundry
- (d) IBM Watson
- (e) OpenAI Platform

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** PhonePe launches AI-powered search built using Microsoft Foundry  
PhonePe launches an AI-powered natural language search feature built using Microsoft Foundry, allowing users to perform tasks via text or voice commands. The feature uses intent-based routing to replace traditional navigation, directly guiding users to their desired actions, such as payments, purchases, or support. Using a hybrid model of on-device and cloud processing, the system ensures security and privacy, keeping all personal and transactional data within the PhonePe environment.

Founder, Whole-time Director & CTO of PhonePe - Rahul Chari

**344. Whose statue was replaced by the bust of Chakravarti Rajagopalachari at Rashtrapati Bhavan, marking a shift from colonial-era symbols to honouring Indian leaders?**

राष्ट्रपति भवन में चक्रवर्ती राजगोपालाचारी की प्रतिमा ने किसकी मूर्ति को प्रतिस्थापित किया, जो उपनिवेशकालीन प्रतीकों को हटाकर भारतीय नेताओं को सम्मान देने की दिशा में एक कदम था?

- (a) Sir Herbert Baker
- (b) Edwin Lutyens
- (c) Patricia Knatchbull
- (d) Lord Mountbatten
- (e) Norton Knatchbull

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** President Murmu Unveils Rajagopalachari Bust at Rashtrapati Bhavan

President Droupadi Murmu unveiled a bust of Chakravarti Rajagopalachari at Rashtrapati Bhavan, replacing the statue of British architect Edwin Lutyens, as part of the government's effort to remove colonial-era symbols.

The bust has been installed at the Grand Open Staircase near Ashok Mandap, opposite the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, highlighting India's own leaders and traditions within the presidential estate.

During the 'Rajaji Utsav', President Murmu emphasized Rajagopalachari's role in India's "mental decolonisation" and praised his contributions to law, politics, social reform, and literature, inspiring the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

**345. National Science Day is observed in India on which date?**

भारत में राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान दिवस किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 21 February
- (b) 24 February
- (c) 26 February
- (d) 28 February
- (e) 27 February

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** 28 February - National Science Day

National Science Day is observed every year on 28 February to commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect by Sir C. V. Raman.

The day highlights the importance of science and technology in national development and encourages a scientific temper among citizens.

It also aims to inspire students and young minds to pursue careers in science and research.

**346. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the "Speaker of the Knesset Medal," the highest honour of the Knesset. The Knesset is the Parliament of which country?**

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को "स्पीकर ऑफ़ द नेसेट मेडल" दिया गया, जो नेसेट का सबसे बड़ा सम्मान है। नेसेट किस देश की पार्लियामेंट है?

- (a) Iran
- (b) Russia
- (c) Jordan
- (d) Egypt
- (e) Israel

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Narendra Modi Becomes First Global Leader to Receive Speaker of the Knesset Medal in Israel

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the "Speaker of the Knesset Medal," the highest honour of the Knesset.

The award was presented at the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) in Jerusalem, Israel. PM Modi became the first global leader to receive this prestigious medal.

**347. Which airport has won the 2025 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Award in the category "Best Airport at Arrivals – Globally"?**

किस हवाई अड्डे ने 2025 का एयरपोर्ट सर्विस क्वालिटी (ASQ) पुरस्कार "Best Airport at Arrivals – Globally" श्रेणी में जीता है?

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

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Mangaluru International Airport Wins 2025 ASQ Award for Best Airport at Arrivals – Globally

Mangaluru International Airport has won the 2025 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Award in the category "Best Airport at Arrivals – Globally."

The award is presented by Airports Council International (ACI) World, marking the second consecutive win for the airport after also securing the title in 2024.

Mangaluru International Airport is managed by Adani Airport Holdings Ltd.

**348. Goa hosted the 4th edition of the World Ocean Science Congress 2026 at the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) in Panaji. What was the theme of the World Ocean Science Congress 2026?**

गोवा ने पणजी में नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ ओशनोग्राफी (NIO) में वर्ल्ड ओशन साइंस कांग्रेस 2026 के चौथे एडिशन को होस्ट किया। वर्ल्ड ओशन साइंस कांग्रेस 2026 की थीम क्या थी?

- (a) Ocean Health and Sustainable Future
- (b) Marine Biodiversity Conservation
- (c) Blue Economy and Growth
- (d) Climate Change and Oceans
- (e) Sustainable Fisheries

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Goa Hosts 4th World Ocean Science Congress 2026 on 'Ocean Health and Sustainable Future'

Goa hosted the 4th edition of the World Ocean Science Congress 2026 at the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) in Panaji.

The event was inaugurated by Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

The congress was co-organised by NIO, the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, and Goa University under the theme "Ocean Health and Sustainable Future."

### **About Goa**

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

**249. The Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, in collaboration with the All India Ayurvedic Congress, will organise the National Arogya Fair 2026 in which state?**

भारत सरकार का आयुष मंत्रालय, ऑल इंडिया आयुर्वेदिक कांग्रेस के साथ मिलकर किस राज्य में नेशनल आरोग्य मेला 2026 आयोजित करेगा?

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

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Ministry of Ayush to Organise National Arogya Fair 2026 in Maharashtra

The Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, in collaboration with the All India Ayurvedic Congress, will organize the National Arogya Fair 2026 at Shegaon in Buldhana district, Maharashtra.

The event will be inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu at Visava Maidan of Sant Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan.

**350. Which state government launched the 'Banglar Yuva Sathi' scheme?**

'Banglar Yuva Sathi' योजना किस राज्य सरकार द्वारा शुरू की गई है?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Bihar
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Assam

**(e) Jharkhand****Ans. c****Sol.** West Bengal Launches 'Banglar Yuva Sathi' Scheme to Provide ₹1,500 Monthly Aid to Unemployed Youth

The Government of West Bengal has launched the 'Banglar Yuva Sathi' scheme in the Budget 2026-27 to provide financial support to unemployed youth.

Under the scheme, eligible beneficiaries will receive ₹1,500 per month, and many may also benefit from the Lakshmir Bhandar Scheme for women.

**About West Bengal**

- **Capital** – Kolkata
- **Chief Minister** – Mamata Banerjee
- **Governor** – C V Ananda Bose

**351. The government has launched Mobile Quality Control Vans (MQCVs) to monitor and diagnose the quality of ongoing National Highway projects. The pilot project for monitoring highway quality has been implemented in how many states initially?**

सरकार ने चल रहे नेशनल हाईवे प्रोजेक्ट्स की क्वालिटी को मॉनिटर और डायग्नोस करने के लिए मोबाइल क्वालिटी कंट्रोल वैन (MQCVs) लॉन्च की हैं। हाईवे क्वालिटी मॉनिटरिंग के लिए पायलट प्रोजेक्ट शुरू में कितने राज्यों में लागू किया गया है?

- (a) Two
- (b) Three
- (c) Four
- (d) Five
- (e) Six

**Ans. c****Sol.** Government Launches Mobile Labs to Monitor Quality of National Highway Projects

The government has launched Mobile Quality Control Vans (MQCVs) to monitor and diagnose the quality of ongoing National Highway projects.

Pilot projects have been implemented in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Odisha, with each van functioning as a mobile laboratory equipped with advanced non-destructive testing instruments.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) is developing a National Highway Quality Monitoring Portal to provide online test reports and real-time GPS tracking for transparent and data-driven oversight.

**352. Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary launched the nationwide campaign 'Badhna Hai Toh Yahan Judna Hai' to boost digital skilling through the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH). Which legendary actor has been associated with the campaign to enhance awareness?**

स्किल डेवलपमेंट और एंटरप्रेन्योरशिप राज्य मंत्री जयंत चौधरी ने स्किल इंडिया डिजिटल हब (SIDH) के ज़रिए डिजिटल स्किलिंग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए देश भर में कैम्पेन 'बढ़ना है तो यहाँ जुड़ना है' लॉन्च किया। जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए इस कैम्पेन से कौन से मशहूर एक्टर जुड़े हैं?

- (a) Shah Rukh Khan
- (b) Aamir Khan
- (c) Rajinikanth
- (d) Amitabh Bachchan
- (e) Akshay Kumar

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Jayant Chaudhary Launches 'Badhna Hai Toh Yahan Judna Hai' Campaign to Boost Digital Skilling via Skill India Digital Hub

Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary launched the nationwide campaign 'Badhna Hai Toh Yahan Judna Hai' to boost digital skilling through the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH).

The campaign aims to expand access to SIDH, India's integrated digital platform for skilling, employment, and lifelong learning, building on initiatives like India Stack.

To enhance awareness and participation, the campaign features legendary actor Amitabh Bachchan as part of its outreach efforts.

**353. What is the estimated cost approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for the expansion of the Civil Enclave at Srinagar International Airport?**

कैबिनेट समिति (आर्थिक मामलों की) द्वारा श्रीनगर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के सिविल एन्क्लेव विस्तार के लिए कितनी अनुमानित लागत स्वीकृत की गई है?

- (a) Rs. 1,500 crore
- (b) Rs. 1,677 crore
- (c) Rs. 1,620 crore
- (d) Rs. 1,720 crore
- (e) Rs. 1,800 crore

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Cabinet Approves ₹1,677 Crore Expansion of Civil Enclave at Srinagar International Airport

The Cabinet has approved the expansion of the Civil Enclave at Srinagar International Airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,677 crore to strengthen aviation infrastructure in the Kashmir Valley.

The new project, spread over 73.18 acres, will include a state-of-the-art terminal building with an annual capacity of 10 million passengers and peak-hour handling capacity of 2,900 passengers.

The expansion will also add 15 aircraft parking bays, a multi-level car parking facility for 1,000 cars, and other infrastructure, while the runway will continue to be operated by the Indian Air Force (IAF).

**354. Which organization has launched the March 2026 round of the Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH)?**

मार्च 2026 के Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH) को किस संगठन ने शुरू किया है?

- (a) SEBI
- (b) NABARD
- (c) Reserve Bank of India
- (d) Ministry of Finance
- (e) NITI Aayog

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** RBI Launches March 2026 Round of Inflation Expectations Survey of Households

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched the March 2026 round of the Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH).

The survey aims to capture households' perceptions and expectations regarding price movements and inflation trends.

It will be conducted across 19 cities by Hansa Research Group Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai, on behalf of the RBI.

**355. Consider the following statements regarding the March 2026 round of Urban Consumer Confidence Survey (UCCS):**

अर्बन कंज्यूमर कॉन्फिडेंस सर्वे (UCCS) के मार्च 2026 राउंड के बारे में इन बातों पर गौर करें:

1. It is launched by the Reserve Bank of India.
2. The survey is conducted across 19 cities.
3. It is conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1 and 2 only

(e) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** RBI Launches March 2026 Urban Consumer Confidence Survey Across 19 Cities  
 RBI launches March 2026 Urban Consumer Confidence Survey (UCCS) to assess urban household sentiment.

Survey conducted across 19 cities focusing on economic outlook, employment, prices, income, and spending.

Hansa Research Group Pvt Ltd, Mumbai, conducts the survey on behalf of the Reserve Bank of India.

**356. What is the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute (TD-3 grade) for the 2026-27 season?**

2026-27 सत्र के लिए Raw Jute (TD-3 ग्रेड) का न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (MSP) क्या है?

(a) Rs. 5,650 per quintal

(b) Rs. 5,925 per quintal

(c) Rs. 6,010 per quintal

(d) Rs. 5,500 per quintal

(e) Rs. 5,750 per quintal

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Cabinet Approves MSP for Raw Jute at Rs. 5,925 per Quintal for 2026-27 Season  
 Cabinet, chaired by PM Shri Narendra Modi, approves Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute at Rs. 5,925 per quintal for the 2026-27 season.

The MSP ensures a 61.8% return over the all-India weighted average cost of production, following the government's principle of at least 1.5 times cost of production.

MSP of Raw Jute has increased by Rs. 3,525 per quintal since 2014-15, with total MSP payments to farmers rising from Rs. 441 Crore (2004-14) to Rs. 1,342 Crore (2014-26).

**357. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) has set up a high-level committee to harmonize the regulatory framework of DigiLocker.**

**Who is heading the DigiLocker committee?**

इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और इन्फॉर्मेशन टेक्नोलॉजी मिनिस्ट्री (Meity) ने DigiLocker के रेगुलेटरी फ्रेमवर्क को एक जैसा बनाने के लिए एक हाई-लेवल कमेटी बनाई है। DigiLocker कमेटी को कौन हेड कर रहा है?

(a) Nandan Nilekani

(b) Ajay Sawhney

- (c) Sundar Pichai  
 (d) Ravi Shankar Prasad  
 (e) Arvind Subramanian

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Meity Forms High-Level Committee to Modernize DigiLocker System

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) has set up a high-level committee to harmonize the regulatory framework of DigiLocker.

The committee, headed by Ajay Sawhney, former Secretary of Meity, aims to review and modernize the Digital Locker system.

### **Recent Committee in News**

- *RBI constituted a Regulatory Review Cell (RRC) to strengthen the institutional mechanism for reviewing regulations, ensuring a systematic internal review every 5–7 years; Chaired by - Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh (MD of SBI)*
- *AICTE forms expert committee to integrate AI across all academic streams; chaired by Anand Deshpande*
- *SEBI constituted a high-level committee to review rules on conflict of interest and disclosures by its board members and officials; chaired by - Pratyush Sinha*
- *GoM on revenue mobilisation in case of natural calamities or disaster ;chaired by - FM of UP Suresh Khanna*

### **358. Who from IIT Madras has been appointed to the UN Independent International Scientific Panel on AI?**

IIT Madras के किस प्रोफेसर को UN के स्वतंत्र अंतरराष्ट्रीय AI वैज्ञानिक पैनल में नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) C. R. Rao  
 (b) B. Ravindran  
 (c) K. Radhakrishnan  
 (d) A. K. Singh  
 (e) S. Chandrasekar

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** IIT Madras Professor B. Ravindran Joins UN Independent AI Scientific Panel  
 Professor B. Ravindran of IIT Madras has been appointed to the United Nations' Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence (AI).

He is the Founding Head of the Centre for Responsible AI (CORAI) at IIT Madras; the panel was established through a UN General Assembly Resolution.

### **Recent Appointments**

- **Director (Commercial) of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited - Harsharan Kaur Trehan**
- **Chairman and Managing Director of GAIL (India) Limited - Deepak Gupta (replace Sandeep Kr Gupta)**
- **First Woman TTE in Darjeeling Himalayan Railway - Sarita Yolmo**
- **First female IOC member from Iran - Soraya Aghaei**
- **First Woman Board Director (HR) of Airports Authority of India - Nivedita Dubey**

